

# Alexandria Gazette Packet

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NOVEMBER 29, 2021

## Wicked Awesome

**Halloween Parade returns to Del Ray.**

Following a pandemic-induced hiatus, the popular Del Ray Halloween parade returned Oct. 24 with a turnout that was better than ever as the annual event celebrated its 25th year.

From goblins, ghosts and ghouls, Mount Vernon Avenue turned into a colorful sea of creative costumed characters that included a zombie marching band. Local businesses joined in the fun, with Pork Barrel BBQ setting up a play corn box complete with 1,000 pounds of corn for frolicking. Contests were held virtually for Best Decorated House, Best Decorated Business, Best Group Costume and Best Pet Costume. [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com)

- JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY "MANCO" MIKE ANDERSON



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue founder Willie Bailey is interviewed during the Oct. 25 distribution of 3,000 coats for children in need across the Northern Virginia region.



Volunteers sort coats prior to distribution as part of the Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue annual coat drive Oct. 25 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11.

## To the Rescue

**3,000 coats to help kids in need.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

First responders from throughout Northern Virginia came together Oct. 25 to help distribute more than 3,000 new coats destined for children in need as part of the Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue annual coat drive.

"A new coat means so much to a child," said Del Ray resident Willie Bailey, founder of the nonprofit Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue. "It provides a child both physical and emotional warmth. It helps a student attend school, socialize with their peers and play outside with pride. And it reminds them that there are those in their community that care about their well-being and future."

Coats are obtained through the national nonprofit Operation Warm with local volunteers sorting and distributing to those in need throughout the region.

"Though today's event was held in Fairfax County we were able to also help schools in Alexandria City, Prince George's County, and a few groups in Prince William County," Bailey said. "It takes a village to raise a child and today the village showed up in full force."

An additional 1,000 coats will be distributed Saturday, Oct. 30, at

Charles Houston Recreation Center.

"We will be partnering with the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority to put on another coat distribution for the local children and families," Bailey said. "Along with the coat giveaway we will also have free books and other fun activities for the kids."

Due to the scope of the distribution at Fire Station 11, only adult representatives were on hand to collect coats for area schools and nonprofits, something Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck said he missed.

"It's a sad thing for us this year and last year that we don't have the kids coming through to see them try on the coats," said Storck, who was a volunteer at the event. "That gives all of us a chance to connect with them and really see the joy and the excitement in their eyes when they try on that coat and find the color that they want. We have to do that vicariously this year."

Sponsors of the coat drive include: Operation Warm; Fairfax

County Fire & Rescue Department; Ken & Kelly Savittiere Family Fund; Apple Federal Credit Union; Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax; Fire & Rescue Retirement Asso.; Local 2068; Medocracy, Inc.; PRO-MAX Management, Inc; Nationwide Credit Corporation; Fairfax County Police Department; SEIU-512; Communities of Trust; Primo Family Restaurant

"People may not realize it but this has been going on for decades and we are very thankful," Storck said. "It's not just coats. It's the backpacks and the holiday gifts -- they do it all for those most in need in our community."

The pandemic has fueled the need for more financial support, something Bailey hopes will come from the Alexandria community.

"A huge shout out to the nonprofit Operation Warm but as the number of families and children in need continues to grow, we need more to sustain this effort," Bailey said. "As always, teamwork makes the dream work and we need more people to join our team to keep kids warm each winter."

To donate, visit <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/operation-warm-inc/join-firefighter-friends-to-the-rescue-and-fairfax-county-fire-rescue-department-to-give-coats-to-kids-in-need>

### Election Special Edition

For this special Election edition, the Alexandria Gazette Packet is providing new stories and reprinting key election coverage. See pages 3-10.

# A Cornucopia of Alexandria Sales

Kate Patterson is proud to present a variety of homes sold this year in Alexandria, ranging from a traditional historic home on fabled Gentry Row to a state-of-the-art contemporary New York loft-style townhouse near Patent and Trade to an outstanding example of a true Southwestern-style home located in the heart of Alexandria, close to great schools and the Farmer's Market in Del Ray. What a fascinating year this has been, and it's not over yet! Stay tuned for more fabulous houses and don't miss the ones listed below!



## SOLD

211 Prince Street | Gentry Row  
Offered at \$2,300,000  
Exquisite Historic Home



## REPRESENTED BUYER

104 Queen Street | Old Town  
Offered at \$1,649,000  
Steps to the River



## SOLD AT LIST PRICE

408 Jackson Place | Jefferson Park  
Offered at \$1,300,000  
Fabulous Southwestern Style



## SOLD OVER LIST PRICE

501 Quaker Lane | Malvern Hills  
Offered at \$1,050,000  
Classic Center Hall



## REPRESENTED BUYER

2805 Eisenhower Avenue | Alexandria  
Offered at \$995,000  
Stunning Contemporary

## Current Offerings



**1011 N Washington Street | Liberty Row**  
**Offered at \$2,595,000**

Stunning, free-standing, 5,000+ SF, five-bedroom home with two-car garage, gourmet kitchen, and fabulous wine cellar!



**609 Oakley Place | Eddington Terrace**  
**Offered at \$1,795,000**

Striking center-hall colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac with two-car garage, elegant two-story entry, five bedrooms, and in-law and nanny suites!



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# Virginia at a Crossroads

Voters to determine direction of state government.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Two years ago, Democrats seized control of the General Assembly for the first time in a generation. Now Republicans are hoping this is their moment to “Take Back Virginia,” the name of a recent rally in support of the GOP statewide ticket that featured a call-in appearance from former President Donald Trump, who used the opportunity to repeat baseless claims about widespread election fraud.

Ultimately, the decision about all 100 seats in the House of Delegates and all three statewide offices will be in the hands of voters on Tuesday, Nov. 2, and it’s a decision that is likely to be driven by turnout.

Republicans do well in Virginia when turnout is low. The last time Republicans won statewide election back in 2009, turnout was only 40 percent. Democrats, on the other hand, tend to do well when turnout is high. When Democrat Ralph Northam beat Republican Ed Gillespie four years ago, voters set records for participation in an odd-year election that had 48 percent turnout. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe beat Republican Ken Cuccinelli with 43 percent of the vote, although his margin of victory was significantly smaller.

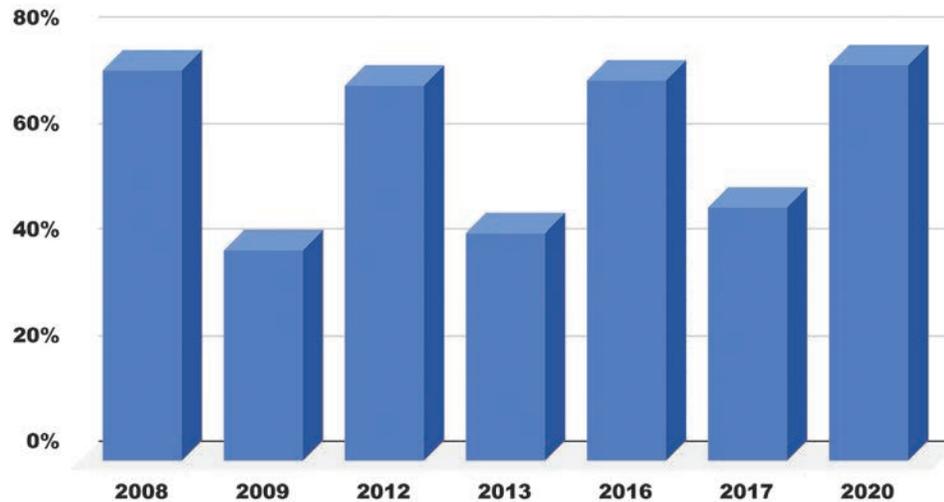
McAuliffe is attempting to do something very rare in Virginia politics: return to the Executive Mansion. Virginia is the only state in the country to have a four-year term limit, a constitutional prohibition on governors running for reelection. Only one former governor has ever been elected twice: Mills Godwin, who ran as an old-school Democrat in the 1960s and then as a Southern Strategy Republican in the 1970s. Back in the 19th century, William “Extra Billy” Smith also had two nonconsecutive terms, once appointed to the job before the Civil War and then a second term elected by voters during the war.

Now McAuliffe is hoping to pull off a similar trick, returning for a second term as governor in a Virginia that has seen a massive shift since he left office in 2018.

“Now you have a Democratic controlled legislature,” said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government. “And the Democratic Party has moved to the move progressive side of the political spectrum.”

His opponent in the race is Republican

## Turnout in Virginia Elections



**Glenn Youngkin**  
Republican candidate for governor  
raised: \$7.7 million

top contributors  
\$6 million from the Republican Governors Association  
\$250,000 from Thomas Saunders III of Saunders Karp & Co  
\$225,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond  
\$210,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.  
\$200,000 from Walter Curt of Power Monitors Inc.



**Terry McAuliffe**  
Democratic candidate for governor  
raised: \$44.5 million

top contributors  
\$5.6 million from DGA Action  
\$750,000 from Mid-Atlantic Laborers’ Political Education Fund  
\$600,000 from AFSCME  
\$500,000 from Priorities USA  
\$500,000 from Virginia League of Conservation Voters



**Princess Blanding**  
Liberation Party candidate running for governor  
raised: \$30,000

top contributors  
\$8,000 from Realtor Chrischa Ives of Sandbridge Realty  
\$1,100 from Charles Peters of Water View, Va.  
\$1,050 from Anthony Castellano of Angus Dentistry  
\$1,050 from Landon Shroder of Virginia Commonwealth University  
\$1,000 from Matt Smith of MSE Properties in Henrico



**Winsome Sears**  
Republican candidate for lieutenant governor  
raised: \$2 million

top contributors  
\$125,000 from the Republican State Leadership Committee  
\$32,500 from Black America’s PAC  
\$25,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.  
\$25,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond  
\$25,000 from the Virginia Citizens Defense League



**Jason Miyares**  
Republican candidate for attorney general  
raised: \$3.3 million

top contributors  
\$500,000 from the Republican Attorneys General Association  
\$105,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.  
\$100,000 from Dominion Energy  
\$94,500 from Miyares for Delegate  
\$55,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond



**Hala Ayala**  
Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor  
raised: \$4 million

top contributors  
\$250,000 from the Democratic Lieutenant Governors Association  
\$200,000 from Everytown for Gun Safety  
\$165,000 from Dominion Energy  
\$160,000 from Emily’s List  
\$150,000 from Planned Parenthood



**Mark Herring**  
Democratic candidate for attorney general  
raised: \$6.3 million

top contributors  
\$1 million from the Democratic Attorney Generals Association  
\$200,000 from Everytown for Gun Safety  
\$110,000 from Ronald Abramson of Buchanan Ingersoll  
\$100,000 from Planned Parenthood Action Fund  
\$100,000 from SEIU Committee on Political Education

Glenn Youngkin, a private equity executive who is a former CEO of the Carlyle Group. On the campaign trail, he’s repeatedly refused to take a position on the assault weapons ban or the ultrasound requirement. When a

reporter for the Associated Press started asking about Youngkin’s policy positions in a recent interview, his campaign aides abruptly cut off the interview. So voters are heading into Election Day without much detail about

what he would do if elected.

“The problem is he’s running against a guy who is a former governor who knows the policy issues inside and out in many ways, who’s taken very clear positions on a lot of policy issues,” said Quentin Kidd, dean of the College of Social Sciences at Christopher Newport University. “The contrast is a liability for Youngkin.”

The final days of the campaign have seen McAuliffe trying to emphasize Trump, and Youngkin trying to capitalize on the culture war over schools. Trump once again endorsed Youngkin at that “Take Back Virginia” rally in Glen Allen, which featured a Pledge of Allegiance to a flag carried at the Jan. 6 insurrection. The Youngkin campaign is trying to walk a tightrope of appealing to the MAGA crowd while also not alienating suburban voters they’ll need to win. While Democrats campaigned with President Joe Biden, former President Barack Obama and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Republican ticket has taken a different approach.

“It could be that Youngkin doesn’t feel like his election is in much trouble,” said Jatin Wrihten, political science professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. “He feels pretty confident and comfortable with this backing of Trump as enough to put him over the finish line.”

While McAuliffe has been spending millions of dollars on TV ads tying Youngkin to Trump, the Youngkin campaign has been trying to ride the wave of outrage over controversies surrounding public education. Many parents are angry about what they call “critical race theory” being taught in Virginia classrooms, even though it’s a law school concept that is not taught in Virginia classrooms.

Youngkin says he’ll ban the law school theory from ever being taught in public school classrooms. He also criticized McAuliffe for vetoing a bill inspired by parents who were upset that Toni Morrison’s Pulitzer-prize winning book “Beloved” was being taught in Fairfax County schools.

“Surveys demonstrate a pretty high level of support for performance of the school boards in the covid crisis at least,” said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media

Studies at the University of Mary Washington. “That suggests that this really is more about activating the base rather than reaching to moderate voters not engaged otherwise in the gubernatorial campaign.”

# House Seat Shuffle

## Former CIA branch chief J.D. Maddox to face Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

In Richmond, the 45th House District is known as a cursed seat because of its dizzying turnover. After the retirement of longtime Del. Marian Van Landingham (D-45) in 2006, the district has blazed through three delegates in rapid succession. Now the seat is open once again after the incumbent, former radio talk show host Mark Levine, lost the primary when his name appeared on the ballot twice because he was trying to simultaneously win reelection to the House while also snagging the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor.

He lost both elections, and now the seat representing Old Town and Del Ray is open yet again.

The Democrat in the race is Alexandria Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, who burst onto the scene three years ago and seized the top spot on City Council as vice mayor by receiving more votes than any other candidate, including veteran council members who have been around for years.

The Republican in the race is former CIA branch chief J. D. Maddox, who is trying to frame his campaign as an alternative to the hyper-partisanship in the modern political landscape. Maddox will be facing an extreme partisan dis-

advantage of running in a district where the Democrat usually wins with 75 to 80 percent of the vote.

"It's always tough to recruit candidates for one-sided districts where the outcome is just about a certainty," said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. "The good news is that David can sometimes beat Goliath. The bad news is that it may take something really out of the ordinary, like the discovery of a freezer filled with cash, to dislodge a dominant party in a one-sided district."

**J.D. MADDOX** was born on base at Fort Belvoir, the son of an Army officer. He has a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., and a master's degree in security studies from Georgetown University. Professionally, he has about 25 years of experience in the federal government including more than a decade as a CIA branch chief, focused on counter-terrorism activities as well as influence and disinformation. He has lived in Old Town since 2002, and he votes at the



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker



J.D. Maddox

Lyles-Crouch precinct.

"There are a lot of us who really feel like if we don't get involved now, we are letting things go much farther than they ever should have gone in terms of the hyper-partisanship that we're experiencing," said Maddox. "I'm trying to take what I think are my own values and objective assessments of the environment and objective assessments of policy issues and trying to initiate discussion about that, and the political party side to me is really secondary to everything else."

If elected, Maddox says he wants to create a program that provides four years of public higher education in Virginia for any qualified student who signs up for service in a skilled service role in Virginia. He says he would fight for more money to pay for infrastructure in Alexandria, adding that he believes the actual cost of fixing the sewer in Alexandria will end up being about twice as much as the current estimate of \$500 million. He also says he wants the General Assembly to limit how much local governments can tax residential property taxpayers, creating a cap of 1 percent.

The current residential real-estate tax rate in Alexandria is \$1.11 for every \$100 of assessed value. City officials estimate that if Maddox's cap was in place this year, the city would have about \$47 million less revenue in the current budget.

"One of the primary purposes of the cap is to ensure that people are not pushed out of their homes because they can no longer afford the taxes," said Maddox. "I know from speaking to people door-knocking and elsewhere that it's African Americans and other people of color who appear to be having the worst trouble with affordability of their current homes."

If elected, Maddox says, he would oppose requiring businesses to offer five paid sick days a year. He would also oppose a ban on assault weapons, a bill that Levine introduced but was ultimately unsuccessful. Maddox says he opposes efforts to create limits to campaign contributions, and he says he agrees in principle with eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes although he's worried about how it would be implemented. When asked about re-instating the requirement that a person have an ultrasound before getting an abortion, he said he had no opinion on that. He also says he would support legislation requiring school divisions to have school resource officers, and he opposes ef-

orts to ditch the Electoral College by joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

"Socrates died because of direct democracy," he said. "I appreciate the emotion behind trying to create a direct democratic vote, but I want to be consistent with the Constitution."

### ELIZABETH BENNETT-PARKER

is a native of Alexandria, she was born into a military family that moved frequently during her childhood. She has a bachelor's degree in history from Cornell University, and a master's degree in the anthropology of food from the University of London. She emerged on the scene three years ago during her first campaign for office. Although she was a first-time candidate, she received more votes than any other Alexandria City Council candidate — a distinction that landed her the title of vice mayor. In 2014, she founded a social enterprise known as Fruitycycle to fight food waste and hunger. That organization later merged with the nonprofit organization Together We Bake, which provides workforce training and personal development to women in need. She votes at the Naomi Brooks School, which was formerly known as the Maury Precinct.

"My mom always taught me if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem," said

SEE HOUSE SEAT, PAGE 14

# Mayor Faces Republican Challenger

## Republican Annetta Catchings challenges incumbent Democrat Justin Wilson for mayor.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The race for mayor comes down to a simple question: Are Alexandria voters happy with the direction of the city or not?

Republicans are hoping that problems with flooding and worries about development and crime will prompt voters to fire freshman Mayor Justin Wilson, who is seeking a second term in office after being elected in 2018. Wilson acknowledges that leading the city through a pandemic has been rough, but he says the city is poised to come out of the experience stronger.

"I'm running for reelection because I believe investing in our kids, investing in our basic infrastructure and growing our local economy to support the services the residents expect and demand, we can make sure Alexandria doesn't just survive this pandemic, but actually thrives," said Wilson.

In June, Wilson beat back a challenge from former Mayor Allison Silberberg in the Democratic primary. She tried to paint Wilson as someone who didn't listen to concerns from

### Top Donors to Justin Wilson

- ❖ \$10,000 from Nova Area Labor Federation
- ❖ \$5,500 from Alexandria Toyota
- ❖ \$5,000 from Kirkland & Ellis attorney Reginald James Brown
- ❖ \$5,000 from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- ❖ \$5,000 from H. Jon Rosenbaum



Justin Wilson (D)

residents about overdevelopment and bike lanes. Silberberg lost the Democratic primary, getting 42 percent of the vote.

Now Wilson is facing Republican Annetta Catchings, whose campaign includes a similar critique of the mayor as someone who ignores concerns raised by residents over everything from development and crime to stream restoration and guaranteed basic income.

Catchings says Alexandria is burdened by overdevelopment and crime. She says the city is not moving fast enough to give police officers body cameras, and she's been critical

### Top Donors to Annetta Catchings

- ❖ \$2,500 from Roger Williams for U.S. House of Representatives PAC in Fort Worth, Texas
- ❖ \$2,200 from Kye Lee-Abboushi
- ❖ \$1,500 from Linda App
- ❖ \$1,000 from the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club
- ❖ \$650 from Louis Harold Miller



Annetta Catchings (R)

of Alexandria's new pilot program for guaranteed income as a frivolous use of taxpayer money.

During a debate this week, her response to a question about preventing opioid overdoses from fentanyl sparked an exchange that revealed a wide gap in how the candidates would approach the job of mayor.

"We know why we're seeing an influx. It's borders that are porous, basically open," said Catchings. "Those drugs are coming through from that direction. They're coming from China."

Catchings said the problem of illegal

drugs in Alexandria should be "addressed at the border" to "reduce the drugs that are on our streets."

Wilson responded that the idea that border policy has an impact on opioid abuse is "not only inaccurate and ignorant" but also "incredibly hateful." Catchings stood by the comment, aligning it with a central theme in her campaign.

"I think the viewers know that there are drugs that are coming through the border," said Catchings. "He's turning a blind eye, just like he turns a blind eye to flooding and

SEE MAYOR, PAGE 14

# Two Independents, One Republican Face Six Democrats

Voters will have six votes for six seats.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Back in May 2009, an independent and a Republican were able to knock off two incumbent members of the Alexandria City Council in an extremely low turnout election where only 12 percent of voters showed up to the polls. A few weeks later, the lame duck council ditched the idea of having May elections in favor of moving the election to November, when turnout is much larger and Democrats tend to perform better. The first year that City Council was elected in the fall was November 2012, when turnout was 71 percent and Democrats ousted independent Alicia Hughes and Republican Frank Fannon.

"I can beat Del Pepper," said Fannon of his 2012 reelection campaign. "But I can't beat Barack Obama."

This year marks a coda to that election. One of the Democrats who was ousted in 2009 and returned to the City Council in 2012 was Justin Wilson, who is now running for his second term as mayor. Pepper is retiring for council after an unprecedented 12 terms. The Virginia General Assembly recently passed a bill that ends all May elections, moving all existing 115 May elections to November whether voters in those jurisdictions want it or not. Earlier this year, voters cast ballots in the last ever Virginia elections to be held in May in Vienna, Berryville, New Market and Abingdon. Now all local elections will correspond to other state and federal elections.

"The effect of this would certainly be to lock down the Democratic majority," said Chris Marston, chairman of the Alexandria City Republican Committee in 2009. "It would make it difficult for any candidate that wasn't in lockstep with the top of the ticket."

Until 2012, Alexandria held separate elections for local offices dating back to the 18th century. Some of the earliest city re-



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

oters in Alexandria chose City Council members in May or June until 2012.

ords from the 1750s show that municipal elections were held in February. By the early 1800s, they were moved to the second Tuesday in March. After the Civil War, they were scheduled for the second Tuesday in June. From 1973 to 2009, local campaigns were held in May. This year's election will be only the fifth time Alexandria has selected City Council members in the fall.

Voters are considering six Democrats running against two incumbents and a Republican. Republican Darryl Nirenberg and independent Florence King are campaigning in favor of school-resource officers in schools and creating a ward system in Alexandria. Independent candidate Gail Parker is campaigning on a platform of expanding rail service throughout Alexandria and the region.

"For candidates willing to take a chance, there can be a longer-term payoff," said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at Christopher Newport University. "Candidates who lose a race they are expected to lose can still end up with a job in a gubernatorial or presidential administration, so defeats can turn into wins for one's career down the road."



**Kirk McPike**

Democratic candidate for City Council

raised: \$127,000

top contributors:

\$5,500 from Reginald James Brown of Kirkland & Ellis

\$5,000 from Cragg Hines of Arlington

\$5,000 Nova Area Labor Federation

\$2,750 from Jeffrey Dalton of McKinney, Texas

\$2,545 from candidate Kirk McPike



**Alyia Gaskin**

Democratic candidate for City Council

raised: \$104,000

top contributors:

\$5,500 from Reginald James Brown of Kirkland & Ellis

\$5,000 from Nova Area Labor Federation

\$2,500 from Richard Edson of AHD Ventures LLC

\$2,000 from Jabaal Sheard of the New York Giants

\$1,500 from United Auto Workers of Fredericksburg

SEE COUNCIL NUMBERS, PAGE 10

REELECT DEMOCRAT

# AMY JACKSON

Alexandria City Council

ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 2.

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Bridget Shea Westfall is a committed ACPS parent, proud public servant and social worker who has dedicated her career to helping others. She advises nonprofits, states & Tribes on how to skillfully manage human service organizations, including fiscal management, policy & governance, and managing organizational leadership. Bridget will act in the best interest of our students & public school system.

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# Meet the Candidates

15 vying in School Board election; only three incumbents seeking re-election.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Following a year of controversy surrounding remote learning and the role of School Resource Officers, the upcoming election of School Board representatives has taken on a new urgency. Fifteen candidates are vying for nine seats. Only three members of the current School Board are running for reelection: Meagan Alderton, Jacinta Greene and Michelle Rief. Three from each District will be elected to a three-year term. Voters within each district will vote for three candidates from that district. In district C, for example, all three candidates will serve on the school board.

Following are the candidates' answers in their own words. Responses have been edited for space and clarity.

## DISTRICT A

### Willie Bailey DISTRICT A

Bailey was raised in public housing and educated in the ACPS system. A single dad, he served on City Council from 2015-2018. He is a 21-year Army veteran and currently Deputy Fire Chief with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue.



Willie Bailey

#### Why are you running for School Board?

I'm running for school board to ensure we do what's right for our kids. I devote much of my time to combating educational barriers such as poverty and homelessness. Through my non-profit Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, I organize a coalition of volunteers and non-profits to support children in need each year. As a father, firefighter, veteran, and former city council member, I know that I can be the strong voice for all of our students, parents, educators, and staff.

#### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

Trained Student Resource Officers currently play an important role in mediating conflicts and helping ensure our students receive their education in a safe environment. In the brief time that SROs were gone this year, we saw physical altercations between students, individuals bringing guns onto campuses, and other events that endangered our children and resulted in the police being called anyway. If more funds were added for mental counseling and support I'd advocate for taking a cautious, data driven approach to evaluating if SROs were no longer needed.

#### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

COVID-19, the variants, and downstream impacts for students, parents, and educators is the greatest challenge ACPS is facing today. I will also work tirelessly to expand access to early education, develop mentorship programs, and close the achievement gap so that everyone can succeed.

#### If elected, what will be your top priority?

My top priority will be ensuring that we safely navigate COVID-19, the variants, and any

downstream impacts. I'll prioritize addressing capacity issues to ensure our facilities keep pace with our growing student body and also fight to ensure our teachers and staff receive fair compensation.

#### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

I believe that parents, as voters, have the ultimate say in critical decisions like vaccine mandates, SROs, and curriculum - that's why this election is so important since the leaders put in place on the school board and at the state level will make these critical decisions. I also believe there should be greater transparency and communication between the school board and members of the community on an ongoing basis so that parents' voices continue to be heard after Election Day.

### Aloysius "Ish" Boyle DISTRICT A

Married to a Fairfax County public school teacher, Ish Boyle is the father of two ACPS students. He currently works in cybersecurity after serving seven years in the U.S. Marine Corps.



Aloysius "Ish" Boyle

#### Why are you running for School Board?

Running for school board presents an opportunity to help invest in and impact Alexandrians who will be the leaders of our tomorrow. As a father of two ACPS students, I care deeply about the quality of education in our public schools and the opportunity for all of our students to achieve and maximize their potential.

#### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

I stand with our principals, administrators, and teachers who have made it abundantly clear that they rely on SROs for their support and specialized skills. Multiple weapons have been brought onto school property this year to include a loaded firearm, and there have been widely reported violent fights on and around school property. Some city council candidates minimize this by saying, "Well, there have always been fights." When do we progress beyond the status quo? We need to provide an atmosphere where our students and teachers are safe and can do their best.

#### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

The biggest challenge facing ACPS is lack of leadership, accountability, and transparent communications from ACPS Central Office. This has manifested itself in myriad ways over the last 18 months; from not having a phased approach to back-to-school learning, the introduction of political agendas into our schools, the poor planning and communication in going back to school this fall, and prematurely pulling forward the Superintendent's contract for a three-year renewal. Without accountability, an organization, teacher, or student may never achieve their potential. I am committed to protecting our children's education and future and believe that there is more that unites us than divides us.

#### If elected, what will be your top priority?

Creating a culture of excellence in our schools will be my top priority. This starts with

providing safe schools where every student can achieve their potential and teachers can differentiate to optimize all the gifts and talents of each learner. At the grade school and middle school level, it is highly concerning that pre-pandemic, 40 percent of ACPS children weren't reading at grade level. Post pandemic, those numbers range between 55 - 75 percent pending demographics. We need to enable teachers and classes for differentiation to meet our students' needs. ACPS should provide rigorous and engaging courses for all learners.

#### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

Parents know what is best for their children. They should receive timely and transparent communications from their children's schools and have complete and easy access to the curriculum, as well as authority and informed consent on medical decisions. To date, the voices of taxpayers, parents (as well as teachers, administrators, and principals) haven't been heard due to feckless leadership, unions, and special interests. This needs to change. A strong school system values an active and collaborative role from parents in decisions related to their children's education.

### Jacinta Greene DISTRICT A

Greene is an independent marketing consultant and meeting planner. She was elected to the School Board in 2018 and is an advocate for disadvantaged women and children.



Jacinta Greene

#### Why are you running for School Board?

I believe that a community is only as strong as its public schools. All students deserve a quality education. Also, I believe, especially in light of the challenges of the past few years, our schools, our teachers, and our students need consistency and strong leadership to not only recover, but also excel moving forward. I am running for reelection because we need school board members who are ready to work on day one and continue the progress we have made.

#### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

I believe, from the bottom of my heart, that the safety of our students and schools is of the utmost importance but also that we can keep our schools safe without a police presence. There are too many unintended consequences to having SROs in schools. I disagree with the manner in which SROs were removed from our schools. As a part of the school board's review of the SRO program in 2020, we moved to require data reporting and transparency. It was our hope that we could gather the necessary information to make an informed decision about the program during our next review in 2022.

#### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

I believe the academic achievement gap, particularly amongst our black and brown students, who make up 60 percent of our student body. Access to resources drives the achievement gap among black and brown students. We need to do a better job of making sure students across ACPS have access to the resources they need to succeed. This means making sure students and their families are aware of the re-

sources, the processes to access those resources are publicized, transparent, and fair, and additional accommodations are made available, including language services and other necessary help to access the services and resources.

#### If elected, what will be your top priority?

My top priority if I am reelected is closing the academic achievement gap. It is clear that if we do not tackle this issue head on problems will persist for these students and the community at large

#### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

I believe that communities are only as strong as their public schools and schools are only as strong as their community. That is why I championed the inclusion of new digital communication tools in our strategic plan. We need to make sure all members of the community, especially those from underrepresented groups and communities, are aware of the opportunity to participate in the process.

### Deanne Ohlandt DISTRICT A

Ohlandt works as a freelance editor for academic articles. She previously worked as an arts teacher and a special education aide and is the parent of three ACPS students.



Deanna Ohlandt

#### Why are you running for School Board?

The plans and decisions being made now will shape ACPS for years to come. As an educator and an ACPS parent, I want to be part of those conversations, to advocate for equitable and creative approaches to giving all students an excellent education.

#### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

My concern is how to best create a school environment where everyone feels safe. It is clear from the conversations that have arisen recently that some people did not feel safe in the school buildings in the way that the SRO program was operating. It is just as clear from these conversations that some people do not feel safe without SROs in the building. We urgently need to seek alternatives to the SRO system as it has operated previously, listening thoughtfully to a diverse range of voices.

#### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

The challenges of the ongoing COVID pandemic have disrupted our children's schooling for the third academic year in a row and exposed our failing facilities and the precariousness of our ability to hire and retain staff. ACPS has been recognized as the most diverse school division in Virginia and the #12 most diverse school system in the country, which is a wonderful label for us to celebrate, but also highlights how challenging it is for us to ensure equitable access to resources and support for all our students and families coming from such a wide range of backgrounds and needing a wide range of supports to achieve their full potential.

#### If elected, what will be your top priority?

Achs is the largest high school in Virginia. However, research shows that in very large

SEE MEET THE CANDIDATES, PAGE 7

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# MEET THE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

## Meet the Candidates

FROM PAGE 6

high schools some students “fall through the cracks” because it is harder for peers, teachers, and staff to know each student as an individual. I want to see some structural mechanisms that help to ensure every student has adults in the school who know them individually and can provide academic, career, and social support.

### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

For system-wide decisions, ACPS parents and families should have the same input that any concerned and informed citizen of Alexandria can have into the policy-making work of the school board. I am a parent of three kids currently enrolled at ACPS and I will listen to other ACPS families and seek out those who are not as active as others in the public conversations.

### Michelle Rief DISTRICT A

Rief is a first-term member of the School Board. She is a former college professor and education nonprofit executive and parent of three ACPS students.



Michelle Reif

### Why are you running for School Board?

I'm running for re-election to the Alexandria School Board because I believe that every young person in our city deserves a great education. I also believe that strong public schools are essential to thriving communities.

### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

I believe that we can have safe schools without police officers stationed full-time in our buildings. The removal of SROs has been a divisive issue in our community and I believe a deeper conversation about safety in our schools is warranted. I support additional funding for counseling, trauma-informed care and restorative practices.

### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

The biggest challenge facing ACPS is continuing to manage the impact of COVID-19 on our school division. Administrators are collaborating with the health department on contact tracing efforts and working to provide quality instruction for quarantined students. Also, retaining high-quality professionals and support staff is essential for the advancement of our school division.

### If elected, what will be your top priority?

My top priority is promoting the academic achievement and wellness of each and every student in Alexandria City Public Schools.

### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

As a School Board member, I value parent input, as well as the professional expertise of educators and public health experts. I rely on this input, local data and evidenced-based best practices to inform my decisions.

### DISTRICT B

### Deborah Jean Ash

### DISTRICT B

Ash is recently retired from the Foreign Ser-

vice arm of the State Department and has a granddaughter who attends ACHS.

### Why are you running for School Board?

I am running for School Board in District B because our academic programs in Alexandria need improvement and prioritization. Some schools only recently received accreditation – a minimal level of success in one of the most highly-educated geographical areas in the nation. We must focus on the academic success of our students, not on divisive social agendas that serve to take us backward instead of forward.

### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

I absolutely support SROs in schools. In the past they developed strong mentoring relationships with students and maintained a safe environment. If additional funds are added to ACPS budget, I support hiring qualified mental health counselors to support students and staff and work alongside the SROs. Combining SROs on school properties to deal with mental health professionals will provide an environment where everyone can progress and prosper.

### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

In other surveys I said equality for all rather than equity for all. I will adapt that to say, education excellence for all. We also need to move past COVID and all the changes and challenges



Deborah Jean Ash

it brought to our lives.

### If elected, what will be your top priority?

The focus should be on making the learning environment safe and conducive to bringing out the best of each students' abilities and helping them to achieve their desired goals. All children, regardless of race, ethnicity or economic status, must learn reading, writing, math, science, how to balance a checkbook, American history, the Constitution and Civics, and many other basic subjects to shape them into educated, productive, and contributing citizens of the United States.

### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

Parents are the natural and God-given authority in their children's lives to make decisions regarding their health and wellbeing. The mandatory vaccines for staff and student athletes was a poor decision taken by the school board last month. A school board is not a medical authority. Additionally, parents must have input into the curriculum being taught to their children.

### Kelly Carmichael Booz DISTRICT B

Booz, the parent of two ACPS students, served on the School Board from 2013-2015. She is married to a Fairfax County public school teacher and works for the American Federation of Teachers.

### Why are you running for School Board?

With our schools open full-time, we must work to ensure long-term learning and so-  
SEE MEET THE CANDIDATES, PAGE 8

## 4 PILLARS OF PERFORMANCE

### ✓ Infrastructure

- Prioritize flood prevention, mitigation, and restoration
- Restore pre-road diet traffic patterns where appropriate

### ✓ Education

- Involve organizations as well as our faith-based community to assist with youth outreach and tutoring
- Focus on academics while offering more workforce development, raise SOL scores and provide more online classes to our kids.
- Support school choice

### ✓ Safety

- Restore SROs to schools for student safety and mentoring, and prohibit co-location of housing on school grounds.
- Support salary increases for our first responders, and fund body cameras for police.

### ✓ Representation

- Support efforts to elect officials by neighborhood wards and give the residents a direct link to their council member.
- Ensure that "stakeholder group input" prioritizes Alexandria residents.

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# MEET THE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

## Meet the Candidates

FROM PAGE 7

cial-emotional recovery from the impact of COVID-19. When I previously served on the Alexandria School Board in 2013-2015, seven of us on the nine-member body were brand new to the board. Given the critical time we are in with school reopening, learning recovery, and other important issues impacting Alexandria, experience counts as we map the future.



Kelly Carmichael Booz

equitable access to programs and services and to be an active voice for all students.

**Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?**

I 100 percent support SROs in schools. As a 30-year educator, I have seen firsthand the positive impact of the SROs in schools and the positive relationships they form. Much of what we have seen on social media on these issues is the conflation of our local community and a larger national conversation. We have to do what is right for our community and I firmly believe SROs are a layer of support our schools need for safety. I also fully support more funding and resources for mental health. It is needed now more than ever. We value both and we can do both.

**What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?**

I would say our biggest challenge today is helping our schools support our students as they are displaying more and more unsafe behaviors. Our students have returned to school after 18 months in a virtual learning setting and they have come back with many issues that we have to help them with. We have to take time to pause, stop what we are doing, and establish connections before being able to teach content.

**If elected, what will be your top priority?**

My top priority is and has always been the safety of our students and staff. I want to ensure that our staff can come to work ready to teach and our students ready to learn, without worrying about the next incident that could happen. I would never advocate for eliminating safety measures for mental health measures, or vice-versa. Both of these areas need to be supported and funded.

**What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?**

I think that parent input and feedback is critical. They are part of the customer base and their views are very important. That said, I believe that leaders make decisions after hearing from and consulting parents but not everyone can or will be happy with those decisions. Our teachers are the experts and they are involved in writing the curriculum in our schools. Ultimately I would say decisions would be made by the leaders after feedback is sought.

**Free Ann Johnson  
DISTRICT B**

Johnson had a 36-year career with Alexandria Public Schools before her recent retirement as Principal of Polk Elementary School.



Free Ann Johnson

**Why are you running for School Board?**

Working with the staff, students and families in ACPS has been my lifelong career. I have experience, historical knowledge and expertise in Alexandria that makes me a good candidate for school board.



Tammy Ignacio

**Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?**

I have been actively involved in efforts to return the SROs to our schools. As a school administrator I have worked with SROs and believe that their role has been misunderstood. As newly elected board members, we will be charged with presenting data as it relates to the impact of SROs and SSOs. We will need to explore options that support relationship building, de-escalation training and increasing mental health supports in ways that result in a decrease in dangerous behaviors.

**What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?**

The most important issue is the physical and mental health of students, teachers, and families. Having the kids in school is definitely the right choice; however with the variants and the lack of a vaccine for younger children, we still have to be vigilant about the health and safety of the school community.

**If elected, what will be your top priority?**

Implementing a whole child approach to education in which children not only develop academic skills, but also the social-emotional, physical, and other cognitive skills. Also, issues of equity and creating environments that are inclusive in which every child and family feels welcome, respected and valued in their school community. We must ensure that our K-12 curriculum is preparing students for their impending future and give students the critical thinking and practical skills that guarantee their success.

**What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?**

It is important that we listen to and understand the perspective of our parents in every single issue that is facing the schools. However, as we have seen over the past year or so, there will always be a variety of viewpoints in all areas including mandates, SROs, and approaches to teaching and learning. It therefore becomes the responsibility of school boards and school leadership to listen, gather data and research the best options for the community at large.

**Ricardo Roberts  
DISTRICT B**

Roberts is an experienced educator, administrator, coach and ACPS parent. He is a frequent participant at ACPS board meetings.



Ricardo Roberts

**Why are you running for School Board?**

I am running in hopes of restoring trust in the leadership of ACPS. I know that sometimes speaking the truth has made me unpopular, but I'm not concerned about being liked. I am concerned about doing the work that needs to be done to improve our city's school system and provide all of our students with the in-person and/or virtual learning experience they need to learn, be successful, and be prepared for their future endeavors. I am ready to take action to address problems head on and put solutions in place.

**Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?**

I wholeheartedly support the SRO program. I also believe that a more thorough resolution for keeping our schools safe should include

purchasing metal detectors for the entrances of all secondary school campuses. Metal detectors are unbiased and will not profile a student because they are a member of a particular ethnic group or because they dress a certain way. It will simply be an objective safety measure. I also believe that time-stamped video cameras be installed in each classroom both as a deterrent and to document any incidents that take place so that victims are not being punished because of the zero tolerance policies that result in consequences even for individuals who are simply protecting themselves. It is still vital to add funds to provide additional mental health counseling and support. The students themselves need more input on the types of programs that would be most beneficial for them; if they don't buy into it, then we won't be able to reach the students who need it most.

**What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?**

The biggest challenge facing ACPS is the lack of trust that so many different groups - from students to parents to educators - have in the system to tell the truth even when the answer will not be well-received.

**If elected, what will be your top priority?**

My top priority will be to focus on fixing the broken relationship between ACPS, the superintendent, ACPS leadership, City Council and all stakeholders (students, parents, advocates). This can only be accomplished by being transparent and providing truthful answers to questions and timely solutions to concerns. Right now, parents and other stakeholders are simply being ignored. It is infuriating to be talked down to and treated as if you are either ignorant or incapable of understanding the complexities of the issues that our school system is facing. Fights and bullying in our schools have been well documented, but not always particularly well addressed. Some of our children don't believe that they are safe and when you don't feel safe, you cannot possibly be expected to learn.

**What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?**

Parent and student input is essential in all decisions and proposals offered by ACPS, the superintendent, and/or individual school leadership. If ACPS wants parents to be partners in their children's education, then that means parent voices need to be heard and respected. We also need to provide students with a more powerful voice in shaping their educational experience. Students learn best when they have a say in what they are learning and understand why it is beneficial to them.

**Ashley Simpson Baird  
DISTRICT B**

Baird, a mother of three, is a former teacher, administrator, teacher trainer, researcher and ACPS parent.



Ashley Simpson Baird

**Why are you running for School Board?**

Running for School Board is something that I have wanted to do ever since I was a teacher. I left the classroom 10 years ago to complete my Ph.D. because I wanted to have a greater impact on public education. I have more than 20 years of experience improving public education

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**Tammy Ignacio  
DISTRICT B**

Ignacio is recently retired following an extensive 30-year career in ACPS as both an educator and administrator. Her most recent position was as Lead Administrator for Special Instruction at Alexandria City High School.

**Why are you running for School Board?**

I want all our students, families, and community to thrive in ACPS as much as my children and I have. I want to ensure all students have

## Meet the Candidates

FROM PAGE 8

and I bring multiple perspectives to making decisions that would impact our schools.

### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

The question we need to be asking is how do we ensure that our schools are emotionally and physically safe for all students and staff. I feel strongly that Council should not unilaterally be making further decisions about future plans for school safety. That conversation has to happen with ACPS and in particular with the students and staff who are directly impacted by this on a daily basis. There are workable solutions that may include retaining SROs in a reformed program, but these solutions should be rooted in the perspectives of those directly impacted by SROs in schools.

### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

ACPS has experienced long-standing disparities in educational outcomes that largely fall along racial and socioeconomic lines. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these inequities. There is much to be gleaned from other school districts that have effectively closed opportunity gaps, including having a strong early literacy program, using improvement science to drive decision making, developing school leader pipelines, and strengthening our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support to ensure that students receive appropriate and timely interventions.

### If elected, what will be your top priority?

My top priority will be to ensure that our policy and budgetary decisions will support educators in addressing unfinished learning and providing adequate social and emotional supports.

### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

When students started learning from home in 2020, many parents and caregivers got a glimpse into their child's classroom experience for the first time. Consequently, many started paying more attention to the decisions that were being made about their child's education. I see this as an important shift and one to leverage in post-pandemic schooling. I want families to feel like their concerns are valid and their voices are heard.

### Bridget Westfall DISTRICT B

Westfall is an ACPS parent and works as a grants manager at the Department of Health and Human Services, in the



Bridgett Westfall

division for children and families.

### Why are you running for School Board?

I am running for school board as an advocate for children and public schools. We need leaders who evaluate every decision with this question: Is this in the best interest of our students and our public school system? Whether you are a multi-generational Alexandrian or a new American, you are welcome here and deserve an excellent public education through safe and successful schools.

### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

I see School Resource Officers, mental health resources and restorative justice as complimentary. I have worked as a deputy juvenile officer in K-12 public schools and that experience shapes my support of School Resource Officers. I think we need to have a community roundtable, where all voices are heard and any reforms are made, including diversity, equity, inclusion training, working with students with special education needs, students with disabilities or students of color or language learners. We also need to invest in community violence prevention programs from pre-K through 12th.

### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

As we enter a third year in a pandemic, transparency in school board decisions and communication with the parents and community of Alexandria City Public Schools is the most pressing issue. After 18 months in a virtual or hybrid learning environment, parents and community members want the school board and ACPS leadership to maintain open and honest lines of communication with them.

### If elected, what will be your top priority?

My top priority is managing the superintendent. I value that we have a hometown leader that our students can look up to and our superintendent's professional accomplishments. I will treat him with the utmost respect and professionalism and have a collaborative, performance management framework to manage the superintendent. At the same time, I think that the current board did not manage the superintendent as far as planning and implementation in the pandemic.

### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

I see parent voices as important partners in public education. We need more ways for parents and caregivers to provide input, especially parents who are often not represented in the discussions. We have a large international population and language learners, who might not be familiar with the democratic process. We need more opportunities for families to have real partnerships with the school.

SEE MEET THE, PAGE 10



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
GRAYSON	8891	687	ROCKHOUSE RD.	ROCK CREEK	9/28/2021
MONTGOMERY	12293	669	PATTERSON DR. /ROUTE 669	BOTTOM CREEK	9/28/2021
BOTETOURT	3136	0F054	FRONTAGE RD. F054	PURGATORY CREEK	9/23/2021
MONTGOMERY	12271	643	YELL SULPH RD./ROUTE 643	MILL BRANCH	9/23/2021
BEDFORD	2754	644	LANGFORD MILL/ROUTE 644	NORTH OTTER CREEK	9/21/2021
SCOTT	16694	622	SINKS RD.	COX BRANCH	9/21/2021
ROANOKE	15082	696	APPLE GROVE LANE/ROUTE 696	BACK CREEK	9/15/2021
ROANOKE (M)	21650	0	ROUTE 0000	LICK RUN	9/15/2021
CHARLOTTE	4890	618	TURNIP CREEK RD.	TURNIP CREEK	9/13/2021
RICHMOND (M)	21280	0	BELLEVUE AVE.	ROUTE I-95	9/2/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.*

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FROM PAGE 5



## Darryl Nirenberg

**Republican candidate for City Council**  
raised: \$99,000

top contributors:  
\$7,000 from John Brenna of Prinnovo  
\$3,000 from Mark Williams of Morgan Lewis & Bockius  
\$2,500 from John Darden of Paul Hastings LLP  
\$2,000 from David Friedman of Boca Raton, Fla.  
\$2,000 from Steven Law of the Senate Leadership Fund in McLean



## John Chapman

**Democratic candidate for City Council**  
raised: \$90,000

top contributors:  
\$6,500 from Reginald James Brown  
\$5,000 from Nova Area Labor Federation  
\$2,500 from Danielle Romanetti of fibre space  
\$1,000 from Alexandria Toyota  
\$1,000 from Warren Thompson of Thompson Hospitality



## Amy Jackson

**Democratic candidate for City Council**  
raised: \$73,000

top contributors:  
\$6,500 from Mark Williams of Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP  
\$4,500 from Reginald James Brown of Kirkland & Ellis  
\$1,500 from Richard Saslaw for Senate  
\$1,000 from Alexandria Toyota  
\$1,000 from Southern States Police Benevolent Association



## Sarah Bagley

**Democratic candidate for City Council**  
raised: \$73,000

top contributors:  
\$10,000 from candidate Sarah Bagley  
\$2,300 from Searles Bagley of Chesapeake  
\$1,300 from Sherry Fardie of Wolcott, Colo.  
\$1,300 from Everytown for Gun Safety  
\$1,000 from Teresa Prescott of Glen Allen



## Canek Aguirre

**Democratic candidate for City Council**  
raised: \$63,000

top contributors:  
\$5,500 from Reginald James Brown of Kirkland & Ellis  
\$2,500 from Thomson Hirst of Alexandria  
\$2,500 from David Pala of the Democratic Party of Virginia  
\$2,300 from Lillian Vagnoni of Alexandria  
\$2,000 from Jennifer Lopez of FFN



## Florence King

**independent candidate for City Council**  
raised: \$21,000

top contributors:  
\$1,000 from Bessie Ellen Alkisswani of Vienna  
\$1,000 from Reone Brown of Ivan Realtors  
\$950 from James Johnson of Sandy Spring Bank  
\$500 from Michael Maibach of Save Our States  
\$500 from Michael Strutton of Michael's Little Italy



## Gail Parker

**independent candidate for City Council**  
raised: \$1,500

\$1,500 from candidate Gail Parker

# Meet the Candidates

FROM PAGE 9

## DISTRICT C

### Meagan Alderton DISTRICT C

First elected in 2018, Alderton currently serves as the ACPS board chair. She is a special education teacher and previously taught at George Washington Middle School, Francis C. Hammond Middle School and Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School.



Meagan Alderton

#### Why are you running for School Board?

We have spent the past three years moving forward with our 2025 Strategic plan which is centered around racial equity. In 2025, our conversations about over-identification of students of color in special-education, improved literacy instruction in grades K-4, graduation rates for Hispanic males, and access to Talented and Gifted programs and Honors courses for students of color should look different.

#### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

Last year, I voted to maintain the MOU with the Alexandria Police Department and I stand by that vote.

While I understand the intent of those who do not support SROs in schools, good SRO programs actually work to keep students out of the criminal justice system. Relationships with highly trained police officers are critical to that work. As someone trained in Crisis Prevention, policing is a behavior that is not unique to the policing profession.

We need to address racist practices in all of our institutions if we are going to get the change that we desire. It literally takes a village, and our police officers are an active part of that equation.

#### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

Over the next few years, academic and social-emotional recovery are going to be our most important focus. We had the data prior to the pandemic that showed us the pervasive opportunity gaps that impacted our students with disabilities, our English language learners and our students of color.

COVID has put an even larger lens on these issues. Capacity will continue to be a challenge. We need to be creative in our approach in acquiring additional space for more schools in the city, while also expanding existing sites as much as we are able to.

#### If elected, what will be your top priority?

I will work to ensure that we achieve our strategic goals and that our students exceed our expectations for academic and social-emotional growth.

I will also be diligent about our modernization projects by making sure that our CIP meets our current and future needs.

#### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

Parents are stakeholders and their input should always be welcomed into the decision-making process.

Those channels for communication and input should always be open and structured to increase engagement across all types of families including our immigrant families, who may feel ostracized from the process due to language and cultural barriers.

### Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi DISTRICT C

Elnoubi is the child of immigrants from Alexandria, Egypt. He is a project manager for the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority and father to two ACPS students. He has served as PTA president and is running for School Board to help ACPS students have the opportunity that he did to "achieve the American Dream."

Elnoubi's complete responses were not received prior to publication.



Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi

### Christopher Harris DISTRICT C

#### Why are you running for School Board?

ACPS provided me with a quality education, opportunities to build relationships, and prepared me to support my children when they matriculated through the system. It is my desire to support the planning and implementation of policies and practices that focus on the individualized needs of students, parents, teachers, and support staff.

#### Do you support having School Resource Officers in schools? Why or why not?

I believe that police do not belong in schools as there is data that supports their presence has been detrimental to black and brown students.

There is data to show the criminalization of students of color and their practices in the name of safety contribute to the school to prison pipeline.

Safety of students will require a multidimensional approach that involves healthy school climates, financial resources, mental health support, engaging leadership, relationship building, and increased student and community control. I am open to a community conversation involving all concerned parties to determine the best way forward prior to any final decisions.

#### What is the biggest challenge facing ACPS?

The biggest challenge facing ACPS currently is school climate and ensuring students, parents, and the ACPS workforce have the adequate resources to support academics and socio-emotional needs of each other.

#### If elected, what will be your top priority?

My top priority is to learn and govern with integrity. As I progress and evolve in the position, I anticipate my top priorities will change.

#### What role/input, if any, do you believe parents should have in decisions such as vaccine mandates, SROs and curriculum?

As a school board member I perceive parents as our partners and believe they should always have input in regard to decisions that will affect their children.

I believe in the safety of vaccinations and want to ensure that our staff, students, and the community are all as healthy as we can be. It is also my belief that vaccinations are a personal choice and that individuals/families should be allowed to make that very personal choice without being mandated.



Christopher Harris



Yellow Door Concert Series musicians and LMP Collective dancers rehearse at The Garden for the Friday, Nov. 12 show at The Garden in Alexandria.

## Intersections

Friday/Nov. 12, 6:30-9 p.m. At The Garden at Building Momentum, 5380 Eisenhower Ave Suite C, Alexandria. LMP Collective and Yellow Door Concert Series present an evening of Jazz music and dance at The Garden. Wine and beer available for purchase. Heavy appetizers and soda included with ticket price. Cost is \$35. Visit the website: <https://localmotionproject.org>

### 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](https://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

### NOW THRU OCT. 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](https://alexcolonialtours.com)

### NOW THRU OCT. 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 Navajo 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. Saturdays 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.

### NOW THRU 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](https://thelittletheatre.com)

### OCT. 28 AND 30

Poems and Stories of Edgar Allan Poe at Ivy Hill Cemetery. 7 to 8 p.m. Tour begins at the Ivy Hill Cemetery Office, 2823 King St., Alexandria. "Even in the grave, all is not lost!" The Guillotine Theatre presents "Poe outside the Vault" at Ivy Hill Cemetery. Actors from Guillotine Theatre will read from the works of Edgar Allan Poe. This is a sell-out event in a most suitable atmosphere. Seating is limited. RSVP to [info@IHCHPS.org](mailto:info@IHCHPS.org). Admission is \$20. Visit the website: [ivyhillcemetery.net](https://ivyhillcemetery.net)

### THURSDAY/OCT. 28

Fashion Show Fundraiser. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting its 37th annual Fashion Show and Luncheon - Bewitched, Bothered and Bedazzled. Fashions will be provided by Bloomingdale's Tysons Corner. Tickets are \$50. Make checks payable to YHGC and mail to Rhea Killinger at 510 Tennessee Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305. For more information, email: [rgkmsbell@hotmail.com](mailto:rgkmsbell@hotmail.com).

### OCT. 29-31

Boos & Booze at Café 44. At Café 44, 44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 401, Alexandria. Café 44 is hosting its annual Boos & Booze Halloween event featuring themed craft cocktails and treats. Costumes (and reservations) are encouraged for this weekend-long riverside soirée featuring themed craft cocktails and treats. Visit [cafe44.com](https://cafe44.com)

### FRIDAY/OCT. 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 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.

### OCT. 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. Tour 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](https://leefendallhouse.org)

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## Obituary



**Patricia Ann Sutton, 72**, born and raised Alexandrian passed away of natural causes October 19th, 2021 while residing in Spindale, NC. Ms. Sutton dedicated 30 years of her career working diligently within the City of Alexandria Police Department. Also serving 2 years with the City of Alexandria Social Services Department.

Throughout her vibrant life, she enjoyed beautiful beaches, seafood, and animals. Friends and family kept close reuniting each year in Myrtle Beach under her direction. She kept those near and far in touch. She enjoyed road trips and farmers markets often. There wasn't a spring that went by without planting flowers to beautify the flower bed.

In recent years, surviving family members united to aide in her care to ensure that she enjoyed the best quality of life possible in her condition. Beloved son, Michael McIntyre of Hughesville, MD. Dedicated siblings, John Francis Sutton of Spotsylvania, VA; Agnes Mae Ballard of Lorton, VA, William Terry Sutton of Murrells Inlet, SC; James Adam Sutton of Spindale, NC. The family came together to aide in her care as her health needs increased. She will be deeply missed by both family and friends.

Memorial Services will be held at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home located at 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302 on October 30, 2021 from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

## Obituary

## Obituary

## Obituary

### Margaret Harmon (Peggy) Woolls

Nov. 13, 1931 – October 6, 2021, at her home at Goodwin House Alexandria.

Peggy, a lifelong resident of Alexandria, VA, was the daughter of the late Hon. William Pape Woolls and the late Ruth Roberts Woolls. She was a graduate of St. Mary's Academy in Alexandria, and of Marymount College, now part of Fordham Univ. She worked in the office of the late Dr. Richard Palmer (a former President of the American Medical Assn.) and for Alexandria (Inova) Hospital where she was a medical transcriptionist and proofreader. She was an avid gardener, reader, loved to travel, was a clogger, banjo player, and loved Blue Grass music.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents and sisters Ruth R. Woolls, Jr., and Elizabeth W. Akar; brothers William P. Woolls, Jr. and James Woolls; and nephew Hamdi Akar, Jr.. She is survived by nieces Rahime A. Morgan (CO), Margaret A. Fast (ME), Elizabeth A. Willard (OR), Julia W. Bolt (VA), Sarah W. Sharman (SC), and nephew Wm. P. Woolls, III (IN), and a number of cousins.

A Mass will be celebrated at the Basilica of St. Mary, Alexandria, VA, at 10:30 AM on November 18, 2021. Interment will follow immediately at St. Mary's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Goodwin House Foundation (Staff Support) and mailed to Goodwin House, 4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria, VA 22311, or to The Basilica of St. Mary, 313 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

## Obituary

## Obituary

## Legals

## Legals



On Friday, October 15, 2021, **Maria Carmen Pascoe** – loving wife, mother of two children, and friend to everyone she knew – passed away at the age of 91.

Carmen was born on August 7, 1930 in Madrid, Spain to Manuel and Dolores Salas-Cornejo. The second of nine children, she was the eldest of the four siblings who survived the turbulent Spanish Civil War of 1936-39.

As a young woman, she was a member of the Madrid Aquatic Ballet team.

She received a medical degree and served as a registered nurse and certified midwife, with more than 150 successful births to her credit, and then became a physician's assistant.

In the mid 1950s, she was studying English, so she could go to the United States to study medicine. Outside her language school, she met a young American man who would become the love of her life, as she became the love of his. On August 27, 1955, the two were married. For the next 24,156 days, the two were inseparable.

Shortly thereafter, she left Spain behind and began a new life as a young newlywed in the Washington, D.C. area.

After working for a time as a secretary at a local magazine – where she tried, gamely but unsuccessfully, to sell a subscription to Normandie Cups by starting a solicitation letter, "Dear Mr. Cups" – she went to work as a Spanish language instructor at a local language school whose founder and leader had taught Spanish to Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Later, she moved her language instruction skills to the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute (FSI), where she spent the next 38 years teaching American ambassadors and diplomats to Spanish-speaking countries how to speak her native tongue. After retiring from FSI, she continued to teach privately. She loved her calling, and believed that with the opportunity to work with so many different people, from so many different backgrounds, she learned as much from her students as they did from her.

Along the way, she found time to mother two children and three very joyful dogs, all of whom loved her very much.

Perhaps most importantly, she found a way to keep well fed, well tended to, and just downright happy for 66 years her husband, who already misses her sorely.

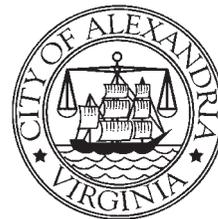
Carmen was the belle of every ball, the life of every party, and the unstoppable force in the life of everyone she knew. She did not see people she did not know as "strangers," she viewed them merely as friends she had not yet met.

At a going-away party for a close family friend who happened to be a senior White House official, she noticed a tall man enter and then stand alone in the center of the room, as the rest of the guests remained crowded around the bar. Determined to welcome the new entrant to the party, she made a beeline for him – and found herself spinning yarns with President Reagan.

Her Thanksgiving dinner table always had an extra spot or two to make sure her children could bring home strays – including, one year, an Angolan rebel freedom fighter.

Carmen was preceded in death by her father, Manuel; her mother, Dolores; and six siblings. She is survived by her husband, Bill; her children, Bill and Yvonne; her son-in-law, Peter; her sisters Maria Pilar and Maria Teresa; her brother-in-law, David; her grandchildren, Clay and Ellie; and three nieces and three nephews.

A remembrance service will be held on Wednesday, October 27 from 4-6 PM, with family members making remarks at 4:30 PM. The service will be held at the Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home at 1500 W. Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA 22302. (703) 998-9200. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.



## CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SECOND HALF 2021 REAL ESTATE TAX, REFUSE FEE AND STORMWATER UTILITY FEE ARE DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2021

The second half 2021 real estate tax, refuse fee and stormwater utility fee must be paid by November 15, 2021, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

Contactless payments can be made by credit card or eCheck on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/Payments. Real estate tax payments can also be mailed to: City of Alexandria, PO Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750.

Payments can be made in person at the Treasury Division, City Hall, Room 1510 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contactless payments can be made in the drop box on the Royal Street side of City Hall 24 hours a day. Payments in the drop box by midnight on November 15, 2021, will be considered on time.

Additional real estate tax information is available on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Under Additional Resources, the Real Estate Tax History and Payments link provides detailed tax balances and payments.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov. For refuse fee questions, please call the Solid Waste Division at 703.746.4410. For stormwater utility fee questions, please call the Stormwater Management Division at 703.746.6499, or email stormwater@alexandriava.gov.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. **-Werner Heisenberg**



# Northern Virginia Jobs for Veterans, Military Spouses

## Virtual and in-person Veteran and Military Career Fair on Nov. 4

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) is partnering with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and the Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives to host the Veteran and Military Career Fair at the United States Army Museum at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Geared toward assisting veterans, active-duty service members and military spouses/partners transitioning out of the military, the hybrid event will take place on Nov. 4, 2021, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. Eastern Time. Job seekers can also attend virtually from 1-4 p.m. Eastern Time if they are unable to attend the in-person event.

Register to attend the fair at [www.workinnorthernvirginia.com/virtual-career-fairs/](http://www.workinnorthernvirginia.com/virtual-career-fairs/).

During the hybrid event, candidates can interview with more than 50 companies and organizations in Northern Virginia, from Fortune 500s to small businesses. Regional employers – including Amazon, Microsoft, Verizon, Cox Communications, Inova Health System and the U.S. Department of Justice – are collectively hiring for more than 7,000 positions across sectors ranging from IT to healthcare. All backgrounds and experience levels are welcome, and attendees do not need to live in Northern Virginia to interview with hiring companies.

“Our veterans and active-duty military members transition to civilian life with technical skills, an incredible work ethic and many more qualities that are valuable to our hiring companies in Northern Virginia,” said Victor Hoskins, president and CEO of the FCEDA.

The Veteran and Military Career Fair is the latest effort by the FCEDA initiative to attract, retain, re-train and grow talent in Northern Virginia.

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**Obituary**

**Viola Louise Hancock, 97**

Viola L. Hancock, wife of Judge Quinlan H. Hancock, passed away on Sunday, October 17th at Garden Ridge in Springfield, VA. “Vi” is survived by her daughter Robyn Hancock Snyder and her grandson Thaddeus (Tad) H. Kucharski of Buffalo, NY. Memorial services are at a later date. <https://www.everlywheatley.com/tributes/Viola-Hancock>

**CALENDAR**

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## "No, Thank You"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Really? I'm being polite to an artificially-intelligent computer now? Why, exactly? Do I risk cancelling my transaction if I'm not courteous and respectful when I sign off? This ludicrous thought crossed my eyes the other day when I was transacting some after-hours banking business through my bank's ATM. I put in my debit card, waited for the machine to click/read my details, and then proceeded to conduct my business. Though I was shown multiple/options/buttons to press to advise the computer what I needed to do, I was only making a deposit. "Yes," I was asked, the amount entered is correct. "Yes," I'm selecting my checking account. "Yes," I'd like a receipt with the check image. "Yes," I'd like a paper receipt, not one texted to my cell phone or emailed to the email address on file. Finally, after confirming all these details and completing my transaction, I was asked - via the computer screen, if I wanted another transaction. It's at this exact nearly-final moment at the ATM when I got the inspiration for this column.

If indeed I was finished with my ATM banking business, I needed to sign off (thereby freeing up the machine for the next person). However, signing off was not simply a "yes" or "no" answer. There was of course a box for me to press to end this process. The words in these boxes were my answer as provided by the computer. The box said: "No, Thank You." That's when it hit me. By pressing this box - and tacitly agreeing to its sentiment, I was being forced - indirectly, into being polite to an inanimate object, whether that object was being artificially intelligent or perhaps simply programmed to be insufferably presumptuous. Either way, I felt my humanity compromised as if I had just made the ultimate sacrifice: my independence. I wasn't a man anymore. I was a machine.

Do you mean to say that there's honor-among-thieves-type of courtesy between computer users and the computers themselves? Am I supposed to treat my fellow computer like my fellow man? Like it has feelings? And if I somehow fail to interact with my computer in the proper form/toner/inflexion/manner, could I suffer negative consequences for my oversight? What are we talking about here? The movies? The future? Real life? I just wanted to make a deposit through my bank's ATM. I didn't want to start a relationship and I certainly didn't expect to inadvertently incur the wrath of some computer network last night that might now target me as some kind of virus (I've had all my vaccinations, even my booster). In fact, I'm simply a depositor. I'm not a threat. And I definitely don't want to have to pass muster with a computer chip. Can I speak to someone real, PLEASE? Of course not. It's after hours. I guess I'll have to come back tomorrow. But as it turned out 'tomorrow' is a Saturday and the branch is no longer open on Saturdays. If I have any further business to conduct, it will have to be through the ATM. Great. Can you say vicious cycle?

But if I am to believe the computer programmers, the computers are incapable of being vicious. They're simply calculating, without being calculating. They're not being "Hal" from "2001: Space Odyssey." There's no ulterior motivation. They're not making my life miserable because they can. They're tools, like a doorstop, except they're excellent with numbers. They are simply following instructions/programs, very detailed ones for sure, but nothing more. I don't have to worry about them - aside from their computations, do I? And if I don't have to worry about them then why do I have to be nice to them, considerate to them as if they had feelings? I'm the one with feelings. You should be more concerned with being nice to me, not me being nice to computers. It used to be said that "Talk is cheap," now it's computer code that's cheap. Obviously, in today's world, computers are essential, but never more than the customers. We may not always be right but our opinions always matter.

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

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## NEWS

# Mayor Faces Republican Challenger

FROM PAGE 4

crime in his own city."

ALEXANDRIA HASN'T HAD a Republican for mayor since Reconstruction, when William Berkley was mayor from June 1872 to June 1873.

The city's current electorate is so heavily Democratic that Gov. Ralph Northam won Alexandria with 78 percent of the vote in his 2017 campaign against Republican Ed Gillespie. Republicans haven't even fielded a candidate for mayor in more than 20 years. Nevertheless, Catchings says Wilson does not deserve another term in office.

"Under his watch, our police department has been defunded and crime increased," said Catchings. "Under his watch a citizens review board, given subpoena power, was formed. Under his watch, our first responders have put out press releases citing low morale, low pay and understaffing."

Wilson rejects the idea that Alexandria has defunded the police, and budget documents show spending on police has increased about 25 percent over the last decade while spending on social services has actually decreased about 1 percent. He acknowledges that Northern Virginia has seen a rise in violent crime, although he adds that the solution to that isn't always policing.

"We've also seen a significant uptick specifically around firearm crimes in our city," said Wilson. "And so working to get the dangerous firearms and the dangerous people who wield them off our streets has been a particular focus of mine."

One issue that divides the candidates is the pilot program for guaranteed basic income in Alexandria, which was approved by the City

Council in July as part of the spending plan for the American Rescue Plan. The pilot program provides direct, recurring cash payments of \$500 a month to 150 Alexandria households for two years with no restrictions on how the money is used. Catchings says she's opposed to the guaranteed basic income pilot program.

"Anybody could have come from outside the city, get an address and put their name in a hat," said Catchings. "So you're not really addressing the people who live in the community."

City officials say the details of who would be eligible have yet to be worked out, and Wilson says the concept of guaranteed basic income is an idea pioneered by President Richard Nixon, who worked on the idea in with Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld as a response to LBJ's Great Society.

When President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan and local governments started debating how they wanted to use the stimulus cash, Mayor Wilson worked with City Council members to resurrect the old idea from the Nixon administration as a way to address the needs of communities hit hardest by the pandemic.

"These are folks who are just above the poverty line in our community, and we're going to see whether these kind payments in lieu of a lot of other kinds of local assistance are actually a more impactful way to address the impacts of poverty on residents of our community," said Wilson. "We want to come out of this pandemic in a stronger place than we were before, and we're going to need to experiment and take ourselves out of our comfort zone in order to try to find ways to do that."

# House Seat Shuffle

FROM PAGE 4

Bennett-Parker. "My experience on City Council has taught me a lot about the issues that are important to my community and how we need changes and more authority from Richmond in order to better serve our residents."

As a member of City Council, she used her food-manager's license to lead meal production for students who live in poverty during spring break last year at the beginning of the pandemic. She worked with small-business owners to install a mural known as the "Butterfly Effect" on Upper King Street, and she suggested an amendment to the city's environmental policy to make sure that all future public buildings are net-zero for carbon emissions. She's currently working with the Virginia Freedom of Information Council to advocate for a new law that would allow for local government boards and commissions to meet electronically, which is currently prohibited outside of an emergency.

"We've seen virtual participation and public participation dramatically increase during the shift to virtual meetings over the last 18 months," said Bennett-Parker. "We certainly

want to keep our residents engaged in government."

She's in favor of limiting campaign contributions and banning contributions from corporate donors, particularly public utilities like Dominion. She supports banning assault weapons and joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and she says she would vote in favor of eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes. She says she would like to expand access to early childhood education by providing waivers for free childcare to families that earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and she supports requiring businesses to offer five paid sick days a year. She also says she would work with the Alexandria Library Board to pass legislation making new demands on publishers who withhold digital content to protect profits.

"If these publishers also have an e-book version of their book available, they need to also offer that to libraries," she said. "During the pandemic, our e-books and digital publications and resources have skyrocketed," she said. "We want to make sure that people have access to those."

*Jack Taylor's*  
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SAT 10/30, 2-4

**Oakland | \$2,395,000**

This exquisite 4/5 bedroom home on a quiet, secluded street, offers a rare opportunity to live in one of Alexandria's most sought-after locations. The mature lushly landscaped property provides a rarely found sense of peace and privacy. Features include an open floor plan that's perfect for entertaining, a chef's gourmet kitchen, gorgeous pegged wood floors, a dramatic sunroom addition spanning the rear of the home, expansive side porch, numerous updates and so much more! 636 Oakland Terrace  
**Julian Burke 703.867.4219**  
**JulianBurke.com**



OPEN 10/30 & 10/31, 12-2

**Chatham Square | \$1,199,000**

Beautiful 4-story, 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath home, located in the heart of Old Town. Greeted by hardwood floors & a large living area that flows right into the kitchen, you are going to be hosting all of the upcoming holiday gatherings. 422 Euille St  
**Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655**  
**JillianKeckHogan.com**



OPEN SUN 10/31, 1-3

**Olde Belhaven Towne | \$835,000**

This updated 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath brick "end" townhome with landscaped yard & charming brick patio is a real treat! Rooms are flooded in light with hickory hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, new HVAC plus 2 parking spaces! 1730 Olde Towne Road  
**Sue Dickerson 703.380.0153**  
**SueDickersonRealtor.com**



OPEN 10/30 & 10/31, 2-4

**Fair Haven | \$615,000**

Wonderfully updated Cape Cod located blocks from Metro. Inside this charming home is freshly painted with hardwood floors, updated kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, finished basement. Newly fenced yard & covered patio. 6111 Bangor Drive  
**Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941**  
**RebeccaMcCullough.com**



**Hume Springs | \$525,000**

Close in a walkable, friendly community on a wide, one-way street with parking on both sides. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths; the back yard is bordered by the alley and parkland filled with trees, grass and even a creek. No Condo Fee! 3725 Mark Drive  
**Betty Mallon 703.989.8548**  
**BettyMallon.com**



OPEN SUN 10/31, 2-4

**Arlington | \$419,000**

Spacious 1-bedroom, 1-bath unit at The Park at Courthouse. Large windows and a bright, airy floor plan. Freshly painted with hardwood flooring in the living and dining room. Low condo fee & deeded garage parking space. 2220 Fairfax Dr #702  
**Sean McEneaney 703.635.8836**  
**Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009**



**Hallmark Building | \$299,900**

Wonderful 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in the desirable Hallmark building in Alexandria! Corner unit boasts tons of natural light, and great square footage of almost 1,300 SF. In unit laundry and garage parking! 200 N Pickett Street #304  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
**JenWalker.com**



OPEN SUN 10/31, 2-4

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

Fabulous 3-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse offers gracious rooms for entertaining, hardwood floors, 2 gas fireplaces, and custom built-ins. Sunny kitchen with

stainless appliances. Luxurious primary suite with vaulted ceilings, multiple closets, and spa-like bath. Lovely deck and off-street parking for 2 cars. 722 Battery Pl

**Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421**  
**BabsBeckwith.com**



OPEN SUN 10/31, 2-4

**Del Ray | \$899,000**

End unit townhouse at the corner of Del Ray & Commonwealth. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gorgeous kitchen and updated baths. Sunken living

room, wood-burning fireplace, hardwood floors, private patio, and off-street deeded parking. 2301 Commonwealth Avenue

**Cindy Clemmer 703.966.0403**  
**ClemmerAndSchuckHomes.com**



OPEN SUN 10/31, 2-4

**Townes at Cameron Park | \$589,000**

Lovely end unit garage townhouse in convenient location! Plenty of windows, great family room that walks out to the private back yard.

Upper level has 2 gracious bedrooms with en-suite baths and plenty of closet space, also has 2 half baths. 3823 Watkins Mill Dr. HayesWoodHomes.com

**Chris Hayes 703.944.7737**  
**Gordon Wood 703.447.6318**



OPEN SAT 10/30, 12-2

**Alexandria | \$394,500**

2 bedroom, 1 bath townhome located on a cul-de-sac in sought after Parkfairfax! Updated kitchen and great natural light. Hardwood floors, large

primary bedroom and upstairs laundry. Easy commute to DC and National Airport. Walk to shops, dining, and entertainment in Shirlington! 3230 Ravensworth Place

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