

Progressive Prosecutors Lobby for Justice

Commonwealth's Attorneys from Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax join forces to press for reform.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Democrats ended the General Assembly session earlier this year having failed to achieve their campaign promises on criminal justice reform. Aside from decriminalizing marijuana, the rest of the agenda was a bust. Mandatory minimum sentences remain on the books. People convicted of marijuana possession are still unable to expunge their records. Commonwealth's attorney's still can't set aside prosecutions for defendants who deserve a second chance.

When the General Assembly session ended in March, advocates were disappointed and Democrats were pointing fingers. Senate Democrats blamed House Democrats for dragging their feet. Progressive lawmakers blamed conservative prosecutors for using their association to block reform.

"We found ourselves at loggerheads with the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys," said state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). "As we proposed some of these new ideas we found some support from some new people who were elected."

Enter the Progressive Prosecutors for Justice, the newly created group that includes Commonwealth's Attorneys from Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax as well as eight other jurisdictions. As lawmakers prepare to return to Richmond for a special session on criminal justice reform, this group of like-minded prosecutors will be pushing for a package of bills that does not have the backing of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys.

"I think they realized that 11 likeminded people can come to a decision a lot quicker and more in line with their thinking than 120 individual elected people," said Fluvanna Commonwealth's Attorney Jeff Haislip, president of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys. "I don't think it's a sleight at VACA. I think they have a like mind on these issues, and they want to make sure they're heard."

CLEARING THE RECORD of old criminal charges was one of the issues that caused friction between Senate Democrats and House Democrats. Some of the cases were easy, like expunging the record of misdemeanor drug convictions. Others proved more challenging, like proving that someone was a victim of sex trafficking in an effort to expunge the record. Ultimately, lawmakers decided to study the issue more and left



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria courthouse in Old Town Alexandria.



Steve Descano



Parisa Dehghani-Tafti



Bryan Porter

town without taking action. Now it's at the top of the agenda for the Progressive Prosecutors for Justice.

"You could still have a situation in which there is still some record maintained somewhere by the courts," said Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter. "But their public criminal record would be expunged or sealed so they don't have barriers to education, barriers to employment or barriers to housing."

House and Senate Democrats remain divided on how to approach the issue. House Democrats are focused on a system of automatic expungements for certain crimes, preventing defendants from jumping through a series of hoops to clear their record after five years. Senate Democrats want to make sure judges are able to exercise discretion, potentially preventing sex offenders from having their records unnecessarily cleared. With the special session only a few weeks away, Democrats remained divided on the best solution.

"I wouldn't want the perfect solution to be the enemy of the good," said Porter. "If we can find a way to allow people who have faithfully discharged whatever sentence

they have received for an offense and have become contributing members of society, it seems to me there ought be a way for them to have their records officially cleared."

DEFERRED DISPOSITION might sound like a wonky reform effort, but it's probably one of the most simple and easily understood proposals on the legislative agenda for the progressive prosecutors. Essentially, the idea is that courts are able to set aside convictions for defendants who deserve a second chance. In a technical sense, the disposition of the cases is deferred until the defendant is able to successfully complete a probationary period. In a practical sense, it's a way for people who have made stupid mistakes to get back on track.

"That proposal is a clear message to judges that they have the authority to delay imposing a conviction in order to give a person a chance to mitigate the harm that they've done," said Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti. "It's a way for us to push pause and offer real opportunities for rehabilitation and fairness."

Currently, judges are able to defer disposi-

tion in cases involving possession of drugs or trespass. Earlier this year, a bill by Del. Mike Mullin (D-93) and Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25) added shoplifting to that list. Senate Democrats are pressing for a change to the law that would do away with the limited number of crimes where defendants could get deferred distortion. If the proposal makes it out of the special session, defendants could work with judges to set aside charges for crimes like reckless driving, assault and drunk driving.

"Not every social ill should be a crime," said Dehghani-Tafti. "Not every crime should result in punishment that involves incarceration, and not every punishment should be so long and so onerous that it leaves no room for rehabilitation."

SOMETIMES JUDGES push back against prosecutors who want to dismiss charges. In the last year, that's happened in courtrooms in Arlington and Norfolk, where judges rejected efforts by prosecutors to set aside misdemeanor drug charges. That's led to some frustration among Commonwealth's Attorneys, who are elected by voters rather than appointed to their position like judges. One of the items on the legislative agenda for the Progressive Prosecutors for Justice is for the General Assembly to clarify what kind of discretion they can exercise in the courtroom.

"The only actor in the criminal justice system that is directly accountable to the people, the Commonwealth's Attorney, had the duty to bring the values of the community into the courthouse," said Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano, who also clashed with judges after his election last year. "The way that we do that is through our prosecutorial discretion in terms of how we deal with cases that come across our desks."

Sometimes tension between prosecutors and judges happen when Commonwealth's Attorneys change their approach. That's what happened in Norfolk, where Commonwealth's Attorney Greg Underwood decided to stop prosecuting misdemeanor marijuana possession charges and the circuit court bench announced they wouldn't be going along with the program. Tensions have also been high in Arlington, where judges demanded written explanations for each individual charge Dehghani-Tafti wanted to set aside. Descano says that kind of behavior undermines a bedrock principle of justice.

"Over the last few years, as more and more communities have elected reform-minded prosecutors, we're seeing more and more judges around the state ignore that and look for loopholes in the law to try to thwart their Commonwealth's Attorneys and therefore thwart the will of the people," said Descano.

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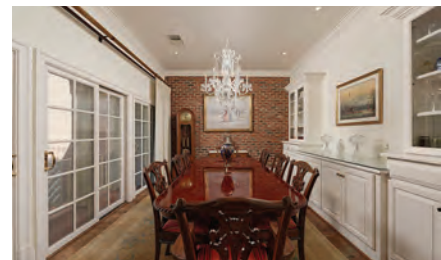
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Voice or Vandalism?

Students place bedsheets over T.C. Williams marquee, demand renaming.

BY BRIDGETTE
ADU-WADIER
GAZETTE PACKET

The growing controversy over the name of Alexandria's high school has led to a cover-up. But it's not school officials who are spearheading the coverup; it's students demanding School Board members ditch the name of the segregationist superintendent.

Last week, seven students used bed sheets to cover up the marquee at T.C. Williams High School to protest the Alexandria School Board's lack of direct action to change the name of the high school. Unlike the Fairfax County School Board, which recently ditched the name of a Confederate general at one of its high schools, Alexandria School Board members decided to begin a lengthy community engagement process.

"It should not take this long to change the name," said Fina Osei-Owusu, a senior who's been an active campaigner to hasten the renaming process. "I've heard a lot of people say that it's going to take forever to change the name and it would be a really long process ... Honestly, I think it's just an excuse."

Students hope to press this issue, repeating the cover-up over and over again until School Board members take action. The marquee was covered up again the following Thursday by community leaders. Students and their supporters plan to continue covering up the sign several times a week until the name is changed.

THE MARQUEE became a flashpoint last week, when a small group of students wanted to draw attention to how much slower things were going in Alexandria. With administrative support from T.C. Williams Principal Peter Balas and chaperone supervision, the students draped bed sheets over the school's marquee sign on King Street. Last week, administration officials told adult chaperones supervising the incident that covering the sign technically counts as vandalism.

"The adult chaperones of the student protest were informed in advance that students would face no legal consequences, police involvement, or school disciplinary actions by holding their protest as they had notified the school in advance," said Balas in a written statement. "However, what actually transpired during the protest turned out to be different from what



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG HITTELMAN

Some of the students campaigning to rename T.C. Williams, from bottom to top and left to right: Fina Osei-Owusu, Sarah Devendorf, Reese DuPont, Anaïs Joubert, Nikolai Kosinski, Ali Smith and Leah Devendorf.

was discussed with the adult chaperones in advance. The chaperones and organizers had been advised that any action to cover the marquee could be seen as defacing public property."

Administrators told chaperones via text to have the students hold up the covering in front of the sign instead. Glenn Hopkins, who attended the event, said that wasn't an option.

"We were not there to tell them what to do," said Hopkins, CEO of a prominent Alexandria nonprofit. "Community leaders were there to protect the kids. Everybody had masks on. There was no threat. I wrote the administration; they knew what was going to happen."

TENSIONS MOUNTED as Julia Burgos, chief of school and community relations, appeared at the scene and asked the students to stop. That led to a confrontation between one of the students, Ali Smith, and Burgos that was later posted to Facebook and YouTube. The students ignored the administration and covered the sign anyway. The coverings weren't removed.

When Smith asked Burgos if she would be arrested for covering the sign, Burgos said no. However, Burgos insisted that it would cross boundaries and allow for vandalism of school property.

"She said that it would be worse for the administration or something," said Smith. "But from my understanding, I was just putting up the tarp to raise awareness to the citizens of Alexandria."

School Board members and Alexandria City Public Schools administrators received emails about the covering of the sign, including calls for law enforcement. "Where and why hasn't any of our city officials come forward to help to work with you to enforce the law against vandalism at T.C.?" said Carmelita Suarez, an Alexandrian of African-American and Hispanic heritage. "Has Alexandria now become a city of complete lawlessness where anyone can do anything they want, like to drape sheets over the T.C. Williams school street sign, whenever they feel like it? I would hope and think that is not the case."

Osei-Owusu left the event frustrated and offended. She was the only student of color who went to protest. She grew irritated by the white students speaking on issues she felt didn't directly impact them.

ALTHOUGH THE CAMPAIGN to rename the high school is led by students of color, Black and brown students did not turn out to cover the sign. According to Hopkins, who reached out to students, they were afraid of

possible disciplinary action.

"If those were African-American students putting the sheets on there, I guarantee you the police officers would have been there," said Osei-Owusu. "And that just shows the white savior mentality. They [white students] needed to be there to help social justice and change T.C. If you really want to change T.C., tell your Black and brown students to take AP classes. ... Let's not forget that these people take part in the hostile environment."

On the other hand, Hopkins has no regrets about the incident or what happened with Burgos.

"What she meant was they should say what the administration wants them to say, in the way the administration wants them to say when the administration wants them to say it," said Hopkins. "She made that clear in the video and that is troublesome for me. It is against what you asked for, which is to involve and engage young people in this discussion, but clearly you don't want to hear their voices. You only want them to hear what you want them to say. And that is not democracy."

When asked for comments about the covering of the sign and the administration's community engagement process, Burgos did not respond.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students draped bed sheets over the T.C. Williams marquee this past Wednesday. The marquee was also covered the following Thursday to urge the School Board to take a more progressive, decisive approach to changing the name of the high school.



Pearl visits the AWLA for a regular checkup before returning to a foster caregiver's home.



Foster Care Coordinator Elena Carver provides a first round of preventive medicine to a kitten during a routine checkup at the shelter.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF AWLA

It's Raining Cats! Kitten Season Is Here.

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

Sylvia Gethicker and her daughter, Sylvia Landis, thought they were all prepared for the skinny gray tabby cat they were fostering at their Alexandria home to deliver her litter of kittens in May. They had put together the “Cadillac” of beds for her, a comfy canvas castle tucked away in a small bedroom. The birth was expected in one or two weeks.

But Gethicker was walking around the block at lunchtime not long after the cat's arrival when Landis came running toward her, with her hands in the air. “Mom,” she said, “Gracie's having her kittens on the couch!”

At the same time, in other foster homes around the area, kittens were spending their days jumping in boxes, climbing on curtains, napping, grooming and chasing balls and tails, all part of their journey toward adoption.

Welcome to kitten season.

Kitten season is the time of year — beginning in spring and tapering off in late fall — when the majority of kittens are born, says Elena Carver, Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) Foster Care Coordinator. The majority of kittens come from stray cats who birth their litters outside, often in backyards, crawl spaces and sheds. “If the mother cat is nearby, we advise people to leave them alone, as she generally provides the best care for really young kittens, but if they look unhealthy or cold, we need to intervene,” Carver said.

Kittens must be spayed or neutered before adoption, and they must reach a weight of 2.5 pounds before having that surgery, said Carver. So it's up to her and Foster Care Coordinator Kimberly Weillnau to quickly match them up with foster caregivers who can see them through their early days. About 180 individuals and families now serve as fosters for many types of animals for the AWLA,



AWLA's Erin Short (left) and Elena Carver provide care to kittens Taco and Tuesday, brought in for a checkup by their foster caregiver.

some specializing in caring for homeless kittens. “It's extremely rewarding work,” Carver said. “You can take a tiny baby and raise it into an independent creature that can become someone's cherished pet.”

And the AWLA has once again seen a cascade of kittens this season. Some kittens come in as newborns with their mothers, others all alone. Doka, for instance, was only two weeks old when she was brought in from an Alexandria construction site.

Taco and Tuesday were about 10 days old when a citizen transported them from a backyard where no mother was in sight. The brown, striped kittens seemed healthy except that an examination showed their fur to contain a type of lice specific to cats. Carver

put out a call for a foster willing to take the kittens on and treat them for the parasites, and Martina Cotton of Lorton stepped up.

Tiny Taco and Tuesday needed plenty of attention from Cotton, an immigration lawyer who has been working from home. Less than two weeks old, the kittens required bottle feeding every three hours, round the clock. And every other day Cotton had to give the kittens a special bath to combat the lice. As they grew, Taco and Tuesday were all kitten, playing hard for five or 10 minutes at a time, sleeping for an hour, and then repeating, Cotton said.

Cotton housed the kittens in a spare bedroom to separate them from her two pet cats, but her very large German shepherd/boxer

Soft Landings for Kittens

Most kittens receive the best level of care from their own mothers, and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria wants to make sure they have the opportunity to stay with their mothers to grow healthy and strong. If you find kittens who appear ill or obviously abandoned, please contact the AWLA at (703) 746-4774 for guidance on whether they need help and how to provide it. Kittens available for adoption can be viewed at Alexandria-Animals.org/Adopt. To schedule an adoption meeting, go to Alexandria-Animals.org/Adopt-By-Appointment.

mix Ginger just couldn't stay away. Ginger has been a doting mother to the dozens of foster cats and kittens who have shared her home, grooming them and cuddling with them. “After bottle feedings, Ginger would clean the milk off Taco and Tuesday's faces,” Cotton said.

Some foster kittens need some creative intervention from the AWLA. A brown-and-black tabby kitten named Bluejay was craving feline companionship at her foster home after her mother weaned her. At the same time, Goodall, the tiniest member of a litter of six kittens named for conservationists, staying with foster Carolyn Healy, was underweight and not quite ready to move on for adoption with her litter mates. Carver decided Bluejay and Goodall should meet. Foster caregiver Jo Kang picked Goodall up at the shelter and brought her home to meet Bluejay.

“Goodall was a little bigger than Bluejay

SEE IT'S RAINING CATS!, PAGE 10
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PET GAZETTE

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Lucy, granddog of Janet Barnett



In loving memory of Sunny, 2004-2020, granddog of Janet Barnett.

Edna and Louie Karapetyan prepare to take a ride.



MORE
PET GAZETTE,
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First Principal of Parker-Gray School

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

Mr. Henry T. White was the first Principal of Parker-Gray School in 1920. His journey to that position was long and difficult. Henry was born during the turbulent years of the civil war. He was born in 1863 in Chatham, Virginia, on Judge George Gilmer's plantation, where he and his parents were enslaved.

After the civil war, his mother celebrated their freedom by enrolling her children in school. The school was founded for the freedmen's children and their parents. His teacher, Ms. Tucker was a white teacher from Pennsylvania. He attended that school from 1868 until a public school was established around 1872.

Henry was eager to get an education but his parents needed every child in their household to work. He attended the public school during the winter, and was the "water boy" for the railroad workers or rolled tobacco in Pritchett's tobacco factory during the summer. His father would come to collect his wages on payday just as the master collected his father's wages prior to the civil war. Henry had a break when his mother's uncle, Walter McNorton visited them from Montgomery, Virginia. His great-uncle noticed that Henry was gifted and given the right education, he would excel.

Walter persuaded the parents to let Henry come and stay with him in Christiansburg, Virginia, so his great-nephew would attend Christiansburg Normal Institute. At age 14, Henry went to Christiansburg. He completed his program at the age of 17. From Christiansburg, Virginia, he went to Meridian Hill in Washington, D.C., to attend Wayland Seminary, a school founded by the American Baptist Home Missionary Society for training teachers and preachers in the rural areas of Virginia and elsewhere. He graduated in 1883 and passed the teacher's examination in the same year.

His first teaching position was at Pulaski City, Virginia, where he had eighty students. The



Mr. Henry T. White at Parker-Gray School with students circa 1920.

next year, he landed a position in Prince William County, Virginia. In 1888, Henry and his wife, Marcella got teaching positions in Bedford, Virginia. With the birth of their first child, the cousin of Henry's wife encouraged them to come to Alexandria, Virginia.

Upon arrival, Henry found out that there were no vacancies in the Alexandria schools. He got a position at a school in Spring Bank, Fairfax County, where he remained for 12 years. Henry said in his unpublished autobiography, "For five of those 12 years, I walked four miles round trip to the Spring Bank School to teach an afternoon Sunday school for adults as well as children."

After that, there was a vacancy in the Alexandria schools and he was hired as a teacher in the Snowden School for boys. He taught at Snowden for eight years, and then he went back to Fairfax County for four years. While he was teaching at Fairfax School system, a vacancy for principal at Hallowell School for

Girls was announced. He got the position and became the first male principal of Hallowell School for Girls.

The Alexandria Colored community, teachers and leaders advocated for a coed public school. In 1920, the doors opened at Parker-Gray School for colored children. Mr. Henry T. White was selected by the school board to be the principal. Henry had come a long way to get to this point in his career. From slavery, he became an educator and then a principal. When he retired from the school system in June 1934, he had taught for fifty-one years.

Henry's 97-year old granddaughter, Dorothy Malson Smith gave me his unpublished memoir in 2011. Dorothy made her home in Madison, Alabama.

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

Alexandria Arts & Culture Needs Grant Funds Now

Arts & Culture are an integral part of our social fabric, economic vitality and quality of life here in the City of Alexandria. Our local arts organizations and artists contribute to the lifeblood of our community through art, music, theater, dance, literary arts, and arts education. They are now threatened by the Coronavirus Pandemic, and many people within the arts are facing economic devastation. It is important that these organizations are able to continue to be a part of our community family when this crisis is finally over.

One way the City can help ensure that the arts survive this horrific historical crisis is by immediately expediting FY21 City of Alexandria Arts Grant funds. We, the Alexandria Arts Alliance, in support of our city's arts organizations and artists that applied for funds in May, ask that the grant funds already in the budget not be delayed as planned by the Office of the Arts, but be

expedited and used toward operating funds that can be allocated immediately. This funding is needed now to help our arts organizations, artists, and staff members survive and ultimately thrive post-COVID-19. Our neighboring jurisdictions of Arlington and Fairfax counties have already allocated grant funds to the arts in response to COVID-19. Similar emergency funds have also been established and granted through the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Arts & Culture is a \$111.8 million industry in Alexandria supporting 2,628 full-time equivalent jobs, generating over \$56 million in household income to local residents, providing \$7.5 million in local and state government revenue and educating our children to compete in the 21st century (Arts and Economic Prosperity 5, Americans for the Arts, 2017).

Just as the City has stood beside our small businesses, the Alexandria Arts Alliance asks Mayor Wilson, City Council, the City Manager,

the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and City staff to support the arts community by releasing arts grant funds now, so that we can continue contributing to the diverse culture, economic vitality and social connectedness of our community.

Melinda Kernc
President, Alexandria Arts Alliance

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LETTERS

Why the New Flooding?

A letter to Yon Lambert, Director, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services is shared with the Gazette Packet.

I am a lifelong resident of Alexandria. I moved to Old Town with my parents when I was eight. I have lived in my house with my husband since 1974. It's located near the intersection of S. Pitt Street and Gibbon Street. We had a major flood on July 8, 2019 and slightly more than a year later on July 23, 2020..

Both times the first floor of our house was flooded. We have only a crawl space and it fills with water when the city's drains can't take the water away fast enough. Last year, we had about 4 inches in our entire first floor. Luckily, we have flood insurance and we were compensated for all the repairs. This year the water level in the house was minimal but still the water filled the crawl space and some water did come up through the floor. We have filed another claim and we will have to have our flooring removed and replaced once again. In addition, last year, my car was totaled and other residents on this block lost both cars this year due to the floods.

A little history might be helpful. Our first flood was in 1976 – water came up through the floor as well as under the doors. We were able to mop up and dry out. That was when we purchased flood insurance. It happened again in the early 80's but I don't recall the exact year and the water covered the entire first floor by a couple inches. After it receded, we once again mopped up and dried out. We chose not to file an insurance claim. After that, every heavy storm made us very anxious. We had a 'flood plan' to raise our furniture and take up the rugs.

About 15 years ago, the City undertook a major project on S. Pitt and Gibbon Streets to increase the size of the drains. After that, the water flowed away remarkably well and we stopped being anxious with every heavy rain. Until last year. That was around 35 years without a severe flood, by which I mean one that got into our house. I know others in the vicinity also suffered during those years.

I want to know what has happened in the last two years to cause this. Perhaps it's partly climate change with more and heavier rains. But I think it's more than that. Are all the drains that take the water wherever it's supposed to go (the river?) fully open? Has all the recent construction along the river

clogged or covered the drains in some way? Are the drains clogged with debris or other materials? Something has definitely changed.

We need answers and corrective action.

Ann S Liddle
Alexandria

Change the Name

To the Editor:

I have no doubt, were I to ask any member of the Alexandria City Public Schools Board or the Superintendent if they thought the name T.C. Williams was a good choice for our high school, they would say no, it isn't.

The problem is, for a variety of reasons both public and, no doubt, private, they have not chosen to act on that view. The name remains because the action the members of the School Board took on July 10th was not to remove the name, but instead to commission a report that "considers" a process to possibly, though not definitely, rename the City's only public high school to honor someone other than the racist after whom it is now named. That may be a legitimate position, but one with which I respectfully and vociferously disagree.

Students see what adults do more than they hear what adults say. When adults ask for input but then threaten punishment for speaking out; when adults are willing to break promises, particularly to people of color; when adults tolerate racism because it's inconvenient or expensive, these young people know. They see. They believe. So, while T.C. Williams is just a name, it is also a symbol no smaller than the statue of the confederate soldier on Prince Street was. In fact, it is a more powerful one because they see and say it almost daily.

I have been a professional and civic advocate for nearly three decades. While the report idea may not have been a deliberate stalling tactic, it nonetheless has now become the prevailing reason for inaction. Over the coming months, as we wait for the commissioned report, the conversation about changing the name of our high school will, no doubt, move from the subject of morality and ethics to budget.

We know now, with certainty, that the spring budget conversations will be intensely complex and difficult given the economic impact of the pandemic on city and state revenues. So again, deliberate or not, the debate will certainly shift. And, to be sure, with the passage of time as we wait for the

Superintendent's report, the current interest and drive to address inequity and system racism in our school district will wane.

I was a child in the DC suburbs in the summers of 1967, 1968, and 1969 when there were protests and fires in the name of civil rights. Luckily for me, my life has always included beloved people of color. If anyone had told that little girl that 50 years later, she would be still fighting for such basic justice, she would likely have disbelieved or been miserably depressed. She had hope. She believed the world would change and she could change it. She still does.

The School Board can, with very little time invested, change the world for our students. They can agree now to drop the name. They can put meaningful action behind their words. Then, the conversation in the spring will not be about whether to change the name but about what the new name will be. Students can joyfully engage in creating the future and help turn the page, instead of risk their futures for a fight the adults should have solved decades before they were born.

I sincerely hope they do with all due speed.

Julie Jakopic
Alexandria

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PET GAZETTE



Pliny the Elder relaxes in his comfy Toasty Cat bed. This 5-year-old feline lives with Hope Nelson and Michael Pope



Let me introduce you to Scooby, our adorable Yorkie. We are celebrating his 12th birthday July 22. He loves riding in the car, chasing sand crabs on the beach and just being outside with us. He joined our family when my sons Alex and Chris were 15 and 11, respectively, and loves playing with them. In this photo, he was visiting Alex in DC and out for a hike in the park. We take him everywhere and he has stolen our hearts. Happy birthday, Scooby!

LYNN CHENG, ALEXANDRIA



Featured is Tilly, a retired Guiding Eyes for the Blind dog who “worked” for 6 years as a therapy dog (after retiring from Guide work) at a local special needs school, APTS. She often got visits and walks and time with the students, but she was definitely surprised by this student dressed up as a dog. But, she agreed to humor the unusual visitor! as she always did. She was owned and loved by the Vernon family. She often appeared in church with us, and was recognized on Veteran’s day for her Service work! She was a great dog and lived until May of this year, to the age of 14.

ANN AND JERRY VERNON



Rose, the black cat, and Cumin, belong to Gazette editor Mary Kimm. They are 8 years old. Rose was adopted from Lost Dog and Cat Rescue, and Cumin was adopted from PetConnect rescue.



Jeremiah, a neighbor cat from a few houses away, is frequently at our front door in the morning looking for our cat Cannoli



Our cat Cannoli sitting “guard” on a rock in front of our home in Alexandria.



This is Jeremiah, a neighbor cat from a few houses away, who enjoys hanging out in our yard



Cannoli, left and neighbor Jeremiah, are cat friends, greeting each other in the morning

Here are a few photos of my cat as well as a neighbor’s cat that has almost become our cat. And I include a few photos of a wild fox. While certainly not ours or anyone else’s pet, in the late spring, this fox and another young one, started frequently showing up in our yard, which is not far from Holmes Run Park. He would wander around the yard, play, sleep sometimes, they just sort of adopted our yard for a while. And they didn’t seem to mind that people were there as we would frequently just sit and watch them.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN MARQUIS



The fox did not seemed to be bothered by us and would walk around our yard while we were just sitting right there watching.



While technically not our pet, this fox from the Holmes Run Park, would frequently come into our yard to roam around, rest, he seemed quite comfortable around us, we named it Kit.



Reporter Mike Salmon and

Reporter Mike Salmon and his dog have spent a lot of time since the advent of Coronavirus in his home office hanging out together. “Around the Salmon house, The Cokester is the boss. The Cokester is a Maltipoo and he’s very smart. He barks when he wants a treat, and thinks he deserves one when he eats his bowl of food. His job is to tend to Mary Jane whose mobility is limited and she uses a walker to get around. And at 9 pm sharp, The Cokester knows it’s bedtime, and works on getting everybody upstairs. Being on the floor, he can’t see everything, so he likes it when I carry him around so he can see what’s going on.”



From Neal Denton: This is our 14yr old German Shorthaired Pointer, Dexter. We took a short visit to OBX and Dex loves an early morning sunrise.

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This is Dexter (the cat) and Kiki from Alexandria VA. Dexter was a foster cat in Richmond Va. Previously lived in a garage, without much social interaction. He is very talkative, so many folks didn’t quite want to live with him. However, Kiki fostered him in college and he won her heart, she adopted him. Oddly enough, he still talks, but not as much.



This is Lillie Knapp! She lives in Hollin Hall Village. Lillie was adopted from the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria 15 years ago with her sister Raven, who has since crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. She loves to cuddle in bed with her mom, lay on the back patio in the sunshine and eat “Greenies” treats every chance she gets! We love our Lillie.

JENNIFER KNAPP:



Here is a picture of my three papillons: Bucky (foreground), Dora (left), and Morgan (background). We make the trip to the Old Town Market every Saturday morning to buy fresh fruits and vegetables and visit with our doggie friends. The last stop is the dog park at Ford’s Landing for some rest and relaxation. Bucky is one year older than his sister, Dora. Morgan is the oldest and captain of the crew. We have a cat named Luna, 3 years old, keeping with the black and white theme.

DILLON AND SUSAN BOYER
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2020 ♦ 9

It's Raining Cats!

FROM PAGE 4
but also very friendly,” said Kang, of Alexandria. “Bluejay whined a little at first looking for her mom, but Goodall tolerated it well.” It wasn’t long before the kittens were sleeping together at night with Kang’s resident cats. And one of their favorite pastimes became swatting at the tail of Kang’s German shepherd. The dog apparently was cowed by the kittens.

For Gethicker and Landis, the fosters to new mother Gracie, the home birth turned them into midwives on the spot. Three gray kittens, two boys and a girl, were born to Gracie on their blanket-covered couch as the fosters wiped the kittens’ faces to stimulate breathing when needed. Mother Gracie began nursing them right away, Gethicker said, and later the four became content to stay in the “castle” in the bedroom.

Gethicker took the kittens to the shelter every two weeks for wellness checks and the necessary shots. Finally, in July, Gethicker transported them back to the shelter to be made available for adoption. “It’s a lot of fun, very rewarding work,” said Gethicker, who has



Gracie and her litter, safe and comfortable in the foster home of Sylvia Gethicker and Sylvia Landis.

fostered dozens of kittens. “Gracie was a great mom — and at least she didn’t decide to have the kittens in the middle of the night.”

❖❖❖

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization that operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria’s only open-access animal shelter. In response to the global

pandemic, the AWLA has initiated a virtual adoption process that has seen adoption of dozens of pets and is operating a Pet Pantry that has provided more than 7,000 pounds of pet food and supplies. The AWLA also offers assistance to Alexandrians with questions about wildlife and animals in the community. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.



Foster kitten Tuesday face to face with her very large buddy, Ginger, at the home of foster caregiver Martina Cotton.



Taco and Tuesday, found abandoned in a backyard, get some TLC at the AWLA shelter during kitten season.

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BACKYARD HABITAT

Ponds are Popular in Backyards Around the Area

Sometimes a water garden provides the natural setting for fish, frogs, butterflies and birds.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

To Vineeta Anand, all the creatures that flock to her backyard pond are so familiar they're like pets to her, with the pond being the common bond. It's the center of the ecosystem she's created in her Alexandria backyard and a feature that's becoming more common in the area as the definition of a pet is getting as diverse as the population.

"The hummingbirds and Monarch butterflies have brought me so much comfort, I just go out and sit there and watch them," Anand said. "The foxes come for a visit, birds come down and drink from the pond," she said.

Inside her pond, there is a school of fish, frogs that aren't afraid to let out bellows right in front of her, and plants of all sorts that provide shade and oxygen for the water. "The plants are food for the fish," so she doesn't add any food, and this keeps the school wild, she said.

Although there's a big natural role for this feature in the yard, the pond does need a certain level of maintenance to keep everything in balance. There's a filtration pump and aerator, and a fountain that keeps the water oxygenated, and occasionally everything needs cleaning, including the lily pads. The duckweed that invades from time to time has to be removed, otherwise it will overgrow and fill the pond with plants. "It's a lot of work," she said, but with the pandemic outside her yard, the pond and all the creatures that live there are her escape. "I like to think of this as my slice of heaven," she said.

Lilypons Water Gardens, is a local company that specializes in these ponds, that they describe as a place to nourish the soul. They sell everything from a starter kit to plants, fish, snails, tub liners, waterfalls and filters, with prices that vary depending on the size of the pond and accessories.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Vineeta Anand enjoys the animals around her pond, and thinks of them as her pets.



In Springfield, this front yard pond was made entirely by the homeowner.

Putting in the Pond

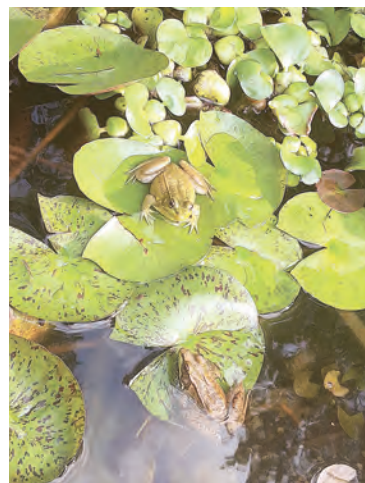
As with any home project, an expert can be hired to do it all and the homeowner only needs to write the check, but backyard ponds, there are a batch of do-it-yourself models too. Most consist of a plastic shell to hold the water, or digging a hole and then lining it with plastic to hold the water, and then putting rocks around it to hold the plastic. After that, the sky's the limit to the designs.

HomeBNC, a home beautification and creative organization, even has one that is built around an old truck tire, they call the Recycled Tractor Tire Pond, and it is basically a shallow hole for the tire, then cut the top of the tire off, fill in the middle, line with plastic, and fill with water.

Kirsten Conrad is a Agriculture Natural Resource Extension Agent for the Virginia Cooperative Extension in Arlington that works with the Master Gardeners, and she finds many gardeners incorporate a pond too. "It's a popular thing to do," she said. Conrad has worked with Anand to keep her backyard habitat a spot for wildlife in busy Alexandria, and likes the pond as well. Although it is a water structure, Conrad finds the mosquitoes don't seem to be a problem, that's when natural species take care of the situation. The fish and birds eat the larvae. "Natural organisms take control," she said, and Anand has the same feeling for nature around her yard.



This pond in a Hayfield backyard has an owl lurking that eats some of the wildlife.



These two frogs in Anand's pond are the perfect pets and even provide a sound track with their croaking.

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PET GAZETTE

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Don Edwards with Joey



Rhett enjoys a day at the pool with parents Claudia Cardenas and Dillion Johnson



Philip, Micki, Jack and Cooper with Bowman



Sue Kovalsky with Hops and Barley

APPETITE

Del Ray Boccato to Keep Mount Vernon Avenue Cool

BY HOPE NELSON

In the dog days of a pandemic summer, a new beacon of cold treats has begun to shine in Del Ray, its light getting brighter day by day prior to its opening in just a few weeks. Del Ray Boccato is nearly ready to offer up gelato, coffee drinks and savory snacks to the neighborhood and beyond, and owner Cristian Velasco is definitely eager to get started.

"I'm so excited. I feel like I've been born again with a lot of new energy," Velasco said. "I cannot wait until I scoop out my first flavor."

The café, which is located at 2400 Mount Vernon Avenue, is the culmination of a longtime desire to put down roots in Del Ray, Velasco said.

"I've had my eye on Del Ray for 10 years. ... When I like to drive around, I always like to drive back to Del Ray. It's like a beach town without a beach!" he exclaimed. "I love that little portion of Mount Vernon Avenue. ... It's a perfect



demographic location for people from Alexandria, Arlington (and) Arlandria."

So when one day he realized there was a space available directly on the avenue, Velasco jumped at the chance.

He sent an email to the owner "basically professing my love for Del Ray" and the owner responded favorably.

"So now we're here," he said.

And this certainly isn't Velasco's first time opening a gelato and espresso shop: He's the former owner of Boccato Gelato in Clarendon. The shop closed in 2018, leaving Velasco with plenty of time to pivot to a new location.

And there's another elephant in the room that Velasco wants to clear the air about: His business relationship, or lack thereof, with Rob Shelton, the controversial owner of King Street's Killer ESP. The two were one time business partners but went their separate ways a decade ago due to some differences of opinion about business philosophy.

Del Ray Boccato aims to open deliberately, growing its menu throughout the rest of the year. On the menu first: Homemade gelato, empanadas, coffee drinks and pastries.

One of Velasco's major points of pride is his gelato display.

"I make an effort to make it really beautiful. Every gelato is individually decorated with a lot of love," he said.

Of course, opening a new shop during a pandemic is a tenuous situation bringing up

some unusual issues to work through. One of the biggest for Del Ray Boccato is how precisely Velasco's team will be able to serve customers safely. To solve for this, the shop will be curbside and carry-out only when it opens, and as the region sees good news with a potential vaccine or treatment, he will reevaluate.

But in the meantime, Velasco is basking in the warm welcome he's received from Del Ray thus far and looking ahead to a grand opening. Del Ray Boccato is aiming to open its doors by the end of August or early September, he said.

"I've been approached by my neighbors, been approached by my business neighbors; they've been amazing," he said. "I think it's going to be a beautiful relationship for the future."

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware, and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To

volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive. **RSVP,** a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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Max Scherzer Signs Baseball for Women's Education Fundraiser

There is an opportunity to own a baseball signed by Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer with "2019 World Series Champs!" and at the same time support women's and girl's education. With the cancellation of McLean Branch AAUW's Used Book Sale, its annual charitable fundraiser, a substitute fundraiser will feature the Scherzer baseball opportunity along with a request for contributions to support education and local scholarships for women. In 2019 the proceeds of the book sale enabled the branch to fund scholarships for a woman returning to college at George Mason, Marymount, and Trinity universities and also support women's education through AAUW Funds, a 501(c)(3) entity.

Donors will get on base with a contribution of \$20 or more and also have the opportunity to hit a home

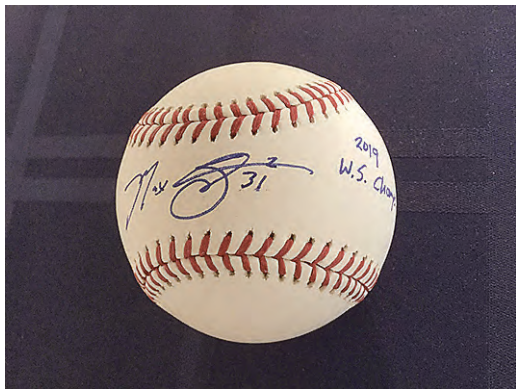
run and own the baseball signed by Max Scherzer. In fact, three donors will have the opportunity because Max graciously gave the branch three signed balls.

For each \$20 contribution, the person's name will be listed. Multiples of \$20 will enhance the opportunity, and the owners will be selected randomly.

Contributions can be made until Aug. 31 through GoFundMe at <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/aauw-mclean-areas-home-run-fundraiser-for-women-and-education>.

Donations may also be sent with full name, address, and phone number to McLean Branch AAUW (American Association of University Women) at P.O. Box 1002, McLean, VA

22101. A receipt will be sent for each contribution. The \$40,000 goal will enable the branch to fund the scholarships and AAUW fellowships and grants as in the past. Last year's book sale netted \$47,000.



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

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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

Wait. What?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Thyroid cancer." Again? I thought the point of last week's surgical biopsy was to genetically-sequence a lung cancer tumor. Now you tell me the radiologist/pathologist found more thyroid cancer. As it already has happened, my oncologist - in coordination with my endocrinologist, said that my most recent CT scan showed "excellent results" (from my previous thyroid cancer treatment - which ended with radioiodine therapy), and furthermore noted that the thyroid cancer was confined to my neck. Yet a few weeks later, the thyroid cancer is back in my lungs. What happened? Or more importantly perhaps, what didn't happen?

Well, if I understand what my oncologist said to us over the phone on Wednesday, disappointing as it initially sounded, it might not be at all bad. Apparently, the dose of radioiodine (nuclear medicine) I received had been modified (reduced) due to my pre-existing kidney function issue. Since this modification was not a "normal" dose, it didn't locate all the thyroid cancer tumors; the smaller ones, that is, so the presumption was that all the thyroid cancer had been found, identified and eliminated. Until last week's biopsy found otherwise. What does it all mean? I'll try to explain, although I'm sure I'll get lost in the science somewhere.

I still have two types of cancer: non small cell lung cancer and papillary thyroid cancer. However, I may have thyroid cancer in the lungs which actually may be better than having lung cancer in the lungs. The reason being: papillary thyroid cancer is curable whereas non small cell lung cancer is not (it is treatable though). Moreover, thyroid cancer is slow-growing and at present, so small that there may not be any treatment to follow. To learn more definitively what is happening in my body, I'm scheduled for a PET scan this week and then another surgical biopsy the following week. This time the biopsy will be a lung biopsy. This will get tissue from within the lung (a bit of a lung-collapsing risk), not from the periphery (the lymph nodes). Presumably, this biopsy will provide some clarity.

According to my oncologist, I have a dozen or so tumors in my lungs, some of which may be thyroid cancer. Unfortunately, it's not practical or prudent to biopsy all of them so a complete assessment will not be possible. Therefore, an educated guess will have to be made: continue to treat the lung cancer with immunotherapy or not, and/or only treat the thyroid cancer which given its small size and slow-growing nature wouldn't require any treatment - for now. And might not for years.

But if there are more tumors that are lung cancer - which the doctors can't confirm, and I'm not receiving any treatment for them (because of the thyroid cancer diagnosis), won't my lung cancer tumors grow? And since one medicine doesn't work against two types of cancer, I may not be receiving treatment for the cancer that's really active and receiving treatment for the cancer that is not active. And the only way to find out what types of cancer exist is to biopsy each and every tumor - which is not going to happen. As my oncologist said in response to our characterization of this damned if I don't and damned if I do scenario as being very complicated: "Mr. Lourie has always been a complicated patient."

As I review this column and reconsider what my oncologist has advised going forward, it's not only complicated, it's confusing and a bit disorienting. What exactly do I have and what are the risks, and more importantly: what is my life expectancy? Nevertheless, as my oncologist said: "I'm glad we did this biopsy." Me, too.

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

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 12

or phone at 703-746-4687.
 Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com
 Arts and Crafts Festival. Volunteers are needed on June 10 to help with the event including: greet and check-in vendors, children's area, clean up and tear down and beer tent. Shifts are available between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org/ for more.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children's learning.

❖ Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.

❖ Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit www.novasecondsaturday.com for more.

ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program.

The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

Thrift and Gift Shop. Fridays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (except Christmas and Easter) at Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Shop for quality bargains in clothing for adults and children, jewelry, books, toys, housewares, collectibles, objet d'art, and more. Open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. except Christmas and Easter. Donations accepted during open hours. Call 703 998-6166.

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\$24⁹⁵

NON-SYNTHETIC

\$34⁹⁵

SYNTHETIC

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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

#WeAreAlexandria



Yacht Haven | \$1,397,000

Completely redesigned and reimagined custom contemporary where California and Florida meet in Alexandria! Open floor plan on the main level with stone gas fireplace, state-of-the-art kitchen with bar counter for casual dining. The master bedroom with custom bath overlooks a beautiful deck with koi pond and fire pit, leading to the outdoor kitchen and in-ground pool. Lower level family room with gas fireplace opens to a covered hot tub pavilion. The detached oversized garage offers a full bath for guests, and an enormous "party room" above!

Kate Patterson 703.627.2166

www.KatePattersonHomes.com



Beverly Hills | \$1,225,000

4-bedroom, 4-bath beautifully renovated home. Main level features an office, kitchen with island & Viking appliances. 4 beds/2 baths & laundry upstairs. Lower level features second laundry room, full bath & rec room. Patio & yard-great for entertaining! 3507 Halcyon Dr.

Jen Walker 703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SUN 8/2, 2-4PM

Old Town | \$899,500

Absolutely charming semi-detached townhouse, built in 1890 renovated and expanded in 1992. Separate staircase to private master suite, great family room with fireplace, gorgeous private garden and two Juliette balconies! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. 414 Gibbon Street

Robin Arnold 703.966.5457

www.RobinArnoldSells.com



OPEN SUN 8/2, 2-4PM

Hensley Estate | \$745,000

The home you've been waiting for on a quiet cul-de-sac! Updated kitchen opens to the family room with French doors to the brick patio. 3 bedrooms & 2 baths upstairs. Finished lower level with rec room, bedroom, full bath, & storage. 2-car garage. 8201 Hensley Court

Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941

www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



VIRTUAL OPEN FB LIVE! SAT 8/1, 11AM

Belle Haven Terrace | \$739,000

Rarely available! Perfection is in the details! 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath raised rambler with oversized 1-car garage, updated kitchen & baths, amazing lower level walk-out, partially finished with large full bath. Landscaped backyard patio. FB Live @ClemmerandSchuckHomes

Cindy Clemmer 703.966.0403

www.ClemmerandSchuck.com



VIRTUAL OPEN SAT 8/1, 11AM

Arlington | \$599,900

Charming 2 bedroom, 1 full bath detached Arlington home! Cozy living room with custom built-ins, hardwood flooring & wood-burning fireplace. Separate dining room. Crisp, white kitchen with tile backsplash. Sunroom overlooks flat fenced backyard. 5604 4th St S

Jen Walker 703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com



Port Royal | \$320,000

Enjoy the Potomac River and Capitol view from the balcony of this 10th floor one bedroom in Port Royal with off-street parking, a front desk, and an expansive roof-top sun deck. Walk to nearby waterfront bike path, tennis courts, groceries, shops & restaurants.

Charlene Schaper 703.217.3666

www.cschaper.com



OPEN SAT 8/1 & SUN 8/2, 1-3PM

Belle View | \$234,900

Light & bright top floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. All new stainless steel kitchen appliances, granite countertop, and new bath vanity & sink make this the perfect home. Fresh paint, an abundance of closet space, and wood floors. 1705 Belle View Blvd Unit B1

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