

New Coats Distributed to Families in Need

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Volunteers from across the city gathered at the Charles Houston Recreation Center Oct. 28 to distribute hundreds of new coats to families in need as part of the Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue annual coat drive. A second distribution followed later that same day at Samuel Tucker Elementary School.

Now in its 18th year, the coat drive is part of year-round efforts by Firefighters and Friends, which also provides new backpacks and school supplies and toys to families in need during the holiday season.

"The volunteers truly enjoyed assisting the kids with choosing a coat," said Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue founder and School Board member Willie Bailey.

Bailey founded Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue more than two decades ago as an annual toy drive. It has expanded to serve more than 60 nonprofits and community organizations throughout the region.

"Building resilient and sustainable communities takes all of us in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors working together," said Amelia Chasse Alcivar, executive vice president of Hilco Redevelopment Partners. "Our team at HRP is proud to join with impactful organizations like Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue and ARHA to ensure that no Alexandria child goes without a warm coat this winter."

Coats are obtained through the national nonprofit Operation Warm with local volun-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers pose for a photo prior to distributing hundreds of new coats to families in need Oct. 28 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

teers sorting and distributing to those in need throughout the region.

"This is the 18th year distributing coats to the community," Bailey said. "We have come a long way. The first few years we gave away a few hundred used coats. Now fast forward 18 years later and with the help of Operation Warm we are providing thousands of new coats to families in need across Northern Virginia."

In addition to the hundreds of coats distributed at the two locations, more than 1,000 books were provided by the literacy nonprofit InspireLit.

"Our volunteers escorted the children to

"Building resilient and sustainable communities takes all of us in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors working together."

— Amelia Chasse Alcivar of Hilco Redevelopment Partners

the tables to pick out a new coat for themselves," Bailey said. "Then they were taken over to an area to pick out new books

generously provided by InspireLit, who had a team on hand to help kids make their selections."

For the seventh year, ARHA partnered with the organization to provide coats to deserving families.

"ARHA is thankful to work with Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue and specifically Willie Bailey because of his heart and passion for helping kids," said ARHA director of Community Services Gaynelle Diaz. "Because of his efforts, hundreds of students will have a new coat to keep them warm this winter and their parents will have one less thing to worry about."

Sponsors for the event include: Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority; Hilco Redevelopment Partners; Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue Inc.; Apple Federal Credit Union; Department of Community and Human Services; Alexandria Department of Recreation and Cultural Activities; Promax Realtors; Nationwide Credit Corporation; InspireLit (Books); Greene Funeral Home; Caring Angels Therapy Dogs; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity – Alexandria Chapter; and the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

"The people that we are serving are very appreciative," said volunteer Michael Johnson. "It's a good thing to be giving back to the community."

Added Bailey, "A new coat means so much to a child. It provides a child both physical and emotional warmth. It helps a student attend school, socialize with their peers and play outside with pride.

And it reminds them that there are those in their community that care about their well-being and future."

Interfaith Alliance Honors Moline

Faith and Freedom Award recognizes work for religious freedoms.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Jack Moline, Rabbi Emeritus of Agudas Achim Congregation, was honored with the Interfaith Alliance Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award Oct. 18 at the Immigrant Food Planet Word Museum in Washington, DC.

Named for the veteran broadcast journalist, the honor recognizes "individuals of faith and goodwill who stand up for true religious freedom and demonstrate the constructive force of religion in American public life."

"Jack Moline, who in his role as CEO and president of Interfaith Alliance, showed us all how to treat Americans of all faiths and all backgrounds with what he calls 'radical empathy,'" said Interfaith Alliance chair Jacob Worenklein. "That is about treating people with the love, kindness and openness that will allow everyone to achieve their potential, not to feel threatened and to be able to move forward with their lives in the most productive way possible."

Moline served as president and CEO of Interfaith Alliance, a First Amendment advocacy organization, from 2015-2022 and was a longtime member of the board of directors, including as chair from 2006-2008. In a career spanning four decades, Moline was known as a powerful voice fighting for religious freedom for all Americans, regardless of their faith or belief system.

SEE RABBI JACK MOLINE, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Rabbi Jack Moline, left, receives the Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award from Interfaith Alliance chair Jacob Worenklein and president Paul Raushenbush Oct. 18 at the Immigrant Food Planet Word Museum.

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Rabbi Moline Honored with Faith and Freedom Award

FROM PAGE 1

“I am honored to receive this award that bears the name of the great Walter Cronkite, who recognized Interfaith Alliance as the essential organization for our democracy and for people of all beliefs,” Moline said. “Radical empathy is what our Constitution demands and what my faith teaches. It was cultivated in my heart by my service to this organization.”

Moline served for nearly 27 years as Rabbi of Agudas Achim Congregation before his retirement in 2014.

“All of us at Interfaith Alliance are privileged to honor Rabbi Moline for his innumerable contributions to faith and freedom

“Jack’s fierce dedication to our Constitution and to the rights of all people have inspired so many of us who are committed to building a country where all belong.”

— Interfaith Alliance CEO Rev. Paul Raushenbush

in America, which certainly include but are in no way limited to his service to our organization for close to 20 years,” said Rev. Paul Raushenbush, president and CEO of

Interfaith Alliance. “Jack’s fierce dedication to our Constitution and to the rights of all people have inspired so many of us who are committed to building a country where all belong – and our nation is better for it.”

Cronkite was the honorary chair of Interfaith Alliance from 1997 until his death in 2009. He remained a committed supporter of the organization for many years, saying, “nothing less is at stake in the work of the Interfaith Alliance than the existence of democracy as we know it.”

Past recipients of the Cronkite Award include actor and activist George Clooney, MSNBC anchor Rachel Maddow, the Rt. Rev. Jane Holmes Dixon, and veteran broad-

cast journalist and Interfaith Alliance board member Peter Maer.

A native of Chicago, Moline is a graduate of Northwestern University and studied to become a rabbi at the University of Judaism (now the American Jewish University) in Los Angeles and the Jewish Theological Seminary’s Jerusalem and New York campuses. In addition to his role at Agudas Achim Congregation, he served as chair of the Interfaith Relations Committee of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and vice president of the Washington-Baltimore Rabbinical Assembly.

Founded in 1994, Interfaith Alliance brings together members from 75 faith traditions as well as those without a faith tradition to protect faith and freedom. For more information visit interfaithalliance.org.

Ghastly and Ghoulish

Residents get in the Halloween spirit.

Some residents across the city have gone batty, decorating their homes in their Halloween best as the bewitching day approaches Oct. 31. From Del Ray to Old Town to the West End, ghoulish delights can be seen to prepare for the fright night holiday.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Residents decorate their homes in the bewitching spirit of Halloween.





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November 25
Small Business Saturday

December 2 - 16
"A Christmas Carol" at The Little Theatre of Alexandria

December 2
52nd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade
sponsored by Wegmans

December 2
23rd Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights
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December 3
Del Ray Holiday Tree & Menorah Lighting

December 9
Christmas Market & Holiday Craft Show
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December 15 - 16
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December 31
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NEWS

Alexandria City High School Evacuated Due to Bomb Threat

Just before noon on Wednesday, Nov. 1, students and staff at the Alexandria City High School King Street campus were evacuated in response to a bomb threat received by Alexandria City Public Schools. The Alexandria Police Department was on site and working with ACHS administration, ACPS leadership and the ACPS Office of Safety and Security Services, according to Alexander Duncan III, Executive Principal.

Students were evacuated from the King Street Campus to designated areas outside

on one of the first chilly days of the school year, and the ACPS Office of Transportation sent buses to the school to provide warming stations for the students.

Duncan said administrators had reached out to Episcopal High School to serve as an evacuation site in the event of a prolonged evacuation.

Around noon, an email went out to families asking them not to come to the ACHS, followed by early dismissal of students at 1 p.m. due to the bomb threat.

Agreement on Coal Tar Contamination

**Caused by gas plant from late 1800s
through mid-1900s near corner of
North Lee Street and Oronoco Street.**

The City of Alexandria, in partnership with the Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN), has reached a settlement to remediate the remnants of coal tar contamination that occurred as part of the operation of the Alexandria Town Gas manufacturing gas plant from the late 1800s through the mid-1900s, located near the corner of North Lee Street and Oronoco Street.

This settlement has been incorporated into a proposed consent decree that the parties filed in federal court on Nov. 1, 2023. It is consistent with the commitment the City made more than 20 years ago to fully remediate the legacy contamination. In 2000, the City entered the site into the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) overseen by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) and has made significant progress toward cleaning up the site in coordination with VDEQ.

To date, the City has spent over \$12 million in remedial efforts since entering the site into the voluntary remediation program, including the removal of hundreds of gallons of coal tar from the soil and groundwater, installation of a groundwater treatment system, repairs to the storm sewer, and remediation of contaminated sediments where

the storm sewer on Oronoco Street discharges into the Potomac River. The City's Capital Improvement Plan currently has \$11.8 million programmed to continue to address the remaining coal tar contamination.

This settlement has four primary components: (1) an upland remediation program to expedite ongoing efforts to remove coal tar from the soil and groundwater; (2) upgrades to the storm sewer pipe to keep any potentially coal tar-contaminated groundwater from entering the pipe and flowing to the Potomac River; (3) sediment testing and, if necessary, remediation in the vicinity of the Robinson Terminal North pier near the storm sewer outfall at the end of Oronoco Street; and (4) the City providing \$300,000 to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources to fund a project to add over 20,000 freshwater mussels to the Potomac River. Freshwater mussels act as natural filters, removing pollutants and toxins from waterways.

This settlement is a continuation of the work and commitment to provide a safe, clean, and healthy environment for residents, visitors and future generations.

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/OronocoRemediationProject>

NEWS BRIEFS

Bark Social Acquires Barkhaus In Alexandria

Bark Social, the country's first social club for dogs and dog lovers, has acquired Barkhaus in Alexandria, Va. This makes Bark Social the first company in the industry to acquire another dog bar. The 6,000-square-foot Barkhaus facility will become Bark Social's fourth location – along with Bethesda, Md., Baltimore, Md., and Philadelphia, Pen-

na. Barkhaus will continue to serve dogs and dog lovers, with an off leash dog park, a bar and a full kitchen. New leadership will bring freshly-trained Bark Rangers to keep dogs safe, a full calendar of social events, a full bar (adding liquor to the existing offerings), and a new boutique featuring both dog and human goods.

"We're thrilled to bring Bark Social to Alexandria and build upon the community that Barkhaus has built there," said Luke Silverman, co-founder and CEO of Bark Social. "As more dog lovers look for fun and safe

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TO THE RESCUE

Elan Medina, 3, plays firefighter with his mother Susan while trick-or-treating on Halloween in his Lynnhaven neighborhood.

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Alexandria City Council Poised to Eliminate Single-Family Neighborhoods

BY ERIC R. WAGNER

The Alexandria City Council is preparing to implement wide-ranging changes to the City's zoning code that would effectively eliminate single-family neighborhoods in Alexandria. Despite the significant impacts these changes would impose, little has been written about them in the press. The City itself has taken few steps to notify residents in the affected areas that the neighborhoods in which they chose to purchase their homes and raise their families will be subject to very significant changes during the next decade. In some ways, Alexandria's proposed changes go beyond Arlington's similar changes to its residential zoning, which received much attention in the press and is the subject of pending lawsuits.

What is Alexandria proposing? Several elements of its euphemistically named "Zoning for Housing/Housing for All" project would effectively result in the elimination of single-family neighborhoods. First, the proposal would remove the single-dwelling unit limit on lots in the single-family neighborhoods and increase the limit to four dwelling units (or six units if some Councilmembers have their way). Each lot would then be a multi-family property (using the current terminology). This change is proposed even though Alexandria already has extensive townhouse and multi-family zones.

Second, the proposal would completely remove the use of the term "family" to describe how dwelling units are occupied. Without offering objective evidence, the proponents have said that the term "family" is an outdated way to describe the range of possible relationships for occupants of a dwelling. Perhaps as a demonstration that evidence does not exist

to justify this change, few residents of Alexandria have availed themselves of the existing regulatory opportunities to use an expanded definition of "family." In fact, the zoning code explicitly allows four unrelated adults to occupy "single-family" dwellings today without any regulatory approvals.

The proposed zoning change is silent on a replacement for the term "family" to describe the permitted occupants of dwellings. Instead, it would allow the Virginia uniform building code to become the only limit on occupancy of dwellings, which would allow two occupants per bedroom e.g. a four-bedroom dwelling could have eight unrelated occupants, provided certain minimal standards are met.

Historically, Alexandria has protected against the potentially undesirable impacts of having large numbers of unrelated adults sharing single-family homes by imposing detailed regulations on the operation of "rooming houses" in the City. The third element of the proposed zoning change would eliminate all the restrictions and regulations on such facilities. As a result, any existing home in the current single-family neighborhoods could be converted into and operated as a rooming house without the need to obtain any approvals from the City. The current zoning restrictions were put in place to protect neighborhoods from various problems that had arisen from the conversion of many homes in the Del Ray neighborhood into boarding houses or single-room occupancy dwellings before the 1990s.

Finally, the proposed changes to the zoning code would dramatically reduce the parking requirements within the current single-family zones. Imagine the impacts on many of Alexandria's residential streets if houses that today are occupied by two adults and their children — and their two cars — are transformed into

de facto rooming houses with eight adult occupants and their eight vehicles. The proposed new zoning provisions contain no safeguards to prevent such a scenario, and most residential streets cannot accommodate the additional parking that would result.

Why are these proposals being pursued? Nominally, two reasons are driving them. First, some proponents say that Alexandria needs to expand its population as the greater Washington region continues to grow. A counter argument is that Alexandria is already one of the most densely populated jurisdictions in the United States and there is no need to make it even more congested.

The second argument by the proponents — and indeed a driving force behind the "Zoning for Housing/Housing for All" initiative — is the perceived need to create more affordable housing in the City. (We can leave the question of whether such efforts ever succeed to another day.) For now, it is sufficient to note that City staff have publicly indicated that the proposed changes to zoning for single-family neighborhoods would do little or nothing to make housing in Alexandria more affordable.

Alexandria's city leaders must take a pause on implementing the single-family neighborhood zoning changes embodied in their broader "Zoning for Housing/Housing for All" initiative. Those of us who live in the existing single-family neighborhoods deserve to have our interests much more thoroughly considered before Alexandria breaks the covenant that has existed since long before we chose to purchase our homes.

Eric Wagner has lived in Alexandria for 36 years. He served on the Alexandria Planning Commission for 22 years, including nine years as its Chairman.

City Is Failing Old Town Residents

To the Editor:

On Dec. 5 the Alexandria Planning Commission will be asked to approve four audacious exceptions so the developer of 301 N. Fairfax can maximize his profits by building an architecturally bland, modernist condominium one block from City Hall and Founder's Park. The plan is visibly out of place among the historic 18th, 19th and 20th century homes that would surround it. The building has been vociferously opposed by every resident who spoke at three Board of Architectural Review meetings this summer, to no avail.

The proposal is far too large for the lot and makes no effort to align with historic architectural elements, as required by Alexandria's Design Guidelines. Over 600 Alexandrians and Americans have

signed a petition opposing this development because they don't want to see us squander a priceless center of American history. If the Planning Commission approves this plan, it will have a tragic and irreversible impact on this grand example of American heritage.

Why does every resident oppose this building? To erect this terribly out of place condominium, the developer demands exceptions and special use permits no ordinary Alexandrian ever receives. He expects the city to re-zone the site, so he qualifies for a density factor twice what is allowed for residential buildings. He wants to skirt our open space requirements by counting a huge private rooftop party deck as "open space" for a building that otherwise provides almost none. Finally, he wants to slash the crown coverage requirement by a whopping 33 percent — resulting in far less greenery for residents to accommodate his demand for the largest building possible on this lot. None of us tax paying residents get that kind of consideration from the Planning Commission.

This project has made it this far in Alexandria partly because the City has misinterpreted our zoning ordinance and has blindly supported the developer, rather than being an independent arbiter for all of Alexandria — especially the neighbors who will be most affected. Alexandria is on the dangerous precipice of losing the very historic and architectural character that defines

our city as a destination. But will city officials finally listen to its residents? The proposed structure will overwhelm the residential townhomes that surround it and isolate key parts of Historic Old Town from our waterfront. It will have a dire impact on essential community services, parking, traffic, and infrastructure.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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Carmichael Elected to Nation's Criminal Defense Bar

Jessica N. Carmichael of Alexandria was one of two individuals elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers at the Association's fall board meeting in Washington, DC. Carmichael will join those currently serving their terms on the NACDL Board of Directors.

Carmichael is a founding partner of Carmichael Ellis & Brock, PLLC in Alexandria, Va, a law firm handling criminal defense, military defense, security clearance matters, medical malpractice, and personal injury cases in Virginia and DC. Carmichael's practice focuses on federal criminal defense where she represents clients in a range of cases, including those ac-

cused of national security offenses, sex offenses, and violent crime.

Prior to founding Carmichael Ellis & Brock, she represented clients at the Federal Public Defender's Office in Alexandria.

Carmichael clerked for two Magistrate Judges in United States District Court in Norfolk, Virginia where her husband, a Naval Officer, was stationed. She earned her

Bachelors of Arts in communications from the University of Cincinnati, and her Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School. Carmichael is a member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference, and on the board of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

She is also a member of the Virginia State Bar's MCLE Com-

mittee, and is the Eastern District of Virginia's representative to the Fourth Circuit's CJA Appellate Panel Committee. Carmichael is active on the CJA panels for the District of DC and the Eastern District of Virginia. She currently serves on NACDL's Women in Criminal Defense Committee and is Vice Chair of the National Security Commit-

New Executive Director for Heard

Heard, a nonprofit organization in Alexandria dedicated to empowering people in need through artistic expression and life skills, has a new Executive Director, Kelly Carnes. Carnes brings experience in museum administration, communications, and nonprofit leadership to Heard to lead the organization's mission of fostering creativity, confidence, and self-worth among underserved communities.

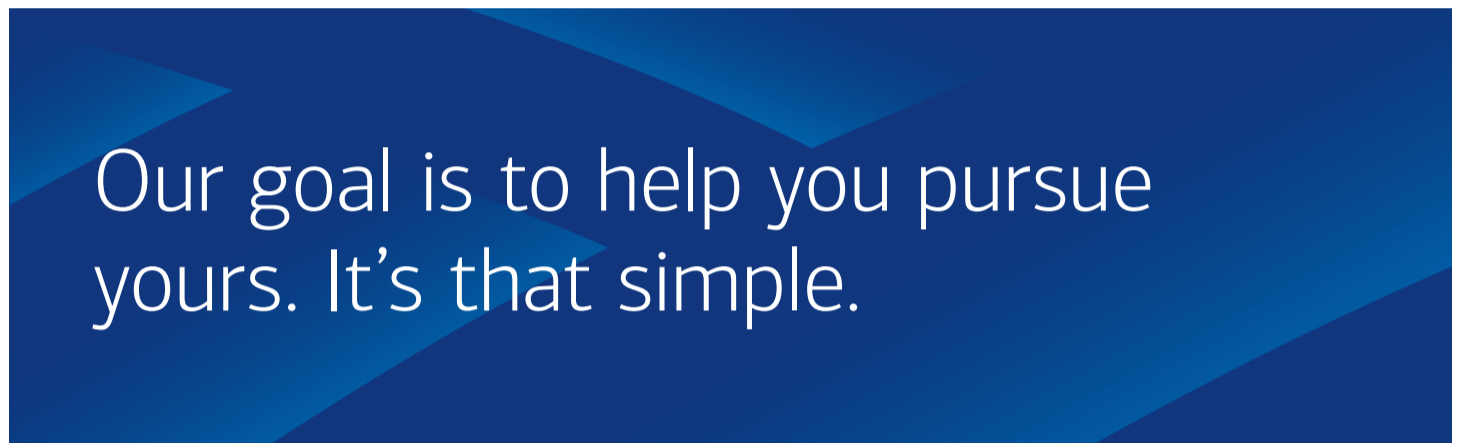
Founded in 2017, Heard offers experiential instruction and participation in the arts to adults facing various challenges, including those in recovery, survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault, LGBTQia+ individuals, older adults, immigrants, those who are incarcerated or transitioning from incarceration, and individuals experiencing homelessness. By contracting with local artists, Heard creates a platform for these adults to develop essential life skills while exploring their artistic talents.

Carnes comes to Heard with experience in the nonprofit sector and an impressive background in museum administration and communications. Her previous roles include Deputy Director at Planet Word museum, where she provided executive leadership and direction for the museum dedicated to words and language. Carnes' career also includes leadership positions at institutions such as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, where she worked in public relations and communications.

She earned a Master of Professional Studies in Public Relations and Corporate Communications from Georgetown University, a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from The George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Carnes assumes her role as Executive Director of Heard on Nov. 2 where she will report directly to the Board of Directors.

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CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Senate District 39

We asked candidates for a brief bio and to tell us about their interaction with a voter whose questions or story inspired them to take action.

Candidates are listed in the order they appear on the ballot.

Sophia C. Moshasha (R)



Sophia C. Moshasha

Sophia C. Moshasha (R), candidate for Virginia Senate District 39 is a lifelong Virginian and advocate for community prosperity. At 34 years old, Sophia brings deep-rooted connections and a comprehensive understanding of Virginia's development. With expertise from her tenure in the Air Force's Small Business Innovation Program and dedication to advancing emerging technologies, she is committed to fostering small business growth, enhancing educational resources, and workforce development to ensure everyone has an opportunity for success.

Response: A local business

owner approached me at a farmers market with a strong concern about the rising toll costs on the I-66 and I-495, affecting her ability to operate her delivery service. She emphasized how the tolls squeezed her margins and ultimately hurt her employees. She presented compelling information on how the high tolls were inflating the cost of living for families in Northern Virginia.

Her passionate plea stuck with me, prompting me to further investigate the tolling policies and their impacts. This business owner's story highlighted the need for immediate action to alleviate the burden on commuters.

In response to constituents' concerns about the high costs of commuting, I plan to sponsor legislation that focuses on refunding a significant portion of local tolls paid by Virginia-based commuters. Additionally, I intend to push for the restoration of HOV-2 lanes during specific hours on I-66 and I-495 to promote car-pooling, along with equalizing tolls on I-66 inside and outside the Beltway.

To gain bipartisan support, I will emphasize the direct positive impact on the lives of our constituents, stressing the potential economic benefits and reduced

SEE CANDIDATE, PAGE 9

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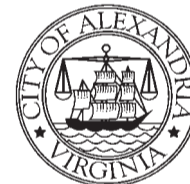
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Legals

Legals



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SECOND HALF 2023 REAL ESTATE TAX, REFUSE FEE, AND STORMWATER UTILITY FEE ARE DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2023

The second half 2023 real estate tax, refuse fee and stormwater utility fee must be paid by November 15, 2023, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

Pay by credit card or e-Check on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/Payments. Real estate tax payments can also be mailed to: City of Alexandria, PO Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750.

Pay in-person at the Treasury Division, City Hall, Room 1510, or at the new West End Finance Office, 4850 Mark Center Drive, Second Floor, between 8AM and 5PM Monday through Friday. A drop box located on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on November 15, 2023, to be considered on time.

General real estate tax information is available on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Detailed assessment, tax balance, and payment information is available at realestate.alexandriava.gov.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov. For questions on refuse fees or stormwater utility fees, please call Alex311 at 703.746.4311 or submit questions online at alexandriava.gov/Alex311.

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 8

financial strain on local businesses. Collaborative discussions with opposing elected officials will highlight the bipartisan nature of this issue and the shared responsibility to support the community's well-being. Sophia4VA.com

Adam P. Ebbin (D)

Adam P. Ebbin (D), 59, candidate for reelection in Virginia Senate District 39, took



Adam P. Ebbin

office in 2012 after serving for eight years in the House of Delegates. Adam has resided in Alexandria since 1989 and is a 1985 graduate of American University in Washington, D.C.

He was a Fellow with the Fleming Foundation for Legislative Leadership in 2006 and at the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership in 2000. In 2012, Adam was also a Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School program for Senior Executives in State and Local

Government.

Response: Many persuasive and impactful constituents have shared their experiences with me over the years, including Virginians whose lives have been tragically impacted by gun violence. Those experiences led to my co-founding the Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Caucus and my championing and successfully passing legislation that banned firearms from state buildings.

Another instance where I worked closely with constituents

was when an intrepid group of middle-school students organized to improve the physical conditions of their schools. They were impacted by mold in their classrooms. G.W. Middle School students conducted research,

asked questions, petitioned local school leaders, and reached out to me. Hearing from these young, organized student advocates was a breath of fresh air. As I told The Washington Post at the time, "Students deserve to be learning in a healthy environment, and staff

and teachers who are in the same building year after year deserve to be teaching in a safe environment. These kids are making sure that this issue is dealt with adequately." In 2020, with the support and compelling testimony of these local Alexandria public school students, we passed legislation requiring school boards to develop mold testing and remediation plans and to quickly notify parents of the presence of mold in their children's schools. <https://www.adamebbin.com/>



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

Why didn't the developer reach out to the community before his architect designed this sad affront to Old Town? Why hasn't the developer gone back to the drawing board after hearing unanimous opposition to his design? We have openly signaled that we are willing to engage with the developer and come up with a building our community can support and be proud of. Old Town residents would welcome a three-story building, devoid of the awful rooftop party deck, and that comports with the priceless 18th, 19th and 20th Century townhomes that surround it. We would welcome a building offering appropriate open space, tree cover, and setbacks. We would welcome architecture that looks like it was designed for Historic Old Town by a more imaginative architect.

Every reasonable suggestion we have made to the developer's representatives has been met with this dismissal - "It will never happen!" When pressed why they want to build such an offensive building that every resident has spoken out against, the answer is "because we can."

We implore Commission members to reject this proposal and give us a building designed for Historic Old Town that residents can be proud of. The blind rush to approve anything that adds more density to Alexandria - already the most densely populated city in Virginia - does not have to add insult to injury by approving bad designs.

Scott Corzine
Old Town Neighbors

Advice for what matters most, when you need it most

Congratulations to **Patrick S. Burke** for being named to the **2023 Forbes "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" list**, published on April 4, 2023. Rankings based on data as of June 30, 2022.



The Burke, Hassett & Zimmerman Group

Patrick S. Burke, CIMA®, CPFA®

Senior Vice President
Wealth Management Advisor
703.838.6864
patrick_burke@ml.com

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

1900 Duke Street
Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314
fa.ml.com/patrick_burke1

2023 Forbes "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" list. Opinions provided by SHOOK® Research, LLC and is based on in-person, virtual and telephone due-diligence meetings that measure best practices, client retention, industry experience, credentials, compliance records, firm nominations, assets under management and Firm-generated revenue (investment performance is not a criterion). SHOOK's rankings are available for client evaluation only, are not indicative of future performance and do not represent any one client's experience and available for investor help in evaluating the right financial advisor. Compensation was not received from anyone for the study. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Details available at www.SHOOKresearch.com. SHOOK is a registered trademark of SHOOK Research, LLC.

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MAP4960336 | AD-10-23-0282 | 472538PM-1022 | 10/2023

17th annual



Alexandria Film Festival

Celebrating independents for 17 years!



Live Programming Nov 10-12, 2023

Friday
Beatley Library

Saturday and Sunday
AMC Hoffman Theatre
The Lyceum

Schedule and Tickets at
AlexFilmFest.com

Questions? Contact us at: info.alexandriafilm@gmail.com

  [alexfilmfest](https://twitter.com/alexfilmfest)

 [@alexandriafilmfestival](https://www.facebook.com/alexandriafilmfestival)

Shorts
and
Features

All
Genres

Meet the
Filmmakers!

VOTING

Early Voting Continues Through Saturday, Nov. 4

Those who wait until the last minute to vote do so at their peril.

The deadline to vote early is Saturday, Nov. 4, at 5 p.m. In-person early voting hours are as follows.

Office of Voter Registration & Elections (132 N. Royal St., Suite 100) is open:
Thursday, Nov. 2, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 3, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 4, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Thursday, Nov. 2, 1 p.m.–7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Voting by Mail

Completed ballots must be either returned to the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7, or postmarked by Nov. 7 and received in the office by noon on Monday, Nov. 13. To vote in person, an application is not required. Applications should not be submitted before voting in person.

Ballot Drop Boxes

Ballot drop boxes will be available at all polling places on Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A secure outdoor drop box, under video surveillance, is available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections 24 hours a day through Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. Addi-

tionally, a ballot drop box will be available at the same dates and times listed above for in-person voting at Beatley Library.

Registering to Vote

The deadline for the normal registration period for the Nov. 7 General Election was Oct. 16. But the Same Day Registration period began Oct. 17 and runs through Election Day, Nov. 7, 2023. Visit vote.elections.virginia.gov to register, check registration status, or update an existing registration.

Visit alexandriava.gov/Elections for complete election information, including voter registration requirements, sample ballots, precinct maps and ID requirements.

On Election Day

Polling Hours

All Virginia Election Day polling hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are in line to vote at 7 p.m. you will be permitted to vote. No one arriving at the polls after 7 p.m. is permitted to vote. In nearly every election a few Alexandria voters arrive after the polls close. Those who wait until the last minute to vote do so at their peril.

Identification

Bring your ID. As of July 1, 2020 Virginia law requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of identification at the polls. For a complete list of acceptable IDs, please see Virginia's Department of Elections website.

On Election Day, if you do not have an acceptable ID with you, you may sign an ID confirmation Statement. A voter who does not bring an acceptable ID to the polls or does not sign an ID Confirmation Statement will be offered a provisional ballot.

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.

SEEKING ARTS GROUPS

The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts is seeking up to three New Project Residents who could be an artist, artists group or arts organization who will each develop and execute one New Project on Saturday, December 16 to engage audiences in an arts project. The New Project Residency Program is funded by National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Alexandria, VA. New Projects will be site-specific and will aim to inspire and engage the public. The New Projects will be held at the George Washington Masonic Temple, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA. Submission Deadline: Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, by 5 p.m. Visit the Office of the Arts' website. If questions about the New Project Residency Program email: arts@alexandriava.gov.

COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY RESOURCE FAIR

On Nov. 1, a Community Re-Entry Resource Fair will be held at the Gerry Hyland Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Conference Room 221, in South County Alexandria. Vendors at the event include local, state, and national organizations that provide services to the re-entry community. The event hours are from 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. The fair is free and open to all adults who can benefit. Individuals can either walk in or can pre-register at <https://reentry2023.eventbrite.com>.

During the event, attendees will connect with organizations to learn about the services they offer. Some of the programs featured at the fair include:

Job training, educational, and employment programs
Mental health peer support services
State and Federal Government support programs

The goal of this event is to help individuals. SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 12

OLD TOWN

811 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA

\$8,000,000

Wetherly Hemeon
+1 703 965 9613
Karen Barker
+1 703 928 8384



OLD TOWN

2 Swifts Alley
Alexandria, VA

\$3,400,000

Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183

OLD TOWN

308 S Union Street
Alexandria, VA

CONTRACT PENDING
\$2,995,000

Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183



THE RESERVE

843 Alvermar Ridge Drive
McLean, VA

\$3,200,000

Ali Nasir
+1 571 335 3155
Mark Lowham
+1 703 966 6949

OLD TOWN

101 Quay Street
Alexandria, VA

\$2,495,000

Phyllis Patterson
+1 703 408 4232



TURNBERRY TOWER

1881 N Nash Street #2011
Arlington, VA

\$2,750,000

Angela Neeb
The Burr Group
+1 202 409 8161

WOODLEY HILLS

4013 Laurel Road
Alexandria, VA

SIGNIFICANT PRICE ADJUSTMENT
\$1,450,000

Joanne Sawczuk
+1 703 328 5427



OLD TOWN

601 N Fairfax Street #509
Alexandria, VA

\$2,000,000

Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

831 South Lee Street
Alexandria, VA

\$1,395,000

Diann Carlson
+1 703 628 2440



VILLAMAY

1214 Belle Vista Drive
Alexandria, VA

CONTRACT PENDING
\$1,350,000

Sharon Wildberger
+1 703 597 0374

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS

2700 Calvert St NW #716
Washington, DC

\$1,895,000

Jonathan Taylor
+1 202 276 3344



KALORAMA

2426 Tracy Place NW
Washington, DC

\$3,490,000

Michael Rankin
+1 202 271 3344

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THE CHAMBER ALX

**THE CHAMBER ALX'S
State of Business:
Annual Meeting**

PRESENTED BY TRUIST

**DECEMBER 12TH
8AM-10AM**

TICKETS AT THECHAMBERALX.COM

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

places to bring their dogs, we are eager to meet the demand with our new locations.”

Barkhaus opened in the fall of 2020 by Alex Benbassat and Justin LeGores. Benbassat will stay on as an operating partner at Bark Social, and continue to lead the Alexandria team.

15-year-old Dead Of Gunshot Wound

The Alexandria Police Department is asking for help from the public regarding an active investigation of a suspicious death that occurred in the 300 block of South Whiting Street. On Oct. 28, 2023, at approxi-

mately 11:47 p.m., the Alexandria Police Department responded to a call regarding a possible shooting. Officers discovered a 15-year-old male inside the residence who sustained a gunshot wound. The victim was transported to an area hospital where he succumbed to his injury.

APD is now investigating this shooting incident as a suspicious death.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy and determine the cause and manner of death.

Alexandria Police Department is asking that anyone with information regarding this incident please contact Detective J. Marable by phone at (703) 746-6883, email: Jason.marable@alexandriava.gov, or call our non-emergency number at (703) 746-4444.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

als successfully reintegrate into the community to achieve their dreams. The event is brought to you by Recovery Program Solutions of Virginia (RPSV).

Organizations and employers interested in being a vendor at the event are welcome. For more information, email mtaylor@recoveryprograms.us or call (657) 222-4750. Rpsva.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.volunteeral-alexandria.org

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs 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.volunteeralexandria.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 Coun-

ties 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, or visit 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

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 15

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WWW.NEPENTHEGALLERY.COM

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22308

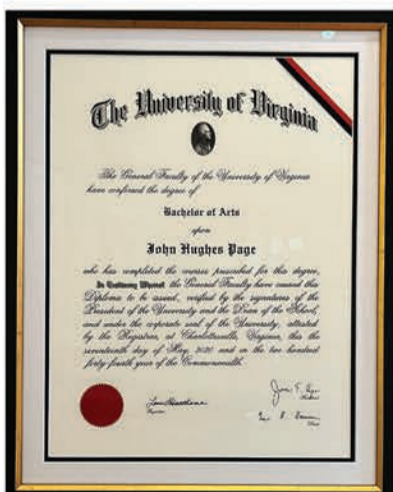
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11:00A.M.-6:00P.M.

SUNDAY 10A.M.-3 P.M.

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**ALL ORDERS PLACED IN NOVEMBER
WILL BE FRAMED AND READY IN
TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!**

ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallship-providence.org/>

OCT. 3 TO NOV. 13

"The Spirit Within" Exhibit. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Drive, Alexandria. Mosaic artist Nina Tisara and artist-photographer Steven Halperson will exhibit their art work in the Fireplace Art Alcove. MVUC members and friends are invited to an artists' reception on Sunday, November 12, 2:30 - 5 p.m. RSVP: ninat@ninatisara.com.

OCT. 19 TO NOV. 26

Fleeting Moments | Street Photography. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Fleeting Moments features photographs that capture candid moments, revelatory interpretations, and brilliant reflections of the mundane — work commonly referred to as "street photography." In 1943 the New York Times referred to the street photography of Helen Levitt, as, "fleeting moments of surpassing lyricism, mystery and quiet drama." Those qualities are the hallmark of the works selected for this show.

THURSDAY/NOV. 2

Loyal Service: Working Dogs at War "Meet the Artist" Gallery Talk. 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. At the National Museum of the U.S. Army, Alexandria. The public is invited to a gallery talk with renowned artist James Mellick. Mellick will describe the process and purpose behind his creation of 16 wooden sculptures featured in the Museum's current special exhibit Loyal Service: Working Dogs at War. The traveling exhibit, which is open to all Museum visitors, features sculptures that symbolize the sacrifice of those dogs who have served in war alongside their service member handlers.

THURSDAY/NOV. 2

Wine + Chocolate, Women + Business. 5:30-7 p.m. At Goodwin House Alexandria 4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Sponsored by The Chamber ALX's Professional Women's Network. Join them for an unforgettable night of curated wine and food pairings, networking, and celebration. Presented by The Goodhart Group Real Estate.

NOV. 3-26

The Housemates exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Exhibit showcases art from Del Ray Artisans members celebrating the beings we live with. Housemates may have fur, feathers, fins, scales, or be human. Opening Reception: Friday, November 3, 7-9 p.m.. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on Thanksgiving Day). Plus bring in donations for cat and dog rescue groups. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/event/housemates

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

David Buskin with Heather Aubrey Lloyd. 7 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. David Buskin's songs and jingles have been recorded by many great artists; a sample: Judy Collins, Peter, Paul & Mary, Johnny Mathis, Astrud Gilberto, Tom Rush, Dixie Carter, Roberta Flack, Mel Tormé, Take 6, Phoebe Snow, Richie Havens and Arlo Guthrie. He is a New York Nightlife Award, Bistro Award and Clio Award winner and tonight he's joined by local singer/songwriter Heather Aubrey Lloyd for a special night of "melodic, sensual



REFLECTION UNKNOWN | Fred Zafran | Through November 19, 2023

"Reflection Unknown" Photography Exhibit by Fred Zafran.

At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. Opening Reception: Sunday, October 22, 2023, 2 - 4 p.m. Fred Zafran has long been interested in photography as a distinctive means of storytelling. His work examines the artistic possibilities of photographs that combine the poetic with a representational view of the world. The resulting photo essays which Zafran calls "poetic narrative," are post-documentary in that the stories are open ended, subjective, rich in symbolism and metaphor, and encourage consideration and interpretation by the viewer.

pop, folkie grit and killer wit". Visit www.focusmusic.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

Fall Open House at Pope-Leighey House. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. Come celebrate the completion of the recent roof renovation with free self-guided tours, lawn games, concessions and more! Bring your family to learn more about Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic architecture and enjoy our outdoor space. The event is free but registration is encouraged.

SUNDAY/NOV. 5

Alexandria Fall Festival. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Dr. in Alexandria. Food trucks, pony rides, magic shows, beer garden, bounce houses and more. A lineup of local culinary favorites will be in attendance including Goodies Frozen Custard & Treats, Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company, Port City Brewing Co., Lost Boy Cider, Paradise Springs Winery, DC Slices, Big Boy Tacos, A.M. Kettle, The Little Well, Milaap Chai, Taste of Asia and F.T. Valley Farm at Mont Medi. Expect all your fall favorites — from kettle corn and hot chocolate to apple treats and much more! There will be plenty of family-friendly fun at River Farm — two magic shows from The Great Zucchini, caricature drawings from Capital Artworks, face painting from Sunrise Face Painting, pony rides and petting zoo from Mary's Go Round Petting Zoo, Big Country Amusements bounce houses, Something Vintage lawn games and more! Visit alexandriafallfestival.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 5

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra: New World Symphony "Going Home" featuring Stephen Seifert, Mountain Dulcimer. 3 p.m.

program opens with a surprise guest artist. Saturday concert attendees are invited to the pre-concert talk with Maestro Ross at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace section. Adults: \$20-\$89; Students: \$15; Youth: \$5.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 8

"60 BEEUTIFUL YEARS." 10 a.m. Social Hour, 11 a.m. Fashion Show, 12:15 Luncheon. Fashion Show, Luncheon, Silent Auction and Raffle featuring Sara Campbell. At Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Cost: \$60.00. Founded in 1963, the Yacht Haven Garden Club works to further education in horticulture, floral design, and conservation among its members and surrounding communities. For details and reservations, contact: YHGC.2023@gmail.com

SATURDAY/NOV 18

61st Holiday Shop. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Artisan vendors of many styles and mediums plus baked and canned goods, jewelry, household collectibles, lunch, and quilt raffle. Come and enjoy a day of shopping. Visit www.mvuc.org.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

NOVEMBER

Wed. 1: Tower Of Power: Celebrating 55 Years! \$90.50 SOLD OUT!
Thu. 2: Gaelic Storm \$55.00
Fri. 3: The SteelDrivers w/ Troubadour Blue \$55.00 SOLD OUT!
Sat. 4: Loose Ends featuring Jane Eugene \$59.50 SOLD OUT!

Please join us in thanking these retailers for participating in the Project Sticker Shock Campaign.



During this youth-led event, teams of youth and adults placed stickers on multi-packs of alcohol to highlight the legal consequences of providing alcohol to persons under 21.

Thank you!

24 Express Food Store
4007 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Bjs Wholesale Club
101 S. Van Dorn St.

La Feria Latina
3840 Mt. Vernon Ave.

7-11
504 John Carlyle St.
2002 Eisenhower Ave.
800 Franklin St.

Community Market
1006 Madison St.

LA Mart
5730 Edsall Rd.

Deli for the Belly
421 E. Braddock Rd.
2108 Mt. Vernon Ave.
3412 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Deli Market
4926 Eisenhower Ave.

M La Tiendona Market
3836 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Deli Market
1025 W. Glebe Rd.
1667 N. Quaker Ln.
3500 King St.
4949 Seminary Rd.
4610 Kenmore Ave.
6120 Lincolnia Rd.

Deli Market
140 S Van Dorn St.

Mercadito Ramos III
4102 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Department of Beer & Wine
2724 Richmond Hwy

El Paisa Grocery
3414 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Old Town Mini Mart
822 King St.

CVS
1680 Duke St.
2441 Eisenhower Ave.
433 S. Washington St.
415 E. Monroe Ave.
4606 Kenmore Ave.
1462 N. Beaugard St.
259 S. Van Dorn St.
5101 Duke St.
3120 Duke St.

Exxon
2320 Richmond Hwy

Safeway
500 S. Royal St.

Balducci's
600 Franklin St.

Fern St. Gourmet
1708 Fern St.

The Fresh Market
3680 King St.

Food Star
206 W. Glebe Rd

Giant
621 E. Glebe Rd.
3131 Duke St.

Total Wine & More
3901 Richmond Hwy

Global Food
1476 N. Beaugard.

Jano Mart
4105 Duke St.

Walgreens
4515 Duke St.

World Foods
640 S. Pickett St.

To report concerns regarding the sale or provision of alcohol to persons under age 21, call the Alexandria Police Department's non-emergency number at 703.746.4444

Learn more at PreventItAlexandria.org

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Announcements

Concerts at St. Luke's will present **QuinTango**, the 2023 Best Latin Artist-Group, on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Rd., Alexandria 22308 703-765-4342. \$25 for adults, \$10 for students. Dancing in the aisles will be encouraged! free parking.

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The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 12

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 Friends@AMHC@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.

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 or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, 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 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.

Robust Walking. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com.

Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/contribute.

Senior and Job Programs. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Queen of Apostles Church, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria. St. Martin de Porres Center offers senior and job placement programming Monday through Friday at the parish. Email Kathryn Toohey, ktoohey@ccda.net.

Be Heard at the City's Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city's website. Anyone is welcome at any of the public hearings.

Public Space Recycling. Alexandria has placed more than 80 bright blue recycling containers next to public trash cans in the commercial districts along Mount Vernon Avenue and King Street, as well as other public spaces, including parks, recreation fields, and other high-traffic pedestrian areas. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recycling.

Composting and Food Waste. Alexandria now has Resource Recovery Stations, located at the City's Farmers' Markets (Old Town, Del Ray) to collect food waste. More than 270 people have participated in the food waste program over the last several months. Participants drop off items weekly, over eight tons of waste has been collected, to be composted to make a natural fertilizer. To learn more about composting visit alexandriava.gov/YardWaste.

English as a Second Language Class. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Tuesdays and Thursdays, all levels 10 a.m.-12 p.m., intermediate workshop 3-5 p.m. All classes free. Call the information desk, 703-746-1702.

The Military Officers Association of America's scholarship fund gives out loans and grants to children of military families. To learn more, apply or donate visit www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund.

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We Need Your Help Again

We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784



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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A "Madder" of Perspective



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

My wife, Dina and I have been married for almost 45 years. In that time, we have discovered, among other admissions; that we don't think alike, eat alike, drink alike and joke alike, as an extremely brief sample. In general, we have much less alike that would lead one to consider – on paper, anyway, the logic of our potential togetherness. Given that that ship has sailed, and we have survived this test of time, it's worth mentioning/summarizing that we don't always get along. And just recently I was reminded of that reality from a very unexpected source: a website of a company from whom I regularly purchase my vitamins, minerals, supplements, et cetera. Maybe being reminded of our ongoing dilemma from an unexpected and totally independent/non-partisan source might have an affect on me. (I won't say that it could actually impact our marriage because to say so would confirm how little I've learned during our marriage. Rome wasn't built in a day. And neither is the communication between a married couple so easily transformed. It takes work, lots of work, and unfortunately for Dina, this experience is brand new – to me.)

This electronic missive, which was this pill provider's second attempt to encourage me to re-order (which according to their records, I was past time to do so) was friendly enough and certainly reasonably intended. However, I didn't take it as such. I took it as bothersome. My knee-jerk reaction was to say – out loud: "Stop bugging me!" It was this verbal counter punch that reminded me of the nature of the relationship/marriage I share/experience with my wife, and the motivation for this column.

Typically, and this won't come as a news flash to those who know us, I am the more responsible party. To clarify – for the sake of this column and my life, I'm the one who's more aware/responsible for times, dates, bills due, people/procedures to follow to solve problems; in short, the mundane and boring; that's me. As a rest, our reality is that I'm the one doing the reminding about such and such. It's my nature. I'm happy to do it and for me, it's no problem. Dare I say, it's my job. Still, as much experience as I have in this capacity, I have on occasion said something to Dina about something I felt was time-sensitive - or felt that I was being helpful/necessary in what I was saying, that she didn't feel was nearly as important as I did. Moreover, she may have felt the intrusion into her comings and goings was more frequent than it needed to be. On this too-frequent occurrence, Dina would invariably say: "Stop bugging me." (Finally, the point of the column.) And I would invariably respond: "I'm not bugging you. You're being bugged by me." Which from perspective, means I'm acting within my hypothetical marital rights (and apparent wrongs) in saying this because it's not about me. It's more likely about us or her. I'm merely stating a fact whose utterance was meant to be helpful, not bothersome, and certainly not nagging.

Since I'm the one writing this column, I will admit that these types of conversations/interactions are my opinions and do not reflect Dina's opinion/reaction. In fact, often, they didn't always go so well. Most often they go badly. And despite my best intentions, as has been made abundantly clear to her numerous times, I was not being helpful at all. And after receiving this second email from the pill provider (they are not prescription medications, they are over the counter), a business from whom I've bought thousands of pills over 14-plus years, I sort of snapped; well for me, snapped: I talked back to the computer in an irritated tone. (Dina also hates when I use tone as another method of communication.) And what did I say, exactly, to the computer? "Stop bugging me." And then I laughed. So that's how Dina has felt all those times when she felt compelled to tell me to stop bugging her. From 1978 to 2023, finally now we're simpatico, sort of. I suppose turnaround is fair play – or at least possible (I think I'd hold off saying probable).

You see it is possible to teach an old dog – or in this case, an old husband, new tricks/new behaviors. I don't think I'll have similar agreement with this pill provider so I will refrain from subjecting myself to whatever ridicule or response I'm likely to receive – regardless of their tone, from the company when I ask them to spare me their marketing initiatives. As a businessman I can appreciate valuing and remaining connected with your active/existing clientele. As one of those active/existing clientele, I don't have to like it, especially if they're initiating more than I feel they should. Then it becomes a losing proposition. The exact opposite of what the company – and our marriage, is supposed to be.

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

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