



**City Elections:
To [Road] Diet,
or Not To [Road] Diet?**
SEE PAGE 3

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER 25 CENTS MAY 6, 2021

Celebrating Mother's Day



Meg Ziemann with sons Hugo and Quinn (in back), in front Rita Packard with baby Eliza and daughter Elsie, and Sam Morgan with baby Reid
Quinn: "I like my mom because she is generous."
Rita: "Being a mom is always changing and always challenging and a joy I never thought I would actually have."
Meg: "I love being a mom no matter what's happening in the world my kids are always there and always ground me and I am always so happy to come home to them."
Sam: "I love being a mom because it is always fun to watch your child grow and develop into their own person."

Spreading the joy of celebrating our mothers.

Anna Jarvis was a well-known social activist and community organizer in Northern Virginia during the Civil War. When she died on May 9, 1905, her daughter Anna Marie Jarvis made plans to honor her mother each year on the anniversary of her death. The idea of celebrating mothers spread and led to the official recognition of a Mother's Day holiday by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914. Closer to home, families are preparing to recognize and celebrate mothers across the city.

—JEANNE THEISMANN

SEE MOTHER'S DAY, ON PAGE 8

PHOTOS BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET

Levi Asuncion with daughter Victoria
Victoria: "My mom is really kind and generous. She has taught me about spreading kindness and happiness to others."



Katherine and Elizabeth Cook kiss mom Diane Duff

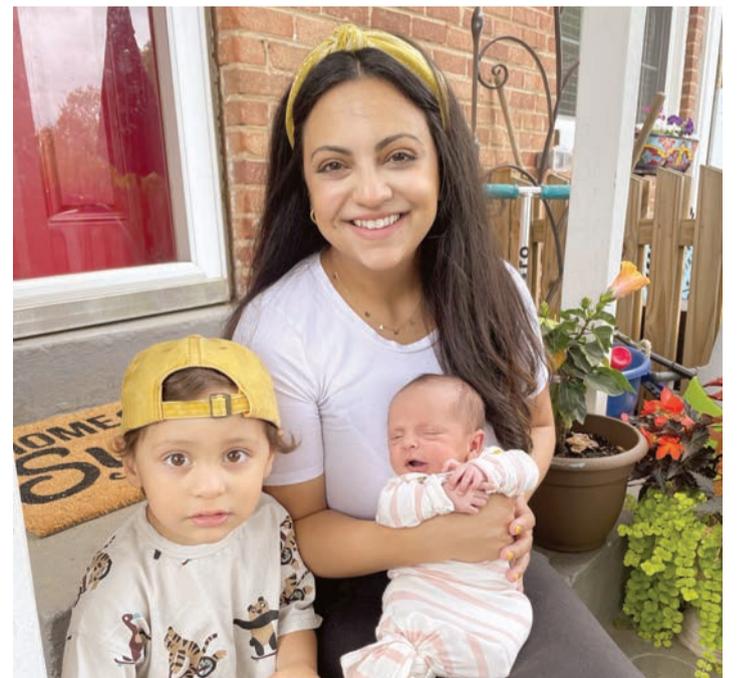
Diane: "Our mother taught us to be kind to all people and leaves rays of sunshine everywhere she goes."



Jordan Moynihan with son Ames
Ames: "My mom lets me do a lot and I love her."



Damaris Thompson with daughter Dahlia Bernal
"We have a little one on the way and Dahlia's birthday is the day before Mother's Day so we have a fun-filled weekend planned."



Jackie Maldonado with Diego and baby Lucia
"I am so excited for my first Mother's Day with two children. More love to share."



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Yo Yo Road Diet Four Democrats support four lanes on Seminary Road.

BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER
AND MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The lingering resentment over Seminary Road bike lanes comes with a price tag, somewhere between \$300,000 and \$700,000 — a cost four City Council candidates say they're willing to pay for returning four lanes traffic to the street. During an Alexandria Democratic Committee candidates forum this week, incumbent Councilman John Taylor Chapman and Councilwoman Amy Jackson said the cost is worth it, a position shared by candidates Bill Rossello and Mark Shiffer.

"I'm pretty well known for this issue because I fought against the road diet," said Rossello, adding that he supports some of the safety improvements. "We took an arterial road and narrowed it. It was a busy arterial road with 17,000 cars on it every day that people in this city depended on."

The controversial four-to-three vote in September 2019 came after 18 months of debate, and in the aftermath of the decision several opponents vowed to make it a campaign issue in the next election. Chapman and Jackson both voted against the road diet along with Councilman Mo Seifeldin, who is not running for reelection. Mayor Justin Wilson and Councilman Canek Aguirre are the only incumbents seeking reelection who voted in favor.

"Part of the reason we were doing this was to improve access to all road users," said Aguirre, who is one of the six candidates to say they are opposed to spending money to restore four lanes of traffic. "If you go out there



The bike lanes on Seminary Road are part of a controversial plan approved by the Alexandria City Council in September 2019. Four Democrats running in the primary say they want to spend the \$300,000 to \$700,000 necessary to restore the road to four lanes of traffic.

right now, you'll see people walking their dogs, walking their babies, on bikes, on scooters."

Other than Aguirre, candidates who say they oppose spending

Meronne Teklu. Several of these candidates said they were not necessarily in favor of the decision to move forward with the road diet, although they also said spending the money to undo what's already been done was not a good use of taxpayer dollars.

"If we have an extra \$700,000, I want to make sure we're using that to keep people in their homes who are facing eviction," said Gaskins. "People are going hungry every night and worrying about how to feed their children."

Three candidates say they would need to see more information before they make a decision

on whether or not the expenditure would be justified. Because the bike lanes were installed right before the pandemic, these candidates said, the city doesn't really have a clear picture of how the road diet may have contributed to traffic congestion. Sarah Bagley, James Lewis and Patrick Moran say they want to see more data before committing to a position on the controversial issue.

"I appreciate the attempt to make this sort of a fiscal analysis, but of course the other side of that is the cost of a human life," said Bagley. "The cost of congestion would have to be a fairly great degree to outweigh what was primarily a safety and inclusive streets policy."

THE 2019 VOTE has become a central fault line of Alexandria

politics, with many people strongly in favor of the decision while others remain bitterly opposed. Some view the debate as a clash between urban versus suburban development while others view the conversation through the lens of expanding access to roads beyond automobiles. Numbers compiled by city officials in February 2020 show the new road diet on Seminary increased travel times during the morning rush hour about 30 percent or by one minute.

"Congestion has a cost," said Moran. "If folks are sitting in traffic, they're not able to get to work or pick up their kids or do other things. That has a cost."

The cost of removing the bike lanes won't be cheap. City officials have compiled three options for restoring automobile lanes to the street. A \$300,000 option would "likely hasten need for full resurfacing in the future." A \$500,000 option would have "maintenance challenges." Only the most expensive option, which has a cost of \$700,000 for "permanent restoration," is considered "most thorough and durable."

"We're definitely not going to put it back to the way that it was," said Shiffer. "But I think there was a solution that the city didn't look at where they could have four lanes of traffic, they could have bike lanes, they could have a safe sidewalk, they could have all of it — and that I would be in favor of spending the money to do."

Several of the candidates who oppose spending the money to restore automobile lanes also said they think the city made a mistake with the road diet. But, they said, spending more money to solve the problem would not be a good use of taxpayer money to restore automobile lanes to the road, especially considering the hardships created by the pandemic.

"We've already wasted too much money creating the road diet," said Harris. "But now I think it would be an even greater mistake, fiscally, to use good money after bad."

"We've already wasted too much money creating the road diet. But now I think it would be an even greater mistake, fiscally, to use good money after bad."

— Kevin Harris, candidate for Alexandria City Council

\$300,000 to \$700,000 to restore four lanes of traffic on Seminary are Bill Campbell, Alyia Gaskins, Kevin Harris, Kirk McPike and

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 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

FARMER'S MARKET OPENS

The Farmer's Market in Alexandria has opened. It is located at Montgomery Park, 901 North Royal Street, Alexandria. The Spring hours are every Thursday from 3-7 p.m.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29

Pillars to Pavers: Preservation in Alexandria. 10 a.m. Since the 1960s, the City of Alexandria has

seen older buildings and spaces being restored, preserved, and reused in different ways. In honor of National Historic Preservation Month, explore the streets of Alexandria with stops to highlight how buildings have been preserved and adapted for future generations to enjoy. At two stops, Carlyle House and Lee-Fendall House, you will be able to enter spaces that are

usually closed to the public. Tours begin at the Lee-Fendall House at 10:00 AM every Saturday in May. This tour includes walking over many city blocks, stairs, and access to confined spaces. Face masks and social distancing will be enforced and tours are limited to 8 people.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 4

Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art festival

A Socially Distanced Outdoor Art Show



May 15th - 16th

Sat./Sun. 10am - 5pm

Outdoors on John Carlyle St. from
Duke St. to Emerson Ave. (John Carlyle Square) in Alexandria



Artfestival.com

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NEWS

Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival May 15 - 16

Event will host local
and national artists
showcasing thou-
sands of works in
John Carlyle Square

WHEN: Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16 from 10 am to 5 pm

WHERE: Old Town Alexandria in John Carlyle Square

Navigation: 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

COST: Free and open to the public

WEBSITE: www.ArtFestival.com

CONTACT: Howard Alan Events: info@artfestival.com or 561-746-6615

The free, outdoor, fine art event premieres May 15 - 16 from 10 am to 5 pm both days and features enhanced safety guidelines.

Visitors to the free, outdoor event will see thousands of handmade-in-the-USA, exquisite pieces of art across every medium, including life-sized sculpture, paintings, jewelry, pottery, textiles and more.

WHAT: Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival

Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival on May 15 - 16. Art is back in Old Town with safety guidelines and a beautiful location providing ample space for social distancing. Visitors to the free, outdoor event in John Carlyle Square will see thousands of handmade-in-the-USA, exquisite pieces of art from every medium.

Masks are mandatory, directional traffic and social distancing will be enforced to maintain the comfort and safety of artists and guests during this intimate, artistic affair.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

Please dress appropriately for the terrain and weather. Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information, call (703) 548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 9

Mother's Day Tea Boxes. 9:30-11 a.m. Spoil your Mom or Grandma this year with a tea box she'll love. They're partnering with The Spice & Tea Exchange as well as Firehook Bakery in Alexandria to celebrate those special ladies in our lives. Enjoy 3 delicious blends of tea along with homemade treats from these local institutions. Tea boxes can be picked up at Carlyle House from 9:30-11 a.m. on May 9th. Tea boxes must be ordered by April 30th. Cost is \$35.

SUNDAY/MAY 9

Mother's Day Tea on the Magnolia Terrace. 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. At Carlyle House, Alexandria. They're partnering with The Spice & Tea Exchange as well as Firehook Bakery in Alexandria to celebrate those special ladies in our lives. Enjoy a delicious blend of tea along with homemade treats from these local institutions. Cost \$45 per adult (ages 13 and older), \$25 per child (ages 5-12), Free (newborn-4). Email carlyle@nvrpa.org. Call 703-549-2997 or email carlyle@nvrpa.org

SEEKING NOMINATIONS

FOR BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

The Alexandria Beautification Commission is seeking commercial nominations for the 2021 Beautification Awards. The Commission recognizes the hardships that many businesses have endured during the past year and looks forward to celebrating businesses that have been creative in extending seamlessly to their outdoor environment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nominations need to be submitted no later than May 10, 2021 and winners will be announced mid-June. Judging will be limited to the property visible from the public right of way. Nominations must be submitted online at https://www.research.net/r/AlexandriaVA-2021BAN_Commercial. For additional information on the Beautification Commission and its annual awards program, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Beautification or contact Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief at Oscar.Mendoza@alexandriava.gov.

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 donaaldr@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriend-A-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.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

If These Walls Could Talk – Roberts Chapel Methodist Church

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH
GAZETTE PACKET

If you were a Black Methodist in Alexandria, Virginia in 1830, you probably would be a member of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church. You would have been excited during that period, because the Church's Black congregation was given permission to start their own Black Methodist Church.

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church had a large Black population of free and enslaved people. Their Black congregation was eager to have their own Church. The Black members organized their congregation in 1832. In 1834, the congregation purchased land on Washington Street from Josiah Davis and his wife for \$350. The trustees decided to name their Church after Reverend Charles A. Davis as Davis Chapel Church. Reverend Davis raised a large sum of money to build the church. The first trustees were five blacks and four whites. They were well known in the Alexandria community.

In 1845, the Reverend Charles A. Davis left Davis Chapel Church. After his departure, the church was renamed to Roberts Chapel Methodist Church. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, membership grew



Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church.

from 500 to 700.

The community activist pastors with their strong ties to the community, along with famous black leaders of the era, built a strong membership at Roberts Chapel. One of those black leaders, Booker T. Washington, was a guest speaker at Roberts Chapel Methodist Church in the 1890s. In addition, Robert's Chapel had some high profile pastors like Reverend Robert H. Robinson who was born in 1824. He was a masonic author, lecturer, orator, freemason, organizer of the Washington Conference in 1861, and a trustee and vice president of William McKinley Norman

SEE IF THESE WALLS, PAGE 8

THE OTHER
ALEXANDRIA

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- ★ **Invest in infrastructure** and stop the flooding.
- ★ **Build a Covid-19 economic recovery** that supports small businesses.
- ★ **Save the forested environment** at Taylor Run, Strawberry Run, and Lucky Run.
- ★ **Safeguard our environment and natural resources**, and protect our tree canopy.

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What President Biden's American Jobs Plan Means to Virginia

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

The Biden administration recently released its American Jobs Plan which includes 2.25 billion dollars of national investment in infrastructure and services. This proposal is deficit-neutral over the next fifteen years by calling for a modest increase in corporate income taxes and eliminating a number of tax shelters. I believe these proposed investments will benefit Virginians and the residents of the 30th district.

Our infrastructure is in dire straits. We have 577 bridges and thousands of miles of highway in Virginia that have fallen into disrepair. Our roads consistently get near-failing grades from the American Society for Civil Engineers. The plan includes \$600 billion dollars across the country to fix our transportation infrastructure. Ten percent of trains and other transit

vehicles in the state are past useful life. This is why I particularly welcome proposed funds to modernize public transit. As long-time advocate for sustainable transportation investment and a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), I am happy to share that as part of this plan we would receive funding to improve the Metro, Amtrak, and bus services safely across Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax as well as allocate resources to the improve the use and safety of our heavily trafficked roads, bike paths, and pedestrian walkways.

We are no strangers to flooding and the devastating impacts of extreme weather events in the 30th district. I know the long hours Alexandria residents have spent piling heavy sandbags to protect their



Ebbin

homes and small businesses. Stormwater utility bills have increased in recent years as we try to fix our insufficient and unsanitary wastewater treatment infrastructure. This is why, during the General Assembly session this year, I sponsored SB1309, a bill which will allow our local elected officials in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax to use local flood water funds for short-term, stop-gap projects to protect neighborhoods and homes from inland flooding. I'm glad that the American Jobs Plan includes \$50 billion dollars to improve our resilience against extreme weather events and flooding. That could be a gamechanger.

I know that safe drinking water is crucial for our community to thrive. This means no exposure to lead or dangerous chemicals in our

municipal water systems. Biden's infrastructure plan allocates \$111 billion dollars to accelerate efforts and ensure everyone has access to affordable, clean, and safe water.

Affordable, high-speed internet is as necessary today as running water and electricity. It has allowed Virginians to log in to school and work during the pandemic, as well as access critical city and county services, pay their bills, and keep in touch with an ever changing world. We have been working to increase access to broadband in rural Virginia for years, and I am proud to have supported an increase in annual funding from \$35 million to \$50 million for the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative which works to expand access to broadband in underserved areas. Significantly more investment is needed, as we still are far from the goal of making sure every Virginian has access to broadband.

SEE JOBS PLAN, PAGE 7

City Council Candidates: Do Your Homework on Affordable Housing

BY MICHELLE KROCKER

As a homeowner and city resident, I support our aspiration to be a just and inclusive community by ensuring that we have affordable housing opportunities for residents of all income levels. This is arguably our highest priority as a city. As a housing policy professional, I also know that housing affordability is a re-

gional challenge. Across Northern Virginia, thousands of households are struggling to afford decent, quality housing that allows them to pay the rent and still put food on the table. These families are one paycheck away from homelessness – and that was before the pandemic.

Given the pressing need to increase affordable housing opportunities both locally and region-

ally, I'm pleased to see so many City Council candidates identify this issue as a key element in their campaign platforms. But to speak credibly, candidates should understand the existing tools and strategies, current challenges and the far-reaching impact of this issue, before making policy recommendations.

The City's elected officials, Office of Housing, Department of

Planning and Zoning and the Department of Community and Human Services work in concert with nonprofit and for-profit partners to address the continuum of unmet housing needs from homelessness to first-time homeownership. In 2013, City Council adopted a comprehensive Housing Master Plan that identified housing needs and detailed strategies and goals to ad-

SEE CITY COUNCIL, PAGE 12

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alexandria City Council Takes Right Step Toward Serving Our Communities of Color

As a longtime resident of Alexandria City and the lead organizer at Tenants and Workers United, I write to commend the Alexandria City Council for their move to allocate funding for the creation of a Community Police Review Board. For far too long, the City's police department has gone unchecked by the communities they are supposed to serve and protect. If they are, in fact, here to serve everyone equally, then the communities of color that are disproportionately impacted by police misconduct and police brutality must be given a position of oversight and authority.

For five years now, TWU organizers, community members, and young people have advocated for significant changes to local law enforcement policies, including a City ordinance to require the Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

Allison Silberberg Is the One

I am writing to express my concern about the future of Alexandria. The failure of the Mayor and majority of the City Council to ensure the continued quality of life my family and I have come to enjoy as residents of this historic city is disheartening. For that reason, I am voting for Allison Silberberg for Mayor of Alexandria in the Democratic Primary.

While there are many reasons to be concerned with the current Mayor's policies, in each of our neighborhoods, it has been my experience that while he will meet with residents or whip out a quick email, he is perfectly satisfied to provide a textbook response to a citizen's question. In my case he did not follow up. He lacks the interest to understand the concerns brought to him by individual citizens or the community.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue.

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Jobs Plan

FROM PAGE 6
The American Jobs Plan includes \$100 billion dollars for affordable broadband infrastructure. Such funds will improve access to information and invest in the students, businesses, and communities whose potential remains restricted by access to the internet.

No veteran should have to wait to access lifesaving healthcare. We are privileged to have over 725,000 veterans call Virginia home, with more than 10% of them living in Northern Virginia. President Biden has allocated \$18 billion dollars to improve veteran's healthcare infrastructure in Virginia, especially for women veterans and veterans over the age of 65 who have historically suffered from poor access to health services. This investment will help thousands of families who have served our country live longer and healthier lives.

In Virginia, and across the globe, climate change threatens our long-term safety and ways of life. We took important steps at the state level to address this by passing the Virginia Clean Economy Act (in the 2020 session) which created renewable energy standards which will make our state carbon-neutral by 2050. This requires growing our already large job market for renewable energy (97,305 Virginians are already employed in the industry) and the Biden plan creates a vehicle to make that feasible, expanding and reforming renewable energy tax credits. As we upgrade our grid, many low-income Virginians continue to face challenges of affording their energy bills. The Biden plan also emphasizes lowering costs for low-income Virginians, who spend up to 8% of their monthly income on energy. Finally, The plan calls for a major investment in weatherization assistance to reduce energy loss and increased tax credits for efficient home energy upgrades.

I was pleased to learn the recent polling from Navigator shows that the content of this bill draws bipartisan support from Americans. Opportunities for jobs, intentional recovery, and 21st century planning are popular because they are vital to our continued growth and success. The American Jobs Plan is a much needed and overdue package that will not only address long-standing issues with our existing infrastructure, but also invest in its future so that we can get where we need to go, no matter where we start out. You can find out more about the American Jobs Plan at WhiteHouse.gov or my efforts to support investments in infrastructure at AdamEbbin.com. It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.

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Celebrating Mother's Day FROM PAGE 1



Rachel Roudik (in back) and baby Brooks; in front – Lynn Abram holding Mollie Abraham and great-grandmother Mollie Abraham

Lynn: "We are so excited to be celebrating four generations together for Mother's Day."
Mollie: "There's nothing like seeing the youth becoming the people they are today."
Rachel: "It's very special to be able to spend the holiday with so many generations."



Natalie and Tracy Kindle Jr.

Tracy: "My mom inspires me to be a better version of myself. I see her chasing her dreams and that inspires me to chase my dreams as well."



Susan and Elan Medina

"I'm looking forward to celebrating my first Mother's Day with my son."



Lynette Matthews and son Lance

"I am super excited. This is wonderful and beautiful being a mom. I feel blessed."



Kunegunda Belle with children Rachel, Michael and Alexander Hueckstead

Rachel: "My mom is a good cook and plays with me."
Kunegunda: "Being a mom is full of love and exciting times. There is never a dull moment."

PHOTOS BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET

Melissa Riddy with daughters Alice and Emily and dog Cindy
Alice: "My mom is the best mom in the whole wide world."
Emily: "My mom is so nice and can help me with anything I need help with."



If These Walls Could Talk – Roberts Chapel Methodist Church

FROM PAGE 5

and Independent School. In addition, he had to his credit a number of churches in Virginia and in Washington, DC that he founded.

During the first 120 years of Roberts Chapel Methodist Church history, it attracted many worshippers. Their members were the sons and daughters of free people of color whose families were affluent. They made many contributions to Alexandria in education, business, the medical field, real estate and politics. Their surnames were associated with free people of color prior to the Civil War. Surnames such as Hamilton, Dogan, Hackett, Darnel, Lee, Hepburn Harris, Turley, Bailey, Mitchell, Robinson, Clagett, Triplett, Evans, Madella, Credit, Perry, Garrett, Davis, Douglas, Tate, Whiting, Contee, Frazier, Middleton, Lumpkins, Lyles, Dulaney, Diggs, Pinn, Murray, Watson, Howard, Piper, Buckner, Ware, Lewis, Spriggs, Baltimore, Dorsey, Nickens, Pinn, Shanklin and Gray were all free before the Civil War.

At least two of the congregation's families produced three medical doctors: Dr. George Washington Piper, Dr. Paul Edward Piper and Dr. William H. Madella. All graduated from Howard University in the 1880s.

Those early families built the congregation at Roberts Chapel Methodist Church which stands today as Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church (UMC). Church members were active in their communities by helping people less fortunate than they were.

As of today, Roberts Memorial UMC has several families that are descendants of those founding members. The families are the Baltimores, Robinsons, Shanklins and Middletons. Unknown to the current members, their families were the founding members of this Church over 200 years ago.

If Roberts Memorial UMC walls could talk, the walls would praise the founders' contribution to their religion, their community and to Alexandria.

Dr. James G. Daniely is the pastor at Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, located at 606 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA.

Char McCargo Bah is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. She maintains two blogs, <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> and <http://www.findingthingsforu.com>.

ENTERTAINMENT

Feature Drive-In Movies, Craft Beer, Juneteenth Happenings and More

VISIT ALEXANDRIA

Outdoor, physically distant and virtual happenings celebrate the season

This summer, get outside with all fresco activities. Engage in Black history and culture-themed events from historic sites including Carlyle House and Lee-Fendall House. Spend a cinematic night at the drive-in or hop aboard the tall ship Providence for a cruise. Explore festivities at George Washington's Mount Vernon, hosted with pandemic protocols in place, including the annual Craft Beer Festival, Independence Fireworks, Summer Wine Festival & Sunset Tour and more.

For more summer events and activities in Alexandria, see the listings below and explore more at VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Summer.

Featured Summer Events

Alexandria Drive-In Movie Series
Fridays and Saturdays throughout the summer

Admission: \$40 per car
5001 Eisenhower Ave.,
Alexandria, VA 22304
571-281-2083
alexandriadrivein.com

The Alexandria Drive-In series, located in the city's Eisenhower corridor, announces new films every month and features a popular collection of movie classics and family favorites. Proceeds from the movie series benefit local Alexandria charity, ATHENA Rapid Response Innovation Lab, which funds projects for local students and healthcare workers, including custom-made PPE. Food trucks will be on-site each night providing delicious sweet and savory concessions with online ordering available.

"Sounds of Hope & Harmony" Secret Garden Concert Series

Explore Caves, Critters, and Rocks May 8 Virtual Program

This free Virginia program is being held in support of the International Year of Caves and Karst.

Caves and karst landscapes are found all over the world, yet most people are still in the dark about the great value of these systems and why they must be protected.

For this reason, cave and karst enthusiasts, biologists, hydrologists, geologists, and educators worldwide have selected 2021 as the International Year of Caves and Karst. <http://iyck2021.org/> Across the globe, educational programs are being offered to increase the public's understanding of caves and karst.

The Virginia Cave Board and the Virginia Region of the National Speleological Society (NSS) will join this effort with a day-long virtual program on Saturday, May 8, titled, "The Secrets of Caves, Critters, and Rocks."

from Classical Movements

Thursdays at 5:30 and 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 4 and 7 p.m. throughout the summer

Admission: \$42 per person
The Rectory at Princess Street,
711 Princess St.,
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-683-6040
classicalmovements.com

"Sounds of Hope & Harmony" returns for a 40-concert season, extending through Aug. 26, 2021. The 2021 season features chamber music, recitals by stars of instrumental performance and opera, fascinating choral programs, jazz, dance and more – as well as four Savory Soirees, pairing elegant concert programs with gourmet meals and wine.

Tall Ship Providence River Cruises and Dockside Tours

Potomac River cruises beginning May 27, 2021; Dockside ship tours available now

Wednesdays through Sundays
Admission: Dockside ship tours - \$16 adults, \$14 military/senior, \$12 children, age 5-12; Cruises between \$45-69 per person

Tall ship Providence,
1 Cameron St.,
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-772-8483
tallshipprovidence.org

Enjoy Potomac River cruises and dockside ship tours aboard Alexandria's resident tall ship, Providence. Each week, Wednesday to Sunday,

dockside ship tours will be offered in the morning and two river cruises will be offered in the afternoon. Specialty cruises will include tast

ing cruises featuring cideries, rum and bourbon distilleries and maritime heritage cruises highlighting maritime history topics and/or guest speakers.

SEE SUMMER EVENTS, PAGE 14

Presentations will begin at 9 a.m. and include cave video tours, a history of Grand Caverns, and lessons on geology, hydrology, and bats and other cave life.

Some material will align with Virginia Science Standards of Learning and will be geared toward both formal and non-formal educators.

<https://www.vacaveweek.com/>
iyck.org



Investing in Alexandria's Clean Water Future

To help fund the largest infrastructure project in Alexandria's history, AlexRenew is implementing a sewer rate adjustment over the next two years.

Learn more here: bit.ly/know-your-rates. A virtual hearing to receive public comments is scheduled for May 22, 2021.



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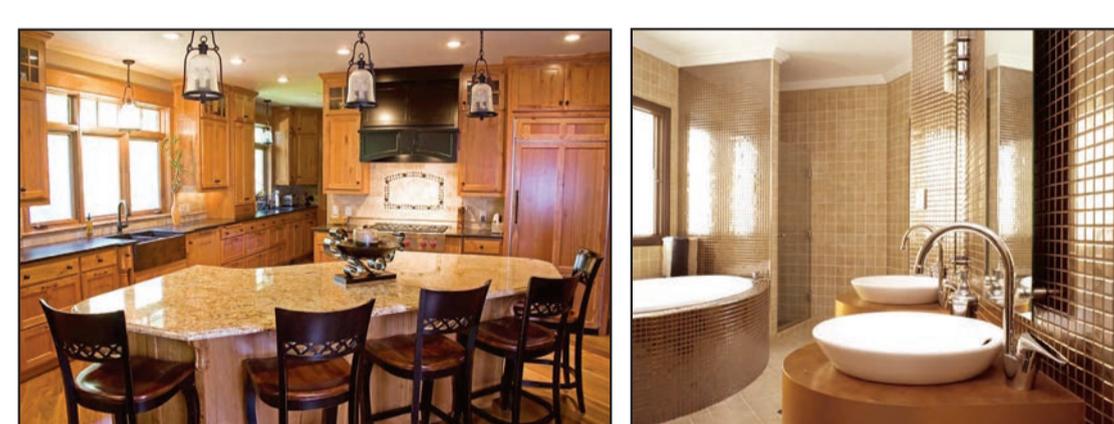


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ENTERTAINMENT

Annual Alexandria Jazz Festival on May 29

The City of Alexandria invites the public to the Annual Alexandria Jazz Festival on Saturday, May 29, from 4 to 9 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park (100 Madison St.). Admission is free.

The Jazz Festival will feature a variety of musicians and styles of jazz throughout the day. Featured artists include:

4 p.m. - Cubano Groove (bossa nova)
5:20 p.m. - VERONNEAU (contemporary)
6:35 p.m. - Eric Byrd Trio (straight)
8 p.m. - Joel Ross 'Good Vibes' (modern)

Due to COVID-19 public health guidelines, attendance will be limited and pre-registration for assigned seating will be required in order to maintain physical distance between

parties from different households. Parties will be limited to four people or fewer. Masks covering the nose and mouth will be required for all attendees over age 2. Because space is limited, early pre-registration is encouraged.

Gates open at 3 p.m., and parties must use their assigned entry point. Visitors should

plan on bringing a blanket and chairs to enjoy the music from the grass, but must leave umbrellas, tents and pets at home. Attendees are asked to remain in their assigned seating areas unless visiting the restroom or food vendors.

Visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation to reserve seating and for more information.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JUNE 21

Taste of Old Town North. At various locations throughout Old Town North, Alexandria. Enjoy a stroll through the neighborhood with this year's reimagined Taste of Old Town North. Passport holders will be able to use their Passport to receive discounts at small businesses throughout Old Town North: The Arts and Cultural District, Parker-Gray and Braddock Road West. Passports may only be used once at each participating business; if 75% of a Passport has been used by June 21, the Passport holder will be entered into a drawing to receive prizes. Passports may be purchased online at oldtownnorth.org or at the Community Table at the Old Town North Thursday Farmer's Market. Proceeds will support the work of the Old Town North Community Partnership and ALIVE-inc.org. Visit www.oldtown-north.org.

NOW THRU MAY 15

"MEG Spring Show 2021." at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. An exhibition of photography by MEG member artists at the gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. The spring exhibition features two signature pieces by each MEG member artist.

NOW THRU MAY 23

Those Spaces Between Us. At Target Gallery, Studio 2 of the Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, in Alexandria. The show is a hybrid digital and in-person exhibition that explores transition, ambiguity, and being on the threshold of change. Those Spaces Between Us considers the distances between people and their surroundings and how that divide becomes its own character in art, history, memories, and the stories people tell about themselves. Virtual Reception: Friday, May 14, 2021 at 7 p.m. Visit [facebook.com/torpedofactory](https://www.facebook.com/torpedofactory)

NOW THRU MAY 16

Trees/Humans: Life in the Balance. By Patricia Underwood. At the Athenaeum. In this exhibition Patricia Underwood employs photo images of ancient trees taken on her travels. Stop in the gallery for socially-distanced 'meet and greets' with Patricia Underwood on Saturday, April 10th, 2 — 4 p.m. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

MAY 2 TO MAY 31

The Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House announces the 58th Annual Needlework Show, Café, & Sale - a month-long event 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. where needlework pieces are submitted and displayed throughout the mansion at the Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House historic site.



Anna Bergman will perform "With a Song in My Heart: A Hymn to Mothers' Grace" on Saturday, May 8 at The Rectory in Alexandria.

This year, the theme "Hindsight 2020: Needlework Expressions of a Historic Year" reflects the flow of emotions, observations, and reactions of this unprecedented time. The Show will run from May 2nd to May 31st, 2021 (except Tuesdays). This year the Show will culminate with a Needlework Tent Sale on May 31st, with a bounty of high-quality needlework pieces available for purchase!

THURSDAY/MAY 6

Physics-Egg Drop Challenge. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Huntley Meadow Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. From slime to tornadoes, there are lots of science topics to explore during the "Outdoor Science Lab at Huntley" series in May. Delve into several branches of science with fun hands-on experiments, activities and challenges at Huntley Meadows Park. Enrich your understanding of science and engineering topics using scientific investigations, observations and lab skills with the guidance of a park naturalist. All supplies are included.

The topics and times are:
Thursday, May 6: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Physics-Egg Drop Challenge
Tuesday, May 25: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Chemistry-Eruptions!

Thursday, May 27: 2 to 3:30 p.m. - Engineering-Shelter Building
Friday, May 28: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. - Meteorology-Extreme Weather
These programs are designed for participants age 6 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person for each program, except Shelter Building, which runs longer and is \$12 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-768-2525.



The Secret Garden welcomes singers from the Choral Arts Society of Washington and Music Director Scott Tucker for a celebration of choral music by American composers on June 10.

SUMMER CONCERTS

Saturday, May; 8 | 5:30pm, 7pm

"A Song in My Heart: A Tune-ful Gift for Mom"

Anna Bergman, soprano; Howard Breitbart, piano

Celebrate Mother's Day with internationally acclaimed singer Anna Bergman in favorites from cabaret to operetta. An unforgettable musical treat featuring gems from stage, screen, and popular hits.

Favorites from South Pacific, The Sound of Music, Fiddler on the Roof, and Into the Woods, and other songs made famous by Ella Fitzgerald, Edith Piaf, Julie Andrews, and more.

Enjoy a sparkling toast and a Mother's Day surprise.

<https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/><https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-song-in-my-heart-a-tune-ful-gift-for-mom-tickets-146510602155>

Thursday, May 13, 5:30pm, 7pm

"Bolero, Barcarola, and Bomba" Choir of Hope and Harmony | Dr. Diana Sáez

The Choir of Hope & Harmony returns to the Secret Garden for a vibrant evening of the synopated melodies and driving rhythms of the classical, dance, and folk traditions of Latin

American music. The program features repertoire from Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela, by composers Astor Piazzolla, Rafael Hernández, Inocente Carreño, and others, conducted by leading specialist Dr. Diana Sáez.

Thursday, May 20 | 5:30pm, 7pm
"Meditations and Fantasies"

Thursday, May 20; 5:30pm, 7pm

David Kim, violin; Jeffrey DeVault, piano

Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra since 1999, David Kim comes to the Secret Garden for a brilliant program demonstrating the range of his artistry, from the personal to the virtuosic. Highlights include Jules Massenet's "Meditation" from Thais and Pablo de Sarasate's Carmen Fantasy, alongside lesser-known works such as Maria Theresia von Paradis's Sicilienne and Igor Stravinsky's Suite Italienne - in honor of the 50th anniversary of the composer's death.

"Much burden fell on concertmaster David Kim, who carried a number of movements with style and buoyancy." (The Philadelphia Inquirer) This concert has been generously sponsored by Carolyn Fuller

Thursday, May 27; 5:30pm, 7pm

"Musical Gems from the Opera

and Ballet" - Chamber Music Musicians of the Washington National Opera/Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra:

Adria Sternstein Foster, flute; Susan Robinson, harp; Oleg Rylatko, violin; Allyson Goodman, viola; Amy Frost Baumgarten, cello

Relive stunning moments from the opera and ballet stages when musicians from the Kennedy Center's other resident orchestra make a special appearance in the Secret Garden with a unique program of excerpts in imaginative arrangements, including favorite selections from Carmen, Don Giovanni, Tosca and Cavalleria Rusticana.

Thursday, June 3; 5:30pm, 7pm

"I Hear America Singing" Choral Arts Chamber Singers, Scott Tucker, conductor

The Secret Garden welcomes singers from the Choral Arts Society of Washington and Music Director Scott Tucker for a celebration of choral music by American composers, including a world premiere by B. E. Boykin celebrating Mary Church Terrell, an activist in the movements for civil rights and women's suffrage, commissioned by Classical Movements.



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City Council

FROM PAGE 6

dress our housing affordability crisis. Alexandria follows proven best practices that are used in cities and counties across Northern Virginia to increase affordable housing, including the provision of density bonus, reduction of parking requirements, maintaining a local housing trust fund and co-locating housing with public facilities.

Land use and zoning policies have been adopted to support affordable development, and the City has worked with for-profit developers to create mixed-income housing in their new developments. Is the system perfect? No. But the process is continuously examined for ways to create more affordability. I recommend the Housing Master Plan as assigned reading for candidates running for City Council.

Building housing for low- and moderate-income residents is not for the faint of heart. There are strict federal, state and local regulations to navigate, costs to contain and important community meetings to hold. It's not unusual for these developments to require four, five or six layers of debt and equity just to make their projects break even. The moniker of 'greedy developer' does not apply here.

To support the retail and hospitality sector so vital to the City's economy, we need housing for the workforce. To retain essential workers, including teachers' aides, day care workers, hospital employees and receptionists and attract new employers to the region, we must increase housing supply and affordability. Some candidates have endorsed the practice of local preference, but that's a violation of Fair Housing laws.

Growth for the City is inevitable; we cannot sustain our businesses and economy without it. There will be disagreements about how that growth impacts the present and shapes our future, but we need informed discussion of the issues. In the end, I hope we can be united by the vision of a city that is home to all of us, not just a privileged few.

So to City Council candidates, this voter has a request: please familiarize yourself with the City's considerable body of housing programs and policies. Then you will be better equipped to recommend meaningful housing solutions that meet the needs of all city residents. As a resident who cares deeply about this issue, I will have more confidence in where to place my vote knowing who has done their homework on housing.

Michelle Krocker is chair of Alexandria's Housing Affordability Advisory Committee and executive director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance.

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Public Notice – Environmental Permit

Purpose of notice: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow (1) the release of treated wastewater into a waterbody; (2) the reuse of reclaimed wastewater; and (3) combined sewer system overflows during wet weather events into a three water bodies in Alexandria, Virginia.

Public comment period: May 7, 2021 to June 11, 2021

Permit name: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board.

applicant Name, address and permit number: City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprise; 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; VA0025160.

This facility is an Extraordinary Environmental Enterprise participant in Virginia's Environmental Excellence Program.

Project description: City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprise has applied for reissuance of a permit for the public AlexRenew Water Resource Reclamation Facility. The applicant proposes to release treated sewage wastewaters from residential areas at a rate of 54 million gallons per day into a water body and reuse reclaimed wastewater for landscape water features, indoor toilet flushing and non-bulk irrigation. Sludge from the wastewater treatment process will be land applied and/or blended in the production of a soil amendment. The combined sewer system has historically been authorized by the VPDES Permit No. VA0087068. The conditions and requirements found in VA0087068 will be consolidated into the reissuance of VPDES Permit No. VA0025160. This permit reissuance requires continuation of the nine minimum controls and commencement of the construction project known as RiverRenew as set forth in the approved long term control plan update for the City of Alexandria combined sewer system. The permit authorizes the release of combined sewer system overflows during wet weather events from the City of Alexandria combined sewer system at an estimated, system wide annual average volume of 127 million gallons into three water bodies prior to the completion of RiverRenew. The facility proposes to release the treated sewage and combined sewer overflows in the Hunting Creek, Hooff Run and the Potomac River (Oronoco Bay) in Alexandria in the Potomac River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: physical and chemical properties, nutrients, organic matter, solids and bacteria. The permit also requires monitoring and reporting of flow and whole effluent toxicity.

This facility is subject to the requirements of 9VAC25-820 and has registered for coverage under the General VPDES Watershed Permit Regulation for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus Discharges and Nutrient Trading in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Virginia.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, email, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ must receive hand-delivery and postal mail by close of business and email and fax comments by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: Douglas Frasier; DEQ-Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193; Phone: 703-583-3873; Email: Douglas.Frasier@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: 804-698-4178. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

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Notice is hereby given that the Alexandria City Council will introduce for first reading on May 11, 2021, with second reading, public hearing and adoption to be set for May 15, 2021, for an ordinance to amend and re-ordain Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT), Chapter 2 (ELECTIONS), Section 2-2-10 (ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended by renaming the Maury District Election District and Voting Location to the Naomi L. Brooks Election District and Voting Location; and renaming the Cora Kelly Election District and Voting Location to the Cora Kelly – “Chick” Armstrong Election District and Voting Location for the elections in 2021 and thereafter.

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

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RESOLUTION OF INTENT
TO ADOPT AND CHANGE CERTAIN RATES, FEES AND CHARGES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises, Inc., hereby signifies its intent to change certain rates, fees and charges to become effective July 1, 2021 and hereby sets the date of Saturday, May 22, at 9:30 a.m. for a public hearing to receive comment regarding same. Due to Covid-19 pandemic emergency, the May 22 public hearing will be held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2.3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 and/or Section 4.0.00(g) in HB29 and HB30 to undertake essential business.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Executive Officer is hereby directed to have published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Alexandria, for two consecutive weeks, notice of the proposed change in the schedule of rates, fees and charges and the day and time of the public hearing.

The proposed rates, fees and charges are:

Description	Meter Size	Current Effective July 1, 2020	Proposed Effective July 1, 2021	Proposed Effective July 1, 2022
		Per 1,000 Gallons	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per 1,000 Gallons
Individually Metered Residential Service - Wastewater Treatment Charge	All Meters	\$8.13	\$8.69	\$9.26
Commercial Service - Wastewater Treatment Charge	All Meters	\$8.13	\$8.69	\$9.26
Description	Meter Size	Current Effective July 1, 2020	Proposed Effective July 1, 2021	Proposed Effective July 1, 2022
Residential Base Charge	All Meters	\$11.54	\$12.34	\$13.14
Commercial Base Charge	5/8"	\$34.63	\$37.02	\$39.42
	¾"	\$34.63	\$37.02	\$39.42
	1"	\$86.59	\$92.55	\$98.55
	1-1/2"	\$173.17	\$185.10	\$197.10
	2"	\$277.08	\$296.16	\$315.36
	3"	\$519.52	\$555.30	\$591.30
	4"	\$865.87	\$925.50	\$985.50
	6"	\$1,731.74	\$1,851.00	\$1,971.00
	8"	\$2,770.79	\$2,961.60	\$3,153.60
Minimum Deposit Based on Meter Size		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Residential Customer Activation Fee		\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

The new rates and charges shall be effective on July 1, 2021 and shall remain in effect thereafter until further revised. Any rates, fees or charges not revised herein shall remain in effect until further revised.

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Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that Alexandria Renew Enterprises (Alex-Renew) will hold a virtual PUBLIC HEARING on its PROPOSED OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be virtual via Zoom. Interested parties may register at: <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingid=7HjJQFOkP5YtAYWMSA>. The proposed budget is available for examination by the public online at www.alexrenew.com. Copies will be made available upon request - phone (703) 721-3500 ext. 2260. April 22 and May 6.

Alexandria Renew Enterprises
BY: William Dickinson
Secretary - Treasurer

Legals

Public Hearing

The Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB) is holding a virtual public hearing on May 13 at 6:30 p.m. to receive comment on the needs of Alexandrians with mental illness, developmental disability or a substance use dependency. Register, get additional information and see the proposed FY22 CSB Budget by Area of Disability at www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS.

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Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

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Obituary

Edmea Maria McCarty

On May 3rd, 2021 in Alexandria, VA. Beloved wife of the late John E. McCarty. She is survived by her children Robert (Debra) McCarty and Anne (Keith) Perlman; grandchildren Erin (Taylor Bell) McCarty, Jenna Perlman, Cooper Perlman, Meagan Mitchell, and Cameron (Brittany) McCarty; great grandchildren Kade, Kai and Ace Mitchell; her brother Eduardo Silveira; and many more family and friends. She was preceded in death by her son John McCarty and her brother Alberto Silveira. An admirer of Old Town Alexandria, Edmea was a lifelong traveler and enjoyed time with friends and family. A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, May 11th at 10:00 am at the Basilica of Saint Mary, 310 S. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Interment will be held privately at Alexandria National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Additional information may be found at www.demainefuneralhomes.com.

Obituary

Obituary



Peggy Jean Wells Moore, of Alexandria, VA, joined her Heavenly family June 19, 2020. She was born June 1, 1927 to Edith "Peggy" (Mott) & Eliot Wells in St. Petersburg, FL. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Eliot (Tony) Wells II, and her husband, VADM USN-SC George E. "Rhythm" Moore II. She is survived by 3 children, Maia Jean Bellegarde, Craig Caldwell, Anne Lee de la Motte (Kevin), 4 step-children, Janet McManus (Tom), Mary Ramsey (Jack), George E Moore III (Chris), and John Moore (Pam), 5 grandchildren, 11 step-grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

A longtime resident of Alexandria, Peggy graduated from George Washington High School (1944) and Marjorie Webster Junior College in Washington, D.C. She was an active member of the Church of Saint Clement Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA and Goodwin House Alexandria Memorial Chapel. A lifetime choir member, she shared her beautiful voice leading hymn singing for services at Goodwin House. She was a member of the TWIG/Board of Lady Managers for Alexandria Hospital, the Colonial Dames of America, and a dedicated community volunteer. Her many hobbies included travel, music, dancing, painting, gardening, and, in her youth, horseback riding and sailing.

On May 3rd 2021, Mrs. Moore was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. A Zoom Celebration of Life to be scheduled. Messages of condolences may be sent to the family through Everly Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria, Virginia (www.EverlyWheatley.com/tributes). Memorial contributions may be made to: Goodwin House Foundation (www.goodwinhouse.org/giving/donate) Save the Children (www.savethechildren.org) Williams Syndrome Association in Memory of Micah's beloved Grandmother (www.williams-syndrome.org)

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Cats in the Belfry



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Have I mentioned in print lately that we, resident owners of "Belly Acres" in Burtonsville, are back to being a five-indoor-cat household? A few months back on a Sunday afternoon, my wife Dina offered up the seemingly harmless explanation for her need to go out that day. She said she was going to the local CVS for a few things, things which I had no interest or need to be involved in, so off she drove, with yours truly having nary a worry in the world. Little did I realize what actually was going on.

I don't recall exactly the time element because when my wife goes to the store - of any kind, without a chaperone, I know from decades of experience that left to her own devices, she won't be returning home anytime soon. So how ever long she was gone, I hadn't a clue or a concern. I know the drill. She's a big girl, but she is deliberate. At her main adult employer, the former Tivoli's Restaurant in Roslyn, the owners jokingly nicknamed her "Speedy," because she wasn't. Nonetheless, she was however, a valued, trusted and appreciated employee.

Eventually, I saw Dina drive down our driveway. She parked in her usual spot alongside the house. A few seconds later she walked empty-handed into the house and asked for my assistance in unloading whatever was still in the car. 'Whatever,' unbeknownst to me, were the two two-year-old tabby siblings she had just "rescued" waiting patiently in their cat carriers on the back seat. Dina could barely control her excitement as she opened the back door for me. At first glance, it became quite obvious what the 'whatever' was: it was Louie and Mia. I grabbed one of the cat carriers and walked into the house. Dina had not really mentioned, until she did, that she had been wanting to increase our cat count to five after last year's two losses: Biscuit and Chino, who both died within six months of one another, from complications due to their diabetes. Brothers in more than arms, Biscuit and Chino, who were nicknamed "The Buff Boys" due to their color, were the sweetest, most loving and affectionate cats one could ever hope to have.

Six months or so since the surviving brother, Biscuit had succumbed to his illness, Dina began her search for a new pair of cat siblings. After a few fits and starts and an application that was rejected, Dina's month-long

search was finally rewarded on this Sunday. She met the owners in Beltsville, Md. where they exchanged the necessary pleasantries. The couple had to give up the cats because their infant daughter was allergic to them/their dander. Regrettably they needed to find a new home for these two cats whom they had nurtured since they were kittens. They were very generous with their supplies. They gave us wet and dry food, litter, a litter box and some toys. After a few sad goodbyes, Dina drove off for home, cats in tow where cluelessly I had been minding my own business.

We each brought in a cat carrier and once inside, opened their doors and introduced the cats to their new home. Out they scampered and of course began to sniff. Our other cats were nowhere to be found which given the territorial disputes which often occur when new cats are introduced to an existing cat home, was fortunate in that their first steps were not in retreat from some unexpected cat attack. Though I wasn't of similar mind with respect to Dina's feeling that we needed more cats, I have nevertheless embraced their arrival. There is no doubt that their presence has brought new life (no pun intended) into our home. Now, everywhere I go, or look, there seems to be a cat to talk to (or a hissing/growling fight to break up). No matter. It's nothing that experienced cat owners wouldn't expect. And though I was definitely surprised when I saw the two cat carriers secured in the backseat, now nearly two months later, I couldn't imagine our life without them.

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

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LETTERS

Allison Silberberg Is the One

FROM PAGE 6

My personal experience was as a board member of a Condominium Association in the Landmark Area. The Association was interested in pursuing and installing photovoltaic solar panels in the condominium. It is the residents' desire to reduce its carbon footprint, lower the cost of electricity per unit and perhaps sell excess electricity back to the utility. Representing the Board, I and another member scheduled a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the matter and the possibility of acquiring city approval for such an environmental and economic enhancement.

We explained to the mayor the advantages of the installation of solar panels and told him we had done research and found a company that would install the solar panels if we could get the Alexandria city backing. We sent emails to the departments he suggested, however, we did not receive any meaningful responses. I went so far as to attend a meeting with the energy manager in a public forum. I asked several questions and met with the energy manager at the end of the meeting; he suggested that I contact my city council member and put our suggestion to him. I called the city councilperson twice and received no answer. I asked another member of the condo board to call, and he

received no response. I then concluded the city government was not serious about energy conservation.

I was greatly disappointed in my meeting with the Mayor; his knowledge of the city regulations was significant and appeared to have a well-informed technocrat's grasp of the issue, almost as though he had a graduate degree from Google. However, his final recommendation was that we get the item placed on the City Council Agenda, as if he were handing us a copy of How A Bill Becomes A Law, no interest, no "great idea," no leadership!

Alexandria is a delightful city which is why we chose to locate here; however, the change of the landscape approved by the City over the last few years has been enormous, not of the scale or character that has been so appealing to my family. It is for that reason that I am voting for the candidate that cares about the environment, that cares about the community, that cares about Alexandria's future, and truly listens to Alexandria residents. I am voting for the candidate that cares about our quality of life, I am voting for Allison Silberberg for Mayor.

Craig M Silman
Alexandria

Alexandria City Council Takes Right Step Toward Serving Our Communities of Color

FROM PAGE 6

Police Department (APD) to collect and publicly report disaggregated data on all police interactions, with demographic information of those stopped and arrested. After lots of verbal commitments, we have yet to see any reports with meaningful data from the police department.

This move by the City Council could not have come a moment too soon. As the country grieves from yet more horrific murders of Black people at the hands of unaccountable police, our leaders face a critical choice: Cower away from change to preserve the dangerous, violent, racist status quo? Or enact bold, meaningful, structural changes to advance racial equity and improve the lives of our communities of color. The guilty verdict in the trial of the police officer who murdered George Floyd gives us some hope that accountability standards are changing, but this never should have happened in the

first place. We need meaningful preventative measures in place at the local level. We have made our voices very clear, and we are glad to see the City Council take action to address our needs.

This Community Police Review Board will, in part, be made up of members from our communities, "historically, racially or socially marginalized communities that have commonly experienced disparate policing in Alexandria or the Commonwealth of Virginia." This is essential.

Now, we will watch for a successful implementation and additional plans for long-term funding to sustain the Community Police Review Board. We look forward to working with a City Council that values our input and makes decisions on behalf of all of us to advance racial equity.

Ingris Moran
Alexandria

ENTERTAINMENT

Summer Events

FROM PAGE 9

Craft Beer Festival at

George Washington's Mount Vernon

June 19 to 20, 2021, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Admission: \$40 for members; \$48 for general public
George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon, VA 22121
703-780-2000
mountvernon.org

Sample craft beer from local breweries and see how beer was brewed in the 18th century.

Enjoy concessions from the Mount Vernon Inn Food Truck, enjoy an 18th-century ice

cream-making demonstration and more.

More Summer Events & Tours

King & Rye's Cocktail Garden
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King & Rye, 480 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314
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kingandrye.com

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