



Alexandria Gazette Packet

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JANUARY 23, 2020

Honoring King's Legacy

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Islamic Relief prepares 100,000 meals on MLK day of service.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 50 years have passed since Martin Luther King Jr. was felled by an assassin's bullet in the summer of 1968. But the legacy of the slain Civil Rights leader lives on in service projects around the nation, including the Islamic Relief USA meal-packing event Jan. 19 at Episcopal High School.

"Today is all about celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.," said Yasim Faisal, Mid-Atlantic volunteer coordinator for Islamic Relief USA. "We have never before done a project on this scale or had this many volunteers for one project. Both are milestones for us."

Three hundred volunteers spent the day packing 100,000 meals that will be distributed domestically to various food banks and shelters. The meals consist of red lentil jambalaya that is popular among the local communities

served by IRUSA.

"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 Hassan, communications specialist for Islamic Relief USA. "Our partnership with Episcopal High School will help supplement the efforts of IRUSA volunteers and help provide nourishing food to many people around the country."

Based in Alexandria, Islamic Relief USA is a nonprofit humanitarian and advocacy organization. According to its website, its mission is to provide relief and development in a dignified manner regardless of gender, race, or religion, and to empower individuals in their communities and give them a voice in the world.

"Legacy – it's one of my favorite words," Faisal added. "Legacy is something that all of us should be thinking about on a daily basis – what we want to leave behind as our contribution to this world."

www.irusa.org



More than 300 Islamic Relief USA volunteers package meals for distribution to food banks during the Jan. 19 day of service at Episcopal High School in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.



Shakil Khandoker places a package of jambalaya mix in a box that will be distributed to one of many food banks across the country.



Islamic Relief USA volunteers prepare jambalaya packages during the Jan. 19 Day of Service at Episcopal High School.

Closing All the Loopholes

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The days of unregulated high-interest lending may be coming to a close in Virginia. Now that Democrats have seized control of the General Assembly, members of the Legislative Black Caucus say cracking down on predatory lending is one of their top priorities for the 2020 session. Del. Lamont Bagby (D-74) and Sen. Mamie Locke (D-2) have introduced a legislative effort they're calling the Fairness in



MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Campaign-finance records show that in the last election cycle, LoanMax gave \$150,000 to Republicans and \$100,000 to Democrats.

Lending Act. The bill would cap all loans at 36 percent and institute a maximum monthly fee of \$25.

"All of these lenders make the same loans in Colorado and Ohio and charge one third as much as they charge Virginians," said Jay Speer, executive director at the Virginia Poverty Law Center. "So it's pretty clear they charge the maximum they're allowed to charge and it has nothing at all to do with market forces."

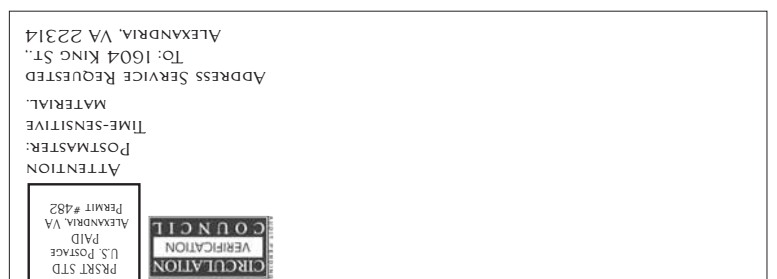
The current state of Virginia law

Democrats poised to impose new regulations on high-interest lenders.

is a hodgepodge of different approaches for different loans. Some are regulated and capped at 264 percent. Others are totally unregulated, so nobody knows how many

of them are being made or what the interest rates are. The Fairness in Lending Act would require all

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Spice Kraft Opens in Del Ray

Del Ray celebrated the opening of its newest restaurant Jan. 20 with a ribbon cutting and formal opening of Spice Kraft Indian Bistro.

The new restaurant, which features Indian cuisine, catering, and takeout, is located in the former Bombay Curry Company space at 2607 Mount Vernon Avenue.

"This is a place we have loved for a very long time," said Del Ray Business Association president Sue Kovalsky, nodding to Bombay Curry Company owner Balraj Bhasin, who retired in 2019 after 23 years in Del Ray, and was selective in choosing

the new restaurant to fill the space. "We couldn't ask for a better businessman, community leader, and friend who waited to find the perfect fit for this neighborhood."

Spice Kraft owner Anthony Shankar managed Taaza, a popular Indian restaurant in Roanoke, for seven years before relocating to Alexandria to open Spice Kraft. He brought along former Taaza chef Premnath Durairaj, who has worked with Shankar for more than two decades.

"Our chef's name means 'love' — perfect for Del Ray," said Shankar, noting the warm welcome the restaurant has received from the neighborhood.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mayor Justin Wilson, center, is joined by city officials and members of the Del Ray Business Association Jan. 20 as he cuts the ribbon to formally open Spice Kraft restaurant on Mount Vernon Avenue.

Mayor Justin Wilson, who attended the opening, added: "We are thrilled that Anthony is continuing the tradition of bring-

ing great Indian food here to Del Ray."

For restaurant hours and menus, visit www.spicekraftdelray.com.

Leaders of the Pack

Members of Cub Scout Pack 801 held a food drive Jan. 20 as part of a day of service commemorating the birthday and memory of Martin Luther King Jr.

Led by Pack leader Stephen Ng, the food drive was held at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School to benefit the nonprofit organization ALIVE!

Founded in 1969, ALIVE! is the largest private safety net for the needy in the city of Alexandria, addressing short-term to long-term needs for those less fortunate in the community. ALIVE! serves thousands of Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent, utilities, medical care and other critical needs; emergency food; and deliveries of donated furniture and housewares.

For information on programs or how to donate or volunteer, visit www.alive-inc.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Cub Scouts collect food for ALIVE! in MLK Day of service.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Members of Cub Scout Pack 801 pose for a photo Jan. 20 during a food drive for ALIVE! held at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.



Cub Scout Pack 801 members Benjamin Allen, Liam Cannon, Calder Sherman and Jack Beardow join Erin Sherman at the ALIVE! food drive.

Closing All the Loopholes

FROM PAGE 1

lenders get a Virginia license and register with the State Corporation Commission, which would track how many loans are made and many other details about the transactions. Advocates for reforming the system say the current system takes advantage of people who are already in a vulnerable financial situation. "It's designed to bankrupt them," said Mark Levine (D-45), who introduced a bill to regulate open-end lines of credit. "It's designed to take every single asset they own."

HIGH-INTEREST LENDERS have been under increasing scrutiny in recent years, and campaign-finance disclosures show these companies are spreading their money around to Democrats and Republicans in an effort to

influence the General Assembly. During the last election cycle, the industry gave \$1 million in campaign contributions. Car-title lender LoanMax was the top contributor, giving \$250,000; online lender Enova gave \$176,000; open-end-line-of-credit lender Check Into Cash gave \$88,000.

"There's no question that when it comes to car-title lenders, that has been controversial," said Bob Denton, professor at Virginia Tech. "Republicans have protected that industry by and large."

Republicans are no longer in charge, and that has created a momentum for reforming an industry that many lawmakers believe preys on vulnerable people who are desperate for money and don't fully understand the consequences of getting caught in a debt trap. One of the key Republicans who helped thwart efforts was

former Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), who was chairman of a subcommittee that often served as graveyard for reform efforts. He was one of the four Republican incumbents unseated last year, giving Democrats a majority in the House and shifting the balance of power.

"Far too often I'm riding into work or into session, and I hear the commercials on the radio knowing that there's somebody listening to that who desperately needs a loan to pay for their electrical bill, to pay a child care payment, pay a college loan," said Bagby, who is leading the reform effort in the House. "They are going to be calling that number that's on the radio or online to receive that loan not knowing what the rates are, and not understand what the fees are associated with that."

ONE OF THE key provisions in

the Fairness in Lending Act is that it creates a cap on how much these companies can charge in interest and fees — no more than 50 percent. This is designed to prevent these companies from bilking consumers into forking over significantly more money than they borrowed in the first place, a key feature of the industry that helped earn the title "predatory."

"We want to make sure that the borrowers have terms that make sense and are reasonable because they can't negotiate those terms," said Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2). "All they know is that they need the money, and they need it now."

Current rules allow for a wide variety of lending. Some are regulated and some are not. For example, payday loans and car-title loans are monitored by the State Corporation Commission. But open-end lines of credit and in-

stallment loans made online are not, leading to confusion about the scale of the industry and what kind of interest rates they charge. That's why the Fairness in Lending Act requires all businesses making loans in Virginia get a license, which will allow state regulators to track their activity. Critics say this creates a new loophole.

"We have no statute to cover somebody offshore," said Terry Kilgore (R-1). "It's going to drive a lot of people to the internet and offshore lending."

Supporters of the bill say the legislation has a solution to that problem: the attorney general.

"All you do is complain to the attorney general, and you don't have to pay a single dime," said Levine. "Sorry Russian company. Sorry German company. You're getting none it back because under Virginia law, the loan is void."

'Crazy, Awesome, Awesome Opportunity'

Two Outstanding T.C. Seniors Win Prestigious Posse Scholarships

One evening last week, the pair stood on stage in front of friends and family at a DC theater where they were formally awarded Posse Foundation scholarships worth \$250,000.

Now, Wilmer Carranza and Madeleine Allen will head off to college this fall without having to give a second thought to tuition costs.

They were two of six T.C. students to make the final round out of tens of thousands of applicants from across the United States. Of those applicants, approximately 750 go on to receive scholarships each year.

Speaking of her reasons for applying, Madeleine said, "I thought, 'You know, let's go for it. Why not?' I thought if I got it, that would be wonderful. Crazy, awesome, awesome opportunity. There was a lot of interviewing, it was intense. But it was definitely worth it."



T.C. Williams High School seniors Wilmer Carranza and Madeleine Allen.

Wilmer, who will be a first generation college-goer, is an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) student. He credits the support he received by being part of that group as critical in his academic success. Each student expressed gratitude to the T.C. Col-

lege and Career Center, whose staff have been with them every step of the way.

Madeleine will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall and Wilmer is heading to Lafayette College in Pennsylvania. Both are looking to major in

Computer Science.

"When I got the call to say I'd been successful, I was at my friend's house," said Wilmer.

"Someone from Posse called and asked me how I thought I did at the interview, and I was like, 'I think I did well.' And then they were like, 'Well you did much more than well.' And then they gave me the news. I was just shocked. I didn't really feel anything. I was just shocked."

Now, the 17 year-old, who is one of two T.C. student representatives to the School Board, and his family have had a chance to process the news. His parents are "Very proud," he said. "They were worried about the money. But now that I got the scholarship, we're just relieved we don't have to worry about that anymore."

The Posse Foundation has been distributing tuition scholarships through partner colleges for thirty years and recruits from high schools and community groups

from ten major cities across the United States, including DC.

The non profit was established to identify future leaders. The organization groups students together in a "posse" of around ten who all attend the same college or university.

Their belief is "that a small, diverse group of talented students — a Posse — carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for individual and community development."

T.C. principal Peter Balas paid tribute to the students' success.

"We are thrilled for Wilmer Carranza and Madeleine Allen who are worthy recipients of Posse scholarships. They are exemplary students who have worked hard for everything they have achieved at T.C. Williams. This year, we had six students make the final round of this prestigious nationwide scholarship program which in itself is an incredible feat. We are very proud of them all."

PHOTO BY ACPS

Concepts for New MacArthur Building To be Considered by School Board

Two concepts for the new Douglas MacArthur Elementary School building will go to the School Board for consideration this week.

The two concepts — named "Y" and "Forest" for identification purposes — were narrowed down from five original proposed concepts following input and feedback from the Douglas MacArthur Advisory Group and the wider community.

Last week, three concepts were shown to the Douglas MacArthur Advisory Group, MacArthur staff and the wider community at three separate meetings and an open house, during which the consensus was a preference for either the Y concept or the Forest. There was consensus among the community and staff not to move forward a third concept, the Coil.

The Coil was the most expensive option of the three concepts presented to the community at the January meetings. Staff had concerns that this curved-wall concept was not as functional as they would like it to be.

Community and staff preferences for the Y concept and the Forest concept will be shared with the School Board as part of this discussion on the concepts. Both concepts comply with staff and community desires for the new building, as compiled through Advisory Group sessions in the fall. During these sessions staff and the community expressed a wish for a community school feel with open space for children to play both inside and outside school hours. They also wanted a school that capitalized on the

wooded area to the back of the school and brought the sense of nature into the building.

The topic of exploring co-location options was also discussed at both the December and January Advisory Group meetings and community meetings.

Options for co-location could include additional recreation space, affordable or workforce housing, or added health services, co-located on the site with Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. ACPS and the City intend to explore feasible and appropriate co-location opportunities within the chosen concept, although the ACPS educational program for the new school will take priority.

The City's Director of Planning and Zoning Karl Moritz attended the December meeting to present the City's ideas of co-location to the community. City staff have continued to attend and respond to questions at more recent meetings. Any feedback on the concepts can be emailed to newmacarthur@acps.k12.va.us.

Follow the project's progress on the Douglas MacArthur Modernization Projects Updates page. The School Board will vote on one concept at their meeting on Feb. 6, 2020. After the selection has been made, ACPS will begin the Development Special Use Permit process with the City.

The design will continue to evolve, even once a concept has been approved, as DLR Group architects continue to flesh it out through June 2020. The new school is expected to open doors in January 2023.

ACPS Awarded Grant to Turn School Buses Green

The Alexandria Public School System has been awarded a grant to begin a transition to environmentally friendly school buses.

The grant will allow ACPS to purchase five electric school buses this summer for the cost of five regular school buses.

Under the terms of the grant, Dominion Energy will pay the additional costs towards each of the five buses that ACPS was already scheduled to buy this summer, allowing ACPS to upgrade them to electric vehicles.

The goal is to have the new electric buses on the roads in time for the start of the 2020-21 school year in September.

"We are delighted to be part of this innovative initiative to help school divisions transition to electric vehicles. We know this is the future of transportation and it meets our need to be as green as possible," said ACPS Chief Operating Officer Mignon R. Anthony.

ACPS is among 16 school divisions to be awarded similar grants within Dominion Energy's Virginia service area goal of placing 50 electric buses on the road by the end of 2020. Over

the past months, our staff has worked with Dominion Energy to ensure that we are leaders in this area in the transition to environmentally friendly transportation.

The electric school buses will serve as what is known as a "grid resource." The "vehicle-to-grid" technology leverages the bus batteries to store and inject energy onto the grid during periods of high demand when the buses are not needed for transporting students. The buses also provide environmental and health benefits through reduced emissions and reduce operation and maintenance costs for schools by up to 60%.

ACPS currently has 123 school buses, each of which run multiple routes each day. ACPS has yet to determine which routes will be assigned to these new electric buses.

Dominion Energy Chairman, President and CEO Thomas F. Farrell, II said, "We are excited to move forward with our commitment to bringing the benefits of electric school buses to the communities we serve. This is an innovative, sustainable solution that will help the en-

SEE GREEN BUSES, PAGE 5

News

Green Buses

FROM PAGE 4

environment, protect children's health, make the electric grid stronger, and free up money for our schools."

Details of the electrical power distribution and charging apparatus installation will be engineered by Dominion Energy in conjunction with the City of Alexandria and ACPS. Electrification of school buses is a goal of the City's Environmental Action Plan 2040.

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/>.

REVIVE Training. 5:30-6:30 p.m. At 2355 Mill Road, Room 140, Alexandria. Narcan saves lives. Learn how to spot an opioid overdose and reverse it using Narcan (naloxone). If you or a loved one are prescribed opioid painkillers, or are taking opioids, you should take this training and have naloxone on hand. You can also use this training to save the life of a stranger. Participants receive a free medical kit that includes Narcan upon the completion of training. No registration or RSVP is required. Additional training dates are available.

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. The

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In collaboration with WebMD

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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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<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/tickets>

Nonmembers can use Promo code "SLEEP30" to receive the member rate (\$30)



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LETTERS

Freedom House Purchase

Editor:

Congratulations to the City of Alexandria for having had the good judgment to purchase Freedom House (Jan. 9, 2020). It's one of the anchors of Alexandria's presentation of its unique role in African American history.

I think Alexandria stands apart for (at least) three features. First, the hideous history of 1315 Duke Street and the slave trade.

Second, the singular role the City had during the Civil War, as an extension of the Union defenses and as a haven for freed slaves. And third, the quiet, stunning heroism of Samuel Tucker and his associates in the Library sit-in of August 1939.

There are articles, chapters, books to be written on these subjects, and Freedom House will be a locus for evidence gathering and research.

One hopes it will also be a motivator in the urgent task of bringing all Americans to the realization that Reparations aren't a deferrable luxury or indulgence but rather a matter of simple Justice, simple and long-overdue Justice.

Elisabeth Vodola

Alexandria

Ed. note: For previous coverage of the Alexandria Slave Trade, see <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2014/Slave%20Trader/Slave%20Trader.PDF>

Love Thy Neighbor?

Alexandria Presbyterian Church's proposed expansion plan to build a megachurch size of 40,000 sq ft at the already overwhelmed intersection of West Braddock Rd and Scroggins Road in Alexandria, is a major cause for concern for neighbors, commuters, and parents whose children attend and drive to/from TC Williams or surrounding schools. This expanded building will exacerbate clogged streets and the dangerous pedestrian/vehicular game of chicken already being played out at the intersection. The surrounding neighbors have put forth a truce in the form of meaningful solutions that would make this project safer and more palatable, including removing one of the entrances/exits to the church's proposed 100-space parking lot off of Scroggins Road (a narrow neighborhood street), and moving the proposed location of the behemoth

building further back from the street. Unfortunately, despite offers from Mayor Wilson and others to mediate a meeting, APC leadership has refused to further entertain any neighborhood solutions, thereby dismissing long-standing concerns from residents. Their defense? "It's within [their] right." Whatever happened to "love thy neighbor as thyself"? Our zoning regulations need further scrutiny if any exempt applicant can buy up properties and cause incredible pain and a diminished quality of life for neighbors. This will not be an isolated incident, and certainly not the last to result in bad blood between a church and the neighborhood in which it plants itself. APC leaders should set an example of what it means to genuinely work with their neighbors in a thoughtful and considerate way that benefits those of us who will have to live with this massive development project every single day of the week. Please be more considerate of all the residences around you as you embark on this massive development project. You have a mountain to climb in this regard.

Cara Weiblinger

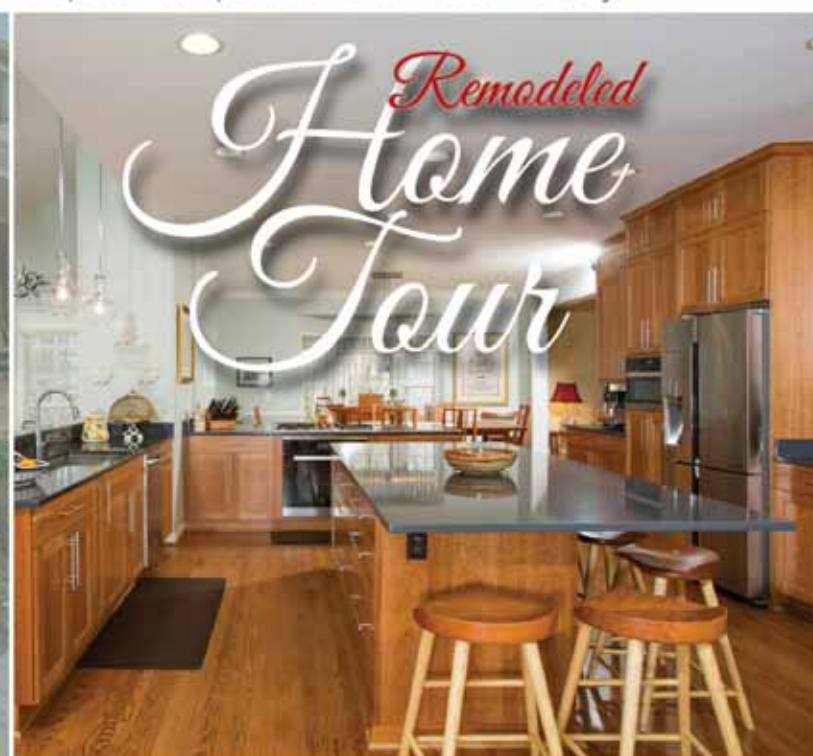
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

Resources to Let Them Move Elsewhere?

Dear Editor,

With the recent announcement that the City of Alexandria is considering building affordable housing mid and high rises on the campuses of two of our elementary schools, it occurs to me that there may be a better path forward that would do more for the low-income families.

From decades of work helping to uplift the homeless and working poor, if I have learned anything it is that those with the fewest resources deserve our respect. They are not objects of our charity. They are people of dignity who are most often searching for a path out of

Poverty. If you doubt what I am saying, I would challenge anyone to try to stretch more value out of a \$20 bill for their children than a working poor mother.

If you start from the assumption that all people are capable and that they are seeking the best for themselves and their families, it

dictates that we need to give our City's least resource-rich individuals the tools to build a better life for their families.

Building what will arguably be warehouses for our city's poor on two locations that were selected because of their availability and not out of a strategic concern for those who are going to live there, sounds like a bad investment.

Worse, it disrespects those who are supposed to live in these buildings that will essentially store them and ease our collective consciences. Instead, may I suggest we break with the failed policies of the past and think anew.

Why don't we find a way to trust our low-income families to find housing that will help them uplift and potentially change their circumstances.

Rather than spending millions on building massive one size fits all, human warehouses with years of maintenance, interest expense, insurance and much more, what if we used that money to create a housing endowment that would give the people who would otherwise live in these buildings direct assistance so that they could find housing that fits the needs of

their families. Maybe a family in need would benefit from living near a Metro station where they could get to a job more easily and at less expense. ... Maybe they would select finding a home or apartment near a middle school or TC Williams so that their child could more easily participate in extracurricular activities that would enrich their young person and let them see they can achieve their dreams.

Think of the possibilities and I urge you to think of it in this context. Recently, I was shocked to learn that across the country roughly 75% of those below the poverty level will find a way out but that within 5 years half of them will fall back below the poverty level.

Let's get creative and find ways to empower our less resource-rich neighbors find the housing solutions that will help them uplift their families and set them on a path where they will thrive and not fall back. Let's unite and if we think together we can come up with a much better solution.

John Griswold
Alexandria

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OPINION

In the Business of Caring: Bell and Johnson Funeral Service

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

Many African Americans in Alexandria, Virginia, fondly remember Phillip Bell by his nickname “Chick.” He owned Lewis Funeral Home at 311 North Patrick Street. Phillip ran a professional funeral business for many years on Wolfe and Patrick Streets. He knew most of the African Americans in Alexandria and they too knew him. Since Chick was a native Alexandrian, most of the old timers would seek out his service in their time of need. He worked with grieving families who could and could not afford to bury their loved ones.

Lewis Funeral Home was a family business. Chick started in the



Phillip Bell Sr.

funeral business after he returned from the military in the 1950s. He worked with his uncle Lloyd Lewis who owned a funeral home at 800 Wolfe Street. Lloyd received his mortuary training in New York

from the American Academy of Funeral Services in the 1920s, and after gaining valuable experience from his uncle, Chick decided to study in New York at the same Academy that his uncle attended.



Winona Morrisette-Johnson.

In March 1956, Chick graduated from the Academy with a mortuary science degree. The class of 1956 had 23 graduates and only four were black, including one black woman. The class also had one white female.

After returning from the Academy, Chick worked closely with his uncle taking on more responsibilities. However, in the 1960s his uncle's health started to decline. SEE PHILLIP BELL SR., PAGE 14

Virginia Legislature Moves Quickly on Equal Rights, Gun Violence Prevention

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

The second week of the General Assembly Session put us at the center of American history. We moved several long-delayed, legislative priorities.

On Wednesday, both the Senate and the House passed resolutions to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to make Virginia the 38th and final state to ratify the Constitutional amendment. The Senate has passed the resolution at least six times in past years, but the House of Delegates has never approved it. Ratification will hopefully bring equal rights to 160 million women in America and attention will now shift to the U. S. Congress.

Congress can abolish or extend the 1982 ratification deadline they previously set. I was proud to carry this legislation every year since 2012 and even during years when few people were paying attention. Virginia is finally on the right side of history for the first time in about 150 years.

On Monday, the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, had its first meeting and we immediately addressed firearm violence prevention. We considered, modified and passed four bills, three of which the full Senate



one handgun per month law. This became law in 1993 and Virginia became the primary source for most guns confiscated from criminal activity in New York City. The legislature repealed it in 2012 after a sustained campaign by the National Rifle Association. Under the current bill, people who possess Virginia concealed weapons permits would be exempt from the law.

We also passed legislation requiring the seller of all firearms to undergo a criminal background check. Today, people making all purchases from federally-licensed firearm dealers must undergo these checks, but individuals who are unable to purchase or possess firearms, such as felons or people convicted of domestic assault can illegally purchase firearms by purchasing them from private individuals. The original legislation also applied to firearms transfers with some exceptions, but several

passed later in the week and one of which was continued for final vote this Tuesday.

The Senate passed legislation reinstating Virginia's members of our caucus were concerned we would unintentionally criminalize some hunting activities so we removed that provision.

The Senate also approved my bill to give local governments more authority over firearms and combined it with four other bills. The final bill would allow local governments to prohibit firearms in public buildings, public parks and at locally-permitted events if restrictions are properly posted. This was a major priority for me after the violent events in Charlottesville and men carrying AR-15 rifles at the Alexandria Farmers Market “to educate the public about their Second Amendment rights.” Virginia already authorizes localities to regulate firearms in some circumstances, so I did not see this as a major extension of existing law.

The Judiciary Committee passed so-called “red flag” legislation. The bill that the Senate will vote on on Thursday will allow a magistrate to enter an order requiring people to surrender their guns if it is shown that they are a threat to themselves or other persons because of their firearms. No order can be issued without a law enforcement investigation and individuals must be given a chance to voluntarily surrender their

weapons before law enforcement can involuntarily seize them. The law also provides for a second hearing for the person to contest the allegation after full discovery. I expect the Senate to pass this bill soon.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee passed my legislation prohibiting duck hunting blinds on Little Hunting Creek, Great Hunting Creek and Dogue Creek.

My bill to create a Public Defender's Office in Prince William County passed out of committee unanimously.

The Senate Health and Education Committee approved my bill to prohibit providing “conversion therapy” to minors, along with my bill to eliminate the terms “husband” and “wife” from our divorce law to be replaced with the word “spouse.”

I have posted my 2020 Constituent Survey online at <http://scottsurovell.org/2020-constituent-survey/>. Please complete it so I can hear from you about important issues this session, my legislation or anything else you would like to communicate.

You can also reach me at scott@scottsurovell.org.



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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Jean Card

Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

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, Michael Pope,

Hope Nelson
Contributing Writer
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:

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

Debbie Funk

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

Tara Lloyd

Display Advertising, 703-740-7128
tlloyd@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, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh

Production Manager:

Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:

Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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Award Winning
Newspaper

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

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.).

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

Ewald Park Meeting. 10 a.m. At Ewald Park, 4452 Duke Street, Alexandria. The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will demolish the closed pool and pool house to regrade the site at Ewald Park. A community pre-construction meeting with City staff and the selected contractor is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 25 at 10 a.m. Construction work is anticipated to take place between January 27 and March 6 and is weather dependent. During this time, several large trucks and heavy equipment will be present during the daytime and pedestrians should avoid the area. For more information,

contact Daniel Unkle, Urban Planner, at daniel.unkle@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5416.

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

Foster Parent Orientation.

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave, Alexandria. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. To RSVP, call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14



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ENTERTAINMENT

3 Restaurants and Cafes Opening in the New Year

By HOPE NELSON

A new year naturally leads to new restaurants on the horizon, and Alexandria has new arrivals coming in droves. From a beloved regional Thai eatery to a new take on a former familiar restaurant to the city's first cat café, the first few months of 2020 look to be exciting indeed. Here are three openings to look forward to in the months to come.

Sisters Thai, 530 First St.

The newest outpost of Sisters Thai, which currently calls two locations in the Mosaic District and Fairfax home, is taking shape at 530 First Street in North Old Town. Originally

slated to open by the end of January, Sisters is now eyeing a March opening. Sisters Thai is known for its cozy "living room" feel, making customers right at home among cute tables and enticing décor. Its food, too, is at once traditional and innovative Thai cuisine, complete with rich curries and plenty of takes on Thai street food as well.

Mount Purrnon Cat Café and Wine Bar, 109 S. Alfred St.

Alexandria's first cat café continues its march toward a grand opening. The café, which will call 109 S. Alfred Street home, is awaiting its permit hearing; the hearing that was scheduled for January was canceled due to snow, so owners Kristin Cowan

and Adam Patterson must wait until February to have their day in the spotlight. This delay pushes Mount Purrnon's scheduled opening back to late March or early April, Patterson said. Once it's up and running, the café will serve food and drink – including wine – and will, as the concept implies, have adoptable cats in residence waiting for permanent homes.

Hank & Mitzi's, 600 Montgomery St.

The former Hank's Pasta Bar is promising a new look and attitude when Hank & Mitzi's opens in the space at 600 Montgomery Street. Restaurateur Jamie Leeds will remain at the helm of the operation, while

executive chef Will Artley will take control of the kitchen. At first blush, the menu will remain solidly in the "regional Italian" camp, offering up pizzas, Italian cocktails and "rustic entrees," per the restaurant's social media. But the rooftop bar? That will be a new feature of the redesigned space, and by the looks of the construction hustle and bustle taking place around the restaurant as of late, the renovations throughout will be relatively extensive too. Currently, Hank & Mitzi's is pinpointing an "early 2020" reopening.

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

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

"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, some accompanied with a saucer and spoon. Tea time in the afternoon? Use Elizabeth Greene's lidded tea mug to keep the tea from spilling on the way back to your desk. Sushi for carry-out? Accompany the meal with Ana Cavalanti's beautifully embossed set of saki bottle and saki cups. Visit www.scopegallery.org, 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

"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 January 2nd - April 19th, 2020; "Richard the Second" runs January 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 from the philosopher King Richard II, to the conqueror King Henry IV, to his rogue son, Prince Hal. With his father's deeds looming over him, Hal indulges in a reckless adolescence that tarnishes his reputation. But



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."

Now thru Jan. 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. 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/>

when the time comes to rule, Hal must take control of how history will remember him, unite his country, and become the legendary King Henry V. Tickets are \$35. Contact boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com or 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 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

THURSDAY/JAN. 23

Mount Vernon Historical Presentation. 7-9 p.m. At Martha

Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society presents: "The Demographic History of the Mount Vernon Area: 1940-2010." The U.S. Census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790 and this year they will participate in the 24th decennial census. Around 1940, the Mount Vernon area began to evolve from predominantly rural to suburban. Using color graphics, this presentation will reveal interesting information regarding the characteristics and origins of the people living in the community. They will show trends in population growth, labor force, housing status and educational levels over the last 70 years with specific details from 1940 on four communities in the Mt. Vernon area: Belle Haven, New Alexandria, Gum Springs and Springbank.

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

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 (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 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. Visit invent.org/educators/camp-invention.

Watercolor Workshop: Sketchbook Journal. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns Feb. 7 – March 28.

Student Art Exhibit

Feb. 7 to March 28, At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns Feb. 7 – March 28 for its fifth year. 2020's experience will feature over 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent spanning over 10 different mediums of art. Returning for 2020's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School.

Artists Reception: Friday, February 21st 2020. 7 – 9 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

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 unique and 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 (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 and raise a glass to Scotland's favorite dish: the haggis! Delicious Scottish accompaniments will be served. \$45 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code A1A.B1F0) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

NOW THRU JAN. 26

Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week. 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.

SUNDAY, JAN. 26

Winter Lecture: Bunny Mellon's Oak Spring Gardens. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Rachel "Bunny" Mellon was a gardener, artist and icon. She created countless gardens for famous friends and family, including the White House Rose Garden and the Potager du Roi at Versailles. But her most intimate garden is the half-acre, walled garden at her estate in Upperville, Virginia. Head gardener Judy Zatsick shares the joys and challenges of carrying on the spirit of Bunny Mellon at Oak Spring Garden Foundation. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 0DE.C7C0) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Swing Gadjó. 6 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street,



The Yale Whiffenpoofs will perform on Friday, Feb. 7 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Yale Whiffenpoofs Perform

Friday/Feb., 7:30 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Alexandria Harmonizers present the Yale Whiffenpoofs. The group, now with women, is the world's oldest collegiate a cappella ensemble and celebrated for its excellence. The award-winning Harmonizer chorus, now in its 72nd year, will also perform. Cost is \$30. Visit the website: www.harmonizers.org

Alexandria. Enjoy the Swing Gadjó, a gypsy jazz band that plays Belgian/French gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt's world-famous tunes as well as pieces of the American Songbook. In either case, the music always swings and the melodies are haunting: you are welcome to hum along or get up and dance. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: nvfaa.org

MONDAY/JAN. 27

Sheila Arnold: Fannie Lou Hamer. 7-8 p.m. At Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street,

Alexandria. Enjoy a special presentation of Fannie Lou Hamer: "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired," a character reenactment by Sheila Arnold Jones.

Fill Your Cart with Food Fighters.

7:15 - 8:30 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Learn how to fill your cart and plan your menu to prevent Heart Disease, Type 2 Diabetes, and Cancer. Join in a lively discussion on disease fighting foods and ways to reduce sugar, fat, and salt in your daily diet. You'll leave

this session with practical tips and strategies and have a chance to sample items you will want to incorporate into your menu.

TUESDAY/JAN. 28

Fidget Quilting. 7 - 8:30 p.m. At Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Earn about fidget quilts and activity mats and the benefits they offer Alzheimer's and dementia patients. They'll have examples and supplies for you to start working on one of your own. Ages 16 and up.

THURSDAY/JAN. 30

Chamber Reception. 6-9 p.m. At National Industries for the Blind, 3000 Potomac Avenue, Alexandria. Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 2020 Chairman's Reception presented by United States Senate Federal Credit Union. They'll be highlighting what's on the horizon for Alexandria as we enter the 2020s. The event will feature food, music, drinks and a live auction.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

Travel Tech. 10:15 a.m. - 12 p.m. At Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Before you explore the world, see what website and travel apps are available to help you plan your next trip. In the class we will examine free apps and websites that can be used to plan your trip and offer assistance during your stay away. Please feel free to bring your device to follow along. Registration is preferred.

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

Legals		Legals	
SUMMONS			
		CIVIL (ORIGINAL)	
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN			
RC ST. THOMAS, LLC,	Plaintiff,)	Case No. ST-13-CV-239
)	
vs.)	ACTION FOR DEBT AND
)	FORECLOSURE OF
PHILIP N. PILGRIM, CHARLES W. FERREL, JOHN AMARI,)	REAL PROPERTY, and
RICHARD AMARI, and Heirs at Law of NORMA J. AMARI,)	MORTGAGE
deceased, and her unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees,)	
lienors, creditors, trustees, or other claimants; and all)	
parties having a claim, right, title or interest in the property)	
herein,	Defendants.)	
TO: <u>Richard Amari, Defendant</u> ADDRESS: <u>2121 Jamieson, Apt 502</u> Alexandria, <u>VA 22314</u>			
Within the time limited by law (see note below) you are hereby required to appear before this Court and answer to a claim filed against you in this action. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as demanded in the Complaint for <u>ACTION FOR DEBT AND FORECLOSURE OF REAL PROPERTY MORTGAGE</u> .			
Witness my hand and the Seal of the Court this <u>25th</u> day of <u>February</u> , 2019.			
		ESTRELLA GEORGE Clerk of the Court	
		By: <u>[Signature]</u> Deputy Clerk	
Richard P. Farrelly, Esq. Birch, de Jongh & Hindels, PLLC Poinsettia House at Bluebeard's Castle 1330 Estate Taarnebjerg St. Thomas, USVI 00802 Telephone: (340) 774-1100/Telecopier: (340) 774-7300			
NOTE: The Defendant, if served personally, is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, excluding the date of service. If served by publication or by personal service outside of the jurisdiction, the Defendant is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the Plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction.			

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A Few Homicides and Some Music

LTA Stages "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" from now through Feb. 8, 2020. The story centers on a distant heir to a family fortune who sets out to speed up the line of succession by using a great deal of charm ... and a dash of murder. This Tony Award-winning musical comedy is a murderous romp filled with beautiful music, non-stop laughs and show-stopping performances. The show is based on the book and lyrics by Robert L. Freedman with music and lyrics by Steven Lutvak.

Director Frank D. Shutts II said when he first saw this production on Broadway in 2014, he knew this musical was the perfect fit for LTA and its audience. "It's fun, Gilbert-and-Sullivan-esque style, sophisticated wit, and who does it and how plot are types of shows our audiences like. 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder' offer all in one nice package!" said Shutts, who is now in his 30th year of directing for LTA.

He added: "This play is offered up for pure fun and enjoyment. I hope the audience appreciates its almost comedy of manners humor and story-telling: good people



Drew Goins as Monty and Kristen Jepperson as Miss Shingle in LTA's production of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder."

behaving badly."

Producer Mary Beth Smith Toomey said: "I am producing 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder' because I fell in love with the show when I saw it at The Kennedy Center. The quick-paced comedy intrigued me as well as the premise. Also, working again with my fellow WATCH and LTA award-winning team of Frank D. Shutts II, Director; Christopher A. Tomasino, Music Director; and Stefan Sittig, Choreographer, is great! We have an outstanding cast and crew working on this complex show. I want the audience to laugh, enjoy the show and be entertained."

Katie Weigl plays the role of Sibella, one of the love interests for Monty (played by the charming Drew Goins). "Sibella is egocentric, superficial and vain, yet so blissfully unaware of her own faults that you can't bring yourself

to hate her. Her sense of entitlement and infallibility is ultimately her downfall. She's laughable, yet relatable on some level. I think that's true of all the characters in this show," she said.

She added: "I think speaking with a British accent has been more of a challenge than any of us anticipated! You'd be surprised how many ways you can pronounce the letter 'A'. We have a dialect coach who has been boundlessly patient with us."

Allison Meyer plays the role of Woman 1, which consists of many characters. "I play the Tour Guide, the Pub Owner's Wife, Mrs. Pebworth, Phoebe's Maid, a Newsboy, Mrs. Pebworth, Selina Chard, and many more," she said.

As far as audience takeaways, she added: "I hope audiences have a great time! This musical is witty, has beautiful music, and it really transports audiences to an unbe-



Chuck Dluhy as Lord Adalbert D'Ysquith in LTA's production of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder."

lievable world. I hope they walk away with a smile and a tune in their heads!"

Jordan Peyer is playing Man 1, which consists of multiple roles including small-town farmer Tom Copley and mortician Dr. Pettibone. He said: "'Gentleman's Guide' has a large cast of characters played by a comparatively small number of actors, so the major challenge for me has been stepping into the shoes of each character both convincingly and in rapid succession."

Chuck Dluhy is playing nine different roles which are all members of the D'Ysquith family — an aristocratic clan in Edwardian England. "They include men, women, young and old such as an elderly inebriated clergyman, a muscular health nut, a closeted country squire, a benefactress 'of a certain age,' and a flamboyantly bad actress. This is not a spoiler

since the plot is revealed early in the play that all my characters will be murdered!" he said.

Kristen Jepperson is playing the role of Miss Shingle. "She is actually the one who brings to Monty the possibility that he could be Earl of Highhurst, if only there weren't eight other pesky relatives standing in his way. And there is a nice little twist at the end that I won't give away here, guess you'll have to come see it for yourself!"

Audrey Baker is in the ensemble and plays several characters throughout the show (mourner, maid, philanthropist, bridesmaid, and more!) "My largest role is Miss Evangeline Barley, a Florodora chorus girl who has a secret fling with Asquith D'Ysquith. She is a ditsy, giggly character who runs off to a remote location until her and Asquith D'Ysquith drown while ice skating on a frozen lake (that Monty cuts a hole in, killing them). The scene is quite fun — from the flirting, giggling, skating, to their dramatic death," she said.

She added: "In addition to having a good laugh and humming along to some catchy live theater/music, I hope the audience sees the wit and irony of the show. 'GGLAM' makes fun of the upper class in a way that makes you fall in love with a murderer — it takes the white male privilege to a whole new level." LTA is presenting "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" from now through Feb. 8, 2020. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$29-\$34. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA. Visit the website: www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

Storytime with Young Historians. 11 a.m. At The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Bring your children to the Alexandria Black History Museum for cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce history and promote diversity. The Museum Educator will be reading The Undeclared written by author Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson. All ages are welcome, but most suitable for children 3-6 years old. Admission is \$3 per person. Tickets are available online at alexandriava.gov/shop. Call 703-746-4356 or visit alexandriava.gov/blackhistory.

Multi-Level Remodeled Home

Tour. 12-4 p.m. At 6837 Corder Lane, Lorton. Learn how your neighbors are modifying their homes for a better quality of life. Bring family and friends together in a way that fits your lifestyle. Create open, private, and specialized spaces for all to visit comfortably. Presented by Sun Design, an Architectural Design-Build firm. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

Washington Gardener Seed Exchange. 12:30-4:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Washington Gardener Magazine is co-hosting the 15th annual seed exchange at Green Spring Gardens with lectures, a face-to-face seed swap, and more. Bring your extra seeds to swap and leave with a bag full of seeds, new garden friends, and expert planting advice. Verified Friends of Green Spring members \$15 (code C1E.4043), other guests \$20 (code C1E.5B00). Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Hot Cocoa Wetland Night Hike. 5-6:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park,

3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Sip hot cocoa and join a naturalist for a winter wetland tour after dark. Look for signs and listen for sounds of beavers, owls, deer and other nocturnal winter animals. Cost is \$9 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Country-Western Dance. 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincoln Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with lessons, 6-7 p.m. and open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org for more.

FHLL Field of Dreams Gala. 7 p.m. At Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Join Fort Hunt Little League at the Field of Dreams Fundraiser and Gala. Proceeds will benefit FHLL fields and training

programs. Cost is \$100. Visit the website: forthuntlittleleague.org

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

Winter Lecture: Building a Piet Oudolf Meadow. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Join horticulturist Gregg Tepper as he shares the engaging tale of building a Piet Oudolf designed Meadow Garden. With every great project and large planting there is a story, and Gregg shares the background, the details and all the behind-the-scenes magic that made this garden a reality. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code D7A.7D99) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

The President's Own Marine Band. 2 p.m. At Schlesinger Concert Hall at NOVA, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. The U.S. Marine Band presents "Traditions." For 222 years, the U.S. Marine Band has brought the finest music to the American people, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the President of the United States. As the

nation's oldest continually active professional musical organization, "The President's Own" has become an important symbol of our country's living history. In honor of that storied heritage, this traditional program offers Sousa marches, stunning overtures, virtuosic solos, and two of the most important works composed for band: Percy Grainger's Lincolnshire Posy and Gustav Holst's First Suite in E-flat.

George Washington's Alexandria Tour. 2-3:30 p.m. At 101 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it. This 90-minute guided walking tour will explore sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues, including John Fitzgerald's warehouse, Captain's Row, Gentry Row, the Apothecary shop, Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Gadsby's Tavern, and Washington's townhouse. The tour begins behind the Torpedo Factory's south entrance, in front of Vol's Dockside Grill. Free. No reservations required. Offered by the Office of Historic Alexandria. Contact 703-599-4010 or suej020924@gmail.com.

Obituary

Obituary



Roger Lee Amole, Jr., of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away 80 years young on January 13, 2020 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, after a courageous battle with pulmonary arterial hypertension. Roger was surrounded by his family who loved him deeply – his wife of 39 years, Debra Bray, and his children Ryan Amole, Carolyn Amole, and Devin Amole. Roger is also survived by his daughters-in-law Nina Ardalan (Ryan) and Alexandra Simpson (Carolyn), his sister Patricia Megale, brother-in-law Joseph Megale, and their four sons and families, as well as his brother-in-law Tim Bray, sister-in-law Kathy Bray, and their three children and families.

Born September 15, 1939 in Roanoke, Virginia, Roger is the son of Mary Dibrell Raleigh and Roger Lee Amole, Sr. He graduated from Jefferson High School in Roanoke, where he played football and baseball. Roger graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1964, where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and went on to attend William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law, graduating in 1968. Roger was a Captain in the United States Army from 1964-1966 and a member of the Army Reserves from 1967-1973.

Roger was a highly experienced and respected lawyer in Northern Virginia where he practiced law for over 50 years. After beginning his career as a prosecutor in Alexandria and rising to the position of Deputy Commonwealth Attorney, he then went into private practice in 1974 in Old Town Alexandria. Roger's private practice was primarily focused in personal injury litigation and estate planning. Roger was a skilled litigator and successfully tried many cases throughout Northern Virginia. He handled significant litigation in the areas of medical malpractice, wrongful death, defamation, business relations, and clergy sexual abuse. Roger was selected as a Virginia Super Lawyer in 2006 and 2007 and as a District of Columbia Super Lawyer in 2007 and 2008. He was a member of Outstanding Lawyers in America since 2002 and the Million Dollar Advocates Forum since 1997, and held an AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Roger is a former President of the Alexandria Bar Association and served as a member (former chairperson) of the Virginia State Bar Fourth District Committee on lawyer discipline. Roger loved his work because it afforded him the opportunity to work hard and help people in need.

In addition to sharing a loving marriage for nearly four decades, Roger has been in practice with his wife Debra at their firm, Amole & Bray PC for the past 20 years.

Roger was heavily involved in his church and in the community. He served pro bono as legal counsel for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, chaired the 'Not Too Far From Here' fund to support individuals in the community in need, and served on the board of the Virginia United Methodist Foundation and the Josephine Daniel Pell Foundation. A lover of music and art, he sang in Aldersgate's 'Men of Note' choir. For many years, Roger also coached his children's sports teams, including Gunston and Alexandria soccer and Fort Hunt baseball and basketball.

By far, Roger's proudest accomplishment was his family. He was a dedicated husband and father, and was adored by his wife and children. Roger instilled in his children the values of kindness, gratitude, compassion, respect, laughter, and hard work. A man of great integrity and faith, he counted his blessings every single day. He believed laughter was the key to everything in life – he was a wonderful storyteller and always self-deprecating.

Roger was an avid sportsman who enjoyed being outdoors and running, skiing, playing golf, going to the gym, and playing endless hours of sports with his children. A lover of the natural world and all animals, Roger was the sole caretaker of all the family dogs over the years – Sasha, Ditto, and Sparky, as well as Molly who survives him. We know he will be so happy to be reunited in heaven with Sasha and Ditto... Sparky, less so.

Always a true Southern gentleman and a genuinely kind and gentle man, Roger made everyone feel at ease in his presence. Roger will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his legacy will live on in the good deeds and lives of those who loved him.

Services to celebrate his life will be officiated by Reverend Dennis Perry and held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Virginia on Friday, January 24th at 1 pm. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery will occur at a later date.

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Phillip Bell

FROM PAGE 8

The uncle sold the business to his nephew and died the following year in 1967. Chick continued the family business with the help of his daughter, Winona who provided administrative assistance and ran errands for her dad.

After Winona completed her undergrad degree, she decided to attend the same Academy as her great-uncle and her father.

In September 1976, Winona graduated from the American Academy-McAllister Institute of Funeral Service. Unlike her dad's graduating class, her class had 69 graduates with fifty percent black and a third of the graduates were women. Winona returned home to work with her father. In the 1980s, Chick and his daughter moved Lewis Funeral Home from Wolfe Street to 311 North Patrick Street. They continued to provide great service to their customers until Chick sold the business in the mid-1990s; he managed the business until he started a new business.

After leaving the Lewis Funeral Home in Alexandria, Chick and his daughter opened another family funeral business in 2009 in Maryland called Phillip Bell Sr. & Winona Morrisette-Johnson Funeral Services, P.A. Just like the old days, Chick and his daughter continued to provide funeral services to the families in Alexandria.

Many African Americans from Alexandria went to Washington, DC for services during the years of segregation. Grace Bell was one of those women who gave birth in 1932 to her son, Phillip Bell in Washington, DC. Phillip grew up in Alexandria and married Phyllis Mae Diggs on February 28, 1953 at Roberts United Methodist Church. They had three children.

On June 2, 2015, Phillip Bell Sr. died. His daughter, Winona, continues her father's legacy in providing outstanding service to her customers.

My family used Winona's service when my mother died in February 2019. The service was excellent and professionally handled every step of the way. She stayed in touch with us long after the funeral service. Yes, Phillip trained his daughter well. It was not just about the business, but how she helps those dealing with the loss of their loved ones.

Char McCargo Bah is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. She maintains two blogs, <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> and <http://www.findingthingsforu.com>.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

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.

Visit alexandriava.gov/Mentoring or call 703-746-4478.

Treat One, Get Two.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm sure you regular readers are waiting with bated breath for the confirmation of my updated health status. Unfortunately, for the moment anyway, we'll all have to wait a bit longer. Though the needle biopsy of my "Adam's Apple" tumor did indeed confirm thyroid cancer, stage 2, no such confirmation or clarification as to its origin was made, or whether it's been thyroid cancer that I've been living with all these years, instead of non small cell lung cancer, stage 4 or not. However, there is a path forward. Surgery to remove my thyroid gland, along with my "Adam's Apple" tumor, and possibly a lymph node is in the planning stage. As such, scheduled for next Friday is an appointment with a head and neck surgeon to determine my fitness for surgery. All we've been told so far is that the surgery is usually outpatient, arrive in the morning and leave that afternoon (maybe I'll bring along my dry cleaning). Apparently, this is the next step "on the road to find out" (Cat Stevens).

If I am indeed home that same evening, I've been told by my endocrinologist that the recovery period is approximately two weeks. At present I don't have any details of what "recovery" exactly means/entails. If all goes according to the pre-surgical-actually-discussing-the-procedure-with-the-surgeon conversation, a month or so after the procedure, I will revisit my endocrinologist to have radioisotopes administered somehow. Once inside my body, I will be scanned by a machine looking exclusively for thyroid cancer. This will confirm, if I understand the process correctly, whether the tumors in my lungs are thyroid or lung cancer.

In the interim, I am to continue with my immunotherapy ("I. O.") and with any other appointments, scans, etc. I recall something that my oncologist said about my lung cancer tumors during his "exciting" phone call. He said that my tumors never really acted the way he anticipated, as if they weren't non small cell lung cancer at all. And sure enough, some of them, as confirmed by the first of my recent two biopsies were thyroid cancer. As I've been joking, this is what my oncologist gets excited about as opposed to what yours truly would get excited about: a World Series Championship. And also, as he said, thyroid tumors are more treatable, with more choices and better outcomes - which is exciting for me.

OKAY. So I have thyroid cancer and it's more treatable. Wonderful news. But do I still have lung cancer? If so, where's the future in that? Is it somehow no longer a "terminal" disease because I've outlived my original "13 month to two year" prognosis? Will I now be treated for thyroid cancer only to die of lung cancer? Moreover, am I now going to get treated twice, in two medical suites, one for each cancer? Have these multiple biopsies simply determined that the doctors were actually right - both times and I'm just the unfortunate patient to be so wronged?

For 10 or so years, until last January, I was treated for lung cancer - with chemotherapy. However, this past January, the Adam's Apple tumor appeared and we switched to immunotherapy. The reason for the change: the lung cancer had spread, according to my oncologist. Now, a year later, the story/diagnosis has changed, thanks to my most recent biopsy. The tumor wasn't lung cancer that had spread, it was thyroid cancer that had spread. I didn't even know I had thyroid cancer. Now you're telling me it's spread? How lucky am I? Two cancers for the price of one. I guess this will make health insurance more affordable, sort of like buying in bulk at Costco.

The big question: did my lung cancer treatment inadvertently prevent my thyroid cancer from manifesting/metastasizing or did its non-diagnosis allow it to grow unimpeded and now present this quite unexpected/unanticipated complication? Explain though it may to my oncologist why I haven't succumbed to my original disease, it doesn't quite explain to me what the hell's been going on and why.

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

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Gentry Row | \$2,579,000

This stately & elegant 4-story home was once home to Dr. Elijah Cullen Dick, physician to George Washington. The gracious entry & double parlors are simply stunning with period mantels, central arch, crown moldings & china cabinets, while the kitchen is delightful with eat-in space & gas fireplace. A rarely found but very desirable second floor sun-drenched ballroom is exquisite with period details & tall ceilings. Heart pine floors, a paneled library, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, wet bar, elevator, a coveted horse alley & 8 fireplaces provide timeless elegance & comfort. **Kate Patterson 703.627.2166**
www.katepattersonhomes.com



Old Town | \$1,255,000

Circa 1800, this light-filled 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home offers original wide plank floors, handsome moldings, skylights, stylish master suite, and 3 fireplaces. Family room adjoining the kitchen with French doors to the brick patio, private garden with fountain & mature plantings. **Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421**
www.BabsBeckwith.com



Fords Landing | \$1,225,000

This sunny, 3-bedroom 2.5-bathroom townhome offers an open floor plan & a 2-car garage. Enter into the home while gazing at the Potomac River. Steps to King Street, shops, dining, parks & the Potomac River, this home has it all in one of Old Town's hottest neighborhoods. **Kristen Jones 703.851.2556**
www.KristenJones.com



Warwick Village | \$650,000

3-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse. Updated kitchen overlooks large living/dining room. Upper level & lower level boast updated full baths. Finished walkout lower level with family room. Backyard with stone patio. Amazing DC views. Walk to "The Avenue." 2911 Sycamore St. **Jen Walker 703.675.1566**
www.JenWalker.com



N. Arlington | \$1,499,000

Quality, style, location in new 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath home with garage on private lot adjacent to bike path to Ballston. Shrock cabinets, quartz tops, Bertazzoni appliances, Pella windows, wood floors. Ashlawn, Kenmore, Washington-Liberty. 5612-5th Street N **Betsy Twigg 703.967.4391**
www.BetsyTwigg.com



Harborside \$1,495,000

Totally renovated 2-bedroom, 2.55-bath townhouse with elevator plus 35' boat slip! Hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, home office, and chef's kitchen with new appliances. Spacious master suite with his/hers California closets and spa-like bath. French doors open to the delightful patio.

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



Old Town \$1,395,000

Sophisticated residence with generous-sized formal rooms, 3 large bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. Glorious built-ins, 2 fireplaces, new windows and new irrigation system. There is a surprise roof-top terrace in addition to a charming enclosed garden. Off-street parking.

Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930
www.ColleenCoopersmith.com



Montebello \$360,000

Fantastic opportunity for a lovely 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo with enclosed balcony in an award-winning, resort-style community featuring a clubhouse, bowling alley, indoor/outdoor pools, fitness center, & restaurant. ThePeeleGroup.biz 5901 Mt Eagle Dr #206

Kim Peele 703.244.5852
Hope Peele 703.244.6115

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