

# Budget in Transition

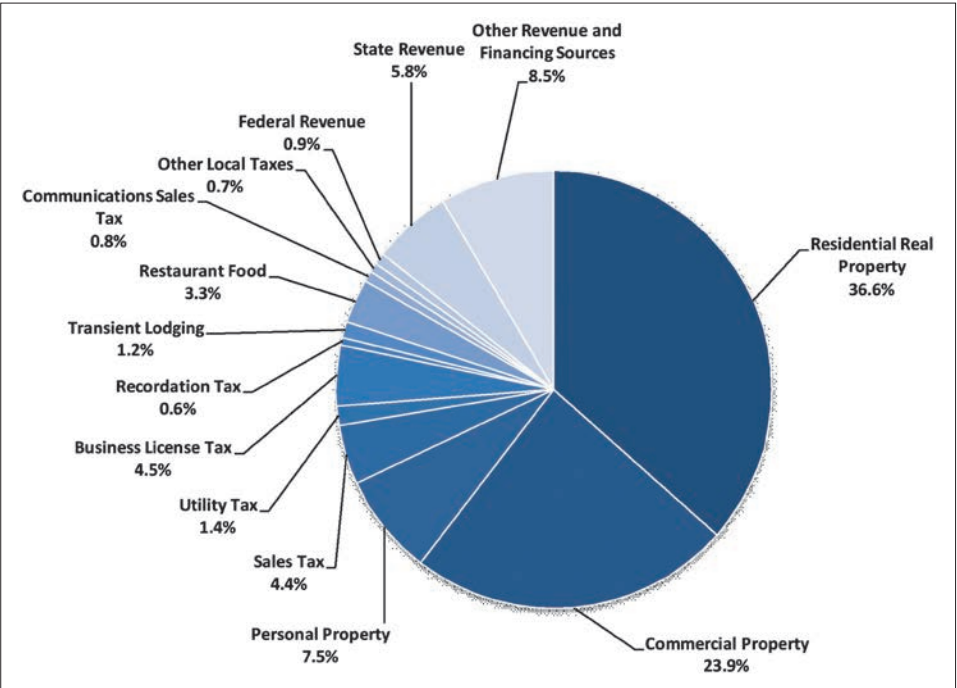
**\$881 million budget proposal unionizes firefighters, ditches Confederates, maintains tax rate.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Expenditures for the Alexandria Fire Department are expected to grow about 8 percent largely based on unionization of its workforce. The Department of Transportation and Environmental Services is setting aside \$60,000 to replace street signs currently celebrating Confederate military officials. And half a million dollars has been set aside in contingent reserves for City Council members to load up the budget with their proposals ahead of the May 3 deadline. But none of those things are likely the first question that will be asked about the budget proposal for fiscal year 2024.

“If everybody is being truthful, you’ll get the same answer from everyone,” said former City Councilman David Speck, who will be appearing on an Agenda Alexandria panel about the city budget next week. “What is the proposed tax rate?”

The city’s tax rate may be the only thing not in transition. The proposal is to keep it at \$1.110 for every \$100 of assessed value, which is the highest tax rate in the region.



ALEXANDRIA CITY GOVERNMENT

Most of Alexandria’s revenue comes from property taxes.

Because properties in the city continue to rise in value, that means the average residential tax bill is expected to increase by about \$450. That’s about 7 percent higher than last year’s bill. City Council members could choose to squeeze about \$200 million out of property owners if they end up going with the rate they voted to advertise earlier this month, which is \$1.115 for every \$100 of assessed value.

“The rate that property taxes are increasing is unsustainable,” said former City Councilman David Speck.

SEE \$881 MILLION BUDGET, PAGE 4

## Agenda Alexandria

At 7 pm on Monday, March 27 Agenda Alexandria will be holding a panel discussion at the Lyceum about the city’s budget proposal for fiscal year 2024. Panelists include:

- ❖ Budget Director Morgan Rountt
- ❖ former City Councilman David Speck
- ❖ former City Councilman Frank Fannon
- ❖ former School Board member Ronnie Campbell

for more information, visit [agendaalexandria.org](http://agendaalexandria.org)



PHOTO COURTESY ACP

Former ACPS Superintendent Alvin L. Crawley died in early March at the age of 64.

## Alvin Crawley Former ACPS superintendent dies at 64.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Alvin Crawley, former superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools and veteran leader in the education community, died in early March after a long illness. He was 64.

Crawley was named ACPS superintendent in February of 2014 following a four-month stint as the school system’s interim leader. He served until his departure in 2017 to teach graduate courses at George Mason University’s College of Education and Human Development.

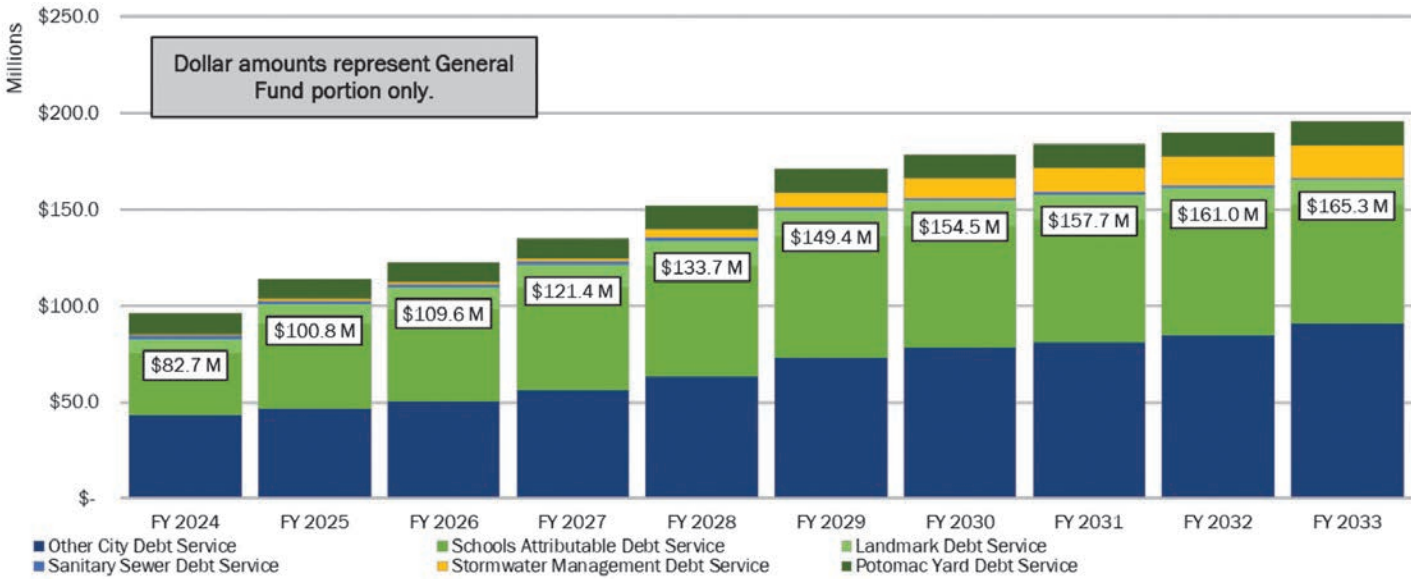
Crawley came to ACPS in 2013 from Prince Georges County, Md., where he had been interim superintendent. In Alexandria, he followed the abrupt departure of Morton Sherman, whose contract was bought out by ACPS two years before his contract was set to expire.

Sherman was the second consecutive superintendent whose contract was bought out by Alexandria. Rebecca Perry departed as superintendent in 2008 in the wake of an extended controversy over a drunken driving arrest.

Alvin Leonard Crawley was born Aug. 29, 1958, in Richmond to Ruby Lee and Laundry Crawley. He attended Hampton University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Speech-Language Pathology/Education in 1980

SEE FORMER ACPS, PAGE 4

### FY 2024 - 2033 Debt Service Attribution



ALEXANDRIA CITY GOVERNMENT

The city is taking on debt to fix its antiquated sewer system, solve persistent flooding issues, build new schools and redevelop Potomac Yard and Landmark.





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# NEWS

## James Bland Music Competition

Lions Club celebrates area musicians.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Winners of the James Bland Music Competition were celebrated at the Lyceum Feb. 19 as six participants were named winners by the host Lions Club and Lions of Virginia Bland Foundation.

Violinist Chole Lee was named the overall winner. Other competitors included Kate Liang, Clara Do, Mallory Liang, Kenneth Duong and Colleen Duggar.

"I look for what the music is saying and communicating with the audience," said judge Howard van der Sluis.

**"Once you get up there for an audience, you have to give everything you have."**

— Judge Osman Kivrak

Added fellow judge Osman Kivrak, "It's not just about accuracy, it's about excitement. Once you get up there for an audience, you have to give everything you have — you have to play with your body." The competition is traditionally held during Black History Month as a memorial to African-American musician and composer James Bland, who wrote traditional tunes such as "Oh Dem Golden Slippers" in 1879 and "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" in 1878. On hand to congratulate the winners were Sheriff Sean Casey and Mayor Justin Wilson. Under the sponsorship of the Lions organization, the Bland Foundation has been providing performing opportunities as well as scholarships to gifted music students, both vocal and instrumental, since 1948.

The purpose of the foundation is to promote cultural and educational opportunities for musically talented young people in Virginia.



James Bland Music Competition contestants (standing) Kate Liang, Clara Do, Mallory Liang, Kenneth Duong, (sitting) Chole Lee and Colleen Duggar pose for a photo at the competition celebration Feb. 19 at the Lyceum.



Competition winner Chole Lee sits with her mother Christine Lee with Lions Club host member Howard R. Jean, Sheriff Sean Casey and competition emcee and Lions Club member Jim Paige behind them following the James Bland Music Competition Feb. 19 at the Lyceum.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Students at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy hold checks representing more than \$8,000 raised for the benefit of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and King Street Cats. In back are Donna Eisenman of King Street Cats, Stella Hanly of AWLA and Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy principal Patricia Zizzios.

## Furmidable Fundraisers

LCTA donates \$8,400 to local animal shelters.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Students from Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy presented checks totaling \$8,400 to representatives from the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and King Street Cats at a presentation event March 10 at Lyles-Crouch.

The funds were raised as part of the school's annual Animal Benefit talent night along with other fundraising endeavors.

"Some of our students had lemonade stands, some students went to the farmers markets, some just went door to door to local businesses to randomly ask for donations," said Lyles-Crouch principal Patricia Zizzios. "They volunteered their time to put on the talent show itself, where students had to perform in front of 400 strangers. It took a lot of time and energy but it was a great success."

Lyles-Crouch began its partnership with AWLA in 2006

but the arrival of a new music teacher at the school in 2012 added the talent show and brought in King Street Cats as a partner beneficiary. This year each organization received a check for \$4,200.

"AWLA is thrilled and delighted to be a beneficiary of this benefit concert that Lyles-Crouch did," said AWLA executive director Stella Hanly. "This is a substantial amount of money and will go directly to our fund for veterinary bills."

Added Donna Eisenman of King Street Cats, "We are so honored to be the recipient of Lyles-Crouch school and the effort these children do for this talent show. The enthusiasm, their love of pets is so heartwarming. This provides us with funds to continue our mission, which is to have a safe haven for rescue cats until they find their home. King Street Cats is all-volunteer and the only no kill rescue in Alexandria for cats. This will go a long way to help feed and provide vet care and we cannot thank the school and Dr. Z. for all these years of her continuing support."

[www.kingstreetcats.org](http://www.kingstreetcats.org)  
[www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org)



Fire in 200 block of S. Fairfax Street.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## 2-Alarm House Fire Causes \$1.2M in Damages

On Wednesday, March 15, at approximately 12:30 p.m., Alexandria Fire Department units were dispatched to the 200 block of S. Fairfax Street for a residential building fire. Units arrived on scene and reported smoke and fire showing from the three-story structure, upgrading the incident to a second alarm. Units encountered heavy fire conditions inside the home and began an interior attack to extinguish the fire. One occupant was at home and evacuated at the time of the fire. First responders from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and Arlington, Fairfax and Prince George's counties also responded to the incident.

AFD's Fire Marshal's Office conducted an origin and cause investigation and determined the area of origin was a bedroom on the second floor. There was one smoke alarm in the home, but it did not activate at the time of the fire. The cause of the fire remains under

investigation as fire marshals continue to review the scene of the incident.

Two adult residents were displaced. Assistance from American Red Cross was not requested, and the residents made arrangements for relocation. No civilians were injured as a result of the house fire. Three firefighters sustained nonlife threatening injuries while responding to the incident, one being a burn injury. The residence was condemned due to fire and structural damage. The fire caused approximately \$1.2 million in damages, and the property value saved is an estimated \$607,469. The Alexandria Fire Department encourages residents to have working smoke alarms in their homes, to check them often, and change replaceable batteries as needed. You can arrange a smoke alarm installation for your single-family home by completing an online request form. <https://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/SmokeDetectorRequest>.

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ MARCH 23-29, 2023 ♦ 3



## OBITUARY

# Former ACPS Superintendent Dies at 64

FROM PAGE 1

and was a member of Phi Beta Sigma.

He studied special education at the University of Massachusetts Boston before earning a Master of Science in Speech and Hearing Science at Northeastern University, where he was a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society.

Crawley obtained a Doctor of Education in 1990 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst specializing in educational administration and supervision.

Crawley's career spanned 39 years, including time as a teacher, a speech-language pathologist, an administrator, an adjunct faculty member and superintendent. He joined ACPS in 2013 as the first Black superintendent in Alexandria.

Prior to coming to Alexandria, Crawley held top administrative jobs in Chicago and Boston, and he spent 17 years in the Arlington County school system, including as director of special education and assistant superintendent of student services.

He took over in Prince George's County during a leadership upheaval similar to that in Alexandria, stepping in after William R. Hite Jr.'s abrupt departure in September 2012. Previously, he had worked for six months as the deputy chief of programming in the office of special education of the D.C. public school system.

Crawley took the helm of ACPS when school performance was under scrutiny. At the time, Jefferson-Houston Elementary School had been targeted for a possible state takeover because of chronic low test performance, and four of the city's five middle schools were on track to lose their accred-



Alvin Crawley, then-ACPS superintendent, cuts a ribbon on Sept. 12, 2014, in the gym at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School, marking the opening of the new \$45 million school building. Crawley died in early March at the age of 64.

itation and be subject to similar sanctions.

Crawley helped design a plan to consolidate the city's five small middle schools into two larger schools, now George Washington Middle School and Francis C. Hammond Middle School. His move reversed some of the changes Sherman had put in place shortly after arriving in 2008.

Upon his retirement from ACPS, the School

Board praised Crawley for his leadership in increasing student achievement overall and narrowing the achievement gap on state assessments across all schools. He laid the foundation for an Early College Program in partnership with Northern Virginia Community College, revamped summer learning

opportunities and realigned the curriculum and instruction department (now known as the Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership). He was also responsible for launching ACPS 2020, a five-year division-wide strategic plan that integrated the work of the school division to help ACPS become more transparent and accountable.

"Dr. Crawley served as an admirable role model and champion for all children, and his contributions to the field of education and the school divisions he served are commendable," ACPS said in a statement.

Upon his hiring of Crawley, George Mason University Provost Mark Ginsberg described Crawley as "one of the most respected African-American school superintendents in the country."

Crawley retired from George Mason in 2020. He was predeceased by his parents, Laundry Crawley Sr. and Ruby Lee Crawley, and an older brother, Laundry Crawley Jr. Funeral arrangements are unknown at this time.



Alvin Crawley retired from teaching at George Mason University in 2020.



Alvin Crawley celebrating his birthday Aug. 29, 2020.

**"Dr. Crawley served as an admirable role model and champion for all children."**

— ACPS statement on former superintendent Alvin Crawley

## \$881 Million Budget Proposal Unionizes Firefighters, Ditches Confederates, Maintains Tax Rate

FROM PAGE 1

cilman Frank Fannon, who will also be a panelist at the March 27 panel discussion. "The biggest threat to affordable housing in Alexandria is the constant increase of property taxes."

**AS THE CITY GROWS**, it's also taking on debt — especially the school system. The debt service for Alexandria City Public Schools is expected to grow almost 40 percent, driven by major projects at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, George Mason Elementary School and the high school campus project. The city's debt service is expected to grow about 6 percent this year, driven partly by fixing the city's antiquated sewer system but also by redevelopment at Potomac Yard

**"The biggest threat to affordable housing in Alexandria is the constant increase of property taxes."**

— Frank Fannon, former member of the Alexandria City Council

and Landmark.

"We are not a mature city at this point, and we are still going through tremendous growth," said Alexandria resident Alan Shark, a professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason

University. "People are investing billions, so the amount that the city is proposing by way of debt is relatively small compared to the investments made in the private sector."

One limitation that City Council members have to deal with is a revenue stream that's heavily reliant on property taxes, which make up more than 75 percent of revenues for the city. Alexandria also receives some money from the federal government and the state government plus a steady stream of money from the meals tax, the admittance tax and the sales tax. One potential way to get new sources of revenue would be for the General Assembly to pass a new law allowing Alexandria to have an income tax.

"We are a wealthy community," said Speck. "And we don't capture that wealth with income-driven revenue."

**WHEN HE PRESENTED** his budget to City Council members late last month, Parajon emphasized that one of his goals in crafting the proposal was that viewed priorities through a lens of race and social equity. Part of that effort was an appendix titled "budget equity tool," which highlights a reduction of financial assistance to eligible residents through the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic. Perhaps the one that has grabbed the most attention is the \$60,000 to rename streets currently honoring Confederate insurrectionists who took up arms against the United States of America. "This is going to be a major inconvenience to every homeowner," said Fannon. "The only people who seem to be hung up on the Civil War these days are the current City Council."



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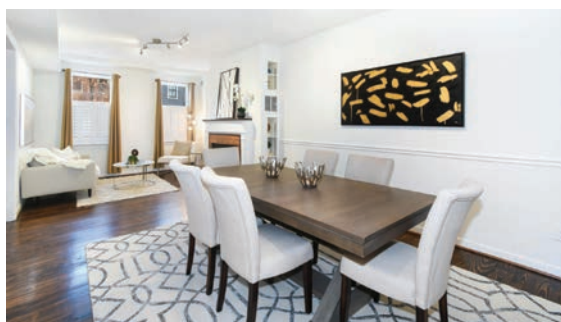


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# Local Chef Nominated for James Beard Award

Queen Mother's Restaurant in Arlington owned by chef Rock Harper, Alexandria native.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

James Beard-nominated Chef Rahman "Rock" Harper at Queen Mother's restaurant on Columbia Pike in Arlington.

Heat pure canola oil with frozen duck fat.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Chef Rahman "Rock" Harper is wedged in a communal kitchen space on Columbia Pike in Arlington between a woman making tres leche cake and a Ukrainian cook making cheese and potato pierogies. This is where Harper produces the "best chicken sandwich you have ever tasted" at Queen Mother's Restaurant.

Harper recently learned that he has been nominated for a James Beard award for best chef Mid-Atlantic region. He said, "I couldn't understand at the time. I was busy."

Today Harper is making "The Classic," the customer favorite, and his as well. Harper says he starts with the best premium chicken breasts you can find.

"I brine the skinless chicken breast in salt water with some seasonings and brown sugar. You can use white sugar but I like brown because of the slight molasses taste." He explains, "Brining is all about changing the meat. White meat is dry, so by osmosis, brining can retain more moisture."

Next Harper dips the chicken breast in seasoned flour and then in a little pickle juice mixed with water. Then press the chick-

en into a mixture of Sir Galahad artisanal flour, sea salt from Italy, fresh ground pepper, smoked paprika from Spain, garlic and onion powders, and a little bit of rice flour. "See how I press down on the chicken in the flour mixture to make it stick? Most people don't do that, and the mixture falls off." He adds that his grandmother used to use a paper bag.

Harper also keeps the seasoning flour cold. "I just gave you a little secret. I'm not science-y or anything. I don't know. I just think it has something to do with putting cold into hot."

Harper says he uses the rice flour to make the chicken light and crispy and so it absorbs less oil. "I don't want it greasy. No one wants that. I want it golden brown and delicious."

Today Harper is making the chicken extra special by using a cast iron skillet instead of the deep fryer he usually uses for the restaurant orders. "It's just better." Harper pours pure canola oil into the skillet, then adds two scoops of frozen duck fat to give it a rich flavor. He turns the heat up and waits a couple of minutes for the oil to warm up. Every so often he dips a food thermometer into the oil to test the temperature. "Hmmm 235 degrees. It's got to be 350 degrees. One of the big mistakes people

make is temperature."

The oil is bubbling, and Harper makes one last temperature check. He slips the seasoned chicken breast into the oil until it is submerged. "Five to six minutes." Harper will turn the chicken once even though it is covered with oil in the skillet. "Otherwise it would get a little brown on the bottom." He says no one wants medium rare chicken so he carefully monitors the internal temperature until it reaches 165 degrees, then removes the breast to a drip rack. "See, no grease." And he adds that he changes the oil often and doesn't use additives to keep the foam down or to extend the shelf life.

Harper butters each half of a Lyon brioche bun on a moving roller. "People think brioche is all the same but all brioche doesn't taste the same. This is the best. They should have a control designation like for champagne where you can only call it brioche if it meets certain high standards."

He arranges the chicken breast on the brioche and ribbons his secret sauce back and forth. "I can tell you the sauce has catsup and Japanese Kewpie mayo and some spices that we won't talk about." Then he adds several dill pickle slices to the top. "On mine there would be 6-8; I'm a big pickle fan."

Harper says he doesn't like to



Authentic brioche bun.

use eggs with his chicken breast to make the crust. "I don't like the eggy taste; it's just personal." He says he doesn't use buttermilk either, which adds dairy.

Harper says the concept behind his chicken is community, care and culture. "A lot of chefs have their stories but one thing I noticed you don't really see it reflected. You just hear the story; I said let's put it out front." He said he grew up in Alexandria and his mom was a big part of why he opened this restaurant, to create a space to honor his African-American culture.

But when he grew up fried chicken was a celebratory dish. The chicken he remembers from his childhood was not chicken sandwiches. "It was chicken on a budget. When you were feeding a whole family, you had to use the whole chicken. It was more efficient."

Harper is pleased to be recognized with the James Beard nomination but he says being a cook for over 25 years, recognition comes and goes. His past credentials in-

SEE LOCAL CHEF, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM





Press breast firmly into seasoned flour, then submerge chicken breast into canola plus duck fat.



Remove golden brown chicken breast after five-to-six minutes.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

## Local Chef Nominated For James Beard Award

FROM PAGE 6

clude winning in the third season of Hell's Kitchen, serving as Celebrity Chef to the March of Dimes and nomination for the RAMMY award in 2020 and 2021 as "Hottest New Sandwich Shop."

"It always feels good to be applauded. I feel good about the work I've done. But if I can show up as my authentic self and someone sees that, it's cool. But, he says,

"Awards are not the measure. The core values are for the guests and the employees." At one point the goal was to win all the awards. Now it is to do what is in his heart. "Seventeen years ago working at Union Station no one would even think about giving a black chef an award."

The James Beard nomination list will be narrowed down to the finalists on March 29 and the award announced in June.



Chef's special "the Classic," customer favorite.

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

**This notice is required by State law. The City Council has authorized a proposed real estate tax rate for advertising purposes of \$1.120 per \$100 of assessed value. The tax rate may not exceed \$1.120, it could be less, and it will not be set until May 3, 2023.**

The City of Alexandria proposes to increase the current property tax levies.

1. **Assessment Increase:** Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments for new construction, or improvement to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 2.56 percent.
2. **Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment:** The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$1.093 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."
3. **Effective Rate Increase:** Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2503 the City of Alexandria proposes to advertise a tax rate of \$1.120 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the advertised tax rate would be \$0.027 per \$100, or a 2.46 percent increase. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.
4. **Proposed Total Budget Increase:** Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Alexandria (including the General Fund and all Special Revenue grant funds and other sources) will exceed last year's by 4.3 percent.
5. The City proposes to continue an additional tax rate of \$0.20 per \$100 for all properties that have been classified in the Tier I Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Special Services District.

Free full text copies of this ordinance may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 301 King Street, Suite 2300, Alexandria, VA. A public hearing on the effective increase will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. The hearing shall be open to the public. The governing body shall provide persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the governing body.

### City Council Public Hearing:

The Webinar will open at 5:00 PM to allow individuals to join while the Public Hearing will begin at approximately 5:30 PM.

The April 25, 2023 Tax Rate Public Hearing Meeting of the Alexandria City Council is being held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) and electronically. Members of City Council and staff are participating either in person or from a remote location through a video conference call on Zoom. The meeting can be accessed by the public in the City Council chamber, through the live broadcast on the government channel 70, streaming on the City's website, and can be accessed via Zoom by the following link:

Registration link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yvgqB1jTtGk62hairK4Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yvgqB1jTtGk62hairK4Q)

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If you use the Zoom webinar application, please be sure you have updated the application to the latest version for best results. If you are unable to access Zoom, please use the Dial-In number to access the meeting. **\*\*\*PLEASE LOG-IN EARLY IF POSSIBLE.** If you wish to use Zoom to watch the meeting or to address Council, you must register first. The meeting will be webcast live and video and audio recordings will be available a few days after the meeting

### Speaker's Form: <https://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/2020-VIRTUAL-City-Council-Speakers-Form>

Those wishing to address Council should submit a Speaker's Form. Submission of written statements is encouraged. Please sign up after the docket is created and you are able to verify the meeting date on the City's website. If the docket is not posted, you will have to return at a later date to complete the speaker's form in order to speak at a Council meeting.

**Public Comment will be received at this meeting:** All persons wishing to speak before City Council must complete a Speaker's Form (see link above). If you have a prepared statement or written comments for the record, you may email it to the City Clerk at [gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov). Speakers are encouraged to submit their written comments to the City Clerk. When your name is called to speak, the Zoom host will prompt you to unmute your microphone. If you are participating via smartphone, press \*6 to mute/unmute your microphone. You will be called on by your name or the last 4 digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak. When you are finished speaking or at 3 minutes (whichever comes first), you will be muted again. If you would like to submit a written comment, you may use the "Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Input" form: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8b2db221c373425abdb4b9e200681ab8>

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the City Council meeting may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 703.746.4550 (TTY/TDD 838.5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made. City Council meetings are closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. Individuals requiring translation services should contact the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at [gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov) or at 703.746.4550. We request that you provide 24 to 48 hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made. Please specify the language for translation when you make the request.



# Winkler Preserve to Hear Campers Voices Again



First and second graders focus their senses on spotting critter camouflages in the “wiggle worm” program.

Third through fifth grade campers take a closer look at nature in the park as “outdoor explorers”.



NoVA Parks will be continuing Winkler's long standing tradition of past years, of offering summer camps for children.

## 2023 summer day camps offered.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE GAZETTE

Joining a dizzying number of summer camps in Virginia with almost as many different themes, Winkler Biological Preserve Park, in Alexandria, is offering day camps under the new management of the NOVA Parks system this summer.

The Winkler Preserve remains a hidden gem tucked within Alexandria City's Mark Center area. Winkler, previously a private conservation area which had a long history of hosting summer camps and other programs for children, was donated to the NOVA Parks system in October 2022. This will be the park system's first opportunity to offer summer day camps, similar to those offered at its Hemlock and Meadowlark Park locations. Superintendent of park operations, Blythe Russian says, “the biggest selling point of our summer camps is the quality. We are able to provide high quality specialty programming due to our dedicat-

ed and knowledgeable staffing, counselor to camper ratio, beautiful and unique facilities, and the small camp size. This lends itself well to our day campers having unique and meaningful experiences.”

Children will have the option of half or full day camps at a counselor to camper ratio of one to nine. There is no overnight option, however, children will learn camping skills for possible use at other overnight camping locations within the system. Whether one becomes an overnight camper or not, learning and practicing orienteering and survival skills, including making friction fires, has basic life utility for emergencies.

NOVA Park's program team has put together two groups of activities.: Wiggle Worm and Outdoor Explorers. The first, for first and second graders, seeks to focus on using one's senses to explore the natural world and learn how wildlife uses senses to survive and thrive. Campers learn to heighten hearing skills to find song birds, identify natural objects through touch alone, and spot camouflaged critters. Outdoor explor-



Beautiful in every season, Winkler Biological Preserve will be welcoming children to day camp programs this summer for the first time under management of NOVA Parks.

ers, for third through fifth graders, will seek out basic natural elements of the park, art in nature, the local ecology, and learn new outdoor skills. Both programs are likely to create appreciation of nature and the outdoors that will influence a lifetime.

The Winkler Botanical Preserve also offers monthly family programs, including

scouts merit badge programs, specialty naturalist, and arts and crafts programs. A calendar of events is available at <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/winkler-botanical-preserve/events>. A volunteer program is in progress of being established for those you would like to assist with work in the park.

## Arlington/Alexandria Environmental Briefs

### E-CARE

E-CARE, Arlington's twice annual environmentally friendly drop-off event, returns on Saturday, April 15, at Wakefield High School, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents can safely and quickly dispose of household hazardous materials and old electronics. For more details and a list of what is accepted, visit the County website at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Recycling-and-Trash/Household-Hazardous-Materials-HHM/E-CARE>.

The event is for Arlington residents only and no commercial waste will be accepted. Materials accepted include: Automotive fluids, Batteries, Car care products, Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), Corrosives (acids/caustics), Fire extinguishers, Flammable solvents, Fluorescent tubes, Fuels/petroleum products, Household cleaners, Lawn and garden chemicals, Mercury, Paint products (25-can limit), Photographic chemicals, Poisons (pesticides), Printer ink/toner cartridges, Propane gas cylinders (small hand-

held or larger) and Swimming pool chemicals.

### Spring Artful Weekend

at Fort C.F. Smith Park  
Showcases Local Artists  
Where: Fort C.F. Smith Park  
2411 24th St N, Arlington, VA 22207

Show Hours: Friday, April 14, 2023, 4pm-8pm, Opening Reception 6pm-8pm

Show hours: Saturday, April 15, 2023, 10am-6pm

Show hours: Sunday, April 16,

2023, 10am-4pm

The Arlington Artists Alliance returns to the historic Hendry House at Fort C.F. Smith Park for “Spring Artful Weekend.”

This show is a perennial favorite in the Arlington community, drawing hundreds of visitors annually. Spring Artful Weekend features artwork by 30+ Arlington Artists Alliance members and has been an annual show for the Arlington-based arts collective for over 20 years. With a large variety of art genres to choose from—paintings, ceramics, jewelry, sculp-

ture, glasswork, artist's cards, and more—this show is perfect to kick-off Spring. This event is free and open to the public.

The Arlington Artists Alliance and Gallery Underground are supported in part by Arlington County through Arlington Cultural Affairs, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, Amazon, the National Landing BID, JBG Smith, and Sotheby's.

Visit <http://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org>



# CELEBRATE



Acting ACPS superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt, center, poses with students in celebration of Essential Workers Appreciation week March 14 at Patrick Henry Elementary School.



A Patrick Henry Elementary School student thanks Officer Benny Evans for his service during Essentials Workers appreciation day March 14 at Patrick Henry Elementary School

## Thank You

### ACPS students celebrate Essential Workers.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Students at Patrick Henry Elementary School greeted and thanked workers from bus drivers to custodians to first responders as part of the second annual Essential Workers Appreciation Week celebration event March 14 at the elementary school.

"All of our essential workers play vital roles that enable ACPS to deliver quality and equity-focused education for all of our students," said ACPS Interim Superintendent Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt. "Our essential workers are truly extraordinary and serve as an inspiration to all of our students."

A banner signed by Patrick Henry students was on display to show appreciation for essential workers as kindergarten students dressed in special vests representing a variety of essential worker professions.

"I love the kids," said bus driver Aneesah Ali. "You have to love driving in order to drive children and I have had as many as 85 at one time. I love my job."

Added Pat Morgan, a custodian at Samuel Tucker Elementary School, "I love dealing with the kids. And if it were not for the kids, we wouldn't have our jobs."

The City of Alexandria issued a proclamation in 2022 to designate the third week of March to celebrate the city's essential workers.

"We started this event last year and are keeping it a tradition," said Julia Burgos, ACPS chief of school and community relations.



Fourth graders at Patrick Henry Elementary School present an appreciation gift to bus driver Aneesah Ali.

**"We want to celebrate with not only our typical essential workers but also the essential workers here in our schools as well."**

— ACPS communications director Julia Burgos

lations. "Yesterday marked the three-year anniversary when we closed schools. We had so many people that served as essential workers, not just the typical essential workers that you would normally think, like fire, the police, the health care workers, but our



Patrick Henry Elementary School Principal Ingrid Bynum stands with essential workers at the March 14 program honoring their work.

school staff that also participated and joined in the effort during the pandemic."

Kay-Wyatt was joined by Patrick Henry K-8 School Principal Ingrid Bynum, ACPS School Board members and student representatives, Alexandria City Council members, Life Enrichment Center President Kevin Turpin and representatives from the Alexandria PTA Council in thanking the teachers, healthcare professionals, firefighters, police officers, bus drivers, custodians, building engineers and other professionals attending the event.

"We had bus drivers that were tempera-

ture screeners, while building engineers and cafeteria workers prepared food for our families to make sure students ate even though they were not in school," Burgos added. "And of course let's not forget teachers. They are also essential workers and our nurses that helped with vaccine distribution. So many of our school staff played a role during the pandemic and people don't typically see them as essential workers. We want to celebrate with not only our typical essential workers but also the essential workers here in our schools as well."



## NEWS

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PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

## ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club presented its Athlete of the Month awards March 15 at the Old Dominion Boat Club. Receiving awards are (front): Livi Eveges, Lacrosse (Recreation Department); Ryan Quaid, hockey (Bishop Ireton); Jacob Middel, swimming (Bishop Ireton); Kullen Robinson, basketball (ACHS) – Tommy Ennis Memorial Award. Back row: Brian Donegan, Alexandria Lacrosse coach; Bud Mayo, "Godfather of lacrosse;" Tyrone Sally, ACHS basketball coach; Anthony DiCarlo, BI hockey coach; and Jerry Whitmire, ASC president.

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# Alexandria Symphony Presents Rite Of Spring & Grieg Piano Concerto

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will present its season finale entitled *Awaken*, on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center.

The program opens with *Mojito con saoco* by Cuban composer Guido López-Gavilán. López-Gavilán was commissioned to write an overture by the Cuban American Youth Orchestra as a gift from CAYO to the city of Havana in honor of its 500th anniversary. The world premiere debuted in May 2019 prepared by ASO's Music Director James Ross.

Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* was commissioned as one of three ballet scores for the 1913 season of the Ballets Russe. While its premiere created nothing short of a riot — complete with vegetables thrown at the musicians and dancers — today it is considered one of symphonic music's most significant works. Stravinsky's combination of complex rhythm, dissonance and Russian folk elements influenced later 20th century composers. It is frequently recorded and performed both with and without dancers; ASO's April performance features only the music.

"There are so many ways of thinking about the *Rite of Spring*," says Maestro James Ross. "I'm asking myself, 'What am I willing to lose to allow my future to thrive? What needs to go and what does that expulsion sound like?' Stravinsky dreamed of an ancient tribal ritual. I hear a renewed future calling to us bracingly through notes that are still hard to predict even 110 years after they were penned."

Edvard Grieg's only completed piano concerto will culminate the program. Among his earliest



Natalia Kazaryan.

## AWAKEN

RITE OF SPRING & GRIEG CONCERTO- *Awaken*

James Ross, Music Director

Natalia Kazaryan, piano

LÓPEZ-GAVILÁN: *Mojito con saoco*

STRAVINSKY: *Rite of Spring*

GRIEG: *Concerto for Piano in A minor*

Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center

<https://alexsym.org/performance/stravinsky-grieg/>

compositions, the composer incorporated motifs from his native Norway; its main theme has made it one of the most recognized and performed in the piano repertoire.

Internationally renowned pianist Natalia Kazaryan will bring this passionate and unforgettable work to life. Kazaryan is dedicated to giving equal platform to female composers in her public appearances and notably curated and performed a recital of all women composers at the Smithsonian Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. A frequent collaborator with members of the National Symphony Orchestra, Kazaryan often appears at the Kennedy Center's Millen-

nium Stage and in partnership with the orchestra's performances at Howard University. She holds an adjunct piano faculty position at Howard University, is a board member of the International Alliance for Women in Music and co-founded the Washington Arts Ensemble.

Adult prices for single tickets start at \$20, and all tickets for youth are priced at \$5, making ASO concerts affordable for families. Military, senior and group discounts are also available in select sections. This is a one-night-only event, so book your tickets early. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call (703) 548-0885 for more information.

PHOTO BY JOE ALISA

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## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/MARCH 30

2023 General Assembly Breakfast. 8-10 a.m. At The Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King Street, Alexandria. Presented by Transurban, \$50/members; \$60/non-members. Featuring Sen. Dick Saslaw, Sen. George Barker, Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Charniele Herring and Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker.

### FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit [fcsvanow@gmail.com](mailto:fcsvanow@gmail.com) or [www.FCSVA.org](http://www.FCSVA.org). Or call 703-817-9890.

### LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and

September-October. For more information, visit the web site [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. [www.volunteerallexandria.org](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org)

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

NOVA PARKS

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[novaparks.com/CampWinkler](http://novaparks.com/CampWinkler)



# Family Caregivers in Virginia Provide \$14.3 Billion in Unpaid Care

**Latest AARP research attaches \$15.51 per hour value to the estimated 920 million hours of unpaid care that family caregivers provided in 2021.**

In 2021 unpaid family caregivers in Virginia provided care that would otherwise cost \$14.3 billion, according to new state data available in AARP's latest report in the Valuing the Invaluable series. This is a \$3.1 billion increase in unpaid contributions since the last report was released in 2019.

The report highlights the growing scope

and complexity of family caregiving and highlights actions needed to address the many challenges of caring for parents, spouses, and other loved ones.

"Family caregivers play a vital role in Virginia's health care system, whether they care for someone at home, coordinate home health care, or help care for someone who lives in a nursing home," said AARP Virginia

State Director Jim Dau. "The care they provide is invaluable but it's also costly, in terms of their time, money and personal well-being."

Virginia's total Medicaid spending for fiscal year 2021 was about \$16 billion. Medicaid is the federal/state program that provides health care coverage for low income Virginians and pays for long-term care cov-

erage for more than half the state's nursing home residents.

"Virginia taxpayers owe the nearly one million family caregivers a debt of gratitude for their unpaid work keeping their loved ones out of nursing homes," Dau said.

To find scheduled virtual and in-person workshops and other programs of interest to people age 50-plus and their families, visit [aarp.org/virginiaevents](http://aarp.org/virginiaevents).

Resources and information on family caregiving are available at [aarp.org/caregiving](http://aarp.org/caregiving).

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in

Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).

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](http://www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://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](http://www.spaceofherown.org) and [www.spaceofhisown.org](http://www.spaceofhisown.org). For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at [sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov) or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed.

To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, [brianmorreale@gmail.com](mailto:brianmorreale@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us) for more.

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# Off the Menu: More Restaurant News and Notes

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**s spring dawns, more and more restaurants are coming to life with new plans and new locations. From reimagined concepts to new restaurants to a shift into Old Town, these local eateries are on the move.

## Stomping Ground to Close; Will Reopen as New Concept

Del Ray's beloved biscuit-and-breakfast shop is soon to undergo an evolution. In an open letter to the community posted on Stomping Ground's website, the shop's owner, Nicole Jones, announced that the restaurant will close in April and will reopen as something totally new.

"You would think after all of these (covid-era) efforts I would be happy that Stomping Ground survived the pandemic. But that's all we did, we survived. We didn't flourish. We didn't grow. We got hard. We lost the magic that made our 1400 square feet a place you wanted to come every day. Everything feels a little less bright," she said. "I still have the same team, and for the most part the same customers, although we see less and less of our old regulars. Earlier this year, as we fought our newest battle; the raw cost of our ingredients, I knew I had to do something. While watching the price of flour, dairy and eggs, the soul of our recipes, skyrocket, I watched my staff become more complacent every day. Without the community, Stomping Ground is not the third space it once was and working there feels more and more like just another job."

The new concept has yet to be unveiled, but Jones says to expect something completely different from what's there now. Does this mean bidding farewell to Stomping Ground's famous biscuits? Time will tell.

## Elaine's Modern Mediterranean to Open on Queen Street

The location formerly home to longtime favorite Bilbo Baggins now has a new resident moving in. Elaine's Modern Mediterranean is slated to open in the coming weeks at 208 Queen Street. The grand opening is scheduled for March 27, and the menu sports many Mediterranean favorites just waiting to



Does this mean bidding farewell to Stomping Ground's famous biscuits? Time will tell.

be tasted. From beef pie bites to kebobs and skewers, from moussaka to this columnist's favorite dish, koshari, Elaine's has a veritable tasting menu of options to try.

## Zen Press Moves to King Street

After a move from its former home on Route 1, Zen Press has found a new residence at 806 King Street in Old Town. While it offers juices and juice cleanses, it also offers a diverse menu of breakfast and brunch foods ranging from avocado toast to zen rolls, from elote burrata to low-carb pad Thai. Looking for something on the sweeter side? You could do worse than Zen Press' acai bowl or its "PB Goodness Bowl." Wash your meal down with some refreshing juice and feel the health take hold.

*Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

APPETITE

## CALENDAR

### NOW THRU MARCH 31

60th Anniversary Woodlawn Needlework Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, expect Tuesdays. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria. In 2023, Woodlawn celebrates 60 years of the Annual Needlework Show with the timeless theme of comfort and joy. Sixty years ago, Adelaide Bolte and Emma "Pinky" Matheson, co-founders of the Nelly's Needlers, started the needlework show exhibiting work of their own. Since that time, the show has grown exponentially to become the largest judged show of needle arts in the nation, displaying thousands of embroidery pieces by artists from all over the world. Returning this year will be in-house seating in Nelly's Café and needlework demonstrations. Special exhibits

and online events are returning with new embroidery subjects and needlework displays.

### NOW THRU APRIL 3

NOVA Plein Air Art Exhibit. At River Farm, 7931 East Blvd. Drive, Alexandria. Nova Plein Air Artists (NPPA) will be presenting "Celebrations of the Land, Inspired by River Farm," an art exhibit of over 50 paintings inspired by nature. Reception will be held from 1 - 3 p.m. on March 12. Many of the paintings were created onsite at River Farm, and all are available to purchase. Reception free and open to the public.

### NOW THRU APRIL 1

The "Fun With One" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans features monochromatic artwork by members.

Come see the variety that can be accomplished using just one color. The artist awards are juried by Robin Croft. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, March 3 from 7-9pm. Gallery hours: Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed on April 2). Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## BEGINNING SATURDAY/ MARCH 18

Cherry Blossom Water Taxi to The Wharf. Departures beginning at 1:30 p.m. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Washington, D.C.,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

## Obituary

## Obituary



**Dr. Richard H. Ryan**, a retired pediatrician and music lover, passed away peacefully on December 1, 2022 at the age of 90. His love for life lives on through his legacy, and his loved ones will continue to honor him by living life to the fullest.

Dick met his soulmate, Mary Kay, while completing his Bachelor's degree at Marquette University. He went on to pursue a medical degree at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and served as a doctor in the United States Air Force after graduation. During his tour of duty, Dick and Mary Kay were stationed in Seville, Spain with their four children.

After three years of service, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain. Upon returning to the United States, Dick settled in Alexandria, VA with Mary Kay, where they raised their family.

Together with his long-time partner Dr. Tom Sullivan, Dr. Ryan built one of the largest pediatric practices in Northern Virginia. Dick loved his practice and all who

worked with him, with patients returning for several generations with their own children and grandchildren to have him as their pediatrician.

Dick lived life to the fullest, enjoying the outdoors, working on his property, and indulging in hobbies such as boating, fishing, and hunting quail and duck. Dick was a skilled craftsman who enjoyed building things in his shop, including boats, a television set, and birdhouses which was one of the fun things he would build with his grandchildren. One notable contraption was a potato gun, which of course was a hit with those grandchildren! He also loved digital media, making video montages of family with his favorite music accompanying the imagery.

He was also an avid sailor, book lover, and music enthusiast. He even loved to ride motorcycles in his younger days. Dick was a skilled craftsman who enjoyed building things in his shop, including boats and even a television set. He even raised chickens and honey bees on the property of their beloved home, "Arch Hall."

Their waterfront home in Mason Neck, Virginia, was a gathering place for many holidays and celebrations with friends and family, filled with great food and memories which included book openings for family members who were authors, along with engagement and wedding celebrations, and many many robust community, garden, and social parties over the years. Dick and Mary Kay loved life and Arch Hall was the perfect home for them over the many decades they lived there.

Dick is survived by his children, Paul, Steve, Nancy, and Sue, as well as their spouses, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

## Legals

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## CALENDAR

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# CALENDAR



**The Traveling Exhibit, We The People: Portraits of Veterans in America features works by artist Mary Whyte.**

FROM PAGE 13

to enjoy the famous cherry blossoms. City Cruises Potomac Water Taxi offers a 25-minute direct water taxi from Old Town to The Wharf development in D.C. From the dock at The Wharf, it is a 10-minute walk to the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin. The water taxi docks at the Transit Pier, 950 Wharf St. SW, near the Tidal Basin, the National Mall, Hains Point and a Capital Bikeshare station. Visit [citycruises.com](http://citycruises.com)

## BEGINNING SATURDAY/MARCH 18

Traveling Exhibit, We The People: Portraits of Veterans in America. At National Museum of the U.S. Army, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. Exhibit tour with artist Mary Whyte. In 2010, Whyte set out on an inspirational seven-year mission to paint 50 large-scale watercolor portraits of current-day American veterans. WE THE PEOPLE, depicts military veterans of all ages and in all walks of life. Images including a Missouri dairy farmer, a Rhode Island lobsterman, a Pennsylvania science teacher, a South Carolina single mother, and 46 other moving portraits will be showcased. Visit [theNMUSA.org](http://theNMUSA.org).

## MARCH 20 TO APRIL 16

Cherry Blossom Guided Tours with Pedego Electric Bikes Alexandria. Departures at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on weekends; by appointment on weekdays. Admission: \$69 per bike (\$10 for passenger riders on cargo or tandem bikes). At Pedego Alexandria, 210 North Lee St., Alexandria. Join a three-hour guided tour from Old Town Alexandria to the cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C., including a ride through the blossoms around East Potomac Park. The views of the blossoms from a Pedego are fantastic, and you don't have to fight traffic or find a place to park downtown. Weekend tours fill up quickly, so contact Pedego early to make your reservations. Call 571-312-5168 or email [info@pedegoalexandria.com](mailto:info@pedegoalexandria.com). [pedegoalexandria.com](http://pedegoalexandria.com)

## MARCH 21-27

Spring Book Sale – The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Spring Book Sale from Tuesday, March 21 through Monday, March 27. Members' Preview on Tuesday, March 21, 3:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 23, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 25, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 26, Half Price Day, 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.; Monday, March 27, \$10 Bag Sale, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA; info: 703-746-1702; [www.beatleyfriends.org](http://www.beatleyfriends.org).

## MARCH 23 TO APRIL 30

Matthew McLaughlin Art Exhibit. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Reception: Sunday, March 26, 4 - 6 p.m.; Artist Talk: Sunday, April 30, [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

2 - 3. Matthew McLaughlin's work explores how people define space in relationship to themselves on multiple levels, through personal and public forums, by bringing together those themes via mixed-media works from multiple series. The exhibition covers three distinct series, Proxemic Boundaries, Plotting Truths, and Reflective Cartography.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Finding Military Family. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center and Zoom, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Don't miss this opportunity to hear nationally renowned genealogists discuss how to track down records of your military family members and those who supported them. Speakers will share their thoughts on how this research contributes to a deeper understanding of our ancestors and a richer social history of our nation. Registration is just \$40 for this LIVE event. Go to <https://mvgenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=86>. Find out more about the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society at <https://mvgenealogy.org/>.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Tasting Program: Japanese Teas Tasting. 10-11:30 a.m. (Adults) Sample a selection of the finest Japanese green teas. Hear about tea culture in Japan – ancient and modern - as you identify the unique characteristics of green teas and learn how to brew them to perfection. Delicious Japanese accompaniments served (afternoon tea NOT included). \$28 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code T6W.ST62.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Beyond the Cherry and Dogwood. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (Adults) Wake up your garden with early blooming trees. Take a walk through the gardens with Green Spring horticulturist Adam Bucher and learn about late-winter and early-spring bloomers, new cultivars, and their care. Program takes place outside. Dress for the weather. \$19 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code PK6.PNL.R.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 25

Office of Historic Alexandria Civil War Women's Day. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria. Learn about the many roles of women on the home front, in camp and on the battlefield in this living history program presented by interpreters who will offer on-going talks, demonstrations and displays.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 26

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria. Featuring Michelle Di Russo, conductor | Nick Canellakis, cello Jessie Montgomery: Overture Gershwin: An American in Paris Carlos Simon: Fate Now Conquers Caroline Shaw: Entr'acte Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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# It Seemed Innocent Enough, At First



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

My wife, Dina opened our upstairs' bathroom vanity and saw the eight-count bars of soap I had purchased earlier that day. Not that she would ever use the soap that I do. Nevertheless, she felt compelled to ask me a quantity-really question which was: "Why did you get so many bars of soap? You don't shower that much."

Let me deviate for a second and briefly explain my consuming ways: non-perishables in bulk, especially when said items are on sale, is how I manage cash outflow. Occasionally, over the years, I may have over-purchased an item or two only to see its expiration date come and go and in effect, waste money. As such, I've learned a lesson or two along the way. And I've even considered not buying in bulk and/or only buying said products when there's an actual need, regardless of whether the product is on sale or not. Moreover, I might even buy smaller sizes to spend money more judiciously and risk future financial loss by not padding our inventory when the opportunity presents itself just to keep the peace and minimize the wise cracks..

Now that you understand the context, let me explain how this simple exchange between a husband and a wife might lead to unintended consequences. As you regular readers know, I'm a cancer patient/survivor. A patient who 14-plus years ago was given a single-digit percentage chance of living beyond two years. When we originally asked the oncologist about the possibility I could survive beyond two years, he replied: "Could you be the one? Sure." He was not particularly enthusiastic, nor did he use the number one lightly. Though I've survived way beyond any expectations, I am nowhere near to being out of the woods. I am always grateful, perhaps even a bit surprised when I wake up every morning. I understand none of this was promised, and I may in fact be living on borrowed time.

Against that backdrop of yours truly not anticipating living too long back then ("13 month to two years " prognosis in 2009), I'm still trying (and have always tried) to live a relatively normal life and not to consider too much my rather tenuous hold on that normalcy. After all, I am not in remission. I'm still undergoing treatment and are scanned regularly. I take a daily bill - with very manageable side effects. However, the pill's predicted effectiveness window, of two to three years, is fast approaching. As of Oct. I will really be living on borrowed time by continuing a medicine past its presumed effective date. Actually, the window may have closed already as I'm two and a half years into this medicine. But does this effect my consuming ways? If I did buy bananas, the old advisory not to buy green bananas might be prudent; and to relate it to this column, who am I kidding by buying eight bars of soap. As my wife so lovingly said, I don't shower that much. Somehow, some way, I must muddle through this roller-coaster of time left.

But I want to think that I'm going to live for a while yet. When my wife asks me if my purchase of multiples of a particular product is really necessary; I hear, are you sure you're going to live long enough to use it? And in my head, I elaborate: does it make sense/cents for someone in my rather precarious position to buy so much of anything? Dina may mean well when she questions the numbers of what I buy. It may be as much a budget question as any, actually. Regardless I hear life expectancy and you (meaning me) doesn't have a normal one. And the last thing a cancer patient ever needs to hear is negativity - in any shape or form. Negativity/toxicity is a killer.

Any patient who has received similar life-changing/heart-stopping/mind-blowing diagnosis as I have will forever be changed by it. Your perspective on so many things, from "A" to "Z" changes without your permission and you become super-sensitive and hyper alert to any mention directly or indirectly of the future, a future that you might not have. And what's worse? You have no control over any of it. Cancer has a mind of its own and it's not listening to you.

I've found that having cancer is a 24/7 test. It's difficult enough knowing most of the answers to the test - euphemistically speaking. Survival can be a learning experience for sure. But sometimes, it's the questions that upset you the most.

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



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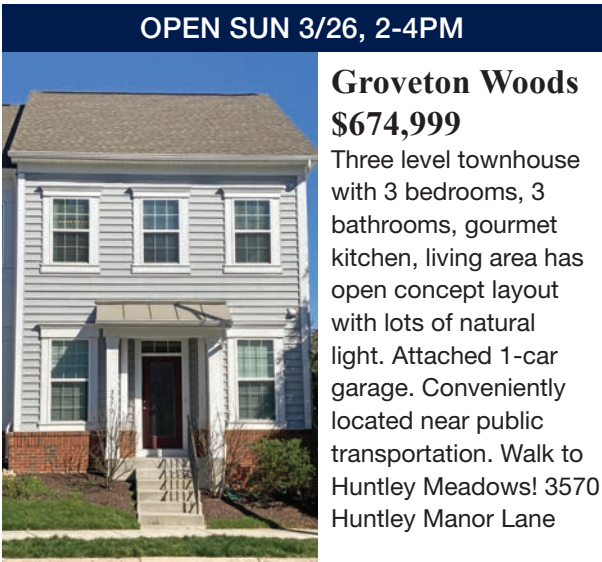
Ideally located in a sought-after neighborhood, this home features 4 bedrooms & 3.5 baths. A white kitchen with new appliances opens to an oversized family room that flows easily to the back patio. Finished lower level with fireplace. 403 Thomas Street



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