



PHOTO BY JOSEPH KITTSOSER

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

Smoke could be seen from as far away as Kingstowne. AFD was on the scene.

## AFD Assists As Fire Engulfs Groveton Construction Site; Cause Under Investigation

BY MIKE SALMON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**O**n Saturday, Feb. 8, at approximately, 9:40 a.m., Fairfax County Fire and Rescue responded to reports of a building fire in the 2800 block of Poag Street in the Alexandria Route 1 area of Fairfax County. Units arrived on scene within three minutes and reported an advanced fire from the top floor of a five-story building that was under construction.

The building sat in a block with numerous other buildings under construction. As is common with buildings under construction, there was no sprinkler system in place. This combined with extremely windy weather conditions made fighting the fire difficult. Crews worked diligently to extinguish the fire in the buildings under construction while also working to prevent it

from spreading to nearby occupied residential buildings. The fire went to four alarms drawing units from City of Alexandria Fire Department, Arlington County Fire Department, Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Services Department, and Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services.

Two firefighters suffered minor injuries and were transported and evaluated at local hospitals. Both have been released. One civilian suffered minor injuries and was transported and evaluated at a local hospital. The fire spread to five buildings and 14 townhouses that were under construction. All these properties are considered a total loss. The fire damaged an additional 14 townhouses, four single-family homes, five apartment buildings, a commercial building, and 28 vehicles.

Fire investigators determined that a worker at the construction site noticed a fire in a trash chute. The worker called 911

and attempted to extinguish the fire. The attempts were unsuccessful and the worker evacuated the property.

Dominion Power turned off the power to the immediate area. The Red Cross, Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management, and complex management assisted those residents that were displaced.

Units remained on scene hitting hot spots and continuing extinguishing efforts.

The property and content values for all the buildings and vehicles involved has not yet been determined. The origin and cause of the fire remains under investigation.

### Embark

The fire was in a key area of Fairfax County's Embark project, which is "an initiative focused on creating a multimodal future for Richmond Highway Corridor where residents, workers, and visitors can

walk, bike, or drive to the places they want to go," according to Fairfax County. The fire was right in the center of the section called the "Penn Daw Community Business Center," on the Embark map, and about one mile from the Huntington Metro Station on the Yellow Line. The housing projects that burned were one of the first parts of Embark to be built so far.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck (D) is heavily involved with Embark, and looked at the fire as something that has significant short-term impact on the redevelopment of the Penn Daw area but not a deal breaker. "The County is committed to getting this project back on track as quickly as possible and is assigning a senior team to work with the developers to make this happen," Storck said.

In the days following the fire, access to North Kings Highway was limited, and parts were closed due to fire recovery efforts.

## Dieting Sisters From road diets to balancing the books, Alexandria and Norton compare notes.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**lexandria and Norton are grappling with road diets, although the details of how to implement the idea are as different as the two cities on opposite sides of the commonwealth. One is urban; the other is rural. One grips the Potomac River; the other is nestled in the Appalachians. Now the two sister cities

will be dieting together as part of a new effort launched by Governor Ralph Northam called the Local Government Exchange Program. The idea is to bridge cultural and geographic divides by having the communities develop delegations to visit partner communities.

"This a way to move beyond politics that too often pits communities against each other," said Northam. "The idea is simple—it's

much easier to understand a distant place when you see it, talk to the people who live there, get to know one another, and exchange ideas."

The governor's program is modeled on President Dwight Eisenhower's Sister Cities International program, which was created in 1956 to promote cooperation across international boundaries. The pilot program has two partnerships: Wise County and the city

of Norton are teaming up with the city of Alexandria, and the city of Danville will partner with

Loudoun County. If the idea is a success, other Virginia local gov  
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## 211 Prince Street on Historic Gentry Row

The handsome house at 211 Prince Street was completed circa 1784 by Captain John Harper, and was later the home of Dr. Elijah Cullen Dick, physician to George Washington. A discreetly elegant house, this is one of the finest examples of early American architecture and interior design in Old Town, enhanced over the years with a three story rear addition, updated kitchen and baths and an elevator. Original features such as heart pine floors, period mantles, high ceilings and beautiful moldings have been preserved and exhibit a beautiful patina found only in well maintained historic homes.

The gracious entry hall and double parlors with keystone arch, stately fireplaces and china cabinets in the dining room are elegant and warmly welcoming. The kitchen offers a raised hearth gas fireplace, eat in dining space and double doors leading to the walled garden. The great room, once a ballroom, spans the entire front of the house on the second floor, enhanced by a magnificent fireplace at one end, three deeply recessed windows and beautiful moldings. There is a quiet library just off the great room, paneled in original pine, and a wet bar and guest suite down a book lined hallway.

The third level of this home offers the master bedroom and a third bedroom, as well as a laundry/exercise room with an elevator connecting to the first and second floors. The fourth level of this home offers a surprisingly open fourth bedroom and bath with original beams and access to the attic. Additionally, there is a highly coveted horse alley and very spacious basement.

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# News

## Senior Services to Honor Community leaders

### SSA Gala set for March 14.

MARY LEE ANDERSON,  
SSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Senior Services of Alexandria's Annual Gala will take place on Saturday, March 14, at the Westin Alexandria. This year's gala will pay tribute to three individuals who have helped make Alexandria a caring and compassionate community for everyone. This year's honorees are: Barbara Anderson, Esq., The Honorable William D. Euille and C. Eugene Steuerle.

"SSA is proud to honor these individuals for their contributions to the Alexandria community through their day-to-day work, activism and philanthropy," said SSA board chair Laurie Blackburn. "They have touched the lives of so many people in our city including older adults, making it a great place for all ages."

Barbara Anderson — Barbara Anderson is a long-time Alexandria resident and has had a major impact on the lives of countless older adults through her work as an Elder Law attorney. She is the founding member of the Life and Estate Planning Law Center, which concentrates on estate and trust planning and administration, guardianships and conservatorships, fiduciary services, asset protection planning, and Medicaid.

Barbara is a leader in the legal community throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. She is a member of the Senior Lawyers Conference Board of Governors and in 2017 was inducted as a Fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation. Other professional memberships include the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Virginia Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Virginia and American Bar Associations. She was named as an "Influential Woman of Virginia" in 2011 and 2020 by Virginia Lawyers Media.

She and her husband Alan raised two sons in Alexandria and she is an active leader in numerous church, school, civic and com-



Eugene Steuerle



Barbara Anderson



Bill Euille

PHOTO BY TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Baptist Church.

Eugene Steuerle — Eugene (Gene) Steuerle is a long-time Alexandrian, having moved to the city "for two years" over 45 years ago. He is most proud of the extraordinary dedication and commitment to others of his first wife, Norma Lang Steuerle, his current wife, Marguerite Scheffen, his two children, Kristin and Lynne, and five step-children, Jennifer, Katherine, Elisabeth, Caroline and Abigail, all of whom have been great teachers to him and have begun passing on their own selflessness to his 12 grandchildren, and their children, nieces and nephews.

Gene himself has been engaged with charities and churches in Alexandria for many years, including joining with a number of very dedicated Alexandria citizens to found and then build up ACT for Alexandria, the city's community foundation, for which he later became chair and now chair emeritus. As part of that founding effort, Kristin, Lynne and he transferred all the funds they received from taxpayers through a victim compensation fund following Norma's death on 9-11-2001 to various charities, the primary one of which now stands as ACT. His current efforts in Alexandria are focused on the development of a legacy campaign for the nonprofits of Alexandria, following up on the success of ACT's one-day fundraiser, Spring2Action, which in 2019 raised over \$2 million for those charities.

In his day job, Gene is an Institute fellow, Richard B. Fisher chair at the Urban Institute and co-founder of the Tax Policy Center and the Urban Institute's Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, so he studies charitable giving and charitable organizations, as well as works with them. He is the author, coauthor or co-editor of 18 books and over 1,500 articles and columns and his newsletters can be found at <https://blog.governmentwedeserve.org/>

SSA's Annual Gala will be a wonderful evening paying tribute to these special people and SSA's commitment to helping seniors age with dignity. The evening includes dinner, dancing, a silent auction and more. For tickets and additional information go to [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or call Medea Ranck, SSA's Development Director, at 703-836-4414, ext. 114.

**"SSA is proud to honor these individuals for their contributions to the Alexandria community through their day-to-day work, activism and philanthropy."**

SSA board chair Laurie Blackburn

munity organizations. A past president of the Alexandria Bar Association, she also served as a Board Chair of Senior Services of Alexandria from 2011-2012. She continues to work with SSA and other local nonprofits to form partnerships within the City to provide resources and services for older adults. Barbara was instrumental in organizing the very first Senior Law Day, an annual event co-sponsored by the Alexandria Bar Association and SSA, that pro-

vides information to residents about the importance of estate planning, financial and legal issues related to older adults and their caregivers. Barbara has served as an Elder and Trustee in her faith community at Westminster Presbyterian Church and was the Director of the Westminster Foundation from 1999-2003. Her work with the Alexandria Public Schools includes the TC Williams High School Scholarship Fund and the All Night Graduation Party, and she served as the PTA President at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.

William D. Euille — Civic engagement in Alexandria is an integral part of the life experience of former Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille. As a life-long Alexandrian, helping the city and community of Alexandria thrive

and prosper has been and remains Bill's life blood and his life's work. He grew up in an area of North Old Town Alexandria in public housing then known as "The Berg" where there is now a street named after him.

Just two years out of college, he became the youngest School Board member ever appointed and served on the Board for 10 years. In 1994, Bill was elected to City Council and served for three terms, including one term as Vice Mayor. He was elected as the first African American Mayor of Alexandria and is the longest-serving Mayor.

Bill has been active in a number of community organizations, including the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club; Chairman of the Alexandria United Way Campaign, Hopkins House; Inova Hospital Health System Board; the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria; Chair of the NOVA Urban League Board of Directors, and the Alexandria Rotary Club. He's received many awards and honors including the community service award from the Alexandria NAACP; Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Philanthropist of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alexandria Democratic Committee. Most recently he was named 2016 Man of the Year from the Nu Xi Zeta Sorority and became a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2017.

Bill is currently the CEO of the Euille Group, LLC, a business development consulting firm, and is a member of Ebenezer

## Dieting Sisters

FROM PAGE 1

ernments might end up being part of future partnerships.

"I know you're trying to control growth," Norton Mayor Joseph Fawbush told Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson during a launch event at the Executive Mansion. "We're trying to encourage it."

The two communities couldn't be farther from each other. Norton is surrounded by Wise County on the opposite side of Virginia, the far southwest corner of the state where the coal industry long dominated the economic and political scene. Norton has 4,000 people, and Wise County has 38,000. Alexandria, on the other hand, has 160,000. But scale is not the

only thing separating these communities. Since the recession hit a decade ago, the number of coal jobs in Virginia has been slashed in half.

"We're focused on jobs," said Norton City Manager Fred Ramey. "We really need to create more basic jobs to replace those that were lost with the end of coal."

Road diets have become popular for local governments across the country, and the sister cities of Alexandria and Norton are both dealing with the issue in their own way. Alexandria has implemented three



MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, left, chats with Norton Mayor Joseph Fawbush at the Executive Mansion during a launch event for the Local Government Exchange Program.**

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# OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## George Washington: My Hero

Each year I look forward to celebrating the birthday of George Washington. This February is Washington's 288th birthday.

I thank professor Peter Henriques, a Washington scholar, for introducing me to a more nuanced President Washington. Henriques describes Washington in *Realistic Visionary* as "the rarest of men, a realistic visionary who combined a relentlessly realistic view of human nature with a vision of what a free and united America could be for 'millions unborn.'" Washington dedicated his public life to making that vision a reality.

Washington was an ambitious man. Ambitious for himself and for the newly created United States. He purposely worked to achieve what was in his mind best for his nation and himself. Washington provides a model that would serve our leaders well today.

He was a man of action. Washington saw that the nation's first government, The Articles of Confederation, ratified in 1781, left the newly independent states, loosely called the United States, a fractious people. There was no central government to coordinate activities between states or to prevent states from acting as independent countries. He sought a new government that would bring order to the relations between states, authority to the nation and with authority, the financial resources to

govern. At the same time, he believed that the people who identified themselves by state would come to see themselves as Americans.

George Washington organized the writing of a new constitution in 1787. It was completed that year but not ratified until 1789. Once in effect, when problems challenged the federal government's authority, Washington took action to keep the 13 states under its authority.

Contrary to what some may think, Washington was a partisan, passionate person, but he learned how to keep his passions in check so that he would be seen as a person of virtue. Exercising self-discipline, he became in fact a more tolerant yet principled gentleman and a person of virtue.

One of his ambitions had been to be a leader of men, to be Commander-in-Chief during the American Revolution. He understood that leadership required vision, endurance and concern for those who fought for and with you. He was committed to the American cause and recruited the best men available to serve as officers and advisors. Washington endured Valley Forge alongside his soldiers. He soldiered on for over six years and then, with the war won, relinquished his position as military leader, a very rare event.

Washington believed in work, duty, diligence, respect and responsibility. He was a commendable person and president.

**Linda Greenberg**  
Alexandria



PHOTO BY DAVID CLAYPOOL/KALORAMA PHOTOGRAPHY

## Alfred Street Baptist Church choir

Members of the Washington Performing Arts Men of the Gospel and Alfred Street Baptist Church Choirs will perform in "I Am a Man" at the Kennedy Center on Sunday, March 1 at 7:00pm. For more information, visit [washingtonperformingarts.org](http://washingtonperformingarts.org).

## Don't Ignore Citizen and Civic Groups

To the Editor:

The Chair of the Planning Commission (Nate Macek) has stated that "neighborhood associations don't represent business interests, and they should therefore be ignored." This is very shortsighted, since I and a great number of other business people live in Alexandria and participate in civic association affairs. These associations represent the interests of their citizens, and often provide valuable insight on many issues. As an example, the Northeast Citizens Association was instrumental in altering the design of the rooftop patios at a townhouse complex on Slaters Lane. It was they who pointed out that the former design of the roof was not taking advantage of the view of the fireworks in Washington. They also suggested the outdoor seating adjacent to Slaters Lane in front of Buzz Bakery. Rather than being irrelevant, the Alexandria Citizens and Civic Associations can be viewed as partners who can add value to the process. To ignore the perspective of these groups is like killing the goose that laid the golden egg.

**Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

## Praise for the Alexandria City Academy

As I struggled to hoist the Jaws of Life, I nearly toppled over. Lifting a 50-pound piece of equipment designed to cut open cars is a lot harder than it looks in the movies.

Luckily (for both me and, more importantly, anyone truly in need of being extracted from a car), I was not using the Jaws of Life in an actual emergency situation. I'd been given the opportunity to examine this tool and other life-saving equipment on a recent Saturday morning, thanks to the City of Alexandria's City Academy.

The City Academy is a free, nine-week program available to people interested in learning about the city of Alexandria. Held in venues all over town, the Academy offers insight into Alexandria's long history, its vibrant present, and its plans for the future. Dan Lee, one of the city's historians, told us about the enslaved Edmonson sisters, who tried to escape from Washington, DC on the schooner The Pearl. City Manager Mark Jinks outlined the nuts and bolts of running the city and Mayor Justin Wilson shared thoughts and answered questions. Emergency 911 operators showed us their "command central" location. Bryan Porter, our Commonwealth Attorney, and Melinda Douglas, our public defender, presented their cases with regard to our city's judicial system. We were invited to tour the West End Wellness Center, located at the Alexandria Health Department. The Wellness Center is a beautiful, inspiring sanctuary that offers psychosocial rehabilitation for those with mental illness. We also heard about Alexandria's dedi

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**

Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Jean Card**

Production Editor  
[jcard@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jcard@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jeanne Theismann**

[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@TheismannMedia

**Janet Barnett, John Bordner,**

**Mark Mogle**  
Contributing Photographers  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Shirley Ruhe**

Contributing Photographer and Writer  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Eden Brown, Michael Pope,**

**Hope Nelson**  
Contributing Writer  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

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**Tara Lloyd**

Display Advertising, 703-740-7128  
[tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**

Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

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Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

cation to the arts and education, through hearing from Rose Dawson, our library system's executive director, and members of Alexandria's Commission on the Arts.

We boarded DASH buses, toured government facilities, and watched one of the city's drug-and-bomb detection canine teams demonstrate some amazing skills. In every instance, city representatives were knowledgeable, friendly, and impressively dedicated to the city and its residents.

The City Academy is one way in which the city is living out its commitment to an engaged citizenry. In 2014, the city adopted a resolution establishing "What's Next Alexandria." This policy laid out principles defining and encouraging civic engagement. The City Academy provides an invaluable opportunity for city residents to engage: to ask questions, make suggestions and get detailed answers from our civic leaders. Even better, it's only one of a wide variety of the city's academies: new to the city this year is the "Eco-City Academy," a venue for those seeking to find out more about Alexandria's commitment to the environment.

If you want to play a role in shaping Alexandria's future, the City Academy is a wonderful place to start.

**Catherine Clinger**  
Alexandria

## Lost in the Caucuses

I returned from knocking on doors in Iowa to a barrage of negative feelings about caucuses and whether Iowa even deserves to be first in the nation. Well, I think we should have a caucus and that Iowa should be first. Caring about Iowa and reaching every voter shows a candidate that will truly care about

every American. Making sure that it is door-to-door retail politics and not a barrage of advertising, as it will be before Super Tuesday, when 13 states vote in a primary, that determines who wins the first state in the nation, is important.

I learned to care about Iowa, where I knocked on everything from typical suburban homes, to less than perfect homes in downtown Cedar Rapids, to shelters and drug rehab centers. The first obvious thing is that a lot of people are hurting, or struggling, and their lives can be improved. They may not believe that who is president has any effect on their future, but I tried to assure them that it does, especially because the issues all the Democratic campaigns in Iowa were talking about were healthcare, student debt, raising wages, college tuition, childcare, a women's right to choose, and equal pay for equal work. These are all pocketbook or kitchen table issues.

I have worked all day at my precinct in Virginia and it would take me all day to see the number of neighbors I saw in a caucus in Iowa. At a primary people are pressed for time, want to march in and march out and do not want to be swayed by a campaign worker. At a caucus that is kind of the whole point, and only members of that precinct, and not outside campaign workers, can make arguments for their chosen candidate. This is a test of enthusiasm (which Democrats badly need) or a way to take the temperature of the room. Many voters are now making their choice long before Election Day, when the dynamic could be very different from when they voted.

The Iowa process tests exactly what every campaign needs to convince voters of: viability. They do this first by showing their ground game, how many volunteers, phone

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## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### TUESDAY/FEB. 18

**Presentation of FY 2021 Budget.** 7 p.m. At Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street, City Council Chamber (2nd floor), Alexandria. City Council Meeting with City Manager's Presentation of Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget.

### FREE TAX PREPARATION

The City of Alexandria is offering free tax preparation to qualifying residents. Taxpayers are eligible if their income is below approximately \$35,000 for individuals and \$55,000 for families. Expert volunteers from Community Tax Aid, Inc. will ensure that taxpayers apply for all applicable credits and deductions — especially the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, which people often don't realize they are eligible to receive. Sessions will be held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., from now through April 11, at the Department of Community and Human Services (2525 Mount Vernon Ave.). Persons seeking tax preparation assistance will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis, and electronic filing will be provided. Spanish-speaking volunteers will be available. The following documentation is required: a social security card for each family member; photo ID for the taxpayer (and spouse, if filing jointly); W-2 forms and other source of income records; receipts or records for expenses such as child care and education; and, if possible, a copy of last year's tax return.

### SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS

Registration for 2020 Summer Camps offered by the City of Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will begin at 9 a.m. on Feb. 12 for City residents and Feb. 14 for nonresidents. Registration will be available online, or in-person at the Lee Center (1108 Jefferson St.).

The 2020 Summer of Smiles Summer Camp Guide is available online, and free printed brochures will be available in all City of Alexandria recreation centers and library branches beginning February 5. The guide contains more than 75 camp options available to youth ages 2 to 17, including sports; creative arts; computers; nature; performing arts; cooking; excursions; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); Camp Adventure; and Out of School Time and classic camps. Campers can get the most out of summer by participating in a different camp each week. Camps are listed by week and age group to make summer planning easy.

Extended care options are available for most camps, including Before Care from 7 to 9 a.m. and After Care from 4 to 6 p.m. Structured activities include arts and crafts, movies and games. Space is still available and registration is currently being accepted for Winter programs taking place through March and Spring Break Camps taking place April 6-10. To register for summer camps and other recreation activities, classes and programs, visit [alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://alexandriava.gov/Recreation) or contact the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.



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## News

### Hughes Named to Goodwin House Board

Alexandria resident and health care policy expert Dr. Dora Hughes has been elected to the Board of Trustees of Goodwin House International. Hughes is Associate Research Professor in the Department of Health Policy & Management at The George Washington University, where her work focuses on the intersection of clinical and community health, social determinants of health, health equity, health care quality and workforce. She joins a board comprised of leaders in health policy, financial services, insurance and other fields of expertise related to senior living and health care services.

Hughes served for nearly four years in the Obama Administration as Counselor for Science & Public Health to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at the Department of Health and Human Services. Her areas of responsibility included implementation of public health provisions of the Affordable Care Act, as well as signature legislation for Alzheimer's. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Washington University, a Medical Degree from Vanderbilt University and master's degree in Public Health from Harvard University.

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Dr. Dora Hughes has been elected to the Goodwin House Board of Trustees.**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 5

calls, door knocks, etc., they can make. Next, they need a strategy. Buttigieg's campaign obviously had a strategy, although not entirely visible, that was very successful, involving rural precincts and a bump after the first alignment.

Sanders won the enthusiasm with the largest rallies, like the one I went to in Cedar Rapids with 3,000 people and the largest number of popular votes. So a caucus is a way to take more than one measurement. We know when November comes there can be a difference between delegate counts and number of votes. So you learn things in Iowa that you need in a presidential campaign.

One new feature of the Iowa caucus' were satel-

ite caucuses and Sanders did exceptionally well with this demographic, sweeping some of the 87 Caucus sites, 60 of which were in Iowa. In a primary system there would be no opportunity to get in a room with your Muslim brothers and sisters or your Spanish speaking friends, family and neighbors and discuss who you support and then cast your vote.

I had driven with 20 friends from Virginia to knock on doors in Iowa and we came back with great stories and having met great people who believe in democracy. This is what a caucus looks like, and as I have chanted at many a march in Washington, this is also what democracy looks like.

**Boyd Walker**  
Alexandria


## THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

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Feb 20, 2020



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- Charlottesville Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/City/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
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- Potomac Almanac
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### CALENDAR

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28	29	30	31		

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)





The Alexandria Sportsman's Club will host co-authors David Elfin and Andrea Chamblee on Feb. 19. The two completed "The Capital of Basketball" on behalf of Chamblee's late husband, slain Capital Gazette sportswriter John McNamara.

## 'The Capital of Basketball'

ASC to host Chamblee, Elfin on Feb. 19.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club will host co-authors Andrea Chamblee and David Elfin at its monthly meeting Feb. 19 to discuss the recently released book "The Capital of Basketball."

The book was years in the making by celebrated sportswriter John McNamara, one of five journalists killed in June of 2018 at the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis. His widow, Chamblee, joined forces with longtime DC sportswriter Elfin to complete McNamara's book, which traces the evolu-

tion and history of high school hoops in the metropolitan DC area.

The book covers 100 years of high school basketball in the region, from the first game played in 1900, to the induction of DeMatha Catholic's Morgan Wootten into the Hall of Fame in 2000.

Chamblee and Elfin will be on hand to present the ASC Athletes of the Month awards followed by refreshments provided by Café Pizzaiolo. The meeting will be held Feb. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.alexandriavasports.org](http://www.alexandriavasports.org).

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## New Zero-Waste Grocer Coming to King Street

BY HOPE NELSON

**A**long the vibrant 900 block of King Street, a transformation is occurring in one of the vacant shops. And with it, an old adage is proving true: What once was old is new again. Such is the case for Mason & Greens, the region's first zero-waste dry-goods shop, slated to open this spring.

"We always knew we wanted to open a business that would help the community and help the environment," said Justin Marino, who owns the shop with his wife, Anna. Parents of two and Old Town residents themselves, Marino said his family took a long look at the waste they were generating from week to week and decided they had to change their ways.

At first, it started hyper-locally, in their home, but as the Marinos began to inven-

tory the waste in their own household, they found themselves needing supplies to support their new lifestyle. That's when the trouble began.

"We noticed that there wasn't anyone around here selling these things" to support a lower-waste life, Marino said. In Europe, he added, traditional dry-goods shops are everywhere, but even in this country's most metropolitan areas, the Marinos came up empty.

"We really wanted to do it for us and for the whole Washington DC area," he said. And thus, Mason & Greens was born. "We're the first zero-waste shop in the whole DC area."

Though small in footprint – the 1880s rowhouse at 913 King Street has about 1,100 square feet in total – the new store will pack a punch. From foods such as pasta, flour, beans and cereals to soaps and lotions, from safety razors to laundry detergents to

children's toys to candles and garden seeds, Mason & Greens is aiming to fill a gap in the region's market with its plastic-free, zero-waste, cash-free existence.

"We have found that since we've been going through this process, boy, there are a lot of people who are interested," Marino said, gesturing to the popularity of Alexandria's weekly home-composting program as an example of residents' environmentally friendly mindset.

"These people care enough, and that gave us hope that what we were doing is in the right place," he said.

What's in a name? The concept of Mason & Greens lent itself to the perfect shop name, with each word having significance.

"The first part of the name, Mason, was derived from the old Mason jars," Marino said. "The second part of the name is Greens, so, of course it's supporting the produce that we will have in the store."

### IF YOU GO

Mason & Greens, 913 King St.

Opening: Early spring

Try this: A reusable double baguette bag. "It is made of organic cotton and has a nice strap so it can be carried over the shoulder," says co-owner Justin Marino.

And Marino hopes that the changes sparked from Mason & Greens will extend to customers' daily lives.

"I guess the real answer is to waste less. It's important that we do this for our community, that we all think about wasting just a little bit less. Even if it's just cutting out one paper towel a week (at first)," he said. "These are the things that we can do. We can all do this. We can change how we do stuff, and strangely enough, it's not hard."

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and 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

**"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 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](mailto:boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com) or [www.bravespiritstheatre.com](http://www.bravespiritstheatre.com).

**Life Drawing Sessions.** Now thru Dec. 9. 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](http://DelRayArtisans.org/life-drawing)

**Tell Me a Story Art Exhibit.** March 6-29. Opening reception Friday, March 6 from 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Have you ever looked at a piece of art and your imagination immediately starts to wander? Narrative art tells a story, either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. A picture is worth a thousand words; Tell Me a Story will take you on an imaginative journey. Gallery hours are: Thursdays



**Outfitting the Men of Fort Ward will take place Feb. 22 at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria.**

### Outfitting the Men of Fort Ward

Saturday/Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Museum interpreters in Union uniform will present on-going talks about the clothing, military accessories and equipment typical of the Federal units who were stationed at Fort Ward throughout the Civil War. Hands-on reproduction items, intricately detailed model soldiers, and original objects on exhibit will be featured. For more information, call Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848, or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-9 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

**Student Art Exhibit.** Now thru 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 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, Feb. 21 from 7 - 9 p.m.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 13

**How to Build Inexpensive Grow Lights.** 7 - 8:30 p.m. At the Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Give your plants a healthy start with grow lights to ensure your seedlings get great light indoors, even when it's freezing outside. Grow unusual and hard-to-find varieties of vegetables not offered at local garden centers, or farm nutritious microgreens indoors. Learn the pros and cons of light systems and options for creating your own. Instructions and material lists provided are to help you jumpstart your garden. This class is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgmv.org](http://mgmv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgaralex@gmail.com](mailto:mgaralex@gmail.com).

#### FEB. 13 TO MARCH 15

**Architecture in Fiber.** At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory,



**Celebrate the birthday of George Washington on Monday, Feb. 17 in Mount Vernon.**

### George Washington's 288th Birthday

Monday/Feb. 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, Southern end of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. Free admission. All day: Experience the Revolutionary War in 4-D with Mount Vernon's new re-vamped theater and step into Washington's shoes in the new interactive "Be Washington" theater.

10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: Presidential wreath-laying ceremony at Washington's Tomb. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Tour the Washington Library during its annual open house.

10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.: "Official Observance of Washington's Birthday" on the east lawn.

11:15 a.m.: A tactical and musical demonstration by the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps and the Commander-in-Chief's Guard on the Bowling Green.

1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Musical demonstration by the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.: Meet re-enactors from Washington's world as they share personal stories about the first president.

3 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb.

Studio 29, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Here, in Alexandria, we are surrounded by beautiful and exciting buildings, bridges, parks, and monuments. Both our local and worldwide architecture serve as inspiration for the pieces in this show. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and weekends, and 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 14

**My Queer Valentine Reception.** 7-10 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art

Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. My Queer Valentine explores love and relationships through non-heteronormative and non-binary artists' perspectives. The themes and subjects of artwork in this exhibition explore relationships through the artists' view on love. To celebrate this exhibition, Target Gallery will be hosting a special reception and event in partnership with local LGBTQ+ organizations on Valentine's Day. The juror for this exhibition was Andy Johnson, independent curator and gallery director of Gallery 102 at the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9



# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

and George Washington University. The exhibition runs from Saturday, January 25 thru Sunday, March 8, 2020.

## FEB. 14-15

### Edison High Presents One-Acts.

Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.; Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. At Thomas Edison High School, Franconia Road, Alexandria. The annual student-directed one act play festival returns to the auditorium of Thomas A. Edison High School. Each performance features five plays with a variety of actors and themes. Tickets: \$5 general admission - available online or at the door.

## SATURDAY, FEB. 15

### Eco-Savvy Symposium: Four

**Season Garden.** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria./ (Adults) Discover ways to expand the beauty in your garden at the 16th annual EcoSavvy Symposium: The Four Season Garden—Sensational Ornamentals and Edibles All Year Long. Author and garden columnist Marianne Willburn and Smithsonian Gardens Horticulture Collections Manager Cindy Brown share insights into selecting plants for all-season color, architectural interest, and extended harvests from your edible garden. \$58 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakers](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakers) (code 986.13C6) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**SOUPer Saturday.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At The Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The 26th annual SOUPer Saturday is a collaboration of ceramic artists at the Torpedo Factory, Kiln Club, and the Ceramic Guild to benefit United Community (community-based, non-profit organization that offers comprehensive programs to families in Alexandria. Hundreds of ceramic works of art for \$20, and purchasers get a voucher for a cup of soup from the Chart House. Email: [slallypottery@gmail.com](mailto:slallypottery@gmail.com)

**Sweet As Sin:** The Unwrapped Story How Candy Became America's Favorite Pleasure. 2 p.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. A lecture examining the African American role in American candy making. Space is limited. Registration required.

**The Real Story of Uncle Tom's Cabin.** 2 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Presented by the National Park Service. Learn about Josiah Henson, the real inspiration for the novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. This free program is presented by a park ranger from the NPS Civil War Defenses Division.

**Wilderness Survival.** 2 to 4 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Learn basic wilderness survival skills, cook a meal over a campfire or study the art of fire-building in outdoor programs in county parks. In this program, learn how to build a fire, read a compass and set up a tent for shelter. Cost is \$9 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

**Performance: Alexandria Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Featuring the String Serenade with James Ross, Music Director; Berta Rojas, guitarist. They will perform Mozart: Serenade No. 6 "Serenata Notturna;" Castelnuovo-Tedesco: Guitar Concerto in D Major; Andante Moderato from String Quartet in G Major (arr. by James Ross); and Schubert: Symphony No. 5. Cost is \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth,



## Boating Safety Classes will begin Saturday, Feb. 22 in Alexandria.

## Boating Safety Classes

Saturday/Feb. 22, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. The one-day class will be taught by experienced Flotilla 25-08 (Mount Vernon) instructors with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Future classes are March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, and July 18. To enroll in a class contact Ted Caliga at [johnbielli2@gmail.com](mailto:johnbielli2@gmail.com). Newcomers and experienced boaters alike are also encouraged to explore the Coast Guard Auxiliary's "Welcome to the Recreational Boating Safety Outreach Web Site" (<http://wow.uscgaux.info>) to obtain free boating safety tools and materials.

\$10 students. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 16

### 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 Vola's Dockside Grill. Free No reservations required. Offered by the Office of Historic Alexandria. Contact 703-599-4010 or [suej020924@gmail.com](mailto:suej020924@gmail.com).

### Walking with Washington Tour.

2:15 – 4:15 p.m. At Christ Church portico entrance, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Led by an old-line Virginian with family stories about Washington, our 18c. action hero, this tour in his chosen hometown focuses on his character and values, and significant people and events in his life and American history where they occurred. Stops at Christ Church, "Light-Horse" Harry Lee house, Gadsby's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Wise's Tavern, Bank of Alexandria, Carlyle House and Market Square. Reservations not required. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and above. Contact: [WalkingwithWashington@hotmail.com](mailto:WalkingwithWashington@hotmail.com)

### Performance: Alexandria

**Symphony Orchestra.** 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Featuring the String Serenade with James Ross, Music Director; Berta Rojas, guitarist. They will perform Mozart: Serenade No. 6 "Serenata Notturna;" Castelnuovo-Tedesco: Guitar Concerto in D Major; Andante Moderato from String Quartet in G Major (arr. by James Ross); and Schubert: Symphony No. 5. Cost is \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

**Human Condition Reception.** 4-6 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Exhibition runs Feb. 13 - March 22. Human Condition asks artists to capture what is it that makes a person. From the classic nude, to abstract and impressionist treatments, to pieces that touch on the basic concept of

humanity—a wide variety of interpretations will be included.

**Opening Reception.** 4-6 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Human Condition — Exploring the Body as Subject Exhibition, which runs Feb. 13-March 22. This group exhibition will be a visual exploration of the human condition, asking artists to capture what is it that makes a person. From the classic nude, to abstract and impressionist treatments, to pieces that touch on the basic concept of humanity — a wide variety of interpretations will be included.

**2020 MV Dems Mardi Gras.** 6 to 9:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee (MVDDC) is excited to host its 12th annual Mardi Gras & Straw Poll. Cast your vote in NOVA's first Straw Poll of 2020 and stay for dancing, music, food, and libations. Choose your next President on Presidents' Day Weekend. They will also have a silent auction including items such as a private lunch and tour of the Capitol with Master of Ceremonies, Rep. Don Beyer. Tickets are \$55 each until Feb. 14 and \$65 each at the door – limited quantity.

**The Art League Patron's Show Fundraiser.** 6 p.m. to midnight. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Part fundraiser, part block party, and lots of fun, The Art League's 52nd Patron's Show Fundraiser gives participants the opportunity to purchase original art for a bargain price. Whether you are a seasoned collector or an art newbie, you won't want to miss this opportunity to acquire quality art while supporting a great non-profit organization and a community of artists. Cost: \$225 individual; \$330 couples. Visit the website: <https://www.theartleague.org/event/the-52nd-patrons-show-fundraiser/>

## MONDAY/FEB. 17

**Breakfast & Meeting of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association.** 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The Westin Alexandria Old Town, Alexandria. Meet special guests and enjoy a hearty breakfast with members of this historic association at this annual tradition. Be there for the first appearance of the day of General and Lady Washington and a talk by a renowned special guest. Tickets are \$40. Visit [www.FriendshipFireCo.org](http://www.FriendshipFireCo.org) or call 703-829-6640.



PHOTO BY KEVIN DOOLEY

## John McCrary conducts the Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir and Orchestra.

## Blessed Sacrament Festival

Friday/Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. At Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir and Orchestra will perform Beethoven's stirring Mass in C and Mozart's cantata, Davide Penitente. Soloists are members of the Washington National Opera and San Francisco Opera. Reception at intermission. Free-will offering at the door. For more information, contact parish music director John McCrary, Call 703-998-6100 ext. 103.



## The Tell Me a Story Art Exhibit runs from March 6-29 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria.

## Tell Me a Story

March 6-29, Opening reception Friday, March 6 from 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Have you ever looked at a piece of art and your imagination immediately starts to wander? Narrative art tells a story, either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. A picture is worth a thousand words; Tell Me a Story will take you on an imaginative journey. Gallery hours are: Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays 12-9pm, and Sundays 12-6pm. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible. For more information, please visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits) or contact the curator Lesley Hall ([lesley.ruthless@gmail.com](mailto:lesley.ruthless@gmail.com)) or Director of Curating Brittany Gabel ([Curating@DelRayArtisans.org](mailto:Curating@DelRayArtisans.org)).



## PEOPLE AT WORK



**Charles Rivas and Edilawit Teklehaimanot, interns in Urban Alliance-Inova partnership**

**Charles Rivas works in Inova Financial Services.**



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

# Urban Alliance Partners with Inova to Sponsor High School Interns

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**I**t is 2:30 p.m., and Charles Rivas and Edilawit Teklehaimanot have just arrived at Inova Alexandria Hospital to begin their afternoon internships. Both are seniors at T.C. Williams High School in the early school release program and on track to graduate. They are participating in a partnership program between Urban Alliance and Inova. Although Urban Alliance was founded in 1996, its partnership with Inova is new this year.

Through Urban Alliance's High School Internship Program in partnership with Inova, students receive a nine-month paid internship with intensive professional job roles and life skills training. Emily Rogers, Communications Director for the Urban Alliance says, "There is a lot of support for students at the low end and for the super achieving but not much for those in the middle with all of the talent and drive but no chance to showcase it. We go after that group."

She adds, "We work with the schools with the greatest need for paid internships." Currently there are 21 high school seniors from Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax working in Inova clinics, hospitals and administrative offices.

Rivas says he started his nine-month internship Nov. 18, 2019. He works in Inova Patient Financial Services four days a week after school until summer when he will work full time until July. "When I arrive, I sort patient mail and then I void checks the rest of the afternoon. I have learned a lot about the revenue stream and how health care works." He says this has probably changed his thoughts about his possible future as a construction worker into a career in the financial field.

Teklehaimanot began her internship Nov. 22 and likewise will participate in the program until July. When she arrives in Human Resources where she is assigned, Teklehaimanot checks her emails to find out if her three coworkers have any requests for her assistance. This could be entering files in the HR log, writing termination letters or organizing files. She says, "I had to learn Excel and to write email."

Langi Jackson, HR business partner and one of Teklehaimanot's coworkers, explains that in addition to her other duties, Teklehaimanot acts as receptionist in the afternoon, greeting visitors and directing them to where they need to go. "And she is helping prep for a big accreditation project by making sure the employee data is up to par."

Teklehaimanot says she learned about this program from her sister who had an internship two years ago. "If I hadn't been in this internship program, I maybe would have been working at McDonalds after school. I always knew I wanted to be a nurse and wanted my first job to be a professional one." Rivas adds, "It is good for resume building."

Rivas says his friends work in restaurants after school, too, and he probably would have been at home watching television. Instead he has learned professional skills from the training workshops which he attended before the internship began and from the help of his mentor. He said it has opened his eyes to a new possibility.

Rogers says each student is assigned a mentor from the pre work training stage and then the relationship continues with weekly input throughout the internship. The mentors are there for guidance, advice, friendship, answering questions, "telling me what I need to know." Rogers says, "They are the wrap around support."



**Langi Jackson offers assistance to Human Resources intern Edilawit Teklehaimanot.**

Rogers explains that part of the program is six weeks of indirect training, sort of a boot camp for students, before the internship begins. They teach a number of soft skills that will be needed in the workplace as well as appropriate professional attire. "And no profanity," Rivas adds.

At the end of the internship there is a public speaking challenge where the students talk about their experiences, what

they have learned, and what they hope to do next. Again, another soft skill, learning to communicate, so important in the workplace. UA was founded to expand economic opportunity and access to career options for economically-disadvantaged students. They have provided over 400 Northern Virginia students with paid internships and more than 1,350 with workforce readiness training.



# VALENTINE'S DAY



**Elsie and Jim Henson – married 43 years**

“What has made our marriage successful is patience, communication and a strong relationship with the Lord. We turned everything over to the Lord.” — **Elsie**

“We both have our individual faults and individual strengths but the Lord is the equalizer. My favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6: ‘Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.’ This feeling of teamwork brings us through – it gives us a common purpose. We work together and while we might be doing different things, we are still together and still part of the team and that’s a good feeling.” — **Jim**



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



**Chet and Sabra Avery – married 59 years**

“Sabra made the error of sitting down next to me in a graduate class at Harvard. We went out together a couple of times. My friends were concerned about me because I was always going out with different girls and wasting my time. But when they met Sabra, they all said ‘This is the one.’ The moment I knew she was the girl above all girls of interest to me was when we were reading a book by Henry James and she said to me ‘Henry James is the man you’d like to have as your uncle.’ That’s when I knew she was special.” — **Chet**

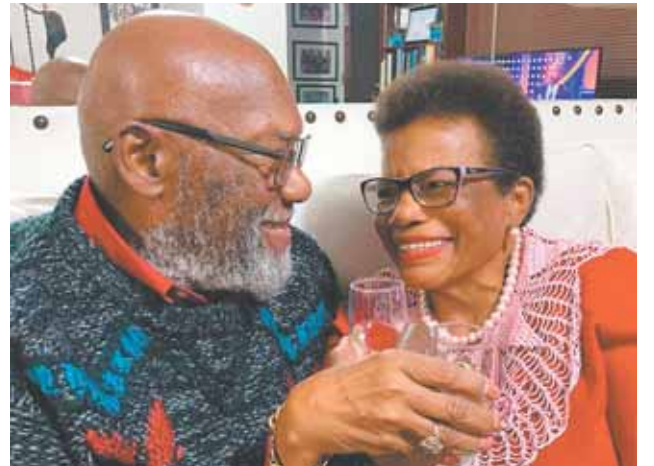
“I knew when he was in that classroom with me that he was a special man. I volunteered to read for him because I wanted to be with him. We were with each other and stayed with each other ever since. We were married in 1961 and have one son and two grandchildren.” — **Sabra**

## Love Is in the Air

**A**s Valentine’s Day approaches, there is no shortage of advice available to anyone looking to discover the secret to a successful relationship. Whether just beginning the journey of a lifetime

or successfully navigating more than half a century together, some Alexandria couples share the stories behind their lasting and very special love affairs.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



**Rosa and Jack Byrd – married 58 years**

“We got married so young we really grew up together. We give each other unconditional love and laugh together. We accept each other’s differences and we have shared hobbies. The main thing is to keep doing new things. We stay active, which I believe is the key to successful aging and a successful marriage.” — **Rosa**

“We love to travel and have been to all 50 states but three – Nebraska, North Dakota and Oregon. We have been to South Africa and Alaska and take water aerobics together. We enjoy experiencing new things together.” — **Jack**



**Shelley and Dick Schwab – married 58 years**

“What has been successful in our marriage is that we only argue over unimportant things, like how long to cook the vegetables. We met at Antioch College in Ohio – I was still in college when we got married in 1961. When we moved to the Washington area I became a writer and we started a family.” — **Shelley**

“We agree on most things. Most of the things we argued about were very minor. I think most importantly, we also never went to bed mad at each other. That would be my best advice to other couples.” — **Dick**



**Patrick and Danielle Moran – married two years**

“The fabulous thing about our marriage and what makes for a successful marriage and partnership is a commitment to growing with one another. We’ve changed. Our interests have changed and things constantly evolve on a daily basis. But what’s important is to have a commitment to growing with your partner, appreciating how that person is changing and growing as a unit.” — **Patrick**

“We are expecting our first child, a daughter, in April. That will be a huge change for us but we will support each other through those changes. I am looking forward to the future of our family.” — **Danielle**



**Sandy Modell and Cathy Clement**

“What makes our life together happy and hopefully long lasting is that we have patience, we have optimism, we have empathy, and we have a dog. We’ll have a quiet evening together for Valentine’s Day – make dinner and maybe spend the evening by a fire.” — **Sandy**

“What I think is important is that we give each other mutual support – we have each other’s back.” — **Cathy**



## Obituary

### Susan Ty Masters

**Susan Ty Masters, 70**, of Winchester, Virginia passed away on Friday, January 31, 2020 at her home at The Village at Orchard Ridge.

Susan was born in 1949 in Houston, Texas, the daughter of the late Carl and Marie Aleta Masters. She was very proud to have attended and graduated from Texas A&M University where she earned a Master's degree in Sociology. Susan retired from the Department of Customs in Springfield, Virginia, where she worked in administration. She was a member of the Bethel Lutheran Church in Manassas, Virginia and also attended the Nativity Lutheran Church in Alexandria. She enjoyed knitting and was quite prolific at it. Susan was very interested in her heritage and her family's genealogy. Susan's faith, churches, and her family were at the center of her life.

Susan is survived by her former husband, Loyd George Coonrod, Jr. of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; daughter, Christine Marie Coonrod of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; son, Loyd G. "Trey" Coonrod, III and his wife, Rachael, of Alexandria, Virginia; and one grandchild.

A memorial service will be held at The Village at Orchard Ridge on Sunday, February 16, 2020, at 2 pm with Pastor Terry Hannon officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be in Susan's memory to Sea Turtle Inc. via their website [seaturtleinc.org](http://seaturtleinc.org)

Please view obituaries and tribute wall at [www.ompsfuneralhome.com](http://www.ompsfuneralhome.com)

## Obituary



**Christine "Chris" Ensrud, 70**, Alexandria, Va., died on February 5, 2020. She graduated from Old Dominion University with a degree in elementary education. A gathering will be held from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Monday, February 17 at Johnson Funeral Home, 31440 Constitution Hwy., Locust Grove, VA 22508. A memorial service will begin at 12 p.m. Burial to follow at Oakwood Cemetery, Unionville, Va. Online guestbook available at [johnsoncares.com](http://johnsoncares.com).

## Legals



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, February 22, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

PUBLIC HEARING for a License Amendment to allow the Potomac Riverboat Company to provide Water Taxi Commuter Service.

PUBLIC HEARING for a Lease Amendment with Verizon Wireless to Upgrade Equipment on the Torpedo Factor, the City Owned Building located at 105 N. Union Street.

PUBLIC HEARING for a Lease Amendment with Verizon Wireless to Upgrade Equipment on the roof of the City Owned Building located at 4480 King Street.

AN ORDINANCE to make supplemental appropriations for the support of the City Government for Fiscal Year 2020.

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

AN ORDINANCE amending Title 10 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 1 (General Provisions) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance makes changes to the streets where truck traffic is prohibited by prohibiting trucks from using East Taylor Run Parkway between Janney's Lane and Duke Street.

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

## Announcements



## Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
THROUGH MARCH 20, 2020

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004 to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance between 1954 and 1964. The program is open to new eligible applicants for the 2020-2021 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

[BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV](http://BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV)

or contact Lily Jones, Division of  
Legislative Services, at (804) 698-1888.

## Announcements

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## Legals

### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 30.2' street light pole with a new 37.5' street light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 40.8' at 5301 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA (20200087). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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## HOME LIFE STYLE



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATINA POLISHED LIVING

**Textiles in vibrant colors like these throw pillows, can brighten the day of your Valentine.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

**A set of Swedish towels can be a game changer for those who are environmentally conscious.**

# Valentine's Day Gifts for the Home

**There's still time to give the gift of style.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**B**oxes of chocolates and bouquets of flowers are ideas that might come to the minds of those who are still on the hunt for the perfect gift to give on Cupid's Day. Though we celebrate St. Valentine in just two days, home décor aficionados come to the rescue with a few chic gift ideas for the home design enthusiasts in your life.

"Whether you love to cook or you just love to eat take-out, a pop of color on the countertop will bring a smile to your face every time you walk into your kitchen," said Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design. "For a gift that will bring joy for years to come, surprise your significant other with a bright red Kitchen Aid Stand Mixer and a set of red silicone spatulas for Valentine's Day. Such a joy to use and a delight for the eye."

A set of Swedish towels can be a game changer for those who are environmentally conscious and obsessively clean, says Courtney Thomas of the Picket Fence a home décor and gift boutique in Burke, Virginia. "You can use Swedish towels to clean anything you'd clean with a paper towel," she said. "But they're reusable and you can throw them in the dishwasher when they get dirty."

Eco-friendly and made entirely of biodegradable cellulose or a combination of wood pulp and renewable cotton, Swedish towels can be used for household cleaning projects that range from spills on a counter tops to water spots on a mirror.

For a gift that does double design duty, a candle in

a reusable vessel is an option that Thomas suggests. "We have some candles that come in a pottery container and once the candle is gone, you can still use the pottery," she said. "It's like a two-for-one. Pottery is food safe and can go in the oven and dishwasher if you want to make a dip or something in them."

For those who decide to give flowers on Valentine's Day, add a vase for displaying those buds, suggests Walker. "Instead of spending more than \$100 on roses for your sweetheart, spend under \$100 on [an] unbelievably gorgeous cocoon Vase by Danish design house, Holmegaard," she said. "Fill it with a beautiful selection of fresh flowers [and] instead of having the roses for a few days, your beloved will have this gorgeous, stylish vase for a lifetime."

Those who want to give a gift that offers a luxurious night's sleep should consider a silk pillow case, says Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished in Alexandria.

"They're a wonderful gift because they're good for your hair," she said. "And silk stays cool which might be good for those who get hot at night."

There's nothing more classic than a silver picture frame adorning one's side table or book case, suggests Mertins. "When we are designing a living room, we often walk into someone's house and see photos of their loved ones displayed in a hodgepodge of frames like wooden frames and ceramic frames. Giving silver frames allows photos of your family or children to be displayed tastefully in classic silver frames"

Bursts of color in the form of textiles can brighten them home of one's valentine, advises Mertins. "Tablecloths, runners and napkins in silk, velvet and cotton by Ardmore Design make a beautiful table setting," she said. "There are some wonderful, washable throws in all different colors that make great gifts. People love because their pretty and washable."

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Obituary

Obituary

### Sandi Poole 1942-2020



February 3, 2020 after a two year battle with metastatic breast cancer. Sandi was born in Long Beach, CA, in 1942. Her military family was stationed in many locations throughout the US and included one posting in Newfoundland. As a teenager, while living in Kansas, she attended a boarding school founded by Ursuline sisters, and when she graduated she chose to join the order herself. She taught school, but after four years she decided to leave the convent and returned to her family. Soon after, she met an Air Force officer, James C. Poole, Jr., and they married in 1964. The marriage produced her three children, whom she thought of as the "jewels in her crown." While living in Iowa, Sandi completed her college education, graduating with honors from Iowa State in 1970. Her husband was stationed in the DC area in 1979, and they moved to Alexandria, VA, where she began her career as a realtor. Sandi built a sterling reputation as an agent for several real estate firms, consistently honored as among the top in her company and many times the number one agent. The marriage ended in 1984, and she later married her husband of 32 years, Blaise deFranceaux. Working together, they built upon her business, now known as the Poole/Braun Real Estate Team, until they retired in 2009. Sandi and Blaise traveled extensively, with trips to Turkey, Russia, India, Nepal, several countries in Africa and southeast Asia, and national parks in the US. In 2015, they began building a new home in Asheville, NC, and moved there in late 2016. They embraced their new home and city with great enthusiasm, enjoying the hikes, great food, and cultural activities the area provides. She is survived by her husband Blaise, her three children: James Poole of Clayton, NC, Jeffrey Poole (Betty) of Metairie, LA, and Jennifer Sobocinski (Dave) of Johns Creek, GA, and five grandchildren: Carter and Mason Poole, Dylan, Dawson, and Declan Sobocinski. Sandi is remembered as someone who's vivacity brought joy and love to all who knew her. By any measure, it was a life well lived. Anyone wishing to do so may make a donation to JDRF (jdrf.org/donate) or Pisgah Legal Services (pisgahlegal.org/#donate).

Obituary

Obituary



**Edward Albert Merkli**, passed away on January 9, 2020, surrounded by his family in Flagstaff, Arizona. He was born May 27, 1930 in Helvetia, West Virginia on his family homestead where he grew up speaking German and learning the crafts of cheese and wine making.

Edward joined the United States Army completing boot camp at Fort Bliss, Texas. His most memorable time in the Army was at Fort Totten, New York, where he worked in supply for Battery B. He was a trusted and valued member of the Army and took pride in contributing to the greater good. His life was lived as a very proud American. A habitual entrepreneur, Eddie founded Merkli Brothers Coal by sending his Army pay home to purchase heavy equipment.

Eddie met his wife of 61 years, Martha McCutcheon Merkli, on a blind date and the two began their lives together in Webster Springs, West Virginia. Eddie's early success as a heavy equipment operator took them to Virginia, with him participating in the construction of Route 66. His sharp mind saw trends and growth long before it was forecasted, leading to a career in Real Estate. A Broker for six decades, Eddie was a mentor to many, living his personal and business life morally and ethically. His unconditional acceptance and compassion demonstrated to those around him remains unparalleled.

Eddie was the best coach of sports teams on which his children played. He showed up to any place his children and grandchildren performed or competed. He walked his daughters down the aisle and lovingly supported his family in any way he could. Eddie and Martha had a passion for duplicate bridge and other games, playing in clubs and with family and friends around their kitchen table. They thoroughly enjoyed vacationing with their family all around the United States.

Edward was an amazing dancer, winning dance contests throughout his life. There was no better feeling in the world than his hand on the small of your back, being gently guided along a dance floor. For those who had the privilege of this, it was as close to floating as one could experience.

Edward is survived by his five children: Robert E. Merkli (Blair), John A. Merkli, Mary L. Merkli-Velasco (David), Nancy M. Tracy (Mark) and Susan M. Merkli, his 15 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife Martha M. Merkli, his father Henry Merkli, mother Martha Kelly, stepfather Edward Kelly, brother Henry Merkli, sister Francis Ramey and his grandson Robert Merkli, Jr.

Edward Albert Merkli will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery, along with his wife Martha. Interment will occur on a later date to be determined.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
**-Werner Heisenberg**



## All Gowned Up

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



All Gowned Up And somewhere to go, or so I thought. I had checked in at the front desk. I was given a number, and almost immediately, it was called. I said good-bye to Team Lourie and was led back to a staging area (beds, curtains, doctors, nurses) where I was told I would see them both before surgery. There I was given a gown, no-slip socks and a hair net to change into, and instructed to place all my clothes (underwear, too) into two plastic bags and then told to pull back the privacy curtain and lie back on the bed.

Within a few minutes a female nurse, part of a very attentive and conscientious staff, began to attend me. She started an I.V. in my left forearm, wrapped a blood pressure cuff around my right bicep and then stuck half-a-dozen or so EKG contacts over the front me and down my legs to monitor my heart. In addition, the typical other vitals: oxygen, pulse and temperature were taken. At that point, it appeared that I had passed muster. My surgeon stopped by for a brief visit and all was progressing normally. Until that is when the anesthesiologist came by for what I thought was the final step. It was the final step alright. She said that "due to an abundance of caution," she was uncomfortable proceeding with the surgery. She explained that the facility (not a hospital) where I was to undergo the surgery, was not fully equipped to respond to certain potential complications which might occur which involved a breathing tube, a ventilator and the weakness of my lungs, so she sent me packing (unpacking actually). Disappointed, as you might imagine, we all left the facility and waited for further instructions.

By the end of the day, arrangements had been made to reschedule my surgery at a local hospital on Wednesday, a mere two day delay. I could live with that. At home, I resumed my post-shower, pre-surgery, infection-preventing scrub as I had for the previously scheduled surgery. This time surgery was scheduled for 1:30 pm instead of the 10:50 am it had been on Monday. Still, if all went well, I could be released that same day, under someone else's recognition of course, given the late hour, but likely recuperating at home in my own bed.

On Wednesday, I arrived at the hospital two hours before surgery as directed and began the now familiar process. Once again I was prepped and ready. This time there were no slip-ups. Around 2:15 I was wheeled into the operating room and introduced to the staff on hand. I was asked my name, date of birth and the reason for surgery that day. Answering correctly, the next step involved an oxygen mask coming down over my nose and mouth and being asked to breathe normally, which I did, and the rest, as they say, is history.

It turned out that the anesthesiologist was right to be cautious. My four-hour outpatient surgery turned into a seven-hour admission-to-the-hospital major surgery with complications. Due to my "Adam's Apple" tumor being embedded into/under my collarbone, a thoracic surgeon was brought into consult about possibly cracking open my chest to get at the remaining cancer. Fortunately, a decision was made not to do so and I was wheeled back to recovery and eventually to my room for the night where at 12:35 am, while lying in my bed, my eyes opened and I saw my wife, Dina and close friend, Rita, who had stayed into the wee hours in an amazing show of support.

The next day, after an uncomfortable night in my hospital bed, I was discharged, four hours after the process began. (As you may or may not know, getting discharged from the hospital is hardly a straight line from your hospital room to your curbside pick up.) I was given instructions, prescriptions and follow-up appointments. My thyroid gland, parathyroid, "Adam's Apple" tumor and a few lymph nodes stayed behind. Can't say that I miss any of them. Still, my body may miss them so I'll likely have some post-op work to do at home. Nevertheless, progress has been made for which I'm grateful.

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

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## News

# Dieting Sisters

FROM PAGE 3

road diets, one on King Street, another on Van Dorn Street and a very controversial one on Seminary Road. Opponents of the Seminary road diet have organized a Facebook page to share their grievances and Wilson is a regular participant in the ongoing discussions there.

"Certainly during the peak rush hour in the morning and the evening, there is slightly more congestion right now," says Wilson. "Their concern is that it's inhibiting emergency vehicle response. The fire chief says it hasn't, but that's a concern."

For Norton, the idea is still in the planning stages.

Their City Council is hearing presentations about how it would work and why it may be a good idea for the city's main drag through the central business district. The motivation for the road diet is basically the same in Norton and Alexandria as it is everywhere else.

"We want to put a bike lane in," Fawbush said. "We're trying to reform downtown into a more pedestrian bike-friendly environment. Right now it's just a pass-through from one end to the other."

In Alexandria, the opposition is from people who preferred traffic lanes to bike lanes — a cultural divide pitting the bicycle community and pedestrian advocates against people who live in the wealthiest part of Alexandria. Folks who live on the Seminary love the idea, although many of the people who live in the large houses surrounding it don't. For Norton, the debate is more about how a road diet might influence commerce.

"All of our businesses take front-door deliveries because we don't have alleys behind all of our businesses," said Norton City Councilman Robert Fultz. "So how do you manage a front-door delivery with a two-lane road?"

Both communities are also seeking to make a name for themselves as tourism destinations, although for different reasons. In Alexandria, you can't walk down King Street without tripping over a historic site. For Norton, though, the tourism marketing is based on nature and outdoor activities.

"We have hundreds of miles of trails in southwest Virginia," said Del Terry Kilgore (R-1). "We hope the folks from Alexandria will come down and visit us for a while."

The delegations from both communities are already plotting out which government facilities they want to see and, of course, which restaurants they want to visit. Downtown Norton has a clutch of international restaurants, and he's happy to make suggestions about which menu items should be considered. Leaders in both communities say they haven't given much thought or even visited the other.

"We have corrections facilities in Wise. We don't have any in Alexandria," said Ebbin. "We have more tourism in Alexandria, not as much as Wise would like."

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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 SAT 2/15 & SUN 2/16, 2-4

### Monticello Park | \$1,700,000

6-bedroom, 5-bathroom home with 5,000 square feet of total living area! Garage with entrance to a mudroom. Three gas and one wood-burning fireplace. 4 bedrooms and 3 baths upstairs. George Mason Elementary. 417 Monticello Boulevard  
**Laurel Conger 703.577.6899**  
[www.LaurelConger.com](http://www.LaurelConger.com)



OPEN SUN 2/16, 2-4

### Alexandria/Tuckahoe | \$799,900

A rare 5-bedroom Colonial in the heart of Alexandria's west end! Great flow for entertaining and relaxing with significant recent updates. Freshly painted and beautifully refinished hardwood floors, private cul-de-sac location minutes to Old Town. 1102 Bayliss Drive  
**Rochelle Gray 703.328.1686**  
**Susan Anthony 703.795.9536**



### Monticello Park | \$1,585,000

This 5-bedroom, 4-bath home is beautiful from top to bottom with custom finishes, built-ins and trimwork. Open and airy floor plan with large bedrooms, gorgeous hardwood floors, gas fireplace, screened-in porch. 303 Monticello Boulevard  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



### Belle Haven on the Green | \$649,000

Updated and move-in ready! New kitchen with open floor plan, quartz counter tops and backsplash and all new stainless appliances. New master bathroom shower, new carpet and lighting throughout and many other updates. New roof and HVAC in 2016.  
**Ross Hunt 703.403.2959**  
[www.RossHuntRealtor.com](http://www.RossHuntRealtor.com)



### Carlyle Square | \$325,000

Rare contemporary gem in Old Town featuring stylish open concept living in a generously-sized loft studio with courtyard view, window wall, wood floors, washer/dryer in unit, and garage parking. Just 0.4-mile to King Street Metro in a vibrant neighborhood.  
**Meiling Yang 703.944.8403**  
[www.MyTopAgent.com](http://www.MyTopAgent.com)



### Crystal Gateway | \$850,000

Welcome to National Landing! Expansive 2,100-SF condo. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 24/7 concierge, indoor & outdoor pools, health center, super close parking space. Two balconies with SE & NW exposure. Metro station connects underground. Ultimate urban location!  
**Julie Lineberry 703.489.2823**  
[www.McEneaney.com](http://www.McEneaney.com)



### Old Town

**\$975,000**

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 2/16, 1-3

### Rosemont Park

**\$769,000**

Wonderful duplex with incredible family room addition. This brick home is an easy walk to either the Braddock Road or King Street Metro. Hardwood floors on two levels. Full bath on each level of the home with the laundry on the main level.  
[HayesWoodHomes.com](http://HayesWoodHomes.com)  
6 E Chapman Street

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



### Bristow

**\$309,900**

Sought-after area with great location. Move-in ready home with 2 master bedrooms on the upper level. Amazing kitchen with sliding door to deck backing to trees. Sunny bright, open floor plan. Walk out lower level with family room or extra bedroom. Neighborhood pool.

**Catherine Davidson 703.201.1998**  
[www.cmdrealty.net](http://www.cmdrealty.net)

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