Council Approves the Heritage Project

Vote is unanimous on Old Town development.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

The controversial Heritage at Old Town development project will move forward following unanimous approval by the Alexandria City Council at its Feb. 20 public hearing.

“It’s a mega-sized environment being placed on a footprint that is much smaller than what we are about to put on it.”
—Councilwoman Amy Jackson on The Heritage at Old Town project

Despite reservations expressed by some Council members, the addition of new affordable housing units was the determining factor in the decision to give the green light to New York-based Asland Capital Partners to develop several blocks in the Southwest quadrant of Old Town.

The Heritage has generated intense public debate regarding the height and density of the project, which consists of three new buildings up to seven stories high with 750 units. The Board of Architectural Review last summer described early renderings of the project as “lipstick on a pig.”

The project has been criticized by many residents who raised concerns over the impact the project will have on the community. During the public hearing, Council members shared some of those concerns including increased traffic at the already congested intersection of Gibbon and South Patrick streets, minimized parking, school capacity, stormwater and sewage infrastructure, and the height and unit density of the proposed buildings.

“It’s a mega-sized environment being placed on a footprint that is much smaller than what we are about to put on it,” said Councilwoman Amy Jackson.

See Council, on Page 5

DPC Food Drive

Donations collected for Alive!, ARHA.

Members of the Departmental Progressive Club held a food and gift card drive Feb. 20 to collect non-perishable items for local families. “We are open today to collect non-perishable dry goods for families in the City of Alexandria,” said DPC president Nelson Greene Jr. “The products we collected will be going to Alive! and ARHA and will be distributed soon for families in need.” The DPC held a similar food drive Feb. 13 but due to difficult weather conditions, decided to extend the drive another weekend.

“Most of the things we have here are staples that families can use or keep until they are needed,” Greene added. “That's what we try to do in the community. Wherever we can contribute a little bit, we contribute.”

—Jeanne Theismann

Pet Gazette

Carlie Buddemeyer and Meaghan Bowman with Brandy at the Fish Market Feb. 20. See more pets on pages 4, 8, and 9.
BABS BECKWITH
Specializing in Old Town Properties for 25+ Years

All of these exciting Old Town houses Sold and Under Contract so far in 2021 ~
If you are thinking of buying or selling your home this Spring,
call Babs and put her expertise to work for you!
Controlling Gun Violence

After stumbling on assault weapons, lawmakers limit guns at polling places and government buildings.

By Michael Lee Pope

Gazette Packet

Utilizing their campaign promises to take action against gun violence, Democrats in the General Assembly are sending Gov. Ralph Northam several gun-violence prevention bills. Lawmakers are taking action to exclude guns at polling places and government buildings, creating new restrictions for people convicted of domestic violence and extending the time allowed for the State Police to conduct background checks. The bills this year come after several new laws were created last year, requiring universal background checks and allowing local governments to regulate firearms.

“Virginia is a leader now,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran, who formerly represented Alexandria in the House of Delegates. “We’ve gone from dead last to first in terms of responsible gun-control legislation.”

One campaign promise Democrats have been unable to accomplish is limiting access to assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, deadly equipment that has been used to commit some of the worst mass shootings in American history. After Democrats seized control of the General Assembly last year, cracking down on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines was a top priority for the new majority. But Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw ended up withdrawing his own bill on the issue, and Del. Mark Levine (D-45) was unable to get his bill through the Senate. This year, nobody even bothered introducing an assault-weapons bill.

“I don’t think it has enough votes to pass,” explained Levine. “It’s misunderstood because people overstate what it is because it’s really a high-capacity magazine ban more than an assault-weapons ban because we’re grandfathering in the assault weapons.”

Some of the Bills

Lawmakers are sending the governor improvements to new laws that were passed last year. For example, one of the signature accomplishments of the 2020 General Assembly session was the law requiring universal background checks. This bill closed the gun-show loophole, but it also created a new problem. If the State Police did not complete a background check within three days, the sale was permitted to go through anyway. That’s why Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49) introduced a bill to give the State Police five days to conduct a background check.

“If we keep expanding the time, you’re taking the pressure off the police to do it in a timely fashion,” said Phillip Van Cleve, president of the Virginia Citizens Defense League. “This whole system was sold to gun owners as an instant check, and the longer you stretch it the more that becomes a joke.”

Lopez pointed to statistics from the State Police showing examples of how background checks taking longer than three days can lead to problems. Last year, the State Police logged 787 transactions that were denied in three days or less. However, he said, 235 background checks that were eventually rejected took longer than three days. The way the laws work now, that would be hundreds purchases in 2020 that should have been denied but weren’t because of a process known as “default proceed.”

“So a purchase would have been allowed to go forward — 235 examples,” said Lopez. “To keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals who pose a threat to themselves, their loved ones and the community at large, I believe that making this one word change is the best course of action for the commonwealth.”

Lawmakers are also haunted by the specter of the ghost guns, which are firearms created by 3D printers or assembled at home from kits. Because none of the new gun-violence measures passed last year would apply to these guns, some lawmakers are concerned that this is a class of firearms that would be able to evade all the laws designed to keep weapons out of the hands of people who shouldn’t have them. That’s why Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) introduced a bill to prohibit people buying kits and assembling ghost guns.

“It’s untraceable, and it really evades the entire system,” said Simon. “You build the gun yourself and it’s got no serial number. You require no background check. There was no age limit to purchase it.”

Although the original version of his bill outlawed all old guns without serial numbers, senators changed it to grandfather in all firearms that predated the new law. Advocates say they liked Simon’s original version better, but in the sausage-making facto-
A jar of peanut butter makes the perfect distraction for a dog during an exam, one of the “Fear Free” techniques used at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA). Trembling at every loud noise, Toffee was scared of the world.

Animal Care Associate Jennifer Yang decided Toffee needed a change of scenery — and sounds. One day during her lunch break, Yang carried Toffee’s crate into a quiet room in the shelter and sat with her, occasionally tossing a treat her way. After about 10 minutes, Toffee ventured out far enough to nibble a few treats, and by the end of Yang’s lunch break, she had left her crate completely. After that breakthrough — and a move to stay with a staffer in a quiet office for a few days — Toffee’s confidence grew by leaps and bounds. Within a few weeks she was ready for adoption.

Yang’s strategy was based on training she had recently completed for a program known as “Fear Free Pets,” a comprehensive training and certification program developed by veterinarian Marty Becker and other veterinary experts that seeks to reduce animals’ fear by addressing their emotional well-being. Fear-free practices can include reducing stressful visual stimuli for the pet, using soothing pheromones, calming music, prescription sedatives, gentle control techniques and improved housing and enrichment activities. All of the AWLA’s staff has completed the extensive Fear Free online certification coursework.

“From the point of entry to their exit from our facility, we want to make sure that animals are as comfortable as they can be and ensure their stress levels are managed and minimal,” said AWLA Director of Operations Katie DeMent. “Our duty is to make sure an animal is not only medically comfortable but also behaviorally comfortable. For example, during their medical exams, we use food to distract them — a lot of dogs don’t even know they got a shot if at the same time they have their nose in a jar of peanut butter.”

To reduce stress during physical exams, cats are gently wrapped in a towel, DeMent said. “If a cat gets too uncomfortable during a medical procedure, we stop what we’re doing and have the vet do an exam with light sedation the next day,” she said.

This training has expanded staff’s knowledge of canine and feline body language. “If we see a dog trembling in his kennel with his ears back and pupils dilated, we quickly move him to a quiet place, such as an office space or even foster care in a home,” DeMent said. “The first step is being aware and the second is acting quickly.

“It takes a keen and trained eye to notice the subtle body language changes, such as dogs that shake like they are drying off can mean they’re actually trying to release stress. Or a dog yawning out of context also can indicate they are stressed.” To provide a feeling of safety, AWLA kennels contain hiding spots and kennel curtains, giving the animals the opportunity to get out of view of humans when they need to.

“A change of environment is always stressful,” said Community Outreach and Adoptions Associate Jeannette Acosta, who helps manage adoptions, which are now done by appointment. “As soon as the animals arrive, they encounter strange people putting their hands on them, and then they’re placed in a kennel or enclosure that’s completely new to them. So following fear-free practices, we use the least amount of handling necessary. We also pay a lot of attention to the animal’s body language. When I first meet a shy cat, I try to use a soft voice.” A day in the life of an animal at the AWLA includes plenty of distracting enrichment — “busy boxes” filled with toys smeared with cheese for dogs and toilet paper rolls stuffed with treats for cats, not to mention catnip — all designed to entertain the animals and reduce stress levels. Volunteers trained in body language and handling take high-energy dogs for frequent walks, and others spend time playing with the cats in their enclosures or just sitting quietly with them as the felines’ fear of the shelter environment slowly melts away. Behavioral interactions are carefully documented in a database so that shelter staff can track each animal’s progress.

Adoptable turtles can take a few weeks before they’re comfortable enough to come out of hiding and bask in under their heat lamps. Pibb the red-eared slider finally came out of her shell when volunteers taught her to play with a red ball attached to a metal stick, rewarding her with treats. For Pibb, people no longer equal fear; they equal treats.

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“It takes a keen and trained eye to notice the most

A jar of peanut butter makes the perfect distraction for a dog during an exam, one of the “Fear Free” techniques used at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.
Models Now Open

We are here for you and your loved ones. Visit Sunrise of Old Town for a one-on-one tour of our brand new models. You’ll get a sneak peek of our community’s amenities, activities, and dining program. We look forward to sharing our personalized approach to assisted living and memory care, coming to Alexandria in the spring of 2021.

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To everyone at the Alexandria Gazette Packet for all you do for our community:

thank you

With gratitude, the team at

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FEB. 23 TO MARCH 23
Online Study Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Via Zoom. Sponsored by Fairlington United Methodist Church of Alexandria. Free, weekly in-depth look at the mysteries of suffering and how to make better sense of them. Join at any time.

Visit the website: www.fairlingtonumc.org

MEETING ON ARMISTEAD L. BOOTHE PARK ATHLETIC FIELD CONVERSION PROJECT
As part of the City of Alexandria Capital Improvement Program, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will upgrade the existing natural turf athletic field at 520 Cameron Station Boulevard. The City has hired a design team led by A. Morton Thomas, Inc. to create design and construction documents to convert the natural turf field to synthetic turf and improve the supporting field amenities. RPCA invites the community to provide comment on the project through a virtual meeting on Thursday, February 25 at 7 p.m. For additional information, visit the project webpage or contact Bethany Znidersic, Acting Division Chief, at bethany.znidersic@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-5492.

See Bulletin, Page 11

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

FEB. 23 TO MARCH 23

Bulletin Board


**Inland Flooding**

Facing storm intensities far beyond what our infrastructure was designed to handle.

By Sen. Adam Ebbin

As our climate is altered by a multitude of manmade factors, we face the reality of storm intensities beyond what our infrastructure was ever designed to handle. In just the last year, the city of Alexandria has faced three “ten-year” storms (storms that have a one-in-ten chance of happening in a given year that drops 2.28 inches of rain over an hour or 4.61 inches in a day). The intensity of this rainfall has overburdened our stormwater management systems, creating serious backups and a flood working to underprepared areas of Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax. Areas such as Del Ray and Four Mile Run, among many, have faced serious flooding. Many individuals have felt the brunt of the inadequacy of our existing stormwater infrastructure.

The most obvious of which is the damage and danger of inland flooding. As our climate is altered by a multitude of manmade factors, we face the reality of storm intensities beyond what our infrastructure was ever designed to handle. In just the last year, the city of Alexandria has faced three “ten-year” storms (storms that have a one-in-ten chance of happening in a given year that drops 2.28 inches of rain over an hour or 4.61 inches in a day). The intensity of this rainfall has overburdened our stormwater management systems, creating serious backups and a flood working to underprepared areas of Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax. Areas such as Del Ray and Four Mile Run, among many, have faced serious flooding. Many individuals have felt the brunt of the inadequacy of our existing stormwater infrastructure.

In Alexandria, residents are looking to the city to do everything possible to deal with the recurring flooding that is impacting our community. The city is currently working on a Flood Mitigation Action Plan which includes more than $170 million in infrastructure investments and capacity projects throughout the community, which will take ten years to complete. While that crucial long-term investment is underway, we must find ways to support those people who are being affected now. I was glad that local officials in Alexandria worked with me on legislation to give them flexibility to address the immediate needs of constituents. Often, our local officials are placed in a jam in Virginia -- they have the ideas, money, and staff to pull off incredible projects, but their hands are sometimes tied by the “Dillon Rule.” Unlike “home rule” states, Virginia localities draw their power from the state legislature, and any new power they wish to adopt must be approved by the legislature.

In this case, localities have created a flexible grant fund, drawn from their own coffers, to address stormwater management, but they were limited in how they use those funds to address flooding. That is why I introduced SB1309, which grants increased power to preserve at-risk properties through floodproofing, grading, and other flood protection products. These cost-effective, and environmental-friendly projects should grant some much-needed reprise to our water-adjacent neighborhoods, protecting the most vulnerable neighborhoods while Alexandria, and Fairfax governments work diligently to overhaul their stormwater management systems.

I was glad to unanimously pass this legislation and send it to the Governor’s desk last week. I look forward to this becoming law and will continue working to address the underlying issues resulting in environmental and infrastructure threats in our community.

Let us know your view

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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Missing

From Page 6

ty of California. Connerly made a strong case to end Affirmative Action on the grounds that it discriminated against other groups of people and indirectly harmed blacks in the process. Rather than exhort him for insisting that we stay true to non-discriminatory policies, might we have reimagined our school system years ago and put the financial investment in the front end so that we would have little need for these programs on the back end?

The tragedy is that we’ll never know and if a new generation of thinkers continue canceling out the voices that they do not agree with, we will continue to see greater dependency on the government and a deterioration of family and church.

This year my younger son turned 18 and decided not to vote in the 2020 election. His reason was simple. He hadn’t taken the time to decide on the issues. I couldn’t argue with that; in fact I was proud that he understood the gravity of his vote. To be honest, I have no idea who he would have voted for. I do know what he’s about and who he is shaping up to be. He drops clues here and there like this one. A few months ago a reporter mentioned that a university thought that due to the pandemic, it would be good policy to allow Black students to return before the other groups of students. My son had just walked by and caught the story. With disgust in his voice he said, “Why? That’s stupid.” I didn’t let him know it but, inside I lit up like a lightbulb.

The question is not, “When did I know I was a Republican?” The question should be, “Why.” The Republican Party aligns with who I am and I don’t feel that I have to deny any part of myself to align with its platform. My decision is both personal and political.

Ivan Raiklin
Speaks to Local Republican Women

The Commonwealth Republican Women’s Club (CRWC) hosted Ivan Raiklin as its guest speaker in February. Raiklin’s background includes serving as a Green Beret, running for U.S. Senate, and being on Twitter on matters including Constitutional law with over 170,000 Twitter followers.

Raiklin discussed a wide range of topics including the 2020 election, Big Tech’s monetization of its users, cancel culture, alternative
Steve the Surofish.

In the morning, it’s the Cokester and writer Mike Salmon, drinking coffee and reading the paper.

Egan placed second in the region in the United States Police Cadet to the distribution of narcotics. The arrests of over a dozen people suspected of committing crimes.

The colony site has evolved over the years and nine sin- ners of several shelter, a stor- age unit and two feeding sta- tions. The shelters are placed deep enough to keep them above snow and smaller tubes contain extra compostable boxes, spouts, garbage bags, cardboard sleeves, straws and to go cups. The site is cleaned several times per week and the shelves are changed out two times per year.

The colony volunteers see it that the cats can get regular care from a veterinarian.

“Every cat in the colony has a yearly rabies shot and other vet care is given at the same time,” said Cain. “In my knowledge, only one cat was trapped due to having a wound which turned out to be cancer.

According to Cain, it can be difficult to trap a cat after the first time as they become “trap shy.”

Before I moved, all the cats had a three-year rabies shot which helped cut down on the necessity to trap,” Cain said. “However, one cat has a skin issue and must be trapped on a yearly basis.

To Cain, the trappers are her heroes. “It takes nerves of steel or a very calm nature to be a trapper,” she said. “It can also take a lot of time and effort due to special traps, conditions — food the day before so they are hungry, distant weather if possible, special nightly food, etc. — and availability of consid- ered to help. Usually, they need to spend the night in someone’s home before going to the vet.”

Word of mouths has allowed the group to expand to support both with volunteers and local businesses.

“Nearby business in partic- ular has been outstanding in its support for the colony,” Cain said. “They have allowed customers to set up tables to sell my artwork, talk with people about the cats and to collect donations. We have a large display with pictures of the cats and the site, and pertinent information about feral or commu- nity cats.”

Cain urges everyone to support organizations that care for feral colonies, particularly those that provide TNR services.

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Sheriff’s Office Remembers Seniors on Valentine’s Day

The Sheriff’s Office teamed up with Senior Services of Alexandria to deliver special Valentine’s Day goodie bags to those receiving Meals on Wheels. To show seniors that the Sheriff’s Office is thinking about them, deputies filled dozens of treat bags with Valentine cards, mini hand sanitizers, bookmarks, lip balm, and refrigerator magnets with scam prevention tips and a File of Life kit. Then on February 12, Captain Sean Casey, Investigator Victor Ignacio and other volunteers delivering Meals on Wheels surprised seniors and others on their routes with the Valentine’s Day gift bags.

As they delivered Meals on Wheels, Captain Sean Casey and Investigator Victor Ignacio surprised seniors with Valentine’s Day goodie bags.
Ivan Raiklin
Speaks to Local Republican Women

FROM PAGE 7
social media, bias in the news media, and upcoming Supreme Court cases. He brought the big issues he heard when urban Republicans to take the leap and run for local office such as city council and school board if their views and values are not represented. He also urged CRWC members to become trained Election Officers who will challenge any problems they see in the voting and vote counting processes.

CRWC President Linda App was pleased by the response when Raiklin asked for a show of hands for those on the Zoom meeting who are considering a run for local office. “I hope everyone who raised their hands will seriously consider a run in 2021, whether in a partisan race or the non-partisan School Board race,” App said. “I could tell Ivan was inspiring them.”

CRWC is the Alexandria chapter of both the Virginia and the National Federation of Republican Women (VFRW and NFRW). CRWC encourages local Republican women of all ages to become more politically involved by helping support and elect GOP candidates to public office at the local, state, and national levels. The club also has a conservative book club and organizes activities to support charitable organizations. More information is available at www.al-exandriacrwc.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5
FEMA FLOOD MAP UPDATE
The Federal Emergency Management Agency is updating its flood maps of Alexandria and has requested that the City of Alexandria provide community outreach assistance. The City will host a virtual open house on March 1, from 7 to 8 p.m. Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate to learn more about the update to the floodplain maps. Visit alexandria-va.gov/FloodMap for information about the floodplain map update process and potential impacts to existing and proposed redevelopment.

THURSDAY/MARCH 11
2021 Women’s Leadership Forum. THURSDAY/MARCH 11
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2021 Women’s Leadership Forum.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund FY 2022</th>
<th>All Funds FY 2022</th>
<th>Capital Improvements FY 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Council</td>
<td>$674,826</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$767,062,913</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,031,870,440</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Any person desiring to review the proposed budget may visit the City’s website (alexandriava.gov/budget).

PROPERTY TAXES
The proposed budget includes a decrease of $0.02 cents in the real property tax rate from $1.13 to $1.11 per $100 of assessed valuation based upon an assessment ratio of 100% fair market value. It should be noted that City Council will set the maximum tax rate to be advertised at its March 9, 2021 meeting, at 7:00 p.m. and that Council may not adopt a rate that exceeds this tax rate, but may adopt an equal or lesser tax rate. The proposed budget includes no change in the current motor vehicle personal property tax rate of $5.33 per $100 of assessed value. All other personal property tax rates, including vehicles specifically used to transport persons with disabilities, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of $3.55 per $100 of assessed value, business tangible property, including office furniture, fixtures, computers and unlicensed vehicles are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of $4.75 per $100 of assessed value. Any personal property vehicle tax rate for which we are not assessed at the present rate of $0.01 per $100 of assessed value are unchanged. The amount of real estate tax rate deducted for affordable housing and to support existing debt service related to affordable housing is 0.6 cents.

Notice
Abandoned Vessel
Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of: Washington Sailing Marina, 1 Marina Dr, GWM Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Description of Vessel: 21’ Clipper Marine Sailboat “The Seaward” white hull Registration: VA 7856831; white deck

Notice
Abandoned Vessel
Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of: Washington Sailing Marina, 1 Marina Dr, GWM Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Description of Vessel: 17’ Thistle Sailboat Blue hull with red stripe Registration: VA 5856920; white deck

Notice
Abandoned Vessel
Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of: Washington Sailing Marina, 1 Marina Dr, GWM Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Description of Vessel: 16’ Prindle Catamaran White hull Registration: VA 585685E; white deck

Notice
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Description of Vessel: 16’ Prindle Catamaran White hull Registration: VA 585685E; white deck

Notice
Abandoned Vessel
Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of: Washington Sailing Marina, 1 Marina Dr, GWM Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Description of Vessel: 26’ Macgregor Sailboat “No Way”’s; white hull with daggerboard Registration: VA 6452 BJ

Notice
Abandoned Vessel
Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of: Washington Sailing Marina, 1 Marina Dr, GWM Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Description of Vessel: 21’ Clipper Marine Sailboat “The Seaward”; white hull with blue deck Registration: VA 5856831

LTA Presents ‘The Revolutionists’
Show runs in-person from Feb. 27 to March 20, 2021.

By Steve Hibbard
The Gazette

T he Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting a live, in-person showing of “The Revolutionists,” written by Lauren Gunderson, from Feb. 27 to March 20, 2021. Come watch four asassy women lose their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution’s Reign of Terror. (Three of the characters actually lived.) Playwright Olympe de Gouges, assassin Charlotte Corday, former queen (and fan of ribbons) Marie Antoinette, and Haitian rebel Marianne Angelle hang out, murder Marat, and try to beat back the extremist insanity in 1793 Paris. This grand comedy is about violence and legacy, art and activism, feminism and terrorism, patriots and chosen sisters, and how we actually go about changing the world.

According to Director Jennifer Lyman: “The Revolutionists is funny, fresh, modern, and has something to say. It is not comedy for laughs alone, but uses comedy to discuss important subjects: feminism, equality, freedom, legacy, art, violence, and loyalty. It focuses on women trying to make their world a better place, featuring three real women who were executed by guillotine in Paris: Olympe de Gouges, a playwright; Charlotte Corday, the assassin of Jean-Paul Marat; and Marie Antoinette, Queen of France.”

She added: “It highlights the similarities between their Revolutionary France and our current America: distrust of the government, wealth inequality, racism, sexism, and extremism. It sounds too serious to be funny, but it is both.”

Lynn O’Connell, Co-Producer, added: “LTA has done a fabulous job, thanks to Safety Officers Stacey Beckett and Ken Brown as well as President Russell Wyland and in partnership with the Alexandria Health Department, in preparing the theatre for safe, live performances with masking, sanitizing procedures, a brand-new ventilation system, and social distancing/small audiences. I feel much safer at LTA than I do at my local grocery store.” The other co-producer is Kevin O’Dowd.

O’Connell added: “if it can be done safely, I think it is imperative that LTA offer our community the opportunity for live theatre – both main stage performances and through our education program. As psychologists note, live in-person theatre helps both the performers and the audience cultivate skills needed to sustain the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Definitely needed in 2021.”

As far as challenges go, Melanie Kurstin, who plays the role of Charlotte Corday, said: “Just the sheer fact that, up until February, all our rehearsals have been over Zoom. This certainly has never been the way of things, but it is also amazing how quickly we have learned to adapt in order to make this work and bring live theatre to audiences in many formats. I am extremely grateful for the entire team being so prepared in knowing how to stage this show in a way that would be safe for not only the actors, but the audience as well.”

She added: “I would hope this play inspires the audience to delve deeper into history beyond what may have been taught from school textbooks. I hope it inspires them to have meaningful conversations about equality, privilege, and how there is still so much work to be done.”

Justine Summers, who plays the role of Olympe, said: “This experience has been very different, so far. For me, a huge part of participating in theatre is the interpersonal interaction, reacting to people on stage. So, this has been a challenge, but I think one that we’ve met with gusto.”

She added: “I’ve really enjoyed learning how nuanced these women’s positions were. Especially with Olympe, I was so fascinated by everything she accomplished as a single woman in the 18th century.”

Sophie de Waal, who plays the role of Marie Antoinette, said: “After the show I want the audience to walk away thinking about these four women. Lauren Gunderson created four incredible characters, based in history, who all made a large impact on the world. These are very different women who lived extremely different lives, but what they share is their bravery. They demonstrate how powerful and informative it can be when you actually listen to one another, which is a very important lesson to learn especially in the world we live in today.”

Dayalini Pocock, who plays the role of Marianne Angelle, said she wants the audience to consider inequality among gender, among classes of society, and how it affected different people in different ways. “Rebellious women fighting for equality have been around long before the Suffragettes,” she said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting “The Revolutionists” from Feb. 27 to March 20, 2021. Tickets are $24 per person, with a discount of $3 for Wednesday and Thursday performances. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Call the box office at 703-685-0496 or visit the web-site: www.thelittletheatre.com.
Carole Nottingham Holden, 80, of Hot Springs, Virginia. Passed away quietly on February 11, 2021 with her husband and sons by her side.

Carole was predeceased by her daughter, Sherry Holden Munk; her son, Charles Christopher Holden; her sister, Anne Nottingham Payne; her granddaughter, Libby Holden; and her parents, H.D. Nottingham and Mae O. Nottingham.

Carole is survived by the love of her life for 60 years, Charles F. Holden, 111; her son, Scott Holden (Landon) of Alexandria; her brother, H.D. Nottingham, Jr. (Pat) of Wilmington, North Carolina. Also left to cherish her are 8 grandchildren along with a number of nieces and nephews.

Carole graduated from Moscou Vernon High School in Fairfax County, attended Furman College and The Washington School for Secretaries where her accurate typing speed of 100 words per minute set records. She was called upon constantly at VA TECH to type research and term papers by professors and students.

Carole has a passion for natural beauty which was evident in the pride she took in her gardens and her skilled flower arranging. She was a warm Spring Valley Garden Club member as well as a Master Gardener.

Carole was a valuable Board member of the Bath County Library. She was an avid reader and known to read a book a day. In addition she served as a Board member of The Garth Newel Music Center.

Carole was a gourmet cook and was a most gracious hostess for numerous fundraisers. She enjoyed her friends and loved sharing ideas and learning new things.

Due to Covid 19 pandemic, A private burial service will be held at Goose Creek Friends Meeting Cemetery in Lincoln, Virginia. With a celebration of Carole’s life to be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please think of The Hokie Scholarship Fund: Carole Holden Women’s Golf Team or the Chris Holden Scholarship Fund.

Carole graduated high school in 1952, and attended Murray State University in Kentucky on a football scholarship where he played quarterback for the Racers and was co-captain of the team. He was the student body vice president and president of the Methodist Student Union. At Murray, Herb met the love of his life, Celia Maureen Kintzley of Pocahontas, Kentucky, and they married over the winter break of their senior year in 1955. They recently celebrated 65 years of happily ever after.

After graduating from Murray State in 1957, Herb then earned his Master’s Degree in Secondary Education Administration over the summers while he worked as head football coach and head basketball coach for three years in McNairy, Tennessee. Herb then accepted an offer to teach and coach in Alexandria, Northern Virginia. In Alexandria, Coach Holt drew out the best from students and players and touched the lives and hearts of hundreds of students and their parents for 40 years. Herb taught physical education and English at Francis C. Hammond High School in Alexandria, where he was also the assistant football coach and the junior varsity baseball coach. When T.C. Williams high school opened, he served as head football coach, and the junior varsity baseball coach. After three years, Herb was appointed athletic director, and later became assistant principal. Coach Holt was at T.C. Williams High School fostering goodness during the time of the story “Remember the Titans.” Coach Holt also will be remembered for his dedication to students at George Washington Middle School. Upon retirement from T.C. Williams in 1987, he was named “MacDaddy of the Senior Class” by the seniors.

Herb and Maurelle raised their son and daughter in Springfield and West Springfield, Virginia. Herb continued to coach with baseball after retirement for the Springfield Babe Ruth. He proudly served as the Membership Chairman, Vice President and President of the Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVADACA) at www.nvadaca.org or P.O. Box 305, Burke, VA 22015.

A natural at sports, he turned his love of sports toward golf and enjoyed golf outings and trips with his son and friends. Herb never once met a stranger and was known for his get-up-and-go, tenacity and his fun-loving spirit. Genially interested in people, Herb never missed an opportunity to help someone or bring out the best in them, whether a family in need, or a kindred spirititching a country lane. Herb also saved more than a few lives as a SeaGard on Kentucky Lake in his youth. He loved country music and dancing, and became a square dance caller in the 1970s. He gave his family lots of swim and beach days with bonfires and stories, trips to music festivals and country fairs, football and basketball games, amusement parks, long country drives and especially family and friends. He loved bluegrass, spaghetti Westerns, Burt Reynolds comedies, ice cream, and U.S. historical fiction novels in no particular order. He was cost, calm and collected and supported and loved us dearly, always encouraging our independence and best selves while also being available to catch us should we fall. Herb and Maurelle moved to Carlsbad, California to be with daughter and family and were able to enjoy lots of family celebrations together.

Preadeceased by his parents and sister Charlotte Brown (Memphis, TN), Herbert is survived by his wife Celia Maureen Holt, son John Lain Holt and daughter-in-law Martha Holt of Greensboro, NC, grand-children Lauren Maureen Holt (currently Plouibou, WA, engaged to Darrin Cripl and Alexander Lain Holt of Charlotte, NC), engagdet to Claire Kenedy, daughter Kristin Walker, son-in-law Justin D. Walker of Carlisle, CA, and grandchildren Scarlett, Stella, Katherine and Audrey Walker; nephews Mike Brown (Carl), Pat Brown (Bathany) and Tim Brown; the late John David Kirksey (brother-in-law), sister-in-law Alice Kirksey, niece Diane De La O., nephews Samuel Kirksey (Plip), and Matthew Kirksey, extended family and countless friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and we are sure that over his 40 working years as timeless coach and teacher there will be many other stories to be shared about his kindness, support and generious spirit. Herbert made a difference in many lives and heaven is a better place for calling him home.

A celebration of life will be held when people can safely gather. Please sign the guest book and leave comments at www.accuracremation.com/obituary. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a scholarship fund in Herb’s name for young college-bound athletes at Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVADACA) at www.nvadaca.org or P.O. Box 305, Burke, VA 22015.

The family wishes to thank his amazing caregiver, Sandy S.
Lettuce get one thing out of the way up front: There are many, many more Black-owned eateries, cafes and eateries in and around Alexandria than this humble column can contain. So consider this an appetizer — or perhaps a buffet — of suggestions.

**Appetite**

**Magnolia’s On King, 703 King St.**

Maybe you were introduced to Magnolia’s from its recent Restaurant Week menu, or maybe you’ve been a longtime fan. Or maybe you haven’t heard of it at all — which would be a shame. Chef Leonard Holton’s menu is a diverse feast of Southern-inspired cuisine. Deviled eggs. Po’ boy shrimp sliders. Pulled pork sandwiches. And plant-based diners won’t be left out, either; Holton has developed a slice of the menu to vegetarian fare, ranging from “sauerkraut” and peppers to “bacon” carbonara.

**Hawwi Ethiopian, 1125 Queen St.**

Tucked away in an unassuming corner spot on Queen Street, Hawwi has consistently dished out fine Ethiopian fare to the community, even in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. From flaky sambusas to start the meal to a plethora of meat and vegetarian main course options, Hawwi is certainly comfort food personified. Pro tip: The cornbread specials are the way to get the most options for your dinner table. With the likes of doro war, beef alicha and vegetables for the carnivorous options and a vegan sampler for those plant-based customers, Hawwi’s extensive menu makes it easy to make the right choice. (And when ordering takeout or delivery, don’t be worried about how well the food will travel. Ethiopian fare is hardy.)

**Entertainment**

**4 Black-Owned Eateries To Add to Your Feast**

By Hope Nelson

Gazette Packet

From a classic “House” dog to a banh mi-inspired concoction, a buffalo dog, a “Three-Piece Suit” and more, Haute Dogs and Fries runs the gamut.

Abysinian Market and Coffee House, 720 Jefferson St.

The little coffee shop just a half-block off of Washington Street has been a stalwart throughout the pandemic, offering up comfort in a cup (or bag of beans) to neighbors. From its vast array of Ethiopian coffee to a selection of beer and wine to daily pastries and other noshable items, Abysinian Market has become a neighborhood staple, a constant in challenging times.

Hope Nelson is the author of “Classic Restaurants of Alexandria” and owns the Kitchen Recessions blog, located at www.kitchenrecessions.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessions.com.

**CALENDAR**

**NOW THRU MARCH 29 (MONDAYS)**

Yoga for Gardeners I: 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method, which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. $129 per person for 11 sessions. Class held indoors. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakés (code 66J1LA) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**SATURDAYS THRU MARCH**

Virtual Pure Barre: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. Pure Barre has again partnered with the National Landing BID to bring free virtual classes to the community. Visit the website: https://nationallanding.org/do/virtua l-pure-barre-intro-classes.

**THURSDAYS THRU MARCH 11**

Happy Hour Yoga, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Virtual via WebEx. The National Landing BID has partnered with Erin Sonn, owner of eat.YOGA, to bring unique yoga experiences to you virtually. This free, hour-long class will have a different theme and playlist each week and requires registration. Visit the website: https://nationallanding.org/do/hap py-hour-yoga.

**NOW THRU MARCH 24**

Wednesday Morning Study Group. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Via zoom. Fairlington UMC 3900 King St., Alexandria. Join in a nine-week study of Lamentations. Contact Jane at 703-442-8155 or email her at jarus@fairlant ongumc.org to join.

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LEASES STARTING FROM...

$149 /mo

MODEL# 1662. MSRP $21,470. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/yr & $2,999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND $195 PROCESSING FEE. OFFER ENDS 03/01/21.

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Se habla español

McEnearney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, 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

**Quaker Hill | $1,799,999**
Custom home built with the finest attention to detail. Craftsman style featuring approx. 5,700 SF, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, office on main level, 2 family rooms, an au pair/in-law suite on the walk-out lower level, deck & covered gazebo. 106 N Quaker Lane
Kristen Jones 703.851.2556
www.KristenJones.com

**McLean | $1,199,000**
Delightful 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home in sought-after Franklin Park. Renovated (2017) kitchen opens to the family room with a stacked stone fireplace, wet bar, and glass door leading to the private deck. Primary bedroom with spa-like bath. 1909 Rhode Island Ave.
Kathy Hassett 703.863.1546
www.MPHHomeTeam.com

**Rosemont | $1,800,000**
Light & Airy! This bright 6-bedroom, 4.5-bath home has approximately 5,500 SF of elegance and style. Marvelous kitchen with a large island & breakfast room. Large family room with fireplace opens to a balcony overlooking the garden. 25 E Masonic View Avenue
Margaret Benghauser 703.989.6961
www.MargaretBenghauser.com

**Del Ray | $775,000**
Deceptively spacious, this sunny, 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home has fabulous closet space. Relax in the large, fenced yard on the lower-level deck or upstairs balcony. Off-street parking. 1 block from Mt Vernon Ave! 219-B East Windsor Avenue
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www.AnnMcClure.com

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Charming c.1800 plaqued townhouse. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with family room addition. Original hardwood floors and double-sided fireplace on the first level. Location is close to both King St shops, restaurants, & the Potomac River waterfront parks. 407 Queen St.
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End unit townhome with three sides of sun exposure nestled in quiet Vernon Square close to Ballston Quarter. Open main level with hardwood floors. Upper level with 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Finished lower level with office, full bath, and rec room.
Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
www.JillianKeckHogan.com

**OPEN SAT 2/27 & SUN 2/28, 2-4PM**
Parkfairfax | $378,626
Conveniently located, charming, 2-bedroom, 1-bath, 2-story condo with beautiful hardwood floors. Kitchen features new granite counters, refrigerator & microwave. The private flagstone patio expands your living space to the great outdoors. 3705 Lyons Lane
Sean McEnearney 703.635.8836
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009

**OPEN SAT 2/27, 2-4PM & SUN 2/28, 1-3PM**
Seminary Walk | $339,000
3-bedroom, 2-bath condo! Bright, open floor plan with separate dining room. Kitchen boasts stainless appliances & granite countertops. Management, gym, bike,partyrooms, & storage unit all conveniently located on site. 2 permit parking spaces. 49 Skyhill Rd #203
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www.JenWalker.com

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Turn-key 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath, 2-car garage colonial home perfect for entertaining. Features include a gourmet kitchen, an expansive deck and patio, and recreation room including a theatre room! This home is truly a gem, don't miss it! 6034 Burnside Landing Drive
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**OPEN SUN 2/28, 3-4PM**
Arlington | $749,000
End unit townhome with three sides of sun exposure nestled in quiet Vernon Square close to Ballston Quarter. Open main level with hardwood floors. Upper level with 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Finished lower level with office, full bath, and rec room.
Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
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