



Democratic Primary 2024

Voters to determine future of city politics in June 18 primary.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In recent years, Alexandria has been aggressively urbanist. Democrats who control all six seats on the City Council have supported increasing density and adding new transit options. That's created a backlash, and now the conflict will be resolved at the ballot box.

Democrats who vote in the June 18 primary have a choice between a slate of candidates who supports the current direction and a rival slate who says government is trying to do too much too fast without listening to opposing viewpoints. Eleven candidates are seeking six seats on the City Council. The six with the most votes will be the Democrats on the November ballot.

"Voters are really being offered a choice in this election, which is nice," said Clark Mercer, former Democratic Party chairman who is now executive director of the Metropol-

Jesse O'Connell

RAISED: \$109,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$2,000 from Debra Humphreys at the Lumina Foundation
\$2,000 from Jennifer Walker of Rehoboth Beach, Del.
\$1,000 from Ryan Berni of Berni Consulting
\$1,000 from Nancy Drane of the DC Access to Justice Commission
\$1,000 from Kristen Gentile, federal government employee

Kirk McPike

RAISED: \$104,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$7,500 from Reginald James Brown of Kirkland & Ellis law firm
\$6,600 from Kirk McPike
\$5,000 from NOVA Area Labor Federation
\$3,000 from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
\$2,000 from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters

John Taylor Chapman

RAISED: \$101,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$7,500 from Reginald James Brown of Kirkland & Ellis law firm
\$5,000 from NOVA Area Labor Federation
\$5,000 from Danielle Romanetti of fibre space
\$3,000 from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
\$2,000 from Jack Taylor of Alexandria Toyota



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Polls will be open until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18

itan Washington Council of Governments. "The candidates in this election are offering a clear contrast."

On one side are the incumbents who voted in favor of Zoning for Housing, a controversial proposal to eliminate single-family only zoning and allow more units on suburban blocks. For the most part, they support bus-only lanes, and they say the pace of development in Alex-

Canek Aguirre

RAISED: \$81,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$7,500 from Reginald James Brown of Kirkland & Ellis law firm
\$5,000 from NOVA Area Labor Federation
\$3,000 from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
\$2,000 from Guadalupe Silva-Krause
\$2,000 from United Brotherhood of Carpenters

Abdel Elnoubi

RAISED: \$73,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$12,000 from Elnoubi for School Board
\$5,000 from Farrukh Hameed of CWS
\$2,500 from NOVA Area Labor Federation
\$2,000 from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
\$1,500 from Allam Al-Alami, DC government employee

Sarah Bagley

RAISED: \$73,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$5,000 from NOVA Area Labor Federation
\$2,000 from Searles Bagley of Chesapeake
\$2,000 from Eastern Atlantic States Council
\$1,000 from Bradley Beychok of Washington, D.C.
\$1,000 from Lillian Pace of KnowledgeWorks

andria is not fast enough. It's a group that has the support of former Mayor Bill Euille, who has endorsed Alyia Gaskins for Mayor as well as six council candidates: incumbents Kirk McPike, John Taylor Chapman, Canek Aguirre, Sarah Bagley as well as candidates Jesse O'Connell and Jacinta Greene.

"I've had the opportunity over the years to get to know them all and work with them,"

Jacinta Greene

RAISED: \$51,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$15,000 from Earl Wardell Stafford of the Wentworth Group
\$2,500 from NOVA Area Labor Federation
\$2,100 from Robert Greene of Arlington
\$1,750 from Nicole Johnson of Cober Johnson & Romney law firm
\$1,500 from James McNeil of Alexandria

Jonathan Huskey

RAISED: \$45,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$10,000 from Jonathan Huskey
\$2,500 from Patricia Hoppey of the Pivot Group
\$1,950 from Paula Huskey of Dallas
\$1,000 from William Goodman of Applied Research Associates
\$750 from Melissa Connolly of the Association of American Railroads

Charlotte Scherer

RAISED: \$43,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$18,000 from Charlotte Scherer
\$12,000 from Alma Scherer of St. Paul, Minn.
\$2,500 from the National Center for Transgender Equality Action Fund
\$1,000 from Scott Corzine of CohnReznick
\$1,000 from Bill Rossello for City Council

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Sample Ballots

https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/sample_ballots_combined_with_24.2-530.pdf

Because voters in Virginia do not register by party, any voter can vote either the Democratic primary ballot or the Republican primary ballot but not both.

Democratic Primary Election

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

MAYOR

Vote for only one
Alyia Smith Parker Gaskins
Amy B. Jackson
Steven B. Peterson

MEMBER CITY COUNCIL

Vote for not more than six
R. Kirk McPike
James C. "Jimmy" Lewis Jr.
Abdel S. Elnoubi
Sarah R. Bagley

SEE SAMPLE BALLOTS, PAGE 14

said Euille. "And I feel that this would be a solid group of folks who could continue the progress that's been made and manage future challenges."

The opposition is led by former Mayor Allison Silberburg, who is supporting a rival slate of candidates who opposed Zoning for Housing and the ill-fated arena proposal for Potomac Yard. For mayor Silberburg is supporting Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, who tried to delay changes to single-family zoning. For the City Council, she is supporting Charlotte Scherer because of her opposition to Zoning for Housing, bus lanes and the arena.

"We are at a crossroads," said Silberburg. "And we've got some important choices to make."

James Lewis

RAISED: \$42,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$4,200 from Mark Williams of Mayer Brown
\$2,500 from NOVA Area Labor Federation
\$1,000 from Ira Lechner of Escondido, Calif.
\$1,000 from Northern Virginia Association of Realtors
\$1,000 from Bill Rossello for City Council

Kevin Harris

RAISED: \$20,000

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

\$2,500 from the NOVA Area Labor Federation
\$500 from Ollie Poindexter of Woodbridge
\$480 from Alexandria Firefighters
\$480 from Veronica Nolan of Alexandria
\$480 from Art Witebsky of Seasons Culinary Service

SOURCE: VIRGINIA PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT



Congratulations!



The Alexandria City High School Class of 2024 has diverse postsecondary plans. We wish them luck in their future endeavors!



Teko Bostick Jr.
Eastern Mennonite University



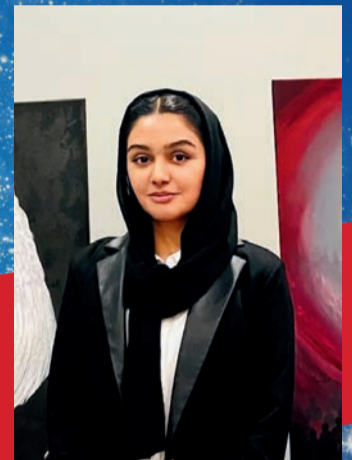
Journey Fisher
United States Marine Corps



Amanda Kumi
Northern Virginia Community College



Bradley Olson
George Mason University



Hosai Rasuli
The George Washington University

As of June 5, Alexandria City High School graduates are heading off to the following colleges and military institutions: American University, Amsterdam University College, Arizona State University-Tempe, Augusta University, Bard College, Barnard College, Belmont University, Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, Boston University, Bowie State University, Bridgewater College, Brigham Young University, Brown University, Cal Poly, Capital University, Carleton College, Case Western Reserve University, Christopher Newport University, Clark Atlanta University, Clark University, Clemson University, Colgate University, College of Charleston, College of the Atlantic, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University-Fort Collins, Columbia University in the City of New York, Dartmouth College, Duquesne University, Eastern Mennonite University, Eckerd College, ECPI University - Culinary Institute of Virginia - Newport News, Elon University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Prescott, Emerson College, Empire Beauty School - Springfield, Fordham University, Frostburg State University, Full Sail University, George Mason University, Georgia State University, Gettysburg College, Hampton University, Harvard University, Hawaii Pacific University, High Point University, Hobart William Smith Colleges, Hollins University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Indiana University-Bloomington, Ithaca College, James Madison University, Kenyon College, King University, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Liberty University Online, Lincoln University, Livingstone College, Loyola University Chicago, Loyola University Maryland, Macomb Community College, Mary Baldwin University, Maryland Institute College of Art, Marymount University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Miami University-Oxford, Middlebury College, New York University, Norfolk State University, North Carolina A & T State University, North Carolina Central University, Northeastern University, Northern Virginia Community College, Norwich University, Old Dominion University, Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus, Purdue University-Main Campus, Queen's University Belfast, Radford University, Richard Bland College, Roanoke College, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Saint Joseph's University, Sanford Medical Center, Savannah College of Art and Design, Spelman College, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Stanford University, State University of New York (SUNY), Syracuse University, Temple University, Texas A & M University-College Station, Texas Christian University, The George Washington University, The New School, The Oberlin Conservatory of Music, The University of Alabama, The University of Tampa, Tri-Community Adult Education, Trinity Washington University, Tufts University, Tulane University of Louisiana, United States Coast Guard Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy, University of Arizona, University of Delaware, University of Edinburgh, University of Houston, University of Kentucky, University of Lynchburg, University of Mary Washington, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus, University of Richmond, University of Rochester, University of San Diego, University of South Carolina-Columbia, University of Southern California, University of St Andrews, University of St Francis, University of the District of Columbia, University of Vermont, University of Virginia-Main Campus, University of Virginia's College at Wise, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ursinus College, Valley Forge Military College, Vanderbilt University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia State University, Virginia Tech, Virginia Wesleyan University, Washington State University, Wellesley College, Wesleyan University, West Virginia University, Wilkes University, William & Mary, Winston-Salem State University, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and York College of Pennsylvania.

Col. James Paige

Visionary leads community activism.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

When Jim Paige was growing up in Roberson County, N.C., he had dreams of becoming a professional baseball player. The youngest of five siblings, he was a gifted athlete but realized the odds were against him.

"I realized in high school a professional baseball career wasn't going to happen so I pivoted to do something else," Paige said. "I went off to college and was in the Army ROTC during the heart of Vietnam."

That something else turned into a nearly 30-year career as a military officer, shaped by the Vietnam era and turbulent events of the '60s.

"Some flagship moments happened when I was in school," Paige said. "In 1968 Martin Luther King got killed. Bobby Kennedy was killed. I had a classmate who was shot by the National Guard in the dorm, so there were some sentient moments that shape the way you see life."

Now a retired colonel, Paige is a distinguished leader and visionary who has dedicated his life to the betterment of his community and the promotion of education, healthcare, and social justice. Currently serving as the Executive Director of the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria, Paige's journey towards community empowerment began in 2009 when he co-founded CCNA alongside his colleague, Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis.

"At that time, the Washington Post had an article about T.C. Wil-

liams being the worst high school in the state," Paige recalled. "So Mr. Ferdinand Day and Gwen Lewis said 'Hey Colonel, why don't we try to do something about this dropout rate?' So that's how we got into CCNA."

Over the years, CCNA's mission has expanded to encompass a wide range of equity-related issues. Their work now extends to addressing affordable housing, ensuring access to quality healthcare, promoting mental health awareness, and enhancing academic performance for students.

Before CCNA, Paige founded the

Paige regularly works with city officials, the faith-based community, and institutions such as the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. Additionally, his involvement with Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) reflects his commitment to building bridges and creating positive change.

"Along the way you develop a cadre of family members, a continuum of folks you connect with – like a ripple in a pond," Paige said.

Added colleague Jackie Burrell, "The Colonel sees CCNA as putting that first pebble in the water and letting it ripple out. He is the catalyst of bringing organizations together and watching them benefit one another and the community at large."

Paige serves on several boards and committees, including the Alexandria City Public School Law Enforcement Partnership Advisory Group, the Alexandria Racial Equity Task Force, the Saved Hands Foundation, the Commonwealth Attorney Community Advisory Board, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and the Alexandria Region Action Committee Workgroups. He is a founding member of the Community Health Improvement Planning Committee Task Force.

Paige's leadership shone during the COVID-19 pandemic and the social unrest following the death of George Floyd in 2020.

"COVID and social unrest had us adjust the way we do things," Paige said. "We sat down and said we can give up and let it go away, but Gwen Lewis said 'that dog is not going to hunt.' So we reinvigorated ourselves. This is the hand we got so let's play it."

Paige's leadership shone during the COVID-19 pandemic and the social unrest following the death of George Floyd in 2020.

"COVID and social unrest had us adjust the way we do things," Paige said. "We sat down and said we can give up and let it go away, but Gwen Lewis said 'that dog is not going to hunt.' So we reinvigorated ourselves. This is the hand we got so let's play it."

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.volunteerallexandria.org

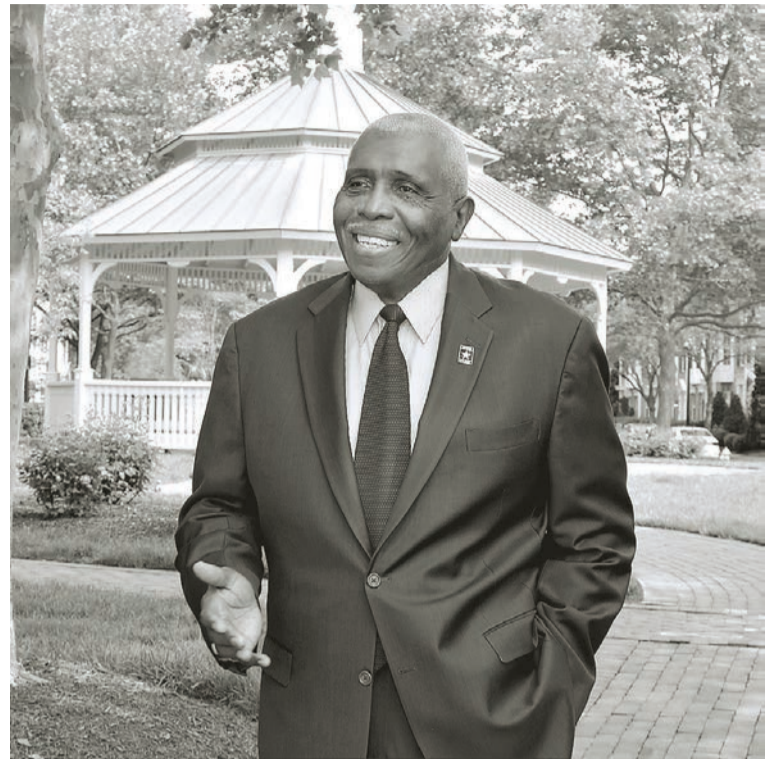


PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA STUDIOS

Col. James Paige (ret) was named a 2023 Living Legend of Alexandria.

Paige adjusted CCNA's program delivery to provide continuous support to students and families, including more Community Forums for information sharing. Under his guidance, CCNA established the Reach and Rise for Excellence program.

Collaborating with community partners, Paige leads a coalition offering free eye exams and glasses to families and sponsors citywide community resource days. In partnership with APAF, he established the Mental Health Coalition of Virginia to address mental health wellness for Alexandria and the surrounding communities.

As Senior Advisor for the U.S. Army National Museum Project, Paige conducted oral interviews with military veterans, including the Tuskegee Airmen and Sioux Code Talkers. He also worked with several minority-serving institutions to develop the Student Development Mentoring Program, cultivating curators and historians for the museum system.

Paige served as a project man-

ager on behalf of the World Bank's Post Conflict Unit and served as a security advisor to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Paige is co-founder of the Page1 Foundation College Prep and Mentoring Academy, which, along with his children Kai and Kevin, assists underserved high school students in navigating the college admissions process and finding scholarships.

An advocate for veterans and their families, Paige works to address issues such as veteran homelessness, PTSD, and suicide prevention.

Paige is a lifetime member of the Omega Psi Fraternity, "the best fraternity in the world," and was recognized at the 2006 Trumpet Awards for his support to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Earlier this year, Paige was awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service.

Said Paige, "My vision is to continue to shape the area so that it is a good place for people to live and grow and survive."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WANT TO BE A CHANGE-MAKER?

A shout-out to young people who are aspirational change-makers is wanted in a new youth-led initiative to help address high rates of illiteracy within the

community. The Youth Ambassador role in Alexandria provides a young person with a platform to advocate and talk about the falling rates of reading skills and create increased community education and awareness about the vital importance of foundational literacy skills for lifelong benefits. Registration for the Youth Ambassador Program is now available. The 4-month youth leadership development initiative will provide training and support, plus connection

to 600 other young people around the world. Email: Ambassador@worldliteracyfoundation.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.volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE>
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.

ACT Celebrates 20 Years of Giving

Community trust continues support for local nonprofits.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was just over 20 years ago when a small group of Alexandrians came together to decide how best to stimulate philanthropic giving to improve the lives of the most vulnerable in the community. One of several catalysts was the availability of an initial sum of money from the family of Norma L. Steuerle, a long-time Alexandria resident killed on Sept. 11, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon.

With Steuerle's husband Gene and daughters Lynne and Kristin leading the way, the Alexandria Community Trust was formed, initially operating

as a subsidiary of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region before becoming its own entity in 2004. Now known as ACT for Alexandria, the organization celebrated its 20th anniversary June 8 with a reception at Canal Center Plaza.

"Twenty years ago there was a tragedy and a family that wanted to give that tragedy purpose," said former Deputy City Manager Debra Collins, who was part of the early establishment of ACT. "That was how ACT was born and it has become the best public private-partnership that has ever existed in this community."

City and elected officials were on hand for the celebration, including Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (D-5), former City Manager Mark Jinks, Councilmembers Sarah Bagley, Kirk McPike and Vice Mayor Amy Jackson.

"ACT is the foundation of this community," said Jackson, who read a proclamation recognizing the organization's 20th anniversary. "When I was on the Commission



ACT president and CEO Heather Peeler, right, is joined by vice Mayor Amy Jackson, Councilman Kirk McPike and former Deputy City Manager Debra Collins in cutting a cake to celebrate the 20th anniversary of ACT for Alexandria June 8 at Canal Center Plaza.

for Women, it was through ACT that used seed money to bolster the Vola Lawson Breast Cancer Fund that provides mammograms for the most at-risk and vulnerable women in our community."

The initial seed money for ACT came from the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund paid to the Steuerle family.

"Our daughters always said that they'd rather remember their mother for how she lived not how she died," Gene Steuerle said when ACT was in its infancy.

Working with city leaders ACT worked to fill in where government could not.

"Government can only go so far," Collins said. "ACT was that entity that came in as a partner that was more nimble and able to color outside the lines of bureaucracy. Twenty years ago we had a resource, a seed to grow an idea, a fantastic idea, that focused on this community."

Jackson praised the organization for its relief efforts during the pandemic.

"One thing in the last few years that has been absolutely vital to the city is ACT raising about \$10 million in grant money for our pandemic uses," Jackson said. "This allowed organizations to continue doing

what they were doing through human services and making sure everyone could get through the pandemic safely and securely."

For the last 13 years, ACT has spearheaded Spring2Action, a community-wide day of giving that raised just under \$3 million for 188 local nonprofit organizations in 2024.

"ACT has been the keystone to making a difference in this community," said Collins, adding with a laugh, "I am one of the dinosaurs that roamed the earth back then but thank God I am able to be here and see this today."

www.actforalexandria.org



Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, left, reads a proclamation recognizing the 20th anniversary of ACT for Alexandria June 8 at Canal Center Plaza.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

BRIGHTVIEW
SENIOR LIVING
ALEXANDRIA

Independent Living
Assisted Living | Dementia Care
800.666.9536

BRIGHTVIEW
SENIOR LIVING
GREAT FALLS

Assisted Living | Dementia Care
703.912.0096

**EYEING A VIBRANT, SECURE FUTURE?
FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS.**



INDEPENDENCE

Brightview's award-winning communities inspire and engage residents while supporting their changing needs.



CHOICE

What will you do today? At Brightview, it's entirely up to you!



POSSIBILITIES

Our associates have one question for you: *Why not?* Each day, residents explore new interests and embark on new adventures.



BrightviewSeniorLiving.com

“Scherer is an extremely impressive newcomer...her top priority would be improving our city government’s transparency and accountability... She would be an excellent member of City Council who we think would be responsive to residents while also voting her convictions.”



I am proud to give my strong support to Charlotte Scherer for City Council. Charlotte is knowledgeable about the issues and has a common-sense approach. A good listener, she will be respectful of differing views. Our city would be lucky to have Charlotte on the council.

— Hon. Allison Silberberg
Mayor of Alexandria
(2016 -19)

Charlotte would be a strong, independent, and transparent voice on City Council. I especially appreciated her early and consistent opposition to the arena proposal. Alexandria needs someone who listens carefully to constituent concerns.

— Hon. Mark Levine
Delegate, 45th District
(2016 -22)

Charlotte Scherer’s statement —“I will hand you the mic”— struck me ... to have someone who’s running for the most “neighborly” of our Virginia public offices promise that ... is meaningful in that a public servant will allow a reply, a conversation, even if there’s still disagreement in the end.

— Former Congressman Joe Sestak
Letter to Alexandria Times
June 6, 2024



VOTE
Democrat

Charlotte Scherer
ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

YOUR VOICE IN CITY HALL
VOTE JUNE 18

PAID FOR BY CHARLOTTE FOR ALEXANDRIA

Charlotte for Alexandria @Charlotte4ALX www.charlotteforalx.com

Silberberg Endorses Amy Jackson for Mayor

I am supporting Vice Mayor Amy Jackson for Mayor. I hope you will consider voting for her.

Amy is the definition of a Hometown Girl. Raised on Alexandria's West End by her remarkable mother, Amy went to our public schools and then attended Virginia Tech and George Mason University for her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She and her husband are raising their two children and sending them to our public schools. She was a teacher prior to serving on the City Council as a councilmember and now as the vice mayor. Amy has served on numerous city boards and commissions and has been deeply involved with issues across our city for numerous years. She understands the long history of our city.

Amy is willing to listen to resi-

dents' concerns and act accordingly. An excellent example of this is Amy's courage during the fight over the arena proposal. I was deeply involved with the team effort called "Stop the Arena." While Amy was supportive of the arena at the start like all the Council, only Amy changed her mind about the arena and said she would not support the proposal. She made a concerted effort to listen to the outcry of the residents and conducted a poll that showed 75% were opposed to the arena. In addition to the obvious traffic impacts, Amy went further and recognized the serious financial impacts and risks to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Alexandria. Unlike the other Council members, Amy stood up against a lot of political pressure and voiced her opposition to the arena nine days before the surprise announcement that Ted Leonsis was killing the arena deal at Potomac Yard.

Giving a straightforward answer to stop this deal was what was called for, and Amy did that when others were going along.

Understanding finance is key to the job of every Council member, especially the mayor. Not under-

standing finance is a recipe for disaster. Leadership means reaching out and really listening. It means pausing and ensuring that the right decision is made. Amy gets that.

Amy also stood her ground and voted against the slaughterhouse off of Duke Street and the Seminary Road changes. She understands the importance of historic preservation, a crucial priority. I agree with Amy on these points.

While we may not agree with every position a candidate takes, it's important to have a mayor who is open-minded, listens, and seeks common ground. These are good and necessary qualities to have in a mayor. Amy is that candidate.

With all due respect to the other mayoral candidates, I endorse Vice Mayor Amy Jackson for Mayor. Please vote for Amy.

Allison Silberberg

Allison Silberberg served as mayor of Alexandria 2016 to 2019.

Supporting Amy Jackson for Mayor

To the Editor:

Like many of us in Alexandria,

I have recently found my mailbox brimming with flyers touting the virtues of the various candidates for Mayor and City Council. With the state of politics what it is in this country right now, we are fortunate that so many truly impressive individuals are stepping forward to run. Alexandria is a very special place in so many ways, and one of the reasons is our highly educated and engaged electorate. What's more, many political professionals live in Alexandria and they are experts at dissecting any candidate's message and finding flaws, contradictions and obfuscations. Stepping into that maelstrom of politics and policy is not for the faint of heart nor done lightly.

This brings me to why I'm supporting Amy Jackson for Mayor. Amy and I have been friends for over a decade, from even before she was in politics. We had spirited discussions at backyard BBQs on every issue under the sun from school funding to public safety to flooding to the infrastructure of our public trails and parks. What I discovered in Amy was a fellow Alexandrian who cared deeply about the people and issues of our city.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

Advancing Tenant Rights and Affordable Housing

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

July 1st is rapidly approaching, which means that we are on the cusp of a new fiscal year and most of the new laws passed during the 2024 General Assembly session will go into effect for the first time. Each year, I like to provide my constituents with a highlight reel of these new changes so that they remain informed and well-prepared for the year ahead.

One of the key areas that saw progress this year is tenant rights and affordable housing. In a recent column, I discussed in-depth my work related to reforming the Virginia Manufactured Home Lot Rental Act and how these changes will help preserve existing manufactured (mobile) home parks as critical affordable housing and give park residents protection and more options when facing a park closure.

Several other efforts to protect residents facing eviction and to reduce overall evictions passed. The Eviction Diversion Pilot Program was extended for an additional year. This program is designed to create local and regional coordinated safety net to prevent evictions. In the event that an eviction cannot be prevented, the system

works to divert evictions once a household has received an unlawful detainer. Another bill passed will give tenants the right to be notified by landlords of any increases in payments requested during the eviction process. Finally, HB 73 requires that courts automatically expunge dismissed eviction cases after 30 days. Having evictions on record can significantly impact a household's ability to find new housing.

Several conditions already exist in law that afford tenants the right to terminate a lease agreement early, including active military service. As of July 1st, domestic or sexual abuse victims who have obtained a permanent protective order will gain this right if they need to move for their safety. Under current law, there must be a family abuse protective order or a conviction before a tenant may terminate their lease agreement.

Bills were passed to increase the maximum fine that localities can impose for repeated violations of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). The USBC sets the building regulations that must be complied with when constructing a new building, structure, or an



Krizek

addition to an existing building and must also be used when maintaining or repairing an existing building or renovating or changing the use of a building or structure. This change will hold landlords accountable for holding up their end of lease agreements to provide safe and well-maintained dwelling units for their tenants. Additionally, an advisory group on Virginia's USBC was created to revise the code to permit single-exit staircases in multi-family residential buildings under six stories tall. Single-staircase multi-family buildings are often easier to build on the irregularly shaped lots available in cities and allow more flexibility for units with multiple bedrooms suitable for families, making them another tool in the toolbox to address the housing shortage.

We increased tax credits available to landlords who rent to Housing Choice Voucher holders from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The program earmarks \$100,000 of these funds for use in the more rural regions of Virginia.

In addition, policy groups were established to study current law and recommend changes in fu-

ture legislative sessions. These include a workgroup on creating a Virginia Residential Development Infrastructure fund, which would cover costs associated with building roads, water and sewer extensions, and other utilities to support the construction of new needed housing development, especially in rural areas of the Commonwealth.

Finally, we passed bills to allow all localities in Virginia to set up their own Community Revitalization Funds to prevent neighborhood deterioration and address blight. Richmond is the only jurisdiction allowed such a fund under current law.

As we approach the new fiscal year on July 1, it's clear that the strides we've made in tenant rights, including for mobile home owners, and affordable housing will foster stronger, more secure communities throughout Virginia. These legislative advancements represent our collective commitment to ensuring that every resident has access to safe, affordable housing and the necessary protections to thrive. As we implement these changes, we can look forward to a future where housing insecurity is a thing of the past. We should all embrace these opportunities with optimism and continue to work to build a more inclusive and supportive Commonwealth.

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

Twitter @AlexGazette

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Janet Barnett, John Bordner,
Mark Mogle

Contributing Photographers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe

Contributing Photographer and Writer
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Bridgette Adu-Wadier,
Glenda Booth

Contributing Writers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Hope Nelson

Food Writer
hope@kitchenrecessionista.com
@kitchenrecess

Michael Pope

Senior Reporter
michaelleepope@gmail.com
@michaelleepope

ADVERTISING:

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

Debbie Funk

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

David Griffin

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

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher

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

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:

Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper

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





Congratulates the Class of 2024!



Photo courtesy of Musa Visual Media

Back Row L-R: Nathaniel Gray, Ethan Reynolds, Parker Evans, Zoe Mandel, Charlie Bearce, Max Burnett, Max Bryan, Sean Campbell

Second Row L-R: Eileen Hagan, Ava Lyubinsky, Charlotte Torborg, Katherine Whitman, Kate McGrew, Lucy Queen, Sevda Muradkhanova, Alexander Kocsis, Finn Empey

Front Row L-R: Salwa Seman, Aidan McGrew, Lucas Kratovil, Juliet Galicia, Vivi Wayland, Xavier Peri, Ben Kuntz, Luke Wazorko

Members of the Class of 2024 have been offered admission to and/or will be attending the following high schools:

Alexandria City High School, Bishop Ireton High School, Bishop O'Connell High School, The Field School, Flint Hill School, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, Gonzaga College High School, Immanuel Christian School, St. John's College High School, and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

Alexandria Country Day School is a leading K-8, coed, independent school in the Del Ray community of Alexandria. We provide a challenging academic program; numerous arts and athletics offerings; a robust and integrated approach to social-emotional learning; a school-wide service learning program; and an innovative public speaking curriculum. To learn more, visit www.acdsnet.org or call 703-837-1303.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Emmanuel Arthur, center, with children Peleieh Menseh, 4, and 6-month-old Yiedie Arthur.



Kent Jancarik with daughter Charlotte.



Andre Nettles with 2-year-old daughter Yahharie Myrick.



Emmanuel Medina with 4-year-old son Elan.

Celebrating Fatherhood

Father's Day is June 16.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

June is a month for Dads and grads with families across the region preparing to celebrate fatherhood, paternal bonds and the influence of fathers as Father's Day approaches June 16.

"My father is an amazing guy," said Calvin Brown of his father Lorenzo Brown.

"He does sometimes get on my nerves but he always does it for a reason. He has also taught me a lot of lessons growing up, like to watch who I hang around with and who to trust."

The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972 — 58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official — that the day honoring fathers became

a nationwide holiday in the United States under President Richard Nixon.

"My grandfather is the best and I want to thank him for stepping in since Daddy died."

— Chanel Yancey on her grandfather Jack Byrd

The idea for Father's Day originated with Sonora Smart Dodd, a woman from Spokane. She wanted to memorialize the love of all fa-

thers across the globe. Her inspiration came from her own father, William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran who raised her and her five siblings as a single parent after their mother died in childbirth.

Alexandria families are preparing special dinners and cookouts to celebrate fathers, grandfathers and paternal bonds.

"I love my grandfather," said Chanel Yancey of her grandfather Jack Byrd. "I am so happy he is in

my life. He is the best and I want to thank him for stepping in since Daddy died. I want him to know how much I appreciate him."

Father's Day is an opportunity to recognize not only biological fathers but also stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father figures. It is a chance to acknowledge the sacrifices, guidance, and love that fathers provide.

"My grandfather is really a great man," said Jalen Byrd of Jack Byrd. "He's a great role model and someone I aspire to be. I am grateful every day to have him in my life."



Jack Byrd, center, with granddaughter Chanel Yancey and grandson Jalen Byrd.



Lorenzo Brown, center, with children Calvin Brown and Jaxon Brown.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

Retired Air Force Major John Bordner with son and Coast Guardsman Ander Bordner.



Congratulations Grace Graduates

We are extremely proud of the fifth grade graduating class of 2024!

These bright students will attend the following schools in the fall:

Alexandria Country Day School • Congressional School
Rochambeau French International School • St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

Way to go, Grace!



Grace
Episcopal
School

GraceSchoolAlex.org 703-549-5067
3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305

Independent School in Alexandria
Preschool Ages 3 through Grade Five

Men's Health Expo

Free screenings highlight inaugural health expo.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 20 local organizations partnered to host the first Men's Health Empowerment Expo, a full day event that featured health screenings, guest speakers and panel discussions June 8 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

"We are trying to bring men in the community together and help them see the importance of men's health," said Everette Boobie Mitchell of the Capital Youth Empowerment Program. "We have over 20 agencies here. This is our first expo but it will not be our last."

The expo featured health and vision screenings, HIV testing, and boxercise and healthy cooking demonstrations. Throughout the day, attendees participated in breakout sessions on top men's health issues like prostate cancer, diabetes, and heart health.

"This is our first expo but it will not be our last."

— Everette Boobie Mitchell, Capital Youth Empowerment Program

The day also included guest speakers and a panel discussion on mental and holistic health. Wes Hall, host of "Wizards Pre-game Live," delivered the keynote speech.

Other speakers included former Alexandria Police Chief Don Hayes and Pastor Lou Whiting of My Father's House Christian Church International.

Johnson Li was a volunteer with the Prevention of Blindness Society.

"I am here measuring the pressure of the eye," said Li. "A test result of 10-20 is a healthy range. If the number is higher -- say 32 -- that is an indication of glaucoma and needs further testing and follow up care."

Event organizers include: Alexandria Health Department, Alexandria Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities, Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Beulah Baptist Church, Capital Youth Empowerment Program, Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria, My Father's Christian Church International, and the Social Responsibility Group.

"As men, our health is critical," said AHD Director Dr. David Rose in announcing the expo. "But often, men do not have the resources and assistance we need to meet our own health goals. Attendees at the Men's Health Empowerment Expo can leave the day with the tools we need to lead long, healthy lives."



Everette Boobie Mitchell, center, stands with members of the Capital Youth Empowerment Program, a sponsor of the Men's Health Empowerment Expo June 8 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.



Prevention of Blindness volunteer Johnson Li tests an attendee for glaucoma at the Men's Empowerment Health Expo June 8 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.



Attendees gather information from participating organizations at the Men's Empowerment Health Expo June 8 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

NEWS

Rotary Contributions Day 2024

Alexandria Rotary Club president Bob McClure, right, poses for a photo with NBC4 reporter Julie Carey and Alexandria Police Foundation board president Charlotte Hall after presenting grants to Hall and representatives of 53 local nonprofits at the organization's annual Contributions Day June 11 at Belle Haven Country Club. www.alexandriarotary.org

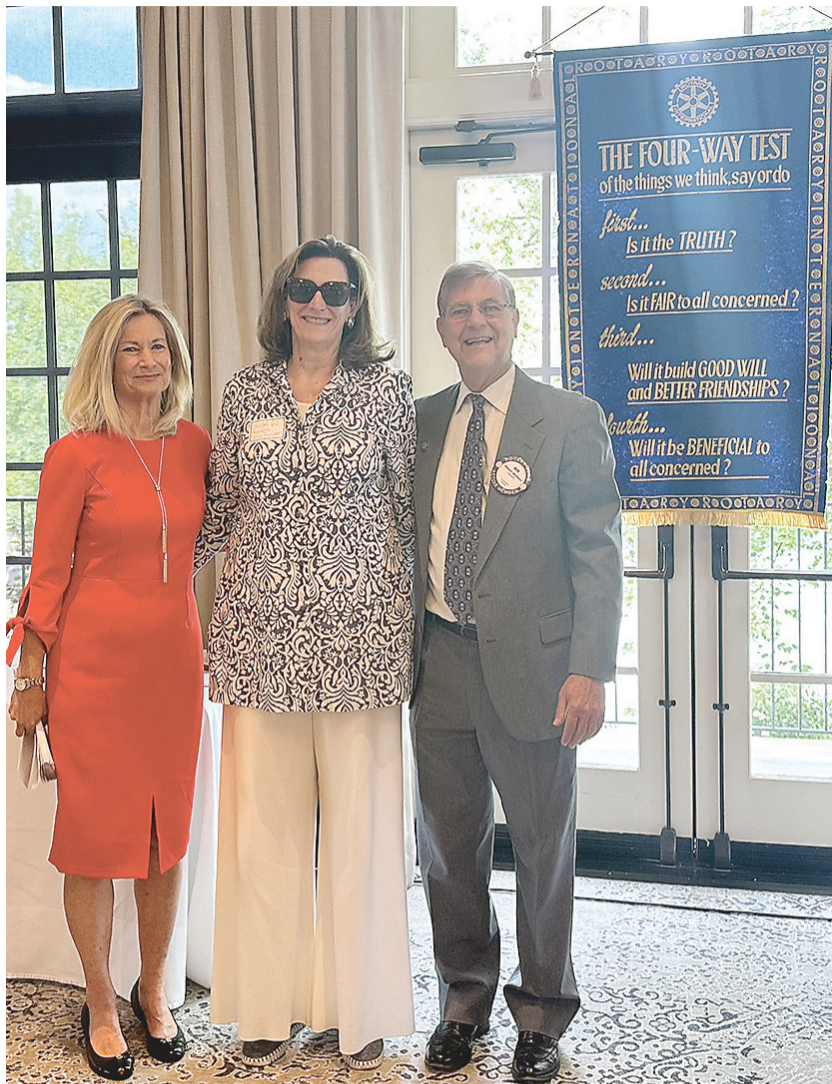


PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/
GAZETTE PACKET



Discover good health through nourishing traditional diets.

Become a member of the **Weston A. Price Foundation** and receive our quarterly journal, *Wise Traditions for Food, Farming and the Healing Arts*, which details the latest science, explores ancient nutritional wisdom and provides valuable practical advice—including a regular column on homeopathy and help in finding good food.

Membership:
\$40-\$30/year for our quarterly journal and more.
Use code **wapf30**

THE WESTON A. PRICE FOUNDATION®
for **Wise Traditions**
IN FOOD, FARMING AND THE HEALING ARTS
Education • Research • Activism

Enjoy our weekly podcast & request a free dietary guidelines booklet at westonaprice.org/infopack

Past issues of

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

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

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



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

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years

Free Estimates 703-999-2929

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

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

THE
CHAMBER
ALX

Looking for
networking events,
business updates,
and advocacy
support in 2024?
Join The Chamber
ALX now at
thechamberalx.com

‘Peace and Childhood Innocence’



Alexandria City High School campus administrator Ashley Carter Sinclair, far left, with mural artist Nicole Bourgea, center, and attendees celebrating the unveiling of the Peace and Childhood Innocence mural May 30 at Bradlee Shopping Center.



Local students stand in front of the Peace and Childhood Innocence mural May 30 at Bradlee Shopping Center.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Mural unveiled at Bradlee Center.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Students in the Alexandria City High School arts program teamed up with professional artists Nicole Bourgea and Roberto “Sef” Seminario to create a mural that was unveiled May 30 at Bradlee Shopping Center.

The mural, titled Peace and Childhood Innocence, features three children surrounded by flowers and prominent symbols of peace. It was commissioned by First Washington Re-

alty, the property manager of Bradlee Center.

“This project was commissioned by the shopping center in hoping for a beautification project,” said Bourgea, who hails from DC. “It was mentioned that students from the school do use the shopping center and that there has been a little bit of a tense relationship historically between the students and the shopping center. So I decided the best source for information on what would be an appropriate project were the students so I went to speak with them myself.”

Bourgea visited the art classrooms at ACHS seeking input on what they wanted to see in the mural.

“I asked them what they would like to see and they expressed a desire for the larger community to see that they are just chil-

dren and that they desire peace and a space that is community oriented and where they would feel safe and welcome,” Bourgea said.

Bourgea worked with ACHS to create the design for the mural with students working after school on the project. It is located on a wall in the shopping center, which is located between the ACHS King Street and Minnie Howard campuses.

Markos Panas, one of the owners of the Beeliner Diner, was on hand to present the artist with a custom celebratory cake.

“Nicole is an incredible muralist,” Panas said. “She partnered with Alexandria High School and brought everyone together to build this amazing mural for us all here at Bradlee. We’re so happy to support this project and celebrate today.”



Beeliner Diner co-owner Markos Panas, left, presents artist Nicole Bourgea with a piece of celebratory cake at the unveiling of her Peace and Childhood Innocence mural May 30 at Bradlee Shopping Center.

All Aboard! Tall Ship Providence launches regional school program.

BY KATHY SEIFERT
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

If you’ve strolled along the waterfront in Old Town this past year, you can’t help but have noticed the beautiful new pier adorned with American flag bunting leading to Tall Ship Providence and its elegant, permanent home, the Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.

In her second season at this location, Providence continues to draw residents and visitors alike as she welcomes guests aboard the ship to experience life at sea during the American Revolution and the many challenges endured by her Captain and young crew.

Tall Ship Providence Foundation (TSPF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with the mission of educating young and old alike

on the role Providence played in the American Revolution. Offering public sails, private charters and daily tours, Providence has become a hub of activity along the City’s waterfront.

This spring, TSPF launched an exciting new program under its 4th Grade Education Program which was made possible by a grant from HII: Newport News. The purpose of the “Field Trip Program” is to provide all Title One students, and others from under resourced areas, the opportunity to visit the ship free of charge including transportation costs. The curriculum has been designed to align with the state’s 4th grade history content and includes several STEM components as well.

The Foundation hopes to enable students to step out from behind



Students participate in knot relay activity aboard the Tall Ship Providence moored at the Alexandria waterfront.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

desks and computers to engage in a unique, hands-on experience intended to inspire, educate and encourage them to “dream big!”

TSPF’s 2024 program goal is to serve 50 local schools, 43 of which have already committed, providing there is funding available. The Foundation is seeking local businesses, individuals and anyone who supports hands-on, experiential learning as a means of capturing student’s interest in learning to help support this important effort.

If you, or someone you know, would like to sponsor a class, school or entire district you can make your donation today at www.tallshipprovidence.org or contact Kathy Seifert, VP of Development and Marketing, at kathy@tallshipprovidence.org.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

POTOMAC HARMONY OFFERS HARMONY & LEARNING!

School may be out in June, but the learning gets started on Wednesday nights at Potomac Harmony chorus rehearsals! Learn the art of 4-part harmony treble singing while experiencing the joy of ringing chords! Together, guests and members will rehearse new music and create harmonies lead by the expertise of our talented director Allison Lynskey. Potomac Harmony members are women and nonbinary individuals from all walks of life, live around the DMV, and have various levels of musical and singing experience. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m., at The View Alexandria, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. Questions? Contact Jackie Bottash, backrowlead@aol.com.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

34TH SEASON OF THE LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) announces the 34th season of its Lyceum Chamber Series, under the guidance of Music Director Laureate Ulysses James. Hosted at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, located at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria, this series promises to offer an array of exceptional weekly performances throughout the summer. All concerts are at 3 p.m.; no tickets required. Suggested donation \$25.

LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.

Featuring Anna Binneweg, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
Ulysses James, Music Director Laureate, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
Alberto Rodriguez, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra
Martin Garfield-Levine, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra
Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director

MUSIC SCHEDULE

August 4: Alexandria Baroque
Michael De Sapio, Baroque Violin
John Armato, Lute, Baroque Guitar
August 11: Tapestry Cello Ensemble
August 18: Quodlibet, Flute/Clarinet/Bassoon
August 25: Samuel Runolfson, Cello
September 1: Michael De Sapio, Violin
September 8: Hai Jin, Piano
September 15: John Sutherland Earle: Piano & Friends

LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES SUMMER 2024 CONCERT SCHEDULE

June 16: Main Street Chamber Play-
www.connectionnewspapers.com

ers, Piano Quintet
Mozart: Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, K. 478
Popper: Concert Polonaise for Cello and Piano, Op. 14
Ravel: Ma Mère l'Oye
June 23: TBD
June 30: Luke Ratcliffe, piano
July 14: Crystal Lee, Flute | Brittany Pemberton, Clarinet | Eunae Han, Piano
Works by Emanuel, Debussy, Saint-Saëns, and Coleman
July 21: Sasha Beresovsky, Piano
July 28: Maxim Pakhomov, Piano
Works by Schubert, Dvorák, Poulenc, and Rachmaninoff

JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in drawing, stone carving, jewelry, resin, mosaics, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria) unless noted. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

At Grist Mill Park
4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

JUNE

14 Chuck Brown Band (Go Go/Funk/Soul)
21 Munit Meslin with Qlatse Band (Ethiopian Music)
28 The Artimus Pyle Band - Honoring Ronnie Van Zant's Lynyrd Skynyrd (Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute Band)

JULY

5 Cecily (Soul, Jazz)
12 Strutman Lane (Funk/Pop)
19 Doc Robinson (Rock and Roll)
26 Bio Ritmo (Salsa)

AUGUST

2 Eastern Standard Time (Ska and Reggae)
9 Project Locrea (World Music)
16 Burn the Ballroom (Alternate Rock)
23 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)
30 Melissa Qinn Fox (Country/American)

AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

JUNE

15 Beginnings - a Celebration of the Music of Chicago (Chicago Tribute Band)
22 Wicked Sycamore (Contemporary Folk)
29 Workhouse Fireworks Festival (Ticketed event. Visit www.workhousearts.org)

JULY

6 EU Sugar Bear (Go Go/Funk)
13 Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)
20 Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes (Blues)
27 Bela Dona Band (Funk/Jazz)

AUGUST

3 The U.S. Air Force Strings (Alt-country/Roots rock)
10 Ocho de Bastos (Latin/Pop)
17 Alex Hamburger (Jazz)
24 The U.S. Army Band Country Roads (Country)

JUNE 6 TO AUG. 26

"Nature's Spirit." Nina Tisara's mosaics and Steven Halperson's photographs and etched copper will be exhibited in the Estate House at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard



PHOTO BY JACK-POWERS

Vaughn and Robyn Ambrose, Saturday's master of ceremony for Portside in Old Town Summer Festival, June 21-22. Vaughn and Robyn are Alexandria-based musicians and founders of the Yellow Door Concert Series. Vaughn is the Director of Jazz at St. Stephens St. Agnes Upper school and has toured the world performing and lecturing.

Drive, Alexandria. The public is invited to an Opening Reception on Sunday, June 23, 2-4 p.m. (RSVP: ninat@ninatisara.com). The Estate House is open to the public 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Since the Estate House will occasionally close for rental events the public is encouraged to call 703-768-5780, ext. 137, to be certain the exhibit is open for viewing.

JUNE 7-30

"All About Love" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores love broadly: romantic love, love of family, love of pets, strong friendships, etc. Works by dozens of local artists will be on display and available for sale. Opening Reception: Friday, June 7, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

FRIDAYS/JUNE 14 AND 21

Mask-Making Workshop with Artist David Camero. 1-3 p.m.

At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join in an exciting and artistic adventure at our Mask Making Workshop where you can design and create unique masks that reflect your creativity! Led by a talented artist, David Camero, who is currently exhibiting Coroto: Masks of Power at the Athenaeum Gallery, this workshop is divided into two parts for mask making and drying, and decorating purposes. This free workshop promises a fun-filled experience for participants of all ages. Please note that space is limited and your RSVP is required. Email admin@nvfaa.org to reserve your space!

FRIDAY/JUNE 14

Air Force Strings. 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. The Air Force Strings is a 16-member string ensemble that performs various musical styles including classical,

Broadway, classic rock, bluegrass, and patriotic music. A key element of its mission is to entertain audiences at high-level protocol events in a formation known as the Strolling Strings. Members of the Strings also regularly perform in educational outreach engagements, public concerts and high-level military and government events. Their musical virtuosity and sheer elegance has earned the recognition of world leaders. In addition to its wide-ranging flexibility and reputation for excellence, this ensemble aims to break down political barriers and encourages global cultural dialogue as international musical ambassadors.

SATURDAY/JUNE 15

Mount Vernon Flea Market and Arts and Crafts Fair. 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #219, 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Up to 45 vendors, inside and outside, great variety, refreshments on site and inside the lodge. Crafters, Artisans, Antique, Vintage, Collectibles, and neighbors downsizing with practical items/household, furniture, misc. This event takes place every third Saturday of the month from March to December. Next Dates: June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21 (+ bonus holiday market Dec 7 or 14). Visit the website: <https://mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com/>

SATURDAY/JUNE 15

Columbia Pike Blues Festival. 1-8 p.m. At the intersection of South Walter Reed Drive and Columbia Pike in Arlington. This year the Festival celebrates women in blues with a lineup of all-women-fronted bands offering a full array of blues, R&B, and funk performers of national and regional note that includes: headliner Bette Smith, Eden Brent, Mama Moon & the Rump Shakers; The Stacy Brooks Band and the Honeylarks.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 19

Annual Juneteenth Celebration. 6 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Join in the annual Juneteenth celebration in collaboration with The Carlyle House, and poet, author, and Athenaeum Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta. Discover the history of Juneteenth through hands-on activities, art, history, and poetry readings. Featuring hostess KaNikki Jakarta and three magnificent artists: Ayanna Gallant, 13 of Nazareth, and The Healacist HipHop Momma Princess Best.

JUNE 21-22

Portside in Old Town Summer Festival. A free festival of live music featuring the ALX Jazz Fest at Portside. Friday 6-9 p.m.; Saturday 1-8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Kick off summer with the return of the Portside in Old Town Summer Festival. This free festival features an array of live music, local craft beer from Port City Brewing Company and fun for the whole family on the Alexandria waterfront. The event includes Friday evening jazz performances and readings by Alexandria poets as part of the ALX Jazz Fest @ Portside. Saturday, the festival continues with an eclectic musical lineup, local food, hands-on art and history activities and more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 21

Wright at Twilight. 6:30-9 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Enjoy the iconic Pope-Leighey House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, at twilight! Sit back with complimentary snacks and a glass of wine, as you watch the changing light bring out the beautiful architectural details of the house. Play games in the yard, listen to period music, and tour the house at your leisure as the sun slowly sets. Tickets are \$25, with one drink included in the price of your ticket.

SATURDAY/JUNE 22

The Official Pride Bar Crawl in Alexandria. 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. At The Alexandria Bier Garden, 710 King Street, Alexandria. Celebrate Diversity, Be Bold, Be Colorful! Dress in vibrant attire and express your true self in a safe, welcoming space. This event is more than just a pub crawl; it's a celebration of love, diversity, and inclusion. Meet new friends and be part of a community that celebrates you!

SUNDAY/JUNE 30

Angels and Demons: Violin Masterworks performed by Michael DeSapio. 2 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Angelic sweetness and demonic fury have both been part of the violin's personality for ages. Violinist Michael De Sapio takes you down some lesser-known byways of the repertoire for solo violin. Hear works by Pierre Rode, Benjamin Godard, Arthur Honegger, Richard Rudolf Klein, and Eugène Ysaÿe's spectacular and haunting Solo Sonata No. 2 to mark the centenary of its composition.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR
**DURABLE MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT?**

Experience the power of healing with durability! Trust in Durable Medical Equipment, your partner in Health and Recovery.



P: 571-460-0269 F: 571-350-3174

info@caremedsupply.com
caremedsupply.com

1300 TABLES! Buy! Sell! Trade! VPN

NATION'S GUN SHOW

JUNE 14, 15 & 16

DULLES EXPO

4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, VA 20151

FRI: 1-8 | SAT: 9-5 | SUN: 10-5

VA & Utah CCW Courses | (571) 237- 9138

\$1 Off One Adult Admission

**BEAT THE TRAFFIC!!
NEW HOURS
FRIDAY 1PM - 8PM**



www.TheNationsGunShow.com | www.ShowmastersGunShows.com



**Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE
when tackling your roof!**

**LIMITED
TIME
OFFER!
SAVE!**

**UP TO
50%
OFF
INSTALLATION**



**FREE ESTIMATE
1.844.902.4611**

Expires 7/31/2024

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

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

Be prepared before the next power outage.



**It's not just a generator.
It's a power move.™**

Receive a free 5-year warranty
with qualifying purchase*
- valued at \$535.

**Call 844-947-1479
to schedule your free quote!**

GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.

Announcements

FOR SALE:
1998
Dodge Grand Caravan

Excellent Condition
Inside, Outside, Under the Hood

V6 - 3.6 L Engine
74,000 miles / Teal Green
Car Cover Included

\$7,000 - OBO
CALL 202-607-4075

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first
week of every month.

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

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

Senior Living, fourth week
of every month.

Questions?

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

**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

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



Historic Pohick Church in Lorton will host an Independence Day Program on Thursday, July 4, 2024. (Pictured): Rev. Tom Costa and his wife Susan of the Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild.

FROM PAGE 13

THURSDAY/JULY 4

Independence Day Program. Noon to 1 p.m. At Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Featuring a Special Reading of the Declaration of Independence. As part of the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Historic Pohick Church, the community is invited to a free public reading of the Declaration of Independence at Historic Pohick Church by historical re-enactor, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Costa, portraying the Rev. Mr. Massey, the Rector of Pohick Church in 1776. The reading will take place at 12 noon, with free docent tours of the Colonial church of George Washington, George Fairfax, and George Mason following the presentation. Visit the website at www.pohick.org.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets

available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

JUNE

- Wed. 12: Eric Benet \$79.50
- Thu. 13: Marc Cohn \$55.00
- Fri. 14: Asleep At The Wheel 'Happy Trails Tour' \$39.50
- Sat. 15: Pieces Of A Dream \$49.50
- Mon. 17: Steve Earle: Alone Again - Solo & Acoustic \$65.00
- Tue. 18: Chayce Beckham w/ Pug Johnson \$29.50
- Fri. 21: Tarsha Fitzgerald Prod. Presents Voices of Motown 'Anniversary Show' \$39.50
- Sat. 22: Judy Collins w/ Oakland Rain \$59.50
- Sun. 23: Christian de Mesones aka Big New York \$39.50
- Mon. 24: The Wallflowers w/ Justin Trawick \$75.00
- Tue. 25: The Wallflowers w/ Justin Trawick \$75.00
- Fri. 28: Bela Dona Band \$39.50
- Sat. 29: Gary Puckett & The Union Gap \$45.00

Primary 2024

Sample Ballots

Republican Primary Election TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

FROM PAGE 1

Canek Aguirre
Jesse D. O'Connell
Kevin J. Harris
John Taylor Chapman
Jonathan P. Huskey
Jacinta E. Greene
Charlotte A. Scherer

MEMBER UNITED STATES SENATE

Vote for only one
Hung Cao
Edward C. "Eddie" Garcia Jr.
Jonathan W. Emord
C.L. "Chuck" Smith, Jr.
Scott Thomas Parkinson

River Farm Unveils New Native Garden: Clara B. Plein Memorial Garden

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A new garden showcasing native plants in a traditional Virginia landscape setting now resides at River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society (AHS). Inspired by the backyard of a beloved gardener. The Clara B. Plein Memorial Garden was unveiled on June 7 with a reception of donors, dignitaries, horticulturists, River Farm friends and AHS Board members and staff. The wonderful new garden addition enhances River Farm's 25 acres of scenic landscape along the Potomac River.

Inspired by her grandson, Scott Plein, Chair of the AHS Board of Directors, in partnership with numerous horticultural companies and experts, the Clara B. Plein Memorial Garden features 2,400 individual plants across 30 species, consisting of 68% native plants and 32% native cultivars. Plants were selected for their ability to support pollinators, create habitat, improve air and soil quality, and provide food for humans and wildlife.

Says Scott Plein, "The Memorial Garden is a tremendous palette of plantings that is definitive of both our cultural and natural past. It pays homage to River Farm's wondrous history as part of George Washington's original farmland and exemplifies the AHS's focus on best gardening practices."

A showcase for horticultural excellence, the garden's layout was thoughtfully planned around the preservation of existing large trees and five distinct planting areas: woodland deciduous azalea and viburnum plantings, wood's edge plants, meadow, shrubs and edible garden, and shade garden. Plantings are layered to provide year-round interest through varied colors, textures, and structures.

The Clara B. Plein Memorial Garden reflects the collaborative achievement and generous support of multiple landscaping and nursery companies from across the region, as well as funding from the White House Farm Foundation. The following 15 companies leveraged their landscape design and installation capabilities, and generous funding, to transform the area into a vibrant, ecologically-minded oasis that will be enjoyed by visitors for years to come: Ruppert Landscaping - Installation; KT Enterprises - Donation Procurement &



Attendees at the dedication ceremony for the Clara B. Plein Memorial Garden included: Matt Zuccari (Ruppert), Sophia Ciallela (Ruppert), Cole Stoy (Ruppert), Scott Plein (White House Farm Foundation and American Horticultural Society), Joan Honeyman (Jordan Honeyman Landscape Architecture), Kris Alvarez (KT Enterprises), Matt Teese (South Riding Nurseries), and Matt Deivert (South Riding Nurseries)

Project Coordination; South Riding Nurseries - Delivery Support; Jordan Honeyman Landscape Architecture - Landscape Design; Babikow Nursery (Baltimore, MD); David's Nursery (Exmore, VA); Hanover Farms Nursery (Rockville, VA); Ingleside Nurseries (Colonial Beach, VA); Kurt Bluemel Nursery (Baldwin, MD); Riverbend Nursery (Riner, VA); Sandy's Plants (Mechanicsville, VA); Saunders Brothers Nursery (Piney River, VA); The Perennial Farm (Glen Arm, MD); White House Farm Foundation (Bristow, VA); Willoway Nurseries (Avon, OH).

"This stunning new garden showcases how Virginia's gardening legacy can inspire landscapes that are not only visually captivating, but also resilient and environmentally conscious, requiring less maintenance," said Suzanne Laporte, President of the AHS.

Founded in 1922, the non-profit American Horticultural Society is headquartered at River Farm, a 25-acre site overlooking the Potomac River that is part of George Washington's original farmlands in Alexandria, Virginia. www.ahsgardening.org



Scott Plein, Chair of the AHS Board of Directors, made a toast and cut the ribbon to celebrate the garden that is dedicated to his beloved grandmother.

Still Diverting (In Real Time)



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I had my PET scan today, Wed., June 5. I probably won't know the results until the weekend. That's when I'm likely to have received, electronically, the same radiologist's report that my oncologist will receive. And given that timing, and the time when my column is due in production makes it unlikely, I'll have anything of substance to report on my papillary thyroid cancer before I submit this column for publication. As such, this column will be like last week's: a little bit about cancer and a lot about nothing. Both of which I'm capable of providing.

What this initial paragraph means is that I'll be stuck not knowing, or if I do know (from the report), I won't exactly know its meaning, as it's written by a doctor for a doctor, not necessarily for the doctor's patient. As a result, if I receive the report sooner rather than later, I'll have more time to stress potentially over whatever substance I can semi understand. If on the other hand, I don't receive the report until later, I'll have more time to stress over what it might say - since the not-knowing is often worse than the knowing. For the moment however, to quote Sergeant Schultz from "Hogan's Heroes": "I know nothing."

The radiologist's report that I will receive, though filled with medical jargon, does list some headings: "Findings" and "Impressions" that at the very least attempt to summarize the report. Having been through this scan/process many times before, the "impressions" and "findings" are helpful, but until I hear it from the oncologist's mouth, I try not to read too much into what little I do understand. After all, this is medicine, not arithmetic. The content generally doesn't provide a straight line to one's life expectancy. That comes from the oncologist. Thankfully, my appointment with my oncologist is first thing Mon. morning, five days after my scan, which is about as soon after a scan when an appointment would be scheduled. Therefore, I might be waiting early for the results, but not too late for the appointment. Us cancer patients tend to grasp at straws while we're looking for any port in a storm.

In the interim, while I still have unoccupied space in my brain, I will complete this column as I completed last week's column: cancer first, Kenny's minutiae second. Compared to last week's diversion about "backparking" - as opposed to headfirst parking, this week's topic is altogether different. Rather than written about the bane of my existence, as the parking issue is, this topic will be about my joie de vivre: resealable packaging on certain perishable items regularly purchased at a supermarket. This previous problem of opening a package (let's say Oreos for example) and not having an easy way to close the packaging to keep the item fresh after opening has been resolved. Previously, I would have used a paper clip or something similar. After 65-plus years of ripping open bags of cookies - as an extremely likely recurring example, the solution is here: the resealable flap. I can still remember the moment when this lifelong problem ended. It happened in Cambridge, Maryland where Dina and I were "weekending."

We were visiting good friends Martha and H.L. at their home. Typically, we'll eat more at their home than we'll go out. This weekend was no different. When Sunday morning came around, Maratha had set out a breakfast buffet: eggs, bacon, bread, coffee, et cetera. Et cetera' included English muffins. As I grabbed my plate and walked over to the toaster to get an English muffin, I noticed they were not Thomas. They were a brand I did not know Bays: When I went to grab a muffin from the six-pack package, I had to open the package because it had been resealed. At the end of the bag was a resealable flap to efficiently and conveniently open and close and reseal the insides forever more - or certainly long enough for its contents to be devoured. "Wow!" I must have said aloud because at that moment, that exposure to the resealable flap, changed my life. Certainly, I'm exaggerating because cancer changed my life. However, for a cookie maven like me, discovering this packaging design affected my cookie consumption. No longer would I have to eat all the cookies because otherwise they'd get stale. And 'stale' because once open, the cookies edibility went down as the cookies lost their freshness - because the package wasn't resealable. (Although, I love a stale Oreo. They're soft and delicious.) Now, I could eat like a normal person, well, at least a 'normal person' like me who has more than a sweet tooth. I have sweet teeth.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

Frankly, this can be said about any of the candidates, but what set Amy apart for me was her commitment to doing her homework, and her willingness to have her mind changed by new data. Listening to residents, and the city's experts and doing your own research (with two Master's Degrees she knows how) is the essence of what I want in a public servant, especially at the local level where

issues can change neighborhood by neighborhood or even block by block.

The other outstanding trait that makes me support Amy is her steadfast commitment to transparency in government decision-making.

I think it is absolutely critical for our government to be as open in its decision-making as possible, it is one of the things that makes democracy function. Over the years I have known her, Amy has always pushed

for openness and transparency, in every group, commission or organization of which she was a part. She has brought this to Council, often pushing for more information before making a decision. This is the essence of a public servant and a person who would make an outstanding Mayor. That's why I'm supporting Amy Jackson on June 18th.

Greg Parks
Alexandria

The Trusted Real Estate Resource for Alexandria and Beyond.



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



OPEN SAT 6/15, 2-4

Fort Hunt | \$1,949,000

Welcome to this magnificent home in Fort Hunt with a backyard including pool, putting green, tiki bar and hot tub. With over 6,000 sq feet, 5 bedrooms and 6 baths, vaulted ceilings, huge open kitchen and family room, you'll never want to leave! 2504 Sherwood Hall Lane
Rebecca McCulloch 571.384.0941
www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



Porto Vecchio | \$1,849,000

Views that must be seen to be believed! This contemporary, 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom double unit with expansive southern views of the Potomac River includes: 2 offices; natural light-filled living and dining rooms with a wood-burning fireplace; exquisite gallery lighting and shelving; custom flooring throughout; a large balcony and sunroom overlooking the water; an artisan-designed kitchen featuring counters with custom seating; 3 indoor parking spaces; and 3 storage rooms. Enjoy all of the amenities of a house with the convenience of a condo! 1250 S Washington Street #815 & #817
Mason Montague Bavin 703.338.6007
www.MasonBavin.com



OPEN SAT 6/15 & SUN 6/16 2-4

Hollin Hills | \$1,195,000

Impeccable 1-level Mid-Century Modern home with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on almost 1/2 acre of gardens. Beautifully updated kitchen and bathrooms, enclosed family room, quality updates throughout. A perfect blend of modern and classic. 1917 Marthas Road
Jodie Burns 571.228.5790
www.JodieBurns.com



OPEN SUN 6/16, 2-4

White Oaks | \$899,000

This exquisite 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom, 2-level brick home on a quiet cul-de-sac features hardwood floors, a large deck, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, and a fenced-in yard. Close to Metro, I-495, Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Huntley Meadows Park, and more. 7200 Popkins Farm Road
Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802
www.WendySantantonio.com



OPEN SAT 6/15 & SUN 6/16 2-4

Windy Hill At Lincolnia | \$689,900

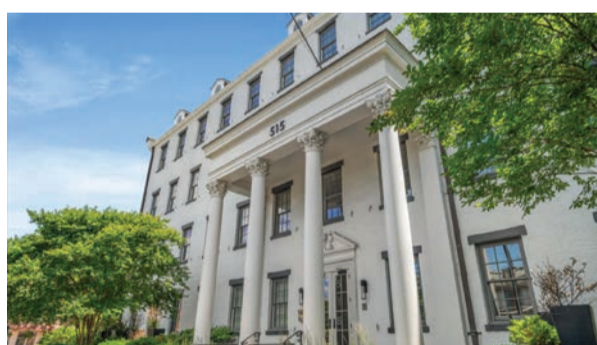
This 3-level, 3-bedroom townhome with a 2-car garage is conveniently located near I-395 for commuting ease! Open concept main level with large kitchen island, fireplace, and extra pantry storage. 5462 Patuxent Knoll Place
Sandy McMaster 571.259.2673
www.SandyMcMaster.realestate



OPEN SUN 6/16, 2-4

Early Street Village | \$675,000

Light-filled end unit with a unique floorplan looks over a common area and lush woods. Home has 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, huge kitchen, large living and dining room separated by a double sided gas fireplace. Large deck and sunroom. 3819 White Post Court
Suzanne & James Morrison 703.863.3110
www.SuzanneMorrison.com



Old Town | \$565,000

Gorgeous 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom corner unit loft style studio where historical meets modern. Original exposed brick walls, exposed iron beams, and soaring ceilings all in the heart of Old Town! 1 parking space included. 515 N Washington St #201
The Irmer Group 703.346.7283
www.TheIrmerGroup.com



OPEN SAT 6/15, 1-3

Washington, DC | \$449,000

Gorgeous 2-bedroom condo, located in a boutique 4-unit building in splendid Brookland—loaded with modern updates! New double pane windows and tankless water heater, exposed brick, interior archways, and original hardwood floors throughout! 4013 8th Street NE #1
The Makris Group 703.402.0629
www.TheMakrisGroup.com

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

