Their faces are instantly recognizable from the world of sports and entertainment. But at one time, these notable individuals walked the streets of Alexandria, playing with childhood friends, attending Alexandria schools and performing in local theater productions.

In August of 1967, “Light My Fire” by The Doors was atop the charts with Jim Morrison having graduated only a few years earlier from George Washington High School. In front of a crowd estimated at more than 4,000, Morrison gave what is reported to be his only performance in his hometown when The Doors performed at the Alexandria Roller Rink on North Saint Asaph Street (now the site of the Sheraton Suites). The group would go on to sell more than 100 million records worldwide.

“I have called Alexandria home for decades. There is no place else I would rather be.”
— Television personality and salon owner Monte Durham

School. In front of a crowd estimated at more than 4,000, Morrison gave what is reported to be his only performance in his hometown when The Doors performed at the Alexandria Roller Rink on North Saint Asaph Street (now the site of the Sheraton Suites). The group would go on to sell more than 100 million records worldwide.

Willard Scott was America’s Star Search.

Born Ellen Naomi Cohen in Alexandria, Mama Cass Elliot, center back, was a 1961 graduate of George Washington High School. John Phillips, right, was also raised in Alexandria and the two performed together as the Mamas and the Papas. He played basketball at George Washington High School.

Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Harden got her theatrical start at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Jim Morrison, standing rear second from right, and The Doors pose with DJ Jack Alix, holding a copy of GO Magazine between his teeth, before The Doors’ show at the Alexandria Roller Rink on Aug. 18, 1967. Also pictured are members of the Blades of Grass and the Jackettes Go-Go Girls. The show is believed to be the only time that Morrison, who graduated from George Washington High School, played in Alexandria.

World champion and Olympic bronze medalist Noah Lyles began his track and field career as a student at T.C. Williams High School.

Actors Chris Meloni of Law and Order: Special Victims Unit was the captain and quarterback of the 1978 undefeated St. Stephen’s football team.

Jim Morrison as a senior at George Washington High School.

Born Ellen Naomi Cohen in Alexandria, Mama Cass Elliot, center back, was a 1961 graduate of George Washington High School. John Phillips, right, was also raised in Alexandria and the two performed together as the Mamas and the Papas. He played basketball at George Washington High School.

Actor Dermot Mulroney was born in Alexandria and got his acting start at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.
Your Home Is My Priority

JUST LISTED
1117 N. Gaillard Street, Alexandria, VA 22304
$1,424,900

This stunning four-bedroom home in Vauxcleuse offers a luxurious and spacious living experience. As you enter the two-story foyer, you’ll be greeted by beautiful Travertine tile flooring that sets the tone for the elegance throughout the house. A wonderfully open floor plan with a gorgeous chef’s kitchen, expansive family and living rooms and a separate dining room make this home an entertainer’s dream. The exterior of the home is just as impressive as the interior. A wraparound deck overlooks a magnificent, landscaped yard that is perfect for hosting outdoor get-togethers and enjoying the natural beauty that envelopes you. A lower stone patio with a fire pit is ideal for small gatherings, and multiple natural benches invite you to relax and take in the peaceful surroundings. There are also several quaint paths that wind their way through the property.

FOR SALE
427 S Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
$1,965,000

Be the first to live in this totally renovated house in Old Town’s desirable southeast quadrant. Over 2,000 square feet of living space including an additional main level room that can function as a potential third bedroom, family room, or home office. Modern elements blend effortlessly with historic Federal-style architecture reflecting quality design and construction details of this move-in ready home. Offering exposure on three sides, sunlight beams within throughout the day.

UNDER CONTRACT
607 S Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
$1,399,900

This stunning home in the southeast quadrant of Old Town is in pristine condition and offers a plethora of features that are sure to impress. With 3 bedrooms and 2 baths upstairs, and a first-floor family room, separate dining room, living room and kitchen, this property provides ample space for comfortable living. One of the highlights is the large gourmet kitchen boasting high-end appliances, quartz counters, loads of storage and a peninsula. There is also a powder room on the first level.
A Home to History

By Jeanne Theismann

For centuries, Alexandria has been known primarily as the hometown of George Washington, attracting history aficionados from across the globe to its cobblestone streets and lively waterfront. But there is also the city’s more complicated history as home to Robert E. Lee, slavery and segregation.

Thanks to the work of city historians and dedicated volunteers, a fuller history is slowly being told of the city that was first settled in 1695 and formally founded in 1749.

While Mount Vernon was Washington’s primary residence, there are many buildings with ties to the Founding Father including Gadsby’s Tavern and Christ Church, both popular tourist attractions.

But Alexandria was also once known as a thriving trading port of enslaved people. The Franklin and Armfield Slave Pen at 1315 Duke Street was one of the largest trading companies of enslaved people in the country. The Freedom House Museum is what remains of the large complex dedicated to trafficking thousands of Black men, women, and children from 1828 - 1861.

Then thousands of African Americans flocked to the city during the Civil War fleeing the bondage of slavery in the south. With living conditions crowded and dire, many perished from disease and deprivation.

In 1864, after hundreds had died, the Superintendent of Contrabands, as the freedmen were known, ordered that a property on the southern edge of town be confiscated for use as a cemetery and an estimated 1,800 African Americans were laid to rest there before the last burial took place in January of 1869. Today, the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial is a significant site as part of the African American Civil Rights Network.

“We are so proud to be the first Virginia site included with the Civil Rights Network,” said Audrey Davis, director of African American History of the Office of Historic Alexandria when the site was dedicated in 2021.”It is so important to us that people are now recognizing the petition for this cemetery as one of the earliest Civil Rights actions in Alexandria. While it is not the earliest, it is a very, very important organized fight for Civil Rights by African Americans and we are very proud of that.”

With a population of just under 13,000 in 1860, Alexandria is now home to 160,000, some with ties dating back more than two centuries.

“Alexandria was a great place to grow up,” said Thomas Hulfish III, a sixth generation Alexandrian whose first family member arrived as a Scottish sea captain in 1780. “I loved playing along the industrial waterfront. Alexandria was here because of the river and when the railroad arrived it became a busy, bustling town.”

Hulfish has seen many a resident come and go over the years, including his child

Alexandria National Cemetery is one of the original national cemeteries established during the Civil War in 1862.
Remembering 9-11

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

The City of Alexandria paid tribute to those who sacrificed and were lost in the terrorist attacks of 9-11 during a remembrance ceremony held Sept. 11 in Market Square.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) joined city and state officials and public safety chiefs as Mayor Justin Wilson reminded attendees of the importance of unity in the face of divisiveness and community in times of need.

“The most important thing that came out of the 9-11 experience was that national unity that we saw in the immediate aftermath,” Wilson said. “I would argue in the 22 years since, we haven’t seen it again. That unity is one of the most important lessons of 9-11 and the reason that we have gatherings like today.”

The city recognized the contributions of first responders and others in the wake of the 9-11 attacks, including firefighters, medics, law enforcement officers, and civilians from across the commonwealth.

Police Chief Don Hayes, Sheriff Sean Casey and Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Duke, representing the Alexandria public safety departments that responded to the call for support at the Pentagon, each gave remarks.

“We may wear different uniforms, but there is something inside us that beats on the same heartbeat,” said Hayes. “We are one Alexandria and one public safety.”

In addition to remembering the acts of bravery from first responders, the ceremony mourned the losses suffered that day and the repercussions felt since.

“9-11 changed our lives forever.”

9-11 ended a long national holiday in American history,” Beyer said. “It had been 60 years since any enemy had dared to attack us. 9-11 changed our lives forever.”

Beyer continued, “I believe history has a direction, and that direction is forward. Keeping 9-11 in our hearts and minds will inspire us to keep moving forward.”
Outdated apartment complexes gush greenhouse gas emissions.

By Michael Lee Pope

Alexandria’s old and outdated apartment buildings are the number one source of carbon emissions in the city, leaky structures that allow air conditioning and heating to escape through inefficient windows and permeable roofs. Now city officials have a plan to decarbonize sick buildings, and make sure new ones don’t contribute to climate change. The plans are outlined in an action plan now setting goals for the next few decades.

“They set pretty ambitious targets for retrofitting existing buildings,” said Benjamin Preston, senior environmental policy researcher at the Rand Corporation. “What you see in the policies that are being proposed in that action plan recognizes that they have to figure out how to create financial incentives to get homeowners to implement these policies or to come up with clever ways of financing retrofits.”

The Energy and Climate Action Plan approved earlier this year includes strategies to improve the efficiency of lighting and appliances as well as heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

The document also suggests ways to electrify buildings, replacing old fuel-powered heating systems that contribute to climate change. Because the city chose to combine emissions from buildings and emissions from electricity production, the final report puts a spotlight on buildings as a chief concern for the city.

“Obviously those emissions are being produced elsewhere at the power plant,” said Preston. “Nevertheless, they’re looking downstream where the electricity is going, and they are attributing power plant emissions back to the city based on electricity use in those buildings.”

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS from transportation are often seen as a chief source of greenhouse gas emissions, and the action plan identifies significant problems there as well. But because the report focuses so heavily on large apartment complexes as the city’s chief source of emissions rather than cars or buses, many people were surprised at the findings.

“I was surprised,” admitted Mary Harris, co-chairwoman of the Alexandria Energy and Climate Change Action Plan Task Force. “I would have suspected it was transportation. But in fact it was buildings by a mile.”

Four years ago, the Alexandria City Council adopted a resolution declaring a climate emergency, setting the stage for the action plan that is now outlining goals for the future. Perhaps the most ambitious goal is reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Alexandria by 100 percent over the next 20 years. Task force members who helped put the plan together say they are hoping to use a mix of incentives to property owners and zoning requirements for future buildings — essentially a carrot-and-stick approach that will often depend on voluntary action to accomplish the goal.

“Nobody’s coming after your gas stove,” said Harris. “But if we want to meet a goal of reducing emissions, we need to electrify as many buildings as we can, reduce energy use in those buildings and generally decarbonize them.”
Obituary

Joseph Gerald ‘Gerry’ Hebert

Voting rights titan, ALIVE! supporter dies at 74.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

Gerry Hebert was the strongest man in the world. At least that is what he always playfully told his children when they were young. And for decades it appeared he was just that as he fearlessly protested, marched and used his legal acumen to fight for voting rights across the country for nearly half a century.

On Sept. 7, the noted Civil Rights attorney died at his Alexandria home following a six-month battle with glioblastoma. He was 74.

“Growing up, my dad referred to himself as ‘the strongest man in the world,’” said Hebert’s daughter Greta in one of many medical updates posted on the Caring Bridge website. “No matter what it was, he could do it, and that was his reason. The resolve, tenacity and courage I have witnessed [during this battle] has been beyond human. No one could be better prepared.”

Tributes to the legal stalwart poured in across social media, including from ALIVE!, where Hebert had served in many capacities, including as a past president.

“Gerry has been at the heart of ALIVE! for almost 40 years,” said ALIVE! in a Facebook statement. “We are so grateful for all the hard work and dedication he demonstrated to ALIVE!’s mission and to the community of Alexandria.”

Joseph Gerald Hebert was born Feb. 13, 1949, in Worcester, Mass. to Joseph Gerald Laurie Hebert and Adeline Agnes Whitehead Hebert. A graduate of St. John’s High School in Shrewsbury, Hebert went on to earn his bachelor’s degree from Stonehill College and Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School.

Hebert worked in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division from 1973 to 1994. While at the DOJ, he won acclaim for his work in school desegregation cases and served as the lead attorney in voting rights and redistricting lawsuits, including several cases decided by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Post-DOJ, Hebert spent time in private practice specializing in election law and the Voting Rights Act. His expertise led him to the Campaign Legal Center in 2004, serving as Executive Director until 2018, before retiring from the organization in 2021.

“Under Gerry’s leadership, CLC expanded its litigation practice and grew its staff and resources to increase the organization’s ability to advocate on behalf of voters,” said the CLC in a statement. “He was deeply committed to mentoring young lawyers and built a robust intern program at CLC that continues today.”

In 2015, Hebert led CLC in creating the Voting Rights Institute (VRI), a partnership with the American Constitution Society and Georgetown Law. The institute provides opportunities for law students and graduates to learn how to litigate voting rights cases.

During this time, Hebert was an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center. He also taught at University of Virginia, American University, and New York University.

“Gerry has been at the heart of ALIVE! for almost 40 years.”

— ALIVE! Facebook post

Photos contributed
ALIVE! is partnering with the City of Alexandria and Hunger Free Alexandria to raise awareness of food insecurity with a kickoff event at the ALIVE! Food Hub on the West End, followed by a Food Hub open house on Hunger Action Day, Sept. 15.

Speaking: Jenn Ayers, ALIVE!'s Executive Director; Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, City of Alexandria; Melissa Jensen, Food Security Coordinator for the City of Alexandria, Department of Community and Human Services

Contribute shelf stable food items by taking the 10 Can Challenge and donating shelf stable food items to ALIVE! and other food assistance programs. Learn more at this donation challenge and see food assistance resources at: https://www.alexandriavi.gov/economic-support/food-assistance

About the ALIVE! Food Hubs:
As a sub-awardee of the City of Alexandria, ALIVE! received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to open brick and mortar locations to distribute free food and to connect city of Alexandria residents in need with support services. Alexandria City residents are able to visit ALIVE!’s Food Hubs at times that are more convenient to their schedules, and can select the specific items they need in a market-like experience. At each Food Hub, ALIVE! staff and volunteers also work to connect clients with other public and private support services. Having service navigators on site to provide information and help clients sign up for these services may provide just the boost they need to start up the path toward self-sustainability.

Del Ray Food Hub,
2601 Mount Vernon Ave.,
Operating Hours:
Tuesdays 11am – 6pm (Closed 2pm – 3pm)
Wednesdays 11am – 6pm (Closed 2pm – 3pm)
Thursdays 11am – 6pm (Closed 2pm – 3pm)
Saturdays 10am – 2pm

West End Food Hub,
510-F South Van Dorn Street
Operating Hours: See ALIVE!, Page 13

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Front Street</th>
<th>Route #</th>
<th>Route Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Posting Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATRICK</td>
<td>13372</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>HUGHES/BROWN RD/RT 699</td>
<td>WHITE MUD CREEK</td>
<td>6/22/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WYTHE</td>
<td>19743</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>CRIGLER RD</td>
<td>CRIGLER CREEK</td>
<td>6/10/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATRICK</td>
<td>13372</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>FRIENDS MEARSON CREEK</td>
<td>ARAK RIVER</td>
<td>6/1/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEDFORD</td>
<td>2916</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>TEAS TERRACE/DRT 604</td>
<td>NINNING CREEK</td>
<td>8/9/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATRICK</td>
<td>13338</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>JOHNSON CR/RT 672</td>
<td>JOHNSON CREEK</td>
<td>8/9/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATRICK</td>
<td>13372</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>ABRAM PENN HWY/RT 620</td>
<td>N. MAYO RIVER</td>
<td>6/1/2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.virginia.dot.gov 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.

Notes 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.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, 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.
A Win For Virginia

By Delegate Paul Krizek

Last Wednesday, Sept. 6, the Commonwealth of Virginia took a significant step towards improving the lives of Virginians when the General Assembly returned to Richmond to vote on the final passage of the long-awaited budget deal. The clock is ticking now with the Governor having until this upcoming Friday, Sept. 15, to sign the amended budget into law. The good news is that this budget compromise represents a series of victories for the people of Virginia, as it prioritizes investments in key areas such as public education, healthcare and affordable housing, all the while providing relief for Virginia families, especially veterans and children. It is also fiscally responsible in that it recognizes that revenue growth may be subsiding and thus the focus is on one-time initiatives.

One of the most significant highlights of this budget is the substantial investment we made in Virginia’s public schools. With over $900 million allocated to public education, the budget seeks to address critical issues that have plagued the educational system. Notably, it lifts Virginia’s arbitrary cap on state funding for support staff, paving the way for an additional 3,670 support staff positions to be created in 2023, paving the way for an additional $400 million by 2025. This change will put more money into the hands of retired veterans of every rank, demonstrating our commitment to supporting those who have served our country.

In addition to these benefits, the budget also addresses the issue of rising health insurance premiums. By lowering health insurance premiums purchased through the Exchange by 15%, the budget prevents premiums from increasing by a staggering 28.4%. This measure ensures that Virginians can access affordable healthcare and prevents them from facing financial hardship due to healthcare costs.

Lastly, the budget demonstrates a commitment to fiscal responsibility by approving less than $100 million of the Governor’s proposed $1 billion corporate tax scheme. This move rejects the most substantial tax giveaways that would primarily benefit millionaires and large corporations, instead focusing on policies that put money back into the pockets of Virginia’s workers.

In conclusion, the budget deal, which also includes strong investments in water quality, public safety, and support for 14 museums including the Gum Springs Museum and Cultural Center, approved by the General Assembly last week underlines a strong commitment to improving the lives of Virginians. By investing in education, providing one-time tax relief, and addressing healthcare challenges, this budget demonstrates a dedication to the well-being of all residents. My colleagues in the General Assembly and I are determined to put the needs of our constituents first, ensuring that no family has to make difficult choices between essential expenses, yet all the while recognizing that although we have made historic investments in education, there is even more education funding needed moving forward. That will be a battle for the next budget of 2024-25.

Six Months Late, Finally a Budget
Raising Virginia’s standard deduction from just $3000/$6000 to almost three times that amount causes an annual revenue loss of over $1.1 billion.

By Del. Vivian Watts

The General Assembly finally passed a full budget for this year. It goes into effect at midnight Friday, Sept. 15, unless the Governor wants to amend it. If he does, there will be another 30 day delay. Politically, I doubt that will happen because it would delay taxpayers receiving a tax rebate check just before the upcoming November election of up to $2000 for individuals and $4000 for married filers.

The virtually unprecedented six-month delay in passing an updated budget, in fact, was all about taxes – just like it was the only other time a budget update wasn’t passed before the start of the budget year.

Let Us Know Your View
Connection Newspapers welcomes your views on any public issue. Letters must be typed, include home address and home and business numbers; we will only publish your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, poor grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter www.twitter.com/connectionnewspapers
IN THE MIDST of the crisis which never ended, we at the Gazette still hear the call to serve our communities, with a bit of wonder that we are able to continue. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, even with reduced resources. It’s still our mission to provide information about where to get help and how to help; to tell the stories of those who are helping, of those who are hungry. It’s still our mission to tell the stories of those working for social and racial justice, and battling income inequality.

It is our mission, set out in the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution, to press local government every day for transparency, although this continues to become more difficult. Your local paper can be your window into the workings of schools, police, transportation, zoning, stormwater management, services, and a nearly infinite number of other functions. These are the things that impact our lives at home and work.

The public has a right to expect transparency from such local institutions. The founders clearly anticipated the ongoing need for the press to help in this role.

It is still our mission to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people’s lives. It is still our mission to cover the normal news of the local communities.

We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We also publish items about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, anniversaries and other business events and milestones are welcome.

If you are planning an event open to the public that you would like to have listed in our calendars, we appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC. Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of, perhaps the oldest continuously publishing papers in the United States, beginning in 1784.

We are blessed with remarkable, award-winning staff, contributing writers and photographers who are dedicated to our mission. Most have been writing for the Gazette and Connection for years, some for more than a decade (or two, or three). Each brings areas of interest and expertise. Check the bylines. Don’t miss Bonnie Hobbs, Mercia Hobson, Jeanne Theissmann, Janet Barnett, Michael Pope, Mike Salmon, Susan Lauwe, Glenda Booth, Eden Brown, Shirley Ruhe, Hope Nelson, Marilyn Campbell and others. (Our late editor Kemal Kurspahic used to refer to the pay for writers as “symbolic.”)

Local newspapers, including the Connection Newspapers, are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide downturn in newspaper advertising that has been worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis. Revenue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going. We will renew calls for contributions and subscriptions. If you value local news and you have a budget for advertising and promotion, please endeavor to spend some of it with local newspapers including ours.

— Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

— First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

Past issues of the Connection Newspapers back to 2008 are available at http://connectionarchives.com/PDF

Alexandria Gazette Packet  September 14-20, 2023  9
Celebrities and Athletes Have Called Alexandria Home
Newcomers History

A Home to History

In addition to George Washington and Robert E. Lee, the city also claims musician Jim Morrison and House of Cards creator Beau Willimon as hometown notables. History buffs will know that U.S. president Gerald Ford was a longtime resident and that U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers lived here after he was released from a Soviet prison in 1962. And Earl Lloyd, who grew up in a segregated Alexandria, was the first African American to break the color barrier in the NBA in 1950.

At 15.4 square miles, pre-pandemic Alexandria hosted nationally recognized events such as the Scottish Walk Weekend and Del Ray’s Art on the Avenue, both of which have continued to grow since making their return. But off the beaten paths of King Street and Mount Vernon Avenue are attractions such as the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier and the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Another Alexandria landmark is the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Located in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, the plaza honors the 68 Alexandrians who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

King Street in Old Town and Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray serve as the shopping and dining hubs of the city. Both are lined with locally owned boutiques and restaurants that are once again thriving after the challenges of COVID-19 guidelines.

“I’ve enjoyed Alexandria so very much. I never thought about living anywhere else,” Hulfish said.

Noted Civil War photographer Matthew Brady captures an image of African American laborers at the Coal Wharf in Alexandria, ca. 1860-1865. The site is near Tide Lock Park in North Old Town.

Known as the Spite House, the historic Queen Street property is one of the smallest in the city.

Alexandria Aces players storm the field after winning the 2022 League Championship Series of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, taking the title for the first time with a 5-3 win over defending champions Bethesda Big Train July 30 at Shirley Povich Field in Bethesda.

The Holiday Boat Parade of Lights takes place along the Alexandria waterfront the first weekend in December.
Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site features many Civil War programs and reenactments throughout the year.

Local organizations participate in many of the parades held during the year.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is one of many live entertainment venues across the city.

The Friendship Firehouse Museum is one of several historic museums in the city.

The Old Town Farmers Market is considered the oldest continuous farmers market in the country with George Washington one of the first merchants.

Fireworks over the Potomac River are a tradition of First Night Alexandria.

“Alexandria was a great place to grow up.”
— Sixth generation Alexandrian Tom Hulfish

A Home to History
FOR EVERY GENERATION. THIS IS WHY WE WALK.

At the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s®, we’re fighting for a different future. For families facing the disease today. For more time. For treatments.

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Old Town North Farmers Market (Montgomery Park, 901 North Royal St):
- Thursday, 3pm - 7pm & Sunday, 10am - 2pm
- Sunrise of Alexandria (3520 Duke St):
  - Friday-Saturday, 10am - 4pm
  - Taste of Asia (362 S Pickett St):
    - Friday-Sunday, 11am - 8:30pm
  - Tequila and Taco (540 John Carlyle St):
    - Friday-Sunday, 11am - 8:30pm
  - Pork Barrel (2312 Mt Vernon Ave):
    - Friday-Sunday, 11:30am - 10:30pm
  - Whiskey and Oyster (301 John Carlyle St):
    - Friday-Saturday, 11am - 10:30pm & Sunday 11am - 8pm

ALIVE! is the largest private safety net in the City of Alexandria dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger. Founded in 1969 as Alexandria Involved Ecumenically by 14 faith communities in response to rising levels of poverty, ALIVE! has grown to 50 interfaith member congregations.

More at: alive-inc.org

Opinion

Watts

That JLARC report shifted the budget discussion towards a harder look at total tax relief. We had already cut state taxes over $4 billion last year by removing the sales tax on food, raising the standard deduction, and giving one-time rebates of up to $250/$500. Given the almost $3 billion in permanent tax relief in last year’s cuts, plus documented education under-funding and mounting concern about a federal government shutdown that would affect 30% of Virginia’s economy, the budget compromise we just passed only put an additional $280 million into permanent tax cuts while over $900 million will go back to taxpayers through the one-time $200/$400 rebate.

Over $96 million of the permanent tax cut will go to continuing the challenge of closing the large gap between the standard deduction Virginia taxpayers can take when they itemize their state income tax and what they get on their federal income tax. Five years ago, Virginia’s standard deduction was only $3000 for a single filer and $6000 for joint filers. It had been 15 years since it had been raised. Meanwhile, the federal standard deduction had grown to $12,000/$24,000 pushed by an inflation adjustment, since, have increased it to $13,850/$27,700.

Such a large gap is especially unfair to Virginia taxpayers because Virginia’s tax law requires that if you choose the federal standard deduction, you can’t choose to itemize deductions when you file your Virginia tax. Why? Virginia has chosen not to fund the bureaucracy it would take to audit itemized deductions and has always piggy-backed on federal tax audits.

Therefore, in 2018, we increased Virginia’s standard deduction to $4500/$9000 resulting in an ongoing, annual tax savings for approximately 80% of Virginia taxpayers. The 20% that don’t benefit are those who itemize to pay less in federal taxes and tend to be businesses or persons in the top 5% of income. Last year, we again increased the standard deduction making it $8,000/$16,000. Now, we’ve increased Virginia’s standard deduction to $8,500/$17,000.

This constant push to lower taxes for most taxpayers by raising the standard deduction has resulted in Virginia’s income tax being more progressive. In sharp contrast, the original proposal to lower the highest tax rate from 5.75 to 5.5 would have given most of the tax cut to the top 5% of income. They would have gotten thousands of dollars while the majority of taxpayers got less than $50 and many would get no tax relief.

However, the total effect of our raising the standard deduction from just $3000/$6000 to almost three times that amount is an annual revenue loss of over $1.1 billion. That cost in the face of documented under-funding schools and the mental health crisis was why the General Assembly finally came to agreement that the bulk of the remaining current budget surplus needed to be returned to taxpayers as a one-time rebate and not as an even greater permanent tax cut.

ALIVE!

From Page 7

Tuesdays 11am – 6pm (Closed 2pm – 3pm)
- Wednesdays 11am – 6pm (Closed 2pm – 3pm)
- Thursdays 11am – 6pm (Closed 2pm – 3pm)
- Saturdays 10am – 2pm

About the 10 Can Challenge:
This Hunger Action Day, fight hunger by taking the 10 Can Challenge! Buy 10 cans of food you love. Wear orange (the color of Hunger Awareness) and post your cans to social media on Sept 15 with the hashtag #HungerActionDayAlex.

Donate the cans at one of the participating locations:
- DCHS (4850 Mark Center Dr):
  - Friday, 8am - 5pm
- ALIVE! (801 South Payne St):
  - Friday, 9am - 4pm & Saturday, 9am - 12pm
- West End Food Pantry (5150 Fillmore Ave):
  - Friday, 9am - 11am
- Lazarus Food Pantry (118 N. Washington St): Friday

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
It doesn’t have Yellowstone’s spewing geysers or Denali’s high peaks, but it is a national park. It’s the George Washington Memorial Parkway, which stretches from Mount Vernon Estate on the south end, with a break on Alexandria’s Washington Street, then to the Beltway/495 in McLean and the seven-mile Clara Barton Parkway in Maryland.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the parkway is a slow-speed thoroughfare, with 4,580 acres of parkland mostly paralleling the Potomac River. By design, it is not a multi-laned, superhighway, asphalt ribbon. The parkway is in fact a national park, with many sweeping vistas, a rich history and 25 possible stops in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Its designers envisioned a series of changing vistas that highlight special places. There’s no central visitor center, yet the parkway has approximately 7.3 million recreational visits a year and over 33 million non-recreational “visits.” Most of the latter are local and commuter traffic.

What’s There?

Here are a few sites to visit:

- Fort Hunt Park, where the 1902 Battery Commander’s Tower stands largely unchanged, built as part of the Spanish-American War’s coastal defense, from which the commander could coordinate firings from still-standing batteries. In World War II, Fort Hunt, known as PO. Box 1142, was a top-secret camp used to interrogate over 3,500 German prisoners of war.
- Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, a 480-acre, freshwater, tidal, narrow-leaved cattail wetland, one of the last along the Potomac River.
- Jones Point, home to one of the country’s last riverine lighthouses, which operated from 1856 to 1926. President George Washington chose this point as the southern tip of the new 10-mile-square-mile U.S. capitol district.
- Tributes to war heroes -- the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, Arlington House, Arlington National Cemetery and the Waves and Gulls memorial, honoring the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.
- Glen Echo Park, centered by a restored, 1921 Dentzel carousel. In its heyday, bands like the Dorsey Brothers and Bill Haley and the Comets performed in the 7,500-square-foot dance hall.
- The Potomac Gorge, a 15-mile, rugged river corridor, a nationally significant natural area.
- Great Falls, a series of cataracts and falls, one of the most ecologically significant natural areas in the entire national park system. British politician Lord Bryce wrote in 1913, “No European city has so noble a cataract in its vicinity as the Great Falls of the Potomac . . .”
- The 17-acre Lady Bird Johnson Park and LBJ Memorial Grove, with a 43-ton, Texas granite monolith, looming amid white pines, dogwoods, azaleas and rhododendrons.
- Theodore Roosevelt Island, largely a woodland that planners intended it to be “similar in character to the natural primeval forests which once covered this and others of the Potomac islands.” A memorial honors the island’s namesake.
- Fort Marcy, well-preserved Civil War earthwork walls, trenches, rifle pits and a parade ground.

Our National Park

George Washington Memorial Parkway has at least 25 species of mammals, 243 birds, six native turtles, 99 trees and 591 wildflowers.
The Miracle League of Alexandria honored first responders from across the city during its Miracle League game Sept. 9 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

“We first started this in 2011,” said Miracle League of Alexandria chairman Mac Slover. “We are honoring our first responders, including police, fire, EMS, and sheriff’s department personnel.”

Members of Omega Psi Phi fraternity were on hand to support the players and serve refreshments.

“We have been a part of this for 10-plus years,” said fraternity member Zack Morse II. “I remember when this was a pretty old field and now we are blessed to have what we do today—a field that allows players of all abilities to play safely.”

The fraternity provided snacks and refreshments to players and attendees.

“We like to come out during the season and support Mac and his endeavors,” Morse said. “We provide refreshments and food. Some of our more active brothers are able to go out and participate and play softball.

It is our way of giving back.”

Police Chief Don Hayes and Sheriff Sean Casey were on hand to meet the Miracle League players, who took to the field as part of the remembrance of the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

“This is the 22nd anniversary of the 9-11 attacks,” Slover said. “I feel it is important that we do this every year to honor our first responders and remember the victims that we lost that day.”

Police Chief Don Hayes, left, and Sheriff Sean Casey, right, join Miracle League players prior to the Miracle League Game honoring first responders Sept. 9 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

Members of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and a Miracle League teammate prepare to serve refreshments at the game honoring first responders Sept. 9 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

Miracle League teammates place their hands over their hearts during the National Anthem Sept. 9 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center Miracle Field.

A Miracle League player sings Take Me Out to the Ballgame, a game day tradition, prior to the start of the Sept. 9 game at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center Miracle League Field.

Players signal “three strikes you’re out” during the singing of Take Me Out to the Ball Game Sept. 9 at the Miracle League Field.

A Unique Road Envisioned
The Parkway’s planners designed a road to preserve and enhance the Potomac River valley and honor the nation’s first President, George Washington, by creating a grand gateway to his home, Mount Vernon.

They wanted to keep both banks of the river in public ownership. Lt. Col. Peter Hains, the first land surveyor, told Congress that the parkway should “have the character of a monumental structure, such as would comport with the dignity of this great nation … and the grandeur of character of the man to whom it is dedicated … It should be such a work as no American need feel ashamed of.”

The road’s designers sought to integrate the road with the natural undulating terrain and contours, winding in gentle curves and highlighting natural areas and vistas. The National Park Service has planted over 250,000 trees, shrubs and vines.

Sections between the 14th and Memorial Bridges were left open to offer sweeping views of Washington, D.C. Signs and lights are minimized and billboards are prohibited. Most of the bridges are made of reinforced concrete faced with hand-laid, rough-cut stone for a natural look.

Built in Stages
Some local businesspeople, the Mount Vernon Avenue Association, initiated the idea in the 1880s, advocating for a national road from Washington to Mount Vernon. Officials deferred road construction in the 1890s and between 1892 and 1896, built the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Electric Railway through Alexandria to Mount Vernon, a trolley that carried Mount Vernon visitors, locals and farm goods. A trolley station sat in today’s circle at Mount Vernon.

The initial federal sponsoring agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Public Roads, wanted to demonstrate modern highway design principles like overpasses, cloverleaves, limited access ramps and intersections.

Much of the parkway is tree lined.

Photos by Janet Barnett/Gazette Packet

See National Parl, Page 19
SEPTEMBER 23
Taste of Old Town North. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Participating restaurants include Boy Cider, participate in instruction, and workshops. The Taste will feature wines and cider from local restaurants and farmers market. Create ‘art in the park,’ taste gourmet dishes and enjoy live music from two local bands.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
The HalloWEIRD Art Market. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This free event celebrates a world of unique artists, captivating eco-friendly and craft vendors selling one-of-a-kind pieces. Find unique gifts, hand-made goods and local art. This fall’s Free event takes place at the Atrium at Green Spring Gardens. To register, email info@halo-weird-2023.com.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Taste of Old Town North. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Join us for the Taste of Old Town North for food, shopping and fun. Participating restaurants include Rockland’s, Food vendors will include Rockland’s, Pickles, Cures, and Popcorn. Participating restaurants include Rockland’s, Boy Cider, and Popcorn. Participating restaurants include Rockland’s, Boy Cider, and Popcorn.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
Field Garden Festival. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This free event celebrates a world of unique artists, captivating eco-friendly and craft vendors selling one-of-a-kind pieces. Find unique gifts, hand-made goods and local art. This fall’s free event takes place at the Atrium at Green Spring Gardens. To register, email info@halo-weird-2023.com.
Obituary

Megan Jane DeFranco, 44, passed away unexpectedly on August 27, 2023, in her home in Washington, D.C. A beloved sister, aunt, daughter, and friend. Megan was born June 29, 1979 at Alexandria Hospital. She attended the Basils School of St. Mary, and graduated from (then) T.C. Williams High School in 1997. Megan is survived by her sisters Antoinette Veltrup, Alexis Mason, and Genevieve DeFranco; her brothers-in-law Morten Veltrup and John Mason; her nieces and nephews, Allega, Giuliana, and Bennett; her partner, Keith Babor; and her mother, Kathleen DeFranco. Megan was preceded by her father, Richard DeFranco, with whom she will be laid to rest at Glenwood Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Megan put her heart and soul into her work, the throughline of which was community. She brought joy through her warmth, and through her ability to always see the good in people and situations. If you receive a citation in the mail, follow the instructions on the citation to make your payment or dispute the violation.

The City conducted a two-week warning period in June at the end of the 2022-23 academic year and an additional warning period from Aug. 21 through Sept. 15. The City selected the speed camera locations using a data-driven process that considered factors such as crash history, traffic volumes, vehicle speeds, and age and number of students.

The City is committed to providing Safe Routes to School, and vehicle speed is among the top concerns cited by parents when asked about their children’s safety when walking or biking to school.

The rebuilt bridge features side arcs and patterns inspired by the new wider sidewalks, designated advanced decay and imposed a 5-ton vehicle weight limit. The reconstructed bridge features new wider sidewalks, designated bike lanes, improved lighting and side areas and patterns inspired by the natural surroundings, as designed by architect Vito Scarpitti.

Obituary

Anita Jane Denison, 89, of Alexandria, VA, passed away at home on August 17, 2023, just shy of her 90th birthday. She was born on August 24, 1933, in Baltimore, MD, to the late Joseph Alvin Gerber and Florence Emily Gerber (nee Bromwell). Anita was a passionate and independent woman who had a deep love for animals and nature.

Anita attended Forest Park High School in Baltimore, and graduated from Towson University; she studied the classics and worked in the media at St. John’s College in Annapolis, where she was admitted as one of the college’s first class to include women in 1961.

Anita had a remarkable career, working at various prestigious organizations throughout her life. She worked on Capitol Hill and later joined the National Association of Broadcasters, as well as Time-Life, before eventually finding her place at Virginia Theological Seminary.

Outside of her career, Anita indulged in a variety of hobbies. She was an avid painter and had a great appreciation for the arts, including ballroom dancing. She enjoyed spending time outdoors and at her vacation homes in Vermont and Florida, skiing and playing tennis.

Anita is survived by her sister, Joan Kirin and her husband Don, of Alexandria, VA. She is also survived by her nieces, Jennifer Irvin, also of Alexandria, and Alison Shea and her husband Dennis, of State College, PA, as well as their children, who brought her immeasurable joy. Caroline Shea and Ariana Shea. Anita was preceded in death by her ex-husband, Dalton Spencer Denison. She cherished her family and friends deeply and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to Anita’s caregivers and to Capitol Caring Hospice, who made it possible for her wishes to be present in her home and be held by her dog, Koda.

A small service for family and close friends will be held at Mount Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria, VA on October 4, 2023. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the ASPCA or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network in Anita’s honor.

Obituary

Joseph Gerald Hebert (Gerry) Voting Rights Attorney of Alexandria, Virginia passed away at the age of 74 on September 7, 2023. Gerry was born in Winchester, Massachusetts to Joseph Gerald Hebert and Adeleine Agnes Whitehead Hebert on February 13, 1949. A graduate of St. John’s High School in Shrewsbury, Gerry went on to earn his bachelor’s degree from Stonehill College and later his law degree from Suffolk University Law School.

A respected Civil Rights and Voting Rights attorney, Gerry worked in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division from 1973 to 1994. While at the DOJ, he won acclaim for his work in school desegregation cases and served as the lead attorney in voting rights and redistricting law suits, including several cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gerry’s advocacy extended beyond his professional career. He served as a PTA president at George Mason Elementary School, where he was a fixture in the hallways for years, his face the go-to resource for students, teachers, or parents.

Gerry worked tirelessly to help Alexandrians in need, volunteering with ALIVE Inc, since 1986. He dedicated his time and talents, serving as ALIVE’s president, director of development, chair of the furniture program, and Last Saturday food distribution coordinator. Earlier this year, Gerry was awarded Volunteer Alexandria’s 2023 Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Service Award for his commitment to ALIVE’s mission, specifically for his work to open both of ALIVE’s beautiful and welcoming food hubs, ensuring that Alexandrians maintained their integrity while receiving food and critical services.

Gerry approached his personal life with the same passion and purpose. He was omnipresent in his children’s lives as he followed the careers of both his daughters, Alie and Maggie, and his sons, Nick and Sam. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, and an unfulfilled desire to travel the world. He was just beginning to discover what retirement was like and between the Rock ‘n' Roll cruises he took with Victoria, his long ponytail, and his Bohemian pants, he confirmed his family’s suspicion that he really did dream of being the next great American folk singer. He was a lively wedding dancer, a proficient recaller of sports stats, and even attended MLB professional umpire school. Gerry was an expert magician, the friend you were thankful to call yours, and as far as his family knew, he was “the strongest man in the world.”

Gerry is predeceased in death by his mother and father.

Gerry is survived by his wife of 37 years, Victoria, his children, Christy Przywalski (Tom Przywalski), Greta Gordon (Jim Gordon), Brooke Harris (Ben Harris), Josh Hebert, and Matthew Hebert (Anthony DiBerardinis). His brother, Tom Hebert (Maria Hebert), and his ten grandchildren Gunter, Annika, Amelie, Harper, Sadie, Bailey, Brighid, Adrian, Tyler, and Abe.

A funeral service will be held at 11AM on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at Fairlington United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in honor of Gerry to The Campaign Legal Center, ALIVE, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Fairlington United Methodist Church (music program), and Greater Birmingham Ministries.
Gerry Hebert

From Page 6

Gerry Hebert was predeceased by his mother and father.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to The Campaign Legal Center, ALIVE!, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Fairlington United Methodist Church (music program), and Greater Birmingham Ministries.

A funeral service will be held Sept. 16 at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King Street, at 11 a.m. A reception will follow at the ALX Community Atrium in Alexandria, 277 S. Washington Street, at 1 p.m.

In announcing his death, Hebert’s family said: “Gerry was just beginning to discover what retirement was like and between the Rock ’n Roll cruises he took with Victoria, his long ponytail, and his Bohemian pants, he confirmed his family’s suspicion that he really did dream of being the next great American folk singer. He was the friend you were thankful to call yours, and as far as his family knew, he was ‘the strongest man in the world.’

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
King Street-Bradenlee Safety Project Launching Soon

The City of Alexandria is launching a new project to study safety and mobility elements along King Street, from N. Quaker Lane to Menokin Drive (see map).

The King Street-Bradenlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements Project will explore ways to improve travel through this commercial corridor.

On Sept. 20, the City will open an online feedback form to solicit community input on challenges navigating this corridor. If you’ve walked, biked, driven, or taken public transportation through this area, please provide feedback. Feedback will be used to guide future design considerations to improve safety and access through the corridor, as well as address stormwater improvements.

The Alexandria Mobility Plan identified this corridor as a priority location to install enhanced bicycle facilities and additional sidewalks to complete critical gaps in the existing transportation network.

Safety improvements could help the City reach its Vision Zero goal of eliminating all fatal and severe crashes. Visit alexandriava.gov/go/4769

Our National Park

FROM PAGE 15

access, widely-spaced exits and entrances and tree-lined rights-of-way. Officials dedicated the first segment from Arlington Memorial Bridge to Mount Vernon in 1932 and hailed it as “America’s Most Modern Motorway.” It was built in stages from 1929 to 1970.

Engineers designed the southern part, the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway, for vehicles going 35 to 45 miles per hour. Its successor, the George Washington Memorial Parkway, anticipated speeds of up to 60 mph. Sections built after World War II have longer curves and continued safety medians.

By the late 1940s, the road went as far north as Spout Run. Builders completed the northern part in the 1950s and 1960s, partly spurred by the Civilian Intelligence Agency’s (CIA) headquarters locating at Langley. President Dwight D. Eisenhower cut the ribbon and opened the road to traffic on this part in 1959. By 1962, the parkway reached the new Beltsway.

The original plans included a parkway from Fort Washington, Maryland, north to just above Great Falls, but this was never built, some say because there was no equivalent to the CIA or Dulles Airport driving its construction.

Respecting Nature

For an urban park, the parkway is especially rich in biodiversity. For example, for species counts, the parkway has at least 25 mammals, 243 birds, six native turtles, 99 trees and 591 wildflowers. At least 81 plants and animals considered rare, threatened or endangered in Virginia or Maryland.

Visitors might watch bald eagles fighting over a fish, as a jet descends to National Airport; great blue herons feeding as an Army or Marine helicopter passes overhead; a spring wildflower “show” at Turkey Run Park; a silver-haired bat darting around at dusk; turtles sunning and wild rice blooming in the fall breeze in Dyke Marsh.

It’s a special road, but not just a road. Information: www.nps.gov/gwmp

Debit This!

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don’t know if what I’m about to write comes under the heading of a rant, a pet peeve (drivers backing into parking spaces is my “nuance” unsavory preoccupa-
tion), or a logical and reasonable explanation for an ever-increasing, almost mandatory facet of our respective lives: using a credit card reader when paying in-person with a credit/debit card. I have been in this business where cash is not accepted (void notwithstanding).

Apparently, cash is no longer king. More and more as we pay our way around our lives to local transactions, cash is further down the line in the payment pecking order. Cash might as well be Green Stamps or the “red-headed stepchild,” given how little respect and appreciation pays receive for the receipt of paper money rather than plastic.

As far as accessing cash from an ATM though they are not 100% identical, they seem familiar enough from one to the next. All I ask, other than for a cancer (let’s be realistic as to what really matters), is some uncharacteristic but much needed government intervention into the private sector to facilitate the shopping/buying experience in person and “uniformize” the debit-card readers.

I would imagine helping/encouraging consumers to consume in the easiest and most efficient manner would certainly be good for the GDP in addition to all our buying/experiencing. It seems logical, prudent even, that instilling some kind system-wide organizational tightness of the debit keys would benefit an aging population in specific, and society in general where everyday everywhere requires a piece of plastic to finalize a purchase.

A few examples: computer keyboards, telephones, cash registers, radio dial, bingo card, among so many other devices. All meant to simplify our lives.

And yet the similarities/dare I say adherence to some sort of governmental mandate has not warded off the private sector as been to think about their businesses independently enough to thrive in a highly competitive Western World. Moreover, given that capitalism wants to incentivize its citizens to not only think about growing rich but to act as well on those instincts, it seems sensible to assist the private in as many possible short-cut of command and control, which enables said business to attract a profitable market share and additionally rewards the customer for their patronage.

Wouldn’t an enjoyable, relatively hassle-free consumer experience enhance a business’ profitability if the last thing a consumer does after they’ve selected their merchandise/product and taken it to the register to pay, is to have a quick and simple payment system/ process to finalize their purchase/selection; wouldn’t that encourage, almost instinctively, for the consumer to revisit the establishment that made their transaction so easy?

And given that part of a business’s success is measured by repeat business/how sales compare to the previous year, retaining that clientele by providing a pleasant buying experience from start to finish, would seem a reasonable path to pursue/procure. Certainly, I know very little about business to what I know as compared to my years as an independent sales/quote, insurance and newspaper advertising, but I’ve been a consumer my whole life, and after bad experiences, you rarely return to where you had bad experience. And since there are so many choices, both in person and online, it behooves a business to be as attractive as it can be to prospective buyers. Not that consumers are always right, but as customers, they warrant respect and accommodation.

Paying customers and especially repeat customers don’t grow on trees. As the business, you must grow on them.

It behooves a business to be as attractive as it can be to prospective buyers. Not that consumers are always right, but as customers, they warrant respect and accommodation.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these businesses afloat.

By the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continued to be at risk.

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The Trusted Real Estate Resource for Alexandria and Beyond.

To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

Old Town | $2,950,000
Nestled in the heart of Old Town, this magnificent 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath Victorian residence exudes sophistication and elegance. High ceilings, original floors, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, handsome millwork, eat-in kitchen with new stainless appliances, second level family room, sunroom, one off-street parking space, and other fine details showcase the perfect blend of old-world craftsmanship with modern conveniences. The sunny primary suite offers a private dressing room and updated bath. Expansive patio surrounded by mature plantings. 411 Prince St
Babs Beckwith 703.827.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com

Del Ray | $2,199,000
Gorgeously updated, complete renovation with designer finishes and lighting, and custom trim work. 6 bedrooms and 5 full baths, beautiful kitchen, large pantry, mudroom, spacious basement and more. ADU features a bedroom, bath & kitchen. 317 E Howell Ave
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com

OPEN SAT 9/16 & SUN 9/17, 2-4PM

Hollin Hills | $995,000
Remodeled & expanded 2-3 bedroom, 2 bath home nestled into a half acre of enchanting multi-tiered gardens with decks, patios, seating areas, a hillside studio, and a sauna. Updated kitchen and bathrooms and many special details throughout. 7316 Rippon Rd
Jodie Burns 571.228.5790
www.JodieBurns.com

OLD TOWN | $785,000
Light-filled, 3-bedroom, 2-bath historic row home built in 1820. This charming home offers functional, versatile floor plan and preserved character. Original hardwood flooring & vintage lighting. Private brick patio and zoned for Lyles-Crouch ES. 409 S Washington Street
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com

Arlington | $350,000
This spacious one-bedroom condo at The Grove features high ceilings, open layout, and modern finishes galore. Amenities include a gorgeous swimming pool, one garage parking spot, 24-hour gym, and clubhouse. 2055 26th Street S #6-204
Jillian Keck Hogan 703.901.5082
www.JillianKeckHogan.com

OPEN SUN 9/17, 1-4PM

Yates Gardens
$1,395,000
This picturesque, 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath home features an expanded kitchen, adjoining family room, and private back patio & garden. The versatile lower level includes a family room, bedroom, full bath, & kitchenette with front exterior entrance & garden access. 728 S Lee St
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com

Cameron Station
$755,000
In a coveted community west of Old Town, we present this striking, freshly-painted 4-level townhouse of sophisticated living space – sparkling wood floors, 3 bedrooms plus a den & garage. Amenities galore basketball court; swimming pool; tot lot; gym & more. 256 Cameron Station Blvd
Ann Duff 703.965.8700
www.AnnDuff.com

OPEN SAT 9/16, 1-4PM

Colecroft Station
$623,000
Whether you commute or work from home, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo across the street from Braddock Road Metro is perfect for you! Terrific location and amazing view! 1 garage parking space included. 505 E Braddock Road #708
Lisa Groover 703.919.4426
www.LisaGroover.com

OPEN SAT 9/6, 2-4pm & SUN 9/17, 1-3PM

Old Town | $2,950,000
Light-filled, 3-bedroom, 2-bath historic row home built in 1820. This charming home offers functional, versatile floor plan and preserved character. Original hardwood flooring & vintage lighting. Private brick patio and zoned for Lyles-Crouch ES. 409 S Washington Street
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com

OPEN SUN 9/17, 1-4PM

Old Town | $785,000
Light-filled, 3-bedroom, 2-bath historic row home built in 1820. This charming home offers functional, versatile floor plan and preserved character. Original hardwood flooring & vintage lighting. Private brick patio and zoned for Lyles-Crouch ES. 409 S Washington Street
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OPEN SAT 9/6, 2-4pm & SUN 9/17, 1-3PM

Cameron Station
$755,000
In a coveted community west of Old Town, we present this striking, freshly-painted 4-level townhouse of sophisticated living space – sparkling wood floors, 3 bedrooms plus a den & garage. Amenities galore basketball court; swimming pool; tot lot; gym & more. 256 Cameron Station Blvd
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