

Council Approves Police Review Board

Civilian oversight group to begin July 1.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

At its public hearing on April 17, the Alexandria City Council voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance establishing a Community Policing Review Board, which will go into effect July 1.

City Councilman Mo Seifeldein first introduced the measure last summer following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and subsequent protests across the nation, including in Alexandria.

In a statement, Seifeldein said the review board is “long overdue” and spoke of the trauma people experience seeing images of excessive and unjustified force by law enforcement officials.

“This has been the tragic reality of Black and brown communities for years, and [it] has largely been ignored,” he said. “We cannot afford to ignore these challenges any longer because Black, Indigenous, and People of Color do indeed matter.”

The ordinance follows adoption of Resolution 2950 in June 2020, which condemned police brutality and systemic racism; reaffirmed that Black Lives Matter; and stated Council’s intent to establish a community policing review board.

The seven-member board will be appointed by the city council, with “at least three members who come from historically, ra-



Crowds gather at Alexandria Police Headquarters June 2, 2020, to rally against racism and remember the lives of black Americans who have died while in police custody.

cially or socially marginalized communities that have commonly experienced disparate policing,” and at least one member from a social justice organization. An additional nonvoting member with law enforcement experience will also be appointed.

The board is authorized to receive, investigate and issue findings on complaints from civilians regarding conduct of law en-

forcement officers and civilian employees of a law enforcement agency. It can subpoena information from the police and refer complaints to prosecutors but will not have the power to independently impose disciplinary measures. The chief of police retains that authority but must disclose to the public any reasons for not following a board recommendation.

“APD welcomes the civilian oversight of the Community Policing Review Board.”

— Alexandria Police Chief, Michael Brown

“APD welcomes the civilian oversight of the Community Policing Review Board,” said Police Chief Michael Brown. “We were engaged in deliberations for the board’s creation and have had civilian oversight for many years. We are a 21st Century Policing agency and believe in being as transparent as possible.”

The ordinance also establishes a new City Council appointed position, the Independent Policing Auditor/Investigator, to staff the new review board, which must make its findings available to the general public.

“Alexandrians are blessed to be served by a deeply professional and capable Police Department,” said Mayor Justin Wilson following the vote. “Today’s adoption of this ordinance is an effort to enhance the trust between our Police Department and our community.”

Brown created a Community Advisory Team in 2017 comprised of community members to provide him with insight on departmental activities under the guidelines of President Barack Obama’s 2015 21st Century Policing initiative.

‘Hanged by a Mob’ City remembers 1897 lynching victim Joseph McCoy.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was April 23, 1897, and the front page of newspapers across the region carried the news of the latest lynching in the area -- the slaying of 18-year-old Joseph McCoy, who had been accused of assaulting the 9-year-old daughter of his employer.

An angry crowd had breached the police station jail, located at the site of today’s City Hall, and dragged McCoy out of the station house to the intersection of Cameron and Lee streets. It was there that they put a rope around his neck.

“Hanged by a mob,” read the headline in the Alexandria Gazette. “The righteous indignation of old Alexandria was aroused last night

... and as a result Joseph McCoy, a negro ravisher, was strung up to a lamp post, bullets sent into his body, his head split open with an axe and other indignities heaped upon his quivering remains.”

McCoy’s death was one of two documented lynchings in Alexandria, out of 11 that occurred in Northern Virginia, and among the 100 documented lynchings that occurred in the Commonwealth between 1882 and 1968.

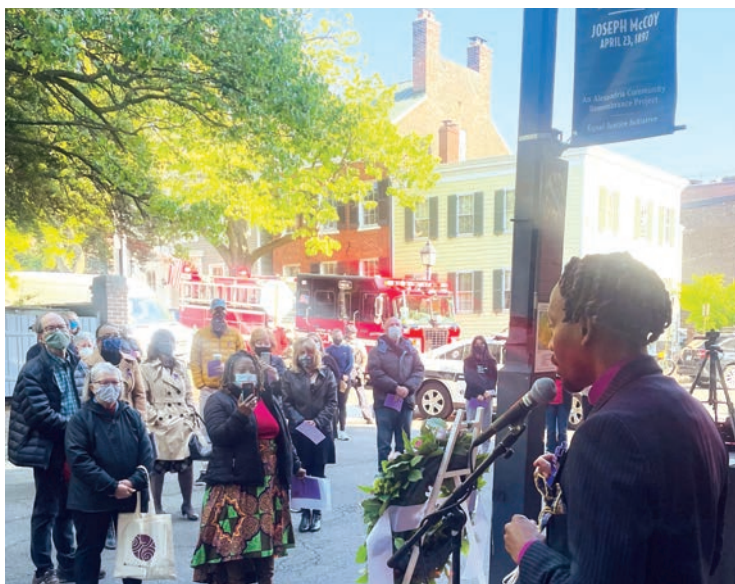
Though hundreds of Alexandria

residents witnessed the event, no one was ever charged in McCoy’s murder.

On April 23, 124 years later, the city unveiled a remembrance marker at the site of McCoy’s death as part of the Alexandria Equal Justice Institute Community Remembrance Project.

As part of the project, City Hall, Carlyle House, and the George Washington Masonic Memorial were illuminated in purple, the

SEE CITY ON PAGE 3



Rev. Professor Quandricos B. Driskell of Beulah Baptist Church, right, opens the April 23 ceremony remembering the 1897 lynching of Joseph McCoy at the corner of Cameron and Lee streets.

Lucky Seven for Governor

Seven Republicans are vying for the nomination to be the party’s candidate for Governor this November. Delegates to a May 8 convention will choose a nominee using ranked-choice voting. Page 6

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City Remembers 1897 Lynching Victim Joseph McCoy

FROM PAGE 1

color of mourning, throughout the weekend in a show of belated accountability, reconciliation and honor for McCoy.

The marker reads in part: "Virginia Governor Charles O'Ferrall launched an investigation into the lynching.

He laid blame on Alexandria Mayor Luther Thompson for failing to respond to repeated attacks despite knowing the mob intended to lynch McCoy. No officials or law enforcement officers were held accountable and no members of the white mob were ever arrested for McCoy's murder. Several Black

men, however, were arrested based on rumors of retaliation."

Participants in the April 23 ceremony included Mayor Justin Wilson, Police Chief Michael Brown, Alexandria Poet Laurent KaNikki Jakarta, Rev. Professor Quandricos B. Driskell of Beulah Baptist Church and Beth El Hebrew Congregation Rabbi David Spinrad. Soloist Tanya Wilkins performed at the event.

To learn more about Joseph McCoy or to read the full Alexandria Gazette account of the events of April 23, 1897, visit the In Memoriam page at Alexandriava.gov/Historic.



Alexandria Community Remembrance Project committee members Rev. Professor Quandricos B. Driskell of Beulah Baptist Church, Office of Historic Alexandria director Gretchen Bulova and Beth El Hebrew Congregation Rabbi David Spinrad prepare for the April 23 program remembering lynching victim Joseph McCoy.



Soloist Tanya Wilkins performs April 23 at the ceremony remembering the 1897 lynching of Joseph McCoy.



Rev. Professor Quandricos B. Driskell of Beulah Baptist Church and Beth El Hebrew Congregation Rabbi David Spinrad at the corner of Cameron and Lee streets, the site of the 1897 lynching of Joseph McCoy.



Beth El Hebrew Congregation Rabbi David Spinrad unveils the remembrance marker at the site of the 1897 lynching of Joseph McCoy.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

BARRE ON THE DOCK

May 1-2 and May 8-9. Barre on the Dock - At New Robinson Pier, Old Town Alexandria. Barre3 Old Town is thrilled to host a series of outdoor classes on the new Barca Pier at Robinson's Landing! Join them for 45 minutes of strength conditioning, cardio, mindfulness - with postures and movements that can be adapted for everyone! Bring a yoga mat and an optional set of handheld weights. Giveaways and refreshments to follow class! 3 session times are available until they fill in

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Diaper Drive. 12-2:30 p.m. The Old Presbyterian Meeting House

(OPMH) will be holding a socially distant drive-through diaper drive. OPMH is located at 323 S Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314. You can drive by and drop off diapers on either the Fairfax or Royal St. sides of the church. The following day OPMH will donate all diapers to local organizations, including: Alexandria Community Services, Casa Chirilagua, and the West End Pantry, who will then distribute them to families in need. Can't make it to the diaper drive? You can also donate money toward the drive online via opmh.org/give (use the pull-down to choose "Diaper Drive Donation") and OPMH will buy diapers to donate to said local organizations. Contact OPMH Member Pamela Kicak at: OPMHDiaperDrive@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and

books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org. Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email

FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com. STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency

food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org. Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive. Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com Arts and Crafts Festival. Volunteers are needed on June 10 to help with the event including: greet and check-in vendors, children's area, clean up and tear down and beer tent. Shifts are available between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.com.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

Endorsing Creative, Clear-eyed Leadership

The past year has tested Alexandria. In the face of an era-defining global health crisis, our city came together to keep each other safe. We have been a leader in administering tests and vaccinations. We have fought to keep businesses and child care centers open. We have helped non-profits continue their valuable work. We have done all this equitably in support of all Alexandrians. As former elected officials, business leaders, and community activists we have seen these efforts up close and we have been impressed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are convinced that Alexandria is meeting this moment because of creative, clear-eyed leadership that can collaborate, make tough choices, and deliver results.

There is no greater challenge or higher priority facing Alexandria than our full and equitable recovery from Covid-19. We must get our hotels, restaurants, and iconic local stores fully open and thriving. We must address gaps in access to affordable housing and economic opportunity that only widened during the pandemic. We need to rebuild and reinvest in the city's infrastructure. We must get

our students safely back in school five days a week and make up for lost learning.

We need to ensure childcare is up and running. We must protect community health.

Our backgrounds and viewpoints are varied and we don't always agree. But our city faces stark challenges.

The decisions to be made are tough and require bold, consensus-building leadership. We are encouraged by the number of candidates stepping forward to run for City Council and Mayor this year. We think there are some in particular that stand out as ready to lead us through the recovery.

That is why we enthusiastically endorse Mayor Justin Wilson for re-election as Mayor. For Council we strongly endorse Councilman John Taylor Chapman, Councilman Canek Aguirre, Alyia Gaskins, and Kirk McPike.

These candidates have demonstrated the characteristics of public service and leadership that are needed to pass the test still to come.

They have a range of backgrounds and ideas, and are capable of consensus building and working together in ways that will continue to move Alexandria forward.

Silberberg Is Leader to Bring Authenticity to the Alexandria Mayor's Office

Upon moving to the region 37 years ago, I made the careful decision to locate in the City of Alexandria. I know that this is where I will remain, quite literally, until the day I die. Alexandria is where I finally found a home, and this is where my heart is and always will be. My house is located in the City. My son was educated in the City. As well, I made the conscious decision to purchase an industrial property for our food manufacturing facility in the City of Alexandria at the suggestion of Allison Silberberg many years ago.

My introduction to Allison was at the Old Town Alexandria Farmers Market (where our wholesale company has its roots 35 years ago) on a freezing cold winter Saturday where she approached me and asked, "How has the City been treating you?" Such a genuine sentiment-it really took me by surprise! We had a long chat that

day, and she made it clear that as far as the City of Alexandria's role for me, my family, as well as my business, she was undoubtedly interested in learning what was really going on. It's her mission to find out what really matters to Alexandrians like me.

In all the subsequent years, including the time Allison was the Mayor, her authenticity and unswerving interest in representing matters that concern Alexandrians has been a true beacon of good will. She has led with genuineness and with heart, and has impressed not just me, but a whole brigade of the City's citizens. Just like me, the people who have chosen to live and do business in Alexandria have expectations that this is where you go to feel respected, and to call home. In that regard, Allison is decidedly on the side of every Alexandrian.

Leadership to illustrate authenticity, leadership that listens with genuine interest and respect, leadership that values the heart Alexandrians have planted in their City. Allison's the one who really cares what's going on where you call home!

Maribeth Nyerges
Alexandria

- Kerry Donley**, Former Mayor
- Bill Euille**, Former Mayor
- Ludwig Gaines**, Former Councilman
- Rob Krupicka**, Former Delegate and Councilman
- Lonnie Rich**, Former Councilman
- Paul Smedberg**, Former Councilman, Current Chair of WMATA
- David Speck**, Former Delegate and Councilman
- Katya Ananieva**, She's Unique
- Mango Mike Anderson**, HomeGrown Restaurant Group
- Donna Anderson**, HomeGrown Restaurant Group
- Jen Atkins**, Former Chair, Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission
- Bill Blackburn**, HomeGrown Restaurant Group
- Marcia Call**, Citizen Activist
- Lynnwood Campbell**, Community Activist
- Kathy Dalby**, Pacers Running
- Teal Dye**, Lotus Blooms
- Amy Eggers**, Small Business Owner and Chair of the DRBA Marketing Committee
- Maria Elizabeth**, Salon deZen
- Charlotte Hall**, Citizen Activist
- Bradley Halsey**, Building Momentum
- Glenn Hopkins**, Hopkins House - A Center for Children, Youth, and their Families

- Julie N. Jakopic**, iLead Strategies
- Stephanie Kapsis**, Former School Board Member
- Jim Kapsis**, Former Chair, Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission
- Ally Kirkpatrick**, Old Town Books
- Ben Klein**, Former Chair, Alexandria Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee
- Mindy Lyle**, Member, Alexandria Planning Commission
- Nate Macek**, Chair, Alexandria Planning Commission
- Laurie MacNamara**, Citizen Activist
- Jody Manor**, Citizen Activist
- Nicole McGrew**, Threadleaf
- Michelle Millben**, Citizen Activist
- Pat Miller**, Citizen Activist
- Judy Noritake**, Former Chair, Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission
- Jesse O'Connell**, Chair, Alexandria Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee
- Danielle Romanetti**, fibre space
- Amy Rutherford**, Red Barn Mercantile + Penny Post
- Scott Shaw**, Alexandria Restaurant Partners
- Chad F. Sparrow**, Common Plate Hospitality / Mason Social
- Kalle Thompson**, Stitch Sew Shop

Allison Silberberg: Mayor of the People

Letter to the Editor:

This is a critical election in Alexandria's history with very important decisions at stake. As a long term resident of Alexandria who has served on and led committees serving our city, I believe that Alexandrians are very lucky to have Allison Silberberg to elect as Mayor. Her ability, competence, leadership and achievements when she

was Mayor made Alexandria a better city. She is a tireless champion of affordable housing; excellence, equity and greater capacity for our city schools; safeguarding our environment; ethics reform; historic preservation; rational development; and addressing our infrastructure and flooding problems. These issues are not easy, and to me one of Allison Silberberg's key qualities is her careful study and analysis of our issues and her desire to hear – really listen – to the needs of the citizens of Alexandria. When she was Mayor she

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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 routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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'A Long-Awaited Journey'

Demolition begins at MacArthur Elementary.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

After years of planning, demolition began April 26 at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School in preparation for a new school to open sometime in 2023. Alexandria City Public Schools held a small ceremony to kick off the demolition, which is expected to take several weeks to complete.

"It is a long-awaited journey to open this new school," said MacArthur principal Penny Hairston. "There is so much rich legacy here and we are excited to bring that legacy to the new building."

The new MacArthur Elementary will be built on the same site as the old building at 1101 Janneys Lane. It will contain 150,000 square feet of space with turf fields and play areas outside. Inside will feature improved spaces for classrooms, art and music rooms and physical education.

During construction, students will be relocated to a swing space in the old Patrick Henry Elementary School on Taney Avenue. The school board voted in 2019 to utilize the swing space after the new Patrick Henry Elementary School opened earlier that year. Douglas MacArthur was built in 1943 and originally named Chinquapin School. More information is available at www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/2651.



Douglas MacArthur Elementary School principal Penny Hairston speaks on April 26 prior to the beginning of demolition of the 78-year-old school building on Janneys Lane.



An excavation crane begins demolition at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School April 26 on Janneys Lane.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4

listened carefully to presentations made at City Council meetings and did not have her mind made up before hearing the testimony. In the last couple of years, when I walk anywhere with Allison people stop her, talk to her and seek her advice, and she always listens to what they have to say, considers their point and gives a thoughtful

answer. I believe these very key ingredients of listening and empathy; along with the fact that Allison Silberberg's word is her bond - she can always be trusted - will serve the citizens of Alexandria well in our challenging times. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said "I'm a very strong believer in listening and learning from others" and this is advice that Allison Silberberg

takes to heart and follows every day. I ask you to please vote for Allison Silberberg on June 8th or during early voting because she listens, considers, studies, cares and can be trusted to make thoughtful and informed decisions for the betterment of our wonderful city and its citizens.

Nancy Kegan Smith
Alexandria

Investing in Alexandria's Clean Water Future

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Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9. This year we will continue to publish submissions through the May 5th and 6th editions. Photo submissions are due by Sunday, May 2, 2021.



Please complete a submission form at www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday and send us your photo(s).

You may also email the requested information and photo(s) directly to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Mother's Day Photo Submission

Publishes: May 5, 2021



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7 Republicans Vie To Be Governor

May 8 convention to determine direction of party heading into November.

BY MICHAEL
LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Republicans haven't won a statewide race since 2009, when Attorney General Bob McDonnell received 59 percent of the vote against Democrat Creigh Deeds. Since then, Republicans have been shut out of the Executive Mansion. Ken Cuccinelli lost to Terry McAuliffe in 2013, and Ed Gillespie lost to Ralph Northam in 2017. Now Republicans are about to determine their statewide candidates in a May 8 convention, which will take place at 37 locations.

"This is a great year for Republicans, and we have a good chance to win the Executive Mansion," said Frank Fannon, a former Republican member of the Alexandria City Council. "A lot of people are not excited about a recycled Terry McAuliffe running for governor again."

The candidate with the most votes in the first round of counting may not end up as the winner. That's because Republicans are using a process called ranked-choice voting to make sure that the nominee has support from more than 50 percent of the delegates. When the voting ends at 4 p.m. on May 8, votes will be hand counted and then sent to Richmond, where party leaders will use mathematical formulas to give

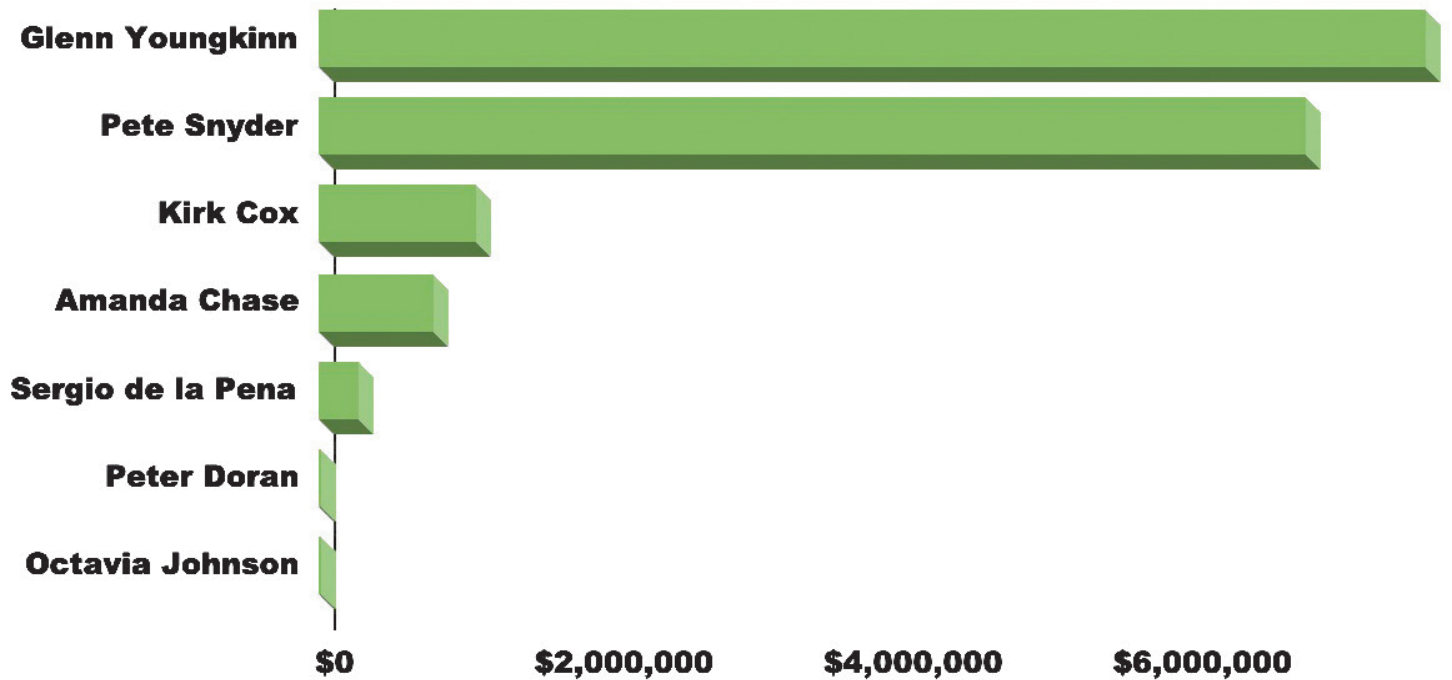
"We've seen a lot of interest in this convention. It's a sign that the two-party system is alive and well."

— Pete Benavage,
chairman of the Alexandria
Republican City Committee.

more weight to parts of the state that support Republican candidates for president and governor. They'll also be going through several elimination rounds, distributing the second choice of voters whose first choice has been eliminated.

"There is a lot of concern about one candidate in particular, Amanda Chase, who has perhaps strong support among a particular faction within the Republican Party but not broad-based support," said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government. "Some believe in a multi-candidate race she could come out as the nominee, but in a ranked-choice voting system, she

Republican Candidates for Governor



source: Virginia Public Access Project

would likely have no chance at all of winning the nomination."

Seven candidates will be on the ballot for governor, a crowded field that seems likely to send the ranked-choice voting into several elimination rounds before a winner is determined. For voters who are interested in participating in selecting which of those seven candidates for governor will be the nominee, the deadline to register has already passed, but Republican officials say they've seen out-sized interest in participation. Under normal circumstances, the convention would have a limit to how many delegates from Alexandria could participate. But this year the cap was eliminated, and candidates were allowed to help potential new delegates register. As a result, Alexandria has 703 credentialed delegates.

"We've seen a lot of interest in this convention," said Pete Benavage, chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee. "It's a sign that the two-party system is alive and well."

GLENN YOUNGKIN is a former lobbyist for the Carlyle Group who has raised more money than any of the other candidates, \$7.7 million, thanks in part to a \$5.5 million loan from the candidate. He's also received large donations



Convention Locations

- ❖ 8th Congressional District Convention Location
National Right to Work Building
8001 Braddock Road, Springfield VA 22151
- ❖ 10th Congressional District Convention Location
10th District Republican Headquarters
20098 Ashbrook Place, Ashburn VA 20147
- ❖ 11th Congressional District Convention Location
NOVA Community College, Annandale campus
8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale 22003

from real-estate developers, subcontractors and lawyers. He's never run for office before, although he's trying to use that as an asset by selling himself to voters as a candidate who's not a politician. On the campaign trail, he talks about opposing abortion rights, supporting gun rights and ending the public safety protocols put into place by the current governor during the pandemic.

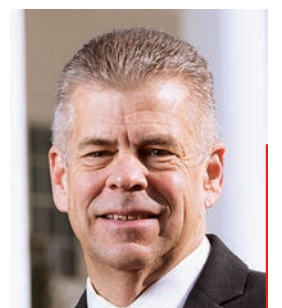
"When this governor opened up massage parlors and ABC stores and kept my church closed last year, I knew he didn't share the same values I do," said Youngkin in a candidate forum. "So we're going to stand up for our First Amendment rights. But we're also going to stand up for the unborn, but we're also going to stand up for our Tenth Amendment rights and the overreach from Washington right now."

PETE SNYDER is a businessman who's probably best known for founding a social-media marketing agency known as New Media Strategies. He's raised \$6.8 million, thanks in part to a \$5.2 million loan from the candidate. He also received a \$1 million donation from CapFi Partners CEO Mark Kimsey

of Great Falls. In 2013, he was an unsuccessful candidate for lieutenant governor at the Republican convention that selected E.W. Jackson as the party's nominee that year. On the campaign trail, Snyder talks about opening schools five days a week with a teacher in every classroom and opposing efforts to use taxpayer dollars to pay for in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants.

"Illegal immigration costs taxpayers billions, and it brings crime and gangs into our communities," said Snyder in a campaign video about immigration posted to YouTube. "Northam and McAuliffe won't take violent illegals off our streets, but I will. When I'm governor, I'll enforce the law and deport violent criminals."

KIRK COX is a former Speaker of the House of Delegates who has represented Colonial Heights since he was first elected in 1989. He's raised about \$1 million, including



SEE REPUBLICANS, PAGE 7

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Republicans

FROM PAGE 6

large donations from Republican Party leaders and general contractors. During his time in the House, he supported a controversial plan to raise taxes for roads during the McDonnell administration and, more recently, expanding Medicaid to help low-income people get health insurance. On the campaign trail, the one issue that animates him more than anything else is his opposition to abortion rights.

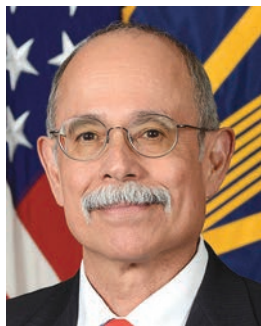
“I will stand up to the pro-abortion radicals,” said Cox in a campaign video posted to YouTube. “I will never stop fighting for the promise of life.”

AMANDA CHASE is a state Senator from Chesterfield who unseated incumbent Sen. Steve Martin (R-11) in 2015. She’s raised about \$800,000. Chase is probably best known for speaking at the Jan. 6 rally before the insurrection at the Capitol. She later defended the people involved by saying “these were not rioters and looters, these were patriots.” On the campaign trail, she’s tried to cast herself as “Trump in heels,” repeating baseless assertions that the 2020 election was stolen.



“What I believe I bring is something we’ve never had before. We’ve never had a Republican woman to seek the Republican nomination for governor,” said Chase in a candidates forum. “You know 50 percent of the population is women, and that’s a democratic we need. We also need suburban women. I am a suburban woman.”

SERGIO DE LA PENA is a retired Army colonel who served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense for the western hemisphere during the Trump administration. He’s raised about \$263,000. On the campaign trail, he talks about how his experience as an immigrant might help bring new people into the party and win over voters in Northern Virginia.



“I came from Mexico. I was raised in a house with dirt floors and no running water, picking cotton at 10,” said de la Pena. “I fought socialists and communists the entire time I was in the Army, and I continue to do so even to this day because what we’ve seen is that they’ve gone from bullets to ballots.”

PETER DORAN is a former think tank executive and author. He’s raised about \$16,000. On the campaign trail, he talks about phasing out the state income tax.



“I spent my career helping countries that have been destroyed by socialism to chart a new path and to get strong,” said Doran in a campaign video. “I’m running for governor because I think it’s about time that we have a candidate with a winning conservative vision leading our commonwealth.”

OCTAVIA JOHNSON is a former sheriff of Roanoke who’s raised about \$900. In 2014, she ran an unsuccessful campaign against Sam Rasoul for House District 11.



“Everybody has heard of all the other candidates. They know what their message is,” said Johnson in a television interview. “Now they’re going to hear Octavia Johnson’s message, and that will help them to decide who is stale bread and who is fresh bread.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents “The Belle of Amherst”

Explores the eccentric and obscure life of poet Emily Dickinson.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

It's 1883 in Amherst, Massachusetts. “The Belle of Amherst” by William Luce takes place at the home of poet Emily Dickinson, as she tells her story through anecdotes based on biographical information, her letters, and her poems in this one-woman bio-drama. Welcoming the audience inside, Dickinson (Karen Jadlos Shotts) reveals both the joyous and heart-breaking events in her life that shaped her enigmatic existence and engaging poetry. The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting the play from April 24 to May 15, 2021.

Director Frank D. Shutts, II, said for decades he wanted to direct small cast shows at LTA. “Unfortunately, small cast often means small profits, so the Board has always avoided those shows. If there is a sunny side to Covid, it is the need for small-cast shows. When the call went out to directors to submit shows with a limited cast, I leaped at the opportunity to submit ‘Belle.’ ... What better show for socially distanced times than a monodrama about Emily Dickinson, the socially distant poet?” he said.

He continued: “William Luce’s carefully researched and brilliantly penned writing brings the story of Emily Dickinson to life so brilliantly, so effectively, that those who already admire her poetry will find a deeper appreciation for and understanding of Dickinson’s work. For those who do not really know or understand it, I hope they are so moved by her musing on life, love, nature, religion, and death that they pick up her poetry again, or for the first time.”

Karen Jadlos Shotts plays the main role of Emily Dickinson, a much respected and prolific American poet ahead of her time. “She was also a person who lived a solitary life by choice, never married, and conducted most of her friendships via letters,” she said. “She had real intelligence and talent, but due to the times she lived in, was under-recognized during her lifetime. To have kept writing under such circumstances suggests to me that she was also a very strong person -- she just kept going, despite feeling that people may never read her poems, that they would be ‘an undelivered letter lost in transit.’”

“The Belle of Amherst” will be Karen Jadlos Shotts’ 16th show at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. Almost all of her roles have been leads. The shows include comedies such as “Born Yesterday” and “God of Carnage,” thrillers such as “Pack of Lies,” dramas such as “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” “Rabbit Hole,” and “Scotland Road,” seven musicals, including “The Fantasticks and “The Little Shop of Horrors.”

“The most challenging aspect was the size of the role; a 90-minute monologue, if you will, which is



Karen Jadlos Shotts in rehearsal for “The Belle of Amherst” at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

PHOTO BY MATT LIPTAK/THE GAZETTE

a lot more than I’ve done previously,” Jadlos Shotts said. “Also, because it is a single-person cast, during our social distance time, the learning and creative processes often felt very solitary. I missed the collaborative creative process I enjoy when working with other actors.”

Producer Russell M. Wyland said he had been aware of “The Belle of Amherst” for many years, but only read it when Frank Shutts recommended the show for LTA’s “Small Theater for Unusual Times.” He said: “I had to study Emily and her contemporaries in graduate school (my Ph.D. is in 19th-century British literature), but Emily was always an enigma to me: how could this recluse in what was then the rural village of Amherst, Massachusetts, write poems that feel both private and universal? I was taken by the way William Luce answered that question, weaving together a tender and joyful story with Emily’s poetry and life.”

Wyland added: “In addition to being the producer of ‘The Belle of Amherst,’ I am also the LTA President. I think the Board has become aware of a desire by audiences and actors to see more shows that put women front-and-center, especially characters who have been missing from the initial telling of history. Our last show — ‘The Revolutionists’ — focused on four very different and powerful women who fought against the extremism of the Reign of Terror ushered in by the French Revolution. ‘The Belle of Amherst’ is a very different kind of powerful woman who was initially left behind by the male literary ‘taste makers’ who ran the 19th-century literary establishment. Our next show — ‘Ripcord’ -- puts women ‘of a certain age’ in the main comedic roles.”

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting “The Belle of Amherst” from April 24 to May 15, 2021. Tickets are \$24 to \$48. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-0496.

Get Some Fresh Air: 3 Spots for Al Fresco Dining

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Brunch, lunch, dinner – these restaurants are great bets any time of the day (or week).

Outdoor dining has been a necessity for restaurant-goers over the past year, but now that the weather is warming up (hello, surprise 85-degree April days!), it’s becoming a luxury, as well.

Chadwicks, 203 Strand St.

Chadwicks has expanded its outdoor space to an area across The Strand from the restaurant itself, and the final result is a spacious, distanced dining

experience that still garners plenty of attention from the waitstaff. Haven’t been out to eat in awhile? Don’t worry – all your favorites are still on the menu, with a few new flavors (such as the Flaco Taco Salad) joining the crew as well. Order up a beer from the restaurant’s extensive list and toast to good

SEE GET SOME, PAGE 9

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Get Some Fresh Air

FROM PAGE 8
weather.

The Garden, 1503 Mount Vernon Ave.

What could herald a more appropriate dawn of warm weather than a trip to The Garden in Del Ray? Set up in the footprint of an old plant nursery, The Garden is practically made for good weather. Step One: Make a reservation online in advance. Step Two: Wear your mask when you're not at your table. And that just leaves one more step: Decide what you want to eat from the restaurant's festive and fresh menu (beer-steamed mussels? Fried chicken banh mi sandwiches? Beignets for a weekend brunch?) and feast.

Fontaine, 119 S. Royal St.

Walk along Royal Street one block off King and you'll find the cutest little sidewalk seating anywhere in Old Town. Fontaine was an early adopter of expanded outdoor dining in the face of pandemic, and its popularity hasn't waned. And why should it? The crepes are served up fresh in all their sweet or savory goodness; the salads are vibrant enough to feel downright healthy; and the entrees are hearty enough to last you for hours after lunch or dinner. Order a glass of wine to savor throughout the meal and take a deep relaxing breath.

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

org/ for more.
RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

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Obituary

Obituary



Thomas Bryson Irvin "Tom" (91) of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away peacefully at home, amongst his loving family, on April 24th, 2021. He is survived by his beloved wife, Ellie Wagoner, three loving sons, Jeff, John, and Tommy, and dear granddaughter, Kristen Irvin. He is also survived by two adored step-daughters, Kristi Shelloner and Melissa Claudio, as well as his devoted step-grandsons and granddaughters, Jonas Shellenberg, Schuyler Shelloner, Hannah Steinke (Flynn), Vijil Mavronas (Spiros), and Christian Claudio.

A memorial service will be conducted at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home Chapel on Friday, May 7th at 11 am. Please visit their website for a complete obituary and specific details about the service, including a link for virtual viewing. In lieu of flowers, a contribution to Senior Services of Alexandria, 206 N. Washington Street, Suite #301 Alexandria, VA 22314 is encouraged.



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"My Thoughts to Your Thoughts"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You know the expression: Can't walk and chew gum at the same time; a disparaging characterization of a person, company or municipality unable to multi-task or even tsk at all? Fortunately, I've not had much interaction in any of these categories (myself included). I do however, have a similar description of yours truly: I can't write a column and eat at the same time. I can drink (not alcohol) and write. And back in college - in the 70s, while writing a weekly column for "the diamondback" (the college newspaper) at The University of Maryland, I could partake, recreationally, and still write my column. In fact, I still remember what I thought was one of the funniest lines in a column I wrote about my inability to use tools (while under said influence): "The only power tool I ever used was a hammer." Ah, the good old daze.

Fast forward and I mean fast, to 2021, approximately 45 years, since I was a weekly columnist for the campus newspaper. Time hasn't merely flown by, it has broken all former land speed records. In fictional fact, it hasn't been mach, it has been at "warp" speed, for those of you regular readers who are still trying to "Live long and prosper" while watching cable channel "H&I" Sunday through Friday, off and on between 8pm and 1am. For us "Star Trek" fans, these five hours of nightly programming fill a void that no replicator can match.

Spock could certainly multi-task. How else could he master three-dimensional chess? Perhaps some of his skill set had its origins in the "Vulcan mind-meld" which enabled him to read other's thoughts and gain unique insights into previously unshared experiences. As I think back over the years of previous "Star Trek" viewing (and my current re-infatuation), I can't recall ever seeing Spock eat, or even drink for that matter. Maybe he couldn't eat and be First Officer/second in command at the same time? Not that I'm equating myself with Spock, he was way more intelligent and accomplished than me. But maybe we did share a common affliction: an inability to eat and simultaneously perform other tasks?

And though Spock never seemed any the worse for the wear and tear he endured while rarely eating, I, as a red-blooded human, need to eat. I just can't eat while I'm writing. It seems to take away from my focus and blunt the creative process. Maybe if I were able to "narrow the confinement beam," I could put more of my thoughts down on paper before they're lost in my head. Thoughts which occasionally are fleeting, but usually are pertinent to the column I'm writing. Unlike Spock however, my thoughts are not always logical and though I try to embrace his Vulcan philosophy: "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few," I think I'm too needy to do so. (My nephew bought me Star Trek pajamas for Christmas. It didn't exactly fill a need but it sure has made me happy to wear them. If you're at all curious they are Spock's rank and color: blue top with black pants, with proper Star Trek insignia.)

As is the case with my weekly column. I deprive myself of nourishment in order to write in a semi-coherent way. Sometimes I fail (perhaps the proof is right here in the words which you are reading), but it's never because I ate while I wrote, it's because the "inertial dampeners" (whatever they are) were not functioning within normal parameters. I just have to hope that my communicator doesn't malfunction or that an ion storm doesn't develop locally and knocks out the power to my house. I don't have a "Scotty" around to transfer power from one system to another. All I have is that hammer. And I know from limited experience, that a hammer is not going to solve my problem. I need a whole crew with all their own tools.

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

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NEWS

Stop Waiting — Start Donating

Blood donors may be suffering from COVID fatigue.

By SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Just a few minutes of your time can save a life. Heather Wade, Donor Recruitment Manager for Inova Blood Donor Services says, "We need 230 donors a day in N. Virginia to get 200 successful donations which yields 30 platelets, 20 double red cells and 150 whole blood (the old fashioned kind). So the power of one can save three lives."

Wade says they hold two blood drives twice a week in Northern Virginia. Due to COVID most blood drives are held at their three brick and mortar locations in Sterling, Annandale and Centreville. However, there are other local locations scheduled such as several held last week including Alexandria City Hall on Monday, April 19, Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington on Tuesday, April 20, Anytime Fitness Center in Kingstowne on Tuesday, April 20.

A blood drive is scheduled at 5010 Little Falls Road in Arlington on April 25.

Wade says that any blood donated locally is used within a radius of 40 miles so you know your blood will be used to help members of your community. Wade says there are 32-38 appointments available at each location. She says when the pandemic first hit, they had a lot of support. But as schools are starting to open and more vaccinations are taking place, the response has been lower.

"Now we are struggling. The need has grown exponentially but the effort is down. Truly there are people waiting on a blood donation." Wade says she thinks people are struggling with COVID fatigue. "It is difficult to let the community know how much this is needed."

Wade explains the whole process takes an hour or less start to finish. "We think about it in 15 minute increments: 15 for filling out the questionnaire, 15 for a screening mini-physical with blood pressure, tempera-



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/THE GAZETTE

Jessica Willis-Schnitz, Blood Donor Services Account Manager, said the goal is to collect roughly 30 units of blood in Alexandria and they had 33 donors signed up so she is looking forward to a great day for patients.

ture and finger prick to test for iron, 15 for donation "needle in arm" and 15 for snack and drink to replenish the body."

Laura Watchman, who is organizing a Blood Drive on Little Falls Road in Arlington on Sunday, April 25 in conjunction with Inova Blood Donor Services, says most people who donate blood say they do it because it is something you can do that directly saves lives. Watchman has recently organized a number of blood drives through her church and says they have one man who has donated 60 times.

Watchman says you must register and make an appointment ahead of time. "We have 32 slots available and usually fill up but currently have nine left to fill." She says giving blood is easy with many of the prescreening questions now done online at home in order to cut down the time a person spends at the site. "And a bonus to your good deed is you get to take home a T-shirt."

The blood drive will be held from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Rock Spring UCC sponsors it with support from Arlington Rotary Club.

Wade adds, "Stop waiting-start donating."



The Inova Bloodmobile stationed across from Alexandria Town Square on Monday, April 19 to collect blood donations greatly needed in northern Virginia.



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<p>BATTERY SPECIAL</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>BATTERY CHECK-UP</p> <p>INCLUDES: CHECK COLD CRANKING AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT.</p> <p><small>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 05/08/21.</small></p>	<p>LUBE, OIL & FILTER SPECIAL</p> <p>\$39.95</p> <p>\$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE</p> <p>INCLUDES: CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.), INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT & ADJUST ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 05/08/21.</small></p>	<p>ALIGNMENT SPECIAL</p> <p>\$89.95</p> <p>4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT</p> <p>INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT, INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS, STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.</p> <p><small>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 05/08/21.</small></p>	<p>BRAKE PAD SPECIAL</p> <p>\$99.95</p> <p>BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT</p> <p>INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TOMC PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 05/08/21.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTACARE PLUS</p> <p>\$329.00</p> <p>SPECIAL</p> <p>MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!</p> <p><small>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 05/08/21.</small></p>	<p>SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT</p> <p>THE MORE YOU SPEND, THE MORE YOU SAVE!</p> <p>\$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99 \$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199 \$20 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499 \$50 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+</p> <p><small>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 05/08/21.</small></p>
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OPEN SUN 5/2, 1-4PM

Fort Williams Park | \$1,795,000

Custom built home on almost an acre lot. All major systems have been recently updated; pristine hardwood floors on 3 levels, 5 bedrooms, 5 baths. The primary bedroom with French doors opens to balconies overlooking the peaceful garden. 3636 Trinity Drive
Sarah King 703.864.5050
www.saraheking.com



Hollin Hall Village | \$965,000

Beautiful, like-new, Craftsman-style home renovated top to bottom in 2019. 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, a dream kitchen with breakfast bar and butler's pantry. Spa-like primary bedroom suite. Spacious front porch and lovely patio for outdoor living. 1605 Baltimore Rd.
Patrick Lynn 703.973.8175
www.PatrickLynnRealtor.com



OPEN SUN 5/2, 1-4PM

Beverley Hills | \$949,000

This lovely home features beautiful hardwoods on two levels, updated kitchen and baths, fireplace, and a family room addition on the back. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Fantastic deck overlooks a backyard oasis! 3512 Cameron Mills Road
Kim Peele & Hope Peele 703.244.6115
www.ThePeeleGroup.biz



OPEN SAT 5/1 & SUN 5/2, 2-4PM

Mount Vernon | \$910,000

This beautiful home on almost a half acre has been recently updated with a gorgeous gourmet kitchen. The family room with gas fireplace opens to the huge back yard. 4 generous upper level bedrooms. Finished lower level with bedroom/bath. 9407 Ferry Landing Ct.
Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941
www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



OPEN SUN 5/2, 12-2PM

Kirk | \$850,000

Situated on a captivating .43-acre lot backing to Little Hunting Creek, this incredible home has 4 finished levels, an expanded chef's kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2.5-baths, and stunning outdoor living space with a built-in fireplace & koi pond. 2218 William and Mary Dr.
Anslie Stokes Milligan 202.270.1081
www.TheStokesGroup.com



OPEN SAT 5/1 & SUN 5/2, 2-4PM

Fort Hunt | \$695,000

Beautifully updated rambler in Hollin Hall Village! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, gorgeous hardwoods throughout the main level, 2 fireplaces, large carport, expanded patio, tons of storage. Large and lovely corner lot across from park! 7911 Bainbridge Road
Kristy Crombie & Erika Olsen 571.969.1774
www.crombieandolsen.com



OPEN SAT 5/1 & SUN 5/2, 2-4PM

New Alexandria | \$675,000

Incredibly charming Cape Cod features: hardwood floors, one full & one half bath, finished lower level with family room & possibility for third bedroom, sunroom, wood-burning fireplace, beautiful level yard, back deck and 480-SF garage/workshop. 6407 15th Street
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
www.RealtorHeidiB.com



Montebello | \$400,000

Garage parking and storage space included with this wonderfully updated 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo overlooking the pool and southern vistas! Renovated with new hardwood floors throughout. Kitchen & both baths have ceramic floors. Move in! HayesWoodHomes.com
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138



River Towers | \$205,000

Fantastic opportunity just south of Old Town! Two bedroom, one full & one half bath, "penthouse" level condo with tree-top views in amenity rich community. Instant equity with a little TLC. Condo fee includes all utilities! 6641 Wakefield Drive #908
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
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