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Alexandria Gazette Packet

WELLBEING

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OCTOBER 8, 2020



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

The Black Lives Matter movement began using 'I can't breathe' in 2014 to honor Eric Garner, an unarmed Black man who was killed in a chokehold by police in New York City.

Limiting Neck Restraints

Lawmakers negotiate behind closed doors on how to curb police use of chokeholds.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

When lawmakers began their special session on criminal justice reform in August, hopes were high that the General Assembly would send the governor a bill that banned police from using chokeholds. At the time, protesters across the country were demanding change in the wake of the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died when a Minneapolis police officer kept his knee on his neck for 8 minutes and 15 seconds.

But now that the protesters have gone home and the lawmakers have moved behind closed doors to negotiate in a secret closed-door conference committee, advocates for criminal-justice reform are worried

about what will emerge in the conference report that will be presented to the House and Senate.

At issue is how chokeholds will be limited, and lawmakers are divided over what approach to take. The House approach is to outlaw the use of chokeholds by law enforcement officials, sending a policy statement that police officers and sheriff's deputies are not allowed to use neck restraints. The Senate approach would prohibit the use of chokeholds by removing the lawful force defense, allowing officers to be prosecuted for strangulation while also avoiding adding a new felony offense that would apply specifically to law enforcement officials.

"We like the House version better," said Claire Gastanaga, executive director of the ACLU of Virginia. "It's very clean. It just says you can't use a neck restraint in carrying out your official duties. Period. End of sentence. It's a felony."

While the House version creates a new felony offense for law-enforcement officers who use a neck restraint while on duty, the Senate version would allow police officers and sheriff's deputies to use chokeholds if they are "immediately necessary to protect

SEE LIMITING NECK RESTRAINTS, PAGE 14

The Great Pumpkin Patch

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill hosts 27th annual charity fundraiser.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane is once again ablaze in a sea of orange as Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill hosts its 27th annual Pumpkin Patch fundraiser for charity.

"The pumpkin patch is a wonderful ministry for many

reasons," says the Rev. Randy Alexander, Rector of Immanuel. "The entire parish is involved. This is our welcoming door to the community and it gives us the resources to do God's charitable work. It's truly faith in action."

The pumpkin patch officially opened Oct. 4 and runs through Oct. 31.

SEE PUMPKIN, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Meghan, Gabriel and Luke Mesquitan enjoy the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill pumpkin patch Oct. 4 at the corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane.

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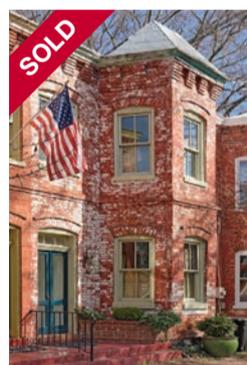
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School Stimulus Money: Private Versus Public in Alexandria

Private schools received up to \$3 million more in stimulus than public schools.

BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER
GAZETTE PACKET

Private schools in Alexandria received significantly more federal stimulus money than public schools, according to data from the agencies that doled out the cash.

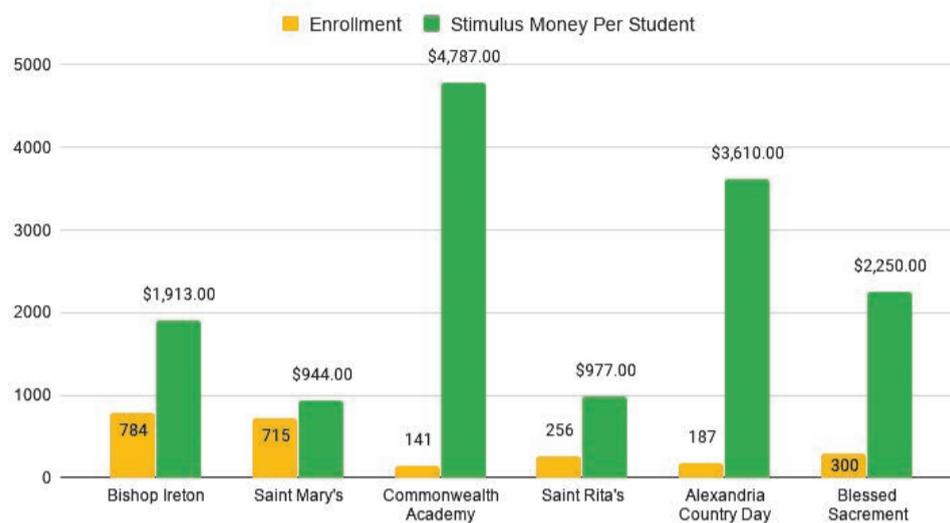
Numbers from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund show Alexandria City Public Schools received \$3.7 million, which works out to about \$227 per student. Reports from the Paycheck Protection Program, on the other hand, show that the six private schools in Alexandria received anywhere from \$4.5 million to \$6.4 million. The federal government did not disclose the exact amount of money each of the private schools received, instead presenting a range of possible amounts.

“They’re taking money away from public schools, and that’s wrong,” said Daniel Domenech, executive director of the Association of American School Administrators. “It’s just totally incomprehensible and totally against what the intent of the federal government in funding education is about.”

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) disagrees with the idea that private schools are not entitled to federal stimulus money. He points out that the fund for public schools is a separate pot of money from money that went to businesses. And because private schools are nonprofit organizations, he says, they’re justified in taking the forgivable loans.

“They’re fundamentally different entities,” said Beyer. “The PPP loans were intended for small businesses and nonprofits. It was com-

Private School Enrollment and Stimulus Money Per Student



CARES funding received per private school student is, on average, more than 10 times the amount of funding received per public school student, which is \$227 for a school division of over 16,000 students. The six schools included are within the boundaries of Alexandria and do not include other private schools that have Alexandria addresses but are outside the city jurisdiction. Data on stimulus money received is from COVID Stimulus Watch.

“Where private schools receive a greater share of these dollars than public schools do — it’s just totally ... against what the intent of the federal government in funding education is about.”

— Daniel Domenech, Executive Director,
Association of American School Administrator

pletely appropriate that the private schools drew down that money basically to maintain their employment.”

Still, it’s a disparity that’s glaring to some. “It’s just really unfortunate that the public schools where they really needed the money the most didn’t receive the largest allocation,” said Bill Pfister, Alexandria PTA Council president, who said he didn’t have a

strong opinion about the funding difference.

THE LOPSIDED FUNDING from federal stimulus programs comes at a time when schools are struggling to begin a new fall semester during an unprecedented pandemic. Public schools juggle wifi support for low-income students, food distribution and childcare. Though about a third of the city’s

budget goes toward the school district, less funding is available from the city because of the economic impacts of the pandemic.

“Our schools have incurred a great deal of expense in planning for this school year,” said Amy McNamer, executive director for the Association of Independent Schools in Greater Washington. “There’s not only the expense in technology but there’s also personal protective equipment, in reconfiguring classroom spaces and, in some cases, construction on campus so that they can safely bring students back in a hybrid model ... I would say there is a significant increase in cost to our schools.”

While Alexandria’s public schools are meeting online, private schools such as St. Mary’s and St. Rita’s have opted to offer in-person classes. Though private schools still collect tuition fees from families, independent school associations say they incurred more expenses than usual because of the pandemic, causing a revenue decline that would encourage the need for a loan. Additionally, private schools may be hit with lower enrollment when financially strapped families struggle to pay tuition.

“Public schools, though they are government funded, their annual budgets don’t account for a lot of what annual budgets for private schools do,” said Grace Creasey, executive director of the Virginia Council on Private Education. “So our overhead costs for private schools are much more significant than that of public schools.”

The funding imbalance isn’t confined to Alexandria. U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott (D-3) also pointed to private schools receiving more money per student in CARES Act money. In Virginia, 181 private schools got \$125 million in PPP loans — about \$700,000 per school — whereas 2,133 public schools received \$239 million in ESSER funds—\$112,000 per school.

“I would always want to send more federal money to the public schools,” said Beyer. “It’s just complicated because they’re really two different structures, two different kinds of institutions.”

Virtual PLUS+ Partner: Alexandria’s Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Critical to keeping the home lives of many of Alexandria students stable and healthy during the pandemic, is the availability of free, quality child care.

With the help of Virtual PLUS+ community partners, ACPS has been able to offer this opportunity to children who could suffer the greatest hardship while in-person learning is not feasible.

Here is a look at one of the Virtual PLUS+ School Day & Afterschool Programs run in conjunction with the City of Alexandria’s Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

At William Ramsay Recreation Center, fifth grader Anh Nguyen is on a break from her Talented and Gifted class.

She sits back in her chair and stretches away from her Chromebook for a few moments before saying thoughtfully, “I was sad when school closed. I missed my friends, having other children to play with — and I



actually missed the homework.”

Now, Monday to Friday, Anh, an English Learner student at William Ramsay Elementary School, arrives happy, enthusiastic and eager to begin her day in an environment as close to normal as it is possible to get right now.

For her family, having a quiet place for her to participate in Virtual PLUS+, the opportunity to take part in fun, physical ac-

tivities and have her nutritional needs met, means they can focus on work and other responsibilities, confident that she is well cared for.

“I like coming here because after online school we get active and get some fresh air. We get everything we need here,” Anh added.

The ten year-old is one of 250 students enrolled in free full-day Virtual PLUS+ programs offered at various community and recreation centers city-wide to provide K-5 child care for essential worker families and for those students deemed most vulnerable.

In addition to the students attending a full-day program, another 250 students attend one of several afterschool programs funded by ACPS 21st Century Community Learning Center (21 CCLC) grants. ACPS LINK Club afterschool programs take place in collaboration with community partners serving students where they live. After a

day of virtual schooling at home, students are able to walk to their local community center to participate in a variety of enrichment activities, receive tutoring support and safely socialize with their peers while social distancing.

The Virtual PLUS+ School Day & Afterschool Program is federally funded from ACPS’ Title I and Title IV 21st CCLC funds in combination with an additional contribution from the City of Alexandria.

Enrolled students attend one of Alexandria’s Title 1 schools: John Adams Elementary School, Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School, Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology; James K. Polk Elementary School; Patrick Henry School; Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School; Patrick Henry School; or William Ramsay Elementary School.

In addition, applications were assessed

SEE VIRTUAL PLUS+, PAGE 4



The Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch is open through Oct. 31 at the corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane.



A volunteer points to a display of pumpkins Oct. 4 on opening day of the 27th annual Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill pumpkin patch charity fundraiser.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Great Pumpkin Patch



Luke Mesquitan checks out a pumpkin Oct. 4 at the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill pumpkin patch.

FROM PAGE 1

“We are taking all reasonable COVID precautions,” said Jamie Conrad. “We are certified by the city under its ALX Promise program and hope to be a welcome bit of normality in a frightening sea of uncertainty.”

Two 18-wheelers of pumpkins arrived Oct. 3 with the normal bucket-brigade approach to unloading the trucks replaced by a forklift. Socially distanced groups of parishioners then unloaded the pumpkins for display.

The pumpkin patch offers all sizes of pumpkins from small hand-held “spookies” to extra-large pumpkins for jack-o-lanterns. Prices start at \$1 and go up based on size. Also for sale are homemade soups, baked goods, knit wear and autumn Halloween-themed crafts.

The pumpkins and gourds are sustainably grown by Navajo farmers on a Navajo Indian

Reservation near Farmington, New Mexico. All net proceeds will be used to support the church’s outreach activities at the community, regional and international levels.

Last year, over 25 charities received support, including local nonprofits Carpenter’s Shelter, ALIVE!, Lazarus Ministry, Bishop Walker School, Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Haiti-Micah Project, and others.

The Pumpkin Patch is open every day with hours Monday-Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All visitors must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Touchless purchasing options are available. For additional information, visit www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org/pumpkin-patch.html

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. 703-370-6555.

Virtual PLUS+ Partner: Alexandria’s Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

FROM PAGE 3

using a rubric that took into consideration a variety of factors including the risk that the student would fall behind academically, the parents’ need to work outside the home and socio-economic factors.

The program has been running at William Ramsay Recreation Center, Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center, Boys and Girls Club or YMCA at Samuel Tucker Elementary School since Sept. 14.

This week, ACPS was able to add additional sites to meet demand at Patrick Henry Recreation Center and James K. Polk Elementary School.

For families still looking for affordable child care, there are many options still available through Virtual PLUS+ Partners) with fees on a sliding/scholarship system. <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/3363>

During the school day at the William Ramsay Recreation Center, 60 students,

grouped into grade groups of roughly ten, are spaced out across the airy facility. Each student has their own spacious desk area, everyone wears masks, temperatures are checked at least twice daily, and hand sanitizer and hand-washing has become second nature to everyone.

The gym is available to students during breaks and for Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School fourth grader Muqaddium Malik Jr., who goes by Malik, that means indulging in his favorite sport of basketball.

“I like coming here because it’s a place where I can burn off some of my energy. I like to play basketball. Sometimes it’s hard to be stuck at home.”

Although staff are not teachers, they are always nearby to troubleshoot tech issues, help keep students focusing on classes that they are attending via Zoom with their school teacher and assist in any other ways they can.

In one room of third and fourth graders, a staff member helped one boy participating in PE class, guiding him as he attempted to kick up a tennis ball from between his heels.

In another, an extra pencil is being fetched from a cupboard full of supplies.

“The teachers are doing the teaching and we are here to assist, a little like a paraprofessional,” said Shawn Brown, the Rec Center director who oversees the day to day operations.

“It’s working out really well and we are very happy to be able to help in any way we can to support Alexandria families.

“The families are very appreciative, they are thankful there is a place for their kids to come and be supervised. Some were really struggling to get back to work and worried for their jobs.”

After the school day is over, for Anh and Malik and all the other students, it’s all about getting active and having fun away

from screens.

Thanks to additional funding from Running Brooke, students can participate in a variety of recreational enrichment clubs including soccer through the Alexandria Soccer Association, parkour through PK Move and creative movement through Local Motion Project.

Shanna Samson, ACPS Office of Community Partnerships and Engagement assistant director, worked hand in hand with the City to set up the program.

She said, “We are pleased that we have been able to offer our most vulnerable families this opportunity which we hope will take away some of the pressure that we know some are facing during the pandemic.

“We are grateful for the close working relationship we have with the City of Alexandria and our other Virtual PLUS+ community partners, and for the support they are offering our students.”

Alexandria Symphony Awards Micro-Grants For Creative Pandemic-Friendly Projects

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) announces seven recipients of its micro-grant program. Each project will be completed by June 2021 and accomplish at least one of the following objectives: confront systemic racism in classical music, connect to all parts of the community, promote underrecognized artistic voices, and improve the lives of children. Several projects specifically serve students in ASO's Sympatico music education program, operating in the Alexandria City Public Schools, as well as ACPS students in middle and high school.

"I wanted to animate and harvest our musicians' quarantine-inspired creative thinking and invite them to invent, present, and realize projects that are singularly apt for this strange 'concert-quiet' year we are facing," says ASO Music Director James Ross. "These projects might never have come to the fore in normal times. If we can't play together, we can at least invent together."

Alexandria Symphony's Concertmaster Claudia Chudacoff will record Chia Patino's mournful Wild Swans with string quartet. This will be the first known recording of this piece. The Ecuadorian composer was inspired by poetry, expressing a range of emotion and speaking to those in isolation. The final video will be shared on social media.

Animation artist Alexi Scheiber will provide a virtual artist talk for Sympatico students about setting her film, "A Cardinal Among the Clouds" to music (Clouds by Charles Tomlinson Griffes). After learning about animation from Ms. Scheiber, students will make traditional and digital paper puppets. The original film was commissioned by the ASO as part of Homegrown: American Stories in Music and Film, and it will premiere during the 2021-2022 season.

Avalanche Bass Quartet, led by ASO musician Kimberly Parillo, will present a socially-distanced outdoor concert at the Mason District Amphitheater in Annandale. Performing a variety of classical and popular repertoire (including video game themes), the unconventional quartet will highlight messages of racial and social justice. The performance will be free and open to the public. A premiere woodwind quintet, WindSync, led by ASO oboist Emily Tsai, will present a virtual workshop to Sympatico students. A combination master class and career development learning opportunity, the members will share how a professional ensemble stays relevant and creates content during the current pandemic. WindSync will provide future opportunities for students to attend in-person performances.

QuinTango, led by ASO violinist Joan

Singer, will teach ACPS students to play a tango. Orchestra students from Hammond Middle School, George Washington Middle School, and T.C. Williams High School will review recordings of their parts and a complete performance by QuinTango. After coaching and practice, the students will perform their parts virtually playing along live with QuinTango. Spark Media will test Humanities.Games, a platform in development to empower students to learn through art-related games. Through interactive workshops, students from ASO Sympatico will help create music-based games that will be further developed by Spark Media. The final product, underwritten by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be a range of educational games for students with limited access to computers.

ASO assistant principal cellist Jihea Choi and violinist Sonya Hayes will present a workshop to middle school students in Prince George's County, Md. Ms. Choi and Ms. Hayes will demonstrate secret string techniques and begin a conversation about systemic racism in classical music via Zoom. Students will be invited to ask questions about musicianship and music careers.

"These outstanding and original projects are emblematic of ASO's commitment to creativity in service to our community," says

Alexandria Police Department Makes Arrest in Sept. 30 Homicide

On Oct. 4, the Alexandria Police Department arrested Tavon Marquis Lanier, a 19 year-old resident of Alexandria, for the September 30 homicide of John Pope.

At approximately 3:50 p.m. on Sept. 30, officers were dispatched to the 5900 block of Quantrell Avenue for a possible shooting. Upon arrival, officers located an adult man suffering an injury to the upper body. He was transported to a local hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. The victim was later identified as John Pope, a 57-year-old resident of Alexandria.

This is the second homicide in Alexandria in 2020, according to police.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Ryan Clinch at 703-746-6673.

ASO Executive Director George Hanson. "We look forward to seeing them come to fruition in the coming months."

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We Need a Better Redistricting Amendment

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL (D-36)



Along with eliminating the Electoral College and reversing corporate contributions green-lighted by the Citizens United case, I consider the drawing of elected officials' district lines to be one of the most significant, fundamental problems in American Democracy today.

Question #1 on Virginia's Nov. 3 ballot is a proposed amendment to Virginia's Constitution to create a decennial commission to establish districts for elected officials of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates in 2021 and into the future. Our current system is flawed, but the proposed amendment is not the correct solution.

The Redistricting Proposal

Here is how the commission would work. The U. S. Constitution and Constitution of Virginia requires the state legislature to redraw congressional districts and state legislative districts after each census. The amendment would create the Virginia Redistricting Commission (VRC). The VRC would have 16 members - eight state legislators and eight citizens.

The legislators would be equally split between the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates and further equally split between the majority and minority parties so that no party would have a majority. The citizen members would be chosen by a panel of five retired Circuit Court judges from lists submitted by the majority and minority caucuses in each chamber of the legislature.

The amendment requires --

- ❖ The Virginia Redistricting Commission to submit plans to the General Assembly within 45 days after receiving U.S. census data or July 1 of the year following a census, whichever is later;

- ❖ Approval by six of eight legislative members, including three of four members of each body and six of eight citizen members;

- ❖ A majority vote of the General Assembly without amendment; and

- ❖ The Governor's signature.

If no plan receives a majority vote within certain timeframes, the districts would be drawn by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

A Flawed Proposal

While I voted for this proposal in 2019 to keep the conversation going to 2020, upon further study, I

have concluded it is not the correct approach and was one of two Senators to vote "no." First, it is a bipartisan commission. It is not non-partisan. Legislators would still be heavily involved in drawing their own districts. Citizen appointees would be chosen from lists likely created by legislators (that is still being negotiated). While one party could not steamroll the other, the language would force commission deal-making to preserve the electability of members unless the citizen members (probably picked by legislators) refuse to agree.

My biggest concern is that the criteria for actually drawing the districts are not set forth in the proposed Constitutional amendment, so it can be changed by the state legislature because the criteria are in state law, a law that we adopted in the last session. Every Republican member of the General Assembly opposed it and when the legislature's composition inevitably changes, the legislature will pass a bill creating new criteria that could require districts to be drawn to favor other partisan factors and effectively mandate a partisan gerrymander.

A Better Approach

Ideally, I believe apolitical redistricting can be more impartially done by computers using an agreed-upon algorithm that re-

spects minority rights consistent with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, uses mathematical compactness and contiguity measures, and minimizes "wasted votes" or what is called the "voter efficiency gap," a well-recognized mathematical model that objectively measures whether districts are drawn in a way that reflects the actual partisan make-up of the state. A slight deviation (e.g., 2 percent) could be authorized by a nonpartisan group to adjust lines to account for communities of interest, commuting patterns and other relevant factors. Such a process would come closer to removing political and human influences from the process.

Laws can be changed by the legislature whenever the legislature chooses. The process to change the state Constitution takes more time and involves multiple steps. Provisions of the Constitution have long standing effects and can remain there for generations.

It is important that when we put language in our constitution that it be either written broadly enough to provide flexibility or if it is specific, it must be finely targeted and precise. The proposed constitutional amendment is neither. I will vote against it.

Please email me at scott@scottsuovell.org if you have any feedback.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voters Who Believe in a Viable Two-Party System Must Vote for the Redistricting Constitutional Amendment

To the editor

The warship Vasa was a floridly crafted masterpiece with at least 700 delicately carved sculptures, figurines, and ornaments, and three gun decks. In 1625 King Gustavus II Adolphus had earmarked it as his navy's flagship. Its design was unprecedented in its complexity and scale at a time when constructing a ship was trial-and-error. With four of its ten sails unfurled, guided by a light breeze, it launched on its maiden voyage into Stockholm's waterways. Barely a kilometer offshore, a slight gust caused the topheavy ship to list to port, then it rolled over and sank. This is a perfect description of a Republican gerrymander.

Virginia's own Ed Gillespie is widely credited with "RedMap," the alleged Republican gerrymander implemented following the 2010 Republican state legislature

sweep wherever Republicans controlled redistricting. The Virginia House of Delegates was allegedly one such example. During the Obama-Biden Administration, the Democrats lost over a thousand federal, statewide, and legislative seats, thanks to public discomfort with that administration's arrogant overreach. Then Donald Trump's election in 2016 put an unpopular Republican in the White House and the wind shifted, causing a "blue tsunami" which cost Republicans 40 seats in the House of Representatives in 2018 and took the Republicans' 2:1 edge in the Virginia House of Delegates to near parity in a single Election Night in 2017!

Across the River, though, in Maryland we see a Democrat gerrymander, complete with a pinwheel-shaped district to facilitate diluting the conservative parts of the state by subsuming them in

districts dominated by Democrat population centers. Unlike RedMap, this gerrymander worked to keep the gerrymandered seats Democrat even in the "red wave" 2014 election.

After years of carping about gerrymandering and running on promises to fix it, the Virginia Democratic Party's virtual con-

vention June 20-21 voted 1,469-233 to oppose the redistricting constitutional amendment via a resolution saying redistricting reform might mean "loss of the Democratic majority in the House of Delegates as early as 2021 and the Senate by 2023" and potentially leave Democrats "unable to retake

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

the majority in either body.” Most Democrat members of the House of Delegates who had voted for the redistricting reform constitutional amendment when Republicans still clung to control did a volte face and voted against it once they were in a position to gerrymander.

Fortunately, nine honest Democrats in the House of Delegates joined Republicans in approving the amendment, which will appear on next month’s ballot. Voters who care mainly about having Democrats in charge of government and believe campaign promises to support redistricting reform lose their salience when Democrats are in control will, like the 1,469 ultra-partisans at the state party’s vir-

tual convention, be voting against the amendment and trusting their Democrat-dominated state government to redistrict Republicans into oblivion. One party isn’t very competent at gerrymandering, but the other party has turned even the most blatant gerrymanders into an artform. Which of the two is the greater danger to democracy?

Voters who care about honest government, who believe a viable two-party system produces better government and prevents abuse of power, whether Democrat, Republican, independent, or third party, must vote for the redistricting reform constitutional amendment to preserve our state government’s integrity.

Dino Drudi

Renaming Maury School?

To the editor

The Sept. 24 issue of the Gazette Packett demonstrates the illogical dichotomy between the Alexandria Public School System, the Economic Development Agency, and some of our unusual community activists. Over the past year, the school system has heralded the enormous potential benefits available to our graduates from the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus being developed in Potomac Yards. This complex has as its goal educating our graduates for important, high compensation positions in the scientific high technology economy being developed in Northern Virginia. Disappointingly, the story on page 9 indicates “cancel culture” elements in the City wish to remove the name of our only school named for Virginia’s preeminent scientist, Matthew Fontaine Maury, whose

scientific accomplishments rivaled those of Galileo!

This renaming makes no sense as the school system consistently believes and publicizes the importance of their innovative “STEM” (science, technology, engineering, math) curriculum to enhance the future of their graduates and to secure highly skilled, high paying management and executive positions in the technology industries of the future.

So while our elected and appointed leaders are rightfully looking forward to the benefits of futuristic high technology, a “cancel culture” element, who must have missed high school science classes, advocates looking backwards by renaming the only school named for a scientist!

Gerald B. File
Alexandria

Domestic Violence Awareness Month in a Pandemic

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

It is less than a month before a Presidential election which looks to have historical turnout and only three more months left in this awful year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sports teams are playing to empty arenas, our kids are learning remotely online, and none of us knows how to handle the upcoming Halloween.



Krizek

Unfortunately, one issue remains the same and that is the problem of family violence. Indeed, October is when we, here in the Commonwealth, recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It was designated as such by the General Assembly in 1989 and serves as an annual reminder of how important it is for us to continue to work to prevent domestic abuse

and to treat and support survivors all across the Commonwealth. Domestic violence is characterized as a pattern of coercive behaviors used by an individual to gain or maintain power and control over another individual in the context of an intimate, dating, or familial relationship.

In this moment in time, many of us feel a collective sense of trauma as we navigate the uncertainty of this pandemic.

However, survivors of domestic and sexual violence have experienced this more acutely, as isolation has brought to the surface feelings of anxiety and memories of trauma, and an increased environment of danger for those with no other option but to shelter in place with former or current abus-

SEE DOMESTIC, PAGE 12

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Warner, Restaurateurs Meet

Questions about on stalled pending relief.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) met with area restaurateurs Oct. 5 for a discussion on how Congress can support the industry and its workforce during the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The meeting consisted of a diverse group of restaurant owners," said Chelsea Anderson of the HomeGrown Restaurant Group. "Sen. Warner basically wanted to get information from us on how things have been going since March.

He wants to gather as much information as possible on how Congress might be able to help the industry."

Held at Hen Quarter restaurant on King Street, Warner was met with questions regarding the \$120 billion fund for independent restaurants that was approved as part of the U.S. House's latest COVID relief package.

"While we had a lot of specific questions, Sen. Warner was not able to give many answers since details of the act have not been worked out yet," Anderson said. "He didn't want to commit to specifics because a lot can change."

Warner is a cosponsor of the RESTAURANTS Act -- Real Economic Support That Acknowledges Unique Restaurant Assistance Needed to Survive -- which would provide grants for restaurants, bars, food trucks and other food-service venues to cover the difference between their 2019 revenues and their estimated revenues for each quarter of 2020. Restaurants or franchises with more than 20 locations would not be eligible for these grants.

"Most restaurant owners want-



PHOTO BY CHELSEA ANDERSON

Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), second from left, meets with local restaurant owners Oct. 5 at Hen Quarter on King Street to discuss ways Congress can help the food service industry and its employees.

ed to know about getting rent and utility support," Anderson added. "Many restaurants are having difficulty with their landlords and we wanted to learn more about how to access these grants."

Another topic of conversation was increased labor costs due to new industry safety requirements.

"Labor costs have gone up due to increased cleaning and sanitization requirements," Anderson said. "Restaurants also have the added expense of PPE gear so we wanted to know if relief will be available for the added costs of making and keeping restaurants safe and sanitary."

The RESTAURANTS Act is part of the pending \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief act. The U.S. Senate has not acted on at least two relief bills passed by the House, and the President recently cancelled negotiations.

"It was a productive conversation," Anderson said of the meeting with Warner. "He really wanted to hear our concerns."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"Most restaurant owners wanted to know about getting rent and utility support. Many restaurants are having difficulty with their landlords."

— Chelsea Anderson of the HomeGrown Restaurant Group

Chelsea Anderson, left, of HomeGrown Restaurant Group, with Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA). Warner met with local restaurant owners Oct. 5 at Hen Quarter to discuss ways Congress can help the food service industry and its employees.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

SATURDAY/OCT. 10
Friendship Firehouse Museum
Opened. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At

107 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria. In honor of Fire Prevention Week, Friendship Firehouse Museum will be open to the public 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. As city museums reopen, they will initially operate at 25% capacity and will require purchase of timed tickets in advance at The Alexandria Shop. Tickets are \$2 to reserve an arrival time for you and

your party, or free for Alexandria residents. If you have purchased a Key to the City ticket, you will have the option to choose that option to schedule the time of your visit. Please bring your Key to the City ticket to be redeemed.

SATURDAY/OCT. 10
Sketch Journaling Workshop. 9:30

a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Sketch journals are a great way to remember your travels or your daily adventures. Artist Marni Marea shows you various ways to see, draw, and simplify a scene, and how to creatively collect information to fill up a sketchbook journal. Then prepare some of your journal

pages and go outside to draw scenes around the gardens using a pen and watercolors. A supply list will be sent before class. Bring a lunch. \$94 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 4E1.C06B) or call Green Spring Gardens at
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

WELLBEING

Creating a Spooky and Safe Halloween in the Age of COVID-19

Ideas for frightful revelry abound even amid coronavirus concerns.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Cartoon character Marshall from Paw Patrol will be searching for chocolate while a tiny pop star tracks down toys as Arlington mother and teacher Becky Beach and her family celebrate the spookiest day of the year. Forgoing trick-or-treating, she, her husband and young son will gather with other family members for a modified Halloween celebration.

"We are going to buy Halloween-themed party toys and candies for our children to hunt," said Beach. "It will be similar to an Easter egg hunt, but for Halloween. We are maintaining the joy by allowing our children to still wear their Halloween costumes, but we won't be going out."

Like other annual traditions, COVID-19 has transformed the way festive events are celebrated. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials are encouraging revelers to err on the side of caution this season. As Halloween approaches, some parents are faced with a quandary: allowing children to engage in the frightful fun of the day without compromising safety.

"Some Halloween activities pose higher risk than others," said Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, director, Fairfax County Health Department. "In general, the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread."

The CDC has grouped activities into low-risk, moderate-risk and high-risk categories. The sugar-laden but beloved tradition of trick-or-treating is considered among the riskiest of ghoulish traditions while celebrations with family members are among the lowest.

There are parents who are comfortable with activities considered by the CDC to be moderate-risk, such as open-air, one-way, walk-through where appropriate mask use is enforced, like Markoff's Haunted Forest and Enchanted Forest at Calleva Farm in Potomac, says Dr. Bitu Nasser, MD. "Overall, the CDC guidelines make good sense. They are based on intelligent considerations broken down by how much you want to expose your children," she said. "The main takeaway is to not be in large crowds or crowded streets, as kids will inevitably remove masks. Going house to house and allowing people to hand out individual candies increases the risk of COVID exposure exponentially ... and should be avoided at all costs this year."

Creativity is the theme this season and traditions of holidays like Easter and Christmas are offering Halloween inspiration says Fairfax mother and blogger Alice Anderson. "We want to keep things as fun as possible for our kids so we are going all out on party

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICE ANDERSON
Alice Anderson and her family will wear costumes and celebrate Halloween with a family party due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

ideas this year," she said. "We usually go to a pumpkin farm with fun activities but have decided to make our own fun at home with that as well. Our kids are excited to help make decorations and get everything set up."

Starting new traditions and borrowing ideas from other holidays is the way that Alexandra Fung, a Mount Vernon mother, will deal with the disappointment that her children will feel when they aren't knocking on doors in anticipation of treats. "Egg hunts at Easter have long been a favorite activity at our house, so carrying the tradition over to Halloween has everyone excited, from our toddler to our teen," she said. "And, having it at night with flashlights, and the promise of some king-sized candy bars, makes it all the more fun for everyone."

From reading books filled with ghosts and goblins to creating a season-long calendar, reminiscent of those used for Advent, inspiration abounds, says psychologist Reena Patel. "Create a month of Halloween countdown," said "Why not? We do it for Christmas too. Make a countdown calendar and for each day and have a Halloween surprise, like a Halloween coloring sheet, candy corn puzzle, pencils, stickers. Anything small that represents and leads up to the big day."

"We have a bunch of activities planned for our party at home," added Anderson. "We are going to make decorations, play Halloween games, carve pumpkins, make a DIY (do-it-yourself) maze, eat yummy treats, and finish the night watching the new Scooby Doo movie. I think Halloween can be as fun as you make it and our kids will be happy spending quality time together as a family."

While independence-seeking teens and tweens might not be wowed by Halloween candy hunts and spooky-themed cartoons at home, they can still enjoy a frightful evening while maintaining safety. "They should have small get-togethers at their friends' houses for Halloween," said Beach. "Check for fevers if inviting teens to your home for Halloween before admitting them in your home. Make sure your teen social distances themselves and wears a mask and/or gloves to keep safe."

Perspectives on Halloween safety vary, acknowledges Karen Aronian, Ed.D. "Some door-to-door trick-or-treating will still happen, but some neighborhoods are doing the same 'pod' [small group] approach with Halloween that they have done with schooling, by going out in safe pods of kids predetermined by parents," she said. "Homes that do decide to give out candy should mark their house with a sign that says, 'covid safe' meaning gloves, masks and social distancing will be observed."

"We are maintaining the joy by allowing our children to still wear their Halloween costumes, but we won't be going out."

— Becky Beach,
Arlington mother and teacher

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Hank & Mitzi's Chef Edwards Wins Food Network's 'Chopped'

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Through multiple courses, battling multiple competitors, Hank & Mitzi's own Chef Chris Edwards came out on top of the Food Network's "Chopped" competition last week, facing off against competitors from across the country – and Edwards' own back yard in Alexandria.

Edwards thinks it was sheer coincidence that he found himself facing off against Chef Mimi Huynh of Sunday in Saigon, and though all his opponents were formidable, he found himself the victor in the end.

"I feel really excited; I got a lot of nice comments from friends and people who have come to the restaurant and seen (the show)," Edwards said.

But for anyone who thinks this is simply an evening in a restaurant truncated to a few minutes' worth of airtime, think again.

"It's completely different from a restaurant scenario," Edwards said. "Usually in a restaurant we have a lot more time to come up with that stuff!"

The pressure, too, is completely different than a normal night of service.

"It's difficult; it's a pressure unlike you can even imagine, especially an unfamiliar place," Edwards said, adding he kept telling himself, "Just don't cut yourself, and make sure everything gets on the plate."

The episode of "Chopped" that Edwards was featured on was actually filmed about a year ago, he said, in an environment that is completely different from the pandemic-fac-



Chef Chris Edwards of Alexandria's Hank & Mitzi's won the Food Network's "Chopped" competition last week, Sept. 29.

ing world we're living in today. But now, Edwards is ensconced in the kitchen at Hank & Mitzi's at 600 Montgomery St., having helped reopen the suite of Hank's Oyster Bar establishments as covid-related restrictions were lifted over the summer.

"Things are going pretty well when you consider the fact that we don't have the capacity to fill our dining room like I would. We are lucky enough to have plenty of out-



Sheer coincidence that Chef Edwards found himself facing off against Chef Mimi Huynh of Sunday in Saigon? Edwards won.

door seating," he said.

Indeed, Hank & Mitzi's has about 50 seats available for indoor dining and about 60 additional seats outdoors.

The restaurant will look to use space heaters to keep al fresco diners warm for as long as possible this year.

Edwards was surprised, too, that some customers are coming into the restaurant just to see the new "Chopped" champion in

action.

"I know it's a popular show, but sometimes you don't realize how many people are going to notice you," he said.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

STARTING OCT. 3

Art on the Avenue. The 25th Annual Art on the Avenue festival will move to a virtual format for 2020, launching on Saturday, October 3 and running through the holidays. Over 150 artists will be featured, offering handmade items in a wide range of mediums, including wheel-thrown vases and bowls, tiles, sculpture, tote bags and purses, drawings and pastels, knitted and crocheted hats and gloves, woven scarves and shawls, gourmet food, fused and blown glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, and much more. Traditionally held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue, Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival that strives to reflect the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work, and draws an estimated 75,000 visitors each year. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

NOW THRU NOV. 1

Art by Mail II. The "Art by Mail II" The exhibit features the artwork of Del Ray Artisans members. You'll find one-of-a-kind, small format, original paintings in watercolor, oil, and acrylic; mixed media art and artful cards; plus, small

3D works. Enjoy browsing the collection. Artwork will be mailed directly from the artist within 10 days of purchase. Purchases are mailed directly to you. Enjoy the exhibit at www.DelRayArtisans.org/artbymail.

NOW THRU OCT. 14

Weekly Free Outdoor Yoga Class. 6-7 p.m. At Del Ray Psych & Wellness Parking Lot, 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Maureen Clyne, an affiliated agent with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in the Alexandria office, will be leading free outdoor yoga classes in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. This community event, Harvest Moon Yoga 2020, is suitable for all levels and open to the public. The class is taught by Clyne, a senior yoga instructor, and is sponsored by Del Ray Psych & Wellness. Contact: Maureen Clyne: 703-967-8884.

OCT. 1-31

Autumn's Palette. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2120 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Gallery Underground presents Autumn's Palette: Art for the Season, an all-member show featuring themes and colors of fall including painting, ceramics, mixed media, glass, wood and metal work. Visit the website: <https://www.galleryunderground.org>

OCT. 2-31

Mini World Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Living in a Mini World" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features art smaller than a magazine. Paintings, 3d works, lots of different jewelry. Visit <http://www.delrayartisans.org/event/mini-world/> Gallery hours are Thursday & Friday 12-6 p.m., Saturday 12-4 p.m. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible.

THURSDAY/OCT. 8

Signature Virtual Masterclass: Words, Words, Words -- Creating a character through text with Natascia Diaz. 7 p.m. Natascia Diaz (Signature's Passion, The Threepenny Opera, West Side Story) is an expert when it comes to analyzing and using the text to understand and create different well-rounded characters, within the specific style needs of each new show. Join her for an interactive session with a script to experience a taste of the tablework process together, how it begins to connect us with the text, and feel how a show first comes to life... before we even get out of our chairs. This is a discussion-based masterclass that is appropriate for general audiences and students. At Signa-

ture Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Visit www.sigtheatre.org

MONDAY/OCT. 12

Fall Day Camp. 9-11:45 a.m. Via Zoom. In Jane Franklin Dance virtual day camps, students explore movement and art, words and imagination. Students receive art project packets with print-outs, instructions and some supplies. They will share and collaborate on movement using Zoom break-out rooms. Cost is \$45. Visit the website at <https://www.janefranklin.com/fall-day-camps>

SUNDAY/OCT. 25

Death (& Mystery) at the City Hotel -- American Graffiti: A Mystery in History Guided Investigation. 7-8:30 p.m. Via Zoom. If you found something old and mysterious in your attic, how would you begin to unravel its tale? Join staff as they study the puzzle of Civil War era graffiti on the attic walls of Gadsby's Tavern Museum. The night begins with the telling of the tragic stories of two Civil War soldiers who died in the building. Against this backdrop, participants will go (virtually) behind-the-scenes to follow the evidence in search of the story behind the perplexing prose artfully inscribed upon the attic walls. This program is sponsored by Gadsby's Tavern Museum, part

of the Office of Historic Alexandria. Tickets are \$8. Guests will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link, Meeting ID, and password by noon the day prior to the event.

THE BIRCHMERE

The Birchmere in Alexandria is reopening with limited capacity. During the public health emergency, there will be a \$25 food and beverage minimum and a \$5 Covid fee. There will be no bar service and no gathering in the stage or bar areas. Customers will be escorted to their seats, and those without reserved seats will be seated by staff to ensure social distancing. Schedule of Shows: Friday, Oct. 9 -- Start Making Sense -- A Tribute to Talking Heads Saturday, Oct. 10 -- John Kadlecik -- Solo Acousti'Lectric Sunday, Oct. 11: Eclipse - The Ultimate Journey Tribute Friday, Oct. 16 -- Double Vision -- The Foreigner Experience Saturday, Oct. 17 -- Huggy Low-down with Chris Paul & Friends Mon/Tue, Oct. 19-20: Samantha Fish (10/19 is Sold Out! Second Night Added!) Thursday, Oct. 22-23: Drew Lynch (Two Nights!) Saturday, Oct. 24: Free Flowing Musical Experience

LIVING LEGENDS OF ALEXANDRIA

McArthur Myers Preserving the city's African American history.

BY DOMINIQUE CLAYTON

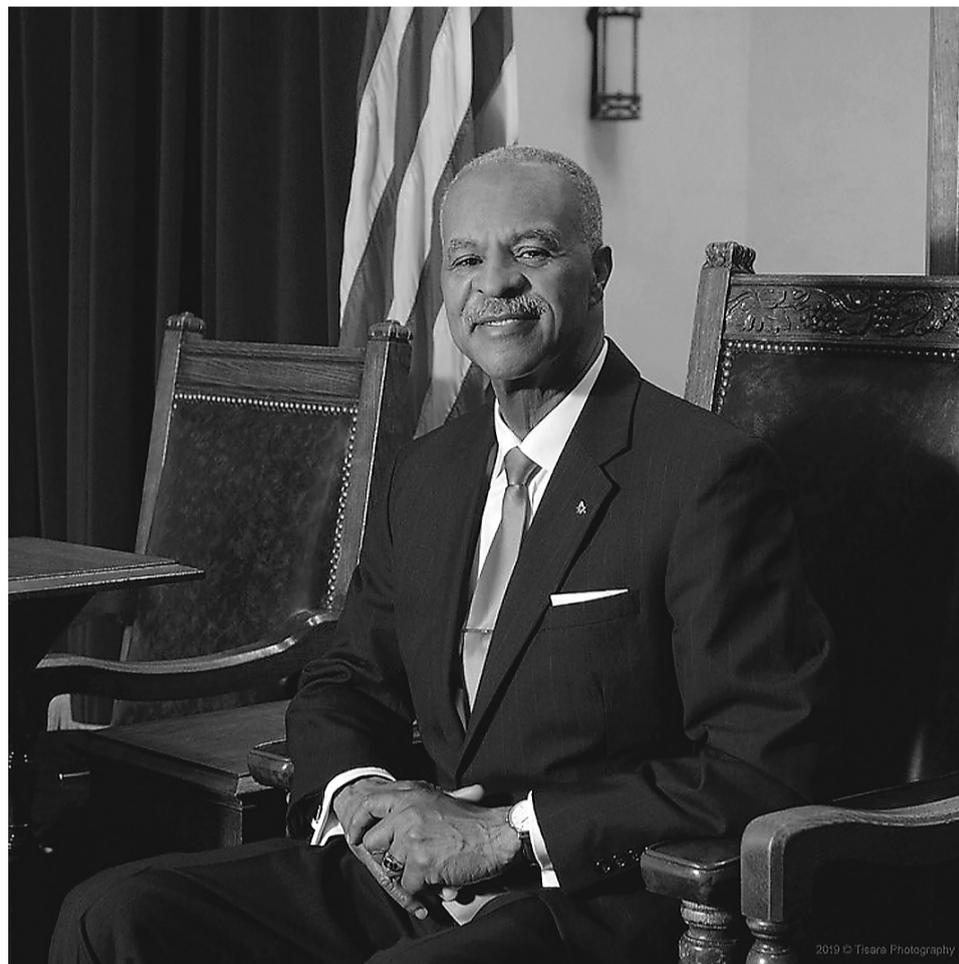
What is right? Actively serving your community in any capacity you see fit. Here you will find McArthur Myers doing just that. He is engaged in many community efforts to revitalize and restore the rich African American history of Alexandria. Since his early years, serving others has been a passion. He states “You got to step up and step in” as a call to action for all. His diligent community service expands from social justice and advocacy to preserving the history of African Americans in Alexandria. Here is why McArthur Myers is a Living Legend.

Born and raised during segregation, Myers faced many challenges as he was the “first” at critical times of his life. During his formative years, he strived to be around like-hearted individuals. He knew he wanted to pursue the desires of his heart with his passion for helping others in the right way.

Myers attended Charles Houston Elementary School up until fifth grade. He and his sister, Lucille, were among the first African Americans to attend Prince Street Elementary School. He was among those who integrated the Alexandria Boys Club and the Club’s Boy Scout Troop. Upon graduating from T.C. Williams High School, Myers began his studies at American University where he majored in Administration of Justice. Myers worked for over 40 years with the District of Columbia Government Department of Mental Health.

Myers was introduced to advocacy and politics by his mother, Carrie Myers. He shadowed her moves as she served as a “Block Captain” during the Civil Rights era. His strength to serve was enhanced by his second “mom,” the late Vola Lawson (former Alexandria City Manager), a Living Legend in her own right. Myers was mentored by Vola and her family and attended many Human Rights struggles in the community. “She helped me to become the man I am,” he said.

In 2012, Myers became a Freemason with Universal Lodge #1, the oldest Prince Hall Lodge in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He petitioned the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to acknowledge the historic group. In March 2018, the Universal Lodge #1 received its recognition with a new his-



McArthur Myers

“Alexandria offers an opportunity to be the best and to enhance the quality of life for all, young and old.”

— 2020 Living Legend of Alexandria
McArthur Myers

torical marker. He served as the 174 Worshipful Master. Currently, he serves as the Grand Historian for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia.

In September of 2016, Myers became the first African American member of the

George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. He recalled a time when African Americans were not welcome on the grounds of the Memorial. It was a significant moment to share his story at the Memorial in 2016. In 2018, he arranged the first Prince Hall meeting at the Memorial. He currently serves on the sub-committee for the recognition of the 100-year cornerstone rededication.

Myers is a dedicated advocate for historical landmarks identifying the significant impacts of Alexandria’s African Americans within the community. He participated in the placement of eight historical markers throughout the City. Some of those historic buildings are Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, Beulah Baptist Church, Third Baptist Church and the Universal Lodge #1.

Myers was involved in the partnership to integrate the Freedom House Museum into the Alexandria Museum System. He is presently working on the Alexandria African American Heritage Trail Project in an effort to recognize the contributions of African Americans to Alexandria’s history. The African American Heritage Trail Committee is in the process of mapping out a trail that will run along the Waterfront beginning at King Street and going North through Fish-town, the “Berg,” Canal and the “Hump” communities. It will also continue south of King Street along the Waterfront towards Jones Point. In 2019, Myers was honored by the Alexandria Archeological Commission with the Ben Brenman Archeology in Alexandria Award during an awards ceremony at City Hall. Myers was presented with the Outstanding Community History award in recognition of his dedication to the preservation and interpretation of Alexandria’s African American heritage.

A proclamation by City Council praised Myers, noting that through organizations including the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, and the African American Heritage Trails Committee, Myers has worked to interpret Alexandria’s history at the Universal Lodge #1, Third Baptist Church and the Historic Waterfront.

As a devoted member of his community, Myers also mentored 15 young men for over 14 years. He has received numerous awards and recognitions and is a member of several organizations including: member of the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black History; board member of the Alexandria Black History Museum; two-term member of the Alexandria Historic Resource Commission; and the Equal Justice Initiative’s Community Remembrance Project.

Myers resides in Alexandria and continues to advocate for historical representation of African Americans in the City. Myers stated, “Alexandria offers an opportunity to be the best and to enhance the quality of life for all, young and old.”

He also stated, “Stand on the shoulders of others,” while he serves his community. Myers’ motto is “One city, many stories.” He hopes to be remembered as an author of the stories that impacted African American History and social justice in Alexandria.

Catholic Charities Reopens Thrift Shop in Alexandria; Proceeds Go to Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington last week reopened its thrift shop in Alexandria, Va. The thrift shop, located next to its Christ House homeless shelter, food pantry and evening meal site, was the single Catholic Charities program, of 21 overall, that halted service during the last four months, as the organization modified programs to serve the community safely during the response COVID-19. The thrift shop is adhering to strict so-

cial distancing for the health and safety of its customers, volunteers and staff. Proceeds from the shop support Catholic Charities’ emergency rental and utility assistance efforts to help individuals and families avoid homelessness.

The Catholic Charities Thrift Shop, located at 125 S. West St., Alexandria, Va., is now open Mondays from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. and Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. For customers in a high-risk population or concerned about re-entering social

settings at this time, the shop is accepting customers by appointment only on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10 a.m.–3 p.m. To schedule an appointment, individuals should call 703-548-4881 or email TS-CH@ccda.net.

All other times, the shop is open with an eight-person capacity limit.

All customers, volunteers and staff must wear a face covering while in the store unless a health issue prevents them from doing so. Hand sanitizer and gloves are provided

upon entry to the store.

Proceeds from sales or donations go to support Catholic Charities’ emergency rental and utility assistance program, now experiencing an increased need due to the economic impact of the pandemic. In fiscal year 2019, the store generated \$118,506 in sales, and the proceeds supported Catholic Charities’ ability to assist 279 families with rent and utilities. Overall, Catholic Charities supported 2,735 individuals with rent and utilities.

To offer material or financial support to Catholic Charities, visit here <https://www.ccda.net/give-help/serve-those-in-need/material-and-financial-assistance/>.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month in a Pandemic

FROM PAGE 7
ers.

While stay-at-home orders were necessary to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in our communities, the result is sadly an escalation

of domestic violence. In fact, law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth have reported spikes in domestic violence incidents since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some agen-

cies say that domestic violence was their number one call for service over the summer. Unfortunately, that trend is likely to continue as stressors pile up on individuals, like loss of a job, and the strains

on interpersonal relationships that come with families living in close-quarters for long periods of time. It was reported in The Virginian-Pilot that calls to domestic and sexual abuse hotlines increased by

76% statewide in March.

During this year's General Assembly session, we took critical steps toward a goal to further prevent instances of domestic violence here in Virginia. We passed many pieces of legislation that went into effect in July and even now, are credited with saving lives.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders, or "red flag laws" are used now for the first time by law enforcement as a tool in many cases across the Commonwealth to temporarily remove weapons from individuals who have shown that they are a danger to themselves and others. Recognizing the link between firearms and intimate partner homicide and intimidation, this session we passed legislation that prohibits individuals subject to permanent protective orders from knowingly possessing a firearm while the order is in effect.

My bill, HB 1044, was signed into law which raises the penalty for any person who deceptively installs or places an electronic tracking device and uses that device to track the location of any person without their consent. Victims of domestic violence are often tracked by their abusers. This offense is now a Class 1 misdemeanor, which elevates unauthorized tracking to the same level as stalking. Finally, The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund was created to develop, support, and evaluate programs that prevent sexual and domestic violence. While funding for this program was un-allotted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am confident we will restore funding to this crucial cause in an upcoming General Assembly session.

Sexual and domestic violence programs remain open to provide crisis services, emergency shelter, and resource-based support. The Virginia Statewide Hotline is still here during this time (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) and ready to help, and so are sexual and domestic violence programs all over the state. If you or someone you know needs help, please call: 1-800-838-8238, text: 804-793-9999, or chat: <https://www.vadata.org//chat/>.

To report a crime, call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 or, for emergencies, please call 911. Please stay safe out there and don't hesitate to reach out for help.

To support charitable efforts to combat domestic violence please consider donating to the Family and Children's Trust Fund <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/donate-2/> the organization in Virginia devoted to treating and preventing family violence across the lifespan.



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA UNCLAIMED PROPERTY FOR REPORT YEAR 2020

In conformance with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Unclaimed Property Act, the City of Alexandria is publishing a listing of unclaimed property held at June 30, 2019.

Property Code	Last Name	First Name	Property Code	Last Name	First Name	Property Code	Last Name	First Name	Property Code	Last Name	First Name
735813	1900 DUKE STREET LP		742426	CRP MARK CENTER HOTEL L L C		755244	KIDBY	JOSHUA	734496	RORLS	SABRINA
735814	1900 DUKE STREET LP		742427	CRP MARK CENTER HOTEL L L C		747254	KIM	HYUNG	732263	ROSEGREEN TRUST/WILMINGTON	
733710	ABBOT	HENRY	732221	CUEVAS	FAYE	747326	KIMSEY	SARA		TRUST COMPANY	
735307	ABDOU	MOHAMED	749994	CUMMINS	MATTHEW	731279	KINGFISHER HOLDINGS, LLC		736142	SADEDDIN	HAZIM
749153	ADROIT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC		743788	DALE WARREN DOVER,		754433	KOMUGISHA	WIMANA	749376	SAHLEMEDIHIN ROMAN	
752224	AIMEE	LESSARD		ATTORNEY AT LAW		751434	KWABENA	AGYEKUM	751389	SCHARF	GORDON
754248	ALEXANDRIA LACROSSE CLUB, INC		733647	DAVIS	CARLA	747808	LANGE	KYLE	751390	SCHARF	GORDON
754124	ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH		748671	DEBNAR ALBERT A OR FILOMENA O		732920	LAW OFFICES MARK S. ALLEN		733729	SCHICK	JAMES
745177	AL-HARAZI	NUHA	755442	DEL-RAY GLASS CO., INC.		752702	LAWLESS	GEORGE	733628	SCOTT	ASHTON
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If you or your company is listed above, contact the Accounting Division of the City of Alexandria's Finance Department prior to October 16, 2020. For more information concerning this ad, please contact: City of Alexandria, Finance/Accounting Division, P.O. Box 178, Alexandria, VA 22313 Telephone: 703-746-4288. The above shall be published in The Alexandria Gazette on September 24, 2020.

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Legals

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Sushijin Alexandria Inc trading as Sushi Jin, 3470 Berkeley St, Ste 303, Alexandria, VA 22302-1357. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jin K. Oh, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Samuel Ford Inc trading as Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Co, 25 S Quaker Ln, Alexandria VA 22314-4585. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises/Delivery Permit Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. John Snedden, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, virtually on Zoom webinar on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of 1217 Colonial Avenue to maintain an encroachment for a retaining wall at the property, in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. The proposed ordinance permits the owner of the dwelling to maintain an existing retaining wall in the adjacent sidewalk area.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 7-2100 (INCREASED DENSITY AND HEIGHT FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS) of Article VII (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2019-00007.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No 2019-00007 to increase the floor area ration from .60 to .75 for public elementary and secondary schools, in residential and mixed use zones.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 051.02 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning a portion of the property at 1101 Janneys Lane from POS/Public Open Space and Community Recreation Zone to R-8/Single-Family Zone; by rezoning 1201 and 1203 Janneys Lane from R-20/Single-Family Zone to R-8/Single-Family Zone; and by rezoning a portion of 1099 Francis Hammond Parkway from R-8/Single-Family Zone to POS/Public Open Space and Community Recreation Zone in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2020-00002.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2020-00002, to rezone a portion of the property at 1101 Janneys Lane from POS/Public Open Space and Community Recreation Zone to R-8/Single-Family Zone; by rezoning 1201 and 1203 Janneys Lane from R-20/Single-Family Zone to R-8/Single-Family Zone; and by rezoning a portion of 1099 Francis Hammond Parkway from R-8/Single-Family Zone to POS/Public Open Space and Community Recreation Zone.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article II-VIII, XI, XII to amend commercial use definitions, commercial use conditions and home occupation requirements and to change certain uses from requiring Special Use Permits or permitted used, of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2020-00003. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2020-00003 to amend Articles II-VIII, XI, XII to amend commercial use definitions, commercial use conditions and home occupation requirements and to change certain uses from requiring Special Use Permits and Administrative Use Permits to either Administrative Special Use Permits or permitted uses.

AN ORDINANCE to initiate and establish the process for soliciting and granting non-exclusive Telecommunications Facility Franchise proposals by the City of Alexandria, Virginia, from telecommunications providers to install specified small cell facilities and related infrastructure to use the public rights-of-ways.

AN ORDINANCE to add a new Division 4 - FATS, OILS, AND GREASE (FOG) MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, Article B (SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINS), Chapter 6 (WATER & SEWER), of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, as amended. The proposed ordinance amends the ordinance regulating sewage discharges by adding a division that specifically addresses FOG management for food service establishments/ The ordinance clarifies the requirements for both new and existing facilities, establishes minimum maintenance requirements for FOG abatement devices and includes a compliance schedule with defined civil penalties for noncompliance.

BAR APPEAL for BAR Case #2020-00197 – Project Address: Heritage at Old Town, 450 South Patrick, 900 Wolfe and 431 South Columbus Streets.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday, October 24, 2020. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

An Update About Some Down Time



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I want to give you a blow-by-blow concerning my treatment switch over to thyroid cancer from lung cancer but the last two columns were written four weeks ago in the same week in expectation of a weekend away, so these observations will be new-ish in that they will be hot off the press, so to speak. Away with the kind of friends who are empathetic, sympathetic and who never make me feel pathetic in any of my struggles. In short, the best kind of friends. This is important because when one in the group goes above and beyond in the wrong direction, like heading from one's present cancer direction to a yet altogether new less desirable cancer direction: stable non small cell lung cancer stage 4 being treated with immunotherapy to stage 4 papillary thyroid cancer being treated with chemotherapy, is hardly a conversation that makes for fun even if I now have my own sort of "BOGO." And though the 'shopping 'buy' may be familiar, the cancer 'buy' is not nearly so familiar. Generally speaking a "BOBO offer is of interest, a cancer one not so much. In fact, it's not much of a bargain at all.

The worst of now being treated for papillary thyroid cancer is the array of side effects which are manifesting. They're not exactly debilitating, they're just one big nuisance broken into about eight different nuisances - and I will spare you the details. The net effect of all these side effects is that for the first time in approximately two years, and I feel extraordinarily lucky to be able to say this, once again I feel like I have cancer. And though it's unlikely it's simply side effects which are doing all the talking, rather than the cancer metastasizing, which it already has anyway since the thyroid cancer is now in the lungs, it's impossible not to consider the consequences. I mean cancer doesn't just travel around to make new friends and influence people. It sort of has a task: to damage and destroy. And I have to admit: feeling as if I didn't have cancer is much more preferred than how I feel now.

Nevertheless, it's not as if I feel at death's door (well, not the front door anyway). It's more a feeling of death being at the back door. Not a direct assault, mind you, more of an indirect one. And I'm sure they still count as much as all the others. Unfortunately, I fear an accumulation of these indirect assaults can cause as much cumulative damage as a direct hit. Ergo, I'm wondering if this rear-type assault/indirect-type hit is an indication of future/perhaps even present trouble? Moreover, I wonder if having to defend myself on two fronts (primary and secondary) will weaken the resistance. Because as many World War II movies as I've seen, the resistance rarely seemed to have enough supplies to carry out their mission.

Being in a new battle, even it involves familiar elements: blood pressure readings, EKGs, CT scans, lab and face-to-face appointments, doesn't totally regularize the experience. The reason being that this familiarity is breeding contempt because I have been there and done that. Yet, here here I am having to do it all over again and I find myself quoting Shakespeare or the Three Stooges: "something is rotten in Denmark."

Being a cancer patient is like being unable to send your legs out for a walk as Lt. Com. Henry Blake wanted to after a long period of surgery during a particularly high-casualty episode on the television series, M*A*S*H. And as a previously diagnosed as "terminal" cancer patient, neither can I disconnect from my mortality thoughts any more than Henry could exercise his legs. So what I'm left with is either bucking up or venting to friends and family. I'm lucky to have an outlet. I imagine it is much more difficult for those who don't.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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NEWS

Limiting Neck Restraints

FROM PAGE 1

the law-enforcement officer or another person."

Gastanaga says she's worried that proving law-enforcement officers are guilty of strangulation in court would be more complicated and require more proof. Senators say their version avoids cluttering up the code by adding a separate felony offense singling out law-enforcement officers with additional liability that would not apply to anybody else.

"The Senate bill says law enforcement officials get treated like everybody else when it comes to felony strangulation," said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who is overseeing policing reform in the Senate. "Not only does it institute a chokehold ban, where an officer could be decertified or fired or demoted, but it also creates the possibility they could be charged with a Class 6 felony."

House members are pushing for a separate criminal penalty for police officers and sheriff's deputies who use chokeholds. They disagree with the Senate approach, which they worry would be limited to decertification or termination of officers who use neck restraints. But they're also entering the conference committee negotiations with a group of senators who have already drawn a red line that they will not allow the creation of a separate felony offense for chokeholds. Some House members see that approach as inconsistent with other actions taken during the special session.

"They allowed a new felony for officers who have carnal knowledge of a person in their custody," said Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2). "So they'll make it a felony offense for an officer who has sex with a person who may be in their custody, but not an officer who performs a chokehold on an individual? That's kind of where we are unfortunately."

THE DEBATE OVER CHOKEHOLDS comes at a time when lawmakers are sending a flurry of bills to the governor, everything from the civilian oversight of police officers to sensitivity training. For some Republicans, it's too much too soon. During a debate about policing reform last week, several senators vented their frustration with the pace of reform happening in the General Assembly.

"I'm quite convinced that perhaps the Senate needs some sensitivity training," said Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant (R-12). "There's an inherent bias that I'm hearing, using some of the language we've heard, toward our police force."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/OCT. 10

Mindfulness Workshop. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Springs Gardens, Alexandria. (All ages). What is mindfulness? How would you practice in the gardens and at home? Discover the benefits of a mindful practice and learn how to explore life with purpose. Through mindful exercises lead by site manager Nicole Mitchell Connors, practice meditation and walking Green Spring Gardens in mindful way to reduce stress and increase joy. Practice what you learn at home and whenever you visit the gardens. This program will be

Here in Alexandria, Black people are 23 percent of the population and yet most arrests in the city are of African Americans. Most cases when police use force are against Black people. Most drug arrests are of Black people. And almost half of the inmates at the Alexandria jail are Black people. Democrats say the death of George Floyd and the protest movement that emerged in its aftermath have created a moment to take action against systemic racism and police brutality.

"We're here wanting to talk about issues of equality. We're here because we're interested in talking about issues of justice," said Sen. Mamie Locke (D-2), who introduced the policing reform bill in the Senate. "I'm concerned that there's a lack of sensitivity on the part of some of our colleagues here on the floor because we're here to talk about those particular issues." On the issue of chokeholds, organizations that advocate on behalf of police agencies stand in opposition to the House approach of creating a separate felony offense that would apply specifically to law-enforcement officials. They warn that limiting the way police officers and sheriff's deputies go about their work would be a dangerous move. During hearings on Carroll Foy's bill, they testified her approach would create confusion and cause hesitation.

"We don't use neck restraints, and we don't advocate for them," said Wayne Huggins, executive director of the Virginia State Police Association. "But there needs to be an exemption for those life-and-death situations where no other alternative is reasonably available."

Although interest groups representing law-enforcement agencies stand in opposition to the House approach, they worked with senators in crafting an omnibus approach to policing reform that has their support. That support gives senators more leverage in their closed-door conference committee negotiations with House members, but it also creates suspicion among advocates who are concerned that law-enforcement interest groups are calling the shots on reforming law enforcement.

"I don't think that police reform needs to be signed off on by the police," said Andy Elders, deputy public defender in Fairfax County. "During this special session, I've heard people say you don't want to second guess police officers and you don't want to tie their hands. But if we're going to preserve the rights of the people who come into contact with the police every day, you have to second guess the police sometimes and you have to tie their hands."

conducted outdoors. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktates (code 7DFPE4G) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/OCT. 11

Tea Program: Fifty Years in Women's Lives. 1-3 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens, Alexandria. (Adult) Consider how the past 50 years have transformed women's lives. Discover things that women could not do before 1970 and reflect on an astonishingly fast-paced liberation that continues today. Hear about the remarkable woman whose donation 50 years ago made Green Spring Gardens possible. \$36 (program & tea); \$15 (program only).

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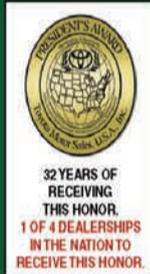
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BATTERY CHECK-UP

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

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BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE

10% OFF YOUR FIRST SERVICE

15% OFF YOUR SECOND SERVICE

Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

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OIL & FILTER CHANGE

\$24⁹⁵

NON-SYNTHETIC

\$34⁹⁵

SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

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NEW HOURS SPECIAL!
DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM
WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE
12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150

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ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

SPECIAL OFFER

\$129⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,

24 month free roadside assistance.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

#WeAreAlexandria



Gentry Row | \$2,300,000

Elegant 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath home on historic Gentry Row. Original heart pine floors, spectacular millwork and a gorgeous ballroom, double parlors, 8 fireplaces and a walled garden create a wonderful ambiance for daily living. Shown by appointment. 211 Prince Street
Kate Patterson 703.627.2166
www.katepattersonhomes.com



Riverview at Mount Vernon | \$1,525,000

Grand custom brick colonial on a half-acre cul-de-sac lot. Over 6,000 finished SF, super kitchen with breakfast room, lovely family room with vaulted ceiling & fireplace, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 offices, walkout lower level, 3-car garage. HayesWoodHomes.com
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138



OPEN SAT 10/10 & SUN 10/11, 2-4PM

Old Town | \$1,885,000

Located in a fantastic Old Town location, this 3/4 bedroom property offers a wonderful floor plan for large scale entertaining and ease for everyday living. There is an oversized 2 car garage plus a private elevator to all four levels. Perfection throughout! 723 S Union Street
Sissy Zimmerman 703.989.9779
www.BBZGroup.com



Old Town | \$1,450,000

Gorgeous, expanded Yates Garden townhouse. 3,500+ SF of living space with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 fireplaces, and hardwood floors. Gourmet kitchen & sunny sitting room in addition to formal living & dining rooms. Spectacular owner's suite & finished lower level.
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



Mount Ida | \$1,299,000

Incredible 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath expanded & updated Colonial! Main level offers a formal dining room, large living room with wood-burning fireplace, sunroom/den, and a family room with gas fireplace adjacent to the wonderful custom kitchen. 3001 Russell Road
Kim Peele 703.244.5852
www.ThePeeleGroup.biz



OPEN SAT 10/10, 2-4PM

Belle View | \$269,900

Move-in ready condo on the top-level. Largest 2 bedroom floorplan with renovated kitchen, freshly painted, refinished hardwoods, adorable window seat in the primary bedroom. Extra storage unit. Incredible green space & parking. 6612 E Wakefield Drive B1.
Kathleen Dobbyn 703.946.2238
www.DobbynTeam.com

VIRTUAL OPEN SAT 10/10, 2PM



Del Ray
\$699,900
 2-bedroom, 2-bath, semi-detached, brick home. Bright, open floor plan with gleaming hardwood floors. Kitchen with updated appliances. Finished lower level rec room. Large private yard. Walk to shops, restaurants and entertainment on "The Avenue." 13 Uhler Avenue W #A
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com

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