



Adoptable
Friedrich

The quintessential “mama’s boy,” adoptable Friedrich is the sweetest and most affectionate pup! He’s our foster through DC PAWS Rescue, and his mom was rescued in November as a VERY pregnant German Short-haired Pointer from a high-kill shelter in SC. She gave birth to a litter of six (named for the von Trapp children from The Sound of Music) on November 27, and all pups but Friedrich have been adopted. At just 9 weeks old, his leg got caught in the wire playpen and he fractured it... and he keeps getting passed over by adopters because of it! He’s healing well and the rescue is paying for all necessary follow up care, so



we’re hoping he gets adopted soon so his forever family can enjoy this fun puppy phase. Friedrich gets along with everyone - even cats! - and he’s a joy to have in our home. He’s 12 weeks old and weighs about 17 lbs. We suspect his dad is a beagle or hound and that he will be about 50 lbs full grown. Please apply at www.dcpawsrescue.org/adoption-info if you can give this sweet pup a home so we can foster another!

Katherine Viar
Alexandria



Tulsi Rose checks herself out. Tulsi came into my life almost a year ago thanks to 4Paws Rescue and brings me joy every day!

- CAROL SIEGEL, ALEXANDRIA



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE GAZETTE

Del. Cia Price (D-95) appears at a press conference to announce a bill creating an advisory panel to suggest legislative districts to the General Assembly, a proposal that may end up torpedoing efforts to pass a constitutional amendment creating a bipartisan commission to draw maps.

Mapmaking Politics

Legislative Black Caucus leads effort to undermine redistricting amendment.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Virginia has a horrible history with racial gerrymandering. It started with the ratification of the Constitution, an effort led by Virginians who wanted to count slaves as three-fifths of a person so representation in the south wouldn’t suffer because so many of its inhabitants were non-voting enslaved people. It continued all the way to 2011, when the Republican leaders engaged in a scheme of packing black voters into House districts to dilute their influence elsewhere, a plan the United States Supreme Court later determined was unconstitutional. Now

members of the Legislative Black Caucus are worried a proposed amendment might enshrine racial gerrymandering into the Virginia Constitution.

“We have great concerns about having African-American representation in the room for redistricting,” said Del. Lamont Bagby (D-74), chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, when the amendment was first proposed last year. “This doesn’t guarantee that.”

Now Democrats are in a bind. They overlooked concerns of the Legislative Black Caucus last year, striking a deal with Republicans to support a constitutional amendment that creates a bi-partisan commission to draw legislative districts. Then they campaigned

on the issue and won majorities in the House and Senate.

Now the politics have shifted, and members of the Legislative Black Caucus are leading the fight to defeat the amendment. They argue that the language of the amendment says membership of the mapmaking commission should “consider” race rather than requiring racial diversity. House leadership may end the General Assembly session this year without even bringing the amendment to the floor for a vote, opting instead to create an advisory panel that would make recommendations lawmakers would be free to ignore.

“It’s disgraceful. These folks ran

SEE MAPMAKING, PAGE 5

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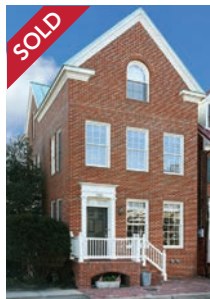
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‘A Legacy for Generations’ Cox retires after 28 years guiding Historic Preservation.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Al Cox, the City of Alexandria’s Historic Preservation Manager, was celebrated by a crowd of family, friends and city officials Feb. 7 at the Old Dominion Boat Club as he retires following 28 years overseeing architecture design policies across the city.

“My wife Kathy and I moved here 32 years ago because of the architecture,” said Cox, an architect who studied historic preservation in the U.S. and Europe. “But we stayed because of the people.”

Originally from Texas, Cox accepted a two-year contract position with the city to help with design guidelines. When that contract was completed,

Bill Conkey, left, is congratulated by Al Cox on his appointment as the city’s next Historic Preservation Architect Feb. 7 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.



“I am so fortunate to have found my calling here in Alexandria. But it’s time for me to let go and let the next generation take over.”

— Historic Preservation Manager Al Cox on his retirement

then-City Manager Vola Lawson created a City Architect position that allowed Cox to stay on.

“In losing Al, we are losing a significant amount of institutional knowledge and history,” said Mayor Justin Wilson. “The testament of anyone is the legacy they leave behind, and Al Cox is leaving a legacy for generations of Alexandrians into the future.”

While Cox does not design buildings himself, he facilitates the process for architects, land use attorneys and developers so that any

new projects are compatible with the existing historic architecture.

“Al was the guy who could always get you to ‘yes,’” said Jody Manor, of Bittersweet catering and Vola’s Dockside Grill. “He wanted you to succeed and that is not always the case for local businesses.”

Added City Manager Mark Jinks: “Al has had more impact on the city than just historic preservation.”

Cox oversaw projects from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, Potomac Yard, Jones Point Park and the new Old Dominion Boat Club. He hired famed architect Michael Graves to design the Beatley Central Library.

Cox used the occasion to announce his successor – Bill Conkey will become the city’s Historic Preservation Architect when Cox formerly steps down Feb. 28.

“I have always had a passion for historic preservation and design,” Cox said. “I am so fortunate to have found my calling here in Alexandria. But it’s time for me to let go and let the next generation take over.”



“Gaby” proudly wears her new blue coat.



Oh hello, “GoodBoy”



“Tina” enjoys the comforts of Old Town’s Waterfront Park sitting on the park chair, “Have a nice flight, hurry home!”

Tina belongs to Natasha Edwards



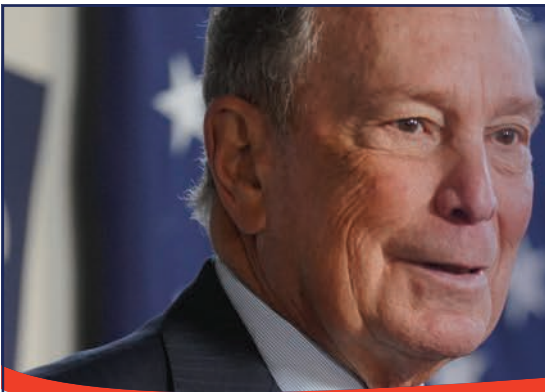
“Sweetie” says, Look into my eyes... you are getting me a treat, you are getting me a treat!



“BellyCat”



PHOTOS BY LAURA MAE SUDDER



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Mapmaking Politics

FROM PAGE 1
on the issue,” said Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-26). “They told people across the commonwealth of Virginia that they supported the Constitutional amendment. They got elected on the basis of supporting it, and if they turn their backs on their constituents there’s going to be a price to pay.”

THE POLITICS of redistricting have been a bugaboo in Virginia politics since the creation of the House of Burgesses in 1619, when 22 members represented four cities and five slave plantations. Two centuries later, the technology of mapmaking can fine tune the art of packing and cracking — gerrymandering districts with scientific precision. That’s one of the reasons groups like Virginia 2021 was created, to take that power out of the hands of the party in power and instead put it into a 16-member commission composed of eight lawmakers and eight citizens.

“It would be the most comprehensive redistricting reform legislation ever passed through a state legislature in this country,” says Brian Cannon, executive director

of Virginia 2021.

The bipartisan compromise was struck in the closing days of the 2019 General Assembly session, an agreement that was negotiated in a secret closed-door conference committee. Those negotiations took place out of the glare of public scrutiny, and the lack of transparency didn’t help the process. One provision that emerged out of that conference committee was a feature that was not in the House version or the Senate version, the ability of the Republican-led Virginia Supreme Court to step in and make a final determination.

“I can’t trust judges to be fair on the basis of the facts and the law anymore,” says Del. Mark Levine (D-45). “Those days, if they ever existed, they’re certainly gone now.” Levine and other critics of the amendment are supporting a bill introduced by Del. Cia Price (D-95) that would create an advisory panel to suggest legislative districts to the General Assembly. Its basic structure is almost identical to the commission outlined in the amendment, but there’s an important distinction. Racial diversity on the panel of mapmakers

would be required, a stipulation that’s not in the language of the amendment. Price announced her bill at a press conference the first week of session. “We wanted to make sure that the drawing process of the maps that would protect communities of color and communities of interest are in the amendment.”

SUPPORTERS OF THE amendment are still trying to salvage the process. They argue enabling legislation for the amendment can solve some of the flaws.

Critics of the amendment say it’s simply too flawed a proposal to be enshrined into the Constitution. They worry about racial diversity on the commission, and they are concerned Republicans might exploit the rules to have the GOP-dominated Supreme Court draw maps to benefit Republicans. For now, Democrats are leaving the door open to considering the amendment, but it’s telling that it has not yet come to the House floor for a vote. Democratic leadership has until the end of the session to make that happen, but House leaders don’t seem to be in much of a hurry to make that happen.

“I don’t know if it’s on the calendar,” said House Majority Whip Alfonso Lopez (D-49) when asked if the House would vote on the amendment.

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OPINION

We Both Deserve \$15. Why Don't Our Senators Think So?

BY NICK RIVIERE AND
TONY HEDGEPEETH

Like millions of Virginians, we work hard. As home care providers, we work every day to help older adults and people with disabilities live independently at home and in the community. By keeping people out of costly nursing homes and institutions, we save taxpayers money and deliver quality care.

We do the same work but in different parts of Virginia – Fairfax County and City of Richmond – and have different backgrounds. One of us is a 21-year-old assisting young adults with developmental disabilities and one of us is a 61-year-old Army veteran helping his fellow vets who suffer from PTSD.

However, we both love what we do. It's a blessing to be able to help others live with dignity.

We both deserve to make at least \$15 per hour and live with dignity ourselves.

Unfortunately, our Virginia state Senators seem to disagree.

Earlier this month, the Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$15 for all workers by 2025. They recognized that working families are falling behind no matter how hard we work, and that we need to build an economy that works for everyone.

The Senate, however, passed a bill which would create different minimum wages in different regions, even for workers who do the exact same jobs like us. Their bill also forces workers to wait even longer to get a raise.

If the Senate bill becomes law, people working in Fairfax won't make \$15 until 2027, while those in Richmond won't make \$15 until 2032. Our fellow homecare providers and others working in Hampton Roads won't make \$15 until 2034.

Delaying the minimum wage increase for 14 years, and paying different wages for the same work, is not only unfair; it's unacceptable.

Every person who works hard and plays by the rules in Virginia deserves equal respect. We deserve living wages, paid sick days, affordable health care, a secure retirement, and the right to join together in a union.

While the cost of living varies in different parts of Virginia, we all feel the same pain when we struggle to pay rent, buy groceries and pay utilities. Housing costs are skyrocketing in both Richmond and Northern Virginia. Health care costs, food costs and transportation costs are all increasing. We need a statewide \$15 minimum wage to ensure that no one gets left behind.

To our Senators, we ask: why should a home care worker in Richmond or Roanoke make less than a home care worker in Fairfax when we make the same contribution to Virginia's families? We elected Democratic majorities to the House and Senate because they promised to deliver a brighter future for working Virginians. It's time that our Senators delivered on that promise.

Assault Weapons Ban – Getting It Right

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

Last week the Senate Judiciary Committee considered a House of Delegates' bill to regulate assault rifles and other firearm attachments. I have always supported stronger regulation of assault rifles.

I lived through the 2002 D.C. sniper attacks while crouching in my car getting gas to avoid being shot. In 2016, three police officers including one of my constituents were shot with an AR-15. Officer Ashley Guindon was killed on her first day on the job. I do not support civilian ownership of weapons of war that are unnecessary for hunting or self-protection.

Experts estimate that there are five to ten million assault weapons in the U.S., including at least 100,000 in Virginia. The proposed House bill felonized the sale or transfer of assault weapons, certain magazines and silencers, and had no buyback program for assault rifles. It felonized the possession of certain magazines and silencers after two years. We repeatedly advised the House that the votes did not exist in the Senate, but the House chose to send the bill over by a one vote margin with three House Democrats voting "no" and one not voting.

In our chamber, multiple Senators were concerned that the House bill did not "grandfather" guns owned by existing owners, specific legal disposal rules, and questioned the absence of an explicit, funded gun buyback program which could turn a ban into a constitutional taking requiring government compensation. They also pointed out that many of the

assault weapon features described in the ban bill are also on other types of weapons, therefore likely creating confusion for law enforcement officers and civilians and making it unclear exactly which guns were banned. They were clear they would not support passage this session.

The bill was also not endorsed or a priority for Moms Demand Action, Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence, or Everytown for Gun Safety.

I joined three Democratic Senators on the Judiciary Committee to continue the bill to the 2021 session and refer it to the Crime Commission so experts can refine and clarify the bill. That will also give us time to hold fuller public hearings over the summer or fall. We expect the Crime Commission to fully analyze and clarify the bill to carry out our intent. I am wholly committed to seeing this through and we did not "kill the assault weapons bill."

We have made significant progress on firearm violence prevention. We have passed (1) universal background checks, (2) reinstating Virginia's "one-gun-a-month" purchase limit, (3) emergency risk protection or "red flag" orders, (4) authorizing local governments to regulate guns in public buildings, parks and events, (5) allowing firearm forfeiture during protective order proceedings, (6) banned bump stocks, and (7) increased penalties for child access. Legislation to broaden the crimes that surrender firearms rights to misdemeanor stalking and sexual battery is pending along with my voluntary Do Not Sell List legislation. Passage of these bills is unprecedented and

historic.

Many Other Bills Advance

With three weeks left, we have two dozen major bills on education, transportation, energy, environment, labor, criminal justice reform, equity and a \$110 billion budget to consider. The legislature has sent at least 15 of my bills to Gov. Ralph Northam, including my legislation prohibiting holding a phone while driving and a bill banning "conversion therapy." My legislation to tighten up Virginia's loose predatory lending laws awaits the Governor's signature and predatory lending establishments, like those dotting the U.S. 1 Corridor, must stop charging 120-400 percent interest rates on six-month loans and will likely pack up and leave. Both the House and Senate budgets included my initiative to conduct a study to extend the Blue Line Metro to Prince William County.

The Senate also approved over \$1.2 billion in new funding for K-12, a three percent pay raise for teachers, 200 new school counselors, \$81 million for subsidized preschool and \$96 million for free community college for some disadvantaged students. We voted to create Medicaid-funded adult dental coverage, a five percent pay increase for home health care workers and increased mental health care funding. We proposed the largest contribution ever to the Water Quality Improvement Fund. A joint House-Senate committee will now resolve the differences in the two budget bills.

This is an historic session. I hope you will email your comments to me at scott@scottsuovell.org.

Follow the Money **EVENT**

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

With every bill having been put through its initial paces, the General Assembly has now turned

more attention to the budget process. As a new member of the Finance and Appropriations Committee, I'm excited by the assignment of helping craft Virginia's

estimated \$142 billion two-year budget. I sit on three Finance Subcommittees — Health and Human Resources, General Government, and Public Safety. For the last two

weeks, these committees have met regularly to prune members' amendments, make adjustments to Governor Northam's proposed

SEE FOLLOW, PAGE 7



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LETTERS

Difficult and Time Consuming

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Alexandria living near the Old Town, I can say from experience that nothing has been more difficult and time consuming than finding parking spaces near my home. Rather than adding ease and convenience, owning or operating a car in this area is becoming genuinely burdensome. The problem of parking lot and parking space scarcity is compounded by construction, development waivers, and even bike lanes, which collectively make the neighborhood a practical anti-car area, at times even inaccessible to vehicles.

The Old Town is not Manhattan; it is still at its heart an old, traditional neighborhood, a place where people live and others visit during the weekend to enjoy a good time. It is unrealistic and unsustainable to expect those that frequent or live here to purchase a bike or scooter just to be able to reliably

visit the neighborhood. This is not, after all, some designated car-free zone, but in practice it might as well be due to the lack of parking lots and parking spaces.

Personally, I have consciously put off or cancelled Old Town plans several times because the parking crisis made visiting a business or meeting up with friends impossible with my own vehicle..

I believe our city planners should consider building a public parking deck or similar facility somewhere in the neighborhood in order to alleviate the impossibly high demand on our limited parking situation.

I'm not alone in these conclusions - conversations with nearly every one of my neighbors yield the same complaints and calls for a solution. We need action on this, and we need it now.

Raad Alshammari
Alexandria

Follow the Money

FROM PAGE 6

budget, and allocate additional funding.

Governor Northam's budget, which was sent to us in mid-December, emphasized a number of my priorities including education, housing, and healthcare. Despite a

strong economic bounceback from the 2009 recession, our budgets have remained fairly conservative — focusing on shoring up reserves. While financial security is critical, our limited resources have often left work-

SEE FOLLOW THE MONEY, PAGE 9

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A daily “kong” filled with mouth-watering chow makes the days go quickly for Sugar at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.



Cookie the cat follows the little red ball in “clicker training” with volunteer Sandy Garlick at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF AWLA

Shelter Staff Jumping Through Hoops to Keep Animals Entertained

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) volunteer Sandy Garlick sat on the floor of a cat enclosure holding a metal stick with a little red ball at the end. A long-haired, gray and white cat named Nicky, normally a bit skittish around people, reached a paw up to touch the ball, prompting Garlick to press on a clicking device and give Nicky a food treat. Then, they did it all over again. Who says cats can't be trained?

Nicky was just one of dozens of shelter animals who have learned to respond to the combination of clicking and treats or toys, finding new ways to bond with people. “Clicker training is one of the best ways to build trust between people and animals,” said AWLA Volunteer Program Coordinator Brenda Maier. “They're learning together and having fun at the same time.”

Volunteer Garlick got interested in clicker-training cats when she witnessed a cat named Coco, who had been a shelter resident for almost a year, learn to do high-fives and walk through a hoop. One day during adoption hours, Garlick showed Coco's tricks to a visitor, and he was so impressed, he adopted the talented feline. “Coco actually trained me!” Garlick recalled. She attended a shelter session to learn the technique and went on to teach a small gray rabbit named Takeoff to stand up on

his hind feet and touch the ball on the stick; he was quickly adopted.

Originally used with marine animals, clicker training has become a staple at the AWLA shelter: all dog and cat volunteers learn the technique, and so do many of those who work with other animals. Besides strengthening positive behaviors, clicker training can help improve an animal's stay by fighting boredom, decreasing stress, increasing confidence, and teaching new tricks and behaviors that help animals get adopted more quickly.

“After the training, dogs, for instance, start to feel better in their kennels, and a dog comfortable in his kennel is often more comfortable meeting people,” Maier said. “With cats that might be excitable, it's a way to help them calm down and show them more appropriate behavior.”

To initiate training, a volunteer will wait for a dog to move to the front of his kennel, stand quietly and keep all four paws on the floor. In response, the volunteer will click once and then offer a treat, often a small piece of hot dog. Training sessions can mean five minutes of repeating this activity until the dog understands which behaviors are being rewarded. Volunteers first learn the skill in workshops with expert trainers, where they “train” each other, clicking for desired behaviors and dispensing “human” treats.

The shelter's enrichment pro-



Sugar proves to be up to the task of making a peanut-butter-coated Frisbee sparkle.

gram goes far beyond clicker training. Every day, dogs, cats and other animals receive two rounds of activities that stimulate them both physically and mentally, says AWLA Manager of Volunteers and Community Events Echo Keif, who developed the program. For dogs' daily enrichment, shelter volunteers dispense kongs – rubber toys that challenge the animals to retrieve the canned dog food inside – and then later, they get another enrichment activity that rotates daily.

Wednesday mornings mean lucky volunteers get to distribute the popular busy-boxes full of treats. Some of the dogs are experts at opening their presents.

“It's like Christmas morning every Wednesday,” Keif said.

Another canine favorite is a Frisbee, coated inside with peanut butter, mashed pumpkin or squeezable cheese, dotted with treats and frozen, that volunteers hang on the outside of each kennel, primed for dogs to lick.

For cats, the everyday treat is “catnip soup,” a set of toys that volunteers have infused with catnip. Later in the day cats can look forward to puzzles such as “snuffle mats,” fabric mats covered with fringe that hides treats (or prescription treats for cats with diet restrictions), ready for foraging.

Even the shelter's smaller residents, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, get their own custom-made diversions. Rabbits receive “hay tubes” daily – toilet paper rolls

stuffed with rabbits' favorite chow, hay. And as part of the surprise of the day, shelter visitors might see a twine “clothesline” hanging across the rabbits' pens. Clothespins placed along the line hold juicy bites of vegetables and fruits, tempting bunnies to angle for them through the day. “The first time we hung a veggie line over Phoebe the rabbit's enclosure she was so delighted,” Keif recalled. “She had been with us for months, and you could see all of her stress melt away with each new veggie she nibbled.”

The shelter's next challenge, Maier says, is to introduce clicker training for the resident hamsters, turtles, rats and mice. “Since turtles are more visually oriented, we'll probably use a light instead of a clicker,” she said. “We hope to teach our turtles to swim through hoops.”

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization. Operating the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, which is Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter, the AWLA touches the lives of more than 6,000 animals every year, including strays, lost pets, local wildlife, rescued animals and animals surrendered by their owners. The AWLA is committed to addressing animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare and serving as an educational resource for the community. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

OPINION

Follow the Money

FROM PAGE 7

ing-class Virginians behind. The Senate budget capitalizes on the Commonwealth's diverse economy and recent revenue growth with investments focused on the people of Virginia, while still investing significantly in our "Rainy Day Fund."

While the Commonwealth's economy has grown and diversified, and our top universities have climbed in the rankings, many have not felt that success. In order to ensure all Virginians can share in the

Commonwealth's prosperity, we recommend significant new funds for our pre-K-12 education system. The proposed budget goes a long way toward leveling the scholastic playing field.

Virginia's teacher pay lags 20% behind the national average, and due to reduced spending on education, teachers often have to dip into their own pockets to give students the supplies they need to learn. To attract and retain the best teachers, we need to pay competitive wages, which is why the Sen-

ate proposed to see the Governor's proposed budget raise teachers' pay an additional 1% beyond the Governor's proposed 3% raise. This is on top of the 3% raise to last year's budget. Though this still trails the national average, it is an important step forward.

We are also working to increase the number of students attending pre-school, which is one of the best indicators of life-long success. The Senate budget offers \$81.4 million to expand Virginia's Pre-School Initiative for at-risk three- and four-year-olds —

a longstanding priority of mine.

Northern Virginia has an outstanding mix of public, private and nonprofit education providers, including Northern Virginia Family Services, Child and Family Networks in Alexandria, and United Community in Fairfax County. But these organizations alone cannot meet the incredible need, and many areas of Virginia do not have the same abundance of active nonprofits.

SEE FOLLOW THE MONEY, PAGE 14



Join us for this funny and affectionate comic romp that takes us behind the scenes of the iconic story of "Gone with the Wind."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Handroll Sushi, Cocktails Take Over King Street Corner

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a well-known corner in Old Town Alexandria, home to many a variety of themes and pubs over the years. Scotland Yard took up residence for decades at 728 King St., and then came Eamonn's fish-and-chips shop with the beloved PX speakeasy on the top floor. Now, the corner has changed hands again, as well as cuisines. Gone are

the British pub staples, and in their place arrive a passel of options with a Japanese flair. And upstairs, while the lush cocktails remain, the hush-hush speakeasy nature has departed. Call it building upon the previous tenants; call it striking out in a different direction. Call it the Handover and King's Ransom, whatever you do.

"Growing up in the area, this has always been an iconic corner. It's right in the heart of King Street," said co-owner Teddy Kim. "... We loved the building, loved location, so we brought in an architect, measured the space, and started to play around with concepts."

It wasn't long before the concept became clear – a handroll sushi restaurant, faster than a traditional sit-down experience, but not quite fast-casual, either.

"We thought (the handroll concept) was a perfect fit for downstairs, the dimensions of the space," taking advantage of the



The shrimp tempura roll is one of the highlights of The Handover.

long, narrow area, Kim said.

From avocado to bulgogi, the Handover's menu is small but mighty. The options, chosen by Chef Melvin Urrutia, cover the gamut of familiar favorites and further-flung items, hewing to a minimalist theme rather than a kitchen-sink approach.

"You might have a spicy tuna roll, which is not the one that's all filled up with sriracha mayonnaise and all that," said co-owner Ian McGrath. Rather, the roll sports tuna, sesame chili oil and Japanese spice blend – with no fillers.

The same goes for the oshinko roll, featuring pickled daikon radish: "It's sitting there on its own with a little bit of chiffonade shiso leaf," McGrath said.

And then there's King's Ransom, the upstairs space formerly occu-

IF YOU GO

The Handover and King's Ransom, 728 King St.
Hours for the Handover: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Hours for the King's Ransom: 5 p.m.-midnight Sunday-Thursday; 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday.

Try this: "If you want the inside scoop, I'd strongly recommend the shrimp tempura (roll), but in the soy wrapper instead. That gives it a creaminess that's unique to the soy paper," said Teddy Kim.

pied by Todd Thrasher's PX. Gone are the days of secret passwords and limited customers; in its place is a more accessible space that eschews formality but maintains high standards.

"I've just found that it was my experience at People's Drug and with Old Town Alexandria that it's a great city and town to be able to put things out because people re-



Upstairs, the King's Ransom offers a posh bar with innovative cocktails.

ally appreciate if you put the time into something," said beverage director Jon Schott. And Schott and his team are putting a great deal of time into their cocktail program.

The cocktail menu offers something for everyone, from tiki-style drinks to a reformed classic Manhattan. The King's Ransom also brought in a Toki highball machine that creates filtered sparkling water that's three times as carbonated as champagne, Schott says. The combination of an innovative menu and such tricks of the trade as that highball machine leads to some interesting results.

For instance, "if you want a vodka soda, we have one, but it's purple and the bubbles are flying through it, and it has lychee in it," Schott said.

"We'd been working with Jon at People's Drug and his talent is just mind-blowing what he can do with the flavors, the artistic element of it, so we gave him a lot of free range to come up with the program for upstairs," Kim said.

And upstairs or downstairs, whether touting a handroll or a glass or both, both concepts aim to shine. "I feel like this is one of those cases where that classic Old Town long skinny townhouse feel can come into its own and give each of these guys a stage that they can show off their talents in," McGrath said.

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

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

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 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m.,



The St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place Saturday, March 7 in Old Town Alexandria.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday/March 7, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Parade starts at King and Alfred Streets and ends at Lee and Cameron Streets in Old Town Alexandria. Presented by the Ballyshaners, a nonprofit group that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. More than 2,000 participants will march in this year's parade, including the Notre Dame Alumni Band, dog rescue groups, pipe and drum bands, historical re-enactors, Shriners and Kena cars, and Irish dancers. Visit www.ballyshaners.org

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.

Architecture in Fiber. Now thru March 15. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory, 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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

Materials Playgroup Thursdays. 10-11:30 a.m. At Durants Art Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Dates: Thursdays Feb 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26; and April 2. During each 1.5 hour session, kids and their caregivers will get the chance to explore at least 6 different centers, from clay to painting to sensory, and more. They will have the opportunity to build, experiment, and play with

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10
open-ended, repurposed objects.
Visit the website: <https://www.upcyclecra.org/materials-playgroup.html>

SCSC & RSVP. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Gerry Hyland Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Shepherd's Center of South County, SCSC and Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, RSVP will host a seminar on volunteer opportunities in South County. Join us to learn about fun, convenient and meaningful ways to contribute to your community. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.scsca.org/>

Family Movie Night. 6:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Wonder tells the heartwarming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters the fifth grade, going to elementary school for the first time. Rated PG.

Struggles of African-American Soldiers. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. In celebration of Black History Month, the Proprietor of Manumission Tour Company, John Chapman, will lead a conversation on the struggles of African-American soldiers as they fought for their rights to be buried in the soldier's cemetery. When the Alexandria National Cemetery was begun in 1862, only white soldiers were eligible to be buried there, even though it was yards away from L'Ouverture Hospital, a Civil War hospital for African-American soldiers. By the end of the Civil War, there were over 200 graves of U.S. Colored Troops that had integrated into the cemetery.

CAC-GALA. 7-10 p.m. At Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, Alexandria. The 11th Annual CAC GALA benefits the Center for Alexandria's Children, the City's one safe place for the prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse. Its Learn & PlayGroups for children ages 0-5 years utilizes a curriculum designed to circumvent abuse by helping parents, children and caregivers build connections within the community. The Center supports abused children on their path to healing, while promoting strong, stable families. It serves more than 1,000 children and families annually. Honorees include Mary Hale, Inova Health System FACT Director, who will receive The Outstanding Dedication to Alexandria's Children Award for her commitment to the safety and well-being of Alexandria's children and



A Fun Dog Show will be held Saturday, March 7 at Old Town's Market Square.

Fun Dog Show

Saturday/March, 11 a.m. At Old Town's Market Square, Alexandria. The AWLA invites the area's spirited pups to don their favorite costumes on-stage for the titles of "Most St. Paddy's Spirit," "Best Human/Canine Look-Alike" and "Most Creative Costume." The Fun Dog Show precedes the Ballyshanners' St. Patrick's Day parade, an annual event that brings thousands of spectators to Old Town Alexandria. March participants will meet at the intersection of King and St. Asaph streets at 12 p.m. to start the parade. This year's Dog Show will be hosted by McEneaney Realtor Bobby Mahoney. Registration is open at AlexandriaAnimals.org/DogShow2020 and will also be available on-site on March 7 for \$30. For information about the St. Patrick's Day Parade, visit ballyshanners.org.

Brooke Sydnor Curran, Founder and CEO of RunningBrooke, who will receive The Champion for Children Award for her dedication to the empowerment and wellness of Alexandria's children and families. Tickets are \$175/person. Visit the website: <http://bit.ly/34nQlsJ> For more information, go to www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org

NOVA Children's Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Road, Alexandria. The NOVA Alexandria Music Department presents its free Annual Children's Concert featuring the NOVA band and students from local elementary and middle schools. Program selections will include: March of the Resistance from Star Wars: The Force Awakens by John Williams, Excursions for Trumpet and Band by Bruce Broughton, Concerto for Clarinet by Artie Shaw and the world

premiere of Le'oria, the City of Music by NOVA student Nathan Pereda. Visit the website: blogs.nvcc.edu/almusic/

FRIDAY/FEB. 28

Beau Soir Ensemble Concert. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$15. Welcome to the Beau Soir Ensemble to the Athenaeum! Known for their exciting performance style and diverse programming, their concert will feature "Serenade" by Ludwig Beethoven in honor of his 250th birthday. This piece was originally written for flute, violin and viola, but has been expertly transcribed to work for flute, viola and harp. The Beau Soir Ensemble will also play a Trio Sonata by J.S. Bach that was transcribed for their trio by Alex Jacobsen of the National Symphony Orchestra, a local premiere by Miguel del Aguila, and add some Irish music to lead the way for St. Patrick's day.

SATURDAY/FEB. 29

Winter Pruning for Woody Plants. 10 - 11:30 a.m. At American Horticultural Society River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Winter is the best time to prune many trees and shrubs. Come for hands-on training on the how, when, and why to prune hedges, multi-stem shrubs, small trees, and large branches. The results will be healthier and fuller growth, better flowers and fruit, and attractive landscaping. Bring your own tools, and remember to dress for the weather! Entire class is held outdoors. This class is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration required by Feb. 26 at mgv.org. Space is limited. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Citizen Science for Gardeners and Nature Lovers. 10-11 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Explore the concept of data gathering. Gardeners, naturalists and entomologists are recording the world around them through web-based social media applications. Bird



The Opal Music Studio faculty gather for their showcase concert.

Opal Faculty Showcase

Sunday/March 1, 6:30 p.m. At The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Come hear the teachers—all professional musicians—play together! This free concert will be a community celebration of music, featuring Opal Music Studio faculty playing a diverse set of musical styles from classical to opera to jazz. Free. Visit opalmusicstudio.com

migration, butterfly numbers, invasive plant spread, and insect populations are just some examples of data collected by an ecologist and citizen-scientist cyber community. Karen Rexrode will introduce you to some applications that will interest you as a gardener and a nature lover. \$18 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code C4C.7A2A) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Leap Day Walk. 10-11:30 a.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Celebrate the day that only comes around every four years. This Leap Day, go on a guided tour of the forest and wetland habitats at Huntley Meadows Park. Learn about common winter wildlife and where to find critters in the park at this time of year. It's designed for participants age 4 to adult, and the cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Rethinking Rufus. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. A lecture with Howard University's Dr. Thomas Foster. "Rethinking Rufus: Sexual Violations of Enslaved Men" is the first study of sexual violence against enslaved men. Scholars have extensively documented the widespread sexual exploitation and abuse suffered by enslaved women, with comparatively little attention paid to the stories of men. However, a careful reading of extant sources reveals that sexual assault of enslaved men also occurred systematically and in a wide variety of forms, including physical assault, sexual coercion, and other intimate violations. Tickets can be purchased at <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/>.

Floral Design Workshop: Heart's Desire. 1:30-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) In the month of February, we celebrate love in all its splendid forms. Certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway walks you through a floral project that you are sure to love. Keep this arrangement for yourself or give it to someone you

care about. \$39 per person (plus a \$30 supply fee). Register www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 70D.892E) Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

The Great Escape in Washington, D.C.

3:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Learn about the Capital City under the institution of slavery and the people who tried to escape this system. Presented by National Park Service Ranger Kenya Finley in honor of Black History Month.

Virginia Black History Month Association (VaBHMA) Gala.

6-9 p.m. At Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, Alexandria. The keynote speaker is Dr. Yusef Salaam of the Central Park Five, also known as the Exonerated Five. Guests of Honor include:

- ❖ Ms. Tina Wyatt: Great-Great Grandniece of Harriet Tubman;
- ❖ Ms. Jeri Lacks Whye: Granddaughter of Henrietta Lacks;
- ❖ Ms. Adia Cummings: Daughter of the late Honorable Congressman Elijah Cummings;
- ❖ Ms. Monique Goldring: Mother of Baby Phoenix DaVine.

During the gala, they will identify the winners of the Annual Children's Writing Contest, the James Farmer Scholarship and other scholarships. They will surprise one couple from the audience to rededicate their marriage vows, (officiated by a local Pastor) and then perform the African American wedding tradition of "Jumping the Broom." Visit the website at www.vabhma.com

MARCH 1-30

Woodlawn Needlework Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The Woodlawn Needlework Show and Sale runs for the entire month of March, and is open every day except Tuesdays. Come see hundreds of amazing needlework pieces, daily demonstrations, special exhibits, and more. Cost is \$15. Visit the website: www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow



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

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 now thru 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.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 11

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Nature Talk on Peregrine Falcons. 2 p.m. At Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Sponsored by Friends of Dyke Marsh, join biologist Rolf Gubler who will discuss restoring Peregrine Falcons to some of their native habitats. Peregrines perch and nest on cliffs, skyscrapers, bridges and other tall structures. In this program, biologists bring at-risk Peregrine Falcon chicks from eastern Virginia bridge nest sites (where fledging is often difficult) to Virginia's mountains, once part of their historic range. Visit the website: www.fodm.org

A British Invasion Concert. 3 p.m. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Featuring the National Concert Band of America. To be directed by Principal Conductor Adrian Holton, the concert will begin with British composer Gustav Holst's "First Suite in E Flat" which has occupied a legendary position in wind band repertoire for over 110 years. "The British Eighth" by Zo Elliott, which is dedicated to General Bernard Montgomery and the Eighth Army after a triumphant sweep across Africa in 1942, remains one of the most popular military marches on both sides of the Atlantic. Other selections include "Song of Hope" by Peter Meechan, "Irish Tune from County Derry" by Australian composer Percy Aldridge Grainger and "Four Scottish Dances" by Malcolm Arnold, trans. John Paynter.

Clarinet Quintet Concert. 3-4 p.m. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Come enjoy a variety of musical styles performed by a group of five clarinets, returning after a well-attended performance at Sherwood in June. The players are all former members of Washington, D.C. military bands (including one of the librarians). Free. Email: Jeff.Snaveley@sherwoodregional.org

Baroque Music Concert. 5-6 p.m. At Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Join FUMC in bringing 17th Century Baroque music to life with a free concert by Charm City Baroque. Since 2008, CCB has been bringing 17th century music to life through the use of period instruments and historical performance techniques. Free. Visit the website: <http://franconiaumc.org>

Opal Faculty Showcase. 6:30 p.m. At The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Come hear the Opal Music Studio teachers — all professional musicians — play together. This free concert will be a community celebration of music, featuring Opal Music Studio faculty playing a diverse set of musical styles from classical to opera to jazz. Free. Visit opalmusicstudio.com

2020 Presidential Straw Poll and Craft Cider Tasting Party. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. At Lost Boy Cider 317 Hooffs Run Dr, Alexandria. Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$50 at the Door, Alexandria Young Dems \$35. Food and Beverages and Ample Parking Included.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

AARP Fun Brunch. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Paradiso Restaurant, 6124 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Meet, greet, and eat lunch with the AARP Fun Bunch. Meet new people, make new friends, connect with neighbors, and enjoy lunch together. No program, no seminar, just casual fun with friends and neighbors. Call 877-926-8300.

Microgreens. 7-8:30 p.m. At Barrett



Brave Spirits Theatre at the Lab at Convergence presents "The King's Shadow" now through April 19.

"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 now thru 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 or www.bravespiritstheatre.com.

Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Microgreens – You've likely seen them, but what makes them so good for you? Join us to learn their many benefits, and some simple ways to grow these delicious, nutritious and inexpensive baby plants and sprouts in your own home. Plus, we provide supplies for you to plant your own container. So come prepared to get a bit dirty while you make your own microgreen garden in class. This event is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration requested at mgmv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

MARCH 4-25

Award-Winning Photos Displayed. At Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria.

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will display award-winning photographs from the National Audubon Society's 2019 photo contest in an exhibition at Huntley Meadows Park this winter. It's a perfect fit, as this year's grand prize-winning photograph was shot at Huntley Meadows. Local amateur photographer Kathrin Swoboda took top honors for her photograph of a red-winged blackbird that appeared to be blowing smoke rings as the rising sun backlit the vapor that formed while the bird sang out on a cold day. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, March 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Yacht Haven Garden Club Meets. 9:30 a.m. At the Mount Vernon Yacht Club at 4818 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria. The program will be on native plants, Amping up the Garden, by Louis Ratchford, Plant Specialist. Contact pmuchello@aol.com Visitors are welcome.

MARCH 5-23

"Head Over Heels." 8 p.m. At Ainslie Arts Center | 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. "Head Over Heels"

is a celebration of love set to the music of the Go-Go's. Based on Sir Philip Sidney's Arcadia, the royal family risks losing their "beat" and must journey to discover the key to their realm's survival. Like in most musicals, it may have been in them the whole time. With hits like, "We Got The Beat," "Mad About You," "Vacation," and "Our Lips are Sealed," you'll be dancing along in your seat. Tickets \$30/\$40. For tickets, visit <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/shows-events>

FRIDAY/MARCH 6

Preserving African American Historic Places. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At The Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum, Alexandria. Cost is \$60 for conference. Building on the success of past programs focused on advocating for African American historic resources, including schools, cemeteries and churches, this one-day conference will provide updates on African American historic sites in the state, provide networking opportunities, and offer information on advocacy, documentation and funding to help build capacity and strengthen organizations preserving African American historic sites in the state.

The Thirteen performs Mystic. 7:30 p.m. At Virginia Theological Seminary, Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria. The Thirteen, under the direction of Artistic Director Matthew Robertson, explores humanity's search for the divine across time and space in their upcoming concert Mystic. Mystic is organized in a series of vignettes. It begins with the medieval melodies of Hildegard von Bingen then enters the mystical cathedrals of the post-war Europe with the works of Estonian composer Arvo. Tickets may be purchased at www.TheThirteenChoir.org. Tickets will be available at the door of the concert, if the concert is not sold out. Tickets are \$35, \$30 if purchased in advance. Discounts are available at www.TheThirteenChoir.org.



Arts on the Horizon presents "By the Seashore" from March 20 to April 4.

"By the Seashore"

March 20 to April 4, Wednesdays thru Saturdays, 10 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. At the Convergence Main Building, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. "By the Seashore" takes us on a magical journey to a place children love to visit — the beach! Young audience members are invited to explore all the amazing things we find on the shore, in the ocean, and in the sky; from birds and fish, to sand and water, and everything in-between. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers. Tickets are \$8. Discounts for groups and active duty military families are available. Purchase tickets here: <http://www.artsonthehorizon.org/by-the-seashore-2020> or call 571-549-1270.

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For Sale	Legals
For Sale: Conference room table w/6 chairs, executive desks, executive chairs, bookcases, file cabinets, white boards, end tables, wood kitchen table w/6 chairs, map cabinet, and more. Contact Tom, 703-299-4050, to view all items.	PUBLIC NOTICE AT&T proposes to replace an existing 25' wooden utility pole with a new 35' wooden utility pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 39.3' at 6354 Pima Street, Alexandria, VA (20200126). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.
For Rent	Legals
LUXURY CONDO - RESORT LIVING. 2BR,- 2BA, 1305 sq ft. close to Old Town, 24/7 gated security, garage, shuttle to Metro, 37 wooded acres, pools, fitness center, café, market, beautician, bowling, dances, lectures, movies, \$2200, 703-226-9796, wfbg47@gmail.com	PUBLIC NOTICE AT&T proposes to replace an existing 29.4' wood light pole with a new 37.5' wood light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 39' at 3316 Montrose Ave, Alexandria, VA (20200085). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.
Legals	
Dr. Lawrence Singer's dental office located at 809 Cameron St., Alexandria, VA 22314 will be closing March 25, 2020. To request a copy of your records, email info@dcsmls.com	
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	

Employment

PART TIME POSITION

Local Old Town political advertising firm looking for a part-time person to assist in the finance department. Bookkeeping and some work in Quick Books. Job will run March through November. Weekly hours will vary from 15 to 30 hours a week.

Casual working environment.

For details please write:

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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

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 Monday, March 9, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

A PUBLIC HEARING on the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2021 (including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) for FY2021-2030 (including the Schools CIP). Adoption is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. A public hearing on the ordinance establishing the Real Property Tax Rate will be held Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED DOCKET WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. GLORIA A. SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Employment

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Obituary

Obituary



Keith Fitzalan Mulrooney, 87, a life-long public servant and longtime resident of Alexandria, Virginia, died peacefully with his family around him February 14, 2020. Born and raised in Los Angeles, CA, he graduated from Stanford University with a BA in History and later received a master's in public administration from the University of Southern California.

After serving proudly as 2nd Lieutenant in the US Marine Corps, he began a career in city management. He worked as Assistant City Manager of Pomona, CA and as City Manager of Claremont, CA, as well as Alexandria, VA. For more than 10 years he served as Executive Director for the American Society for Public Administration and was later nominated as Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. He also worked for President George H. W. Bush as a presidential appointee in the Federal Highway Administration.

He began running at the age of 43, completing his first of 6 marathons in his mid-60s. His passion for environmental conservation led to more than a decade of service to The Nature Conservancy. He was a lifelong ambassador of Stanford University, particularly, Stanford in Washington. With his perpetual drive for learning and a deep love of history, he became an avid world traveler, travelling to more than 80 countries.

Family was first to Keith, and he was known as "Bopa" to his grandchildren. He is survived by his three children: Michèle, Jill, and Scott, their spouses and his five grandchildren. He was predeceased by both his first wife of roughly 40 years, Monica Kaufmann and his second wife of 10 years, Catherine Mitchell.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to: The Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (checks made payable to: The Nature Conservancy with VA Chapter written in the memo line, and sent to: The Nature Conservancy, 652 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 190, Charlottesville, VA 22911) or the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (checks made payable to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, with the Keith F. Mulrooney Memorial Scholarship written in the memo line, and sent to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, 3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302).

Obituary

Obituary

ERA NELL HENSON ("DIT" GRIMES)



Born in Daleville, AL on July 10, 1929, went to be with the Lord at age 90 on February 14, 2020 in Hiram, GA.

The 6th of 7 children, she was a beautiful child who grew up to be a gorgeous, wise, graceful, Christian woman. The family moved to Wauchula, FL when she was in 4th grade. She was chosen to be cheerleader in Wauchula High School, memories of fun, which she cherished. At 15, she started pre-flight training airplanes in Avon Park, FL. After high school graduation, with the savings she earned, she moved to Washington, DC, with her sister, Elna Moore and family. While working in DC on White House Stationary Embossing, she met and married Carl C. Henson, Jr in 1950. They raised their family in the Mt Vernon area of Alexandria, VA. Nell went on to work as a Sales Associate at a Department Store in the Jewelry department, a Legal Secretary, a public school Cafeteria "Lunch Lady", helped to run a joint-family fishing/camping business in TN, and last, after moving to Panama City, FL, a Caregiver for babies.

at Lynn Haven Daycare. Stricken with Crohn's Disease for the last 60 years, which led to many illnesses, she fought a courageous fight. Kidney Disease ultimately took her life since dialysis wasn't an option. She stayed strong until the end, never using a cane or walker. She always told us, "I can do it myself". And she did. Her love of our Lord Jesus Christ, all Birds and Flowers, was apparent to all who knew her. She founded "The Women's Christian Circle" and hungered for The Word, as she studied in depth. A keeper of traditions, passing down family recipes, and starting her own traditions, our family will continue to honor them, in her name.

Era Nell Henson is survived by her 3 children, Melinda (Nelson) Lackey, Sandy Henson, Chris Henson. Also survived by 5 grandchildren, Tiana (Gary) Wise, Katrina (Daniel) Quackenbush, Melina (Jay) Washington, Whitney (Anthony) Lackey, George Lackey. 6 Great Grandchildren, Austin, Elijah, Cayden, Jaxon, Sarah Marie, EraNell, Ethan (deceased). Survived by 1 sister, Faye Hanusch. Predeceased by her parents, Otto B. Grimes and Julia B. Grimes, her husband Carl C. Henson Jr., siblings Kathryn Grimes, Elna Moore, Fred Grimes, Ray Grimes and Murry Grimes. Survived by 5 Nieces, Gail, Brenda, Patty, Beverly, Deborah and Lisa Marie. 8 Nephews, Gary M., Lance, Bob, Gary H., Michael, David, Tom, Rick, Kendall, Keith, Patrick and Andrew. A viewing was held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellen Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315, Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 10AM until time of service at 11AM. Interment followed at Mt. Comfort Cemetery, 6600 S. Kings Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22306.

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City of Alexandria FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

A summary of the City of Alexandria's proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget is set out below.

A summary of the City of Alexandria's proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget is set out below.

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the City of Alexandria. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Persons wishing to speak on the proposed budget may sign up prior to the public hearing by calling the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550. Presenters are requested to provide a copy of their text to the City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

Persons with disabilities who wish to request an accommodation for this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550 (TTY/TDD (703) 838-5056) prior to March 9, 2020, if possible.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2021

	General Fund FY 2021	All Funds FY 2021	Capital Improvements FY 2021
City Council	\$704,232	\$704,232	
City Manager	\$2,479,517	\$2,479,517	\$105,000
City Attorney	\$3,308,966	\$3,308,966	\$15,000
City Clerk and Clerk of Council	\$428,385	\$428,385	
18th Circuit Court	\$1,586,667	\$1,586,667	
18th General District Court	\$153,888	\$153,888	
Clerk of the Circuit Court	\$1,777,881	\$1,842,881	
Commonwealth's Attorney	\$3,146,932	\$3,514,374	
Court Service Unit	\$1,643,022	\$1,769,011	
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court	\$87,574	\$87,574	
Other Criminal and Justice Services	\$4,476,128	\$4,660,305	
Registrar of Voters	\$1,471,980	\$1,471,980	
Sheriff	\$34,074,601	\$35,074,056	
Finance	\$13,062,935	\$13,970,159	\$2,528,819
General Services	\$11,401,073	\$11,639,573	\$21,905,071
Human Rights	\$952,479	\$994,701	
Information Technology Services	\$12,958,287	\$13,455,535	\$16,658,200
Internal Audit	\$448,277	\$448,277	
Management and Budget	\$1,373,224	\$1,373,224	\$868,537
General Fund Debt Service (City)	\$37,288,071	\$37,288,071	
Debt Services (ACPS)	\$28,578,698	\$28,578,698	
Non-Departmental - Contingent Reserve	\$1,584,278	\$1,584,278	
Non-Departmental - Insurance, Memberships, Other	\$13,026,211	\$14,026,211	
Human Resources	\$4,262,186	\$4,262,186	
Communications & Public Information	\$1,696,388	\$1,696,388	
Office of Organizational Excellence	\$152,429	\$152,429	
Performance and Accountability	\$523,759	\$523,759	
Fire	\$54,202,797	\$57,232,846	\$611,924
Code Administration	\$24,000	\$8,617,653	\$50,000
Emergency Communications	\$9,057,522	\$9,178,650	
Police	\$65,554,364	\$68,306,285	
Health	\$7,267,764	\$7,342,873	
Community and Human Services	\$55,113,807	\$100,876,971	\$25,000
Other Health Activities	\$1,335,495	\$1,335,495	
Housing	\$7,572,593	\$11,583,249	\$9,600,000
Economic Development Activities	\$6,976,390	\$6,976,390	
Project Implementation	\$0	\$1,594,281	\$34,208,120
Planning and Zoning	\$6,435,585	\$7,016,340	\$505,470
Historic Alexandria	\$3,830,921	\$4,679,244	\$422,212
Library	\$7,302,159	\$7,974,265	
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities	\$24,635,820	\$27,950,561	\$7,959,582
Transit Subsidies	\$38,782,049	\$49,554,567	
Transportation and Environmental Services	\$37,987,673	\$70,917,836	\$48,449,463
Other Educational Activities	\$16,009	\$16,009	
Schools	\$241,437,296	\$324,659,118	\$198,801,600
General Fund Cash Capital	\$49,746,735	\$49,746,735	
GRAND TOTAL	\$799,927,047	\$1,002,634,693	\$342,713,998

Any person desiring to review the proposed budget may visit the City's website (alexandriava.gov/budget) or visit City Hall, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3400, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PROPERTY TAXES

The proposed budget includes an increase of \$0.02 cents in the real property tax rate from \$1.13 to \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed valuation based upon an assessment ratio of 100% fair market value. It should be noted that City Council will set the maximum tax rate to be advertised at its March 10, 2020 meeting, at 7:00 pm in City Council Chambers and that Council may not adopt a rate that exceeds this tax rate, but may adopt an equal or lesser tax rate. The proposed budget includes no change in the current motor vehicle personal property tax rate of \$5.33 per \$100 of assessed value. All other personal property tax rates, including vehicles specially equipped to transport persons with disabilities, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$3.55 per \$100 of assessed value; Business tangible property, including office furniture, fixtures, computers and unlicensed vehicles are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.75 per \$100 of assessed value and machinery and tools are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.50 per \$100 of assessed value; Privately owned boats and water craft that are used for recreational purposes only are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value, are unchanged. The amount of real estate tax rate dedicated for affordable housing and to support existing debt service related to affordable housing is 0.6 cents.

Useless Is As Useless Doesn't Have To Do

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



It began years ago when technology enabled many public bathrooms to change to hands-free. Other than the obvious hands-on responsibilities, many of the other elements no longer required any touching. Be it the paper-towel dispenser, the hand dryer, the hot and cold/on and off functions in the sinks, and of course, the urinal and toilet flushing functions. All providing a convenience never before possible. Other than an automatic entry/exit function for the bathroom door, and one as well on the inside for the stalls themselves, using many public bathrooms has become much less involved, shall we say, than ever before. And it has not stopped there. It has gone public in a very big way.

Driving, specifically through tolls, that is. Thanks to EZ-Pass, tolls or rather interacting with them by having to hand money over to a "toll collector," (or even to stop and toss money into a basket) has nearly been eliminated. Due to a device (transponder) attached to my licence plate, as me and my car approach the toll booth, I simply go about my normal driving business with nary a worry in the world. I steer into the dedicated EZ-Pass lane at a bit less than the posted speed, and ding!, as I drive through the toll booth, the toll is paid. No fuss, no muss, no window roll-down and no scrambling for change or digging for dollars. What's done is done so long as the yellow light illuminates and "paid" appears. (Although if what's done isn't done, you'll soon receive a paper bill in the mail at the address on file.)

Metro, our local public conveyor, also provides a hands-free or very nearly hands-free experience. If you have a plastic "Metro card" linked to their system, all you need do as you enter the turnstyle is tap your card and go. No more standing in line at the "Fare"/"Add Fare" kiosks to load your card with money to start or end your journey. As with your EZ-Pass, once you sign up and link your Metro card to a credit/debit card, you are "In Like Flint," as some of us from a certain generation might say. Henceforth, your card is automatically updated to always provide sufficient dollars for this trip and any subsequent trips to make sense.

Now imagine if I had a "smart phone." How many more functions/people-free interactions might I enjoy with a tap, a scan or a wave? Unfortunately, I have what my wife, Dina calls a "stupid phone." That's a flip phone with no internet access. As such, I am cut off from an evolving world. A world in which I'll likely not have to interact with anybody or reach into my pocket for anything resembling money. All I'll have to reach for is my "smart phone." I've seen its functionality at the airport in lieu of a paper ticket, on Amtrak, at concert venues and of course sports venues. It seems to help speed up the entry process.

I don't really don't want to be the last flip-phone-holding man standing. But neither do I want to get into a life-accident while negotiating the learning curve. At the moment, the road ahead seems full of twists and turns with more curves than I can possibly imagine. How do I negotiate something I can't see? Moreover, how do I negotiate the road less traveled, by me? Where will I draw the experience necessary to acclimate to these ever-changing signposts? I mean, the words may be familiar, but some of the context may be off putting and counterintuitive, to me.

I'm not a complete Bozo. I have partially integrated into this new world. I have had insurance and car payments automatically debited from my bank account for years. I have some over-the-counter medicines, supplements and a variety of cat-related care and feeding products automatically delivered to my home. However, sometimes I feel like a pinball (and I'm no wizard) without the bells and whistles banging around trying to stay on top of what product is debit/paid and when. Now that's a service I could use: an automated weekly reminder of what's happening when. And the beauty of it, I wouldn't need any new devices. I use what I always use: my home computer. Turn it on, click the email, open, read and then close. Even Bozo the clown could do that.

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

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OPINION

Follow the Money

FROM PAGE 9

While pre-K education and K-12 education are both critical, in order to train and prepare the workforce of the 21st century, we need a pipeline to higher education for lower-income Virginians. We also need to ensure that higher education is training the next generation for high demand jobs of the future. To create that pipeline, the Senate budget provides \$49.3 million the second year for a new "Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back" initiative, covering tuition, fees, and books for up to 24,000 students with a family income less than 200% of the federal poverty limit enrolled in coursework that will lead them into high demand job fields like health care, information technology, and skilled trades.

As a renter living on the Yellow and Blue Lines, the issue of affordable housing in our region is an ever-present concern of mine and of many of our neighbors. The issue continues to strain our region, and I'm glad the proposed budget addresses this reality. The stock of committed and market affordable housing in Northern Virginia has steadily decreased over the last ten years as our population continues to climb.

The Virginia Housing Trust Fund, a relatively new program in Virginia, is finally beginning to receive necessary funding. This year the Senate's proposed budget finally takes a bold step in addressing housing development by proposing \$46 million over the two-year biennium for the Fund.

I am glad that a number of amendments I offered are included in the Senate budget. Among them are funding for nonprofit organizations that provide immigration legal and social services to low-income immigrant victims of crime, including victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and child abuse. This funding will support Ayuda — a legal and social service nonprofit that served over 1,000 northern Virginians last year.

My request to fund additional wage theft investigators in the Department of Labor and Industry, currently woefully understaffed led to the Senate budget funding a 10 additional investigators — there are currently only four to cover the entire state.

The Senate also agreed to my proposal to include one-time funding for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial — an educational monument planned to be completed in 2020 on the original site of the infamous Occoquan Workhouse. The workhouse was the site of the sequestration and torture of suffragettes, who sacrificed their station and safety to fight for the right to vote.

The budget includes \$55 million to fund Alexandria's Combined Sewer Overflow System overhaul. This will ensure that ratepayers in Alexandria will suffer less financial impact as the \$400 million project to see that all of the city's wastewater is properly treated progresses.

While politicians often espouse their support for any number of programs: If you want to know someone's priorities, follow the money. I look forward to proving Democrats support for the priorities we ran on in the 2019 elections.

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MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/29/20.

**FREE
BATTERY CHECK-UP**

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

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TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

NEW HOURS SPECIAL!

**DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM
WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE
12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.**

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150

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ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors
& drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE

10% OFF YOUR FIRST SERVICE

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Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

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TRUESTART™ BATTERIES



\$129⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,

24 month free roadside assistance.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM

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

#WeAreAlexandria



Rosemont Park | \$1,375,000

Prominent Alexandria artist designed and expanded this sweet house. Sun-splashed kitchen with vaulted ceilings and breakfast area, 5 bedrooms and 4 baths. Expansive private garden, hardscape patio and cool shed/studio. Walk to Metro. HayesWoodHomes.com
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737



Alexandria City | \$1,650,000

Spectacular 5-bedroom home with top-of-the-line designer finishes. Open floor plan with floor-to-ceiling windows that provide an abundance of light and views of the beautiful landscaping. High ceilings, gorgeous stone fireplace, finished lower level, and 2-car garage.
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.laurenbishophomes.com



OPEN SUN 3/1, 1-4

Virginia Village | \$688,000

Grab your keys & checkbook! Just listed, this charming 2-bedroom, 2 bath, 3-level townhome, circa 1939, is tucked in an enclave of 83 brick & stone north Old Town residences offering an Old English village vibe. Deep garden with off-street parking. 1314 Michigan Ave.
Ann Duff 703.965.8700
www.AnnDuff.com



Rosemont | \$1,325,000

Gracious home featuring 7 bedrooms and 4 full baths in an ideal location. Just a few blocks to King Street or Braddock Metro stops. Spacious private rear yard professionally landscaped. Fully finished basement with full kitchen, and outside entrance.
Sarah King 703.864.5050
www.SarahEKing.com



We're excited to sponsor the **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's Fun Dog Show** for the Ballyshaners 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade – and our furry friends agree!

Join us! Register your dog today at AlexandriaAnimals.org/DogShow2020



Old Town \$2,195,000

Located in the desirable southeast quadrant, this Backyard Boats property makes large scale entertaining a breeze. The oversized two-car garage and private elevator to all four levels of this home provide convenience and comfort not commonly found in Old Town.
 723 S Union Street

Sissy Zimmerman 703.989.9779
www.BBZGroup.com



OPEN SAT 2/29 & SUN 3/1, 2-4

Hunting Creek \$700,000

Just Listed! Fabulously freshened with new stainless steel appliances, paint and carpet. 2 bedrooms with en-suites, walk out from dining room to Trex deck, and walk out basement with powder room. Hardwood floors. Open Leap Day weekend! 807 Green Street

Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941
www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



OPEN FRI 5-7 AND SAT & SUN 2-4

Brighton Place \$629,000

Immaculate, bright, spacious & conveniently located 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhome with garage, gourmet kitchen, master bath with soaking tub & separate shower, hardwood floors throughout, fenced rear yard with fabulous hardscapes, plantings & 2 patios. 2724 Kenwood Avenue

Sean McEneaney 703.635.8836
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009

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