



PHOTO BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER

From left: Panelists Robert Balfanz, Jaime Castellano, Pedro Noguera, Heidi Jacobs, Jonathan Plucker and Larry Rosenstock with moderator Andrew Rotherham.

## Equity Defines High School Expansion

### National education experts prioritize, define fairness.

BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER  
GAZETTE PACKET

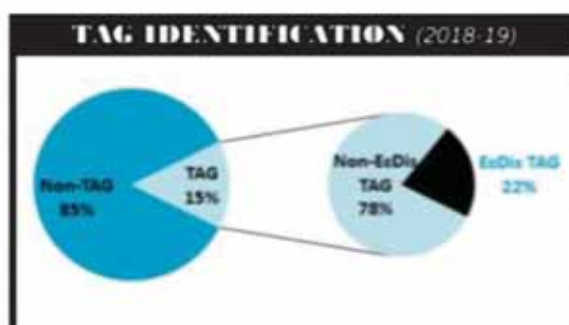
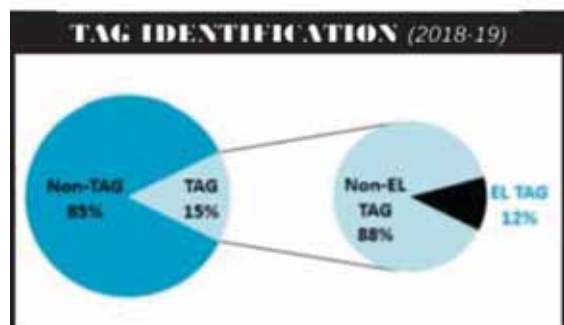
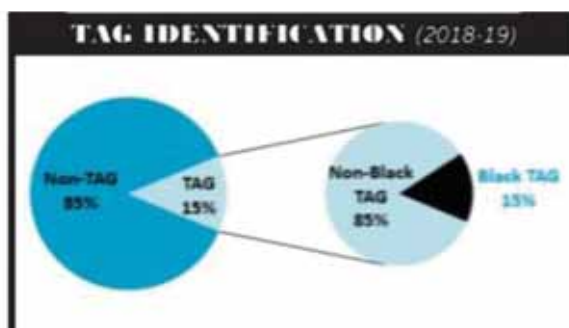
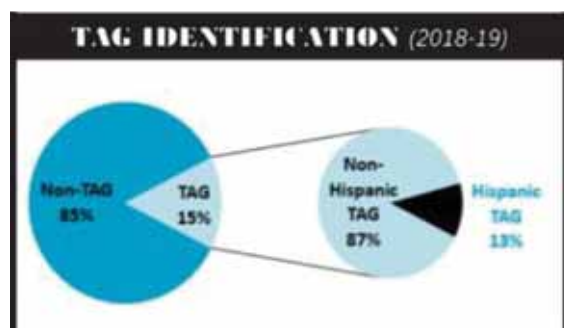
After voting to expand T.C. Williams into a larger campus, the school division went to work on programming options for students.

Equity and access continue to drive the conversation around the future of T.C. Williams High School.

A panel of six education experts weighed in on several education models, giving guidance to school officials on high school and curriculum design. It lasted over an hour and aimed to give school officials direction on how to go about the expansion process.

"The High School Project is one of the most important decisions that we have had to make in the

SEE HIGH SCHOOL, PAGE 4



Percentages of Hispanic, black, English learners and economically disadvantaged students in Talented and Gifted (TAG) programs compared to the demographics of Talented and Gifted students. The low percent of underrepresented students in Talented and Gifted programs raises questions about inequities in identification for advanced coursework.

SOURCE: ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Living Legends Of Alexandria

LLA announces 2020 honorees.

Living Legends of Alexandria is pleased to announce the selection of Living Legends for 2020. The 2020 Living Legends were vetted from an array of nominations that were submitted by the public and received through fall of last year.

These community leaders were chosen based on their having met one or both of two selection criteria as evidence of having improved the quality of life in the City of Alexandria by having led the creation or redevelopment of something which wouldn't have existed without their involvement or demonstrated substantial and sustained contributions over a significant period of time.

2020 Living Legends of Alexandria

**Carol Bailey and Ryan Bailey** – As the mother of a son with special needs, Carol Bailey has worked for over 25 years with various organizations supporting individuals with disabilities. She and her son Ryan have been longtime volunteers in the Del Ray community.

**Frank Fannon** – A lifelong Alexandrian, former City Councilman Frank Fannon has served on numerous nonprofit boards and commissions and established the annual Alexandrians Have Heart food drive for ALIVE!

**Magaly and Tom Hirst** – Philanthropists Tom and Magaly Hirst have been gener-

ous supporters of various Alexandria nonprofits through ACT for Alexandria. They have awarded more than \$685,500 to support local nonprofits, who in turn have been able to double that amount through Spring2Action's matching grants.

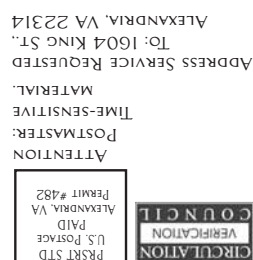
**Rosa Landeros** – As parent liaison at Mount Vernon Community School, Rosa Landeros has advocated for students, provided food and clothing for students in need and arranged gatherings to bring together families in the Spanish- and English-speaking communities of Del Ray and Chirilagua.

**McArthur Myers** – McArthur Myers has worked to preserve the historical contributions of the city's African American citizens through his efforts to identify historical sites and in obtaining historical markers for those sites.

**Virginia and Richard Obranovich** – Under the leadership of Virginia and Richard Obranovich, the Alexandria Police Foundation has made great and lasting strides, most notably with the funding and creation of the Fallen Officers Memorial among the many APF successes.

**Bill Reagan** – Bill Reagan is the founder and current Executive Director of the Alexandria Small Business Develop

SEE LIVING LEGENDS, PAGE 4





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## DPC Installs 2020 Officers

Malone to lead historic organization.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Departmental Progressive Club held its annual installation of officers program Jan. 10 with Merrick Malone taking the reins as president of the 92-year-old historic organization.

State Del. Charniele Herring (D-46) administered the oath of office to the 2020 DPC officers and members of the board of directors for both the DPC and Ladies Auxiliary. Herring is now majority leader in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Malone, Director at the District of Columbia Housing Authority Office of Capital Programs, is joined by Tavares Floyd as vice president, Elijah Griffin Sr. as financial secretary, Daniel Selby as assistant financial secretary, Scott Price as treasurer and William Chesley as recording secretary.

Additional officers and directors include: Harry White, House Committee chairman; Willie Bailey, assistant House Committee Chairman; Nelson Greene Jr., Sergeant at Arms; and Lawrence Robinson, William Campbell and William Harris as members of the board of directors.

Installed as officers of the Ladies Auxiliary were: Rosa Byrd, president; Ann Allen, vice president; Ardene Henson, secretary; Donita Greene, treasurer; Mildred Worthy, chaplain; and Bernice Lee and Barbara Wilks as members of the board.

Mayor Justin Wilson was among the city officials on hand for the event, held at the DPC facility on Gibbon Street in Old Town. Also among the attendees were vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, City Council member Del Pepper, Fire Chief Corey Smedley, Police Chief Michael Brown and former Mayor Allison Silberberg.

Established in 1927, the DPC is one of the oldest social organizations in the city and has expanded its role over the years to include community outreach and support for local nonprofits.

[www.DPC1927.org](http://www.DPC1927.org)

**DPC vice president Tavares Floyd and longtime club member James Henson at the Jan. 10 Departmental Progressive Club installation of officers.**



**The 2020 Departmental Progressive Club officers and board of directors take the oath of office Jan. 10 at the DPC annual installation of officers program in Old Town.**



**Merrick Malone makes remarks after being sworn in as president of the Departmental Progressive Club Jan. 10 at the DPC headquarters in Old Town.**

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT  
GAZETTE PACKET



**The officers of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Departmental Progressive Club pose for a photo after being sworn in Jan. 10 at the DPC installation of officers program. Shown are: Rosa Byrd, president; Ardene Henson, secretary; Donita Greene, treasurer; Mildred Worthy, chaplain; and Barbara Wilks, board member.**



**Del. Charniele Herring, majority leader in the Virginia House of Delegates, center, joins Alexandria Fire Chief Corey Smedley and Police Chief Michael Brown at the Jan. 10 Departmental Progressive Club installation of officers.**



**Arthur Miller Sr., left, and Harold Hughes of Alexandria Lodge #48 join Karen Lloyd at the Jan. 10 Departmental Progressive Club installation of officers.**



# Absentee Voting Opens for Eligible Alexandria Voters Jan. 16

Absentee voting for Virginia's March 3 Democratic Party Presidential Primary Election begins on Thursday, Jan. 16. Many Alexandria voters are eligible to vote absentee, for example, if they are:

- ❖ Away for personal business, work, vacation, active military service or at school.
- ❖ Working and commuting for 11 or more hours, between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., on Election Day. Account for those days when traffic is heavy, or the weather is bad and it takes longer than usual to get to and

from work.

- ❖ Physically unable to go to the polls because of an illness or disability.
- ❖ A caregiver for a confined family member.
- ❖ A "first responder" (firefighter, law enforcement, emergency medical technician, search and rescue).

To learn more about these and other circumstances in which absentee voting is available, visit the City's [Elections page](https://alexandriava.gov/Elections), <https://alexandriava.gov/Elections> or call 703.746.4050.

## High School Expansion

FROM PAGE 1

city," said Superintendent Gregory Hutchings last week. "It is something that we cannot do in isolation."

Ballooning enrollment at T.C. Williams is prompting the search for more building space. The High School Project was launched in 2018 and considered two options: building a second high school or keeping T.C. one high school and expanding it into a network of smaller campuses. In September, the Alexandria School Board voted six-to-three for one high school.

What the separate campuses will be and how they will be organized is still uncertain. The administration spent \$360,000 from the capital improvement program on the project and \$30,000 in school system funds, according to the quarterly report from the school division.

About \$160 million is budgeted for the High School Project, including \$104 million in 2021 and \$55 million in 2022.

Most T.C. students are minorities; 42 percent are Hispanic and 27 percent are black. Thirty percent of students in the school district are English language learners and T.C. has over 1,000 of them. About 60 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, an indication of poverty.

The six panelists identified several areas of concern: high teacher turnover; communication with non-English-speaking families and other communities; achievement gaps, racial demographics in advanced placement courses and career and technical education, among other things.

"Equity also means everyone has equal responsibility," said Heidi Hayes Jacobs. "The community needs to be equally involved in engaging this type of work reimagining the high school."

"If 40 percent of the students in



Students crowd the front doors of T.C. Williams for dismissal.

this school are Hispanic or Latino, then forty percent of those students should be in AP and honors classes," said Jaime Castellano, an education researcher on education of Hispanic students.

**CHALLENGES FACING** Alexandria's schools have challenged the panelists across the country.

Pedro Noguera of the Center for the Transformation of Schools came to T.C. in 2008 when it was known as a low-performing school due to low test scores. He warned the audience against stagnating and not making any progress.

"The biggest barrier to me in this work is complacency, the way in which we get used to the way things are. We start to believe nothing can be done," said Noguera. "Once that becomes the narrative, nothing changes ... There are schools that have figured this out."

Academics are difficult for students who speak English as a second language, according to Jonathan Plucker of the National

Association of Gifted Children.

"I was given the (ACPS) course catalogue. It's bigger than some colleges' ... I'm a native English speaker. I do education for a living. It took me all day long to get more comfortable with it," said Plucker.

The panelists proposed recommendations for the school division, including merging academics and career and technical education (CTE) courses, creating project-based learning and providing courses for students in their native language.

"The best labor market outcomes are from kids that actually took a college prep curriculum that links CTE [Career and Technical Education] courses in high school. ... The goal would be wonderful where kids would meet both those requirements with multiple pathways to achieve that diploma," said Robert Balfanz of the Everyone Graduates Center.

According to Hutchings, community stakeholders will revisit these recommendations to brainstorm curriculum.

## The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Offers Resources For Transition to High School

Are you wondering about high school life? Not sure what steps to take to be college-ready? Join the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria and other middle school families for "Transition to High School Planning Night" on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at Minnie Howard. High school is right around the corner, and it is never too early to start thinking about college! Come learn about classes to take in 9th grade, steps to take now in order to be college-ready, and how to access college-planning resources at T.C. Williams.

Join us on Jan. 22 for one of the following identical sessions:

Session 1: 5:30-6:30, English presentation-auditorium

Session 2: 5:40-6:40, Spanish presentation-media center

Session 3: 6:45-7:45, English presentation-auditorium

This program is open to all ACPS middle school families who are looking to gain a better understanding about navigating the differences between middle school and high school.

Free pizza, interpretation and childcare will be provided with registration: <https://conta.cc/36pBwHg>

For more information, please contact Melissa Harrington or Darien Waters, College Advisers with the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria at [college@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:college@acps.k12.va.us) or [darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us) or call 703-824-6730.

Parking is available in upper and lower school lots & on street (Braddock Road).



PHOTO BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER

**U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine spoke for more than an hour to T.C. Williams JROTC students about his recently proposed war powers resolution, which would prevent the President from taking military action without congressional approval. Several students, taking advantage of the civic opportunity, asked Kaine questions about the bill and US-Iran relations.**

## Living Legends Of Alexandria

FROM PAGE 1

ment Center. As founder, Reagan worked with City Council to fund and establish the Alexandria agency as a part of the Virginia SBDC network in 1996.

**Donald Simpson Jr.** – A third-generation Alexandrian, Donald Simpson Jr. has continued the legacy of his father and grandfather with a commitment to the youth of Alexandria through support of numerous educational and athletic programs and local nonprofits.

**Linsday Swanson and Katy Swanson** – Lindsay, Katy and the Swanson family formed the Kelley Cares Foundation in the wake of the tragic loss of Kelley Swanson in 2005. The foundation has continued

Kelley's passion to help the special needs community with numerous projects, including the building of the Kelley Cares Miracle Field.

The 2020 Legends will be formally recognized and introduced to the public at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Meet the Legends reception on March 19 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

The mission of Living Legends of Alexandria, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is to identify, honor and chronicle the lives of individuals who have made significant contributions to improve the quality of life in Alexandria.

For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit [www.AlexandriaLegends.org](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.org) or contact a c t AlexandriaLegends@outlook.com.



## HOME LIFE STYLE

A Classic Blue sofa is complemented by other shades of blue in this living room designed by Keira St. Claire



PHOTO BY JOHN COLE

# Beautiful, Bold, Soothing: Classic Blue

Dependable, stable and calming are the characteristic of the Color of the Year for 2020.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**D**ependable, stable and calming are the characteristic of the Color of the Year for 2020. For the past 21 years, Pantone Color Institute has announced a “Color of the Year,” which the self-proclaimed authority on color says will be on trend during the year ahead. Local designers share how the color can be used in a home’s interior.

“Classic Blue is a beautiful and bold, yet soothing color reminiscent of the evening sky and the deep blue ocean,” said Keira St. Claire of Anthony Wilder Design/Build in Bethesda, Maryland. “Soft, rich and versatile, this color has the potential to inject creative confidence into your interiors.”

From an accent wall in a child’s bedroom, throw pillows or a kitchen backsplash to a home’s front door, mailbox or shutters, Allie Mann, designer and senior interiors specialist at Case Design/Remodeling suggests a variety of ways to use classic blue. “Perhaps as a ceiling color to draw your eye up or add interest,” she said. “As a powder room wall color or vanity, this bold color will work well in the tiniest of spaces including the back of a bookcase or built-in, a reading nook, a laundry room or mudroom or as cubbies.”

Whether bold or subtle, St. Claire said the design options are plentiful. “Opt to incorporate this color in your home with decorative accents like throw blankets, pillows, rugs, and artwork and even kitchenware to add a pop of color without feeling over-saturated,” she said. “Repurpose old pieces [or furniture]. A fresh blue lacquered coat of paint would magically transform an old chair or dresser into a unique statement piece.”

For the courageous homeowner, St. Claire suggests a bolder approach. “Paint your walls or refinish your kitchen or bathroom cabinets in blue or upholster a large piece of furniture like a sofa or armchair in



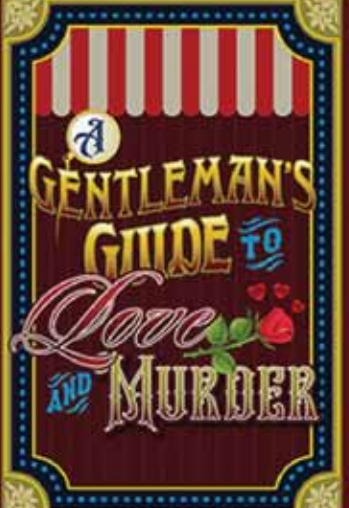
PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

**For this Arlington, Virginia breakfast room, designer Allie Mann incorporated Pantone’s color of the year by using Classic Blue fabric on the chairs, window seat cushion and pillows.**

blue,” she said. “Introduce other complementary colors like olive greens, golds or magenta to really offset the color and make a statement. Classic blue doesn’t have to be the only pop of color.”


Adding the color gradually is what Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria, Virginia suggests. “Infuse it into your home and fashion design in bits and pieces,” added “Maybe you paint an accent wall classic blue and let that be the focus. The color blue is kind to many colors and therefore easy to use in a room as an accent color. You can also mix varying shades of blue.”

“Classic blue is just that, it’s classic and timeless and can be weaved into many design schemes,” said Mann. “Do not be afraid of color.”



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### The Science of Sleep

with WebMD’s John Whyte

In collaboration with WebMD

**Wednesday, January 29, 2020**

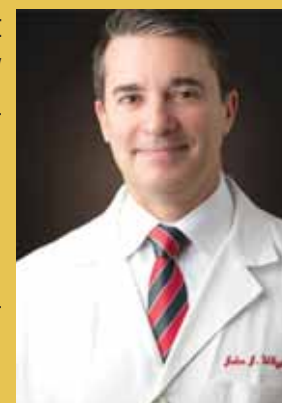
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**S. Dillon Ripley Center**

**1100 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington, DC 20560**

Metro: Smithsonian (Mall exit)

A good night’s sleep might be a dream for some but how sleep impacts our health is a reality. Hear Dr. John Whyte, WebMD’s chief medical officer, answer questions like, can too little sleep -- or too much -- sleep might be a sign of a serious health condition such as diabetes, cancer, thyroid conditions or heart disease?



Do melatonin supplements help? Can you benefit from a new pillow? How much sleep do you need and, what your sleep pattern might reveal about your health.

Dr. Whyte answers these questions and more, and shares a sleep quiz to help you determine if you’re getting quality sleep.

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# OPINION

## Looking Ahead

### RunningBrooke to build on past success.

BY BROOKE SYDNOR CURRAN  
FOUNDER, RUNNINGBROOKE

At RunningBrooke, we're always looking ahead to maximize our donors' impact and give Alexandria's kids the tools they need to succeed in and out of the classroom. But while we focus on the future, it's also crucial to survey the past year and all the progress we've made together. After all, last year's successes are the foundation for achieving new heights in 2020. We're feeling ambitious and resolving to have our best year yet.

Last year was a pivotal year: We established city-wide Move2Learn Movement Challenges, reaching students in all 14 elementary schools in Alexandria. Studies show that widespread change starts in the classroom. Our Movement Challenges are a perfect example of how grassroots movements ensure major structural change. In fact, 97 percent of teachers who participated said daily brain boosts — activities like Pop-Ups like Popcorn and Rock, Paper, Scissors, Math — had a positive effect on classroom efficiency and structure. With more than 21,000 brain boosts, Matthew Maury El-

ementary won first place in both March and October and received \$5,000 to further support creative and sustainable movement programs. Following the success of last year's Movement Challenges, we plan to expand and reach even more students in 2020. This past year, RunningBrooke sponsored grants to specifically support teachers who are doing game-changing work in the classroom. We awarded nearly \$20,000 — money that goes directly toward providing kids with the resources to be active and healthy inside and outside the classroom. Teachers report that as a result of these funds, students are more focused, and ready, willing, and able to learn.

One recipient of these grants was Alexandria's 2019 Teacher of the Year April Rodgers, who founded the groundbreaking and innovative "Pedals and Pages" program at Ferdinand T. Day Elementary. We know a good idea when we see one—and Pedals and Pages proved to be a resounding success. Students were so enthusiastic about the opportunity to read while pedaling a stationary bike that ACPs pledged to expand the program to every elementary school in the district.

Given the immense success of these grants,

in 2020 we are committed to investing even more in our city's teachers and students, so they have more of what they need to succeed in school.

Teachers know best; let's give them the tools they need to ensure better outcomes for their students. Our next competitive grant cycle is scheduled to reopen in late spring.

In the coming year, Alexandria will be a national leader in getting kids moving at school—an accomplishment only possible due to our city's tireless teachers and administrators, as well as RunningBrooke's generous donors. "The idea is to use the powerful benefits of exercise to affect the academic performance," says Rodgers. "Students are more focused, more engaged, and exercise makes them feel good."

In 2020, we at RunningBrooke resolve to do everything we can to champion Alexandria's children and spark a movement revolution across classrooms and schools throughout the city. We're building off last year's exciting and innovative initiatives to make sure 2020 is our best year yet—won't you join us? Find us at [runningbrooke.org](http://runningbrooke.org) or email us at [info@runningbrooke.org](mailto:info@runningbrooke.org).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Troubling Legislative Proposals

Dear Editor,

Legislation being proposed in Virginia's General Assembly by the Democrat majority is troubling indeed.

It is difficult at this point to estimate how many proposals will ultimately succeed in becoming law, but Alexandrians should be aware that there are bills being filed to: legalize casinos; eliminate single family zoning statewide; facilitate voter fraud by eliminating voter ID requirements and allowing same-day voter registration; take away the 'right to work' and allow union membership to be mandated for employment; and criminalize self-defense training if deemed by the state to be intended for civil disorder.

There are bills to: block parental knowledge and control over their minor children's healthcare with respect to vaccines and abortion; force closure of privately-owned gun ranges and replacement with state-owned ranges; negate the outcome of Virginia's Presidential election voting and require that our Electoral College votes be cast in accordance with the results from other more populous states; and abolish the death penalty for even the most heinous of criminals. Yet the unborn will probably get no such protection. We are very likely to see a renewed

interest in a proposal for the late-term abortion of innocent human life.

There are numerous bills proposing to limit Second Amendment rights that go far beyond simply requiring background checks. When legal guns become illegal, gun confiscation inevitably becomes a real thing, just like in Nazi Germany.

Radical legislation is not where the legislators should focus their attention. Virginia needs things like: transportation solutions; clean waterways; college cost containment (and free speech on campus); workforce training; and jobs for central, southwest, and southeast Virginia. (Share the wealth, NOVA.) And we need a balanced budget that addresses the needs of our state and ensures our AAA bond rating.

Fortunately, there is Virginia's Legislative Information System (<https://lis.virginia.gov/>). It provides the status and text of all bills, as well as information about patronage. Everyone better get 'woke' to what they are planning in Richmond before it's too late.

**Linda App**

President, Commonwealth  
Republican Women's Club  
[www.alexandriacrwc.org](http://www.alexandriacrwc.org)

### Voice Against the Equal Rights Amendment

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution intended to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex, and thereby end legal distinctions between men and women which have disadvantaged women.

During the 1970s it seemed destined to pass, but was found to disadvantage women in important respects. Therefore, five states rescinded their approval.

Troubling questions remain: how can we keep separate public restrooms, locker rooms, bathrooms and sports competitions for the sexes without violating that proposed amendment? I know no girls or women who want boys or men in those places; the only exception is for young boys with their caretakers in the women's restroom. Although feminists assured us that integrating our armed forces would pose no problems, reports of sexual assaults against women at the service academies and on the job are increasing — at all ranks, including the highest.

New problems have appeared. Male athletes identifying as females have entered competitions for females and, not surprisingly,

won. Although identifying as females, they retain their male skeletal and muscular structures which render them stronger and faster than even well trained female athletes. Disadvantaged females, unable to win in direct competition with them, forfeit opportunities they have earned for recognition and prizes, including scholarships, etc.

For example, biological males who identify as transgender girls continue to dominate high school girls track in Connecticut. Two Juniors took first and second place in the state open indoor track championships on Feb. 16, 2019. One is the third fastest runner in the country in the girls' 55-meter dash. The other is tied for seventh nationally. As sophomores in 2018, both also easily outpaced female runners in the state.

One of their competitors, a high school junior, said it was unfair to force female runners to compete against male runners. "We all know the outcome of the race before it even starts; it's demoralizing," said the Junior. "I fully support and am happy for these athletes for being true to themselves. They should have the right to express themselves in school, but athletics have always had extra rules to keep the competition fair."

How can fairness for girls/women's sports competitions be ensured? This unsolved problem faces us without the ERA's passage.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

Under the ERA, female athletes will have no hope of legal protection from such competitors.

Women in shelters, many being victims of domestic violence and rape, do not want men there. Will single sex shelters be available after ERA's passage? Our elected state legislators have not provided solutions to these difficulties.

Women have assumed many additional roles and entered many more fields in the last forty years without the ERA. What legal ill can be solved only by passage of the ERA? If there is none, and passage will result in foreseen difficulties which have no viable solutions, passing the ERA is irresponsible.

**Ellen Latane Tabb**  
Alexandria

## One Voice for Dillon Rule

In Mayor Wilson's speech concluding last Saturday's housing summit, he mocked Virginia's Dillon's Rule as being premised on the idea that local governments are incapable of governing.

The Virginia Supreme Court adopted Dillon's Rule via an 1896 ruling in *City of Winchester v. Redmond*. It was not a law passed by the General Assembly or based on a specific provision in the 1869 state constitution that was in effect when the court ruled. Judge John Forrest Dillon established Dillon's Rule while a state judge in Iowa based on the assumption that local government was less competent and more corrupt than state government. The Virginia Supreme Court cited the Iowa judge's findings to fashion this legal framework for empowering the General Assembly and limiting local governments' authority.

[www.virginiaplaces.org/government/dillon.html](http://www.virginiaplaces.org/government/dillon.html)

Most states have some degree of Dillon's rule in their jurisprudential framework.

Regrettably, as Mike Siegel's letter explains, city hall's incompetence was on full display when, after years of encouraging development which always adds automobiles to the roads, it insisted on reducing road capacity in a major artery. And, as David A. Norcross' letter explains, so is its corruption when new city council member Amy Jackson's reconsideration motion induced the mayor to admit, albeit indirectly and inadvertently, that subjects have to be "cleared" through informal, nonpublic channels beforehand, confirming the fears many of us harbor that, typically, city council has already decided what it is going to do before the public hearing even opens.

The public, especially the victims of city hall's machinations, owes a debt of gratitude to the Virginia Supreme Court for still today protecting us from the full range of abuses our city hall would inflict upon us but for its farsighted ruling in 1896.

**Dino Drudi**  
Alexandria

## How You Lost Your Voice and How You Can Get It Back

It started exactly ten years ago on Jan. 21, 2010 when the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of *Citizens United*, thereby eliminating restrictions on corporate and PAC donations to political campaigns. By equating corpo-

rations with people and money with free speech, Virginia became awash with money in our elections. Electoral contributions in Virginia totaled \$121.5 million in 2019, double from 2011, with nearly \$25 million coming from outside the state.

This was aggravated by our lax laws in Virginia. Legislators in our state, unique in our nation, are bound by no limits on campaign contributions which they can then use for personal use. Historically this has allowed business and special interest to dictate state pipeline policies, underfund schools, and keep tobacco taxes low and payday interest rates high. Last year, over 10 campaign finance bills were introduced in the last Virginia General Assembly where they died.

So, given the undeniable fact that unregulated money is undermining our democracy and that the Supreme Court decision has, over the last ten years, diminished your voice and mine, marginalized our votes and threatened our democracy, what can be done?

The answer, ironically, to correcting the *Citizens United* ruling is for citizens to unite – to reclaim our voices, our votes and our democracy by advocating for an amendment to the US Constitution that outlaws outsized political donations from corporations, PACs, and special interests. We also need to oblige our Virginia legislators to pass campaign finance reform.

A steep climb to be sure, but big problems demand big solutions, and as 80% of Americans actually support an amendment that changes how money influences our representatives, we are already more than halfway up that hill.

**Nancy Morgan**  
Alexandria

## Environmental Destruction at Potomac Yard

In the larger scheme of things, it is not really important whether or not the Potomac Yard Metro Station Alternative B south entrance is deleted or restored, given the alarming level of environmental destruction that has already taken place in constructing this ill-sited project. (The Jan. 9, 2020 Alexandria Gazette Packet shows a protester with a sign calling for the restoration of the south entrance.)

What is astounding, especially compared to higher ethical standards of yesteryear, are the many documented counts of ethical breaches committed by the City of Alexandria and its partners in building the station, blithely accommodated by federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, Metro, and proponents of the project.

Less prominent perhaps at the moment but equally important is Metro board chairman Paul Smedberg's statements, judged by us to be untrue, about the deletion of the Potomac Yard Metro Station's south entrance and fur-

thering Alexandria's bogus Metro confidentiality directive in May 2018 by way of cover-up, made while he was a Metro board member and to the present as board chairman via guilty knowledge and upholding the falsehood by not publicly dispelling it. Such actions are highly unethical and indicative of public gaslighting by elected officials.

It is hard to understand why WMATA condones this behavior from its new chairman (since June 2019) - especially because WMATA knows perfectly well that there was no confidentiality directive regarding the deletion of the south entrance and cost escalation.

Knowing all of this - and probably much more - why did Metro welcome Smedberg as chairman to succeed Evans, especially after it censured Evans for misconduct and breach of ethics? It further shows that more housecleaning is in order - as an op ed in the Jan. 8, 2020 edition of *The Washington Post* op ed urges.

**C. Dara,**  
Alexandria 22304  
**Hal Hardaway,**  
Alexandria 22314  
**Jimm Roberts,**  
Alexandria 22314



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS/THE GAZETTE

**The cast of ACCT's production of Disney's "Frozen Jr." (from left to right): Bill Barnes (Hans), Mary Margaret Bargery (Anna), Patricia Villarroel Navaez (Elsa), Andrew Tankersley (Sven), Bret Medley (Kristoff), and Jack St. Pierre (Olaf).**

## "Frozen Jr."

Jan. 17-26, At Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT), 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria.

A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, the show expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. Show times are Friday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. Visit the website: <https://acctonline.org/>

## Islamic Relief USA to Hold 100,000-Meal Packing Event at Episcopal High School

In putting to action Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of service, Islamic Relief USA, a nonprofit humanitarian and advocacy organization, will hold a large meal-packing event at Episcopal High School, 1200 North Quaker Lane, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Sunday, Jan. 19.

"Islamic Relief USA has long participated in service projects on Martin Luther King Day, as it's vital to take time out and serve," said Syed M. Hassan for Islamic Relief USA. "Our partnership with the Episcopal School will help supplement the efforts of IRUSA volunteers and help provide nourishing food to many people around the country."

More than 300 volunteers will pack some

100,000 meals that will be distributed domestically to various shelters and food banks (exact locations are to be determined). The meals consist of red lentil jambalaya that is popular among the local communities served by IRUSA.

Islamic Relief USA, based in Alexandria, Va., is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) humanitarian organization. Its mission is to provide relief and development in a dignified manner regardless of gender, race, or religion, and works to empower individuals in their communities and give them a voice in the world.

Its programs benefit millions of people each year in more than 40 countries around the world, including in the United States.



# CHILDREN'S GAZETTE

**St. Louis Catholic School**

TEACHER, MS. SARAH BALOUGH



**Joseph Lentini, Grade: 8th**



**Frances Miller, Grade: 6th**



**Cassidy Fielder, Grade: 6th**



**Canon Kurth, Grade: 6th**



**Luke Alexander, Grade: 1st**



**Emily Crabtre, Grade: 8th**



**Caroline Rutherford, Grade: 4th**



**Patrick Forsyth, Grade: 5th**



**Amiyah Mathes, Grade: 1st**



**Morgan Swetz, Grade: 8th**



**Mackenzie Lodewick, Grade: 8th**



**Raisa Ntumba, Grade: 8th**



**Halle Jors, Grade: 2nd**



**Morgan Robinson, Grade: 7th**



**David Portillo, Grade: 4th**



# CHILDREN'S GAZETTE



**Hannah Suwandhi,**  
Grade: 2nd



**Sophia Pensoneau,**  
Grade: 2nd



**AnnaMaria Pineda,**  
Grade: 2nd



**Justine Olson,** Grade: 6th



**Catherine Walton,**  
Grade: 3rd



**Kathryn Dunn,** Grade: 6th



**Cruz Benitez,** Grade:  
Kindergarten



**Jacob Cheney,** Grade:  
Kindergarten



**Erin Mahady,** Grade:  
Kindergarten



**Bernadette Gorman,**  
Grade: 3rd



**Abigail Graf,**  
Grade: 1st



**Landon Kim,** Grade: 1st

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*Feb 20, 2020*



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 6 Eateries to Try for Winter Restaurant Week

BY HOPE NELSON

**A**lexandria's annual Winter Restaurant Week always comes at a great time – nearly a month after the holiday season, but before the year picks up speed again. This year, Restaurant Week runs from Jan. 17-26, and dozens of restaurants around the city are participating with lunch and dinner specials to showcase their cuisine. What better way to usher in some warmth in the middle of a chilly season? Here are some of the year's best bets.

### Hops n Shine, 3410 Mount Vernon Ave.

Think prix-fixe menus are just for upscale, high-brow establishments? Think again. Hops n Shine, an eminently accessible pub smack-dab between Del Ray and Arlandria, has a tasting menu that features all the restaurant's greatest hits, from totchos to jumbo wings, to a variety soups and salads, to a choice of four different grilled cheeses,

finishing up with a dessert (hint: Choose the s'mores kit that you can then heat up over the firepit on the patio). A more pared-down version is offered at lunch for \$15; brunch deals bring breakfast's best to your table for the same price.

### Kisso, 300 King St.

Old Town newcomer Kisso has a \$35-per-person dinner offering a variety of deluxe sushi combinations; seaweed salad, spring rolls or edamame to start; and a choice of green tea or vanilla ice cream to finish out the meal.

Sushi, sashimi or special rolls can be yours as a main course, so settle into the stylish dining room for a night of enjoyable Japanese cuisine.

### Michael's Little Italy, 305 S. Washington St.

Washington Street's La Trattoria has a new name – and a new Restaurant Week menu to go alongside. The \$35-per-person prix fixe starts off with a choice of mussels or a Caesar or caprese salad, then rolls on

to chicken parmesan, pappardelle Bolognese or artichoke and lemon risotto for a main course. Finish off with a cannoli or a torrone semifreddo for dessert, lift a glass of wine, and toast to a taste of Italy right here in Old Town.

### Rus Uz, 210 Swamp Fox Road

The Russian-Uzbek stalwart adjacent to the AMC Hoffman theater has put its own spin on Restaurant Week proceedings, offering diners a \$22-per-person lunch special or a \$35 dinner. Both lunch and dinner find hungry guests with traditional main courses from both countries – think dolma, manti and pelmeni (steamed dumplings), or Uzbekistan's national dish, plov – as well as a sweet treat for last, the options of which include Russian honey cake and sour cherry cake. Dinner offers diners a choice of starter, as well, including pirozhki (think Polish perogies) and blini.

### Spice Kraft, 2607 Mount Vernon Ave.

Del Ray's newest Indian spot is opening

its doors for Restaurant Week as well, offering a \$35 dinner for two. To start, select any appetizer off the restaurant's regular menu. Then move on to a choice of entrees ranging from aloo gobi to chicken tikka masala to paneer nawabi, and finish the meal with a selection of three desserts. Naan and rice will, of course, make their necessary appearance alongside the main course.

### Sunday in Saigon, 682 N. St. Asaph St.

When it comes to offering a wide array of Vietnamese delicacies, Sunday in Saigon doesn't disappoint.

Their Restaurant Week specials are available at lunch or dinner; lunch nets guests a two-course meal for \$15, and dinner a three-course feast for \$35 apiece. Expect the lunchtime offerings to vary from dinner's selections, and anticipate the offerings ranging from steak to mackerel to tofu and back again.

*Hope Nelson owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

## CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### ONGOING

#### Creature Comforts Art Exhibit.

Now thru Jan. 26. At VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke Street, Alexandria. The "Creature Comforts" art exhibit at VCA Alexandria through the Gallery Without Walls program features artwork of the animals in our lives by Del Ray Artisans members. Showcasing animals that lift and fill our hearts is a popular theme at VCA Alexandria



Regina Mason, Author

### Movie Screening: "Gina's Journey."

Saturday/Jan. 18, 1:30-4:30 p.m. At Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. A showing of "Gina's Journey: The Search for William Grimes" (Documentary). It follows the quest of one woman, Regina Mason, in tracing the steps of her ancestor, who traveled along the Underground Railroad to freedom and authored the first fugitive slave narrative in U.S. history. The film will be followed by a presentation from Regina Mason. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon AAUW. Contact Patsy Quick, Mt. Vernon AAUW President, at [pnquick@cox.net](mailto:pnquick@cox.net).

and coincides with the winter holiday season in which creature comforts of all types are appreciated. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww)

#### "Hold On! Demitasse to Tumblers."

Now thru Feb. 2. At Scope Gallery at Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union Street, Studio 19, Alexandria. Your morning coffee will be all the more pleasurable in an artistic, individually crafted work from a local (DMV) artist. Choices include a cup depicting elements of the natural world by Shirley Gromen or a mug inspired by the color of the ocean by Klaudia Levin. Left-handed? Hiromi Minemura has designed a mug just for lefties. Visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org), [www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope](http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope).

#### "Repetitions."

Now thru Feb. 9. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Repeated patterns, repeated themes, repeated textures and repeated colors all lead to interesting and exciting pieces. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Visit the website: [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com)

#### "The King's Shadow."

Now thru April 19. 8 p.m. At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. In this season, Shakespeare's Histories: "The King's Shadow" runs Jan. 2 - April 19th, 2020; "Richard the Second" runs Jan. 2 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 1" runs January 30 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 2" runs February 13 - April 19, 2020; and "Henry the Fifth" runs March 12 - April 19, 2020. These plays follow the troubled passing of the English crown. Tickets are \$35. Contact [boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com) or [www.bravespiritstheatre.com](http://www.bravespiritstheatre.com)

### JAN. 15 TO DEC. 9, 2020

**Life Drawing Sessions.** At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Looking for a chance to hone your figure drawing skills? Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for just this



Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week will be held Jan. 17-26 throughout Alexandria.

## Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week

Jan. 17-26, To be held in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End. For 10 days and two weekends, 70 restaurants in Alexandria, will offer a \$35 three-course dinner for one. Some restaurants will also offer lunch menus at \$15 or \$22 per person in addition to the dinner specials. Brunch lovers can enjoy brunch menus for \$15 or \$22 per person at more than a dozen restaurants. New participants include Augie's Mussel House & Beer Garden, The Study at Morrison House, Rus Uz – Alexandria and Mai Thai. Returning participants include Columbia Firehouse, Del Ray Café, Jackson 20, The Majestic, Sunday In Saigon, Theismann's Restaurant and Urbano 116. Restaurants with lunch offerings include Bastille Brasserie & Bar, Hummingbird, Mason Social, Tequila & Taco and Yunnan by Potomac Noodle House. Restaurants with brunch menus include Café 44, Clyde's at Mark Center, Sonoma Cellar and Vaso's Mediterranean Bistro. Guests will find a book of menus on [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com).

purpose. Just drop in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint the live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/life-drawing](http://DelRayArtisans.org/life-drawing)

### THURSDAY/JAN. 16

**Digital Meal Planning.** 2 – 4 p.m. At James M. Duncan Jr. Branch Library,

2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Organize and plan your weekly meals with digital tools. Examine free apps, websites and a digital calendar that can be used to store recipes and organize your meal plan. Bring your device.

**Nutrition Seminar: Eating Healthy On a Budget.** 2 – 3 p.m. At Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701

Seminary Road, Alexandria. New Year, New You! Nutritionist Kristen McGill will share tips for meal planning and affordable recipes that will reduce food waste and improve your diet. Learn how to stretch your dollars to provide nutritious and delicious meals all on a budget.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 17

#### West Potomac High School Girls

**Basketball Youth Night.** 4:30 p.m. Freshmen Game; 5:45 p.m. JV Game; 7:30 p.m. Varsity Game. Youth wearing a basketball shirt from any league (Fort Hunt, LMVSC, Mt Vernon, CYO, etc.) get in free (with a paying adult). Highlights include: Free throw shootout at half time of the varsity game for all youth attendees; Signed pictures by the West Potomac Girls Varsity Basketball Team after the game; Raffle with winning team getting to practice and eat pizza with the varsity team.

**Benefit Performance.** 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$50/person. A fundraising performance of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" to benefit the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, raising funds to build a national memorial in Lorton to honor the millions of suffragists who fought more than seven decades to win the vote for women. Visit [www.suffragistmemorial.org](http://www.suffragistmemorial.org).

### JAN. 17-26

**"Frozen Jr."** At Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT), 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, the show expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. Show times are Friday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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



# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. Visit the website:  
<https://acconline.org/>

## JAN. 17-26

**Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week.** To be held in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End. See previous page. [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 18

**Movie Screening: "Gina's Journey."** 1:30-4:30 p.m. At Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. A showing of "Gina's Journey: The Search for William Grimes" (Documentary). It follows the quest of one woman, Regina Mason, in tracing the steps of her ancestor, who traveled along the Underground Railroad to freedom. The film will be followed by a presentation from Regina Mason. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon AAUW. Contact Patsy Quick, Mt. Vernon AAUW President, at [pnquick@cox.net](mailto:pnquick@cox.net).

**Preparing for Retirement.** 3- 4 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Jeremiah Burke will cover many topics including Social Security, retiree health insurance options, how to address rising healthcare costs, long term care, and more. Following the presentation, there will be a Q&A session for you to have any questions answered.

**MLK Celebration.** 3 p.m. At Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road, Alexandria. This annual event features some of the area's best choirs and the reading of three prize-winning student essays on the importance of Dr. King's quote, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." All choirs and the audience join in a rousing finale of the Battle Hymn of the Republic at the end.

## SUNDAY, JAN. 19

**Meal-Packing Event.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Episcopal High School, 1200 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. In putting to action Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of service, Islamic Relief USA, a nonprofit humanitarian and

advocacy organization, will hold a large meal-packing event. More than 300 volunteers will pack some 100,000 meals that will be distributed domestically to various shelters and food banks. The meals consist of red lentil jambalaya that is popular among the local communities served by IRUSA.

## Winter Lecture: Fifty Years of Green Spring.

1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) As Green Spring turns 50, discover how this special place became a county resource. Green Spring historian Debbie Waugh discusses the fascinating lives of the last private owners, Michael and Belinda Straight, and their gift to the Park Authority in 1970. Enjoy a photo history of our first 50 years and look ahead to our next 50 years. \$10 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (code 288.09DB) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**"The Seasons."** 2 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria. Featuring The President's Own Marine Chamber Orchestra. Concerts are free, no tickets required unless otherwise noted. Visit [www.marineband.marines.mil](http://www.marineband.marines.mil).

## MONDAY/JAN. 20

**MLK Day of Service.** Starts at 10 a.m. See next page. [www.VolunteerAlexandria.org](http://www.VolunteerAlexandria.org)

## TUESDAY/JAN. 21

**Get Fit at Your Library.** 1- 2 p.m. At Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Learn basic line dance steps while you workout to music. This is a class great for beginners. Bring a friend or come alone. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

**Alien Registration Files.** 1-3 p.m. At Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Genealogist Carol Kostakos Petranek, Co-Director of the Washington, D.C. Family History Center, will speak about the genealogical value of records submitted by immigrants under the Alien Registration Act of 1940. Free, open to public. Visit the website: [www.mvgenalogy.org](http://www.mvgenalogy.org)  
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 11

**Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Winter Recital.** 7:30 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Join Alexandria Symphony Orchestra musicians Paul Bagley (viola), Amy Horn (horn), Sophia Kim Cook (piano), and Maestro James Ross (horn) for an evening of music and conversation. Enjoy a variety of chamber music along with a post-concert reception with refreshments. This recital is presented as part of the Adopt a Chair program. Tickets: \$35 Adult; \$5 Youth. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org), or call 703-548-0885.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22

**Resources for Transition to High School.** 5:30-7:45 p.m. At T.C. Williams High School, Minnie Howard Campus, 3801 W Braddock Rd., Alexandria. Are you wondering about high school life? Not sure what steps to take to be college-ready? Join the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria and other middle school families for "Transition to High School Planning Night." Come learn about classes to take in 9th grade, steps to take now in order to be college-ready, and how to access college-planning resources at T.C. Williams. Session 1: 5:30-6:30 p.m., English presentation-auditorium; Session 2: 5:40-6:40 p.m., Spanish presentation-media center; and Session 3: 6:45-7:45 p.m., English presentation-auditorium. Free pizza, interpretation and childcare will be provided with registration: <https://conta.cc/36pBwHg>. Contact Melissa Harrington or Darien Waters, College Advisers with the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria at [college@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:college@acps.k12.va.us) or [darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us) or

call 703-824-6730.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 23

**Civil War at Carlyle House.** 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Through images, letters, and diaries, Andrea Tracey, Executive Director of the Carlyle House, explores the histories of the nurses, doctors, stewards, soldiers and Alexandria residents who found themselves at the Carlyle House property and the Mansion House Hotel in what was known as the Mansion House Hospital during the Civil War. Discover how both the Carlyle House and the Hotel buildings were utilized during this tumultuous time in Alexandria and the nation's history. Tickets \$15 or \$10 Athenaeum Members, Friends of Fort Ward, or Friends of Carlyle House. Visit the website: [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org)

## FRIDAY/JAN. 24

**Garden Talk: Easy Houseplants to Grow.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) No need to wait for spring to get your hands back in the soil. You can enjoy beautiful flowering and foliage plants right now, inside your home. Extension master gardeners provide you with all the know-how you will need to be successful. \$10 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (code F36.A05D) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**Innovation Day Workshop.** 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At USPTO's Madison Building, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria. The National Inventors Hall of Fame and the United States Patent and Trademark Office invite



"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.-

The Northern Virginia Community College will host its MLK Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 20.

## MLK Day of Service

Monday/Jan. 20, Starts at 10 a.m. The Northern Virginia Community College, in partnership with Volunteer Alexandria, is hosting its 11th annual MLK Day. There will be learning and service opportunities available for over 300 volunteers benefiting students, Alexandria residents, and the homeless population in the community. It's a "day on, not a day off". All volunteers will participate in one service project and one learning opportunity. Volunteers will be assigned according to their indicated preferences, but due to room size, they cannot guarantee volunteers will have their top choice. Service opportunities that are listed as Family Projects are intended for children aged 6+ to volunteer with their parent and/or guardian. Visit the website <http://www.VolunteerAlexandria.org>

local teachers and school district officials to attend an "Innovation Day" professional development workshop focused on inquiry-based learning and invention education. Highlights designed to raise awareness of the importance of early exposure to innovation education and invention, include hands-on sessions where attendees explore NIH's Camp Invention pedagogy first hand, gaining access to instructional strategies that promote an innovative and creativity-based classroom. To register for this free workshop, email Mike Sandridge at [msandridge@invent.org](mailto:msandridge@invent.org). Visit [invent.org/educators/camp-invention](http://invent.org/educators/camp-invention).

## Watercolor Workshop:

**Sketchbook Journal.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Learn to bind your own sketchbook or journal using watercolor paper and other papers. Prepare and decorate pages with collages, paints, stamps and stencils. Each book will be a reflection of you. \$94 per person (plus a supply fee of \$15 payable to instructor that includes everything you will need for this class). Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (code C65.8564) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

## Tasting Program: Burns Night

**Scotch Tasting.** 4-6 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (21-Adult) Celebrate Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, with a special Scotch whisky tasting. Learn about Scotland's water of life and enjoy samples from each Scotch-producing region. Discover Burns Night supper traditions. Delicious Scottish accompaniments will be served. \$45 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (code A1A.B1F0) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

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**Legals**

**Legals**



**Legal Notice**

Notice is hereby given that the Alexandria City Council will introduce for first reading on January 14, 2020, with public hearing and adoption to be set for January 25, 2020, for an ordinance to amend and reordain subsection (1) (Agudas Achim Congregation Election District) of Section 2-2-10 (Establishment of Election Districts and Voting Places), and to amend and reordain "The Official Map of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Designating Election Districts and Voting Places," adopted by Section 2-2-13 (Map of Election Districts and Polling Places), all of Chapter 2 (Elections), Title 2 (General Government) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended to rename the Agudas Achim Congregation Election District the Charles Barrett Center Election District and establish the Charles Barrett Center (in lieu of Agudas Achim Synagogue) as the polling place for this precinct for elections in 2020 and thereafter. The proposed ordinance changes the name, but not the boundaries, of the Agudas Achim Congregation Election District to the Charles Barrett Center Election District and changes the voting location from Agudas Achim Congregation located at 2908 Valley Drive to the Charles Barrett Center located at 1115 Martha Custis Drive.

Maps and block numbers of the affected changes are available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, Room 2300, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and in the Office of the Electoral Board, 132 North Royal Street, Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia.

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

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**Legals**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 32.5' wood utility pole with a new 42' wood utility pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 45.3' at 418 E Raymond Ave, Alexandria, VA (20192122). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

**Legals**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 37.9' wood utility pole with a new 46.5' wood utility pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 49.8' at 4801 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA (20192120). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

**Obituary**

**George J. Cook** passed away on Sunday, January 12, 2020. He lived most of his life in Alexandria, VA, graduated from G.W. High School and served in the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1959. George is survived by his wife of sixty years, Virginia Johnson Cook; his son Martin Cook; daughter Kelly Jackson (Rick); four grand-children, Crystal, Kayleigh, Benjamin and Ricky (Allison); five great grand-children, Aiden, Madilynne, Olyvia, Aleeya and Cora. Relatives and friends are invited to attend viewings on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA. Mass for Christian burial will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Blessed Sacrament Church at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Mount Comfort Cemetery.

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Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, January 25, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain subsection (1) (Agudas Achim Congregation Election District) of Section 2-2-10 (Establishment of Election Districts and Voting Places), and to amend and reordain, "The Official Map of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Designating Election Districts and Voting Places," adopted by Section 2-2-13 (Map of Election Districts and Polling Places), all of Chapter 2 (Elections), Title 2 (General Government) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended to rename the Agudas Achim Congregation Election District the Charles Barrett Center Election District and establish the Charles Barrett Center (in lieu of Agudas Achim Synagogue) as the polling place for this precinct for election in 2020 and thereafter.

The proposed ordinance changes the name, but not the boundaries, of the Agudas Achim Congregation Election District to the Charles Barrett Center Election District and changes the voting location from Agudas Achim Congregation located at 2908 Valley Drive to the Charles Barrett Center located at 1115 Martha Custis Drive.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-4-100 (CREATION, COMPOSITION, AND ORGANIZATION) of Article L (ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD) of Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board is regulated and required by State law. State law allows officers of the court that are appointed to the board to designate a member of his or her staff approved by the governing body to represent him or her at meetings of the board. The Code change will align the City Code with the State Code and allow members of the board flexibility that is provided by the State Code.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of 10 Duke Street to establish and maintain an encroachment for a balcony, steps, and signage on the 10 Duke Street frontage, in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

The proposed ordinance permits the restaurant located at 10 Duke Street to have a balcony, steps, and signage that encroachment into the public right-of-way on the Duke Street frontage.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations for the support of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for fiscal year 2020.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the adoption of supplemental appropriations for the operation of the city government in fiscal year 2020.

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday FEBRUARY 1, 2020. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

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## Still Waiting for "Canswers"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I half expected, with my oncologist out on vacation this week, he and the endocrinologist didn't speak. As a result, after sitting in the examining chair, the first question the doctor asks is "So you have thyroid cancer?" I snickered and said something like "Hopefully," before I began to elaborate. Though she had access to my medical records, I can't say she was prepped and ready for our appointment. As she listened to my story, I could see she was simultaneously trying to review my medical history on her computer. In fact, as I hemmed and hawed in response to some of her medical questions, I kept saying/pointing to her computer for her to get the proper answer.

Nevertheless, eventually we were able to move forward in the determination of exactly what kind of cancer I have: thyroid cancer or lung cancer - or both (it's possible, she said). To that end-result, the doctor performed a biopsy on my "Adam's Apple" tumor, as I call it. The biopsy I had two weeks prior was from a lymph node. The results from which caused my oncologist to call me with his "exciting news." Apparently, those results were not enough for the endocrinologist (who had never seen me before) to make a definitive judgment, so in her office, that day, this second biopsy was performed. Fine with me since a second biopsy from a different tumor is absolutely moving the ball forward, as if it is so often said these days; I just hope it leads to a touchdown instead of another possible fumble.

For the last nearly 11 years, I've been diagnosed with non small cell lung cancer, stage IV. Now after two biopsies, not so much. Right now, the assessment of my cancer status is somewhere between a definite maybe and a confirmed I don't know.

Will I now know - in another week's time (when the results of this most recent biopsy are confirmed) whether my non small cell lung cancer is actually thyroid cancer or will there be additional biopsies, additional diagnostic scans, injections of isotopes, etc., to make a once-and-for-all confirmation of what the heck is going on (or has been going on) in my body? If so, it's been a long time coming. I first went to the Emergency Room Jan. 1, 2009 so it's sort of an anniversary of sorts as I write this column. I'd just as soon we get it right this time, if in fact it was ever wrong.

I have a few questions, some of which were answered by the endocrinologist. Yes, I can have two types of cancer. Could my lung cancer have changed to become thyroid cancer? No. And the underlying curiosity/question: During this cancer life that I have lived, I have been told - and seen multiple times on discharge-type paperwork I've received that I have "metastatic cancer" meaning that the cancer has moved. Moreover, when one considers the staging aspect, my cancer was stage IV. Stage IV means, among "relevancies," (like inoperable) that the cancer has moved from its "primary" location. I remember asking my oncologist where did my lung cancer come from (I'm a lifelong non-smoker with no cancer history in my immediate family). His answer, if I recall correctly, and I may not due to "chemo brain," a confirmed side effect of chemotherapy) was that he didn't know, and if I further recall correctly, he wasn't particularly interested in finding out and accordingly no additional tests were ordered. Perhaps we misunderstood the need to know now or misunderstood the answers we were given then (Feb., 2009). But as of this past Friday, Team Lourie is sort of wondering as was the endocrinologist.

As of this moment, our focus is on hearing back from the endocrinologist. Until then, we'll try to move forward. What's done is done and we'll hear back when we hear back. I have what I have (and have had what I've had) and right now, all we can do is wait.

That being said, we are having a little difficulty restraining ourselves. We can't get past the fact that my oncologist called us in the first place, and in the last place, if he wasn't so sure, why call us and get our collective hope sky high? Why go out on such a presumptive limb? In spite of that call, somehow, we have to internalize and compartmentalize and try to synthesize fact from fiction. So far, it's proving extremely difficult.

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

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mis- takes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>			

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/JAN. 23

**Meet and Greet.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At The Veterans Curation Program Laboratory, 816 N. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria. The Veterans Curation Program would like to invite the community to the Alexandria Meet and Greet. The VCP provides vocational rehabilitation and innovative training to 12 recently separated veterans using archaeological collections administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This event will provide you with a chance to meet the veterans and to learn more about the program. Visit the website: <http://www.veteranscurationprogram.org/>.

**Grief Support Group.** 2-3:30 p.m. At Capital Caring Health, 5845 Richmond Hwy., Suite 150, Alexandria. There will be a guided meditation session incorporating the pain of grief as well as some mindfulness movements to help you feel grounded and centered. Free. Visit the website <https://www.capitalcaring.org/get-help/our-services/grief-support/>

### SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**Winter Community Police Academy.** 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Alexandria Police Department Headquarters at 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria. Get to know the Alexandria Police Department (APD) in an abbreviated half-day session. This academy allows residents and community members to learn about various aspects of the Police Department during the summer months. Topics will include patrol operations, use of force policies, the K9 Unit, Special Operations Team, crime scene investigation and criminal investigations. This free class is limited to 45 participants per session. For more information or to request an application, visit the Community Police Academy online or e-mail the Volunteer Office at [mary.bruno@alexandriava.gov](mailto:mary.bruno@alexandriava.gov). The deadline for registration is Jan. 17, 2020.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The City of Alexandria encourages residents to safely dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medications, including those prescribed by veterinarians, during National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. During the event, the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) will staff the following drop-off sites:

- ❖ First Baptist Church (2932 King St.);
- ❖ Police Department (3600 Wheeler Ave.);
- ❖ Fire Station 210 (5255 Eisenhower Ave.);
- ❖ The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray (2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.).

### NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

The City of Alexandria invites the public to celebrate National Mentoring Month in January. Join the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership in raising awareness about the benefits of mentoring programs and the positive effects of mentoring Alexandria's young residents. The Partnership represents a variety of programs that strive to provide exceptional support to youth and young adults in the Alexandria community. There are four ways to celebrate:

- ❖ Attend an Open House on Jan. 29, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Lyceum (201 S. Washington St.). Attendees can engage with representatives from mentoring programs, hear personal reflections from mentors and mentees, and learn about how to become a mentor. This event is free, but attendees are asked to [register online](#).
- ❖ Mentors and mentees are encouraged to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Jan. 20, and elevate the spirit of service through volunteerism. Post a photo of service work in action using the hashtag #MLKDayALX and be entered in a drawing for a gift card to an Alexandria restaurant.
- ❖ Participate in "Thank Your Mentor Day" on Jan. 30, a day for mentees to show gratitude for their mentors on social media. Post a mentor/mentee photo using the hashtag #ThankYourMentorDayALX and be entered in a drawing for a gift card to an Alexandria restaurant.

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McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit [www.WeAreAlexandria.com](http://www.WeAreAlexandria.com)

#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 1/19, 1-4

### Belle Haven | \$2,495,000

Exceptional new construction on a large flat lot offering 7,200 SF of living space with 6 bedrooms and 5.5 bathrooms. Beautifully staged and featuring wide plank oak floors, media room, two-car garage and high-end finishes throughout. 2211 Windsor Road

**Melissa Shelby 703.627.0074**  
[www.melissasellsvirginia.com](http://www.melissasellsvirginia.com)



OPEN SUN 1/19, 2-4

### Wilton Woods | \$849,000

Spacious, elegant, 5-bedroom, 3.5-bath, center-hall colonial in Clermont Elementary School district. Exceptional condition with over \$150K in recent improvements. Lush landscaping & only a 15-minute drive into Old Town. Move in and enjoy! 3813 Ivanhoe Ln.

**Margaret Benghauser 703.989.6961**  
[www.mbgenghauser.com](http://www.mbgenghauser.com)



### Mount Vee Manor | \$830,000

This is a 10! And a superb value! Five bedroom four and one-half bath brick colonial with a 2-car garage. Terrific kitchen/breakfast room/family room space with vaulted ceilings. The lower level suite is absolutely perfect for in-laws, nanny or guests. HayesWoodHomes.com

**Gordon Wood 703.447.6138**  
**Chris Hayes 703.944.7737**



OPEN SAT 1/18 & SUN 1/19, 2-4

### Alexandria | \$819,000

Move in ready 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with gorgeous sunroom. Walls of windows overlook patio and fenced in corner lot. Brand new, whole house tankless boiler and hot water heater. A must see! Walk to George Mason Elementary. 1001 Virginia Avenue

**Laurel Conger 703.577.6899**  
[www.LaurelConger.com](http://www.LaurelConger.com)

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TO THE ALEXANDRIA OFFICE

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If you are thinking of buying, selling or renting, call Dean today at **813.449.2227**, or email him at **DDavis@McEneaney.com**.



**Old Town**  
**\$1,000,000**  
Built in 1880, this Victorian home offers refined historic character and modern amenities in an exceptionally convenient location. Enjoy the beautiful entry and foyer, hardwood floors, built-in bookcases, high ceilings, large rooms, remodeled kitchen, and off-street parking.

**Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079**  
[www.laurenbishophomes.com](http://www.laurenbishophomes.com)



OPEN SUN 1/19, 2-4

**Alexandria**  
**\$520,000**  
This cozy, fee simple row house, just a few blocks from the coming Potomac Yard Metro Station, has a deep southern exposure backyard with off-street parking for more than one car. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, enclosed brick front porch on a cul-de-sac. 315 Evans Lane

**Kay Blemker 703.623.8563**  
[www.KayBlemker.com](http://www.KayBlemker.com)



OPEN SAT 1/18 & SUN 1/19, 2-4

**Mount Vernon**  
**\$398,900**  
Move-in ready! Updated 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath garage townhome! Spacious main level, custom kitchen, stainless appliances, new carpet, newly renovated half bath, new washer/dryer 2017, insulated garage door 2016, deck and fence 2016, windows and sliding glass door. 3813 Roxbury Court

**Margot Lynn 703.973.3722**  
[www.margotlynnrealtor.com](http://www.margotlynnrealtor.com)

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