

## Senator Warner Visits ACHS

### Senator presents check to support Communities in Schools program.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**U**.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) kicked off a day of events throughout Northern Virginia April 21 with a stop at Alexandria City High School, where he delivered a check for nearly \$1 million in federal funding for Communities in Schools of Virginia.

Communities In Schools partners with schools around the country – including 10 schools in Northern Virginia – to provide comprehensive guidance and support for vulnerable and at-risk youth.

“I’m incredibly proud that we were able to get \$977,000 to go to the Communities in Schools project,” Warner said. “This will allow us to get close to 14 additional counselors that can help literally hundreds and hundreds of additional students find their way to live out their own version of the American dream.”

Communities In Schools coordinators are trained counselors whose focus is helping connect students with additional support services to help them learn, advance in grade level, and graduate.

“This is a program that has been proven out for more than 20

years,” said Warner, who was a co-chairman of the effort to bring the Community Schools initiative to Virginia. “It has gone and expanded beyond my wildest dreams and I’m happy now that as a United States senator I can do my part to help these counselors, help this program, help these young people live out their best lives.”

Warner was joined at the event by ACHS principal Peter Balas, ACPS acting superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt, school board chair Meagan Alderton, school board member Jacinta Greene, and vice Mayor Amy Jackson.

As part of the visit, Warner participated in a tour of the school and got a firsthand look at a classroom in action. Along with Kay-Wyatt, he participated in a roundtable discussion with students and their counselors to hear more about how the program is serving students in Alexandria.

“People have said that education is the key to your future, but I think we all know in a world that’s increasingly driven by technology that is even more so the truth today,” Warner said. “That doesn’t mean everybody has to go to a four-year college but it does mean you’ve got to find some way to continue your education beyond high school, whether that is com-



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, right, greets ACHS teacher Onelio Aguilar April 21 at Alexandria City High School.



Alexandria City High School principal Peter Balas, right, welcomes U.S. Sen. Mark Warner to the ACHS campus April 21.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

munity college, an apprenticeship or the four-year route. The young people I saw today are all going to be incredibly valuable contributors to our community.”

Warner’s visit to ACHS was the first of several across the region. He made stops in Annandale for a roundtable discussion with Asian American business and community leaders, in Fairfax he received the inaugural NVAR Realtor Champion

Award from the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, and in McLean he met with local Moms Demand Action gun safety advocates.

During the 2021-2022 school year, 99 percent of students enrolled in Communities In Schools programs nationally remained in school through the end of the school year, with 97 percent of K-11 students being promoted to the next grade, and 95 percent of

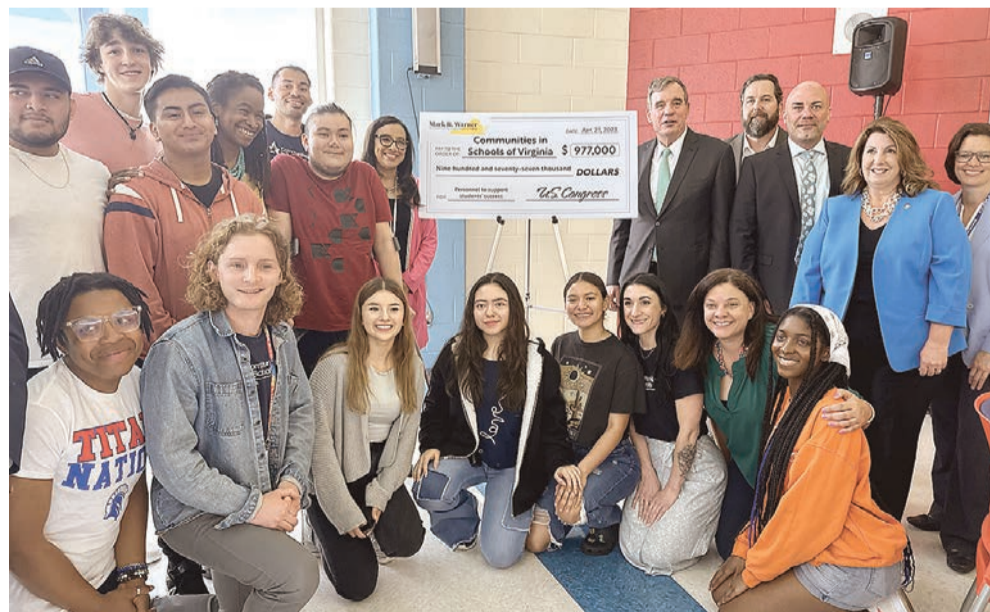
seniors graduating or receiving a GED.

“It is incredibly gratifying to come back to my hometown of Alexandria and see the quality of these students, to see the diversity of these students,” Warner said. “We’re looking at the future of not only Alexandria but we’re looking at the future of Virginia and our country.”

[www.cisofva.org](http://www.cisofva.org)



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, fourth from left, listens to students as part of a roundtable discussion on the Communities in Schools program April 21 at Alexandria City High School.



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), standing fifth from right, joins ACPS educators and students at Alexandria City High School April 21 to present a check for nearly \$1 million in federal funding for Communities in Schools of Virginia.

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# Spring2ACTion Nearly \$2 Million raised with hours still to go.



Rachel Deans, Neel Santa and Pam Gilchrist prepare to donate to Spring2Action April 19 at ALX Community Waterfront on North Union Street.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Spring2ACTion, Alexandria's community day of giving, was in full swing April 26 with 179 nonprofits raising close to \$2 million with 7 hours still to go during official giving hours.

Early giving began April 12 with online donations set to close at midnight April 26.

"This is one of those organizations that benefits the entire community," said Amaia Stecker, who

attended and donated during a kickoff event April 19 at ALX Community Waterfront. "There isn't a particular prioritized group – it is about everyone in the community, whether they are new neighbors or third generation Alexandrians. It's about our community coming together to benefit those who have need and making sure all needs are met."

As of 5 p.m. April 26, 5,431 donors raised \$1,977,839 for local nonprofits.

To see final tallies for each organization, visit [www.spring2action.org](http://www.spring2action.org).



Lisa Guernsey, Joe Turkey, Terry McCreary, Jennifer Ferrara and Jane Marcus prepare to donate to their charities of choice as part of a Spring2Action kickoff event April 19 at ALX Community Waterfront.



Jane Marcus and Amaia Stecker make donations during the Spring2Action kickoff event April 19 at ALX Community Waterfront.

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

## GW Parkway Classic

Members of the Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Police Foundation board of directors gather for a photo as water stop volunteers for the GW Parkway Classic Road Race April 23. The 10-mile race was won by Washington's Samuel Doud, 27, in 50 minutes and 24 seconds, with Alexandria's Chelsea Crim, 36, taking home the women's division in 59:05. In the 5K, Sam Sharp, 37, of Alexandria won in 16:07 with Arlington's Natasha Fedkina, 24, winning the women's division in 19:30.

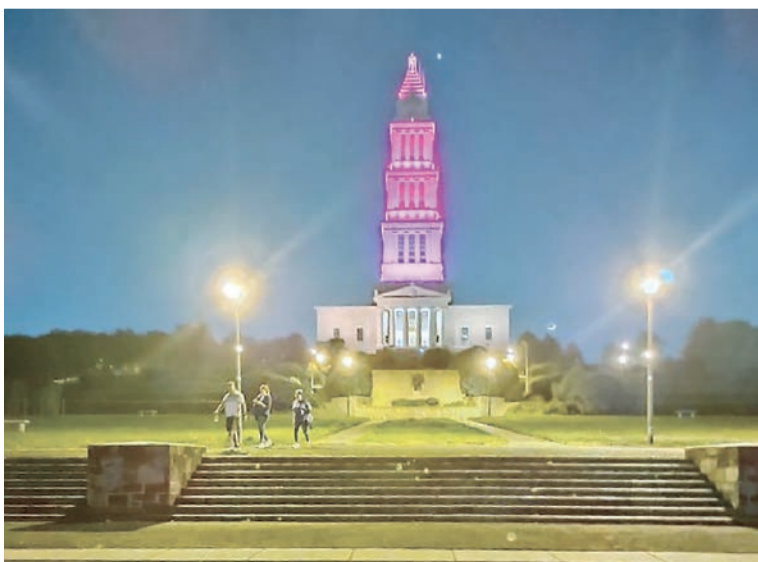
## COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE



Descendants of the McCoy family gather at the wreath placed near Market Square April 23 in remembrance of lynching victim Joseph McCoy.



Descendants of the McCoy family visit the Black History Museum April 22 as part of a weekend of events remembering lynching victim Joseph McCoy.



The George Washington National Masonic Memorial is lit in purple, the color of mourning, April 23 in remembrance of lynching victim Joseph McCoy.



Mayor Justin Wilson and members of City Council are joined by other elected and city officials April 23 at the wreath laying ceremony in remembrance of Thomas McCoy, who was lynched in Alexandria on April 23, 1897, near City Hall.

# ‘Hanged by a Mob’

City remembers 1897 lynching victim Joseph McCoy.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Alexandria Community Remembrance Project held commemorative events over the weekend to mark the 126th year since Joseph McCoy was lynched by a mob near City Hall.

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

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

“Hanged by a mob,” read the headline in the Alexandria Gazette. “The righteous indignation of old Alexandria was aroused last night .. and as a result Joseph McCoy, a negro ravisher, was strung up to a lamp post, bullets sent into his body, his head split open with an axe and other indignities heaped upon his quivering remains.”

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

Though hundreds of Alexandria residents witnessed the event, no one was ever charged in McCoy's murder.

On April 22, a community meeting on Transformational Justice was held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. Bilqis Wilkerson, Managing Director at the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University, was the featured speaker and spoke on the meaning of restorative and transformational justice.

Wilkerson discussed how communities can address the historic wrongs of enslavement, lynching, segregation and mass incarceration in a way that brings justice, healing and transformation.

The following day a Remembrance Wreath Laying



PHOTOS BY MCARTHUR MYERS

Bilqis Wilkerson, Managing Director at the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University, addresses attendees at the community meeting on Transformational Justice April 22 at the Charles Houston Recreational Center.

took place on the Fairfax Street Side of Market Square near the original site of McCoy's murder. Descendants of the McCoy family participated in the weekend's events, which included a tour of the Alexandria Black History Museum.

As part of the weekend of remembrance, City Hall and the George Washington Masonic Memorial were illuminated in purple, the color of mourning, in honor of McCoy.

To learn more about Joseph McCoy and the events of April 23, 1897, visit the In Memoriam page at [Alexandriava.gov/Historic](http://Alexandriava.gov/Historic).

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# Friends of Mount Vernon Trail Recognized

Clipping kudzu, wrestling roots and batting bugs all part of the effort.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Members of the Friends group were joined by local officials when they received the award.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**T**hey're out there on the front line in an never-ending battle with the weeds and tree roots to keep the Mount Vernon Bike Trail in shape. And for their efforts, the Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail recently received the 2023 Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award from the City of Alexandria.

This award recognizes the members of the Alexandria community who demonstrate a commitment to protecting the environment and preserving natural resources. The Friends group does all that and more to keep the trail going and in good shape for all users.

With this recognition, they were joined by U.S. Rep. Don Beyer

(D-8th), Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, Sheriff Sean Casey, Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Councilmember Sarah Bagley and Alyia Gaskins to recognize their achievement.

"This award is extra special as Ellen Pickering was a co-founder of the MVT. Our group would not exist without the efforts from Ellen's lifelong efforts to the environment," the Friends wrote.

The Mount Vernon Bike Trail was the idea of Ellen Pickering and Barbara Lynch who tossed around the idea in early 1972 and got the whole thing rolling to build the original 4.5 miles of trail between Belle Haven Park and Memorial Bridge. The official ribbon cutting was on April 15, 1972, and there's been a bunch more ribbon cuttings since then as the trail stretched along the river,

connecting to other bikeways.

The bike trail is part of the National Park Service, and the Friends group is an official partner of the George Washington Memorial Parkway through a Philanthropic Partnership Agreement.

There is an annual work plan with George Washington Memorial Parkway that outlines the activities that the Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail will conduct. They've been focusing mainly on improving sight lines through vegetation management, pressure washing bridges and edging the trail and coordinating the schedule with the GWMP Trail Manager.

Last year Jack Sullivan won the award for his work on wastewater treatment and in 2019, it went to Kurt Moser for his work with students.



This new bridge over Dogue Creek is a connector to the Mount Vernon Trail on the southern end.



Volunteers with Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail tackle the weeds along the trail which get out of hand otherwise.



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# OPINION

## SSA Celebrates March for Meals!

BY MARSHALL HESPE  
DIRECTOR OF NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The month of March at Senior Services of Alexandria was filled with activity recognizing “March for Meals,” which aims to raise awareness of Meals on Wheels programs across the country and the importance of nutrition programs for older adults. Thank you to all who helped make the City of Alexandria’s Meals on Wheels program so visible this month. We are proud to operate in a city and state that cares for seniors and makes their needs a priority.

As part of “March for Meals,” community leaders were invited to volunteer for one day and reflect on the importance of Meals on Wheels in our community. Mayor Justin Wilson shared that Meals on Wheels addresses a “critical need” in our community and encouraged all of Alexandria to volunteer if they can. City Manager Jim Parajon highlighted that volunteers not only deliver a meal but also socialize with and “check in on the se-

niors throughout our community.”

Congressman Don Beyer shared a similar sentiment, saying beyond the food itself, “the greatest gift we give these clients is conversation.” Our goal of delivering More than a Meal would not be possible without the support of our volunteers.

Marshall Hespe, SSA Director of Nutrition Programs, said “I am proud to see so many leaders celebrate our Meals on Wheels program. Their support helps our organization reach more seniors and get them the help they need.”

The month was packed with events celebrating SSA’s work in our community. In a joint resolution, sponsored by Senator Adam Ebbin and Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, the Virginia General Assembly issued a commendation in honor of SSA’s 55th anniversary of service in Alexandria. The Alexandria City Council proclaimed March “March for Meals” month, and March 20-24th was “Champions” week, during which community champions were invited to deliver Meals on Wheels to

show support for senior nutrition programs.

Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America, said “Meals on Wheels is important because it helps older adults stay in their homes longer.” SSA is happy to help ensure that seniors can age in place and remain independent. In partnership with the City’s Division of Aging and Adult Services, SSA has worked tirelessly to ensure that homebound older adults receive Meals on Wheels seven days a week, 365 days a year. Each week, SSA volunteers deliver over 2,200 meals to older Alexandrians.

If you know someone who would be interested in volunteering or receiving Meals on Wheels, go to SSA’s website at [www.seniorservicesalex.org/programs/meals-on-wheels/](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org/programs/meals-on-wheels/) or call 703-836-4414 ext. 112. To see our “Champions” week interviews and stay up to date with Senior Services of Alexandria, visit our Facebook page. To learn more about the Older Americans Act, senior nutrition, and Meals on Wheels America go to [www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org)

## Alexandria Republicans Elect New Vice Chairs

The Alexandria Republican City Committee’s (ARCC’s) Chairman Annetta Catchings announced the elections of Terri Hauser as 1st Vice Chair and Broderick Thomas as 2nd Vice Chair of the local party unit. They were elected at the April 13 ARCC meeting.

Hauser is a seasoned campaign professional, bringing decades of experience in local and Virginia politics. She served as ARCC Chair in the 1990s. Thomas is a relative newcomer, coming from Richmond and the newspaper world. He brings expertise in digital marketing. Catchings, who was elected as



Annetta Catchings, Terri Hauser and Broderick Thomas

Republican Party Chair in 2022, was the Republican candidate for Alexandria Mayor in 2021.

“The City of Alexandria is losing many of its long-term residents due to significantly cumulative increased

local taxes and fees, low-performing schools, reduced constitutional freedoms, overcrowding, closing businesses, and increased crime rates,” said Catchings. “These are not problems brought about by the pandemic but by the local Democratic party’s agenda and our city’s one-party rule under At-Large voting. ... We will carve out a pathway that will make it possible to bring balance back to our local government and get Republicans elected once again.”

ARCC (at [www.AlexGOP.org](http://www.AlexGOP.org) and on Facebook as Alexandria GOP) is the local unit of the Republican Party of Virginia.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## School Board Prioritizes Itself Over Students

There is a School Board-initiated campaign underway to promote its proposals to re-engineer how School Board members are elected (moving from School District representation to At-Large elections), stagger their terms, lengthen their terms in office, and reduce the number of members. Various combinations of those options are found in seven proposed models (A-G) that are out for comment. These changes are not needed, are detrimental to equitable community representation, reduce account-

ability to voters, reduce the focus on students, and reduce the opportunity for more inclusiveness of community members with diverse perspectives and philosophies to serve on the board.

The School Board should stop prioritizing its own elections with this taxpayer-funded push for reduced accountability that comes with both At-Large elections and longer terms. It should not stagger terms or else the board and staff would be in eternal ‘on-boarding mode’ for new members, taking attention away from issues and eliminating any opportunity for voters to ‘clean house’ if needed.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

### Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

It should not reduce the number of school board members as this would both concentrate influential power in fewer board members and increase the school assignment workload on the remaining members. Fewer members would result in reduced quality of oversight of, and advocacy for, individual schools they are assigned to monitor. In other words, fewer members would have their energies spread thinner while making more consequential decisions.

Our schools have serious academic and safety issues that must be resolved. The School Board should prioritize the students over

itself. Leave the election process alone, and focus on fixing the things that are broken.

**Linda App**  
Alexandria VA

## ‘Comfortable’ with Metal Detectors at

To the editor:

Recently, students at ACHS were polled on whether or not they were comfortable with metal detectors being implemented at our high school. ACPS typically disregards student opinions in surveys like this one, but I think it was import-

ant to get students thinking about our new reality in school.

My opinion on the metal detectors is that us students have to face the facts: it will lower the amount of weapons brought into school. Metal detectors will not stop everything, but it is a significant barrier to many who may be bringing weapons into school buildings. One complaint that many of my peers have mentioned is that metal detectors would significantly slow entry to the school. While it would be a hassle, I think that most teachers and students would exchange 5 minutes of their day for some peace of mind.

**Thomas McLenahan**  
Alexandria, Senior at ACHS

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Families and individuals from the Washington, D.C.-metro region are being sought to become hosts for international students for 12 weeks, a semester, or an academic year.

Exchange students represent nearly 80 countries and cultures, including Kenya, Ukraine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Chile, Thailand and more.

AFS-USA, a leader in international high school student exchange for 75 years, is focused on providing opportunities for intercultural exchange that can help lead to a more just and peaceful world.

Those interested in hosting an AFS Exchange Student are encouraged to contact 1-800-AFS-INFO or visit [www.afsusa.org](http://www.afsusa.org) for more information. You can also get involved as an AFS-USA Volunteer. Visit [www.afsusa.org/volunteer](http://www.afsusa.org/volunteer) to get started or learn more about opportunities to make a difference.

#### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. [www.volunteeralxandria.org](http://www.volunteeralxandria.org)

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralxandria.org/ALIVE>

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

reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email [FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com).

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

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit [www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto:volunteers@alive-inc.org).

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to [cancer.org/drive](http://cancer.org/drive).

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Ar-

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

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit [www.spaceofherown.org](http://www.spaceofherown.org) and [www.spaceofhisown.org](http://www.spaceofhisown.org). For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at [sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov) or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, [brianmorreale@gmail.com](mailto:brianmorreale@gmail.com)

#### SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at [suzjdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:suzjdoyle@gmail.com) or 571-403-0673.

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Se-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

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# RAMADAN

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN, GAZETTE PACKET



Ridvan Ince, and Omar, from Fairfax, sat waiting on the lawn to break their fast. They are Turks who recently came to the US, and said coming to the Ramadan tent (and Ramadan in general) helps them stay connected to their culture.



Baby Havva and her grandmother, Nihman, from Sterling, were happy just relating to each other during the event, as Havva's parents enjoyed meeting friends.



Fried balls of dough called Lokma being prepared as the most appreciated dessert. The sweet fritters are then dipped in honey or chocolate and coated with pistachios.

## Ramadan Tent Iftar Brings NoVa Muslims Together

### Local Muslims celebrate unity and democratic values.

There were Kazaks, Uighurs, Tajiks, Azerbaijanis, Uzbeks, Turks, politicians, a Lebanese Quaker, and a Fairfax principal; there were children playing on bouncy castles, covered and uncovered women, an NBA basketball player, a Presbyterian pastor, students, and young married couples, sitting down at long tables in the tent or sitting on blankets on the lawn of the Presbyterian church in Fairfax. As the Imam began to intone the prayer signaling the time had come to break the fast, barely audible over the chatter, they drank water, which they had not had since before sunrise, and nibbled on a date. There was relief, but there was something else: the communion of 1400 people coming together as one, a family of the faithful, united through fasting and focusing on the message of the Koran during the holiest month of the Islamic calendar.

Over 1400 free meals were eaten under the Ramadan tent on the evening of April 20; 1200 meals were prepared the day before. AFTA, the American Turkish Friendship Association had organized the "grand Ramadan tent" event on both days, opening it to all in the community, in a kind of grand finale to Ramadan and with the goal of promoting cultural exchange and fostering community relationships.

One theme of the event was an emphasis on democratic values. An outspoken comment made by a Turkish-American businessman about politics in Turkey, particu-

larly after the earthquakes, prompted one American to ask if he were concerned about talking so openly given the attention the Erdogan government pays to critics. The Turkish-American laughed. "No!" he said, "I've been in this country (and Canada) for 23 years. I have completely lost my fear of talking in public about these things. I do not even think like a Middle Eastern anymore but like an American. I am free to say what I want here. This is why we came to America, that and the opportunities here. The opportunities to be successful are immense; the streets really are paved with gold if you work hard and make good choices."

More evidence of the emphasis on democratic values at the Ramadan events was the presence of Turkish-American activist, Enes Kanter Freedom, an outspoken critic of authoritarian regimes and former NBA basketball star, and representatives of local members of Congress Gerry Connolly and Abigail Spanberger spoke at the event.



Fairfax elementary school Greenbrier East principal, Dave Pietzman, and his daughters Ella 10, and Hannah, 8 were invited by Mrs. Mutlu, (far left) the parent of a first grader, to attend the ceremony. Daughter Ella said she is learning about Ramadan because she has friends who fast and was very interested in learning more.

Children were a major part of the celebration. Face paints, arts and crafts, games, traditional Turkish music and performanc-

different kind of Ramadan. Instead of

### More

To learn more about the American Turkish Friendship Association, see: <https://www.atfa.us>

And for Turkish food that was served at the event, see: <https://www.thezaffron.com>

And for a taste of Turkish food and fresh "simit", see: <https://www.cozmoone.com>

es made the Ramadan tent events festive and family oriented.

The meals were unusually good for large pre-cooked meals, and were done by the restaurant Zaffron, located in Woodbridge. Chicken kebabs, traditional soup, rice, and simmered beans and traditional desserts were offered, but attendees could also buy tickets to even more elaborate treats, like Lokma, sweet fritters eaten plain or dipped in honey and pistachios.

For non-Muslims who attended, the event was an excellent introduction to a



# RAMADAN



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Enes Kanter Freedom, a Turkish-American basketball player turned activist for democratic values, stands with Fairfax Presbyterian Church Pastor Henry G. Brinton and his wife, who provided the venue for the Ramadan tent.



Rafet Akman runs the Cozmo One Turkish grocery and restaurant in Chantilly. He came to the U.S. 23 years ago as a student. He was at the event with his wife and two children. He emphasized how much he values the life he has in the U.S. and his interest in cultural exchange. On Sundays, his children go to a Turkish school which encourages them to mix with other nationalities and Americans, to familiarize themselves with different cultures. A true global citizen, he wants his children to learn more languages, travel and even live in another country when they are young.

PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN, GAZETTE PACKET

FROM PAGE 8

hundreds praying together in a mosque before the Iftar, couples strolled in with lawn chairs and picnics, sitting down to socialize. Instead of complete head coverings, the women wore scarves or none at all, and the men didn't

bother. Less solemn and more joyous, the attendees came largely (originally) from Turkey, the Balkans, and northern Asia. The warm hospitality and inclusivity, the goodwill that came from sharing culture and similarities, not differences, were the hallmarks of the event.

**CALENDAR**

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

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

## Public Hearings

### Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2024-2029 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2024-2029 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available <https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2023/default.asp> before April 20, 2023.

Public meetings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:  
*A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.*

<b>Thursday, April 20</b> Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	<b>Monday, April 24</b> Richmond District Hawthorne Room 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, VA 23834	<b>Monday, May 1, 5 p.m.</b> *Northern Virginia District Potomac Conference Center NOVA District Office 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030
<b>Tuesday, May 2</b> Culpeper District Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	<b>Wednesday, May 3</b> Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	<b>Monday, May 8</b> Fredericksburg District Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408
<b>Monday, May 15</b> Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210	<b>Tuesday, May 16</b> Salem District Salem Civic Center Community Room 1001 Roanoke Boulevard Salem, VA 24153	<b>Wednesday, May 17</b> Lynchburg District Lynchburg Grand Hotel 601 Main Street Lynchburg, VA 24504

\*The Northern Virginia District meeting will serve as the required joint public meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the CTB per § 33.2-214.3 of the Code of Virginia. This meeting will also be streamed online at <https://www.youtube.com/live/ranpvKJOF74?feature=share>.

You can submit comments online at <https://arcg.is/Xi1TGO>, or by email or mail by May 24, 2023.

For roads and highways: [Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov), or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: [DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov), Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

*The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services 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 these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).*

## STATIONARY ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP

Applications for the IUOE Local 99 Apprenticeship Program will be accepted during the period of May 1—5, 2023, inclusive. Applications must be completed in person by the applicant at Engineer Center 9315 Largo Drive West, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$35 application fee includes drug screen.

For additional information scan the QR Code.

Equal Opportunity M/F

## Binneweg Named WMP Music Director

**Ulysses James to bid farewell May 20.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**nna Binneweg, a renowned guest conductor on the national and international stage, has been named as the new Music Director of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra. She succeeds Alexandria Living Legend Ulysses “Ul” James, who will give his final performance May 20 after a 39-year tenure.

After a year-long search, Binneweg was selected out of a pool of 50 applicants and four finalist candidates, according to the announcement from the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association.

“I am thrilled and deeply grateful to the musicians, staff and board of WMPA for choosing me to be WMP’s next musical leader in its 52nd season,” said Binneweg. “I want to also recognize the immense impact of outgoing Music



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Anna Binneweg has been named the new Music Director of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra. She succeeds Ulysses James, who will retire following the May 20th season finale.**

Director Ul James, whose artistic vision shaped WMPA for almost four decades and paved the way for exciting new growth in the future.”

A resident of Alexandria, Binneweg will serve as the third Music Director of the orchestra, which will conclude its 51st season May

20 with a farewell performance and reception for James at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. Binneweg’s official debut will take place Oct. 15.

Binneweg has served as the Music Director/Conductor of the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra and the AACC Symphony Or-

chestra at Anne Arundel Community College. She has performed in prominent concert venues including the Kennedy Center’s Concert Hall, the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall and the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Her international conducting experience includes tours to Austria, Spain and debut appearances with the Chernihiv Philharmonic (Ukraine), Lviv Virtuosi (Ukraine), and the Minsk Conservatory Orchestra (Belarus).

Binneweg earned a doctorate degree of music in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University where she studied with Victor Yampolsky. She has also served on the conducting faculties at Loyola University, the Sherwood Conservatory of Music and American University.

The WMPA Music Director search committee included members of the orchestra, board and

staff who assessed the pool of 50 candidates over the past year. Audience and orchestra surveys after each of the four finalist’s concerts were taken into consideration for the final decision.

“The Board is extremely pleased to be bringing Anna Binneweg in as the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic’s next Music Director,” said board president Lawrence Ries. “The consistently high quality of each candidate we brought in to conduct the orchestra is testament to the work of our search committee, the staff, and the reputation of the WMPA. Whoever emerged from that process, as the WMP’s next Music Director, had to be exceptional. Anna is all of that.”

**“Whoever emerged ... as the WMP’s next Music Director had to be exceptional. Anna is all of that.”**

— WMPA board president  
**Lawrence Ries**

For more information or to purchase tickets to the farewell performance of Ulysses James, visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org).

### CALENDAR

#### NOW THRU APRIL 30

**Matthew McLaughlin Art Exhibit.** At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Reception: Sunday, March 26, 4 - 6 p.m.; Artist Talk: Sunday, April 30, 2 - 3. Matthew McLaughlin’s work explores how people define space in relationship to themselves on multiple levels, through personal and public forums, by bringing together those themes via mixed-media works from multiple series. The exhibition covers three distinct series, Proxemic Boundaries, Plotting Truths, and Reflective Cartography.

#### NOW THRU APRIL 29

**“A Tale of Two Studios.”** Del Ray Artisans partners with Art Enables Gallery & Studio in an open-themed showcase of the inspiring art of these two community organizations to convey an essential story about creative expression and art-making. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, April 7 from 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-6 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed April 30). [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

#### APRIL 22 TO JULY 15

**Alexander D’Agostino: “A Shrine for the Forgotten”** Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Baltimore-based solo artist exhibition recipient, Alexander D’Agostino, presents “A Shrine for the Forgotten.” The work explores queer histories and images, through performance, installation, and reclaiming material from queer archives and other cultural resources related to the historic marginalization of LGBTQ people.



**The Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale takes place Saturday, April 29, 2023 in Alexandria.**

### Native Plant Sale

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At 1701 N. Quaker Lane parking lot, Alexandria. Largest native plant sale in DC Metro Area hosts 10 vendors from VA, MD, PA, and DC selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. This event is free. Call 571-232-0375 or [www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org](http://www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org).

#### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 26

**Chamber XCHANGE.** 6-8 p.m. At Founders Hall, 106 N. Lee Street, Alexandria. Powered by The Chamber ALX. April presenters: Julie Chapman, Founder and Chair ALX Dog Walk; Cheyanne Dwyer, Chief Strategy Officer of Building Momentum; and Brad Halsey, CEO and Co-Founder of Building Momentum. For more information on the program, reach out to us at [Lpatish@thechamberalx.com](mailto:Lpatish@thechamberalx.com)

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 27

**Poem in Your Pocket.** 6:30 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. City of Alexandria Poet Laureate, Zeina Azzam, will lead the Poem in Your Pocket Celebration at the Athenaeum. The formal program begins at 7 p.m. She will be joined by winning poets of the 2023 DASHing Words in Motion program, who will have their poems displayed inside the DASH buses and trolleys in April and May. Limited seating will be available, so reservations are required. To make a reservation email [arts@alexandriava.gov](mailto:arts@alexandriava.gov).

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 29

**Alexandria African American Family Reunion.** The Alexandria Public Library is having their very first “Alexandria African American Family Reunion” on April 29, 2023. The library wants you to share your family photos. They will have their scanning machines ready to make copies of your pictures. If you would like your pictures scanned prior to the event, visit the blog at – <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> and while there, read the article on “The Importance of Photos.” For additional information on the Reunion, click on this

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

link – <https://mailchi.mp/alexlibraryva/newsletter-1108914?e=117c38ecbf>

## SATURDAY/APRIL 29

**Healthy Kids Day.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At YMCA Alexandria, 420 East Monroe Ave., Alexandria. This free, annual event features all sorts of family-friendly activities to encourage healthy kids, healthy families, and a healthy start to the summer season. Meet firefighters and check out a fire truck, get your face painted, and create something new in our STEAM Maker Space. Enjoy Family Zumba, Family Swim (1-3 p.m.), and a Doggie Parade (12:30-1:00 p.m.). Grab a piece of fresh fruit, courtesy of the American Heart Association, and get up-to-date on important vaccines provided by Giant Pharmacy. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/healthy-kids-day-at-ymca-alexandria-tickets-609846716947>

## CALENDAR

**SATURDAY/APRIL 29**  
Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At The Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Ten vendors from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and D.C. will be hosted. Visit the website [www.facebook.com/NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale](http://www.facebook.com/NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale).

## APRIL 29-30

"Cinderella Spring Ballet." At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria. Presented by the Metropolitan School of the Arts. More than 40 Metropolitan School of the Arts students will perform Cinderella, including: Justin Roach, who performs as Prince Charming. Roach, grade 12, was accepted into the Syracuse University Musical Theater Dance program in New York with a

full tuition scholarship; and Sara Yoon, grade 12, has been at MSA since age 3. Yoon completed her Royal Academy of Dance examinations through the highest level, receiving a high distinction. Dates: On Sat., April 29 at 12 PM and 5 PM, and Sun., April 30 at 12 PM and 5 PM. Tickets are ranging from \$22 to \$25 per person. Go to [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org) for more information and tickets, or click go to Cinderella tickets.

## TUESDAY/MAY 2

**Love+Dance.** 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. In celebration of Asian Heritage month in May, Fiesta Asia & Dance Asia jointly presents Love+Dance - An Asian Dance Showcase featuring new & unique fusion dance pieces from diverse cultures with a spotlight focus on female artists.

## TUESDAYS, MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, Tuesdays @ 10 - What Bugs You?** 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. At Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, 420 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria. What can homeowners do that is kid safe, pet safe, environmentally responsible, and budget friendly to control those pesky mosquitoes, ticks, and other garden pests that emerge in the spring? And, what about those naughty invasive plants? Stop by the garden from 10:00-11:00 every Tuesday morning where you can get answers to these questions and more from Extension Master Gardeners. Each month, a different "garden of the month" will be highlighted that can inspire ideas for your own garden or even a favorite container.

## MAY 5-27

The "Prints in May@DRA: Exploring the Possibilities" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery features traditional printmaking techniques such as reliefs, intaglios, monoprints and handmade prints with mixed media, along

with artworks created using computer graphics programs and other objects enhanced with block prints or imprints. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed May 28). Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## MAY 6

**Used Book Sale:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

## SATURDAY/MAY 6

**Spring Garden Tour.** 10-11 a.m. (Adults) Enjoy a guided tour of Green Spring's beautiful demonstration gardens with an Extension Master Gardener docent. Hear about our 18th century origins and our mission today. Find inspiration in our horticulturists' plant choices and garden bed designs and take their ideas home to try in your own landscape. Garden tours run rain or shine. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code AUH.WQZD.

## SATURDAY/MAY 6

**Garden Talk - Problem Plants & Better Alternatives.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. (Adults) Fast-growing invasive plants spread like wild-fire, covering your garden and anything that does not move! Give invasives an inch and they'll take over your yard. Learn about Fairfax County's new mandate against bamboo aggression and

hear from Extension Master Gardeners about the best native alternatives for your garden. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code AL8.KOAS.

## THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

## APRIL

Wed. 26: Suzanne Vega - An Intimate Evening of Songs and Stories \$55.00

Fri. 28: Ohio Players \$69.50

Sat. 29: Eaglemania - The World's Greatest Tribute to the Eagles \$45.00

Sun. 30: Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone \$55.00

## MAY

Mon. 1: The Wallflowers w/ Lisa Bouchelle \$75.00 SOLD OUT!

Tue. 2: Amy Grant \$79.50 SOLD OUT!

Thu. 4: Raheem DeVaughn \$85.00 SOLD OUT!

Fri. 5: TUSK - The World's #1 Tribute to Fleetwood Mac! \$45.00

Sat. 6: KT Tunstall & Martin Sexton \$49.50

Mon. 8: Cowboy Junkies \$65.00 SOLD OUT!

Tue. 9: Amy Grant \$79.50 SOLD OUT!

Fri. 12: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston \$59.50

Sat. 13: The Jerry Douglas Band \$35.00

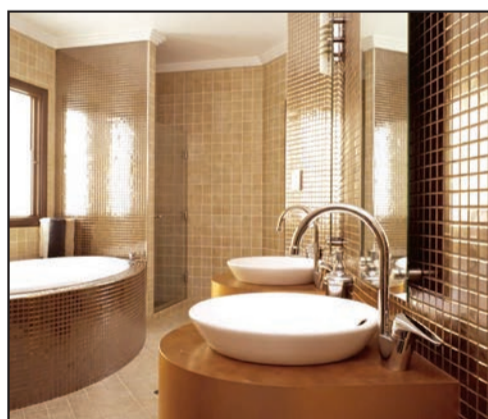
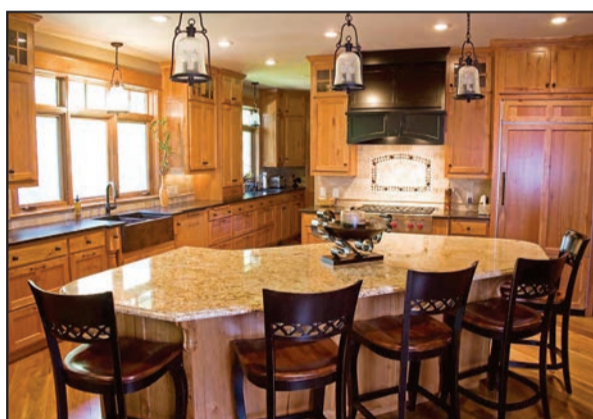
Sun. 14: Redneck Mother's Day with THE GONZO COMPADRES - A Tribute to Jerry Jeff Walker \$45.00

Fri. 19: THE CURTIS MAYFIELD SOUNDTRACK SHOW - A Curtis Mayfield Tribute- featuring Shelton Price, Roger Chapman, Ignatius, Sonya Chichester, Sonja, Brigitte Johnson, Keith 'Showtime' Busey & The Unit Band \$39.50

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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# 3 Places to Help Pack Your Picnic

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

It happens every year about this time: Outdoor movies and jazz in the park put some pizzazz in warm evenings out, cyclists have brought their bikes to the shop for a tune-up before a leisurely weekend ride, and date nights are spent under the stars. Here are three of the city's best bets to help you pack your picnic basket.

**Bagel Uprising,**  
2307A Mount Vernon Ave.

Whether for a breakfast nosh or later in the day, bagels are always welcome to the picnic party. Go with one of Bagel Uprising's signature sandwiches – the tuna melt and Veg Out are great options for lunch, or give the classic fried egg and cheese a try first thing in the morning – or pick up a baker's dozen to go, complete with a multitude of cream cheese options, to DIY later on.

**Caphe Banh Mi,**  
407 Cameron St.

It's easy to see Old Town's beloved Vietnamese eatery on this list and think "Since when is pho a picnic food?" First of all: Anything can be picnic fare if it's brought on a picnic! But secondly, Caphe Banh Mi offers so much more than pho. For starters: Their signature banh mi sandwiches are a great way to elevate your takeaway options. Spice up your sandwich with red curry ground beef, or go plant-based with the vegan option (offering soy chicken). Stick with the classic – it's named such on the menu – or try the pork belly or fried egg variety. Not feeling the banh mi love? Here's a hint: The vermicelli noodle bowls are super-portable, too.

**The Italian Place,**  
621 Wythe St.

You may think you know sandwiches, but you don't



Perfect for a picnic, from The Italian Place.

know sandwiches like The Italian Place knows sandwiches. The Old Town shop (which has a sister shop in Fairfax) is teeming with options, from an eggplant parmesan sub to a meatball version to a club, tuna and many more. Not quite feeling the heft of a sub sandwich? The Italian Place also offers several panini options for something a bit more pressed. Be sure to pick up a side salad or chips to complete your order – or go all the way and take some tiramisu along for the ride as well.

*Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.*

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

- Sat. 20: NAJEE \$59.50
- Sun. 21: BoDeans \$35.00
- Tue. 23: The Lone Bellow Trio "Love

- Songs For Losers Tour" w/ Lindsay Lou \$45.00
- Wed. 24: Chrisette Michele \$69.50
- Thu. 25: Chrisette Michele \$69.50
- Fri. 26: Bela Dona Band \$39.50

- Sat. 27: The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw \$39.50 (Rescheduled from 3/17/23) SOLD OUT!
- Sun. 28: The Seldom Scene & Larry Keel Experience \$35.00

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

nior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.  
The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarsky at 703-746-9999 or email

DAAS@alexandriava.gov.  
FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children's learning.  
❖ Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.  
❖ Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.  
Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.  
Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial,

family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit [www.novasecond-saturday.com](http://www.novasecond-saturday.com) for more.

ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/tes](http://www.alexandriava.gov/tes).

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**CALENDAR**

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

**Let us know about an upcoming event**  
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**Legals**

The Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB) is holding a public hearing on May 11 at 6:30 p.m. to receive comment on the needs of Alexandrians with mental illness, developmental disability or a substance use dependency. See additional information including the proposed FY24-25 Performance contract at [www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS](http://www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS).

**Legals**

**Legals**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on its PROPOSED OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024, on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at AlexRenew's Environmental Center Building located at 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, VA. The proposed FY2024 budget is available for examination by the public online at [www.alexrenew.com](http://www.alexrenew.com). Copies will be made available upon request – phone (703) 721-3500 ext. 2260. April 27 and May 4.

Alexandria Renew Enterprises  
BY: William Dickinson  
Secretary – Treasurer

**Legals**

**Legals**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises, hereby signifies its intent to change certain rates, fees, and charges to become effective **July 1, 2023** and hereby sets the date of **Saturday, May 20, at 9:00 a.m.**, at Alexandria Renew Enterprises' administration office, 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 for a public hearing to receive comment regarding same.

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

The proposed rates, fees and charges are:

Description	Meter Size	Current Effective July 1, 2022	Proposed Effective July 1, 2023	Proposed Effective July 1, 2024
Individually Metered Residential Service – Wastewater Treatment Charge	All Meters	\$9.26*	\$9.76*	\$10.26*
Commercial Service – Wastewater Treatment Charge				

\*Per 1,000 gallons

Description	Meter Size	Current Effective July 1, 2022	Proposed Effective July 1, 2023	Proposed Effective July 1, 2024
Residential Base Charge	All Meters	\$13.14	\$13.85	\$14.57
	5/8"	\$39.42	\$41.55	\$43.68
	3/4"	\$39.42	\$41.55	\$43.68
	1"	\$98.55	\$103.87	\$109.19
	1-1/2"	\$197.10	\$207.74	\$218.38
Commercial Base Charge	2"	\$315.36	\$332.39	\$349.41
	3"	\$591.30	\$623.23	\$655.14
	4"	\$985.50	\$1,038.72	\$1,091.90
	6"	\$1,971.00	\$2,077.43	\$2,183.80
8"	\$3,153.60	\$3,323.89	\$3,494.08	
Minimum Deposit Based on Meter Size	-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Residential Customer Activation Fee	-	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

The new rates and charges shall be effective on July 1, 2023, and shall remain in effect thereafter until further revised. Any rates, fees, or charges not revised herein shall remain in effect until further revised.

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**Legals**

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The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owners of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:  
FAROOQ ABDUL ALEEM
2. Principal Place of Business: 520 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address: Farooq Abdul Aleem, 127 Eastridge Cir, Pacifica, CA 94044.
4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

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**Animal Welfare League of Alexandria Earns Autism Certification**

The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards named the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) a Certified Autism Center, marking the first animal welfare organization to earn this certification. The Certified Autism Center program provides autism training and certification to AWLA staff and volunteers so they can better understand and assist autistic and sensory-sensitive individuals during their visit or camp.

"Whether looking for a new companion, visiting our pet pantry, or spending the day in our youth summer camp program, we want each member of our community to have the best experience possible while visiting the AWLA," said Joanna Fortin, Director of Community Programs at the AWLA. "We ... look forward to connecting with our visitors to help determine how we can make their experience most enjoyable."

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria has been a resource for the community and a shelter for homeless animals since 1946. Through adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education, community service, and outreach, the AWLA plays a key role in promoting responsible pet care across Northern Virginia. More than 2,000 animals come into the organizations care each year, including dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, iguanas, and chinchillas. The AWLA also assists area wildlife that has been injured or are in distress, with the ultimate goal of releasing them back into their natural habitat if possible.

"At the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, we strive to be welcoming and inclusive. As a Certified Autism Center, we continue to show our community that everyone is welcome at our facility," said AWLA Executive Director Stella Inly.

The need for autism-specific training among community and city organizations has never been greater, with 1 in 36 children diagnosed with autism in the US (according to the CDC) and a growing number of adults receiving autism diagnoses later in life.

IBCCES training and certification programs help professionals in various fields better understand how to communicate and assist autistic individuals within their community. In addition to staff training to support those with sensory sensitivities, the AWLA provides free sensory bags that include a pair of noise-reducing headphones, sunglasses, fidget devices, and an "I need/I feel" card, which may facilitate communication with nonverbal individuals. Sensory bags are available for checkout at the shelter's front desk. The AWLA also provides a low-sensory quiet area for visitors who want to decompress. For potential adopters, the League offers the option of a virtual meeting with adoptable animals through Zoom if a visit to our shelter may be difficult to manage. AWLA also plans on developing a social story to help visitors understand what to expect when visiting so they can plan their visit in advance.



Aerial view of Potomac Yard construction, with the long delayed station now scheduled to open May 19.

WMATA IMAGES



An interior view of Potomac Yard station.

## Opening Set for Friday, May 19

The opening day for Metro's newest station, Potomac Yard, is set for Friday, May 19. Metro General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke joined City of Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson to make the announcement while touring the Potomac Yard site and in a joint news release.

"It's not cliché to say, in this instance, 'dreams really do come true,'" said City of Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, who was previously irate over delays. "Bringing Metro to Potomac Yard has been the City's most significant economic development, transportation and climate initiative. While not always easy, the opening of this station is a monumental achievement for the City, WMATA, and its contractors. But more importantly, this station is the legacy of a legion of Alexandrians who never gave up the dream."

The station, located in the fastest growing area of the City, is between Washington National Airport and Braddock Road stations serving the Blue and Yellow lines. Potomac Yard will be Metro's 98th station and is Metro's second infill station, built between existing stations.

The station was initiated by the City and funded by tax revenues and developer contributions generated by planned new development in the Potomac Yard neighborhood, as well as state grants, loans, and regional sources. The addition of the station

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enhances connectivity to and from Alexandria, which has seen substantial population growth and new development in the last few decades.

The station provides benefits for Alexandria and the surrounding communities, including walkable access to regional transportation systems for residents in the City's northeast area. The station is expected to generate billions of dollars in new private sector investment over the long term and eventually support 26,000 new jobs and 13,000 new residents. New development immediately adjacent and north of the station is a mix of retail, residential and commercial development, including the new Virginia Tech Innovation Campus.

Work to tie-in the station and new tracks with the rest of the Metrorail system concluded in November 2022, and trains have passed through the station without stopping as the remaining work continues. Metro and its safety partners will complete critical safety reviews and provide staff training before opening for passenger service on May 19. During the next month, Metro will continue coordinating with its partners to ensure the station is ready to welcome customers.

Potomac Yard will be one of the first rail stations in North America to receive Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission is to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers.

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The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk.

The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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## Daze of Future Past



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I am thinking more presently about my brother's death on Dec. 3rd (see last week's column, "The Dog's Honest Truth"); even though it's been five-plus months since his passing, there's still a part of my brain that keeps expecting an email, especially every morning when I turn on the computer or a phone call - at any time. The calls and emails happened so frequently over the past almost 10 years that receiving them is almost muscle memory, as if it sort of happens on its own, and I can't do anything about it. And when it doesn't happen, I experience that random wave of grief I talked about recently. For no apparent reason and/or no apparent trigger, I'll feel a subconscious punch to the gut reminding me - for the millionth time, that my brother is dead. And believe me, I don't need any reminding. But 'reminding' I get, all the time.

The effect isn't tangible or even describable other than as a vague emotional blip. It almost stops me in my tracks. It is to invoke a quote from a long-ago Seinfeld episode: "Something." Typically, I'll acknowledge it, shake my head in sadness and then return to my regularly scheduled activity. It's not incapacitating or anything. It's simply a moment in time that regularly occurs, morning, noon, or night. I'm sure it's worse for Vanessa however, Richard's widow living in the house they shared for almost 30 years. I can't imagine the daily (probably minute by minute) reminders that Vanessa experiences. When I've asked her about those kinds of feelings and commended her on her wherewithal under such emotionally difficult circumstances, she replies she "has good days and bad days." Though I knew Richard longer than Vanessa did, and have lots of childhood memories, I've never lived with him or been surrounded - as Vanessa is, 24/7, by all things Richard.

A close friend of mine, and fellow cancer survivor, Lynne, said years ago before I started chemotherapy that it would be the hardest thing I've ever done. And I certainly wouldn't want to wish it on my worst enemy but, my brother's dying has given me a new contender: being the lone immediate family member (cousins and all notwithstanding) still alive/last one standing. All that shared DNA gone, but not forgotten, which is the most difficult aspect of the loss. The primary people I would go to/ask for advice, guidance, encouragement, understanding, and compassion are now all gone. And they are not replaceable. When foundational pieces of your life disappear (through death mostly), your life is never quite the same, or as interesting. I feel, with my brother's passing, I have much less to offer; that there are fewer questions people might have for me about my life (which included him). It's not exactly an awkward silence that follows, it's more an abbreviated conversation. I don't take it personally though. I am less interesting without my brother alive. He was an integral part of my life. I don't expect I'll ever get over the loss. In public, to the untrained eye I'll look as if today is just another day. But from now on those days will be less fulfilling and more somber.

"Forest, Forest Gump," knew, even though he was mentally challenged. Invoking his deceased mother: "Mama always said dying was part of life. I wish it wasn't." From the mouths of babes, or in this case a fictional character, comes brilliance, simplicity, and clarity. And though I suppose I understand and appreciate some of the feelings I've described concerning my brother and his semi unexpected passing (he went in septic shock after all; very serious); nevertheless, it's still a bit unsettling when I experience them. I am sort of grateful that I feel what I do. Though my brother may not be alive, fortunately for me, his memory sure is, and I don't expect that to ever change.

Why this whole experience/loss is so hard for me - and many others, is that Richard was a big presence. His not being places where he usually was is unnerving. It's obvious that something (someone) is missing. And for the moment, I'm still half-expecting a contact somehow because for almost the entirety of my 68 years, I was receiving them all the time. Moreover, since we lived in the same city ("DMV," actually) not only we were emotionally close, physically we were 30 minutes away. Add in the ease/convenience of communication that has come with a cell/smart phone as well as the instantaneous connection enabled by home computers and the lines of that communication were non-stop (let' say frequent). However close we were in life before these technological improvements took hold, we were that much closer after - because we could be. Losing that connection on Dec. 3rd will haunt me for the rest of my life.

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

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

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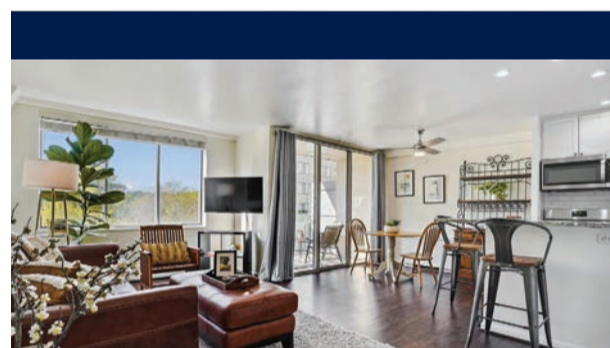


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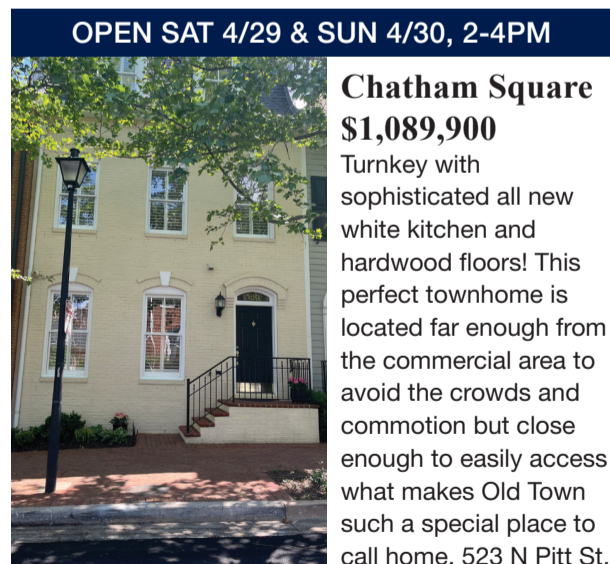
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Friday, April 28th | Beatley Library

- 12PM-3PM: COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT  
Bring your old documents, etc. for safe and secure shredding by a professional shredding truck
- 1PM: THE SEVEN TYPES OF SENIOR COMMUNITIES  
We hope to see you there!

Presented by Crouch Realty Group & At Home in Alexandria



OPEN SAT 4/29 & SUN 4/30, 2-4PM

**Chatham Square \$1,089,900**

Turnkey with sophisticated all new white kitchen and hardwood floors! This perfect townhome is located far enough from the commercial area to avoid the crowds and commotion but close enough to easily access what makes Old Town such a special place to call home. 523 N Pitt St.

**Rochelle Gray 703.328.1686**  
[www.rochellegray.com](http://www.rochellegray.com)



OPEN SUN 4/30, 1-3PM

**Alexandria \$599,000**

Rare find! Remodeled 3 level Brick townhouse, 3 br, 3.5 ba, den/study. hardwoods, fireplace, walk out lower level with private patio/garden adjoins common area, easy commute, pet friendly, affordably priced. 2676 Centennial Ct.

**Nick Kuhn 703.671.5225**  
**Anne Martone 571.213.3991**



OPEN SAT 4/29 & SUN 4/30, 12-2PM

**Alexandria \$419,000**

1213 N Van Dorn Street is a perfect home for anyone who wants to live in the heart of the city while still enjoying the benefits of a quiet and peaceful home. Just up the street, you have direct access to I-395 and to King Street!

**Jillian Keck Hogan Group 703.951.7655**  
[www.jilliankeckhogan.com](http://www.jilliankeckhogan.com)

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