



They're Back ... For Now Fractured Council votes 4-3 to temporarily restore SROs.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

A confrontational three-hour debate regarding School Resource Officers during the Oct. 12 legislative meeting of the Alexandria City Council resulted in a 4-3 vote to temporarily return the SROs to the city's high school and middle school campuses.

The nearly seven-hour meeting stretched into the early morning hours of Wednesday before a vote was taken to reinstate the SROs through the end of this year as other transitional safety measures are explored. Vice mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and council members Canek Aguirre and Mo Seifeldin voted against the motion.

Council voted earlier this year to suspend the SRO program and divert funding from the Alexandria Police Department to hire additional school counselors and mental health professionals. While those positions have yet to be filled by the city, Aguirre put the blame for the continuing debate on school safety squarely on the shoulders of the school board.

"The school board should have been doing something about this months ago," Aguirre said. "Dang near a year ago they chose to do nothing so now we are sitting here having this ridiculous conversation. Contingencies should have been put in place. We could have gotten some extra social workers to contract out but nothing from this school board. Nothing."

Acting Chief of Police Don Hayes, Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings, School Board Chair Meagan Alderton, Alexandria City High School Executive Principal Peter Balas and ACPS Security Chief John Contreras had been invited to speak at the meeting with Balas, Hutchings, Alderton and Contreras specifically requesting that Council restore the SROs to the schools.

As details of the motion were hammered out, Bennet-Parker requested that should SROs be reinstated, they should not be armed.



Members of Alexandria City Council discuss the issue of School Resource Officers at the Oct. 12 legislative meeting at City Hall.

"It can't be done," Hayes replied. "These are police officers that need to be able to protect themselves at all times with the weapon that they have been trained with."

Prior to the motion and subsequent vote regarding SROs, a frustrated Mayor Justin Wilson voiced his displeasure for the tone of the discussion.

"I can't think of a bigger waste of time than what just happened for the last three hours," Wilson said. "I thought we were going to have a productive conversation about how we move forward in our community about a problem we are hearing from far too many from both sides of the SRO decision. We did not have that. We had a discussion where we were all

trying to score points on an issue that was decided back in the spring."

Wilson continued, "I was hopeful we would have dialogue about how the two bodies could work together and that didn't happen. This is not the way we collaborate with another elected body, not the way we work with our police department. This sucks. This is disastrous."

The first few weeks of the school year has seen an escalation of violence at or near ACHS, including two recent shootings nearby the school that involved juveniles. In response, the four council members who voted earlier this year to end the SRO program - Bennett-Parker, Aguirre, Seifeldin and John Chapman -- re-

"I was hopeful we would have dialogue about how the two bodies could work together and that didn't happen."

— Mayor Justin Wilson during the Oct. 12 SRO debate

leased a joint statement just minutes prior to the start of the meeting with alternative proposals to SROs.

In part, the statement read: "We will not be reimplementing the SRO program, but we offer instead a new path forward. We propose to add additional resources ... for ACPS to implement a holistic student health and safety solution, which includes a transitional period, immediate and ongoing support, and a long-term solution to begin in the 2022-2023 school year."

However, not everyone, including Balas, received the statement prior to the council meeting, causing confusion and frustration and the statement was not mentioned during the marathon SRO debate.

Contreras noted that ACHS, along with George Washington and Hammond middle schools, has school security officers on campus. But Hutchings was quick to point out that SSOs, along with counselors, teachers, administrators and mental health professionals are not trained to handle guns, gang initiations, sexual assault and other more serious violations.

A regional and national debate about police in schools cites data that shows disproportionate effects of police on minority students and students with disabilities, and lack of data that SROs have resulted in safer schools.

At the end of the night, the motion carried to temporarily restore the SROs under the previous memorandum of understanding with the city but also instructed city staff to determine the cost of the alternative measures in the proposal by Aguirre, Bennett-Parker, Chapman and Seifeldin.

In noting the ongoing search for a new city manager, Wilson expressed his disillusionment in the impression left on anyone who observed the contentious tone of the evening.

"What person would watch this meeting tonight and say this is where I want to send my kids -- a school system that is governed by this relationship?" Wilson asked in frustration. "What city manager would say this is an environment I want to step into? This is horrible."

SCREENSHOT BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET
Acting Police Chief Don Hayes explains the training involved for School Resource Officers at the Oct. 12 City Council meeting.



ACPS Superintendent Gregory Hutchings speaks at the Oct. 12 City Council meeting regarding School Resource Officers.



ACPS Security Chief John Contreras answers questions during the Oct. 12 City Council meeting.



Mayor Justin Wilson expresses frustration at the lack of civility during the Oct. 12 City Council meeting.

See letters, page 6

Jen Walker Team

SPREAD KINDNESS BUILD COMMUNITY™

building community wherever you may go

Thinking of upsizing, downsizing, or relocating? That's no problem for **The Jen Walker Team.**

Whether working with buyers, sellers, landlords or tenants, the Jen Walker Team provides exceptional service and unparalleled expertise so we can focus on your real estate needs.

We have been guiding clients through their real estate transactions for over thirty years, and have been doing so successfully with one main principle, being the best advocate for each and every one of our clients.



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

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING, CONTACT US TODAY!

#1 1,800+ 160

team at McEneaney Associates
in 2018, 2019, 2020

transactions in our
real estate career

families helped
from Jan 2021 - Sept 2021



5619 Independence Cir.
FOR SALE - \$414,900



3602 Russell Rd.
UNDER CONTRACT - \$749,900



702 W View Ter.
FOR SALE - \$1,299,000



114 E Nelson Ave.
FOR SALE - \$749,900



2925 Mosby St.
FOR SALE - \$689,900



3333 Helen St.
FOR SALE - \$799,000



1305 Bayliss Dr.
UNDER CONTRACT - \$749,900



Jen Walker Team Licensed in VA
703.675.1566 | Jen@JenWalker.com
www.JenWalker.com
Alexandria Office
109 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
703.549.9292 | www.McEneaney.com
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



3330 S 28th St. #301
FOR SALE - \$207,992



75 S Reynolds St. #214
FOR SALE - \$162,527

Female Stranger Remains a Mystery

Cryptic crypt continues to confound city.

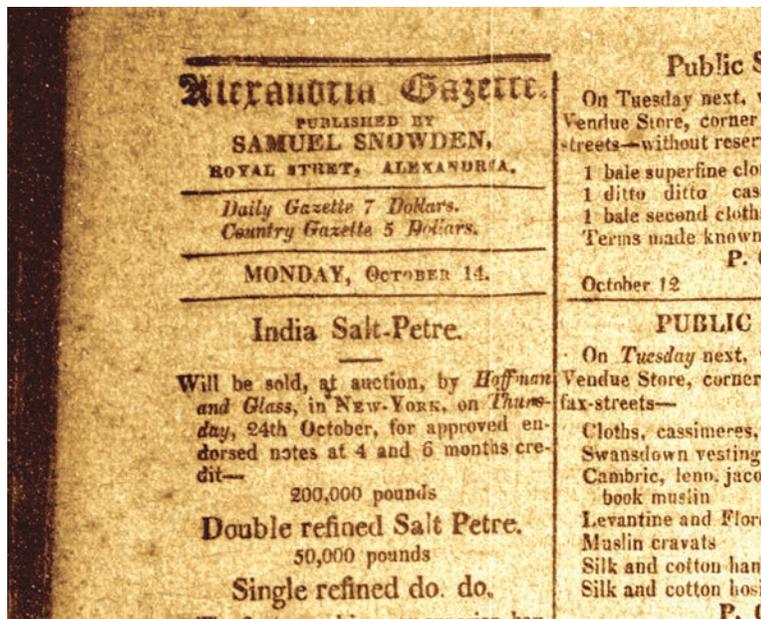
BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Readers of the Alexandria Gazette learned about an auction of salt and a house for rent at the corner of Washington Street and King Street. They even read about a 50-pound bar of iron that was discovered on King Street and the horse races that were scheduled to happen at the Port Tobacco Jockey Club. But unfortunately, the issue released on Monday Oct. 14, 1816 gave no indication at all about events that ended up being perhaps one of the most important things that ever happened in Alexandria: the death of the Female Stranger.

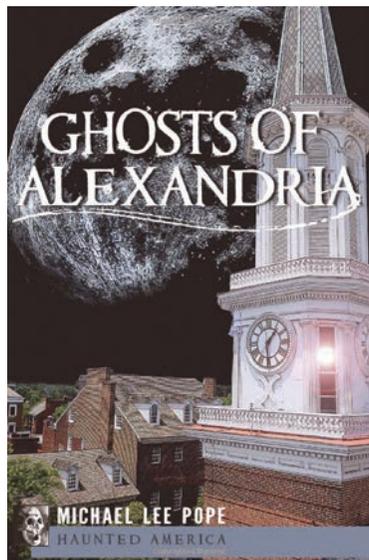
Visitors to the St. Paul Cemetery in Old Town are greeted with one of the most bizarre headstones in the history of funerary. No name appears on the tabletop tombstone. Instead, there in large capital letters, it says "FEMALE STRANGER."

"Of all the legends and tales of old Alexandria, the most poignant is the mysterious story of the Female Stranger," wrote the late Alexandria historian Ruth Lincoln Kaye. "It's the greatest mystery of them all."

Every Oct. 14, the mystery is renewed, and every year the list of possible explanations becomes more elaborate. The recent success of the musical "Hamilton"



The Oct. 14, 1816 issue of the Alexandria Gazette gives no indication about who the mysterious Female Stranger may have been or why it was so important to keep her identity a secret.



of disgraced former Vice President Aaron Burr, who was cancelled after he tried to start an insurrection against the United States government. Another popular theory is that she was Blanche Fordan, the center of an international love triangle between two brothers from England.

"I suppose it's sort of like a crossword puzzle," the late city historian Michael Miller once quipped. "You don't want to leave it until you've solved the puzzle."

It's not just the Female Stranger

For more about the legend of the Female Stranger, check out "Ghosts of Alexandria" by Michael Lee Pope.

has underscored one of the theories — that she was the daughter

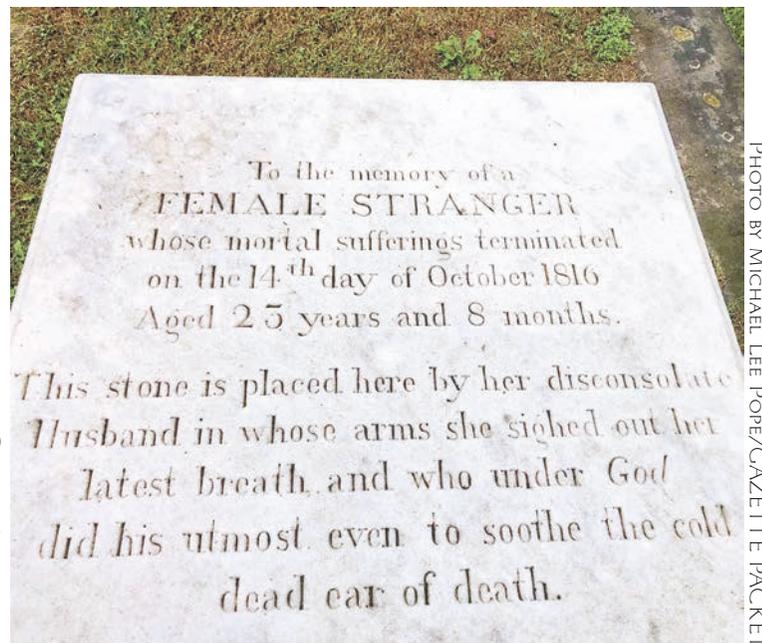


PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

The mysterious tombstone of the Female Stranger at the St. Paul's Cemetery includes no name, and it says she died on Oct. 14, 1816.

"Of all the legends and tales of old Alexandria, the most poignant is the mysterious story of the Female Stranger. It's the greatest mystery of them all."

— Ruth Lincoln Kaye

whose identity remains shrouded in mystery. There's also the Male Stranger, the guy who accompanied her to town and arranged to have this amazingly peculiar headstone erected in St. Paul's Cemetery. According to legend, he skipped out on paying the bill for the headstone and his stay in town. Searching through the ar-

chives of the Alexandria Gazette, Miller found an 1861 article that seems to indicate he was a roguish neerdowell named Clermont who was later imprisoned at Sing Sing. "Maybe someday, we'll find a new piece of evidence and solve the mystery," Miller said in a 2010 interview. "Until then, we can only speculate."

ASC to Host Andre Collins 20th annual Football Night to be held Oct. 20.

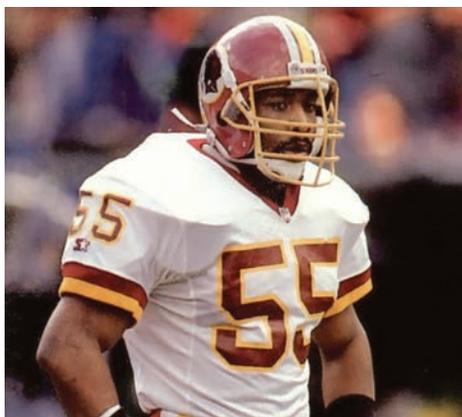


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Former Washington Football Team linebacker Andre Collins will be the featured speaker at the Oct. 20 meeting of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club.

Andre Collins, a former NFL linebacker who started in Super Bowl XXVI for the Washington Football Team, will be the featured speaker at the Oct. 20 meeting of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club.

Now in its 20th year, the annual ASC Football Night will be held in person at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

Collins played 10 seasons in the NFL as an outside linebacker. He currently serves as Director of Retired Players for the NFL Players Association, where he works to ensure retirees make successful post-football transitions.

A standout inside linebacker at Penn State, Collins was named a 1989 All-American and a Butkus Award fi-

nalist. He played at Cinnaminson High School in New Jersey and was in the first group of inductees to the Cinnaminson High School Athletics Hall of Fame. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Health Policy and Administration from Penn State in 1991.

Collins will talk about his experiences in the NFL as well as his post-NFL career and there will be time for Q&A.

The meeting will be held Oct. 20 at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, with complimentary dinner and drinks beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome and the meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Forum for Mayoral Candidates

To increase public awareness of the November 2 election for Mayor of Alexandria, the Seminary Ridge Civic Association (SRCA) will hold a Question and Answer Forum to introduce Alexandria residents to the two candidates running for Mayor.

The Forum will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 19 from 7:30 to 8:30 PM on Zoom using the webinar format. All Alexandrians are invited to participate to become better aware of the two candidates and their positions on issues of concern to Alexandria.

For the Zoom link to the October 19 webinar, please visit SRCA's website homepage at: www.seminaryridge.net

Selling Like Hot Cakes At the Native Plant Sale

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

Jane Hull, plant volunteer and Tree Steward, stands on the sidewalk outside The Church of St. Clements on Saturday answering questions from newcomers looking for a Lobelia siphilitica to fill that blank space in the backyard garden or a Spotted beebalm to attract butterflies and birds. The annual Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale is in full swing on Oct. 2. Enthusiasm has built up since the cancellation of the spring sale which had been scheduled for April 24.

But it's only 9:30 a.m. "Better get in there now; things are going fast," she says. Paul Cusumano, owner of Meadowsweet native plant farm in Pennsylvania says he has been coming for 12 years and he always orders twice as many plants as he brought the year before. He says the best sellers so far have been the native shade perennials.

Eight-year-old Elaine Wirtz stands patiently in line at Cusumano's stand with her elderberry tree waiting to pay and take it home for the backyard. Her mother says in their house it's impossible not to garden. A customer asks for a Rudbeckia hart. "Don't have any black-eyed Susan but do have a tribola, a brown-eyed Susan."

Linda Hayes Bennett is standing by the curb, her bag loaded with a profusion of plants including chelone or pink turtlehead (rhymes with baloney) and an overloaded cardboard box nearby. She has bought them for her best friend Priscilla who went to Tennessee to help her parents. They are a showy plant with tubular two-lipped shaped flowers.



Eight-year-old Elaine Wirtz with her elderberry tree at the native plant sale Saturday, October 2.



Jane Hull, plant volunteer and Tree Steward (left) with St. Clements native plant sale customer Linda Hayes Bennett.

"You can get them over there," Hull says, "but better hurry, they are popular and will be gone soon."

Bennett explains, "These colors look like an aria. It's the power of music and art to embrace us." Bennett says while her friend was gone she redid her friend's place with a feel good kitchen in these colors. So she bought the plants to match, "to make a fairy, mystical place."

Parking is tight so a few people are walking blocks back to their car down Crestwood next to the church while balancing small trees and cardboard boxes of phlox. Others wait by the curb with their red wagon "plant taxi" loaded with their native plants for a pick up.

Over a dozen vendors from Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania fill the space next to the church with vines, shrubs, perennials. Got shade or an arid corner of the

yard? Want a splash of color or a flower garden that rotates colors as a succession of plants blossom all spring and summer?

The native plant movement has exploded in recent years as gardeners and landscapers have realized the value of thinking beyond the color and shape of plants to promoting diverse habitats and food sources for pollinators and birds. Swamp Milkweed attracts butterflies and hummingbirds and is an important food source for the monarch caterpillar while the Heuchera americana attracts small bees which in turn work as pollinators.

Planting a variety of native plants can attract a diversity of insects that serve as a food source for birds as well as pollinators that promote the growth of plants. It makes the garden function like a system.



Paul Cusumano searches for a Lobelia siphilitica at his Meadowsweet native plant farm stand.

Jessica D. Aber Is U.S. Attorney for Eastern District of Va.

Jessica D. Aber was officially sworn in today as the 63rd United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia by Chief United States District Judge Mark S. Davis and United States District Judge M. Hannah Lauck at the federal courthouse in Norfolk.

"I am grateful to the President for my nomination and to Senators Warner and Kaine for their recommendation and endorsement," said Aber. "After serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for more than a decade, I am honored to lead this tremendous district with its dedicated public servants and to help preserve public safety with our law enforcement and community partners. I look forward to working in support of the mission of the Department of Justice and toward the realization of fair and equal justice for all."

U.S. Attorney Aber was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. on Aug. 10 and unanimously confirmed by the Senate on Oct. 5.

Aber began her service to EDVA in 2009 as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, handling a variety of financial fraud, public corruption, violent crime, and child exploitation cases. She has served as the EDVA representative to the Richmond Division's drug court for her entire tenure. From 2015 to 2016, she

served on a detail assignment as counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. Since 2016, Aber has served as the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division for EDVA.

Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Aber was an associate at McGuireWoods LLP from 2007 to 2008. She served as a law clerk for then-Magistrate Judge M. Hannah Lauck on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia from 2006 to 2007.

Aber received her J.D. from William & Mary Law School in 2006 and her B.A., magna cum laude, from the University of Richmond in 2003.

According to the Richmond Times Dispatch, Acting U.S. Attorney Raj Parekh, in charge of the office since U.S. attorney, G. Zachary Terwilliger's departure in January, did not apply for the position.

As U.S. Attorney, Aber supervises the prosecution of all federal crimes and the litigation of all civil matters in which the United States has an interest. She leads a staff of approximately 300 prosecutors, civil litigators, and support personnel across four Divisions located in Alexandria, Richmond, Norfolk, and Newport News. The district serves over six million residents.

ALIVE! Walkathon

The 40th Annual StepALIVE! Walkathon is Sunday, October 17, 2021, at 2 p.m. The 5-mile group walk through Old Town Alexandria will start and finish at the parking lot of First Christian Church located at 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302, which is also the main office for ALIVE!. Pre-registration and T shirt pick-up begins at 1:15 p.m. on walk day and the post-walk celebration is from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

StepALIVE! supporters can also walk in solidarity with ALIVE! on their own or in a small group with their congregation, family, or community

members in neighborhoods, places of worship, local parks, or other locations of their choice. All are asked to maintain safety and health guidelines.

Walkers are encouraged to register in advance through the StepALIVE! website www.stepalivewalk.org. Individual walkers and teams can raise money through their fundraising pages. Make a tax-deductible donation in support of a walker or team, or to StepALIVE! in general. There will be prizes for the team with the most walkers and most money raised.

SEE ALIVE!. PAGE 10

McLEAN

8548-A Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA

\$6,495,000

Jonathan Taylor
+1 202 276 3344



LIVE OAKS

658 Live Oak Drive
McLean, VA

\$11,500,000

Phyllis Patterson
+1 703 408 4232



SPRINGHAVEN ESTATES

1048 Rector Lane
McLean, VA

\$4,450,000

Andre Amini
+1 703 622 4473



McLEAN

8334 Alvord Street
McLean, VA

\$5,995,000

Will Thomas
+1 202 607 0364



THE ORONOCO

601 N Fairfax Street #511
Alexandria, VA

\$1,850,000

Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183



GREAT FALLS

119 Clarks Run Road
Great Falls, VA

\$3,990,000

Michael Rankin
+1 202 271 3344



ROBINSON LANDING

16 Bakers Walk #104
Alexandria, VA

UNDER CONTRACT
\$1,395,000

Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183



VILLAMAY

7413 Burtonwood Drive
Alexandria, VA

\$1,300,000

Tracy Shively
+1 703 930 0268



ABINGDON ROW

1023 N Royal Street #117
Alexandria, VA

COMING SOON
\$1,100,000

Sharon Wildberger
+1 703 597 0374
Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183



OLD TOWN COMMONS

819 Parker Gray School Way
Alexandria, VA

\$1,125,000

Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183
Sharon Wildberger
+1 703 597 0374



HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE

7915 Bainbridge Road
Alexandria, VA

UNDER CONTRACT
\$799,000

Anita Edwards
+1 703 928 7637
Lyssa Seward
+1 703 298 0562

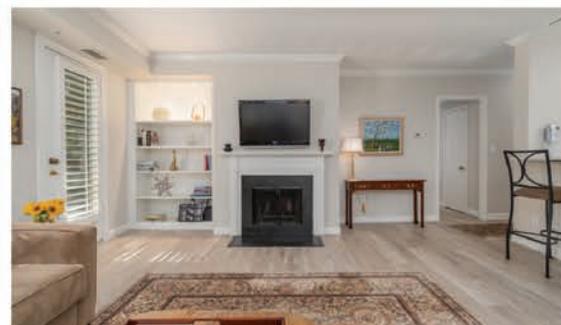


ST. ASAPH SQUARE CONDOMINIUM

801 S Pitt Street #219
Alexandria, VA

\$625,000

Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183



ALEXANDRIA BROKERAGE 400 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | +1 703 310 6800 ttrsir.com

©2021 TTR Sotheby's International Realty, licensed real estate broker. Sotheby's International Realty and the Sotheby's International Realty logo are registered service marks used with permission. Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated. Equal housing opportunity. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Price and availability subject to change.

Listen to Black Voices and Research on SROs and Beyond

Nowhere is this lack of respect for experts and Black voices more obvious than the current effort to put SROs back in school.

To the editor:

Racial Justice Alexandria (RJA) is a multi-racial, multi-generational abolitionist collective of individuals and groups working to implement the Movement for Black Lives policy platform. We call upon our legislators to develop proactive and preventive measures to uplift the rights, dignity, and well-being of Black people. Racial injustice is violence and must be aggressively treated as such.

Thus far, however, the City has only offered platitudes, such as the ALL Alexandria resolution that acknowledges the necessity of acting “deliberately, thoughtfully and thoroughly to end racial inequities by frank examination,” but fails to propose any action to resolve sys-

temic inequities.

Initially, having taken them at their word, RJA met with each member to discuss the policy proposals developed by the Movement for Black Lives. It would be an understatement to say that we’ve been disappointed. Council members are unprepared and unfamiliar with the policy platform and we’ve repeatedly been told that there must be more learning and discussion. We’re pointing you towards policies that have been developed by experts in the field of racial justice. Does the council require more learning or discussion when considering flood mitigation proposals? Or do they, as we suspect, listen to the experts?

Nowhere is this lack of respect for experts and Black voices more obvious than the current effort

to put SROs back in school after ending the program earlier this year. Over and over, researchers have found that SROs do not make schools safer or reduce school violence, gun violence, or mass shootings. Repeatedly, researchers find that the presence of SROs results in greater numbers of suspensions and expulsions and criminalizes school discipline matters. Additionally, students of color and students with disabilities are disproportionately referred to and arrested by police in schools. SROs do not make schools safer for anyone but they do make schools measurably less safe for Black and Brown students and students with disabilities.

Our current reliance on the police does little to reduce violence and harm, and actually perpetu-

ates systemic racial inequities. An adult with a gun and a badge cannot fix these issues any more than a carpet vac can prevent a basement from flooding. Their function is purely reactionary.

We hope you will show the same determination and patience to develop real solutions as you are with the flooding issues. Instead of more police, we ask that the council and citizens of Alexandria deconstruct harmful ideas of power, punishment, and justice, and take tangible action, including keeping police out of schools.

Adrienne Fikes, LaDonna Sanders, and Lindsey Battaglia
On behalf of the Racial Justice Alexandria Collective
bit.ly/RacialJusticeAlex

Bring Back the SROs

Alexandria schools are now back in session, but without our School Resource Officers (SRO), which are members of the Alexandria Police Department (APD) on special assignment. This summer, our duly elected school board and school administrators negotiated with the APD how they wanted the SROs to operate in their schools. However, our Alexandria City Council decided they have more knowledge than our school board and in a 4-3 vote decided to dismiss the SROs from our schools starting with this new school year.

I would like to remind everyone that our school board members are elected volunteers who deal exclusively with school issues jointly with our school administrators on a daily basis. Yet, their opinions were dismissed and overruled by our city council.

Let’s unpack this issue. If you study all the recent school shootings around the US, they have lasted 10-20 minutes. The APD couldn’t even respond from their current locations during that time. The incident would be over. Once the APD arrives on site, they would have to rely on school personnel to find the correct location. The on-site SRO would already be familiar with the school and could respond almost instantly to the incident and thus save someone’s life. Fi-

nally, SROs are there to develop a relationship with the students so they feel comfortable confiding in them about being harassed, bullied and abused. They are NOT there to make any immigration arrests or harass the students in any way.

Don’t fool yourself, there are crimes going on in our schools. Haven’t you heard about all the recent incidents in the high school since they opened? How about all the recent uptick in crime and shootings in our city in general? There is gang, drug and crime activity in our community and schools. Why then does our city have a “Gang Prevention Community Task Force” staffed with community volunteers and law enforcement to study and deal with this issue?

Ever since the horrific George Floyd incident most police around the country have been vilified and communities are exploring defunding their police departments. This is just plain wrong on so many fronts. Our police officers are not the enemy or the criminals. Yes, every profession does have some bad apples, but in law enforcement there are few. Our students need to learn at an early age that police officers can be their friends and are there to protect and serve the community — the community which they also live in and have children in schools.

Many schools unfortunately have many bad things going on — bullying, harassing behavior, sexual assaults, drug and gang activity. Yet, a student may not even know where to turn. They may not feel comfortable talking with school

personnel or even to their own parents. So, they turn to an SRO who they have known and developed a strong professional relationship with.

Currently, our school administrators have hired some private security personnel for our high school. These security officers go through a 40–80-hour security officer class to become certified. They don’t have any of the experience, training and professional experiences to handle this job like our well trained APD officers. Also, this is very costly and these funds could be better spent on our students.

It’s time to bring back our APD school resource officers. Please tell your city council members to reverse their decision. But, if not, there is always our November elections to send a strong message. Our city, schools and most importantly our children deserve a safe

environment to attend school.

Bryan B. Kirkes
Alexandria

SROs and Gun Violence

A student with a gun at the school today. Bring back the SROs before there is more harm done to our children. Stop playing politics with our kids Health, Safety and Welfare. As I ran previously on “you don’t have expertise nor the humility to listen,” proven by this massive failure related to removing the SROs as part of a “Defund the Police” politic. Those who were involved in removing the SROs — who don’t have students/children in ACPS — are not fit for public office, recklessly endangering OTHER people’s children. Bring back the SROs before you cause more

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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.

Send letters

Online www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/
By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

By mail to: Letters to the Editor The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter
www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>
<https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette>
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

Never miss an issue, get a free digital subscription,
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe/>

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

@AlexGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Janet Barnett, John Bordner,
Mark Mogie
Contributing Photographers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe

Contributing Photographer and Writer
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Bridgette Adu-Wadier
Contributing Writers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Hope Nelson

Food Writer
hope@kitchenrecessionista.com
@kitchenrecess

Michael Pope

Senior Reporter
michaelpope@gmail.com
@michaelpope

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd

Display Advertising, 703-740-7128
tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher

Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:

Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



FROM PAGE 6

harm to our children. Your job is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community. Do your job.

J. Chris Hubbard
Former candidate for City Council
Alexandria

Why I Am Supporting PreeAnn Johnson for School Board

I am writing to urge voters in District B to vote for PreeAnn Johnson, an outstanding candidate for the school board who has served as an elementary school principal and assistant principal in Alexandria City Public Schools for the past 20 years.

When I joined the staff at ACPS in 2006 as the bilingual parent liaison for the ESL Office, PreeAnn was the assistant principal at Cora Kelly elementary school. Of all the school administrators throughout ACPS at that time (2006), PreeAnn was my most enthusiastic collaborator. Communication with non-English speaking families necessitated new technology and new practices that required school leaders to be open-minded and innovative. PreeAnn was ready to support and take advantage of every innovation. Her top priority has always been communication with all families so that they can support their children's success in school.

During my 9 years with ACPS our student enrollment increased from 10,000 to 15,000 students. During that period PreeAnn left Cora Kelly to become the principal at Polk Elementary. Schools were being overwhelmed with the influx of new students. PreeAnn did an impressive job of handling the swelling enrollment. She supported her teachers and staff and took advantage of community resources.

Polk was one of the first schools to participate in swimming and bike riding programs offered by community non-profits. That was a product of PreeAnn's focus on the whole child, valuing physical and emotional development along with academics.

Under PreeAnn's leadership, Polk has also been one of our highest performing elementary schools academically.

During my first term on the school board I was the liaison to Polk Elementary and once again had the opportunity to observe PreeAnn in action. Polk is an ethnically, culturally and socioeconomically diverse school and

PreeAnn made all students and their families feel welcome. School-wide events were always well attended by a diverse group of families.

The school board has much to gain if PreeAnn wins in November. If you live in District B, I urge you to vote for her.

Margaret Lorber
Alexandria

Darryl Nirenberg for City Council

To the Editor:

In this political era of intense factionalism and heated partisan rhetoric, it is refreshing to find a candidate on any level who displays a calm, common sense approach to problem solving. Fortunately, Alexandria has such a candidate in Darryl Nirenberg, who is running for City Council this November.

Nirenberg brings a longtime resident's knowledge and understanding of the challenges faced by Alexandrians, and a lawyer's logic to their resolution. In his campaign he has emphasized not only the need to reach across the aisle to build consensus in problem solving, but also the need to have diversity of political thought in the Council's deliberations. For too long our City has been governed by not just one party, but one narrow faction of that party. It is certainly time for Alexandria to re-adopt the system that has served the rest of America so well for the last two centuries: a genuine two-party system.

Challenges are facing us every day: flooding, pandemic, increased crime, faltering schools. These challenges are color blind and affect all of us, irrespective of race or ethnic background. To solve them, the widest diversity of views needs to be brought to bear in any deliberations or debate by city government, so that the best solutions are achieved.

Americans learned very early in our national experience that the surest way to reach an optimum decision was to have wide ranging and free discussion. Only by such methods can we be assured that all reasonable alternatives are thoroughly debated and fairly analyzed, and that the final decision is the best for the citizens. This is a lesson that Alexandria needs to re-learn.

That is why I support Darryl Nirenberg as the Republican candidate for City Council this Nov. 2, and I urge all Alexandrians to do the same.

Pete Benavage
Alexandria

ically to the organization's priorities and mission. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83830483767?pwd=RSthc2UwUkJPt2dDbENRYWhkMOZz09> Meeting ID: 838 3048 3767 - Passcode: 560018

GADSBY'S TAVERN MUSEUM GUIDED TOURS RETURN

Guided tours at Gadsby's Tavern Museum will resume on Oct. 14, 2021. Tours begin on the quarter after the hour at 1:15, 2:15, and 3:15. Take the 45-minute tour with an expert guide to explore life in the new Republic and learn more about the many people of the tavern. Cost is \$8 ages 5 and up but, as always, free for City residents. Capacity is limited. The Museum will continue to offer the self-guided

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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.

THURSDAY/OCT. 14

Candidates Forum. 7-8 p.m. Via Zoom. The Alexandria NAACP supports voter engagement and offers the general membership the chance to hear from our City's political candidates on the issues central to its mission and values. The Alexandria NAACP invites each of you to participate in a Virtual Candidates Forum. This meeting will be a structured dialogue between the NAACP General Membership and the Candidates for City Council in the City of Alexandria. This is an opportunity for each candidate to answer questions relating specif-

Senior Services OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria thanks our wonderful sponsors for making our 10th Annual Oktoberfest a great success!

Edelweiss

WINTERMUTE & ASSOCIATES

Coldwell Banker Realty
703.608.6868

Lederhosen

AARP Virginia
Caudron Megary Blackburn Wealth Management
Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home Staff
Goodwin House, Inc.
KWC, CPA
The Landing Alexandria Reunions
Shannon Mullins & Wright, LLP
T.J. Fannon and Sons
Woodbine Rehabilitation & Health-care Center

Bratwurst

Maribeth Bersani
Barbara Brenman
Cotton & Company
Focus Data Solutions
The Goodhart Group
Griswold Home Care
Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota
The Hon. Amy Jackson
McEanearney Associates
M. Catharine Puskar
Tom & Norma Roberts
Simpson Development Co., Inc.
Silverado Alexandria Memory Care Community
Thrive Wealth Advisors
Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley, & Walsh

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Alphagraphics, Old Blue BBQ & Port City Brewing Company

Drug TAKE BACK Day

DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICATIONS

OCTOBER 23 | 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. Day

Pet prescriptions also accepted!



ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/OPIOIDS | PREVENTALEXANDRIA.ORG

SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

The City of Alexandria continues to remind the public that everyone is safest at home. Individuals on essential errands can drop off medication at these designated locations on October 23 or year-round at a permanent drop box location. Face coverings must be worn in indoor public settings and outdoor public locations where physical distancing requirements cannot be maintained. Please maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others.

To learn about ways to dispose of medications safely at home, visit alexandriava.gov/opioids.

Alexandria Take Back Day Drop-Off Locations*

Alexandria Police Headquarters 3600 Wheeler Ave.	Alexandria Fire Station 210 5255 Eisenhower Ave.
First Baptist Church 2932 King St.	The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray 2204 Mount Vernon Ave.

*NO NEEDLES ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES

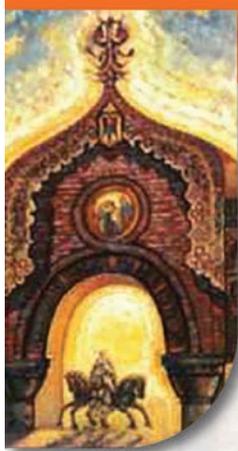
Can't make it to Drug Take Back Day? Dispose of medications year-round at one of these permanent drug drop box locations!

The Neighborhood Pharmacy 2204 Mount Vernon Ave. Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Alexandria Police Headquarters 3600 Wheeler Ave. Just inside the entrance Available 24/7
---	--

Inova Alexandria Hospital
4320 Seminary Rd.
Visitor's Lobby
Next to the cashier's window
Daily: 1 - 5 p.m.

NEW! NEEDLE DISPOSAL BOX ALSO AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION!





NOV

Pictures at an Exhibition

Homegrown: American Stories in Music and Film - a partnership with the Alexandria Film Festival

Saturday, Nov 6, 2021 • 6:00 p.m.
SOLD OUT Sunday, Nov 7, 2021 • 3:00 p.m.*

featuring original short films with post-concert talk with the filmmakers

*Sunday's performance will not include film screenings

Adult: \$20-\$85 Student: \$15 Youth: \$5
(703) 548-0885 • www.alexsym.org

THE CHAMBER
ALX

BEST IN BUSINESS AWARDS

HONORING SCOTT SHAW
PRESENTED BY BURKE & HERBERT BANK

October 20, 2021 | 6-9PM |
The Westin Old Town Alexandria
TICKETS AT THECHAMBERALX.COM



KITCHEN

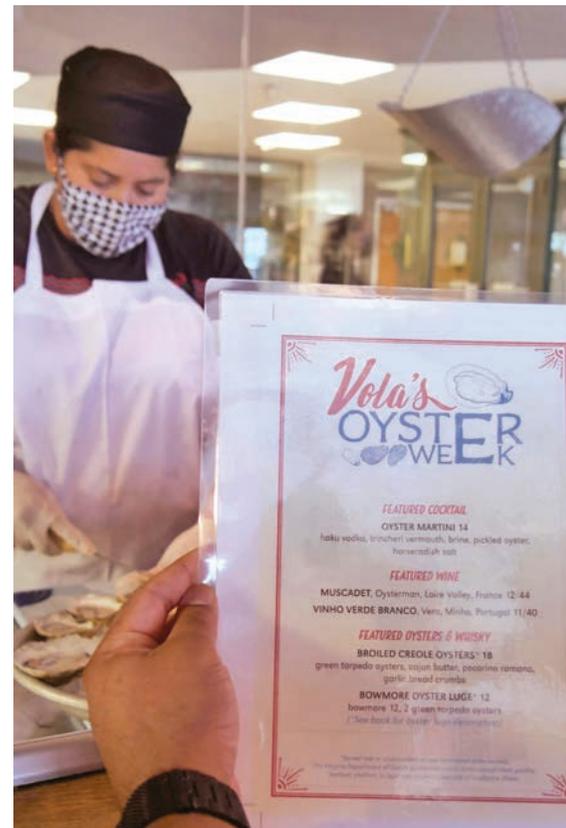
Ahhhh shucks: It's Oyster Week again



Javier Rodriguez, Chef (left) and Freddy Lopez, manager of Vola's, with oyster martini special for Old Town Oyster Week.



Patricia Casteneda is a blur as she shucks oysters at 7.35 seconds each and arranges a variety of different oyster selections on a bed of crushed ice.



Vola's Oyster Fest menu features fried oysters with panko herb and garlic crumbs as well as broiled oysters with Cajun seasoning and grated Romano.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

An oyster isn't just an oyster. It is a James River (the largest), an Otter Cove from Damariscotta, Maine (the smallest, more salty), a Blue Point from Connecticut (creamy, on the sweet side) or a Salt Pond from Maine (salty and briny).

The favorite of Chef Javier Rodriguez at Vola's Dockside Grill is the Green Torpedo, a local oyster with a nice balance of sweetness and salinity.

"No one else has the Green Torpedo from Occohanock Creek, Virginia. They grow it especially for us."

Rodriguez says he gets a list every week and tries to choose different shapes to see which are the most popular with customers. "The local ones mostly. Same as last year."

Rodriguez says the average customer orders a platter of 18 oysters. "Normally they mix it up. "The platter is served with lemon, fresh horseradish and mignonette sauce on a bed of crushed ice. He says the favorites seem to be the local oysters including Chincoteague, James River and Green Torpedo. Although oysters often cost \$3 each (more or less), during happy hour you can get oysters for half price or the James River, as many as you can slurp, for \$1.00 each.

The oyster kitchen has been moved into the main dining room to keep the oysters separate to avoid allergies. Patricia Casteneda is a blur behind the bar, shucking oysters, at an average of 7.35 or so seconds per oyster. Rodriguez says last Friday they sold about 3,500 oysters.

Vola's and nineteen other Alexandria restaurants are gearing up for the 2nd Annual Old Town Oyster Week Oct. 16-Oct. 24. It is sponsored by Old Town Business Association in partnership with the Oyster Recovery foundation and sponsored by Guinness. Participating restaurants will serve pairings of oysters and Guinness.

The week will kick off with an oyster shucking

competition set to take place on Vola's Airstream Patio at 10 a.m. on Oct. 16. Rodriguez says the week concludes with the Oysterfest on Oct. 24 at Vola's for "whoever can suck the most oysters in the least time." He says you can also sign up for all the oysters you can eat plus, beer, cocktails and wine for \$95.

Freddy Lopez, manager at Vola's, says they are featuring an oyster martini for the week with Haku vodka, Trincheri dry vermouth and a spray of oyster brine.

"The lip of the glass is horseradish infused with a pickled oyster balanced on the rim. Better sign up for Oysterfest early before we sell out."

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

NOW THRU NOV. 6

Workhouse Haunt. 7-11 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year's Workhouse Haunt immerses guests through a highly-themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups for a frightening 30-minute experience that brings them next to the site's abandoned, historic buildings and into the dark woods where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. Cost is \$25. Occurs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each weekend from Oct. 3 through Nov. 6. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/workhouse-events/2021-workhouse-haunt-the-collection-2/>

OCT. 1-31

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays additional tours at 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per adult; \$14 for seniors, military and law enforcement; \$10 per child. Tour departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Follow an 18th-century costumed guide by lantern light through the charming streets of Alexandria's historic district known as Old Town. On this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. You will also hear about unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Appropriate for ages 9 and up. Visit alexcolonialtours.com

THROUGH OCT. 31

"THE MADNESS OF POE"

"The Madness of Poe" will play a limited engagement through Oct. 31. "We watch how Poe, the inventor of American horror, created some of the most frightening and disturbing stories the world has ever known," said Synetic Theater founder Paata Tsikurshvili. Synetic Theater, 1800 South Bell Street in Arlington. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Industry Night is Monday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$10-\$60, www.synetictheater.org, or in-person at the box office located in the underground Crystal City Shops, or via phone at 703-824-8060 x117.

COX FARMS FALL FESTIVAL

THROUGH NOV. 7

Giant slides, hayrides, rope swings, farm animals & their babies, Cornfield adventure, farm chores, kiddie zone, apples & cider, food, entertainment, Imaginature Trail, over 90 acres. <https://coxfarms.com/fall-festival/festival-attractions/>.

FIELDS OF FEAR

Not recommended for children under 12 years old. When night falls on the farm, it's time for Fields of Fear. Friday and Saturday nights until Nov. 3. Fields of Fear, the Dark Side Hayride and the Cornnightmare. The Firegrounds feature several bonfires, a six-lane slide, music, karaoke, entertainment, tasty treats, Foamhenge, and more. All under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (18+). Tickets required. Last admission at 10pm. Come alone or in a group. Buy your tickets online or same-day at the door. Proof of age required. See <https://fieldsoffear.com>

coxfarms.com/ for more details on timed entry assignments, rain policy, food options, and complete list of attractions.

SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Raven's Night at the Birchmere. 7:30 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. In its 10th year, Raven's Night creeps, slithers and slinks its way back to The Birchmere. Keep your Halloween season going with a unique soirée featuring fusion belly dance, live music and a pre-show carnival. This year's theme, COVEN, brings the most iconic witch, warlocks and wizards to the stage. Doors open at 5 p.m. with an "All Hallows Eve Exposition," featuring pre-show entertainment including games, palm reading, live performances and more, followed by the "Salon Lunaire" dinner concert at 6:30 p.m., leading up to the main event at 7:30 p.m., "Cabaret Melancholia," a theatrical belly dance program featuring some of the greatest exponents of the art. Please be advised that people under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission: \$45 per person. Visit the website: birchmere.com

OCT. 16 TO NOV. 6

"Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Set against the socially turbulent 1960s, "Wait Until Dark" follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman who, while left alone in her apartment, becomes embroiled with a group of con men hatching an elaborate scam. As the tension mounts, Suzy must fend for herself, but the phone line is cut, and the house is plunged into darkness. Can Suzy outwit her murderous visitors? Note: All patrons are required to wear a mask (even if vaccinated) for the duration of the performance. Admission: \$21 to \$24 per person. Visit the website: thelittletheatre.com

SOCIALLY DISTANCED

TRUNK-OR-TREAT AT BULL RUN

Trunk-Or-Treat Monday, Oct. 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park. 7700 Bull Run Dr., Centreville. Cancelled in event of rain. The event is free; register required. Include the number of kids in each car, to ensure enough treats for all the children. During the event, everyone will remain in their car at all times. The attendees will drive through slowly admiring the Halloween trunks/displays. At the conclusion, an officer will offer goody bags to the attendees if they choose to accept one. All goody bags will be prepared and distributed by officers wearing personal protective equipment.

THURSDAY/OCT. 21

Halloween Ball and Anniversary Celebration at Barkhaus. 7:30 to 10 p.m. At Barkhaus, 529 E Howell Ave, Alexandria. Celebrate Barkhaus's first birthday with a Halloween ball. Guests will dress formally and add their own Halloween twists to their costumes. Dogs are encouraged to dress up as well. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, puppuccinos for dogs, a limited-edition Barkhaus anniversary shirt and more. Admission: \$75 per person. Visit the website: brewskisbarkhaus.com

CALENDAR

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR
INDEPENDENT LEARNER
COMMUNITY MINDED CITIZEN
BALANCED INDIVIDUAL**

START STRONG. START HERE.

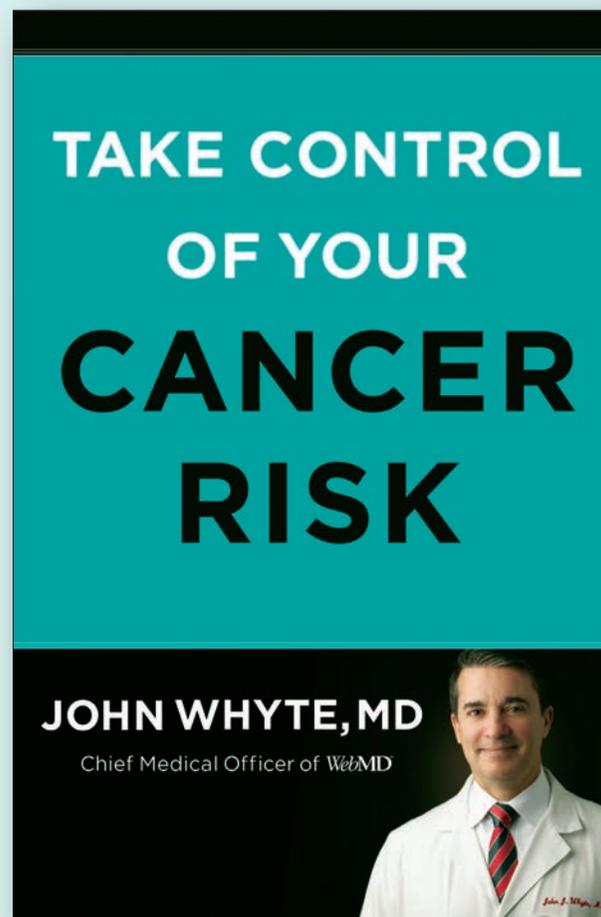
At ACDS, we challenge and inspire students with a rigorous curriculum in a safe, welcoming, and student-centered environment. The result: confident, caring, and future-ready community members who distinguish themselves as exceptional communicators.

Join us for an OPEN HOUSE:
Oct 18 • Nov 11 • Nov 20 • Nov 30 • Dec 1 • Jan 6

ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
www.acdsnet.org

GRADES K-8

Dr. Whyte's New Book Released October 5, 2021



This book shares straightforward information and equips you with strategies to help you on a journey to better health, including:

- Assessing your cancer risk
- Knowing which screenings you need, and when
- Learning the role food, exercise, and sleep play
- Understanding the relationship between stress and cancer

You have the power to reduce your cancer risk--and this book will show you just how easy it is.

Order this and Dr. Whyte's other books on Amazon.com

THESE FLOWERS HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THEM.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

It's time to add your flower to the fight.



JOIN US AT
ALZ.ORG/WALK



Additional Walks available. Find one near you at alz.org/walk

OCTOBER 24
RESTON TOWN CENTER

2021 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSORS

Edward Jones CVS Health

NEWS

ALIVE! Walkathon

FROM PAGE 5

This year's StepALIVE! fundraising goal of \$65,000 will benefit all ALIVE! programs which have responded to increased demand during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The funds raised by StepALIVE! will allow ALIVE! to continue providing food, shelter, emergency financial assistance, and eviction prevention to thousands of Alexandrians struggling with poverty and hunger.

As an interfaith nonprofit founded in 1969, the walking route through Old Town will pass by eight of the 48 ALIVE! member congregations: First Christian Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Christ Church, the Basilica of Saint Mary Catholic Church, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Washington Street United Methodist Church, and Alfred Street Baptist Church.

Watering stations will be setup at Christ Church and Alfred Street Baptist Church. Christ Church is also the turnaround point for walkers wishing to walk 5K instead of 5 miles.

Live music will be provided by the Alexandria Citizen Band for the pre-registration and kick off. The post-walk celebration will feature the StepALIVE! Bluegrass Band. Banjoman Frank Cassel will team up with Fred Nelson and Roger Williams (Three Boys Night Out band) and Ginger

Beecher (Taste of Bluegrass band) to sing and pick traditional bluegrass music using banjo, guitar, mandolin, and acoustic bass fiddle.

Sponsors this year include Alfred Street Baptist Church, Blaszkow Legal PLLC, Ruth L. Chamowitz & Michael J. Chamowitz, Fairlington United Methodist Men, and Oliff PLC.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

tour experience throughout its open hours. For additional information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern.

Current operating hours for Historic Alexandria sites include:

Alexandria Archaeology Museum
Thursday & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.,
Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sun-
days, 1 – 5 p.m.

Alexandria History Museum at The
Lyceum

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates **703-999-2928**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

VARIETY STORE

Est. 1958



Experience
the Nostalgia
of an old-time
Five & Dime Store

*"If we don't have it,
you don't need it."*

Hollin Hall
Shopping Center
7902 Fort Hunt Rd.,
Alexandria, VA 22308

703-765-4110

hhvs@vacoxmail.com

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or
call 703-778-9431



CALENDAR

NOW THRU OCT. 30

In the "Expanding the Common Ground: Voices of the Global Majority" art exhibit, themes of people of the global majority reflecting, celebrating, and claiming power over oppression are explored, as well as finding common ground and healing divides. View exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-6 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

OCT. 1-31

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays additional tours at 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per adult; \$14 for seniors, military and law enforcement; \$10 per child. Tour departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Follow an 18th-century costumed guide by lantern light through the charming streets of Alexandria's historic district known as Old Town. On this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. You will also hear about unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Appropriate for ages 9 and up. Visit alexcolonialtours.com

OCT. 8-22

Octoberfest Online Auction. Carpenter's Shelter's Octoberfest Online Auction. Join them online to bid on one-of-a-kind items like trips to wineries, theater tickets, jewelry, gift baskets, restaurant gift cards, and much more. Start your holiday shopping early while supporting children, women, and men experiencing homelessness in Alexandria. Visit <https://carpentersshelter.org/event/octoberfest2021>

OCT. 9-31

St. Luke's Pumpkin Patch. 12 to 5 p.m. At St. Luke's Episcopal, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Pick up pumpkin bread, soup and pumpkins, and gourds galore. Proceeds support the Navaja Nation who grow our pumpkins and youth and outreach programs. Pumpkins priced by size. Pumpkin bread and soup \$5. Great prices on decorative pumpkins and gourds of all types. Patch open Saturdays starting Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sundays Noon - 7 p.m. Mon - Thurs 3 - 7 p.m., Fri 1 - 7 p.m. through Halloween or until they sell out.

FRIDAYS IN OCTOBER (15, 22, 29)

Spirits of Carlyle House. 6-8:30 p.m. At Carlyle House, Alexandria. Carlyle House's long and diverse history is full of truths, myths, and rumours that makes it one of the most visited places on Alexandria's ghost tours. Come and experience a uniquely haunting tour of the house and grounds by candlelight, perhaps encounter the departed spirits of notable residents and neighbors, and hear their tales of sadness and triumph. This program is being put on in partnership with the Little Theater of Alexandria. Reservations required due to limited space. Tours are on the half hour.

SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Mariachi Band Concert: Mariachi Aguila D.C.



The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is sponsoring Pet Photos with Santa Paws on Oct. 23-24.

2-3 p.m. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Outdoor performance, part of Sherwood Regional Library's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Other performances:

11 a.m. Groovy Nate (Children's performer)
1 p.m. Mount Vernon High School's Varsity Singers Choral Ensemble

SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Floral Design Workshop: Fall Flowers & Foliage. 1-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Learn how to create a unique floral design that celebrates the season with the help of certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway. \$40 per person (plus \$30 supply fee). Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 30E.OMB3.

SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Raven's Night at the Birchmere. 7:30 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. In its 10th year, Raven's Night creeps, slithers and slinks its way back to The Birchmere. Keep your Halloween season going with a unique soirée featuring fusion belly dance, live music and a pre-show carnival. This year's theme, COVEN, brings the most iconic witched, warlocks and wizards to the stage. Doors open at 5 p.m. with an "All Hallows Eve Exposition," featuring pre-show entertainment including games, palm reading, live performances and more, followed by the "Salon Lunaire" dinner concert at 6:30 p.m., leading up to the main event at 7:30 p.m., "Cabaret Melancholia," a theatrical belly dance program featuring some of the greatest exponents of the art. Please be advised that people under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission: \$45 per person. Visit the website: birchmere.com

OCT. 16-20

Film Screening: "How the Moments Came"
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

Supporting Healthy Youth and Healthy Families: Celebrating Safely

As fall begins and homecoming approaches, SAPCA encourages parents and teens to celebrate safely and substance-free and to know the legal consequences related to underage drinking.



Parents and Caregivers: It is against the law to provide alcohol to any persons under the age of 21. Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

Support our youth to be happy, healthy, and substance-free by making your values clear about substance use -- particularly underage use of substances -- with your children and other parents, and pledge to keep celebrations for youth substance-free.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION OF ALEXANDRIA



Learn more at PreventItAlexandria.org



Get a 24-step vehicle inspection for just \$20

Since 1933, the Safety Inspection Program has helped keep Virginia's motorists safe, with affordable annual checkups that ensure your car - and all those around you - are roadworthy, reliable and ready to go. Learn more at vasafetyinspection.com.



Virginia Williams
High School Career Association
Annual

HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FORUM
Grades 9-12

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021 - 11am-1pm
A Virtual Event

For information and/or to register go to vwmsca@gmail.com
Please give your first & last name, grade & contact info (email & ph#). Last day to register is Oct. 21st.



Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, held at City Hall, 301 King Street, Council Chamber and on Zoom webinar on Saturday, October, 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owners of the property located at 214 and 216 South Payne Street to construct and maintain an encroachment for a porch at that location (Implementation Ordinance for Encroachment No. 2021-00002 associated with 214 and 216 South Payne Street approved by City Council on July 6, 2021).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, and the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2021-00008 (Implementation Ordinance for Text Amendment No. 2021-00008 associated with Extension of Temporary Program for Business Relief and to Address Public Need Related to COVID-19 to April 1, 2022 approved by City Council on September 18, 2021).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to the Beauregard Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2021-00005 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment (Implementation Ordinance for Master Plan Amendment No. 2021-00005 associated with Beauregard Small Area Plan Amendments approved by City Council on September 18, 2021).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 1-400 (INTERPRETATION OF ORDINANCE) of Article I (GENERAL REGULATIONS); Section 2-104 (ACCESSORY USE), Section 2-119.1 (AVERAGE PRE-CONSTRUCTION GRADE), Section 2-128.1 (COMMERCIAL COMPLEX), Section 2-145 (FLOOR AREA), Section 2-169.1 (LOT, THROUGH), Section 2-180 (OPEN AND USABLE SPACE), Section 2-193.1 (COMMERCIAL COMPLEX), Section 2-197.1 (STRUCTURE, ACCESSORY), Section 2-197.3 (STRUCTURE, SUBORDINATE), and Section 2-200.1 (TRELIS) of Article II (DEFINITIONS); Section 6-403 (GENERAL REGULATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS) of Article VI (SPECIAL AND OVERLAY ZONES); Section 7-100 (ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, USES AND STRUCTURES), Section 7-101 (PERMITTED ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, USES AND STRUCTURES), Section 7-102 (PROHIBITED ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, USES AND STRUCTURES), Section 7-103 (BUILDING, USE AND STRUCTURE LIMITATIONS), Section 7-202 (PERMITTED OBSTRUCTIONS), Section 7-203 (ACCESSORY DWELLINGS), Section 7-301 (USE LIMITATIONS), Section 7-302 (PROHIBITED OCCUPATIONS), Section 7-303 (USE LIMITATIONS), Section 7-1212 (AESTHETIC STANDARDS GOVERNING WIRELESS FACILITY INSTALLATIONS), and Section 7-2501 (FREESTANDING PRIVATE GARAGES TO THE REAR OF THE MAIN BUILDING) of Article VII (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS); Section 8-200 (GENERAL PARKING REGULATIONS) of Article VIII (OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING); Section 11-605 (PROCEDURES FOR CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL), Section 11-1005 (POWERS AND DUTIES), Section 11-1302 (SPECIAL EXCEPTION ESTABLISHED), and Section 11-1706 (CONTENTS OF PRELIMINARY PLAT APPLICATION) of Article XI (DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS AND PROCEDURES); and Section 13-114 (STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN) of Article XIII (ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT) and to add and ordain Section 2-123.1 (BUILDING, ACCESSORY), Section 2-128.2 (COMMITTED AFFORDABLE HOUSING) of Article II (DEFINITIONS) and Section 11-1400 (ZONE EXTENSION) of Article XI (DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS AND PROCEDURES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2021-00003 (Implementation Ordinance for Text Amendment No. 2021-00003 associated with Zoning Ordinance Practical Updates approved by City Council on September 18, 2021).

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a Lease Agreement Between the City of Alexandria and UpCycle Creative Reuse for the Use of Space at the Oswald Durant Center located at 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of An Amendment to a Five-Year License Agreement dated June 1, 2017, between the City of Alexandria Virginia and Level 3 Communications, LLC. ("Level 3") to Permit Level 3 to Install Twenty-Two Feet of Conduit at the Intersection of Holland Lane and Ballenger Avenue in the City of Alexandria's Public Rights-of-Ways to Provide Telecommunications Services for the City of Alexandria.

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading, and Final Passage of an Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Closure of the 100 Block of King Street to Vehicular Traffic.

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading, and Final Passage of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 3-2-85 (Annual Charge for Commercial Encroachments) of Chapter 2 (Taxation) of Title 3 (Finance, Taxation, and Procurement) and Section 5-2-29 (Street Encroachments) of Chapter 2 (Streets and Sidewalks) of Title 5 (Transportation and Environmental Services) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. (LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE). If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday, OCTOBER 23, 2021. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

ENTERTAINMENT



Nutsa Tediashvili as Madeline and Alex Mills as Roderick in *The Madness of Poe* at Synetic Theater.



Ryan Sellers as Edgar in *The Madness of Poe* at Synetic Theater.

'The Madness of Poe'

Synetic makes spellbinding return.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Synetic Theater makes a triumphant return to live performances with a spellbinding execution of "The Madness of Poe," a masterful adaptation of the works of Edgar Allan Poe.

Synetic Theater founder Paata Tsikurishvili was greeted with enthusiastic applause as he welcomed the audience on opening night.

"The last year and a half has been a very dark time for so many of us," said Tsikurishvili, before adding wryly, "so we thought we would return with something light."

Directed by Tsikurishvili and choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili, "The Madness of Poe" will play a limited engagement through Oct. 31.

"Like Shakespeare, Poe has become more than a writer," Tsikurishvili said. "He has become an institution and genre unto himself and tonight we witness the moments before the pen touches the page. We watch how Poe, the inventor of American horror, created some of the most frightening and disturbing stories the world has ever known."

"The Madness of Poe" fuses two of Poe's most famous works -- "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Raven" -- creating a bridge between his poetry and prose.

Anchored by a reimagining of Synetic's 2007 hit adaptation of "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Madness of Poe" hauntingly blends the writer's uninged reality with the intoxicating imaginings of his stories, including "The Raven." A talented cast brings the sinister tales to life in an evening of macabre suspense.

Ryan Sellers gives a riveting performance as Edgar, capturing Poe's descent into madness over the course of the 90-minute performance. Fellow Synetic company members Alex Mills and Nutsa Tediashvili join Sellers as Roderick and Madeline respectively, with each taking command of the stage with spellbinding

performances.

Rounding out the cast are Philip Fletcher as Servant, Maryam Najafzada as The Raven, Megan Khaziran as Lenore, and Chris Galindo, Sean Flowers and Ariel Kraje in the ensemble.

The choreography by Irina Tsikurishvili is powerful and precise, perfectly executed to an appropriately haunting score. The production features scenic and props design by Phil Charlwood, costume design by Alexa Duimstra, sound design by Justin Schmitz and lighting design by Doug Del Pizzo.

For "The Raven" Scott Brown serves as creative associate, director, Najafzada as creative associate, choreographer, and Katherine DuBois as adaptor. Nathan Weinberger created the original adaption of "The Fall of the House of Usher."

"The Madness of Poe" features mature themes including scenes of intimacy and drug use. If this were a movie, it would be rated PG-13. Proof of COVID vaccine is required, along with photo ID. The process is smooth and goes quickly, adding only a few brief moments to the check-in process. Audience members must wear masks, which can be removed when enjoying refreshments both in the lobby and the theater. Running time is 90 minutes with no intermission.

"The Madness of Poe" will play a four-week limited engagement through Oct. 31 at Synetic Theater, 1800 South Bell Street in Arlington. Performances are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Industry Night is Monday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$60 and are available at www.synetictheater.org, in-person at the box office located in the underground Crystal City Shops, or via phone at 703-824-8060 x117.

"The tragedies of Poe's life took the light from Edgar Allan Poe," said Tsikurishvili of the author who died at the age of 40 under mysterious circumstances. "The result was a creative mind charged with terror, steeped in longing and filled with some of the bleakest humor ever written."

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Down." Discussion on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. "How the Monuments Came Down," produced by Field Studio in association with VPM, Virginia's home for public media, is a timely look at the history of white supremacy and Black resistance in Richmond. The feature-length film — brought to life by history-makers, descendants, scholars, and activists — reveals how monuments to Confederate leaders stood for more than a century, and why they fell. Join a virtual discussion with public historian Lauranett Lee and Eugene Thompson, past member

of the Alexandria Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Confederate Memorials and Street Names, about this important film. Register at this website: <https://zoom.us/join/register/tYJYduiorTMuHNNhc-q33uf8ORG2S3409BPkcW>

OCT. 16 TO NOV. 6

"Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Set against the socially turbulent 1960s, "Wait Until Dark" follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman who, while left alone in her apartment, becomes

embroiled with a group of con men hatching an elaborate scam. As the tension mounts, Suzy must fend for herself, but the phone line is cut, and the house is plunged into darkness. Can Suzy outwit her murderous visitors? Note: All patrons are required to wear a mask (even if vaccinated) for the duration of the performance. Admission: \$21 to \$24 per person. Visit the website: thelittletheatre.com

THURSDAY/OCT. 21

Halloween Ball and Anniversary

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

FROM PAGE 10

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.
 Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site
 Fridays 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Gadsby's Tavern Museum
 Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.
 Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum
 Fridays 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sundays & Mondays, 1 - 5 p.m.
 Friendship Firehouse Museum (October 9, November 13, December 18) 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 20

A presentation on Wintering Waterbirds. 7 p.m. on Zoom. The Friends of Dyke Marsh hosts Greg Butcher of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and the U.S. Forest Service who will explore the diversity of waterbirds that spend the winter in Northern Virginia. He will review citizen science studies and conservation needs for birds and people along the Potomac River. The program is free and open to the public. Visit www.fodm.org to register. (Home page, left side)

VOLUNTEER WITH AFSS.

Alexandria Families for Safe Streets. Help spread the pedestrian street safety message by volunteering for 2-hour shifts to staff an Alexandria Families for Safe Streets (AFSS) table at one of the following Farmers' Markets: Dates available: 10/30, 11/6, Nov TBD.
 Del Ray Farmers' Market: 10/30
 Old Town Farmers' Market: 11/6
 Visit the website: <https://www.alxaffs.org/>

EARLY VOTING BEGINS

Early voting began on September 17 for the November 2 General Election in the City of Alexandria. The ballot includes contests for Virginia Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; House of Delegates; Commonwealth's Attorney; Sheriff; Mayor; and members of City Council and the School Board. All registered voters in Virginia are eligible to vote by mail or in person. Carefully review the information below to determine applicable deadlines, times, and locations.

Voting in Person
 The deadline to vote early is Saturday, October 30, at 5 p.m. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and in accordance with local requirements, each person at an early voting location must wear a face covering over the nose and mouth and keep at least 6 feet apart from others. In-person early voting hours are as follows.

Office of Voter Registration & Elections (132 N. Royal St., Suite 100)
 Opens for early voting on Friday, September 17
 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Closed Monday, October 11
 Additional and Extended Hours:
 Saturday, October 16, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Saturday, October 23, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Sunday, October 24, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Monday, October 25, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
 Tuesday, October 26, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
 Wednesday, October 27, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
 Thursday, October 28, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
 Saturday, October 30, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
 Opens for early voting on Friday,

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

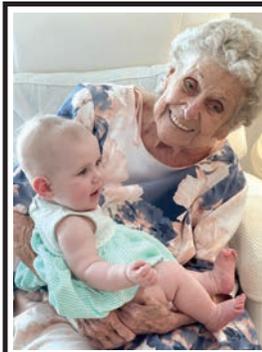
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CLASSIFIED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Obituary



Marian M. Sanazaro passed away on September 22, 2021 at the age of 96

She grew up in Alexandria and is survived by her children, Robert Michael Gillien, John Thomas Gillien, and Donna Gillian-Brown as well as her two granddaughters, Cara DiStefano, and Lauren Brown and her great granddaughter, Olivia DiStefano. There will not be any services per her request but there will be masses said in her name at St. Mary's.

Legals

Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described item.

AN ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the closure of the 100 Block of King Street to Vehicular Traffic.
 The proposed ordinance closes the 100 block of King Street to vehicular traffic, between Union and Lee Streets.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday October 23, 2021. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Upgrade Your Home with a
NEW METAL ROOF
 Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

Made in the USA

Call today to schedule your
FREE ESTIMATE
 1-844-902-4611

ERIE Metal Roofs

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires December 31st 2021. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservices.compliance.com. All rights reserved.

LIMITED TIME OFFER

60% off
 YOUR INSTALLATION
 +
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% off
 Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE Metal Roofs
Warranty: Limited Lifetime. Transferable to subsequent owner. Service (labor) provided for up to 25' Appearance of the roof is subject to normal wear and tear. Expires 12/31/21

Medicare has changed. Find out how it can affect you.

For **FREE** Medicare Supplement information from Physicians Life Insurance Company, call:

1-833-657-1636

or visit MedSupBenefit.com/vapress

We are not connected with, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Federal Medicare Program. I understand I have no obligation. This is a solicitation of insurance. A licensed agent/producer may contact you. (MD, VA: These policies are available to people under age 65 eligible for Medicare due to a disability). (VA: For a complete description of policy exclusions, limitations, and costs or other coverage details, please contact your insurance agent or the company). Policy form number L030, L035, L036, L037, L038, F001, F002 (OK: L0300K, L0350K, L0360K, L0370K, L0380K; TN: L030TN, L035TN, L036TN, L037TN; L038TN, F001TN, F002TN; L030VA, L035VA, L036VA, L037VA, L038VA). 6243_A

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!*

1 (833) 688-1378

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

GENERAC PWRCELL
 SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY



\$500 OFF*
 OR
No Payments & No Interest For 18 Months*
 OFFER EXPIRES 12.31.2021

BCI BATH & SHOWER

CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and well surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires Dec 31, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

844-947-1479



FREE

7-Year Extended Warranty*
 A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Treasury's Unclaimed Property Program returns millions to rightful owners every year!

What is unclaimed property?

Inactive or dormant accounts from stocks, dividends, customer refunds or credits, uncashed checks, safe deposit box contents, bank accounts, insurance policy proceeds, etc.

Go to our free website today to search and start the claim process for your unclaimed property.



Virginia Department of the Treasury

Life I'm Trying to Live



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Continuing last week's justifiable rant about my less-than-ideal cancer-driven circumstances, I have to look ahead somehow, not behind. I can't change the past and focusing on what happened that possibly didn't need to happen would make yours truly more of a dull boy than I already am. Besides, living my life with constant anger and disappointment concerning how I was potentially harmed serves no real purpose. It can't change the facts. It seems logical to me therefore that what damage I can't change and/or control, and that which medically has harmed me in the past, I must find a way to embrace it somehow so that I can live my present and future life - what there is of it, with some dignity and joy. Easier said than done, I assure you, especially for my wife. Though it's not exactly in the vault for me, it is nonetheless compartmentalized.

Oddly enough, it's this ability to compartmentalize which has likely carried me this long: nearly 13 years from my Feb., 2009 "terminal" diagnosis of stage IV non small cell lung cancer, a killer cancer if there ever was one, and of course, there are many. In fact, annually, more people die from lung cancer than the next four cancers combined. No wonder I was worried when I recall the "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given. Hearing those "you have cancer" words are life changing and in many cases, life ending. Fortunately for me, I was misdiagnosed and only thought I had a few years left to live.

Nevertheless, receiving this kind of life-threatening blast of reality at age 54 and a half is overwhelming. The treatment (heavy-duty chemotherapy) that followed was challenging. The life the patient is forced to live as a result becomes cancer centric. Very little time passes when you are not keenly aware of your circumstances or preoccupied with them or planning/coordinating your life/schedule around something cancer related. All the while knowing/having been told that your chances of surviving beyond two years is in the low single digits. And for many lung cancer patients, particularly stage IV patients, there's very little the doctors can do about it. There is no cure. As my oncologist told me: "I can treat you, but I can't cure you." It was extremely hard to process that statement. I mean, really process it to understand that you are going to die because of this diagnosis. It reminds me of an episode from the M*A*S*H, the television series. It was a long day/night in the operating room and "Hawkeye" Pierce, one of the trauma surgeons, was questioning his ability to save wounded soldier's lives. Lt. Col. Henry Blake and "Hawkeye" are standing outside the surgery taking a break. And Henry, hearing his fellow surgeon's frustration, says to "Hawkeye": "There are two rules in war. Rule number 1, young men die. Rule number 2, doctors can't change rule number 1." The warning/advisory one hears after getting a non small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis is very similar. It's not exactly a rule, but it is a startling reality nonetheless. That reality? Most stage IV lung cancer patients die much sooner than later.

This is the kind of news that you don't want to take to your grave. This is the news however that you must incorporate/assimilate into your life somehow so you can try to go on living a rewarding and productive life. Ignoring your diagnosis seems stupid and irresponsible. And pretending that your future actions will not have consequences for your health seems incredibly naive. The only real choice as I saw it, was integrating these horrible circumstances into my life, somehow. And the only way I could see doing this was to compartmentalize them. Try to control/file them away so everyday is not dreary and depressing. Life can go on by living it, not dying because of it. I made a conscious choice to not give in, and in a way, I've been rewarded for it. I've lived 10 years-plus beyond my original prognosis. Granted, mistakes were made, apparently. But for the 10 years or so until I learned my true diagnosis, I believed as Curly Howard believed in an unrelated Three Stooges two-reeler: "I'm too young to die. Too handsome. Well, too young, anyway."

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004
FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	
K & D ELECTRIC	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting	Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Ceiling Fans	Office 703-335-0654
Phone/CATV	Mobile 703-499-0522
Computer Network Cabling	lektrkman28@gmail.com
Service Upgrades	
Hot Tubs, etc...	

LANDSCAPING	
Quality Tree Service & Landscaping	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
Summer Cleanup...	
Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.	
25 years of experience - Free estimates	
703-868-5358	
24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	

Landscape Drainage	
ProDrainage	
A JES Services, Inc Company	
Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts	
Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More	
Your Neighborhood Company since 1987!	
703-772-0500 www.ProDrainage.com	
VA. Licensed Class A Contractor	

Sign up for
FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
to any or all of our 15 papers
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

October 22
Friday, October 22, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, October 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, October 24, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Monday, October 25, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday, October 26, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.
Wednesday, October 27, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.
Thursday, October 28, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.
Friday, October 29, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, October 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Voting by Mail
Applications to request a mail-in ballot must be received in the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 5 p.m., Friday, October 22. Access an application in one of the following ways:
By visiting vote.elections.virginia.gov to submit an application online.
By downloading the application available on the City's Elections webpage.
By calling Voter Registration & Elections at 703.746.4050 to request that an application is mailed to you.

Completed ballots must be either returned to the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2, or postmarked by November 2 and received in the office by noon on Friday, November 5. To vote in person, an application is not required. Applications should not be submitted before voting in person.

Ballot Drop Boxes
Ballot drop boxes will be available at all polling places on November 2, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A secure outdoor drop box, under video sur-

veillance, is available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 24 hours a day, through November 2 at 7 p.m. Additionally, a ballot drop box will be available at the same dates and times listed above for in-person voting at Beatley Library.

Registering to Vote
The deadline to register to vote for the November 2 General Election is October 12. Visit vote.elections.virginia.gov to register, check registration status, or update an existing registration.
Visit alexandriava.gov/Elections for complete election information, including voter registration requirements, sample ballots, precinct maps and ID requirements. For more information, contact the Office of Voter Registration & Elections at voters@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4050.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors
The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeralexandria.org
ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org>/ALIVE

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Celebration at Barkhaus. 7:30 to 10 p.m. At Barkhaus, 529 E Howell Ave, Alexandria. Celebrate Barkhaus's first birthday with a Halloween ball. Guests will dress formally and add their own Halloween twists to their costumes. Dogs are encouraged to dress up as well. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, puppucinos for dogs, a limited-edition Barkhaus anniversary shirt and more. Admission: \$75 per person. Visit the website: brewskis-barkhaus.com

OCT. 22, 23, 29, 30

Grief & Ghost Tour at Lee-Fendall House. At 7, 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Celebrate Halloween with a look at Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of tragic deaths and mysterious occurrences at the Lee-Fendall House. Customs such as draping the mirrors after a death, funeral practices, hair mementos, mourning clothing and séances will be explored. These tours offer a rare opportunity to see the house after dark. Tours groups will be limited to 10 participants and tickets must be purchased in advance. Face masks are required. Admission: \$15 per person. Visit leefendallhouse.org

FRIDAY/OCT. 22

Japanese Garden Gala. 3:30-6 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess St., Alexandria. In honor of the second anniversary of the enthronement of the Japanese Emperor Naruhito - an avid viola player - join in a gala inspired by the art and culture of Japan. Support artists and concerts in the Secret Garden for a fundraising event celebrating the art and culture of Japan, featuring musical selections performed by National Symphony violist Tsuna Sakamoto and Japanese cuisine, sake, Japanese tea and whiskey, and cultural demonstrations. Cost is \$250. Website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

FRIDAY/OCT. 22

Tell Me Your Name. 5 p.m. At Carlyle House, Alexandria. Join Carlyle House Historic Park staff for a tour focusing on the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and his plantations. The guided tour will explore

the historical context of slavery in 18th century Alexandria and the importance of ongoing research efforts to connect with descendants. Reservations are required as space is limited. Call 703-549-2997 or email carlyle@nvrpa.org. Tickets https://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/4694

<cal1> Saturday/Oct. 23

<cal2> Garden Talk: Tips on Growing Beautiful Bulbs. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adult) Colorful bulbs can turn an ordinary garden into extraordinary. Planted in mass displays, small groupings or containers, they are a welcome sight in any garden. Now is the time to plant bulbs for bright, beautiful color next spring. Learn about a variety of beautiful bulbs from Extension Master Gardeners and how to plant and care for them. \$12 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 9FFED6G5.

OCT. 23-24

Fall Harvest Festival at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Mount Vernon. Celebrate the crisp autumn season with 18th-century activities and demonstrations at the Farm at Mount Vernon. During this event, you can explore the farm, meet General Washington, watch beer-making demonstrations, see spinning demonstrations and more. This event is included with admission and is free for Mount Vernon members. Admission: \$28 per adult; \$15 per youth; free for children five and under and for members. Visit mountvernon.org.

OCT. 23-24

Santa Paws Photos. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. At the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Join the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and a team of photographers for Pet Photos with Santa Paws, taking place at the AWLA's Holiday Studio at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. All species are welcome. Pre-registration is required. Sign up your pets at AlexandriaAnimals.org/SantaPaws. Cost: \$50. Website: AlexandriaAnimals.org/SantaPaws

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

October AUTOFEST

WE NEED TRADES!

GET OVER KELLEY BLUE BOOK VALUE FOR YOUR TRADE THIS WEEK!



ENJOY HUGE SAVINGS DURING THIS EXCLUSIVE EVENT!

NEW 2022 TOYOTA COROLLA LE SDN

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$199 /MO



MODEL# 1852. MSRP \$21,520. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

NEW 2021 TOYOTA CAMRY LE SDN

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$249 /MO



MODEL# 2532. MSRP \$25,965. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

NEW 2021 TOYOTA VENZA LE

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$259 /MO



MODEL# 2810. MSRP \$33,645. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

NEW 2021 TOYOTA SIENNA HYBRID LE

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$329 /MO



MODEL# 5402. MSRP \$35,635. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SERVICE & PARTS HOURS: MON-FRI 6A-7P & SAT 7A-5P

**BATTERY SPECIAL
FREE**

BATTERY CHECK-UP
INCLUDES: CHECK COLD CRANKING AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 10/31/21.

**LUBE, OIL & FILTER SPECIAL
\$39.95**

\$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE
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.

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 10/31/21.

**ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
\$89.95**

4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT
INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT, INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS, STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 10/31/21.

**BRAKE PAD SPECIAL
\$99.95**

BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT
INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TCMC PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95

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 10/31/21.

**TOYOTACARE PLUS
\$329.00**

SPECIAL
MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 10/31/21.

SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT

THE MORE YOU SPEND, THE MORE YOU SAVE!

\$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+

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 10/31/21.

CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY: 703-684-0710



Toyota's
President's Award
34 years in a row!

Se habla español

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria
703-684-0700
AlexandriaToyota.com

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

#WeAreAlexandria



Belle Haven | \$2,395,000

Majestically sited overlooking the Potomac and Belle Haven C.C., this home has been strategically positioned to maximize viewing. The main level features a study, stone sunroom, generous living & dining rooms, exceptional kitchen, & family room. 6115 Vernon Terrace
Janet Catterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



OPEN SUN 10/17, 2-4PM

Rosemont | \$1,620,000

Perched high above the street sits this meticulously maintained 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom detached home. Completely renovated & expanded in 2018, it features a large fenced yard, 2 side-by-side off-street parking spaces & 3 beautifully finished levels. 103 E Linden St
Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802
www.WendySantantonio.com



Alexandria City | \$1,225,000

Situated on a large 1/4 acre corner lot, the quality & elegance of this house is apparent. Creatively expanded and improved upon to create 3 spacious bedrooms, 4 full baths, elegant great room, nicely finished family room and large screened porch. 613 Melrose Street
Margaret Benghauser 703.989.6961
Sarah King 703.864.5050



OPEN SUN 10/17, 2-4PM

Hollin Hall Village | \$670,000

One level living at its finest. Adorable 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with a breezy and fluid flow throughout. Living room with wood-burning fireplace. Stainless and granite kitchen. Large multi-purpose room overlooks expansive and flat backyard. 7819 Yorktown Drive
Tracy Dunn 571.212.3658
www.tracybdunn.com



Hybla Valley Farms | \$609,000

One level home has been lovingly maintained and updated! Living room with wood-burning fireplace, hardwoods throughout except carpet in bedrooms, beautiful updated kitchen, year-round sun porch off dining area. 2804 Woodlawn Trail
Phyllis Sintay 703.472.3563
www.psintay.com



OPEN SUN 10/17, 2-4PM

Briary Farm Townhomes | \$499,000

Tremendous value, great location close to shopping, dining & amenities. All brick, finished walk-out basement with fireplace, eat-in kitchen, fenced yard with a handy shed and backing to woods. Community pool/tennis and super low HOA fees. 8229 Doctor Craik Court
Robin Arnold 703.966.5457
www.RobinArnoldSells.com



OPEN SUN 10/17, 2-4PM

**Fords Landing
 \$1,189,000**

Sparkling 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features hardwood floors, 2 gas fireplaces, handsome moldings, custom built-ins, and a sunny stainless kitchen. Luxurious primary suite with vaulted ceilings, multiple closets, and expansive bath. Lovely deck and off-street parking for 2 cars. 722 Battery Place

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



OPEN SAT 10/16 & SUN 10/17, 12-2PM

**Yates Garden
 \$825,000**

This charming 3-level, 2-bedroom, 2-bath home was fully renovated in 2016 including refinishing the original hardwood floors and preserving door hardware to keep with the charm of Old Town living. Beautiful fully fenced brick patio and finished basement. 709 S Royal Street

Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
www.JillianKeckHogan.com



**Colecroft
 \$740,000**

Beautifully maintained 4-level townhouse. One block to Metro, and a short walk to both King St & the Waterfront. New granite & appliances, freshly painted throughout. Covered front porch and private rear patio off the kitchen. 2 bedrooms, plus guest/office in the basement. 564 N West Street

Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com

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

