Seeing Double

Alexandria delegate is one of four House members whose name will be on the ballot twice.

By Michael Lee Pope
Gazette Packet

The ballot for the Democratic primary in June might cause you to do a double take. Del. Mark Levine (D-45) will be on the ballot twice, once running for reelection against primary challenger Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and then again against seven other candidates for lieutenant governor. Levine and three other House members will be doing double duty, asking voters to reject their primary opponents for seats they would vacate if they win statewide office. It’s a tricky balancing act caused by an unprecedented situation that will require nuanced messaging to voters.

“When a candidate runs for two offices at the same time, they’re sending two messages: I want something better than what I have and I’m not sure I’m going to be able I’m going to get it,” said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. “I suppose a politician can say, ‘I’m so good you can vote for me twice.’ But I’m not sure many voters are going to receive that message all that enthusiastically.”

Levine is not alone. In the race for lieutenant governor, Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31) has three opponents in the primary for the House seat she would leave if elected lieutenant governor. Del. Lee Carter (D-50) has two primary opponents for the House district he would be resigning from if elected governor. And Del. Jay Jones (D-89) has a primary opponent to keep the seat he would leave if elected attorney general. All four of these House incumbents will need to figure out how to sell them to voters twice for two different seats.

“Those candidates are on the progressive end of the Democratic umbrella,” said Quentin Kidd, a political science professor at Christopher Newport University. “In a very safe Democratic district, the risk they would run in a primary is someone on their left challenging them. But if they’re far enough left themselves, it’s probably a safe risk.”

Normally House members move over to the Senate before they attempt a statewide campaign. The current generation of House Democrats is particularly ambitious though, especially after unseating the Republican majority and seizing control of the General Assembly last year. Perhaps more importantly, though, the House incumbents who filed for statewide office in June were planning for a separate House primary in August, which is what happened 10 years ago during the last redistricting cycle.

“It’s not what I planned. But I think I’ve been a damn good delegate, and I think my constituents agree,” said Levine. “I plan to win both seats and then resign the delegate seat with plenty of time to have a special election before the next General Assembly session.”

The Census data used to draw new districts for the House of Delegates was supposed to arrive by the end of March, providing for enough time for the Redistricting Commission to draw new maps before an August primary. But delays caused by the pandemic have pushed the data delivery to the end of September, just a few weeks before the November general election. That compressed timeline forced all the House candidates running for statewide office into an unanticipated situation of appearing twice on the same ballot in June.

“This district deserves someone who is fully focused on them.” — Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

THE DUAL CAMPAIGN is a rarity in Virginia politics.

Welcome Back

T.C. students resume in-person classes.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

One year after classes were abruptly suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students at T.C. Williams High School returned for in-person studies March 16 with social distancing practices now the new normal at the King Street campus.

T.C. students and ACPS students resuming in-person classes March 16.

ACPS Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings Jr. welcomed back the returning students, along with T.C. Principal Peter Balas, Mayor Justin Wilson and ACPS School Board Chair Meagan Alderton.

“It’s exciting to see our students again and see so much of our staff back,” said Balas, who noted that 475 T.C. students arrived that morning for in-person classes. “The students are getting used to their new environment but as time goes by it will be their new normal.”

The return of students at T.C. was part of the final week of ACPS students resuming in-person classes with more than 4,000 students returning to schools across the city.

Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson gives an elbow bump greeting to a student in the honors earth science class at T.C. Williams High School March 16.
Building our community, one home at a time.

Whether you’re buying or selling your home, we’re here to offer a seamless experience with sophisticated technology and time-tested processes.

We have been guiding clients through their real estate transactions for over thirty years, and have been doing so successfully with one main principle, to go above and beyond for our clients.

We start by listening because we want to know what’s important to you. What are your goals? What do you need to accomplish and when? Only then are we able to deliver the personal experience you deserve.

Because it’s never about us, it’s always about you.

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING, CONTACT US TODAY!
Happy 90th Birthday

By Jeanne Theismann

On March 11 it was official: Charles Nelson became a nonagenarian celebrating his 90th birthday with family at his home in Alexandria.

"Granddaddy is a wonderful man," said granddaughter Shaye Nelson. "He has always been there for the family and always put us as his priority. We call him the 'GOAT' because he's the greatest of all time."

Nelson's daughter Gail praised her father and recalled his role as the "neighborhood dad."

"Dad was a father figure in the neighborhood," said Gail Nelson. "I remember he had this pick-up truck and all the little guys in the neighborhood would come and sit in the back and dad would just talk with them. So many of them didn't have dads so he was the neighborhood dad and mom was the neighborhood mom."

Gail Nelson also praised her father for his humble nature.

"My dad is a very humble man," Gail Nelson said. "He grew up in humble beginnings and is still humble to this day. As a provider, father, teacher, guidance -- anything that you needed he was there to support his family."

Nelson, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, was simple in his advice for others: "Obey your parents and stay out of trouble."

Welcome Back

"We call him the ‘GOAT’ because he’s the greatest of all time."

— Shaye Nelson on her grandfather Charles Nelson’s 90th birthday

Mayor Justin Wilson talks with students in the honors earth science class March 16 at T.C. Williams High School.

"Today is the big test," Hutchings said. "Today is the most number of students returning at one time. But we have put together a lot of health and safety mitigations that are working in our favor and believe we are providing a safe environment for our young people."

Tuesday marked the return of general education students across all grade levels who have opted for the hybrid program including two days a week in-person schooling. They joined their fellow classmates who transitioned back to school buildings in the prior two weeks.

"Finally, we are back in our school buildings with most of our kids," said Hutchings, who added that about 60 percent of staff returned to the buildings for in-person classes. "Not all are back right now but I am really looking forward to the rest of this year as more of our young people return. It's exciting as we are beginning to do our planning for the summer and having conversations about what the fall looks like."

Social distancing practices are in place for students as are internal procedures on how to respond should a student or teacher test positive for Covid-19.

"If we have a positive in our schools, we know how to respond. Unfortunately, we did have a couple of students and staff members test positive in the past couple of weeks and we have been able to effectively put those protocols into practice."

ACPS Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings Jr. outside T.C. Williams High School on the return of in-person classes March 16.
Hard to Overstate Accomplishments

By Sen. Adam Ebbin

The General Assembly officially adjourned “sine die” on Monday, March 1, wrapping up a high-pressure session which caps one of the most progressive, accomplishment-filled two year legislative cycles in Virginia’s history. It is hard to overstate what the new majorities in Virginia have accomplished, and how much more work is needed to create a fair, safe, and successful Commonwealth for all. This year I passed five bills, which are headed to the Governor’s desk, and one Constitutional Amendment, which will need to pass again next year before being approved by the voters. These include:

- SB1215 - Statutory Penalties for Unlawful Elections
- SB1309 - Flood Water Assistance Funding
- SB1178 - Repealing the Genetic Counseling “Conscience Clause.”

At the request of the City of Alexandria, I passed a bill to allow communities to use their local flood water assistance for short-term, stop-gap projects to protect neighborhoods and homes from inland flooding, provided that the projects are in alignment with the localities long-term flood mitigation plan.

Working with Moms Demand Action, I passed a bill to codify a current state policy to ban firearms in state buildings and expand the ban to Richmond’s Capitol Square.

- SB1406 - Legalizing Adult Cannabis Use in 2024.

Eliminates penalties for personal possession of marijuana for those 21 and older in 2024 (it is currently a $25 fine under legislation passed last year), creates a regulated adult-use market for cannabis centered on building wealth for those damaged by the prohibition, expunges certain criminal records for the possession of marijuana, and allows for resentencing and release of those convicted under the prohibition. Due to the short session and limited lead-up time, portions of this bill are subject to review this summer and a second vote next year.

- SJR270 - Same Gender Marriage Ban Repeal.

Repeals the now inoperable ban on same sex marriage in the Virginia Constitution and replaces it with an affirmative right to marry regardless of gender. The amendment must be passed again next year and then by the voters in order to go into effect.

Democrats passed additional legislation critical to moving Virginia forward, including:

- SB1197, Locke, establishes the housing opportunity tax credit, which will help more low-income families obtain and maintain stable housing.
- SB1387, Boysko/Lopez, requires landlords to allow tenants to receive 4 months rent or $5,000, whichever is greater as well as reasonable attorney’s fees.

Beyer Highlights American Rescue Plan Benefits

By Jerry Vernon

Covid has posed an existential threat to the community service that has been ongoing since 1784. Every family has faced unprecedented disruption between schools being closed and the advent of distance learning; work is remote, except for those people who must go out to jobs and the jobs that entails. Every business has been challenged; many have closed; some have been mortally wounded. Thousands of local people have died, with tens of thousands having been ill with Covid. We have produced dozens of stories about struggles of food insecurity, learning to “pivot,” obituaries, how to get vaccinated and beyond. We bring you details about covid, testing and vaccination with a local and personal view. Recent column: http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/12/johnson-and-johnson-jab-lubber-run-arlington-county/

An election critical to Virginia is coming up this fall. Do you know that the Democratic primary is June 8? That Republicans choose their candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and some delegates at a May 8 convention? If you think state elections don’t matter, we’ll try to convince you how important they are between now and then. Recent story on the race for Governor: http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/12/maclulfie-pills-support-alexandria/

Perhaps you are more concerned about schools, teachers, students and held elected officials accountable for your children’s education, teacher safety and returning to the classroom. Recent story on schools: http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/03/-person-and-home-class-one-community-restor-

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and business numbers. We will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors. Send letters to: http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/12/johnson-and-johnson-jab-lubber-run-arlington-county/

We all need community newspapers; community newspapers need your help.

A year later, Covid continues to be the most compelling that we face. Here at the Gazette Packet, we will only print your name and town name.

We still need your help.

The pain and suffering of this pandemic have not been evenly distributed, and the American Rescue Plan will get aid to those who need it most as quickly as possible. The assistance in this bill is going to be huge for communities in Northern Virginia, the whole Commonwealth, and across the country.”

The pandemic and economic crisis have had a severe impact on Virginia:

- Since the pandemic began, more than 595,000 Virginians have been infected with COVID-19 and more than 10,000 have died;
- The unemployment rate in Virginia is 5.3%, up from 2.5% before the pandemic, with 300,000 fewer Virginians employed;
- 503,000 adults – 9% of all adults in the state – report not having enough food to eat, including 308,000 children.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and business numbers. We will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors. Send letters to: http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/12/johnson-and-johnson-jab-lubber-run-arlington-county/

We will only print your name and town name.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and business numbers. We will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors. Send letters to: http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/12/johnson-and-johnson-jab-lubber-run-arlington-county/

We will only print your name and town name.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and business numbers. We will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors. Send letters to: http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/12/johnson-and-johnson-jab-lubber-run-arlington-county/

We will only print your name and town name.
Getting My Covid Shot: Proud To Be an Alexandriaian

By Mark S. Allen

The Republican in me was ready for everything to be screwed up. After all, I had registered weeks ago for a Covid-19 vaccine through the Alexandria Health Department. I had heard nothing. And when I was told that all local health department lists had been merged into one statewide list, I was even more convinced that I had been lost in a bureaucratic maze.

I know folks who are more eager than me to get vaccinated as fast as possible. Trying other jurisdictions. Scouring out drugstore sites. Scouring the internet. I just figured my time would come. After all, my only qualification is that I’m 66 years old and slightly overweight. There are lots of uninsured, underemployed, front-line health providers and essential workers far more deserving than me.

But two weeks ago I unexpectedly received an email from the Health Department. It said I should “think here” to schedule a vaccine appointment. Surprised but still skeptical — worried that it might be a scam — I clicked anyway, expecting to be told that an appointment might be available in a few weeks or months. But to my surprise, there was an appointment available in one hour. That’s right: One hour. I jumped at the chance, printed the confirming email, and drove to George Washington Middle School.

There I was greeted by a young volunteer who asked if I had a smartphone. Thankfully, she didn’t ask how smart the operator of said phone was, but I sensed she suspected some degree of incompetence when she cheerfully suggested that there were volunteers aplenty to help me. Determined to navigate the signup process on my own (and unwilling to concede my senior status) I managed to find the appropriate website and enter the requested information. My only trouble was the bright sun of a glorious late winter day and my own fat fingers typing on the tiny iPhone keypad (see reference to “slightly overweight” above). More than once I was approached by a happy young volunteer offering help, all with smiles as bright as the yellow vests they wore that looked as if they’d been borrowed from a construction crew.

The website asked a lot of personal questions. Once again the conservative in me awakened, questioning whether all of this personal information was really necessary. But the choice was simple: information or vaccination. The answer was clear. The government already knows everything about me anyway.

So with the questionnaire complete, I was ushered around yellow police tape to the entry doors of the school gym, with everyone carefully spaced out in line. I was handed the phone and the card in his hands. He must have looked at the Alexandria Fire Department identification card around my neck as she asked me if I needed help or direction. “No,” I said. “I’m on the way out.” But couldn’t help asking: “Are you a health department employee?”

“No,” she said. “Just an ordinary Alexandria citizen trying to help get the world back to normal.” Hearing that still makes me want to cry – and swell with pride.

I was handed a ballot like on Election Day I was directed to table 27, where one volunteer was standing with arm raised to indicate readiness. I started to take a picture of the whole impressive operation but saw the “no photography” sign. Since I was directed to table 27, I know there were at least that many tables set up.

There I sat with two men wearing white shirts with patches from the Alexandria Fire Department. I had come prepared as instructed, so it was easy for the on the left to roll up my left sleeve and prep my left arm while the other grabbed my attention. He firmly but in a friendly manner insisted that I look directly at him and the card in his hands. He must have sensed my fear of shots. Not a fear of vaccination just a fear of the shot experience.

The man on the right focused me on my upcoming schedule. He said I would get a follow-up email soon offering appointments for the second shot. (The next day I did). He handed me the information card and let me know that I needed to wait around for 15 minutes or so to be sure I had no immediate adverse reaction. I didn’t. I didn’t even feel the “jab.” Ninety minutes from getting the lucky email the whole process was over. The Band-Aid on my left shoulder and the card in my right hand were my only proof that the shot even happened.

As I walked my way out the back of the gym and around the police tape, I was met with yet another happy volunteer. This time I paid attention to the Alexandria Health Department identification card around her neck as she asked me if I needed help or direction. “No,” I said. “I’m on the way out.” But couldn’t help asking: “Are you a health department employee?”

“No,” she said. “Just an ordinary Alexandria citizen trying to help get the world back to normal.” Hearing that still makes me want to cry – and swell with pride.

Government gets a bad rap all the time. And there’s plenty of reason to be critical. But we need to give credit when credit is due. Kudos to all who are helping to put shots in arms in such a methodical and efficient way. I’ll see them again in a few days.

Beyer Highlights American Rescue Plan Benefits

By Liza Fall, The Alexandria Gazette

FACNY PAGE 4

adults living with children. 15% of all Virginia adults living with children report that the children in their household do not have enough to eat.

An estimated 267,000 Virginia renters or 14% of renters are not caught up on rent.

An estimated 1,929,000 adults – 31% of all adults across the Commonwealth – report having difficulty covering normal household expenses.

President Biden’s American Rescue Plan will save lives and livelihoods with targeted state and local relief for Virginia families, communities, and small businesses:

$4.43 billion in fiscal relief for the Commonwealth of Virginia;

$2.91 billion in local fiscal relief to local governments, includ-

See Beyer Highlights, Page 9
Passing The History On – Lois Diggs Davis

Many African American families in Alexandria, have family ties back to pre-and- post-Civil War era. One of these families is the Diggs family.

By Char McCargo Bah

Back in 2014, the City of Alexandria honored the descendants of the Freedmen’s Cemetery located at Washington and Church Street. Most of the individuals that are buried there fled from slavery or persecution during the civil war. Some of the family members that came to Alexandria were William Henry Diggs, Lois Diggs Davis’ paternal second great-grandfather and his brother, Frederick. During the research process in 2008, Lois and her brother, Frederick were interviewed about their family history. The family history interview had an impact on Lois. She decided to pursue her family history in order to bring her family together for family reunions. She also wanted to share the 150-year-old history of the Diggs family in Alexandria.

In 2012, Lois gave her first family reunion at Richard’s house – Lois’ brother. There were about 65 people. Then the following year, another family reunion and 150 people attended. In 2014, there were 300 people attended. In 2014, there were 300

The Diggs family, Lois Diggs Davis’ paternal second great-grandfather and his brother, Frederick were interviewed about their family history. The family history interview had an impact on Lois. She decided to pursue her family history in order to bring her family together for family reunions. She also wanted to share the 150-year-old history of the Diggs family in Alexandria.

In 2012, Lois gave her first family reunion at Richard’s house – Lois’ brother.

There were about 65 people. Then the following year, another family reunion and 150 people attended. In 2014, there were 300 people. After the reunions, she put together family stories and pictures and produced a photo narrative book on their family. Out of her love for her family history, she posted their stories on social media. She received emails from unknown relatives throughout the United States that wanted to connect their Diggs family to the Virginia family and to attend the Diggs’ reunions.

Now at the age of seventy-nine, Lois is training her great niece, Shavonne Diggs Perry, the granddaughter of Lois’ deceased brother, Julian Diggs and his deceased wife, Frances Euille Diggs. Frances is the cousin of the former Mayor of Alexandria, William D. Euille. Shavonne will soon step into her great aunt’s shoes as the family historian. Although she lives in Atlanta, Georgia, she welcomes that role as the keeper of her Virginia family’s history.

Lois Diggs Davis was born on Dec. 18, 1941 to Julian Diggs and Mabel Gaskins. Julian had thirteen children: Lois, Thomas, Frederick, Irving, William, Richard, Michael, David, Norman Shanklin, Julian Jr., James, John and Mary. Lois’ family lived at several locations in Alexandria, which included 1445 Duke Street from the time Lois was born until she was five-years old. Then her family moved to 1015 Quaker Lane and from there, they moved to the rear of 107 Woods Lane and then finally to their new home at 3407 Woods Ave., where Lois lived for fifty-seven years. She retired five years ago as director of corporate sponsorship and conventions of the National Community Pharmacist Association in Alexandria, Va.

After losing several of her siblings, Lois feels a strong need for their family history to be passed down to the next generation. See Passing The History, Page 9

---

Senior Services of Alexandria would like to thank all of our 2021 Gala, Raffle and Silent Auction sponsors, donors and volunteers for their generous support to make SSA’s first “Virtual” Gala an overwhelming success! Since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, we have all come together as a community to ensure that homebound, isolated older adults are receiving the services and programs they need to remain safe in their homes. We were pleased that we could pay tribute to our honorees – Barbara Anderson, Esq., Honorable William “Bill” Euille, and Eugene “Gene” Steuerle for their work in the community; and to Kate Garvey, Director of the City’s Community and Human Services for her leadership during the pandemic. A very special thanks to Vanessa and Warner Moore of Unwined and Revel for their special Raffle donation, the Westin Old Town Alexandria for their support in providing delicious dinner entrees, wine and signature cocktails to attendees, and to Creative Liquid for the production of the beautiful honoree videos.

SSA is grateful for this support in our 53rd year of service in the city of Alexandria for older adults!
Feeling a strong need for their family history, Lois Diggs lived for fifty-seven years. She retired five years ago as director of corporate sponsorship and conventions of the National Community Pharmacist Association in Alexandria, Virginia. It was during this time that she moved to a new home at 3407 Woods Ave., where Lois Lane and from there, they moved to the rear of the old locations in Alexandria, which included the Virginia family's history.

Although she lives in Atlanta, Georgia, she welcomes that role as the keeper of her Virginia family’s history. Lois Diggs has a strong desire to pass on to future generations the family story of her great aunt’s shoes as the family historian.

D. Euille. Shavonne will soon step into her great aunt’s shoes as the family historian.

Seeing Double

Seeing Double

T his week marks a year since Alexandria's covid-19 lockdown rules went into effect, sparking a year of pivoting, changing and adapting. Curbside and to-go orders sailed off the charts while in-person ceased, then slowly returned in the new world order. While things are certainly not yet "normal" again – far from it – time continues to march on, and the city’s eateries continue to court to fit the times. From openings to renovations to expanded menus, here are a few notes from around the city this month.

Yunnan by Potomac to Reopen March 20

The city's only Yunnan-style noodle house will reopen Saturday after a three-month closure for renovations. While the inside space has gotten a facelift, the outdoor seating area – a hidden gem for al fresco dining in Old Town – will also be open for dining beginning this weekend, weather permitting. Bring some cold hard dollar bills – this soft reopening is cash-only. Not up for an in-person visit? Yunnan by Potomac will also continue offering takeout and delivery service. 814 N. Fairfax St.

Abyssinia Market and Café to Offer Lunch and Dinner

How about some injera to go with your cup of coffee? Abyssinia Market faithful, rejoice: Soon, a feast of Ethiopian food will make its way to the café. How soon? This weekend the shop will adjust its hours to stay open later, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and will offer lunch and dinner. What’s more: The café recently procured its license to serve beer and wine, so lift a glass to Abyssinia’s expanded menu (and hours) … and then wash it down with a cup of joe. 720 Jefferson St.

Uncle C’s Chicken and Waffles Opens on Richmond Highway

Since its opening several weeks ago, Uncle C’s Chicken and Waffles has taken Richmond Highway by storm.

From a multitude of chicken and waffle selections to fried chicken with cornbread to a number of seafood choices, Uncle C’s has you covered. Hankering for something sweet? Try the banana pudding, strawberry cheesecake or peach cobbler to cap off the meal. 6308 Richmond Highway.

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.

From Yunnan on the Potomac’s Facebook page: Do you see that? “That’s how high our level of excitement is for the reopening,” Saturday, March 20.
NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

This notice is required by State law. The City Council has authorized a proposed real estate tax rate for advertising purposes of $1.130 per $100 of assessed value. The tax rate may not exceed $1.130, it could be less, and it will not be set until May 5, 2021.

The City of Alexandria proposes to increase the current property tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments for new construction, or improvement to property, exceeds last year’s total assessed value of real property by 1.66 percent.

2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the total assessed value of real estate within the boundaries of the City of Alexandria (excluding the General Fund and all Special Revenue grant funds and other sources) will exceed last year’s by 8.0 percent.

3. Effective Rate Increase: The City of Alexandria proposes to advertise a tax rate of $1.130 per $100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the advertised tax rate would be $0.01 per $100, or a 0.90 percent increase. This difference will be known as the "lowered tax rate."

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Alexandria (including the General Fund and all Special Revenue grant funds and other sources) will exceed last year’s by 8.0 percent.

5. The City proposes to continue an additional tax rate of $0.20 per $100 for all properties that have been classified in the Tier 1 (Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Special Services District).

A public hearing on the effective increase will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. The hearing shall be open to the public. The governing body shall provide persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the governing body.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the April 17, 2021 Tax Rate Public Hearing meeting of the City Council is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance (Ch. 1283 and 1289), to undertake essential business. All the members of the City Council and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom Webinar. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person in the City Council Chamber at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA. The meeting can be accessed by the public through Zoom hyperlinks (below) broadcasted by the government channel 70, and streaming on the City’s website.

City Council Public Hearing: The Webinar will open at 9:00 AM to allow individuals to join while the Public Hearing will begin at approximately 9:30 AM.

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q1Fb3J0RUK-7gjy-UpHqA
Webinar ID: 944 4159 8494
Webinar Passcode: 971241
Dial-in number: 301 715 8592

Speaker’s Form: https://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/2020-VIRTUAL-City-Council-Speaker-Form

Those wishing to address Council should submit a Speaker’s Form. Submission of written statements is encouraged. Please sign up after the docket is closed and you are able to verify the meeting date on the City’s website. If the docket is not posted, you will have to return at a later date to complete the speaker's form in order to speak at a Council meeting.

Public Comment will be received at this meeting: All persons wishing to speak before City Council must complete a Speaker’s Form (see link above). If you have a prepared statement or written comments for the record, you may email it to the City Clerk at gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov. Speakers are encouraged to submit their written comments to the City Clerk. When your name is called to speak, the City Clerk will prompt you to unmute your microphone. If you are participating via smartphone, press ‘6’ to mute/unmute your microphone. You will be called on by your name or the last 4 digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak. When you are finished speaking or at 3 minutes (whichever comes first), you will be muted again. If you would like to submit a written comment, you may use the “Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Input” form: https://www.research.net/r/AlexandriaFY2022BudgetInput

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in a City Council meeting may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council’s Office at 703.746.4550 (TTY/TTD 838.5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made. City Council meetings are closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. Individuals requiring translation services should contact the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov or at 703.746.4550. We request that you provide 24 to 48 hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made. Please specify the language for translation when you make the request.

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria Transports 50 Cats
Rescue mission helps overwhelmed Texas shelters see a surge of surrendered pets.

On Saturday, March 13, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) brought in 50 cats from eight individual animal shelters in Texas, still recovering from the devastating February snowstorms and subsequent power outages. Many of these Texas facilities are now experiencing a surge of surrendered pets, and by transporting animals that were already in these shelters to Virginia, these organizations can better address the continued need for care and assist even more homeless animals.

“We received a request from the Human Animal Support Services (HASS) national network asking if shelters were able to take in homeless animals, to make room for Texas shelters to care for the influx of animals they were seeing,” said AWLA Executive Director Stella Hanly. “We knew the plans were still coming together, but we also knew we had to help.”

The biggest hurdle was making sure a vehicle could safely transport that many cats. While the AWLA owns several vehicles for day-to-day shelter use, none is equipped with fixed cages for that many animals. Luckily, one AWLA volunteer, a retired naval engineer, had the foresight to create a removable rig that could be placed in one of the AWLA’s vans that could accommodate travel crates for up to 50 cats. Two additional AWLA volunteers offered their time to make the 14-hour round trip drive to Tennessee, where they would meet with a HASS representative to pick up the traveling cats.

“This mission was quite the venture from the start,” said Katie DeMent, AWLA’s Director of Operations and liaison for this effort. “In less than two weeks, we’d connected with Texas shelter liaison, worked with other local shelters and rescued to determine who could take in cats, found volunteers ready to take on this long-haul drive and outfitted our van so we’d also be able to use it to help even more animals in the future. We asked a lot of our team, but they all worked together so that we’ll be able to help these Texas facilities and all of these homeless cats.”

In addition to facilitating the transport, the AWLA served as a local hub to connect many of the cats with shelters and rescues in the region. Twenty of the cats, ranging from 6 months to 5 years old, stayed at the AWLA, where they will undergo general and veterinary evaluation before being made available for adoption. The remaining 30 cats have gone to other local shelters and rescues, including the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Loudoun County Animal Services, Four Paws Rescue and Helping Homeless Paws. To see the cats brought to the AWLA and learn how to meet them, either virtually or in person, visit AlexandriaAnimals.org.

After the return trip of more than seven hours, transport volunteer Kerin Ord said, “Seeing cats in their condos at the AWLA, kittens playing with toys, many cats just reaching out for pats and attention … They seemed to realize that all was good from here on, and with the resilience of animals, had quickly gotten over their long journey.”

Along with transporting these 50 cats on March 13, the AWLA also took in 40 dogs of varying ages and breeds, working with True & Faithful Rescue Mission to assist under-resourced shelters in Florida and Texas. Like the 20 cats, these dogs will also be made available for adoption once they undergo medical and behavioral assessments.
Obituary

Daniel, Marion E., age 97
DOD: 01/20/2021 in Seaford, DE
On Wednesday, January 20, 2021 in Seaford, DE. Beloved mother of Ann Peterson(James), Garrett McKenzie and Greta Daniel; grandmother of Shaukin Smith (Eugene), Ann Dyer(Shefley), James Peterson, Jr, Valeria Craft(Rufus) and Annamaria Coles(Rufus). She is also survived by great grandchildren, great great grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. The Family will receive friends in the chapel of Greene Funeral Home, 814 Franklin St, Alexandria VA 22314 on Saturday, March 20, 2021 from 10am until time of service at 11am. COVID 19 restrictions including social distancing will be observed and masks are required. Interment in Arlington National Cemetery on April 22, 2021 at 1:00pm.

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator
REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
844-947-1479
FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A $695 Value!
Offer valid February 15 - June 5, 2021
Special Financing Available Subject to Credit Approval
*To qualify, consumers must replace a current generator with a financing plan. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

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

OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA • VACATION RENTALS
500 VACATION HOMES
Selling fast for summer 2021 due to need to escape covid

Leaf Filter GUTTER PROTECTION
BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE
EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!
15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE
& 10% OFF SENIORS MILITARY
+ 5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS 99¢
FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
Promo Code: 285
*Subject to credit approval, collateral required
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-877-614-6667

Leaf Filter is a protected trademark of W.R. Grace. This offer is not available in all areas, may be subject to credit approval, and may not be combined with other offers. No cash value. Call for details.
By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Literally and figuratively. After a year or so living the pandemic life; staying at home/ quarantining, wearing a mask, social distancing, washing my hands and watching the daily news coverage of the COVID-19 threat, it became evident to me that we once again have a threat we need to be aware of and how to best respond to.

The 2021 pandemic was keenly anticipated as the highly contagious Delta variant quickly spread across the country. However, the situation is still evolving, and we must remain vigilant and adaptable.

This year has been marked by significant developments in the fight against the pandemic. The development and widespread distribution of vaccines have been crucial in curbing the spread of the virus. However, the emergence of new variants, such as Delta, underscores the need for continued vigilance.

As we look ahead, it is essential to consider the impact of the pandemic on various aspects of our lives. The pandemic has challenged us to reconsider our approach to healthcare, education, and social interactions. These changes have also brought about new opportunities for innovation and growth.

We must continue to work together to ensure that the progress made in the fight against the pandemic is sustained and that we are prepared for any future challenges. Let us stay informed, stay engaged, and stay safe.

By supporting local businesses and organizations, we can help our community thrive and continue to navigate these challenging times.

Finally, as we look towards the future, let us remember that the pandemic has taught us the value of resilience, adaptability, and the importance of working together towards a common goal.

Together, we can overcome this challenge and emerge stronger and more united.

Sincerely,

Kenneth B. Lourie
SJ272, Locke/Herring, restores voting rights to persons convicted of a felony once their sentence has been completed. The resolution will need to pass the 2022 General Assembly, then will head to a voter referendum.

SB1252, McPike, ends new coal tax credits on January 1, 2022.

HB1965, Bagby, establishes low emission and zero emission standards for vehicles starting in model year 2025.

All this work, and so much more was accomplished in a hectic six weeks. This year has been exceptionally challenging for everyone, with so many long-established inequities laid bare, and novel strains on our government and society. Even in this climate, we made bold strides forward, and will continue to listen to those we serve to do better, and root out those issues still yet uncovered and unaddressed in our Commonwealth.
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

Old Town Waterfront | $2,500,000
Enjoy Potomac River views from the balcony of this newly constructed corner unit in Old Town’s premiere boutique condominium. This 2,600+ SF apartment is one of just 18 at Watermark. The property offers 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, and 2 garage spaces. This residence is fresh and bright with a wide open floor plan perfect for entertaining. Special features include top-tier appliances, smart home automation to control lighting, window shades, and A/V media. Residents enjoy a rooftop terrace and secure bike room. Low condo fee and pet friendly! 225 Strand St. #403
Sissy Zimmerman 703.989.9779 | www.BBZgroup.com
Vici Boguess 703.447.2829 | Clay Burke 202.520.4274

Old Town | $1,795,000
This stylish 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath, end unit townhome is just one block to the Potomac River and King Street! Beautiful outdoor space. Garage plus 2 deeded surface parking spaces. 214 N Lee Street
Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079

Old Town | $1,795,000
This stylish 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath, end unit townhome is just one block to the Potomac River and King Street! Beautiful outdoor space. Garage plus 2 deeded surface parking spaces. 214 N Lee Street
Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079

Alexandria South | $909,000
Meticulously maintained, bright & sunny home on cul-de-sac in the heart of 22308. This 5-bedroom, 3.5-bath has a 2-car garage, large screened-in porch, finished basement with bonus room, and much more. Lovely, spacious & turn key! 2122 Rampart Drive
Tracy Dunn 571.212.3658
www.tracybdunn.com

Alexandria House | $499,900
Stylish, renovated condo with sweeping views of the City and the Potomac River. Refinished floors sparkle. Kitchen with quartz counters and all new appliances. Expansive balcony off both living room and bedroom areas. Easy access to Metro, shops and restaurants.
Mason Montague Bavin 703.338.6007
www.MasonBavin.com

Olde Belhaven Towne
S765,000
This completely remodeled 3-level, 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath home has all updated appliances, an open floor plan and a backyard perfect for outdoor entertaining. 6316 Barrister Place
Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
www.JillianKeckHogan.com

Woodstone
$424,900
Rarely available 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath end unit townhome backs up to trees! Spacious open main level features a fireplace, hardwood floors, separate dining room, eat-in kitchen and access to fenced in backyard. Finished lower level rec room with full bath. 7101 Tolliver Street
Margot Lynn 703.973.3722
www.MargotLynnRealtor.com

OPEN Sat 3/20 & SUN 3/21, 12-2PM
OPEN SAT 3/20 & SUN 3/21, 2-4PM

Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.
703.549.9292 | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | McEnearney.com

McENEARNEY ASSOCIATES IS PLEASED TO WELCOME
DARLENE DUFFETT TO THE ALEXANDRIA OFFICE

If you are thinking of buying, selling or renting, call Darlene today at 703.969.9015, or email her at DDuffett@McEnearney.com.