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FEBRUARY 18, 2021



Election officials check poll tax records at an Arlington precinct in 1944.

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The Strange Career of Felon Disenfranchisement

Amendment targets Jacksonian-era restriction weaponized during Jim Crow.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Felons have been prohibited from voting in Virginia since 1830, when the “right to suffrage” was denied “to any person convicted of any infamous offense.” But it was during the era of Jim Crow that felon disenfranchisement became weaponized to prevent Black voters from influencing elections. The Constitution of 1902 disenfranchised Virginians convicted of “treason or of any felony, bribery, petit larceny, obtaining money or property under false pretenses, embezzlement, forgery or perjury.” Now, more than a century later, lawmakers are considering a constitutional

amendment stripping felon disenfranchisement from the Virginia Constitution.

“This is something I’ve been fighting for ever since I’ve been in the General Assembly,” said House Majority Leader Charniele Herring of Alexandria, who was first elected in 2009. “Once someone has

“Once someone has served their time, they have the civil right to come back fully and exercise their right to vote.”

— House Majority Leader Charniele Herring

served their time, they have the civil right to come back fully and exercise their right to vote.”

Herring introduced House Joint Resolution 555, which would restore the right to vote for convict-

ed felons upon “completion of his sentence of imprisonment.” If lawmakers approve the resolution this year, that would be the first step in a long process. Members of the next General Assembly would have to approve identical language next year after the election this fall.

Then voters would have to approve the amendment in November 2022. Gov. Ralph Northam identified this as one of his top priorities in his State of the Commonwealth address last month.

“Virginia is one of just a few remaining states where, if you have a felony conviction, someone has to act to restore your civil rights to vote or run for office,” said Northam. “It’s not automatic, SEE THE STRANGE, ON PAGE 12

Charlotte Ross

Beloved crossing guard dies at 95.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For 50 years, Charlotte Ross was a fixture at the intersection of Polk Avenue and North Pegram Street, shepherding generations of students to safety as a crossing guard at James K. Polk Elementary School. Ross donned her uniform twice a day until her retirement in 2014 when she left the area to be near her daughter. On Jan. 31, the beloved crossing guard died of natural causes at Brunswick Health and Rehabilitation Center in Ashe, N.C. She was 95.

“Mrs. Ross welcomed and protected generations of Polk Owls at the same corner, rain or shine,” said the school in a Facebook post reporting her death. “How blessed we are to have her for 50 years as a treasured legend of our community.”

Ross’s longevity made her a celebrity of sorts, with national media outlets profiling her over the years, particularly in November of 2014 when she was feted with a surprise retirement celebration by students and school administrators.

“I enjoyed my job, it was my



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Retired Polk Elementary School crossing guard Charlotte Ross died Jan. 31 at the age of 95.

therapy,” Ross said at the time. “Regardless of my mood by the time I got home I felt better because I got to see people.”

Charlotte Mills Ross was born Sept. 4, 1925, in Huntingdon, Tenn., and grew up in Arkadelphia, Ark. She married Francis D. Ross Jr. in December of 1946 and together were longtime residents of Alexandria.

Ross was a stay-at-home mom in 1964 when she was approached by a school official asking if she was interested in being a crossing guard at the newly opened Polk Elementary School. The former department store fashion model decided to give it a try, helping her own children cross the street when SEE CHARLOTTE, ON PAGE 3

“I enjoyed my job, it was my therapy.”

— Charlotte Ross upon her retirement in 2014



Charlotte Ross is greeted by children from James K. Polk Elementary School at her retirement in November of 2014.



Everyone Can't Be the Star of the Show

Just like any good movie or TV series, everyone can't be the star of the show. Someone has to play a supporting role which adds depth and texture to the storyline and balances out the heroine or hero. The supporting cast members are important in their own right, but they don't outshine the star. On occasion it is said that someone 'stole the show' as an unexpected character touched more deeply than expected.

Let's translate this to your next renovation project, a kitchen. First, gather together everything that you love, your favorite cabinetry, countertop, backsplash, flooring, light fixtures, appliances and paint color. Ok now, decide who will be the star of the show. Evaluate the supporting cast members and the role they play as compared to your star. Do they add the depth of design and contrasting texture that you are looking for, or do they steal the show? Perhaps have a second focal point, but let the supporting cast give the eye a rest to create serenity of style. Far from boring, this will make the star shine even brighter.

For example, if you select white or solid color cabinetry, then you can add a dramatic countertop or backsplash. But if you pick an exotic woodgrain like Zebra wood for your cabinets, then you will want to have a solid color countertop and/or backsplash.

Imagine if you chose a very patterned woodgrain for cabinets, a busy design on the countertops and a completely different color palette for the backsplash. All could be gorgeous on their own, but the combination detracts from each and diminishes the whole. This is much like all the cast members of a play speaking at once, where to look and to whom to listen, too confusing. Everyone is competing to be the star since it wasn't decided beforehand.

The entire space doesn't have to be serene; punches of color and pattern are essential to design. There has to be some fun and excitement, a reason to shout encore!

Lastly, if you find that you have competing cast members that simply can't get along, then save one for the next show, perhaps the bathroom.



Susan Craft

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Dolce & Bean owner Petros Ghebre-Egziabher, center, was presented with the Heart of Del Ray award Feb. 12.

Heart of Del Ray

Dolce & Bean presented with 2021 award.

The Del Ray Business Association presented Dolce & Bean with the 2021 “Heart of Del Award” on Feb. 12. The annual award, given to the business that represents the heart and soul of Del Ray, is determined by a public vote of neighbors and customers.

“It’s overwhelming -- I’m so humbled by this award,” said Petros Ghebre-Egziabher, who opened Dolce & Bean on Mount Vernon Avenue in 2017. “I’d like to express my love to this community that has welcomed me and supported me.”

Online voting for the award took place earlier this month, with several voters leaving comments praising the business.

“The things that people said about Petros and Dolce & Bean are exactly what this award was made for,” said DRBA board member Gayle Reuter. “Over and over, people said how welcoming he is, how he knows the kids’ names, and that’s really what makes a community.”

Added DRBA president Lauren Fisher, “Petros’ caring and welcome nature makes you feel like you are his favorite customer each time you visit.”

More than 1,400 people participated in the on-



Dolce & Bean owner Petros Ghebre-Egziabher at the shop on Mount Vernon Avenue.

Barrel BBQ/Holy Cow/the sushi bar, Taqueria Poblano, and Ms. Preeti’s 7-11. A business cannot win the award multiple years.

“Petros is the nicest, most welcoming business owner,” said one patron. “His spirit, even throughout Covid, has put a smile on my face, as well as lightened up the community atmosphere.”

www.visitdelray.com

“It’s overwhelming. I’m so humbled by this award.”

— Dolce & Bean owner Petros Ghebre-Egziabher

—JEANNE THEISMANN

Alexandrians Have Heart

Food and clothing drive supports local charities.

More than 50 people braved the ice and freezing temperatures Feb. 13 to participate in the 13th annual Alexandrians Have Heart clothing and food drive sponsored by former City Councilman Frank Fannon.

“Despite the ice storm and 29-degree temperature, people came out to support our local

charities,” said Fannon, who collected donations at a parking lot on S. Henry Street. “Along with car loads full of food and clothing we also collected \$2,600 in cash donations.

Donations will support the Alive! food bank, Christ House, Latina’s USA and Carpenter’s Shelter.

—JEANNE THEISMANN



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Former City Councilman Frank Fannon, right, poses for a photo with donors Feb. 13 during the 13th annual Alexandrians Have Heart food and clothing drive.

Charlotte Ross

FROM PAGE 1

they attended Polk.

The only interruption in Ross’s service came in the late 1990s when she took a few months off to recuperate after losing her left hand in a car accident (unrelated to her work) and adjust to using a prosthetic.

Ross is survived by her son, Douglas Ross, daughter, Nancy Edwards, daughter-in-law, Nancy Ross-Zimmerman and grandchildren, Robert, Heather, Jessica, Ashley, Harrison and their spouses plus three

great-grandchildren and nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her husband and middle son, Jeffery Ross.

Since 1966, Ross was a member of Fairlington Presbyterian Church where she also served as a deacon. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Fairlington Presbyterian Church Deacon Fund, 3846 King St. #1993 Alexandria, VA 22302.

“She took such great care of all of us, keeping us safe,” said Shawna Katherine McGowan in a Facebook tribute. “What a gem of a human being.”

Senior Services of Alexandria's Virtual 'Stay-at-Home' Gala

March 13,
6:30 – 8 p.m.

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria's (SSA) Virtual "Stay-at-Home" Gala will be a festive celebration to honor community leaders Barbara Anderson, Esq., The Honorable William D. Euille and C. Eugene Steuerle for their work, activism and philanthropic efforts at its 2021 Virtual Annual Gala.

A special honor will be given to Kate Garvey, Director of Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services for her leadership in developing an effective response to the Covid-19 crisis through the coordination of local non-profit activities and the creation of innovative programs designed to help those most negatively impacted by the pandemic.

"This year's honorees – Barbara Anderson, Esq., The Honorable William D. Euille and C Eugene Steuerle are community leaders who have made our city a wonderful place in which to live at any age," said Maribeth Bersani, Senior Services of Alexandria's Board Chair. "We are also pleased to honor Kate Garvey for her outstanding leadership in responding to the pandemic. All of these honorees have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of all Alexandria's residents including its older adults."

Barbara Anderson, Esq.

Barbara Anderson, Esq. is a long-time Alexandria resident, and has had a major impact on the lives of countless older adults through her work as an Elder Law attorney. She is the founding member of the Life and Estate Planning Law Center concentrating on estate and trust planning and adminis-



Barbara Anderson

tration, guardian and conservatorships, fiduciary services, asset protect planning and Medicaid, as well as a leader in the legal community throughout the State of Virginia. She was named as "Influential Woman of Virginia" in 2011 and 2020 by Virginia Lawyers Media.

Barbara and her husband Alan raised two sons in Alexandria, and she actively participates in numerous church, public school, civic and community organizations, frequently serving in leadership positions. A past president of the Alexandria Bar Association, she also served as a Board Chair of Senior Services of Alexandria from 2011-2012. She continues to work with SSA and other local nonprofits to form partnerships within the City to provide resources and services for older adults. Barbara was instrumental

"Celebrating SSA's Work for Alexandria's Older Adults"

in organizing the very first Senior Law Day, an annual event co-sponsored by the Alexandria

Bar Association that provides information to residents about the importance of estate planning.

Barbara has served as an Elder and Trustee in her faith community at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Also, she served as the Director of the Westminster Foundation from 1999-2003. Her work with the Alexandria Public Schools includes the TC Williams High School Scholarship Fund and the All-Night Graduation Party, and PTA President at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.

William "Bill" Euille

William "Bill" Euille is a life-long Alexandrian and former mayor whose life's work has been helping the Alexandria community thrive and prosper. He grew up in an area of North Old Town Alexandria in public housing then known as "The Berg" where there is now a street named after him.

He was elected to City Council in 1994 and became the first African American Mayor of Alexandria in 2003, retiring as the lon-



William "Bill" Euille

gest-serving Mayor in the City in 2016.

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

Eugene "Gene" Steuerle

Eugene "Gene" Steuerle has called Alexandria home for over 40 years and has been engaged with charities and churches in Alexandria for many of those years.

He is most proud of the extraordinary dedication and commitment to others of his first wife, Norma Lang Steuerle, his current wife, Marguerite Scheflen, his two children, Kristin and Lynne, and five stepchildren, Jennifer, Katherine, Elisabeth, Caroline, and Abigail, all of whom have been great teachers to him and have begun passing on their own selflessness to his twelve grandchildren, and their children, nieces and nephews.

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



Eugene "Gene" Steurele

trying to develop a legacy campaign for the non-profits in Alexandria, following upon the success of its one-day fundraiser, Spring2Action, which in 2020 raised over \$2.4 million for those charities.

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

Kate Garvey

Kate Garvey is a pillar of the Alexandria community in her role as the Director of the City's Department of Community and Human Services. Prior to her current position, Kate worked as the Chief of Children, Youth and Family Services for the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services for more than 10 years.

She also worked in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she served as the Executive Deputy Director for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS). Kate has served on multiple boards focused on human services, social justice and economic security issues. She has a master's degree in Social Work in Community Organizing and Planning and a BA in English Literature from the University of Pittsburgh.

SSA's "At-Home, Virtual" Gala will feature a delicious, three-course dinner and wine or a signature cocktail — all carefully packed for pick-up — to enjoy at your leisure. The evening's events via zoom include hearing from our honorees, volunteers and clients; trivia; best-dressed competition (don't skimp on the accessories!); and a fabulous on-line Silent Auction. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or to purchase a ticket for the event, visit www.seniorservicesalex.org. We look forward to celebrating SSA's work.



Kate Garvey

Nominations Open to Celebrate Women

2021 awards to honor women on front lines of pandemic.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Alexandria Celebrates Women Awards. The organization is looking to focus on those who have worked or volunteered on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have been inspired for



The Alexandria Celebrates Women awards will be held March 29. Nominations are due March 15.

centuries by women who stepped up and led the way in Alexandria," said organizer Pat Miller. "This past year, many women have worked and volunteered an exceptional number of hours on the front lines – delivering mail and packages, ensuring our food supply, teaching our children, caring for our health and safety, and many other efforts helping the Alexandria community battle COVID-19. We want to hon-

or those unsung heroes."

Alexandria Celebrates Women will host the first Celebrate Women Awards Monday, March 29. The Women's History Month awards ceremony will replace the Alexandria Commission for Women's annual Salute to Women. The free online event will highlight five women through biographical videos.

To nominate someone for out-

standing contributions to the community during the pandemic, visit www.alexandriacelebrateswomen.com. Nominees must live or work in Alexandria and nominations close at midnight March 15.

Alexandria Celebrates Women is a volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to recognize the history of Alexandria's heroines while celebrating the empowerment of Alexandria's modern woman.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

DPC Food Drive Continues

Due to inclement weather conditions last weekend, the Departmental Progressive Club is extending its nonperishable food and gift card drive. A second date of Saturday, Feb. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will take place at DPC headquarters at 411 Gibbon Street in Old Town. Donations of nonperishable food items along with gift cards are needed. For more information, contact organizer Willie Bailey at 703-909-0523.

Sweet Home Alexandria Alive! collects housewares for those in need.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

from homelessness, or unable to afford basic household items.

Alive! collected dozens of boxes of new and gently used housewares during a drive-by donation day Feb. 6 at Fairlington United Methodist Church.

“We are collecting housewares for the first time since the pandemic started,” said Alive! board member Gerry Hebert. “We haven’t really been able to do this before now but decided to do it outdoors, physically distance and practice safe mask wearing by everybody.”

Housewares were collected by volunteers in the church parking lot on King Street. Items will be distributed to Alexandrians who may be in their first home, transitioning

“We have so many people in need,” Hebert said. “When people move from a shelter into public housing or public assistance housing, they often just come with the clothes on their back.

They need basic housewares like sheets and pillowcases and towels and dishes. Those are the things that make a true home out of an empty apartment.”

Kylie Payne, a student at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes, volunteered helping unload donations during the event.

“I love helping and organizing things like this,” Payne said. “It’s satisfying seeing how much we can collect for people in need.”

www.alive-inc.org



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



A volunteer looks over boxes of donated goods during the Alive! housewares donation day Feb. 6 at Fairlington United Methodist Church.

St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes student Kylie Payne accepts donations at the Feb. 6 Alive! housewares donation day at Fairlington United Methodist Church.

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www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Virginia's Budget Focuses on Recovery

By SEN. ADAM EBBIN

Last year was my first on the influential Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, where I was glad to gain direct experience in the allocation of funds and the tweaking of expenses which together create our state budget. At the time, the economic outlook was strong, and we reported an incredibly bold, progressive budget. Within a month of its adoption it was clear many of our lofty funding goals would need to be put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Comparably, Virginia has weathered the economic storm well, and we were able to restore some of these funding priorities this year, as well as take important new steps to begin the process of rebuilding our economy.

Last week the Senate and House reported our respective amendments to the second-year appropriations of Virginia's biennial budget. The differences between these versions will be reconciled in the coming weeks by the joint budget conferees. The Senate bud-

get prioritizes repairing the damage COVID has done to our students' ability to learn, bolsters our education system, protects small businesses, expands access to broadband, increases affordable housing opportunities, and funds growing vaccination efforts as well as directing aid to at-risk medical patients.

In healthcare, we made prudent decisions to increase federal matching dollars for children's healthcare and foster care, and secured a large amount of federal funding to support a statewide vaccination program. Since my last column, Virginia has become one of the most successful states in vaccine distribution, and this funding will help us further advance that mission while saving nearly \$100 million for other priorities. We also appropriated dollars to add slots for Developmental Disability Waivers to support those vulnerable residents most impacted by COVID-19.

Virginia's Affordable Hous-



Ebbin

ing Trust Fund, which funds short and long term projects to reduce barriers to ownership and renting of affordable housing, as well as projects reducing homelessness, has been funded at or around \$5 million a year since its inception.

That was simply not enough, and I am glad the Senate budget takes the issue seriously by allocating \$110 million to the Trust over the biennium. We also allocated significant federal relief dollars for rent and mortgage relief. As this year has proved, access to the Internet is not a commodity, but rather a necessity. To address this reality the Senate included nearly \$50 million for broadband infrastructure grants. We also included expansive tax breaks and small business loans to protect and bring back small businesses and jobs in the coming year -- a major priority for members of the Senate Finance Committee.

Everyone has suffered during this pandemic, but especially of

concern are Virginia's children, who have been uniquely affected during their formative years. The Senate budget moves to address those concerns in order to get kids back into even better schools than the ones they left, with more support and a higher chance at life-long success.

We increased salaries for hard-working educators, and also allocated significant dollars in order to add three additional support staff (including mental health counselors and nurses) per 1,000 students statewide. We also increased per-pupil funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative to level the playing field, so that disadvantaged early learners have a better shot at success.

Despite economic struggles, I am glad that the Senate did not adhere to austerity economics as was done during the 2008 financial crisis. This legislative session has been one to address needs, not wants, and I am glad to support a budget that addressed those needs aggressively and responsibly. With the funds allocated in this year's budget, Virginia will recover.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Damp the Stormwater Fees

To the editor:

The Alexandria City Council is rushing to double the annual stormwater fees on Feb. 20 to \$280 for the typical single-family homeowner by 2022, and then nearly double that to \$540 by 2031.

That would make Alexandria's stormwater fees the second highest in the nation after Seattle, which

has more than 200 miles of coastline. Alexandria has only a few miles of shoreline along the Potomac River.

By doubling and tripling the fees, Alexandria anticipates raising \$484.8 million by 2031.

The proposal is a terrible idea. Alexandria has already squandered 40 percent of the \$20 million in fees since 2018 on staff salaries of the Transportation and Environmental Services department instead of addressing flooding. Doubling the fees will double the slush fund, letting the T&E department

hire 12 more people and divert another \$61.4 million— 24 percent of the fees over the decade.

Since T&E lacks heavy machinery and typically contracts the work to private companies to repair and build drains, culverts and bypasses, there is no justification for padding its payroll.

Moreover, Alexandria is not even committing to undertake the 11 biggest construction projects for several years.

That's why we're asking that the city council postpone voting on the proposal.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON WILKES STREET PARK REDESIGN

The Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed redesign of Wilkes Street Park (located between U.S. Rte. 1 and Columbus Streets), a 0.7-acre park presented at the Park and Recreation Commis-

sion meeting on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021. The community is encouraged to review the proposed park design and provide input via email until Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021 or at the public hearing. For more information, visit the project website: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/default.aspx?id=116143>

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

Integrating Stormwater Management in Landscape Design. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Ecosavvy Symposium from Green Spring Gardens. Learn innovative techniques to capture, store and redirect rainwater. Online event. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

[parks/green-spring/ecosavvy-symposium/022021](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/ecosavvy-symposium/022021)

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Office of Historic Alexandria invites the public to celebrate Black History Month with special events and activities throughout February. Black History Month is an annual recognition and celebration of the history, culture, achievements and contributions of African Americans and persons of African descent in U.S. history.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

Let Us Know Your View

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A Special Valentine – Karen Hubbard Suggs

BY CHAR McCARGO BAH
GAZETTE PACKET

Every Valentine's Day, Karen Hubbard Suggs and her sister, Faye A. Hubbard would take a moment to remember their parents' wedding day.

The weather on Feb. 14, 1953 was in the mid-thirties and the sky was cloudy when 27-year-old Alice

THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA

Virginia Brown walked down the aisle to marry 32-year-old Charlie Louis Hubbard.

For Alice, she could only see sunshine. She got married at Roberts Chapel Methodist Church where several generations of her family had been members. Alice planned her wedding day down to every detail. A skilled seamstress, she made her wedding dress, and dresses for the maid of honor, the bridesmaids and her mother. Her maid of honor was Betty Mae Simms and Alice had five bridesmaids. Her fiancé, Charlie Louis Hubbard's best man, was Alice's brother, Theodore R. Dudley. Charlie had six groom ushers. The Minister, Christopher A. Scott performed the wedding ceremony.

Alice was born in Alexandria, Va. on April 9, 1925. She attended Parker-Gray School but received her high school diploma from Armstrong High School in Washington, D.C. After graduating from high school, she attended and graduated from Cortez-Peters Business School. Charlie met Alice when he moved to Alexandria to live with his brother and sister-in-law. The Hubbards lived next door to Alice and her parents. Both of these families lived in the 500 block of North Alfred Street, next to the Bracy's Flower shop and Russell Temple Church.

Charlie was born in Gladys, Va. He attended public schools in Campbell County, Va. After he served in the Army during World War II, he attended St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Va., where he majored in math and history, and later, he moved to Alexandria. He met Alice, an intelligent, attractive and talented seamstress who had graduated from Cortez Business School. They got married.

After their marriage, they stayed with Alice's parents, James and Sarah Massie who had moved to 424 Wolfe Street. While living at Wolfe Street, Charlie worked at Newton Asphalt Company, Alice worked as an agent for Richmond Beneficial Life Insurance, and then for the Alexandria Housing Au-



Karen Hubbard Suggs (left) and Faye A. Hubbard.



Charlie and Alice Hubbard were married on Feb. 14, 1953.

thority. They had two daughters while living at Wolfe Street, Faye Alice Hubbard who was born in 1957 and Karen Yvonne Hubbard in 1958. In the 1960s, Charlie, Alice and the girls moved to 1127 Colonial Avenue.

In 1974, tragedy hit the Hubbard family. Alice was hospitalized at the Freedmen Hospital in Washington, DC, where she died at the age of 49 from an illness, one year before her two daughters graduated from T.C. Williams High School. The family continued life without the mom. In 1985, Charlie's health started failing him. He died on June 16, 1985 at the age of 64. Faye and Karen took their father back home to Gladys, Va where he was buried.

Faye and Karen have a lasting memory of their parents – Valentine Day – in 1953 when Charlie and Alice got married on a cloudy cold day that they saw as sunshine and happiness. They are no longer here, but their daughters will always remember Valentine Day as a special day in their lives.

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

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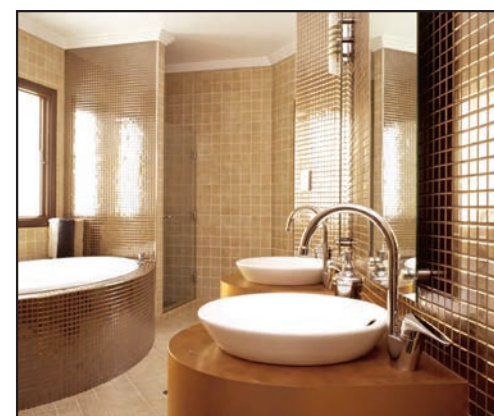
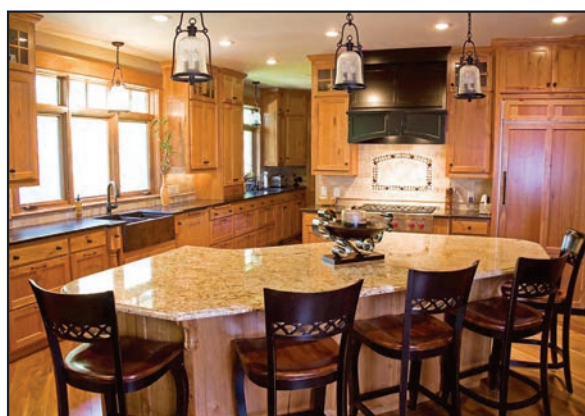
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Thinking Small Bill Reagan helps local businesses flourish.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Bill Reagan is not a very good salesman. Yet that is the career path he set upon following the active duty military service that took him around the world and first introduced him to Alexandria.

“When I was in the Army, my specialty was logistics,” said the native of Harlingen, Texas. “At one point I was designated chief of protocol and dealt with a lot of dignitaries. This was during the Vietnam era so I interacted with people like Henry Kissinger and Al Haig. I came through the DC area often and was fascinated with what happens here so when I left active duty I knew this is where I wanted to be.”

Unsure of what he wanted to do in the civilian world, Reagan was recruited for high-tech sales with the federal government. “I realized in retrospect that while I liked engaging with people, I was not a good salesman because I didn’t like pushing people to buy,” Reagan said. “This was the early ‘90s and I was living in Alexandria and driving every day to a job in Bethesda. In order to spend more time here, I decided to get into consulting for small businesses. It was then that I found out that there were no resources to help me with the process.”

Reagan began talking with then-City Council members Lois Walker and Bill Eullie about the importance of small businesses to Alexandria. Together they put in place the structure that became the Small Business Development Center, which opened in December 1996 as part of the Virginia SBDC network.

“While there was a lot of excitement behind the SBDC, there was not a lot of funding,” Reagan added. “At the start I was a one-person operation and it was just overwhelming trying to put together this infrastructure. It took a while to get sufficient funding to hire another person then grow enough to bring in consultants. My first hire was Jack Parker as a business analyst and then Gloria Flanigan as assistant director. They have both been with the SBDC over 20 years now and are a big part of our successes.”

According to Reagan, about 90 percent of businesses in Alexandria have fewer than 20 employees and they generate about half of the city’s gross receipts.



Bill Reagan is a 2020 Living Legend of Alexandria.

“These businesses are spread out all over the city so you don’t see them in any single cluster,” he said. “They fit nicely into our nooks and crannies and historical buildings, but they are a powerful force for our economy. It’s the small businesses that you think of when you walk down King Street

chair Charlotte Hall, Reagan has spearheaded or championed many community-oriented outreach efforts that fall outside of the normal SBDC activities of assisting small businesses get established, grow and prosper.

“Bill created the National Harbor Task Force in anticipation of

of the local organizations a forum for information exchange. And Bill started the Business/Council Exchanges where groups of small business owners who do not otherwise get their voice heard have the opportunity to meet with two City Council members in a small group setting to discuss issues that are important to them. These are just a few of the things that have tied the Alexandria SBDC to our community in ways that many other SBDCs are not.”

In addition to working with small business owners, Reagan has worked with Business Education teachers at T.C. Williams High School to present information to high school students who may be future business leaders in the community. And for 20 years he has worked with a professor of operations in the Virginia Tech MBA Program to enable MBA students and Alexandria small businesses to work together on projects which benefit both the student and the small

business. This effort has fostered over 100 projects and developed a relationship that will continue with the establishment of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in Alexandria.

“Small businesses have all of the problems that major corporations have,” Reagan said. “But major corporations have the luxury of having legal, marketing and accounting staffs. With a small business, it’s one or two people making all those decisions. That’s where small businesses need a resource to go to that will help them. We have the attorneys, the accountants, the specialists in human resources, government contracting, social media, and nonprofits – we have the experts to help.”

Reagan grew up on the same block in Harlingen until he left for college at the University of Texas. He studied natural resource economics and did some post-graduate work in regional planning. While in the military, he served in West Germany, Thailand and West Berlin. His military experience has helped as he expands the SBDC in tailoring programs for veterans transitioning to civilian careers.

“SBDC has served hundreds of veterans over the years,” Reagan said. “When serving on active duty, your counterparts are in the business world networking and building careers. We are here to mentor and advise younger and newer veterans who might need a little help in transitioning.”

Reagan credits city leaders and elected officials for recognizing the important role small businesses play in the community as he strives to help them stay competitive in today’s evolving business environment.

“We try to fine tune everyday what we are doing at SBDC,” said Reagan. “While we are not sure what the next new thing is – co-working spaces, solopreneurs – we just try to stay ahead of the curve and think what small businesses will need in resources to keep up with these new trends.”

Not one to rest on his laurels, Reagan shows no sign of slowing down and is excited about the future for small businesses in Alexandria.

“I see a lot of enthusiasm in the community with Amazon’s HQ2 and the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus coming to the area,” Reagan said. “Amazon first located in Seattle because Microsoft was there so there is a great potential for growth here that all spins off to Alexandria’s small businesses and I am excited to be a part of that.”

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

“While we are not sure what the next new thing is ... we just try to stay ahead of the curve and think what small businesses will need in resources to keep up with these new trends.”

— SBDC Executive Director Bill Reagan

in Old Town or Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. That’s what gives Alexandria its flavor and character as well as being a vital part of the economy.”

Reagan’s successes over the years are many. According to past Chamber of Commerce Board

the opening of the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center to take advantage of the many visitors that would come to the City,” Hall said in her nomination of Reagan as a Living Legend of Alexandria. “He also started the monthly Business Association meetings to give all



JANET BARNETT/CAZETTE PACKET

They're Back

Eva Lake, right, of Girls Scout Troop 4720, is joined by her mother Jenny Lake selling Girl Scout cookies Feb. 12 at Bradlee Shopping Center. "Sales are good," said Eva Lake. "But because of Covid, we are staying behind the table instead of having girls be out front asking people to buy cookies." National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend is Feb. 19-21. To locate local sales or to buy cookies online, visit www.girlscouts.org

Queen Bee's Priebe Victim of Car Theft

Police investigate incident during gas stop in Old Town.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

It was Super Bowl Sunday and Allison Priebe had her hands full with things to do. The local business owner was participating in the Walkable Warehouse Sale in Old Town but first needed to fill her car with gas.

Stopping at a gas station she had used many times in the past, Priebe had just begun pumping gas when a man jumped into her car and drove away, stealing her car, purse, phone, computer, coats, jewelry and the receipts from the warehouse sale.

"I am covered in gasoline and extremely shaken up," Priebe said in a Facebook post detailing the incident.

Priebe stood stranded at the gas station with an empty feeling that has left her forever changed.

"I have been laying extremely low since the incident," Priebe said. "I do not think I will be able to pump my own gas for a while. I'm extremely shaken up and feel very raw and violated."

The Alexandria Police Department is conducting a stolen vehicle investigation into the incident, which took place at the Liberty Gas and Auto Service Center in the 700 block of S. Patrick Street.

It was just after 1 p.m. on Feb. 7 when Priebe's vehicle, a white 2017 Lexus GS400, was stolen. A suspect accessed the vehicle through an unlocked door. Priebe was not injured during the incident.

Priebe noted that the employees of the gas station seemed undisturbed by the incident, almost treating it like an everyday occurrence. They did call 911 and police responded immediately.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The photo of the suspects from a store in Prince George's County where the credit cards were being used.

According to the Alexandria Police Department, the suspects were spotted operating a black 2018-2021 Mazda 6 with Maryland temporary tags. Security cameras captured images of the suspects using Priebe's credit card in Prince George's County.

SEE QUEEN BEE'S PRIEBE, PAGE 13

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February 24, 2021

Ads submitted by:

February 18, 2021

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Romance and Reproduction Are Underway



Two bald eagles calling. For such large birds, some observers consider their call to be weak.

Our area is awash in bald eagles preparing for offspring.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

In the grip of mid-winter's cold and covid isolation, romance may be but a fleeting fantasy for humans, but among area bald eagles, romance and reproduction are well underway.

On Jan. 18, while clipping English ivy off Dyke Marsh's trees, volunteers were transfixed by a bald eagle pair mating. On Feb. 3, Ed Eder watched a male take a fish to the female who was incubating eggs. In December and January, locals saw eagles carrying sticks to nests.

Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) mate for life and typically return to their previous year's site and add to their nests. The nests, usually near water, are five to six feet in diameter and two to four feet tall, some of the largest nests in the world weighing up to 4,000 pounds.

Females incubate two to three eggs for five to six weeks. Between May and July, chicks fledge, when anadromous fish swim up the Potomac to spawn.

Mature bald eagles have a snow-white head and tail, a yellow hooked bill, yellow talons and a chocolate-brown body. Those under five years old are mottled brown. Adults can weigh from 10 to 14 pounds and have an eight-foot wingspan.

They are powerful flyers and often perch, monitor their surroundings, swoop down and grasp their prey in their talons. They eat mostly fish, but also gulls, small mammals, snakes and waterfowl.

"Our" Eagles

Local fans have not yet located all active nests this year, but in 2020, there were three active bald eagle nests in Dyke Marsh and one in Fort Hunt Park. Mason Neck had at least 25 active nests in recent years, approximately 50 year-round resident bald eagles and up to 100 in the winter. Fort Belvoir typically has six or seven active nests. To ornithologists, "active" means that pairs are tending to a nest or eaglets.

The Rebound

In the 1700s, there were around 100,000 nesting bald eagles in the lower 48 states. By 1963, the numbers had plunged to 417 known nesting pairs. Scientists determined that DDT and other compounds in pesticides moved up the food chain and thinned eggshells so severely that the shells broke and chicks failed to hatch. In 1967, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed the bald eagle as endangered. Congress banned DDT in 1972 and numbers began to inch up. In 2007, FWS announced the bald eagle's recovery and removed it from the endangered species list, but it is still protected under other laws. In the 1970s, Virginia had a breeding population of around 30. Today's estimate is over 1,300 pairs.

National Symbol

While the bald eagle has been America's national emblem since 1782, the bird has had detractors, the most famous being Benjamin Franklin who wrote, "He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish and is bearing it to his Nest for the Sup-

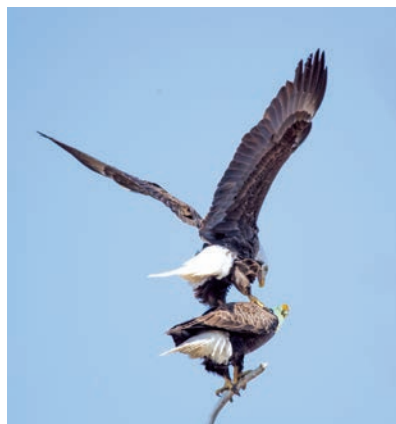


Bald eagle bringing grass to nest. Both sexes help build the massive nests, which they line with grasses and other finer materials.



Three bald eagle chicks in a nest, not yet fledged. Bald eagles are mottled brown until their fifth year. Chicks fledge between May and July.

Bald eagle up close. Bald eagles have a yellow, hooked beak they use to tear apart their prey.



Bald eagles mating

PHOTOS BY
RANDY
STREUFERT

Bald eagles playing. Bald eagles can be aggressive birds.



Bald eagle with catfish. Fish are a major component of bald eagles' diets. They take fish to the nest and tear them into small pieces to feed eaglets.



port of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him. ... Besides he is a rank Coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the District."

Cautious Optimism

While bald eagle numbers have risen, some threats remain, especially habitat loss. "The most destructive human activity is the development of waterfront property. Because eagles depend on shoreline habitats and aquatic food sources, human development in these coveted areas poses the greatest threat to the bald eagle's survival," says the American Eagle Foundation.

Bald eagles that ingest lead bullets or fragments after feeding on animals can be poisoned. They can collide with vehicles, wind turbines and power lines. In August, someone shot two Highland County bald eagles.

They may be adversely affected by pollution from mercury, fire retardants and prescription drugs taken by humans that end up in the waterways. A few years ago, the Virginia Wildlife Center was unable to save an eagle with a stomach full of plastic, a balloon and a thumbtack. Then there's climate change. The National Audubon Society projects that by 2080 only 26 percent of the bald eagle's current summer range will remain. Most bald eagle mortality is at-

tributed to humans.

Fortunately, this majestic, "cowardly" bird is thriving along many Virginia waterways and still deserves protection.

To See Bald Eagles

Post-covid, several groups will resume bird walks: Friends of Dyke Marsh, www.fodm.org; Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, www.audubonva.org; Northern Virginia Bird Club, www.nvabc.org; Friends of Mason Neck State Park, www.masonneckstateparkfriends.org.

Nest cameras, <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/viewing.html>

Virginia nest locator, <https://ccbirds.org/what-we-do/research/species-of-concern/virginia-eagles/nest-locator/>

Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes

By HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

New eateries, renovated restaurants, decade-old breweries and wine with felines: It's just another month in Alexandria's food and drink scene.

La Fiamma to Open at Former Paradiso Location

The venerable Paradiso is getting a new look – and a new name – when La Fiamma opens to customers this week. The family business has made its way to Melina

and Gonzalo Pardo, who are looking to put their own stamp on the restaurant and its offerings. From grilled specials (think rack of lamb or Bistecca piccolina) to chicken, eggplant or veal Parmesan to an array of fish entrees to a dozen pasta options, La Fiamma is opening up strong. 6124 Franconia Road.

Port City Brewing Turns 10

In a blink of an eye, a decade has zoomed past since Port City Brewing first opened its doors in an unassuming building on Wheeler Avenue.

Earlier this month, the brewery celebrated its tenth birthday with a rollout of its Colossal X barley-wine-style ale and – in this most unusual time – a video from Port City staff and dignitaries to celebrate from a distance. 3950 Wheeler Ave.

ESP Tea and Coffee Opens on King Street

After Killer ESP closed its doors amid much drama last year, it was unclear what might happen with the cozy coffee shop space. Turns out – a new coffee shop, under new ownership, has moved in to

take its place. Tech entrepreneur Erik Muendel's new shop takes the best of the old Killer ESP and has added his own twists in the form of new tea offerings and more. 1012 King St.

Mount Purrnon Keeps the Party Going

Two months after obtaining its liquor license, Mount Purrnon has settled into its full role as Cat Café + Wine Bar with a plethora of events celebrating both felines and festive beverages.

From chocolate and wine pairings for Valentine's Day to a

Purresident's Day wine tasting to a regular "Jeopardy!" event (hint: the next one is this week, Feb. 18), the café has embraced its full identity. What's more: In February's spirit of love and friendship, adopting a bonded pair of cats from Mount Purrnon will only cost \$100 this month, as opposed to the usual \$250. Love is in the air! 109 S. Alfred St.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU

MARCH 29 (MONDAYS)

Yoga for Gardeners I. 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method, which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. \$129 per person for 11 sessions. Class held indoors. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 6E6.JNLA) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAYS THRU MARCH

Virtual Pure Barre. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. Pure Barre has again partnered with the National Landing BID to bring free virtual classes to the community. Visit the website: <https://nationallanding.org/do/virtual-pure-barre-in-tro-classes>

THURSDAYS THRU

MARCH 11

Happy Hour Yoga. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Virtual via WebEx. The National Landing BID has partnered with Erin Sonn, owner of eat.YOGA.drink, to bring unique yoga experiences to you virtually. This free, hour-long class will have a different theme and playlist each week and requires registration. Visit the website: <https://nationallanding.org/do/happy-hour-yoga>

NOW THRU MARCH 24

Wednesday Morning Study Group. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Via zoom. Fairlington UMC 3900 King St., Alexandria. Join in a nine-week study of Laudato Si: Caring for Our Common Home, the groundbreaking encyclical letter by Pope Francis on climate issues and a Christian faith-based response. Visit the website: www.fairlingtonumc.org.

FEB. 1-25

Hunt for Washington. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In Alexandria. A fun and challenging game to uncover

clues about Alexandria and George Washington. The Hunt, which should take about 60-90 minutes to complete, will take you to places in Old Town

Alexandria associated with the General. Start by printing the Clue Sheet at <http://washingtonbirthday.com/events-1>, and bring it with you as you traverse the heart of Old Town and then use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. Submit your findings to GWBirthDayEvents@gmail.com before the end of the day on February 25. George Washington himself announce prize winners from a drawing of correct clue sheets during the February 26 Webinar, "The Life of George Washington in 4 Acts (see www.washingtonbirthday.com). Visit the website: www.washingtonbirthday.com.

FEB. 1-26

Dreams and Nightmares. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2120 Crystal Drive, Arlington. National Juried Show, compelling artworks on the theme of Dreams and Nightmares, pieces chosen from all over the country. From the beautiful and sublime to the dark and twisted. Featuring artwork by Colleen Smith, Peter Hargreaves and Lindsay Cronk. Visit the website: <https://galleryunderground.org/>

FEB. 5-27

In the "After Edward Hopper: Themes of Solitude and Isolation" exhibit, artists present their interpretations of what makes Hopper's imagery quintessentially American: perseverance, fortitude, diversity, and an egalitarian spirit in spite of adversity, impoverishment, and social injustice. This exhibit expresses the anthem of a new dawn: still we rise as one, stronger together. Runs February 5-27, 2021 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Details: www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

FRIDAYS IN FEBRUARY

The Life of George Washington in Four Acts. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Join George Washington every Friday in February as he discusses his life during various periods of his life and engages the audience. Cost

is \$20 admission per event. Visit WashingtonBirthday.com for the full program. Tickets are available at <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx>.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17

Flying Squirrels Talk. 7-9 p.m. Via Zoom. The Friends of Dyke Marsh will present a talk on line by naturalist Kim Young from Fairfax County Park Authority's Hidden Oaks Nature Center. The rodents are likely quite common in some habitats in Northern Virginia. She will explore their often-hidden life, how to look for them, how to attract them to your backyard, their adaptations for nocturnal living and their ability to "fly." Register at info@fodm.org for this meeting, to be held on Zoom. Visit the website: www.fodm.org

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17

Lecture: Hidden in Plain Sight: Moss Kendrix and the Enterprise to Sell Black Citizenship. 7 p.m. Virtual. Dr. Brenna Wynn Greer will trace how Black public relations guru Moss Hyles Kendrix enlisted white corporate America in a campaign to redefine black citizenship after World War II. Dr. Greer will also examine how Kendrix and his work—so visible and so important in the early Cold War era—was almost lost to us. Dr. Greer is Associate Professor of History at Wellesley College. To purchase lecture tickets, visit AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

Art League's Patrons' Show. 2-8 p.m. At 105 North Union Street (Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. The Patrons' Show is the League's biggest fundraising event of the year and offers seasoned and new art collectors an opportunity to select from over 600 works of original fine art donated by Art League and Torpedo Factory artists.

For each ticket drawn, ticket holders acquire artwork valued anywhere from \$225 to thousands of dollars. The Patrons' Show is now open for viewing during regular Gallery hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

SUNDAY/FEB. 21

Doug Tallamy and Nature's Best Hope. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual meeting. Global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Doug Tallamy discusses simple steps that we can take to reverse declining biodiversity and explains why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope. Register with code IOO.JJ8. Virtual programs will be conducted via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. A link will be emailed to registered participants prior to the program. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using the program code, or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

FEB. 24 TO MARCH 24

Forty+ Fire Pit Party. Virtual and In-Person. Featuring: Choreographer Jane Franklin. Dates: Wednesday, weekly, Feb 24 - March 24; from 3 - 4 p.m. and Sunday, March 21; from 4 - 8 p.m. Forty+ Projects celebrate the collective creativity of people past the age of 40 resulting in unique collaboration. Projects explore movement and performance technique within a creative premise. Forty+ will meet weekly on Zoom with occasional in-person, socially distanced outdoor rehearsals at the film locations. The Fire Pit Party is an on-site filmed project in the Alcova Heights neighborhood of Arlington County. Dances will travel through the neighborhood, from one fire pit to the next, and involve participants of all ages. Tuition: \$100. Visit <https://www.janefranklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus> or call 703-933-1111.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

RiverRenew Listening Session. 6-8 p.m. Virtual event. Discover how AlexRenew is building for the future of Alexandria's waterways at a virtual Community Listening Session. Learn more about RiverRenew and meet the design-build team. Register in advance: RiverRenew.com/listening-sessions

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Voices of Woodlawn: A Reckoning by 4

Poets of America's Slave-Holding Past. 12-1 p.m. Virtual event. Hosted by the Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. In Voices of Woodlawn, four poets give voice to the erased lives of the enslaved at Woodlawn, a Fairfax, Virginia former plantation that is now a historic site. Maryland Poets Diane Wilbon Parks, Patrick Washington, Sylvia Dianne "Ladi Di" Beverly and Hiram Larew confront the sadness, anger, injustice, and confusion of such a past and its haunting legacy.

They are joined by poet and harmonica player, Cliff Bernier, in a powerful program of witness. Visit the website: <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/voices-of-woodlawn>

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Breaking Down the Wall of Slavery at Carlyle House. 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Join Maddy McCoy of the Slavery Inventory Database virtually for a discussion on how the enslaved individuals and families at Carlyle House were identified. Maddy will also discuss the importance of identifying and telling a historic site's full story. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/breaking-down-the-wall-of-slavery-at-carlyle-house-tickets-139736187699>

THE BIRCHMERE

Fri. Feb. 26: TYGRESSA SINGS NATALIE – Remembering Natalie Cole \$29.50
Sat. Feb. 27: TUSK – The World's #1 Tribute to Fleetwood Mac \$35.00
Sun. Feb. 28: JC COLE & FOLSOM '68: Tribute to Johnny Cash, with special guest REDD VOLKAERT \$29.50
Thu. Mar. 4: HIGH NOON: A Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd & Southern Rock \$25.00

All shows are at 7:30pm, unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

Obituary

Obituary

Constance "Connie" Suttles McKeen, 79, of Alexandria, VA., passed away peacefully in Vestavia Hills, AL. on January 31, 2021. She suffered a long struggle with dementia and was recently diagnosed with COVID-19. She was born Saturday, September 6, 1941 in Pottsville, Pennsylvania and was preceded in death by her parents, Richard Joseph Suttles, and Laretta Jean Suttles. Connie is survived by her only sibling, Jan Walker (Mark), her son Richard McKeen of Birmingham, AL., her daughter Susan Bruno (Sam) of Vestavia Hills, AL. and her much adored grandchildren Sara Bruno, Katie Bruno and Samantha Paguia-Gomes.

Connie was a graduate of Central Dauphin High School where she was a major-ette and won the William D. Meike language award at graduation. She then attended Gettysburg College where she earned her degree in education. She spent 27 years as a military spouse, moving from one place to another, hosting dinner parties and gathering many life long friends along the way. With her teaching degree she taught troops how to read and write. She even substitute taught at her children's high school in Germany much to their delight and the delight of all of their friends who attended school there. She was the cool mom that everyone loved. After relocating back to the United States from Germany, she began a successful career in real estate in Alexandria, VA., which she enjoyed for 28 years.

Connie always had a cheerful demeanor. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and loyal friend. Reading books, and waiting for the next Washington Redskins game to start were top on her list. Her favorite trips were to the beach with her family and friends. Connie loved her martinis and was a strong competitor in a game of Scrabble. A memorial service to celebrate Connie's life was held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 5 at the home of Susan and Sam Bruno. Family and friends attended.

Legals

Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, virtually on Zoom webinar on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of the recommendation from the City Council Naming Committee to change the name of 3550 Commonwealth Avenue to Shirley Tyler Unity Park.

PUBLIC HEARING and consideration of a License Extension, Amendment No. 3, between the City of Alexandria and the Tall Ship Providence Foundation for the Docking of the Tall Ship Providence in the City Marina.

PUBLIC HEARING and consideration of an Action Plan for Vibrancy and Sustainability at Torpedo Factory Art Center.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-1306 (BULK AND OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS) of Article III (RESIDENTIAL ZONE REGULATIONS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2020-0010. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2020-0010 to adopt amendments to the side and rear yard setback requirements in the RT/Townhouse zone.

AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 5-2-62 (CHANGES OF NAMES) of Article C (STREET NAMES), Chapter 2 (STREETS AND SIDEWALKS), Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, by adding thereto a new subsection (17) in accordance with the street name case heretofore approved by city council as Street Name Case No. 2020-00005. The proposed ordinance changes the name of Swamp Fox Road to Hoffman Street.

AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 5-6-230 (AUTHORITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE), Section 5-6-233 (STORMWATER UTILITY FEE), and Section 5-6-238 (PETITIONS FOR ADJUSTMENT) of Article C (STORMWATER UTILITY) of Chapter 6 (WATER AND SEWER) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance amends Section 5-6-233(c) to increase the stormwater utility fee from \$140 to \$210 for the stormwater utility fee bill due June 15, 2021 and \$280 for the stormwater utility fee bill due November 15, 2021 and contains administrative or clerical amendments necessitated by this amendment.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday February 27, 2021. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

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

NEWS

The Strange Career of Felon Disenfranchisement

FROM PAGE 1

but it should be.”

THE ROOTS OF felon disenfranchisement go back to the age of Jackson, when the dominance of the ruling elite was threatened by calls for expanding electorate to universal white male suffrage. Virginia responded by calling for a constitutional convention, which met at the Capitol from October 1829 to January 1830. The convention rejected extending the vote to all free white males, although delegates extended the franchise to long-term leaseholders and male heads of household.

The right to suffrage was denied to “any person of unsound mind, or who shall be a pauper, or a non-commissioned officer, soldier, seaman or marine, in the service of the United States, or by any person convicted of any infamous offence.”

“These exclusions were directed specifically at those persons who were perpetually in a state of dependence or, the case of convicts and servicemen, had ostracized themselves from the interests of a specific community,” wrote historian Christopher Curtis. “Nonetheless, the idea of dependency itself had been transformed from a test of the ability to produce one’s own food into a test of relative social productivity.”

The disenfranchisement for felons did not apply to African Americans because they couldn’t vote anyway. Subsequent Virginia constitutions built on the initial exclusion for anyone convicted of an “infamous offence.” In 1851, bribery was added. Then, in 1870, treason and corruption were included. When a constitutional convention began in 1901, delegates drew on language from several other states seeking to prevent participation from Black voters. The Constitution of 1902 was a Jim Crow document aimed squarely at institutionalizing white supremacy and preventing Black people from being able to exercise the franchise of voting.

“Our politics will be purified,” boasted state Sen. Carter Glass, a newspaper editor from Lynchburg who played a key role in the constitutional convention. “This plan of popular suffrage will eliminate the darkey as a political factor in this state in less than five years so that in no single county of the commonwealth will there be the least concern felt for the complete supremacy of the white race in the affairs of government.”

WHITE SUPREMACY was the declared goal of the 1902 Constitution, and it was devastatingly successful. A new literacy test required voters to give a reasonable explanation of any section of the constitution unless he paid property taxes to the state or was a Civil War veteran or the son of one. Although a previous Constitution had done away with the poll tax, the

1902 version brought it back. Anyone who registered to vote after Jan. 1, 1904 was required to pay a poll tax of \$1.50 for each of the three years preceding an election. The electorate was reduced by half.

“The electorate was so thoroughly eviscerated that throughout the first half of the 20th century, the Democratic Party regularly elected its gubernatorial candidates with the support of less than 10 percent of the adult population,” wrote historian J. Douglas Smith. “So few Virginians voted in the first half of the 20th century that political scientist V.O. Key quipped that ‘by contrast Mississippi is a hotbed of democracy.’”

The disenfranchisement of felons was a feature of the 1902 Constitution that was retained when Virginia wrote a new Constitution in 1971. Now, one in five Black Virginians are permanently disenfranchised. African Americans make up one fifth of Virginia’s population but more than half of those disenfranchised are African American. Virginia is one of only 11 states that permanently disenfranchise voters. Even though the roots of felon disenfranchisement stretch back to 1830, the effort to remove it from the constitution are viewed largely through the Jim Crow chapter of its history.

“It is time for us to reverse what has been a racist law,” said former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who testified in favor of the amendment. “It is time for Virginia to be on the right side of history.”

THE CURRENT PROCESS for restoring the right to vote involves a petition to the governor, which can be an intimidating process for people who are trying to get their lives back together after being incarcerated. And an application does not guarantee the restoration of rights. During his term, Republican Gov. Jim Gilmore restored rights to 238 individuals. By contrast, Gov. McAuliffe restored rights to 173,000 people.

“I would like nothing more than to put our office out of business,” said Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Thomasson, who oversees the process for restoring civil rights for the governor.

People who work with those who have felony convictions to restore rights say the process can take as long as seven months for some. For others, they may have already had their rights restored but didn’t know it. In those cases, people come to the painful conclusion that they could have been voting for years but didn’t because they were told they would never again have the right to vote. Some have argued that people should never lose their right to vote, even while incarcerated.

“At the very least, we should make the restoration of civil rights automatic,” said Chris DeRosa, leader of the Arlington chapter of Spread the Vote. “They should not have to jump through hoops and beg to have their voting rights restored by the governor.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

Feb. 20. Concert: Washington Revels Jubilee Voices. 2-3 p.m. \$6. The Washington Revels Jubilee Voices ensemble is committed to the preservation of African American history and traditions—presenting songs and stories of struggle and perseverance, trials, and triumphs, as expressed through a cappella music, drama, and

dance. To purchase concert tickets, visit AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop. Feb. 24. Lecture: You Will Find it Handy—Traveling Safely in the Old Dominion with The Green Book. 4 p.m. \$6. As automobile travel increased in the 20th century, refusal of service and other threats made travel extremely difficult for African Americans. In response, Victor H. Green began publishing The Green Book, which provided a safety net with its listings for ser-

vices such as garages, barbers, beauty parlors, hotels and guest houses, tailors, restaurants, and drug stores that welcomed African Americans. Susan Hellman, Principal Planner with the City of Alexandria Planning & Zoning Historic Preservation division, will explore Virginia businesses listed in The Green Book during this lecture. To purchase lecture tickets, visit AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT

Allison Priebe in Queen Bee Designs, recounting her car theft experience.

Queen Bee's Priebe Victim Of Car Theft

FROM PAGE 9

The police department advises drivers to avoid leaving vehicles unattended and to always lock the doors and keep the keys in hand when pumping gas. Priebe is going to heed to that advice, and a little bit more.

"I think for the immediate future I will ask for my partner to pump my gas or at least ask someone to come with me," Priebe added.

Priebe is the owner of Queen Bee Designs, a local gift store, and was in the middle of her biggest sale of the year.

"I can't tell you how devastating this was for me both personally and professionally," she said.

Her bad luck did not end with the theft of her car.

On Valentine's Day, Priebe broke some bones after falling on the bricks outside her store in the 800 block of S. Washington Street. So for now, she's hobbling around and hoping for support from the community.

"I came into the store on Valentine's Day very hopeful," Priebe posted on Facebook. "But right now I am in pretty rough shape and could definitely use some more prayers and good vibes."

Police ask anyone who may recognize either suspect to call Detective Walter Boyd at 703-746-6245.

Queen Bee Designs
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Obituary

Charles Rapley Hooff III

Charles Rapley Hooff III of Lorton, Virginia passed away on February 1, 2021 at the age of 80. He was born in Philadelphia on April 21, 1940 to Charles R. Hooff, Jr. and Elizabeth Dunn Hooff. Charlie grew up in Alexandria, attended Episcopal High School and graduated from George Washington University. He married Gudrun Kuelpfs Hooff in 1967 in Taipei while working overseas for Air America.

As Managing Director and Principal Broker of Charles R. Hooff, Inc. Charlie developed and managed residential and commercial properties, including The Torpedo Factory. Charles R. Hooff Inc. was established in 1929 by his grandmother, Sarah Carlyle Fairfax Herbert. The Hooff family has a long history in the Alexandria area with direct lineage to Lawrence Hooff and John Carlyle. Charlie enjoyed being a member of The Jamestown Society, The Metropolitan Club, The Life Guard Society of Mount Vernon, The Old Dominion Boat Club, The Fraternal Order of Eagles, The Society of Colonial Warriors, and The Alexandria Businessmen's Club.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gudrun Hooff, his four children, Maremi Andreozzi (and Phil), Churchill Hooff (and Jennifer), Janney Jay (and Willy), Carlie Casella (and Dan), twelve grandchildren and sister, Caroline Norman (and Jim).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA or The Cheetah Conservation Fund (<https://cheetah.org/donate/>). Services are private.

Obituary

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

If Michael Corleone Had Lung Cancer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Just when I thought I was out ... they pull me back in." And just when I thought I had a month off from cancer-related appointments, infusions, scans and lab work, et cetera, I experienced a new symptom the other day which warranted an unexpected brain MRI. Though I delayed a few days in sharing my new symptom, on Thursday I emailed my oncologist. Within the day (not nearly soon enough for my wife, Dina), I received a call from my doctor. After a brief conversation during which I described my symptoms in more detail, a diagnostic scan was scheduled for the next day (fortunately an appointment opened up while we were talking. Otherwise, it might not have occurred so soon). According to my oncologist, what I was experiencing is called "disequilibrium." I couldn't walk a straight line. Had a police officer been present, I would have been cited for walking while intoxicated.

Amazingly I received the results from the MRI within a few hours of my appointment. The report from the radiologist was extremely thorough since I had been given "contrast," an infusion which provides better detail for the radiologist. (Given my pre-existing kidney issue, there are certain products which I cannot tolerate, ones which are filtered through the kidney, specifically "contrast.") But this time, my oncologist wanted the clearest picture/assessment possible. (Infusing "contrast" results in a kind of clarity, like the difference between viewing color and black and white.) So receiving an "unremarkable" (no metastasis, "no infarct, no hemorrhage, no intracranial abnormality," no anything) report was particularly encouraging. Now I can breathe again, except for another side effect caused by the lenvima (my thyroid cancer medicine), but that symptom is more par for the course I've been on for the last four months or so. "Disequilibrium" not so much.

Going forward, I am experiencing less balance/dizziness issues. But I'm also no longer - for the moment, taking my thyroid medicine, which I can't imagine is a good thing. However, I'm not going to worry about that in the short term. In the long term, not taking the best possible prescribed treatment for the treatment of papillary thyroid cancer is hardly reassuring to my presumptive life expectancy. Nevertheless, if I've learned anything in my nearly 12 years as a cancer patient, it is that nothing (drugs, side effects, miscellaneous treatment/protocols) lasts forever. Heck, sometimes treatment and all doesn't even last a month. It's best to sit tight and try to be patient. Getting ahead of one's immediate circumstances is unhelpful and could be much ado about nothing (at least that's been my modus).

That being clear to me, anytime I can get a month where I have no scheduled lab work, infusion, injection, diagnostic scan or appointments is to be acknowledged and celebrated almost. Presently, I am, or rather was in the middle of just such an interval until this "disequilibrium" manifested. It's sort of like being called in to work on your off day. Mentally, it really upsets the apple cart, and more specifically your peace of mind. And any time a cancer patient can get some piece of mind, it's extremely valuable. It's mind over something that's the matter.

With a month off from cancer-related activities, one can almost ('almost,' not quite though) live a cancer-free, normal-type life. It's not as if you forget your circumstances however, but it allows a certain mental break which believe me, all us cancer patients need. Without all the constant reminders, one can almost back-burner the whole cancer existence. Unfortunately, this kind of existence is also characteristic of the ups and downs and all-arounds that cancer patients experience. Granted, it's not ideal, but it's still a living, thank God!

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

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Leveling the Playing Field in School Advocating for children with special needs or learning disabilities.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

When Lisa Lightner's son Kevin was two-years-old, she discovered that he would need special learning support in school. She has spent more than 12 years working to make sure he received the necessary assistance in the classroom. Now she is helping other parents avoid the frustrating and difficult process that she endured. Lightner is now a special education advocate, blogger and host of the podcast "Don't IEP Alone," a title that references an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). She uses her platforms to raise awareness and share information and resources to help other parents navigate the complicated and overwhelming path to securing the best education for special needs

"Working to get help for Kevin was a challenge. It's really an overwhelming process," said Lightner, whose son is now 14. "I'm college educated and I had so much trouble figuring it out." changes that remove barriers and provide your child with equal access to learning.

Recognizing that a child has and a learning disability, such as dyslexia or Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and determining the type of accommodations and adjustments in school to ensure that they have equal access to learning, is an arduous process. Though the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) gives children the right to have IEP that includes a learning plan tailored fit their learning differences, they don't always receive it.

"The special education climate has really changed in recent years," said Lightner. "Schools are doing more with less. Teachers have larger class sizes, fewer resources. It's very easy for a child to fall through the cracks if you don't stay on top of their progress."

Learning disabilities can often go unnoticed, but red flags that a child might have a learning disability include low grades and difficulty keeping up with their peers academically. "Parents are often the first to recognize that their child may be struggling with certain learning endeavors, for example reading, math, or writing," said Clara Hauth, PhD Associate Professor, Special Education Marymount University. "The terms for these learning disabilities are dyslexia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia." "A more obvious telltale is when the child shares with you an ongoing pattern of frustration about schoolwork or shows a lack of engagement in school," added Kelley Regan, Ph.D. Professor and academic program coordinator for special education at George Mason University. "Also, if work completion is taking an unusual amount of time or the child shows little independence or a lack of understanding of assignment or there is an avoidance of schoolwork; these could be signs that the child's needs may or may not be met."

The current virtual learning environment and the resulting restructuring of the way

that accommodations or IEPs are being administered might make noticing whether a child's academic needs are being met more challenging. "We also have seen firsthand over the last year how unprecedented circumstances like a pandemic have impacted delivery of instruction for students with disabilities," said Regan. "The delivery of services for students with disabilities had to be revamped by school districts across the nation and now we are seeing the impact of school closures on student achievement and social-emotional learning."

A diagnostic test will help identify and confirm a learning disability. "Parents who feel that their student may have a disability should contact both their family doctor and the school to request initial meetings to discuss their concerns," said Hauth.

Such tests could provide information to guide the creation of an IEP that outlines the accommodations that will meet a child's learning needs. Examples of these accommodations include additional time to take tests and complete homework and assignments or having tests administered on a one-on-one basis. Even with an IEP in place though, some children might not get the resources they need. "Research tells us that many novice special education teachers and even veteran teachers feel overwhelmed by their workloads and managing these workloads can be challenging," said Regan. "To meet the needs of students, teachers need adequate resources and materials, and they need devoted time to collaboratively design meaningful instruction for students. Limited resources and time may be one explanation as to why children with learning disabilities may not be receiving what they need."

In an ideal learning environment, a general education teacher collaborates with a special education teacher and they design specialized instruction that allows the student to succeed with the general education curriculum. "If ... the needs outlined on the child's IEP are not being met for the child, a parent should advocate."

Almost everything is more challenging within a virtual learning environment, monitoring a child's academic performance is still essential, says Lightner. "Engage in the IEP process, all of it, all year round," she said. "You have to stay engaged and in contact with your team and your child's progress. Understanding the evaluations and progress made is essential."

Sometimes, the needs of the child with learning disabilities changes. In such cases advocacy is necessary, advises Regan. "When the individualized program is not providing the supports that previously sufficed, a parent may need to and should advocate," she said. "For example, a parent may observe that his or her child appears very disorganized with his or her school materials, is turning in assignments late or not at all and needs an effective strategy in place for an observed problem. Likewise, there may be a need for adjusting the intensity or frequency of instruction. Instruction should be appropriate for the child."

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Belle Haven | \$1,950,000

Featured in Better Homes and Gardens Decorating this classic center-hall Colonial is located on a rare double lot in premier Belle Haven. With 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths and a two-car garage, this property has been sleekly expanded and curated. It is the total package!
Janet Catterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



Old Town | \$1,795,000

Awash with natural light, this 18th century semi-detached home blends historic charm with today's modern conveniences. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, original floors, 4 fireplaces, and 2 staircases. Large garden and brick patio plus 2-car off-street parking.
Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



Braddock Heights | \$1,399,000

Light-filled 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath, renovated colonial features a large dining room, kitchen with walk-in pantry, family room with built-ins. Master bedroom with en-suite bath. Finished lower level. Screened porch overlooks spacious backyard. 3106 Russell Road #A
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



Ballantrae | \$975,000

One level living! Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 full bath home on a 20,000-SF professionally landscaped deep lot. Awesome great room and sunroom with immediate access to outdoor patio. Separate shed/workshop/playhouse. www.HayesWoodHomes.com
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138



OPEN SAT 2/20 & SUN 2/21, 1-3PM

Liberty Row | \$815,999

This 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath condo has hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, open concept kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, plenty of storage, a double sided fireplace, and a private, balcony with views of greenery. Premier condo building! 540 Second St #103
Kristen Jones 703.851.2556
www.KristenJones.com



Marina Towers | \$280,000

Fully renovated 1-bedroom condo with high-end upgrades in Old Town waterfront location. Resort style living at its best with pool, fitness center, 24/7 concierge, store, bike path, walk to Metro/DC bus and parking. Unique floor plan in secluded location.
Barbara Cousens 703.966.4180
www.BarbaraCousens.com

VIRTUAL OPEN SAT 2/20, 11AM



**Del Ray
\$719,900**

3-bedroom, 2-bath gem just steps from "The Avenue!" Updated kitchen wows with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, and plenty of cabinetry. Large, private yard is fully-fenced with a great deck. Finished lower level with full bath. 2501 Leslie Avenue

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



**Old Town
\$1,095,000**

Charming circa 1800 plaqued townhouse. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with family room addition. Original hardwood floors and double-sided fireplace on the first level. Location is close to both King Street shops and restaurants and the Potomac River waterfront parks.

Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079

OPEN SUN 2/21, 1-4PM



**Del Ray
\$959,000**

Just Listed - don't miss this charming farmhouse-style, detached, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home, with open great room/kitchen, fireplace, private backyard oasis, off street parking. Location can't be beat - steps to restaurants/shopping on The Avenue. 409 E Bellefonte Ave.

Kim Kreeb 703.927.5396
www.McEneaney.com

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