



ACPS reopening raises equity concerns

Virtual learning poses accessibility, student support challenges

BY OLIVIA TUCKER

Alexandria City Public Schools will begin the fall quarter remotely — a decision that has garnered praise

from public-health experts and some parents but that has also sparked discussion over equity and accessibility issues in online learning.

The school board on Aug. 7 adopted the Virtual PLUS+ plan for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year,

submitting the proposal to the Virginia Department of Education on Aug. 14. According to ACPS Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D., the “PLUS+” in the plan’s name reflects its commitment to delivering a host of services to students and

families as the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact Northern Virginia. Yet some still express concern that COVID-19 poses challenges for families that ACPS — a division that serves more than 15,000 students, 37.3% of whom identify as Hispanic

and 25.8% as Black — will be unable to mitigate.

“I think we really need to start believing in and acting on keeping racial equity at the heart of our work,” Hutchings said. “[It] is going

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PHOTO/WILL DUNBAR

Flooding at the foot of Prince Street on Tuesday.

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Pizza shop Piece Out opens mid-pandemic.

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Behind the scenes of the to-go focused Restaurant Week.

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Redistricting Virginia

Constitutional amendment to appear on ballots this November

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

It’s only August, but politicians and advocacy groups are already starting to mount campaigns around a constitutional amendment that will appear on the Virginia ballot this fall and, if approved, would bring citizens into the state redistricting process for the first time.

Touted as the most significant piece of redistricting reform in Virginia history by its supporters, the amendment would wrest most control of the process away from the General Assembly, which has historically had complete authority over the drawing of Virginia’s congressional and state legislative boundaries.

Supporters say the amendment ends partisan

gerrymandering, which has allowed the majority party to create politically advantageous boundaries that remain set for 10 years.

“It makes racial gerrymandering illegal under Virginia law for the first time in our history, and it adds transparency so that we can ensure the smoky back room is a thing of the past,” Brian Cannon, executive director of nonpartisan advocacy group OneVirginia2021, said.

If voters approve the amendment on Nov. 3, it would establish a 16-member Virginia Redistricting Commission. The commission would be composed of eight citizens and eight state legislators: four delegates and four senators with equal party representation.

Every 10 years, the commission would meet and, using the most recent census data, draw up district maps

that would then go to the General Assembly for approval. The General Assembly would be able to vote to approve or reject the maps, not amend them. If there is a deadlock in this part of the process, the Virginia Supreme Court would step in to create a reapportionment plan.

Supporters of the amendment believe the plan that goes before voters in the fall will give people a voice in a process that has long been monopolized by legislators with partisan interests.

“For too long, every 10 years, we’ve had one party, depending on who’s in control, dominate over the other,” Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria) said. “... It’s entirely appropriate that there be some measure of balance in drawing the districts to lead to more fair districts and

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

Alexandria Drive-In Theatre sells out

ALX Community and The Garden are partnering to bring Alexandrians a socially distanced drive-in movie experience this fall.

The Alexandria Drive-In Theatre will screen a movie every Saturday night for six weeks beginning on Aug. 29. Tickets have sold out already, reflecting a community eager for some pandemic-safe fun outside the house. The movies being shown are silver screen classics like “Jurassic Park,” “Back to the Future,” “Trolls,” “Field of Dreams,” “E.T.” and “Mamma Mia!”

“We are blown away at how fast the Alexandria Drive-In sold out,” Maurisa Potts, public relations spokesperson for the

drive-in series, said in an email. “It sold out four days after it was announced and we are so thrilled to bring some great family entertainment to the community while giving back and helping two great local charities.”

All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit two local charities — ACT for Alexandria and Athena Rapid Response.

According to the drive-in’s website, parking spaces are approximately 20 by 30 feet each, and everyone in the vehicle must be wearing a mask in order to gain entry. Screenings will begin at 8:30 p.m., and food trucks will be on-site each night.

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ACPS hires executive director of school improvement

Anthony Sims, PhD, was named Alexandria City Public Schools’ executive director of school improvement, according to ACPS’ website.

A new position in the ACPS system, the executive director of school improvement will aid ACPS’ 18 principals and their respective leadership teams in achieving academic improvement and handle the implementation of ACPS’ school improvement plans,

according to the website.

Sims comes to ACPS after serving as the director of organizational learning and chief data officer for Bright Beginnings Inc., a D.C. nonprofit that operates early childhood and family learning centers for children and families experiencing homelessness. Sims also worked as a systemic improvement specialist for Prince George’s County Public Schools and

a senior research analyst for the American Institutes of Research, a nonprofit, non-partisan social science research organization.

Sims’ role falls under ACPS’ Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership, which was created as part of the school system’s organizational restructuring, which was announced in December 2019 and took effect on July 1.

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Exhibit celebrates women’s suffrage centennial

There is a new exhibit at the Torpedo Factory in honor of the women’s suffrage centennial.

The 19th amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920 to guarantee women the right to vote. A local nonprofit, Alexandria Celebrates Women, has been commemorating the cen-

tennial throughout 2020.

As part of the celebration, ACW partnered with the Torpedo Factory Artists’ Association to present “WE VOTE!” an exhibit featuring an array of women’s suffrage-inspired art, voting rights history, voter registration information and a life-size suffragist backdrop,

according to a news release.

The art and history exhibit will run at the Marian Van Landingham Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center through Sept. 27. The exhibit is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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to require our community to have a paradigm shift in how we think and how we operate, and the time is now.”

The Virtual PLUS+ model incorporates five elements: learning, access, food access, child care and helpline. The proposal states that these key areas will provide students with “enhanced support” as an extension of the digital school day. In addition to social-emotional support and “technology enhancements,” the division plans to continue its meal-distribution program, partner with community organizations to provide child care options for families in need and provide “live multilingual phone support.”

According to the proposal, school leaders will continue to engage with students, families and staff in the coming weeks to discern more specifically which areas stakeholders need support in, refining their planning accordingly. ACPS is scheduled to start classes on Sep. 8.

“Equity is the framework in which we make every decision, and this was no different,” the proposal states, referencing the division’s strategic plan for 2025.

For grades kindergarten

“I hope that we can come together as a city to continue seeing those portions of our population and [making] sure that they are cared for and that they have the means not just to survive, but to really flourish.”

– Marissa Salgado,
youth programs director, Casa Chirilagua

through 12, students will be expected to attend live classes remotely four days a week. Monday will be an asynchronous learning day for students and a planning day for staff. The proposal notes that English learner students will still receive instruction in a dedicated block, and special education students will receive virtual services based on their individualized education programs. Master schedules for each of the schools will include “daily dedicated time... in which to build relationships, reinforce and establish positive routines, and develop language and strategies that promote mental and physical well-being.”

ACPS will continue to provide breakfast and lunch at its food distribution sites, in addition to offering snacks for the duration of school-building closures. The division is also expanding its device distribution program to include students

in pre-kindergarten through the second grade, and providing internet access for families in need.

School leaders remain in talks with community organizations regarding child care options for the fall — particularly for families with essential workers or parents who must otherwise work outside the home. The division is aiming to create a “matrix,” or database, detailing local child care offerings, and is currently ideating financial solutions to make these options more accessible to families.

Alexandria nonprofits are also stepping up to fill in the social and education gaps that remote learning causes — all the while adapting their own programs to make them COVID-19-safe.

“We want to see the spirit that [students] all have and their imagination and gusto,” Kandice Ferrell, communications manager for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, said. “[They] can’t do that if they don’t have the help to begin with.”

In response to the pan-

demic, BCGGW launched Clubhouse @ Your House, a virtual space that provides daily live programming for students, regardless of their proximity to a physical club. According to Ferrell, the platform offers general tutoring and STEM education, in addition to fitness initiatives and “opportunities for friendship and mentorship” — a component Ferrell described as “critical” for youth facing feelings of pandemic-induced isolation.

BCGGW’s Alexandria location plans to reopen this fall at limited capacity to maintain social distancing and observe other public-health measures, Ferrell said. The clubhouses throughout the region have extended their weekday hours in recognition of the challenges some working families might face with remote learning.

The Campagna Center restarted “a very small measure” of in-person programming this July, focusing on families in need of child care to continue working outside the home, Tammy Mann, Campagna Center president

and chief executive officer, said. The center is planning to offer both in-person and virtual services this fall.

At Casa Chirilagua, weekly tutoring has continued for elementary school students — albeit virtually — according to youth programs director Marissa Salgado. She said that members of the Kids Club and Teens Club groups connect regularly on phone calls.

All three organizations have coordinated food distribution efforts during the pandemic. The Campagna Center has also provided diapers, baby formula and other child care essentials to its families.

Salgado emphasized that despite ACPS’s best efforts, this fall will likely push some students and families in the Alexandria community to the brink, as the virus exacerbates pre-existing inequities in the city.

“COVID — as hard as it has been — has brought to light some things that were important for people to see,” Salgado said. “I hope that we can come together as a city to continue seeing those portions of our population and [making] sure that they are cared for and that they have the means not just to survive, but to really flourish.”

One issue that will be particularly difficult for ed-

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ucators to address digitally is domestic violence, which the pandemic has exacerbated on a global scale, according to the United Nations. Students living in emotionally or physically abusive households will have less access to social workers and other supportive adults while learning remotely.

Hutchings said that ACPS has factored these considerations into its planning, and such concerns were one driver behind the decision to implement synchronous classes four days a week and require students to keep their cameras on. These measures will allow teachers to monitor for symptoms of an unsafe home environment, he said.

The threat of eviction is also looming large over the heads of some in the Alexandria community. According to Ferrell, one in

four children in the greater Washington area live below the federal poverty line — a 2017 statistic that the coronavirus has in all likelihood intensified. Virginia's temporary statewide eviction moratorium is set to expire on Sep. 7, the day before classes start at ACPS.

"[Eviction] is around the corner for many of our families," Ingris Moran, a lead organizer for Tenants and Workers United, said.

Moran said that the coronavirus' impact on the Arlandria-Chirilagua neighborhood, where TWU is based, has been disproportionate in multiple ways. The majority of residents have experienced unemployment or underemployment as a result of the pandemic's economic fallout and are struggling to support their families.

Arlandria-Chirilagua, a predominantly Latino neighborhood, has the highest COVID-19 positiv-

“ I think we really need to start believing in and acting on keeping racial equity at the heart of our work. It is going to require our community to have a paradigm shift in how we think and how we operate, and the time is now.”

– Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D.,
superintendent, ACPS

ity rate in the city, reaching 55% in May and drawing comparisons to initial hotspots like New York City, Wuhan and Milan in a TWU press release. According to the Alexandria Health Department, Hispanic and Latino residents make up 55% of coronavirus cases in the city, despite representing less than 17% of the population.

As Arlandria-Chirilagua residents struggle to make ends meet, other families

in the Alexandria community are banding together to form learning pods: small groups of school-age children whose parents are pooling their resources to hire teachers for private, in-home instruction. While some view learning pods as a positive alternative to remote learning, others have criticized the concept for its potential to widen achievement gaps in schools.

"If you have the means to hire a tutor to do a pod,

that will definitely exacerbate the inequity," Charissa Slack, a local ACPS parent, said. "Not everybody has that access."

Hutchings echoed Slack's sentiments, saying that he doesn't support the concept of a learning pod. While pods might have been "meaningful" in the spring, when schools had to scramble to move classes online, ACPS is well prepared to offer a quality remote education this fall, Hutchings said. He urged families to have faith in the Virtual PLUS+ plan.

"We have such a great opportunity to make Alexandria one of the most premier school divisions in this country," Hutchings said. "We have great talent, we have the ability, we have the resources. So now it's just a matter of us making it happen. I'm looking forward to doing that, even during a global pandemic."

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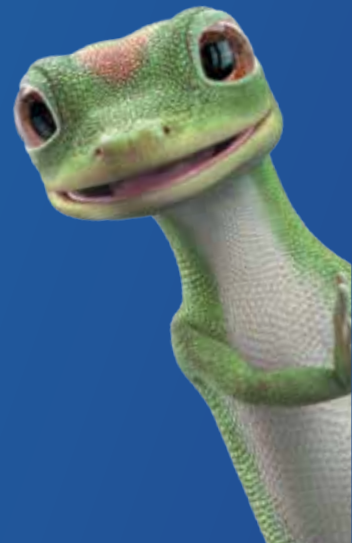
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small business spotlight



PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Owners Christine and Larry Ponzi opened Piece Out, a Del Ray casual Italian restaurant that serves homemade pasta and pizza, in July.

Del Ray pizza joint Piece Out opens mid-pandemic

St. Elmo's and Café Pizzaiolo owners cook up Detroit-style pies

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Opening a restaurant in the middle of a pandemic might seem risky. For Larry and Christine Ponzi, owners of Piece Out, a new casual Italian restaurant in Del Ray, it was simply an opportunity to do something new.

For the Ponzis, who also own St. Elmo's Coffee Pub and Café Pizzaiolo, Piece Out has been a chance to experiment with a small, flexible menu that features the New York-style, Sicilian pizza; square-cut, Detroit-style pizza and homemade pasta dishes they grew up eating.

"A lot of people may think we're crazy for doing this right now, but this is what we do," Larry Ponzi said. "We looked at it as, 'This will pass in time. We don't know when, but we know that

when it does, we'll be sitting on a great space, doing what we like to do.'"

The site, 2419 Mt. Vernon Ave., has been home to several restaurants in recent years. When longtime tenant Caboose Café closed after 13 years in business in 2017, local restaurateur Scott Mitchell opened Snackbar. Less than a year later, Snackbar closed to make way for Catch on the Avenue, an Asian infused seafood restaurant by Common Plate Hospitality.

After Catch on the Avenue closed in December, the owners of the site approached the Ponzis in January about opening a new restaurant there.

"We loved the location. We loved the neighborhood," Larry Ponzi said. "Our goal has been to get back with a casual restaurant in Del Ray. That's been a goal we've had for a while."

Piece Out opened in July.

Outside of the kitchen, which Larry and Christine Ponzi completely rebuilt, the site needed very little work, since it has undergone various renovations in recent years.

Some aspects of the restaurant, such as the fully furnished outdoor patio and two sliding garage-style windows that open to the outside, have become even more valuable during the pandemic.

When thinking about the vision for Piece Out, Christine Ponzi was adamant that she didn't want it to be another Café Pizzaiolo, which has an extensive menu of pizzas, pasta, salads, calzones, sandwiches and more, she said.

To differentiate the two concepts, the Ponzis planned to focus on a smaller menu at Piece Out, with chef-driven specials and made-from-

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Piece Out's sliding garage-style windows are used for serving pickup during the pandemic.



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Located at the former site of Catch on the Avenue, Piece Out retains most of the previous restaurant's design.

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PIECE OUT

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scratch pasta and pizza alongside items that would work well for carryout and fit in with Piece Out's casual Italian brand: baked wings, eggplant parmesan and salads with homemade dressings.

"The idea is making everything from scratch and not having too big of a menu ... which gives us the opportunity to do different things and change things up," Larry Ponzi said.

That plan has changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some menu items are not feasible at a time when most people are ordering takeout.

"Right now, with COVID, some of these things that we've wanted to experiment with, we can't do it right now," Christine Ponzi said. "It just doesn't make sense to take a steak to go."

The couple still has plans to roll out a slightly different menu when the pandemic has eased up and people are more willing to dine in.

One thing that hasn't changed is the pizza that's at the core of Piece Out's menu. The Ponzis' decision to serve

a mix of thin crust New York pizza and thick, cheesy Detroit-style pizza comes from the Ponzis' upbringing in upstate New York, where it's common to find both styles.

The Ponzis started experimenting with Detroit-style pizza after a local artist and friend had them cater an art show of his at St. Elmo's. After researching and eating Detroit-style pizza in the months leading up to the art show, the Ponzis knew they wanted to add it to their next restaurant.

"The idea is to load the outer crust with more cheese so that when it bakes it folds over and gets really crispy and caramelized on the pan," Larry Ponzi said. "That actually gives it a really nice, kicking flavor."

The Detroit-style pizza has been the best-selling item on Piece Out's menu so far, Christine Ponzi said, although the restaurant's homemade ravioli, cannellini and baked wings aren't too far behind.

"We've gotten a lot of people in who are like, 'Oh, I'm from Detroit and you're pretty darn close to it,'" Christine Ponzi said.

However, the process of

making the pizza has led to some difficulties behind the scenes.

The dough is proofed a few hours longer than the New York-style pizza, making the end product more airy and bread-like. But since the dough takes longer to prepare and the pizzas take longer to bake, the Detroit pies have to be pre-made.

At first, Piece Out was only serving them in slices, but even that proved difficult on opening night in July when the restaurant sold out of Detroit-style pizza in an hour, Christine Ponzi said.

Opening night for Piece Out was a challenge on seemingly every level, the couple said. There was a staffing shortage due to the pandemic, they had no idea how many customers would come out, the AC died and the power went out.

"Everything just kind of exploded that first night," Christine Ponzi said.

"I was planning on being in the kitchen a lot, but I wasn't planning on being, at times, the only pizza cook," Larry Ponzi added.

The couple was able to re-

small business spotlight

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tain some management staff, but with opening a new business during the pandemic, staffing proved a huge hurdle.

In its early days, Piece Out resembled a small family business, with Larry and Christine Ponzi doing almost everything themselves, including delivery. They even recruited their daughters, both of whom were stuck at home after spring break when their colleges shut down in-person learning due to COVID-19.

“It was like one minute they were in college, and the next they were back home slinging pizzas,” Larry Ponzi said.

“We wouldn’t have survived without them,” Christine Ponzi added.

Fortunately, things have eased up since then. The Ponzis have been able to hire



Left: Although indoor dining is available at Piece Out, the majority of business is still takeout, delivery and curbside service.

Right: Piece Out’s Detroit-style pizza has been a huge hit with customers and is one of the best-selling items on the menu.



PHOTOS/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

new employees and, for the first time in 10 years, have no open positions at any of their restaurants.

They have also been able to adapt pretty swiftly to the restaurant industry’s new normal. They instituted contactless delivery and payment, which has made their

process more efficient.

“There’s a little bit of a silver lining in some of the changes that are going on,” Larry Ponzi said.

They have also used their massive windows as pickup counters for customers who order online, a feature they are building into the plans

for their St. Elmo’s location in Old Town.

Although opening Piece Out has been far from what Larry and Christine Ponzi imagined, customers have supported the restaurant at a time when many local businesses are finding it difficult to survive.

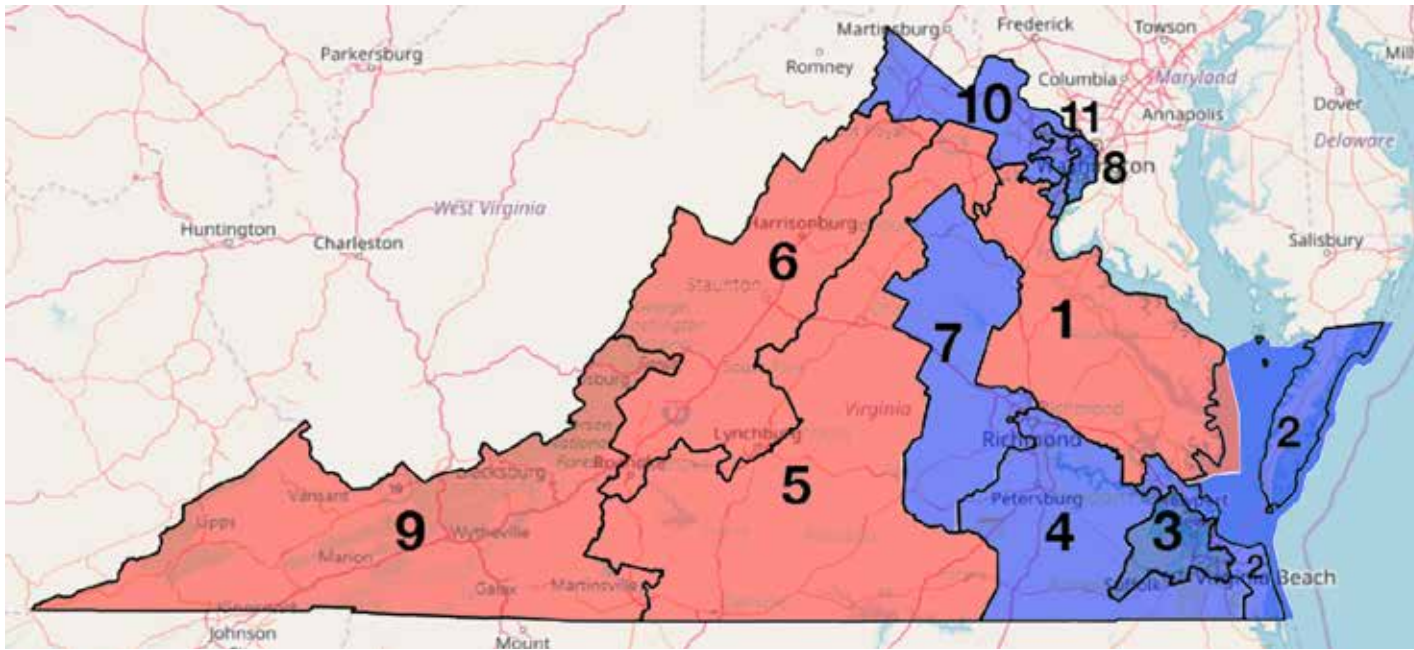
“It all worked out,” Christine Ponzi said. “We were able to open a restaurant, [and] we kept our other restaurants running. I’m not going to say [it was] super profitable, but we were able to pay the rent and utilities, keep the lights on [and] keep our people paid.”
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Virginia is divided into 11 congressional districts, each one represented by a member of the United States House of Representatives. The districts are currently based on the 2010 census and were redrawn in 2016 after the district maps drawn up by the General Assembly in 2012 were found to be unconstitutional and in violation of the Voting Rights Act. The redistricting amendment would impact both congressional and state legislative districts (not shown here).

“We elect people to represent us, but when it comes to those people representing us drawing their own districts, there’s a fundamental disagreement about how these districts should be drawn.”

– Brian Cannon,
executive director, OneVirginia2021

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transparency as the districts are drawn.”

“We elect people to represent us, but when it comes to those people representing us drawing their own districts, there’s a fundamental disagreement about how these districts should be drawn,” Cannon said.

Redistricting reform advocates have been pushing for an independent or semi-independent commission for years. The path to the ballot box has been defined by the very partisan maneuvering that supporters hope the amendment will curtail.

In 2011, reform advocates, skeptical that a constitutional amendment changing the

redistricting process would pass under a Republican-controlled House of Delegates, opted to pursue a bipartisan plan. Gov. Bob McDonnell, a Republican, appointed a bipartisan citizens’ advisory committee that actually drew up new maps, but those plans fell prey to partisan politicking and were tossed in the “circular file,” Cannon said.

Advocates ended up organizing under the banner of OneVirginia2021 with the aim of pushing for reform in 2020.

The organization drafted an amendment with an all-citizens commission at its core. With Democrats in the minority at the time, Democratic Sens. George Barker and Dick Saslaw pushed in-

stead for an amendment with the bipartisan, semi-independent commission that’s now a part of the plan that will go before voters in the fall.

In 2019, with the “Blue Wave” starting to approach, the General Assembly, which at the time had slight Republican majorities in both the House and Senate, approved the amendment in the Senate 39-1 and in the House by a 85-13 margin.

Democrats ultimately won control of both the House and Senate in November 2019. After capturing the majority, most Democratic delegates reversed their positions on the amendment.

In order for an amendment to be made to the Virginia constitution, a measure must pass both General Assembly legislative chambers in two consecutive years, then be approved by a majority of the state’s voters in a ballot referendum.

When the House voted on the amendment in March 2020, the amendment passed 54-46, with support from only nine Democratic delegates. The Virginia Democratic Party then voted to op-

pose the amendment during its June virtual convention.

The amendment has received support from former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), Democratic Congressman Don Beyer, Obama Administration Civil Rights official Justin Levitt and every member of the state Senate’s Virginia Legislative Black Caucus.

Virginia Republicans have been largely supportive of the amendment, which they said would provide for a more balanced process, especially since Democrats control the General Assembly and could easily draw the lines in their favor.

“If we don’t redraw them fairly, then you’re going to have one side of the aisle go in there ... with a calculator and a bunch of maps and they are going to get those lines as good as they can to make sure they have as much power as possible,” John March, spokesperson for the Alexandria GOP, said. “And that’s just shady. It’s shady politics; it’s blatant gerrymandering.”

Some critics of the plan believe the amendment does not do enough to ensure representation for racial and

ethnic minorities in the redistricting process.

Historically, the redistricting process has been used to limit the power of Black communities by packing minority votes into as few districts as possible and underrepresenting those communities in the process. In 2011, two of the three maps the legislature drew were thrown out by the federal court for racial gerrymandering.

During the House of Delegates’ discussion of the amendment in March, many of the state’s Black delegates stated opposition to the plan, claiming it would allow for continued suppression of Black political representation.

The amendment itself includes language that supporters believe will protect historically marginalized racial and ethnic groups. Additional supporting legislation that was passed in May 2020 includes new criteria for district drawing that ensures protections for racial and ethnic minorities. The supporting legislation also ensures that incarcerated populations are counted for redistricting purposes in their permanent home districts, not where they are incarcerated.

“The important additional criteria that is worthy of enshrining in our constitution is the added protections for racial and ethnic minorities,” Cannon said. “That’s a huge part of what got through in the [amendment].”

Skeptical Democrats do not believe the amendment ends partisanship in the redistricting process. Some expressed concern that legislators, by virtue of their involvement in selecting the citizens on the commission, could still compromise the redistricting process laid out in the amendment.

Under the new process, the four legislative leaders – Senate President Pro Tem-

WHAT VOTERS WILL SEE ON THE BALLOT THIS FALL

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to establish a redistricting commission, consisting of eight members of the General Assembly and eight citizens of the Commonwealth, that is responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts that will be subsequently voted on, but not changed by, the General Assembly and enacted without the Governor’s involvement and to give the responsibility of drawing districts to the Supreme Court of Virginia if the redistricting commission fails to draw districts or the General Assembly fails to enact districts by certain deadlines?

- A “yes” vote supports transferring the power to draw the state’s congressional and legislative districts from the state legislature to a redistricting commission composed of state legislators and citizens.

- A “no” vote opposes transferring the power to draw the state’s congressional and legislative districts to a redistricting commission, thus keeping the state legislature responsible for redistricting.

INFORMATION/FAIRMAPSVA

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pore Louise Lucas (D-Portsmouth), Speaker of the House Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax), House Minority Leader Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah Valley, Blue Ridge Mountains) and Senate Minority Leader Tommy Norment (R-James City) – would appoint two members each of their own caucus to the commission.

Those legislative leaders would also each make a list of 16 recommended citizens who would serve on the commission. Five retired circuit court judges, four of whom would be selected by the legislative leaders, would review those recommendations and select the final eight citizen appointees, four of which must come from the recommendations of each political party.

Del. Marcus Simon (D-Fairfax) opposes the amendment, arguing that the process still prioritizes legislators over citizens.

“The list of citizens is made by legislators, the list

of judges that review the lists of citizens are appointed by legislators,” Simon said. “So, legislators are still really embedded throughout this process. I don’t think it accomplishes what its proponents say it will.”

An alternative plan, sponsored by Del. Marcia Price (D-Newport News) and supported by many House Democrats, would establish a completely independent citizen-led commission with 16 members, Simon said. Although Simon is confident the plan could get passed if voters reject the amendment, supporters of the current amendment are not so sure.

“The idea of a purely independent commission, it’s like some unicorn that we just can’t get right now [in Virginia],” Cannon said. “I hope we can do that in the next decade, but the votes aren’t there for that [right now].”

Sen. George Barker (D-Fairfax), who sponsored

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the amendment, said that the U.S. Constitution includes language that requires state legislators to be involved in drawing district maps.

“There will be challenges to some of the maps that are being put together in 2021 because there are some states that have citizen only commissions,” Barker said. “I didn’t want to go through all this effort to get this passed and have it thrown out by the Supreme Court.”

Alexandria’s state representatives have been divided over the amendment as well, with Sen. Ebbin supporting the plan and Del. Mark Levine (D-Alexandria) strongly in opposition. House Majority Leader Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria) also previously supported the plan only to vote against the amendment in March.

Alexandria’s delegates supported the amendment in 2019 when Democrats were the minority in the House of Delegates. However, Levine in particular has come down hard on the plan this year for not explicitly prohibiting gerrymandering.

In order to approve the maps and send them to the General Assembly, the commission needs supporting votes from six of the eight legislators and six of the eight citizens. Like other Democrats in the House, Levine is concerned that opposition party members of the commission could easily organize to veto any maps drawn by the commission.

“If any legislative leader can kill a commission, then it’s not an independent commission,” Levine said. “It’s an advisory commission. The commission is a fig leaf. It has no real power; it’s a front.”

Supporters of the amendment said that, in lieu of a completely independent commission without elected officials as members, bi-

“You always want to go back to those original ideals of government of the people, by the people, for the people. This is part of that ideal, and we have to make it part of our reality. This will bring about good governance.”

– Allison Silberberg,
former mayor of Alexandria

partisan involvement in the process is necessary.

“It kind of goes to the fundamental point of, are you willing to have the other party have a seat at the table and, quite frankly, a veto in the process?” Cannon said. “Because if you aren’t willing to do that, then you’re not genuinely getting redistricting reform.”

The Virginia Supreme Court’s involvement in the process laid out by the amendment has also been a sticking point for Levine and other Democrats who oppose the plan.

If the commission cannot agree on a map in the timeframe allowed or if the General Assembly rejects the maps twice, then the state Supreme Court is authorized to come up with its own district maps.

Levine argued that a concerted Republican effort to deadlock the commission would cede control to the Republican-selected court.

“When the judges choose the legislators, who choose the judges who choose the legislators who choose the judges, it’s a never-ending loop and the people never get a say,” Levine said.

Barker countered that in most states, it is already typical for the state Supreme Court to redistrict if the legislature is unable to make a decision. He said that the Virginia Supreme Court judges have already proven their ability, in recent months, to rule in ways that run counter to the Republicans that put them in power.

“Once they’re judges in the state Supreme Court,

they’ve clearly shown a desire to do what is right and what is in the public interest and what the law calls for rather than to make partisan decisions,” Barker said.

Barker also worked with other Democrats in the state House and Senate to craft a bill that would require the Supreme Court justices to select redistricting experts, one recommended by each party’s legislative leaders, if the decision came to the courts. That bill passed in the Senate and House in 2019 but was blocked in the House’s special conference committee after some delegates, including Simon, attempted to add an entirely new concept into the bill. Barker said he hopes to pass it during the 2021 General Assembly regular session.

Citizens will begin casting their votes on the amendment as soon as Sept. 19, when early voting begins in Virginia. Despite the schism in the Democratic party over the plan, supporters believe now is the time to push for a change that has been decades in the making and that gives citizens a voice in the redistricting process.

“You always want to go back to those original ideals of government of the people, by the people, for the people,” former Mayor Allison Silberberg, who served on the leadership council for OneVirginia2021, said. “This is part of that ideal, and we have to make it part of our reality. This will bring about good governance.”

– cmelloklein@alextimes.com



AUGUST 21-30
 AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com
 #ALXRestaurantWeek

Behind the scenes of Restaurant Week To-Go

Biannual event looks different this summer

BY MISSY SCHROTT

Twice a year during Alexandria Restaurant Week, city eateries curate special menus and offer deals in hopes of filling their restaurants with new and returning customers. In the midst of a global pandemic, the event will look a little different this summer.

Starting tomorrow, more than 60 local restaurants will participate in Alexandria Restaurant Week To-Go, a curbside-focused version of the biannual event. From Aug. 21 to 30, participating businesses will offer \$49 dinner-for-two specials available for pick up.

Restaurant Week is organized by the city's tourism board, Visit Alexandria, to attract residents and visitors to local restaurants. That goal is critical for the upcoming Restaurant Week, as many local establishments have been struggling to keep their doors open since the novel coronavirus struck the region in March.

When Gov. Ralph Northam issued a statewide stay-at-home order on March 30, restaurants were forced to either close or switch to pick up and delivery models. Two months later, when the region entered phase one of reopen-



PHOTO/MICHAEL'S LITTLE ITALY

The Restaurant Week menu at Michael's Little Italy features 18-inch, New York-style pizzas. Choose from plain cheese, buffalo chicken, Philly cheesesteak or a combination of toppings.

ing, they were permitted to reopen for outdoor dining. Now in phase three of reopening, restaurants are allowed to be fully open for indoor and outdoor dining, so long as they adhere to physical distancing guidelines and enhanced cleaning and safety practices.

Despite being allowed to reopen, many restaurants are continuing to struggle, as patrons choose to stay home rather than risk contracting COVID-19 in public spaces.

"I had a friend refer to this as the Olympics for small business owners, because it's like every possible challenge you could get in a business, without any blueprint, has been thrown our way," Chelsea Anderson, di-

rector of marketing and communications for Homegrown Restaurant Group, said.

When planning for Restaurant Week this year, Visit Alexandria leaders had to balance the need to help struggling businesses with the safety concerns of potential patrons.

"As summer Restaurant Week approached, we knew that this was not business as usual," Tom Kaiden, chief

operating officer of Visit Alexandria, said. "We wanted to think creatively about what was going to be a really good experience for customers, what would support the restaurant community and what was sensitive to the safety of the community as well."

To help develop a plan for the event, Visit Alexandria formed a focus group of several restaurateurs repre-

senting a variety of cuisines and price points, Kaiden said. The "kitchen cabinet" provided input on how Restaurant Week should operate this summer.

"I was a big advocate against offering it as a dine-in special," Anderson, a member of the focus group, said. "I just thought it was socially irresponsible of us to promote an event where we're trying to get people to sit inside. It just didn't seem like the right tone."

The concept of Restaurant Week To-Go emerged out of those conversations. Some restaurants will also offer delivery, and some will have their to-go menus available for dine-in patrons, but the majority are focused on carryout, Kaiden said.

"Consumers right now seem primarily focused on outdoor dining or to-go," Kaiden said. "Because there's limited outdoor seating available in many places because

SEE **RESTAURANT WEEK** | 16

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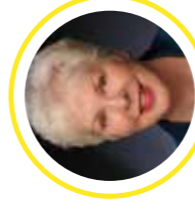
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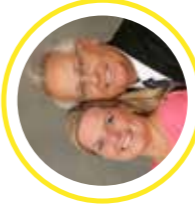


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PHOTO/TAQUERIA PICOSO

Taqueria Picoso's Restaurant Week menu includes tacos, chips and guacamole and a 16-oz margarita for two.

RESTAURANT WEEK FROM | 13

of Alexandria's density, to-go really opened this up to the entire community."

Visit Alexandria also simplified the menu offerings. In the past, restaurants could choose if they wanted to offer a \$35 dinner for one or \$35 dinner for two. They could

also offer \$15 and \$22 lunch and brunch specials. This Restaurant Week, menus are limited to \$49 dinner-for-two specials, although many restaurants are offering the menus all day.

"We wanted to keep it very simple for everyone because we were presenting a new concept, and we wanted it

to work for all different price points," Kaiden said. "So \$49 for two was both simple but really flexible. Some of the high-end restaurants will focus primarily on a couple of entrees, but you have many other restaurants offering multi-course options."

Many of the participating restaurants' \$49 menus include appetizers, entrées and desserts. Several also include beer, wine or cocktails to go. Kaiden said he's been impressed with the creativity and value of the menus.

Newly opened Taqueria Picoso's menu includes chips and guacamole, a make-your-own taco platter and a 16 oz. margarita for two.

"At that price point we're able to do that, and we figured, why not make it a full experience with drinks and food?" owner Thomas Voskuil said.

Michael's Little Italy, formerly known as La Trattoria, is offering an appetizer, an 18-inch, New York-style piz-

za and two desserts. During past Restaurant Weeks, the Italian restaurant offered a three-course meal featuring a seasonal entrée or pasta, owner Michael Strutton said. This year, Strutton is using the to-go format to feature his pizzas.

"We're kind of new to the pizza market," Strutton said. "We were already doing pizza before COVID, [but] that's a big part of what we're doing now because it's takeout food. I just want more people to try our pizza. We do have really good reviews on it."

As restaurants continue to struggle, many owners hope Restaurant Week will provide a much needed boost in sales.

"Something like an influx, during Restaurant Week, of business could make a major difference in a lot of people's lives," Strutton said. "We are relying on customers to keep our doors open, keep our families fed and keep the staff working."

Despite the region reopening, many restaurants are still far from their pre-COVID-19 profit margins.

"Things may start opening up again, but things aren't any different for us than they were in March when this all started," Anderson said. "Everything is still very uncertain. ... The hardest months for restaurants are usually the winter time, and so I think that's our biggest concern right now, because we're going to lose patio business."

Many restaurateurs say that how local businesses do now, in the midst of the pandemic, will determine whether they can remain open in the future.

"If you don't support us now, we won't be there when this is all over," Anderson said.

For more information or to view participating restaurants' Restaurant Week menus, go to www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

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Times Living

— SENIORS —

Services for older adults still available during the pandemic

BY PAMELA AUSTIN

The city's Division of Aging and Adult Services serves Alexandria's older adults, their caregivers and persons with disabilities with programs to help adults live safely in their homes. Its programs are even more vital for Alexandrians during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**PAMELA
AUSTIN**

Information and counseling

If you need help managing daily activities and are wondering where to start, call the Division of Aging and Adult Services. The intake team will outline options to meet your needs. If you are new to Medicare or have questions about your plan and coverage, the Medicare education counselors host monthly webinars and are available for individual counseling.

Safety and protection

During the pandemic, when many more people are homebound, older and disabled adults need your help to ensure they are safe. Adult Protective Services provides assistance for adults who are abused, neglected or exploit-

ed. Anyone can make a confidential report. If you know an elderly person who is unable to care for themselves or suspect abuses such as insufficient care or unauthorized use of an elder's money or resources, please call 703-746-5778 or 888-832-3858.

Caregiver resources

Caregivers may be working from home in addition to continuing to provide care. Programs that usually serve their loved ones may have reduced hours or may be closed. The Division of Aging and Adults Services' monthly caregiver support group is an opportunity for caregivers to share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources. The caregiver group meets virtually the first Wednesday of each month.



FILEPHOTO

Supportive home services

The Homemaker/Personal Care Services Program provides light housecleaning, laundry, grocery shopping and baths for low-income adults over the age of 60 and adults with disabilities that struggle to complete these tasks. This program has income guidelines, so call to see if you qualify.

Older adult clinical services

The pandemic has led to isolation, fear and increased mental health concerns among older adults. The division's older adult mental health team continues to provide mental health assessments, consultation, therapy and care management.

Nutrition services

Meals on Wheels and liquid nutrition are available to adults age 60 and older who can no longer prepare meals for themselves, have no other means of receiving meals and are homebound except for going to medical appointments. For older adults who are independent but staying

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HOMES

Renovations

Bath spaces can be an oasis of calm during trying times. | Page 18

CALENDAR

August events

Attend an art exhibit, help clean up a park and more. | Page 20

HOMES

Bath spaces can become an oasis of calm in trying times

BY ELAINE MARKOUTSAS

Most resolutions and goals have gone south since the new year was ushered in. Who could ever have predicted such a global detour?

One thing is certain: Demands on the home have spiked during the pandemic, and more than 100 million Americans have been working remotely, according to Gallup.

While many activities are on hold, such as travel, concerts and sporting events, the more time we're spending at home, the more inspired we are to make changes. We're dreaming more about those spa baths and vacation-inspired outdoor spaces. Remodeling is most definitely on the table for a growing number of Americans. It's all about making spaces more beautiful and more efficient.

According to a survey of nearly 1,000 U.S. homeowners by Houzz, nearly four in five homeowners are considering major home remodeling and design projects, and the bathroom is close to the top of the list.

Many homeowners, especially those who are remodeling, are moving away from cookie-cutter styles and looking for custom bathrooms. They're opting to show off their personalities with choices of bath fixtures, surfaces, cabinetry, hardware and lighting.

Showers are more bespoke – tapping into personalized experiences with multifunction sprays and rain faucets. There are more choices for faucet handles. Brizo's new Kintsu collection even offers custom inlays to match any material, in addition to standard teak, concrete and mother of pearl.

Wellness and smart tech continue to drive some bath selections. The desire for a



Layering with different colors, textures and surfaces hit all the design marks in this bath.

PHOTO/ABK BLEND

chill-out ambience is piquing interest in soaking tubs. A new showerhead from Moen offers four different aromatherapy experiences: Tropical Day, Zen Time, Energetic Morning and Sweet Morning. It works much like your Nespresso maker – pop in a pretty colored capsule and voila. INLY, a French company, makes the recyclable aluminum fragrance capsules, filled with essential oils that offer a range of scent combinations, like lemongrass, neroli and vanilla; lavender, vanilla and tea time; lemon, pine and citrus; and berry, geranium and vanilla.

Freestanding or soaking tubs still dominate the bath landscape, and they continue to evolve. Even classic white is getting a fresh look. Kallis-

ta's new Argile collection adds a raised textural pattern to its sculptural bathtub and vessel sink. The cast stone material has a matte finish called Honed White.

Besides stone, concrete, quartz and resin, metals are making a statement, and these allow a range of alluring shapes. Thompson Traders' new Quintana collection, designed by Kara Cox, mixes lustrous silver and brushed gold.

While integrated sinks are a standard in modern design, vessel sinks are attracting a new audience. Bowls have been extended into more shallow basins, ovals or rectangular, with squared or rounded edges. These are especially suited to the European style of floating cabinetry.

Round shapes – the big-

ger the better – are also emerging as a new favorite in mirror design. Many bath mirrors have integrated LED lighting, some of which can change colors.

Floating vanities and counters have gained traction, not only for the aesthetic but for the practicality in tight or narrow spaces, as well as easier cleaning. They also may include towel bars or racks, but these add-ons are done in minimal style that keeps the look light.

Washstands draw interest, especially with more industrial style in stainless steel or blackened steel frames. In Europe, some are finished in powder-coated aluminum in soft blue-green or terra cotta. The sink-on-stand takes on a more glam-

orous look in polished brass with marble.

Gold is having a moment in faucets, hardware, lighting, towel bars, accessories and even tubs. Touches of gold sparkle in wallcoverings and porcelain tiles.

At the same time, a more relaxed, eclectic approach is affecting the use of metals – just as in kitchen design. In some instances, manufacturers are mixing up silver with gold, gold with matte black.

Surface materials and finishes also are being mixed, coordinating different stones and tiles. Layering is an especially effective way to create interest. Matte and glossy are coming together, much like a tabletop trend in porcelain

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dinnerware. As matte black has moved from faucet to sink and tub design, that combination is especially striking.

Choosing a magenta tub requires a fearless decorating attitude. But color and pattern have other avenues – walls and floors.

Pattern in the bath couldn't be more intentional and is sometimes at the core. Feature walls are gaining traction, largely driven by the diversity of porcelain tile. Italian ceramics trends for 2020 underscore patterns as well as color and surface effects. Many of today's graphic patterns are inspired by terrazzo, rare marbles and semiprecious stones with distinctive markings, striations or exaggerated veining, flora and bold geometrics.

Beyond strong aesthet-



PHOTO/THOMPSON TRADERS

Left: Mixing metals gives a new look to bathtub design. The oval soaking tub and sink are part of the Quintana Collection designed by Kara Cox.

Right: Black matte and shiny white porcelain come together in a washstand from Sieger Design for Duravit.



PHOTO/DURAVIT

ics, smart tech also is finding its way to the bath, especially because millennials are seeking high-tech function. Faucets that respond to voice or the swipe

of a hand, and the touchless approach like that in airports are even more appealing now because of the pandemic. Antibacterial and self-cleaning ceramics are

upgrades to toilets, as well as those that combine bidet functions. Imagine: No more toilet paper angst.

Whether you prefer a refreshing rain shower or a

long soak in a tub, the bath has become more of a sanctuary than ever before. So it's no surprise that some are splurging on the extras that make it special.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Rarely available Old Town townhome

Sleek, modern finishes at this home include an upgraded private rooftop terrace with full access to a full wet bar for relaxed outdoor living, a two-car garage, hardwood floors and a chef's kitchen complete with Bosch appliances and an expansive island.

All bedrooms include cus-

tom designer bathrooms with quartz counters and abundant natural and LED lighting. There are many additional upgrades throughout the home, as well as designer light fixtures, custom paint, Hunter Douglas Silhouette blinds, an alarm system, an upgraded wet bar, tailored garage storage

and custom-designed barnwood in the loft.

Stroll a few blocks to the waterfront or enjoy natural green spaces and Starbucks across the street. Walk to the Metro, shopping, dining, fitness clubs and retail on King Street.

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Manumission Tour Company, bike the Mount Vernon Trail or breeze into Washington D.C., with an easy drive on the GW Parkway.

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CALENDAR

AUGUST 20

“CRAFTING DEMOCRACY” AT WOODLAWN/POPE-LEIGHEY HOUSE

Women in the U.S. have been drawn to craft as a protest tool since the American Revolution, thereby altering the domestic purpose of their handiwork into subversive action. This exhibit shows how objects of material culture can provoke and engage everyday citizens, including those of marginalized identities, as productive tools in deliberative democracies. Craft can also aid those wanting their voices to be amplified through the process of making. This exhibit will be open through Sept. 14.

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Location: 9000 Richmond Highway
Information: www.woodlawnpopelighthouse.org

“HELLO BRIGHT EYES” ART EXHIBIT

The “Hello, Bright Eyes” exhibit raises the visibility of healthy vision. The Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington provided materials to artists for upcycled artworks and will host a screening and talks. Come see artwork focusing on eyes, eyesight or all

the wonders the eyes provide. This exhibit runs through Aug. 29.

Time: Thursday and Friday noon to 6 p.m., Saturday noon to 4 p.m.

Location: 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Information: www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

AUGUST 21

ALEXANDRIA RESTAURANT WEEK TO-GO

For 10 days and two weekends, more than 60 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$49 takeout, delivery or curbside pick-up dinner for two during Alexandria Restaurant Week To-Go. This year, guests are encouraged to bring Alexandria Restaurant Week home and enjoy special menus from the comfort of their dining room table, porch or couch. Participating restaurants include Cheesetique, Spice Kraft Indian Bistro, Taqueria Picoso and Yunnan By Potomac Noodle House. This event lasts from Aug. 21 to 30.

Time: Hours vary
Location: Throughout Alexandria
Information: www.visitalexandriava.com/restaurants/restaurant-week/

AUGUST 23

JONES POINT PARK CLEAN-UP

For a few fun hours, help clean

up the beautiful Jones Point Park. Clean-ups will be held on the fourth Sunday of July, August and October. Litter warriors should wear comfortable clothes they don't mind getting dirty and gloves. Bring sunscreen and water to stay hydrated. Litter grabbers, trash bags and a limited supply of gloves will be provided. RSVP required at www.waterwayadvocates.org.

Time: Registration from 8:30 to 9 a.m., clean-up from 9 to 11 a.m.

Location: 100 Jones Point Drive
Information: www.waterwayadvocates.org

AUGUST 25

TELL ME YOUR NAME Join Carlyle House Historic Park staff for a tour focusing on the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and his plantations. The guided tour will explore the historical context of slavery in 18th century Alexandria and the importance of ongoing research efforts to connect with descendants. Reservations are required as space is limited. All COVID-procedures will be in place during this tour.

Time: 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Location: 121 N. Fairfax St.
Information: <https://bit.ly/3fQPd60>

SENIORS

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Intake specialists can also provide information and referral to other services such as the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, which offers advocacy and support for individuals residing in an assisted living or nursing facility; the Senior Cool Care Program, which provides fans and air conditioners to seniors 60 and older; and free legal services for people over 60.

Transportation

The Senior Taxi Yellow Card program allows low income adults age 60 and older to purchase taxi fares in advance at a discounted cost. Group grocery shopping trips are also offered on specially scheduled routes for individuals age 60 and older. These programs have taken cleaning and security measures to protect riders and continue to offer services during the pandemic.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services also collaborates with D.O.T., a program offering transportation for people who cannot use regular transit buses or rail due to their disability. For more information, call 703-746-4084.

If you or someone you know would like more information on these programs or want to learn what services are available, call the intake line Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 703-746-5999, email DAAS@alexandriava.gov or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Aging.

The writer is a resource coordinator for the city's Division of Aging and Adult Services.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Times encourages residents to continue to follow Gov. Ralph Northam's "Safer at Home" guidance, to maintain physical distance from others and to wear masks in public.

ENRICHING
LIFE'S
JOURNEY

LIVE ON YOUR OWN TERMS

HERMITAGE NORTHERN VIRGINIA, a tree-lined senior living community in the heart of Alexandria, provides our residents with the tools necessary to live life on your own terms. We connect residents, families, and loved ones through a person-centered approach to senior living, ensuring support and services are tailored to your individual needs. Our emphasis on togetherness creates a dynamic and engaging retirement community that lets you thrive! Whether you live independently or require more assistance, Hermitage Northern Virginia is ready to help you enjoy a journey that you create.

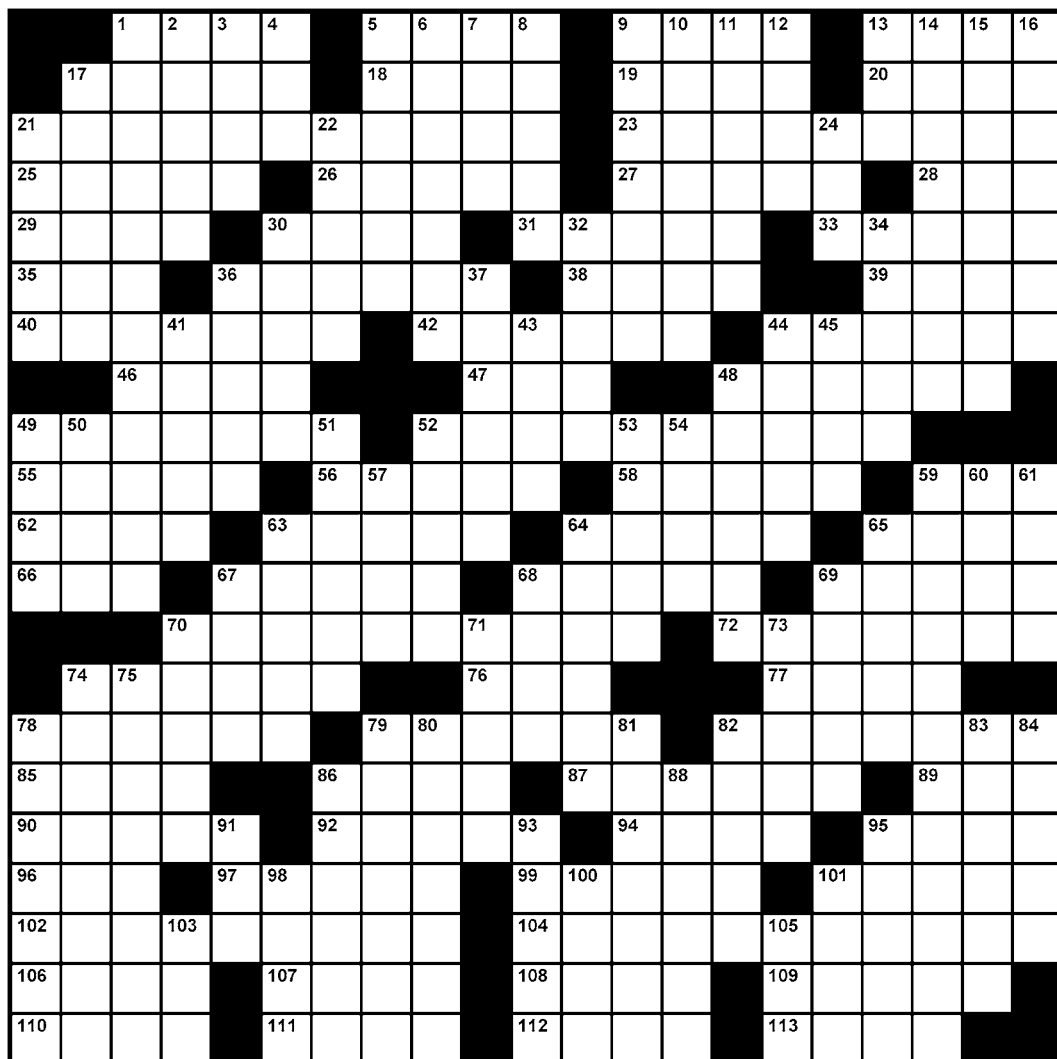
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Weekly Words



SET BACKS by Gary Larson, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

1. Try out
5. Fitting name for a middle American?
9. Word after "growth" or "interest"
13. Biological egg
17. Stares open-mouthed
18. Warrior princess played by Lucy Lawless
19. Wax-coated cheese
20. Toddler's taboo
21. Group of long-distance runners?
23. Group of space cadets?
25. Braided ties
26. Anne of "Catfight"
27. Smiling Face with Hearts, e.g.
28. Well-suited
29. Stuff (in)
30. Saucy
31. Vamoose
33. "Lion" actor Dev
35. "America (My Country, ___ of Thee)"
36. "In God We Trust" and "Semper Fidelis"
38. Singer Horne
39. Enjoy a five-star restaurant, say
40. Most extensive
42. Meal
44. Moved laterally

46. Lack of challenge
47. Ice Bucket Challenge letters
48. Surveyed
49. Banking convenience in a wallet
52. Group of photo editors?
55. See 103-Down
56. White heron
58. Tackle box items
59. Guevara in a beret
62. Feels poorly
63. War horse
64. Imitates a hot dog
65. Reach a high
66. Wily
67. Devote, as time
68. Get up
69. Soothing ointment
70. Group of amateur electricians?
72. Like an incoherent story
74. Brings home
76. Ungraceful person
77. Multicolored
78. Money back
79. Shrewdness
82. Deviled egg topper
85. Many ages
86. Tete-a-tete
87. Stop working
89. Tick off
90. Theater boxes
92. Edmonton NHL player
94. Not this

95. Tubular pasta
96. WNW's reverse
97. Port-au-Prince's Caribbean country
99. Major biotech company
101. Particle whose name is one letter short of a Massachusetts city's
102. Group of goat herders?
104. Group of baseball players?
106. Move, in Realtor lingo
107. Melody
108. Gallic girlfriend
109. Danish island group (AFORE anagram)
110. #MeToo and Victorian
111. Box a bit
112. Monthly expense
113. French silk city

DOWN

1. Group of private detectives?
2. ___ salts
3. Tennis units
4. Lao-___
5. Whiz
6. Nuclear energy producer
7. Short distance
8. Candle holders?
9. Holds in high esteem
10. Unyielding
11. City south of Seattle

DEATH NOTICES

SUSAN ALLISON (74), of Alexandria, July 21, 2020

JUDITH JONES (79), of Alexandria, Aug. 4, 2020

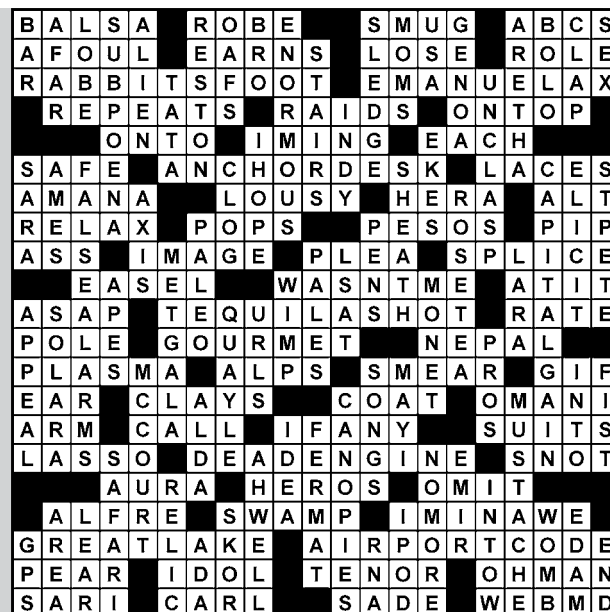
NINA W. MARTIN (101), formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 11, 2020

NAWAL MUSLE (78), of Alexandria, Aug. 17, 2020

JOHN D. NORIEGA (55), of Alexandria, Aug. 3, 2020

PRISCILLA ROHR (84), of Alexandria, Aug. 3, 2020

Solutions from last week



12. Key with four sharps, briefly
13. Windsor's prov.
14. Quick to explode
15. Still sealed
16. Blotchy
17. Steinem who co-founded Ms. magazine
21. Original aier of "The Office"
22. Scarlett's love
24. Tuck's partner
30. Tough crossword clue, say
32. Feature of many a manila envelope
34. Throw off
36. Tablelands
37. Charred
41. Foods with a carne asada variety
43. It shouldn't have holes
44. Punches hard
45. Woes
48. President ___
49. Word of woe
50. Work hard
51. Scares off
52. Words to live by
53. Committee head
54. Particles that may be positive
57. Polite dude
59. Group of mobile phone users?
60. Suffer from
61. Just got by, with "out"
63. Reproductive plant part
64. Lean toward
65. Doctor's aid
67. Bad kind of rug to lose a contact lens in
68. First person?
69. Take potshots at
70. Taste or touch
71. Way to go
73. In pieces
74. More discerning
75. Frank of "Frost/Nixon"
78. Cause ___ (controversial issue)
79. Yellowfin
80. Level of quality
81. Profit
82. It can be grand
83. Energy source in a popular diet
84. Getting rid of
86. Put away, as a hose
88. NYC museum
91. Unlikely to go clubbing
93. Speeder's bane
95. Hero whose mark is a Z
98. Takes steps
100. One making many gestures
101. Kids' party occasion, briefly
103. With 55-Across, "La Bamba" band
105. Seahawks' org.

Our View

A rare chance for redistricting reform

While uncommon, sometimes good policy aligns with politics to generate bipartisan support for needed change.

This happened in the mid-1990s, when a moderate Democratic president, Bill Clinton, allowed states to experiment with welfare reform initiatives and then signed the 1996 federal welfare reform bill, passed by a majority Republican Congress, into law. This bill corrected many of the unintended negative consequences of the Great Society legislation of the 1960s.

Virginia voters have a similar opportunity this fall to enact important change in the Commonwealth: redistricting reform.

Nationwide, the drawing of congressional districts has long been a messy business. The U.S. Constitution gives state legislatures control over the drawing of districts, meaning the majority party in state legislatures gets to design districts to its political benefit based on the decennial census.

A “to the victor belongs the spoils” attitude has prevailed, and districts have been gerrymandered for political gain and as a tool of racial discrimination and disenfranchisement. Many millions of dollars have been spent on lawsuits challenging and remediating discriminatory districting.

Groups that advocate for good governance policies, such as the League of Women Voters, have long supported efforts to make redistricting non-partisan or at least bipartisan. Generally, the party in power resists such measures, while the party out of power supports them.

Another hurdle to redistricting reform in Virginia is our state constitution, which is deliberately difficult to amend: a proposed change to the constitution must pass both the House of Delegates and the state Senate in successive years, then goes on the ballot and must be approved by a majority of voters in the state.

Since the party in power usually resists relinquishing control of redistricting, efforts to enact reform in Virginia have historically gone nowhere. This year was different.

This year, Virginia has experienced a rare alignment of the stars where politics and good policy have combined to give voters a historic chance to largely eradicate partisanship from our electoral map. See the Times’ Page 1 story, “Redistricting Virginia” for details on the proposal.

This is not to say that the politicians in our state legislature have suddenly grown angel wings and foresworn partisanship. No, there’s been plenty of political wrangling and hypocrisy from both parties:

- Republicans resisted redistricting reform for years while they had solid majorities in both the House of Delegates and state Senate, while Democrats generally favored reform.
- Last year, when Republicans knew there was a good chance they’d lose their majorities in the November 2019 state election, they changed course and supported redistricting reform.
- Democrats overwhelmingly voted for the redistricting reform plan in 2019, and many Democratic candidates won their seats in part because of their support for this reform.
- After taking control of both chambers of the state legislature, all but nine Democrats in the House of Delegates voted against the amendment in the 2020 General Assembly session.

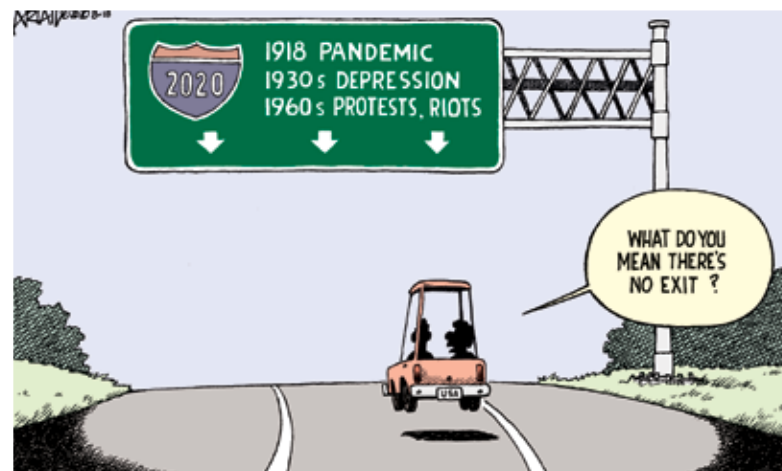
Those nine brave Democrats put doing the right thing over political gain. Unfortunately, Alexandria’s members of the House of Delegates, Majority Leader Charniele Herring (D-46) and Del. Mark Levine (D-45), were not among the nine.

Herring and Levine supported the measure in 2019 when Democrats were in the minority. This year they discovered previously un-

Opinion

“Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe.”

- Thomas Jefferson



Your Views

Vote ‘yes’ for redistricting amendment

To the editor:

Virginians have many excellent ways to obtain more information about the constitutional amendment to end partisan gerrymandering that will be on the ballot this fall. The best sources for understanding the amendment and its attendant enabling legislation can be found in the nonpartisan information that OneVirginia2021, Common Cause and the League of Women Voters have to offer, inasmuch as all three are supporters of the amendment and helped craft it.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of certain local legislators. Take my own delegate, Mark Levine, for example.

I often agree with Levine’s progressive policies, but his recent rhetoric opposing the amendment concerns me as many of his claims are simply untrue. Among other distortions, he has taken to describing the bipartisan referendum as the “Republican plan.” This claim has no basis in fact.

It was conceived by good governance groups and introduced and supported by Democrats – chiefly senators George Barker, Dick Saslaw and Alexandria’s Adam Ebbin.

Levine argues that making the Virginia Supreme Court the arbiter of potential disputes renders the amendment a de facto Republican gerrymander. In assuming the political corruption of the Court – which nonetheless retains jurisdiction under the present system – he shows a partisan’s contempt for the rule of law.

As a by-product, he suggests that former Attorney General Eric Holder, Sen. Tim Kaine, Congressman Don Beyer and every senator in Virginia’s Legislative Black Caucus, among many others who publicly support the amendment, have fallen victim to or are participating in a Republican conspiracy.

This is arrant nonsense. Voters should not be distracted.

By any objective measure, this amendment is a vast improvement over our current broken redistricting system. It will establish a citizen-led commission in a process open to public view. We cannot let this historic opportunity pass us by.

Virginians should support the redistricting amendment.

-Bruce Falk,
Alexandria

The opinions expressed in letters and columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the views, nor receive the endorsement, of the Alexandria Times.

Incompetence led to murder

To the editor:

We should all be appalled by the actions and incompetence of multiple local officials that led to the violent murder of Karla Dominguez on July 29. Judge Nolan Dawkins' decision to release Ibrahim Bouaichi from jail this April following Bouaichi's October 2019 arrest for the alleged assault and rape of Dominguez was inexcusable, regardless of any concerns about COVID-19.

How many other violent criminals have Dawkins and other local officials released into our community due to COVID-19? Is any city offi-

cial reviewing or revisiting these decisions in light of the murder of Dominguez?

The additional claim that Maryland officials failed to notify Alexandria officials that Bouaichi was arrested and jailed in May for DWI and assault is unforgivable. If Maryland officials had done their job, Bouaichi would have been returned to jail.

Dominguez should be alive today. This miscarriage of justice must be thoroughly investigated and those responsible held accountable.

-Rich Burke
Alexandria

A real Eco City would save the Pin Oak

To the editor:

Below is a letter the Environmental Council of Alexandria sent to Mayor Justin Wilson, the Alexandria City Council, ACPS Superintendent Gregory Hutchings and the Alexandria School Board:

On behalf of the Environmental Council of Alexandria, I am writing to object to any construction at Parker Gray Stadium which would harm the large Pin Oak dubbed the "Witness Tree." The stadium's neighbors have coined the Witness Tree moniker because the tree has witnessed the displacement and fragmentation of an African American community as a result of constructing the high school and football stadium at the current site.

The Pin Oak is approximately 85 feet tall and has a circumference of between 12 and 13 feet. This converts to a diameter of at least 45 inches. Using a growth fac-

tor between 3 and 3.5, the age of the tree is estimated to be between 135 and 150 years old. This age estimate is based on a standard equation used by arborists and a growth factor for this species in this region.

The Witness Tree stands alone on a treeless portion of the school grounds and therefore has developed a huge canopy.

Using the National Tree Benefit Calculator <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/> which is limited to a maximum diameter of 45 inches, the Witness Tree will intercept 23,095 gallons of stormwater runoff in one year and it will conserve 424 kilowatt hours of electricity needed for cooling.

The Witness Tree will also modify the climate by providing shade, cooling the air by converting liquid water to water vapor and by absorbing solar energy

SEE PIN OAK

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Justice Matters

with Bryan Porter

Special session features criminal justice bills

This week, the General Assembly is convening for a special session in which legislation pertaining to both COVID-19 relief and criminal justice reform will be contemplated.

Many lay people assume any crime can be charged as a hate crime if the victim of the crime was selected because of their race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. This is not the case. In Virginia, only two offenses carry explicit hate crime enhancements: assault and battery and trespassing with the intent to cause damage. The hate crime enhancements for these offenses elevates the applicable penalty from a misdemeanor to a class 6 felony.

Assault and battery is defined as the rude, angry or vengeful touching of another person against the victim's will and consent. Trespassing with the intent to cause damage requires proof that the accused entered the "land, dwelling, outhouse or any other building of another" for the specific purpose of "damaging such property ... (or to) in any manner interfere with the rights of the owner ... or occupant thereof to use such property free from interference."

As of July 1, 2020, the hate crimes enhancement covers offenses in which the victim was selected because of their "race, religious conviction, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, or national origin." The term disability is defined as a "physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities."

While only assault and battery and trespassing carry explicit, codified hate crimes enhancements, there are other code sections that prohibit hate-based activities. Burning a cross with the intent to intimidate is a felony, as is the placing of a swastika with the intent to intimidate on a church, synagogue or a school or community center owned or operated by a church or religious body. The display of a noose with the intent to intimidate is likewise a class 6 felony.

During the special session, the assembly will consider creating a new code section making it a hate crime to make a false 911

call based on race. Several sister states have adopted similar laws in response to several incidents, such as one in New York from earlier this year in which a woman called police and falsely reported that a Black man was threatening her.

The assembly is also contemplating changes to the system by which law enforcement officers who have been convicted of a criminal offense or who have been fired due to credibility or excessive force claims are tracked and decertified. The Senate's proposed omnibus reform bill would, among other things, require the

state's Department of Criminal Justice Services to adopt mandatory professional standards of conduct applicable to all certified law enforcement officers and to maintain a database of decertified officers.

The bill would authorize DCJS to initiate decertification proceedings against a law-enforcement officer who has "engaged in serious misconduct" as that term is defined in the DCJS mandatory standards of conduct.

The bill also attempts to address a situation in which an officer is terminated for misconduct from one agency and then applies to be an officer in a different department. Under the proposed legislation, a police chief or sheriff of the terminating agency would be expected to provide records relating to disciplinary proceedings to any agency considering hiring a former employee.

The omnibus bill also would require training in de-escalation techniques for law enforcement officers and would prohibit officers from using chokeholds or from firing into a moving vehicle. The bill would codify a duty to intervene for law enforcement officers who observe another officer engaged in an unlawful use of force.

This is just some of the criminal justice legislation the assembly will consider this week. By next month, I should be able to provide readers with a list of bills that were passed during the special session.



BRYAN PORTER

The writer is Commonwealth's Attorney for Alexandria.

Duped by the anti-gun lobby

To the editor:

I read the July 16 letter to the editor from Jeff Shad thanking “the Alexandria City Council for taking action to protect citizens from gun violence.” What Shad and City Council have failed to realize is that passing a law makes no one safer. In this case, City Council has actually derogated its duty to provide for the security of its citizens and has made the City of Alexandria less safe.

If passing a law prohibiting guns on city property prevented violence, such as murder or assault, would not the laws that already prohibit murder and assault be sufficient? The Alexandria City Council has merely given the citizens of Alexandria the facade of safety and has done nothing to actually prevent violence in public buildings or parks.

The ordinance that was passed did not provide for controlled access to city parks or buildings, the installation of metal detectors or even an increase in the number of police officers that would patrol city buildings and parks.

If you want to prevent guns from entering a building, all you need to do is look at the Alexandria Courthouse. The City of Alexandria learned a long time ago that physical barriers are how you protect unarmed people. Chicago should have learned a long time ago that banning guns does not prevent gun violence.

And let’s look at the statistics that Shad provides without any context. The current estimate of the number of permits to carry a

concealed handgun in Virginia is approximately 650,000, or 7.6% of the population or one out of every 13 people. There is also a months-long backlog of new permit holder applications.

Because Virginia does not keep records of people with permits that commit crimes, the only means to estimate is to assume Virginia has a similar rate to other states. Take Texas for example.

Almost 1.4 million Texans had permits at the end of 2018, according to records from the state’s Department of Public Safety. That’s 4.7% of the population, or one of 22 people. In comparison, 41,180 people were convicted of felonies in Texas last year, but only 163 of them had concealed-carry permits. That’s .004 percent of felony convictions, or one of every 250.

Although statistics do not exist to make a similar comparison in Virginia, it can be said that less than one-tenth of 1% of the state’s concealed carriers had their permits revoked last fiscal year, or fewer than one of every 1,000. While committing a felony is a reason to have a permit revoked, it is not the only reason.

Shad’s allusion that Virginia permit holders are somehow more dangerous than non-permit holders is patently false.

The only thing the Alexandria City Council should be congratulated for is being duped by the anti-gun lobby. And no, guns do not kill. If that were the case, no one would get out of a gun show alive.

-Michael Zarlenga,
Alexandria

OUR VIEW

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seen flaws in the legislation and changed their votes.

Conversely, Alexandria’s state Senator, Adam Ebbin (D-30), has strongly supported redistricting reform in both 2019 and 2020. Democratic state Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) summed it up best when he candidly chastised his party members who opposed the reform: “The arguments against that were pure b-----t. I’ve been around here

long enough,” the Virginia Mercury reported.

Those nine Democratic votes in the House, combined with overwhelming support from both parties in the Senate, are what got this initiative on the ballot. It’s difficult to see politics aligning this way again in the lifetimes of anyone voting this year.

We get one chance at this, and we, the voters, need to not flub it. To lessen partisan wrangling in redistricting, vote “yes” on Nov. 3.

A precedent exists for saving a historic Alexandria tree

To the editor:

Reading the article in the July 30 Alexandria Times regarding ACPS’ intent to take down a 150-year-old oak tree in order to build a concession stand and bathroom as a part of the Parker Gray Memorial Stadium modernization project brought back similar memories.

Many of you know about my dearly departed wife’s tree known as the “Julie Crenshaw Tree.” It came about when the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge was about to be built. The contractors intended to cut

down all the trees within its path. Julie took exception and argued that one huge, 100-year-old maple in Jones Park near the Potomac River should remain.

In her indomitable, characteristic fashion she lobbied to save that tree. She did save the tree. However, the tree is no longer standing. Yvonne Weight Callahan and The Old Town Civic Association tied a bow and ribbon around the tree, some 28 feet of ribbon.

They also placed a placard on the tree that read: “In memory of Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet who fought and

won the battle to preserve this tree. Julie’s decade of work to preserve and maintain Jones Point Park will be remembered by her friends and colleagues. Julie died on December 18, 2013 after a long battle against cancer, rest in peace Julie.”

My advice to those who wish to save the tree at T.C. Williams is to continue to relentlessly address the issue before City Council. Only an intense lobbying effort will result in retaining the tree.

-Townsend A. “Van”
Van Fleet,
Alexandria

PIN OAK

FROM | 23

which would otherwise generate heat. This single tree will reduce atmospheric carbon by 1,346 pounds per year. That is the amount of carbon generated by a flight from New York to Los Angeles.

The school board has advised that the only place to locate a new concession stand and bathrooms is within the drip line of the Witness Tree. It is difficult to understand how the stadium designers and planners could not figure out another location in order to save the tree. The first option I propose is to redesign those facilities to put the concession stand under the bleachers.

Further, the city and school board cannot escape responsibility for destroying valuable mature tree canopy by planting additional small trees. It might take a thousand small trees to perform the cooling and carbon sequestration of this Witness Tree.

I also note that in July

2019 the city adopted an “Environmental Action Plan 2040” which states:

“The City of Alexandria is committed to protecting and promoting public open space with a healthy tree canopy.” “The EAP 2040 actions align with the Open Space Master Plan (2003, updated 2017) and the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Strategic Plan to increase the tree canopy to 40 percent by 2035.”

The EAP also includes a short-term goal to (Tree Canopy - Section 4.1.1) “support increased tree preservation, expansion, maintenance, native species use, and a revised tree canopy coverage goal.” Within the “introduction” to the EAP, under the caption “urgency,” the EAP states: “The city target is to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 (base year 2005) and to approach net zero or carbon neutral, an 80-100 percent reduction.”

Saving the Witness Tree would implement the short-term goal of tree preser-

vation, and it would also demonstrate a commitment to taking the necessary “urgent” action to reduce carbon emissions.

As with the Potomac Yard Metro Station, which destroyed dozens of mature trees in a wetland despite the availability of alternative sites, the city cannot continue to tell citizens that they are too late to preserve tree canopy and open space.

The city should be preserving our tree canopy without requiring citizens to review architect’s drawings before learning of destruction of trees and open space. How is the city to be taken seriously about its claim to be an “Eco City” when it continually elevates construction convenience over trees and open space?

It’s never too late to do the right thing.

-Jeremy Flachs for
Andrew Macdonald, Hal
Hardaway, Katy Cannady,
Erin Winograd, Stan
Protigal, Vineeta Anand,
Environmental Council
of Alexandria

OUT OF THE ATTIC

The Parker-Gray schools: elementary, middle and high

Part 2

BY LILLIAN PATTERSON

Principal Wesley D. Elam's dream became a reality when the first four-year class graduated from Parker-Gray High School in 1936. Charles Brown was the school's first valedictorian. The other class members were Anna Haney Major, Elnora Tyler Winston, Wilbert Sloan, Arthur Norton Sr., Edith Quander Reaves and Eudora Lee Lyles. Dorothy Key, the first librarian, was the class sponsor.

Two classrooms and the library were added on the northeast corner of the building. An additional elementary library was set up by Ellen Carter Goods and Helen Lumpkins Day under the direction of Miss DeBarry, elementary supervisor.

Elam, who continued to press for equal opportunities and quality education, was not given a new contract and was replaced in September 1938 by William H. Pitts Sr.

Under Pitts, the high school curriculum expanded. Arthur E. Smith of the Modern School of Music began the band, but parents had to buy or rent the instruments. In 1940, E. L. Patterson was appointed music teacher and band director. His award-winning band and chorus were always in demand for programs. In 1940, Day and Sarah Michie's seventh-grade chorus won first place at the regional festival.

In 1942, Arthur Bracey was appointed as the school's



PHOTO/ ALEXANDRIA BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

Parker-Gray faculty in the 1940s.

industrial arts teacher. In this year, business education under Flora Walden Chase was added to the curriculum, using rejected typewriters from George Washington High School. The business department was expanded through funds from the Department of Vocational Education of the State Department of Education.

In 1948, art was added with Laurretta Hall as art and social studies teacher. Drama under the direction of Key and Earleen Hughes produced award-winning plays at the Virginia State Dramatic Festivals.

With the curriculum expansion and increased enrollment, Parker-Gray was again "bursting at the seams." The Hopkins House Men's Club, citizens, the NAACP headed by Attorney Charles Houston, along with city, state and national officials succeeded in getting a new building to house the high school.

The new school opened in 1950 and carried the name Parker-Gray. The old Parker-Gray was renamed Charles Houston Elementary School in honor of the gentleman who had worked so hard to bring it to fruition. Enrollment increased in the new school, which required the appointment of John T. Butler as assistant principal in 1955. In 1959, Butler was appointed principal of Charles Houston School and Patterson became assistant principal of Parker-Gray.

The 1950s was often referred to as "The Golden Age" for Parker-Gray. Requests of the Black community to the school board received attention. Money was made available to bring the number of library volumes up to standard for the Southern Association for Accreditation. Plans for an addition to the present building were placed on the school board agenda.

Houston was one of the NAACP lawyers who devel-

oped the brief that led to the 1954 decision declaring school segregation illegal. To circumvent the decision, the Commonwealth of Virginia implemented "Massive Resistance" through 1959, when it was struck down and token integration of white schools by Black students began.

In 1962, longtime Superintendent of Schools T. C. Williams retired and in 1963, John C. Albohm was appointed superintendent. In the fall of 1964, all sectors of the Alexandria school system – students, professionals, clerical and custodial – were integrated.

In 1965, Parker-Gray High School became Parker-Gray Middle School, with Patterson as principal. Pitts was appointed director of staff relations in central administration. Following Pitts' retirement, Patterson was appointed director of student activities and staff relations, retiring in 1974. Parker-Gray Middle School closed in 1979; the property was sold and torn down to build condominiums.

Parker-Gray's students were accomplished: They became federal judges, military officers, teachers, college presidents, professional coaches and athletes, ministers, physicians, attorneys, secretaries, bankers, artists, school board members, community leaders, activists, many other professions – and legends.

Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.

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Weekly Poll

Last Week

What model of instruction do you prefer for the start of the 2020-2021 school year?

38% A hybrid in-person/remote model
36% 100% in person.
23% 100% remote.
3% It depends on the school.

This Week

Take the poll at alextimes.com

What do you think of the proposal to establish a bipartisan commission to draw legislative districts in Virginia?

A) I support it.
B) I support the concept but not this particular bill.
C) Don't change the state constitution.
D) I'm not sure.

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REAL ESTATE

ATTN. REALTORS: Advertise your listings regionally or statewide. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions that get results! Call Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

SERVICES

DIVORCE- Uncontested, \$395+\$86 court cost. **WILLS** \$195.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to replace an existing 30-foot tall light pole with a new approximate 39-foot tall (45-foot overall height) light pole at 6355 Walker Lane, Alexandria, Fairfax County, Virginia 22310 (N38° 46' 00.5" and W77° 09' 42.5"). AT&T Mobility, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that

are listed or determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Action Section 106. Comments pertaining specifically to historic resources may be sent to Impact7G, Inc., Attention Ms. Madeline Sarcone at 9550 Hickman Road, Suite 105, Clive, IA 50325 or call 515-473-6256. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS Monday, September 14, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Information about this item may be obtained from the Department of Planning & Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: 703.746.4666 or on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/dockets.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the September 14, 2020 meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Sections 4-0.00(g) in HB29 and HB30 to undertake essential business. All members of the Board and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom Webinar. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person in the City Council Chamber at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event. This meeting can be accessed by the public through the live broadcast on the government channel 70, streaming on the City's website, and can be accessed via Zoom by the following link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1W_3rQJX-TDuFRdtWeGlexQ

Classifieds

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 975 9960 5230
Password: 260146

Public comments will be received at the meeting. The public may submit comments in advance to Kaliah Lewis at kaliah.lewis@alexandriava.gov or make public comments through the conference call on the day of the hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jackie Cato at jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711.

Small Business Zoning Text Amendment Updates

Practical Updates

BZA #2020-00011
108 West Bellefonte Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Variance to construct a 7.00 foot privacy fence; zoned: R-5/Single-Family.
Applicant: Paul Maykish

BZA #2020-00012
110 West Bellefonte Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Variance to construct a 7.00 foot privacy fence; zoned: R-5/Single-Family.
Applicant: Badrinath Munipalla

BZA #2020-00013
1221 Prince Street
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Variance to construct a roof deck in the required side yards; zoned: CL/Commercial Low.
Applicant: Matthew Newton

BZA #2020-00014
401 Argyle Drive
Public hearing and consideration of a Special Exception to construct a 6.00 foot fence in the secondary front yard on a corner lot; zoned: R-8/Single-Family.
Applicant: Crislyn Lumia

BZA #2020-00015
604 South View Terrace
Public hearing and consideration of a Special Exception to construct a deck in the required side yard; zoned: R-5/Single-Family.
Applicants: Maria Soledad Pellegrini & Timo Lorenzen-Schmidt

BZA #2020-00016
5201 Dover Place
Public hearing and consideration of a Variance to construct a deck in the required rear yard; zoned: RT/Townhouse.
Applicant: Endalkachew L. Asfaw

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jackie Cato at jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711.

LEGAL NOTICE



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2020

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the dates and times listed below. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a consent calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the consent calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the public hearing to a future date. For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit alexandriava.gov/dockets.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020
WORK SESSION – 5:30 PM
PUBLIC HEARING – 7:00 PM

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020
PUBLIC HEARING – 9:30 AM

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the September 1, 2020 meeting of the Planning Commission and the September 12, 2020 meeting of the City Council are being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Sections 4-0.00(g)

in HB29 and HB30 to undertake essential business. All of the members of the respective public bodies and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom Webinar. These meetings are being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough for the meetings to be held in person in the City Council Chamber at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event. The meetings can be accessed by the public through: Zoom hyperlink (below), broadcasted live on the government channel 70, and streaming on the City's website.

Planning Commission (Work Session & Public Hearing):
The Webinar will open at 5:00 PM to allow individuals to join, while the Work Session will begin at 5:30 PM. The Planning Commission hearing will begin at approximately 7:00 PM.

URL: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wTl6B-7wFSyOr924N8ihwpA

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592

Webinar ID: 968 6503 0043
Password: 598835

City Council Public Hearing:
URL: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wFMTD-nUHT22ysjipnoAJAQ

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592

Webinar ID: 975 9178 4491
Password: 348732

Public comments will be received at the meeting. The public may submit comments in advance to Planning & Zoning staff at PlanComm@alexandriava.gov for the Planning Commission hearing, to the City Clerk at Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov for the City Council hearing, or make public comments through the conference call on the day of either hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation for the Planning Com-

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICE



Board of Architectural Review LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Architectural Review (BAR) will hold an Electronic Public Hearing on WEDNESDAY, September 2, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. to review the following item(s):

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the September 2, 2020 meeting of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Sections 4-0.00(g) in HB29 and HB30 to undertake essential business. BAR board members and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom Webinar. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough for the meeting to be held in person in the City Council Chamber at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event. The meetings can be accessed by the public through: Zoom hyperlink (below), broadcasted live on the government channel 70, and streaming on the City's website.

URL: https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN_oikBtlqQPO-jnXAGoSjp6A

The Board of Architectural Review Hearing will start at 7:00 PM, while the Zoom Webinar will become available to join at 6:30 PM

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 958 8276 1400
Password: 560241

Public comments will be received at the meeting. The public may submit comments in advance to Lia Niebauer at lia.niebauer@alexandriava.gov or make public comments through the conference call on the day of the hearing.

mission hearing, contact Jackie Cato at jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711. For reasonable disability accommodation for the City Council hearing, please call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 703.746.4550 (TTY/TDD 838-5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

The following case description has been revised for consideration. All other previously advertised cases for the above hearings remain the same.

THE FOLLOWING CASE WILL BE HEARD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION ONLY AND BY CITY COUNCIL ONLY UPON APPEAL:

Development Site Plan #2019-00031
110 and 150 Callahan Drive - VRE Pedestrian Accessibility Improvements at Alexandria Union Station Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Site Plan with modification to the crown coverage requirement for platform improvements and two elevators; zoned: UT/Utilities and Transportation Applicant: Virginia Railway Express

In accordance with Virginia State Code Section 15.2-2006, the following is the second publication of notice of a request for a Vacation of public right-of-way. The item described below was previously advertised on August 13, 2020 in the "Classified Legal Ad" section of the Alexandria Times:

Vacation #2019-00002
2 East Mason Avenue - Vacation Public Hearing and consideration of a request to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way adjacent to 2 East Mason Avenue and along Commonwealth Avenue to add area to a residential side yard for a fence; zoned: RB/Townhouse. Applicants: Elizabeth and Jesse Jardim

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jackie Cato at Cato@alexandriava.gov or (703) 746-3810, Virginia Relay 711.

For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit alexandriava.gov/dockets.

BAR #2020-00368 PG
Request for partial demolition/ encapsulation at 902 Oronoco Street.
Applicants: Patricia Harris & Richard LaFace

BAR #2020-00289 PG
Request for addition at 902 Oronoco Street.
Applicants: Patricia Harris & Richard LaFace

BAR #2020-00307 OHAD
Request to install small cell facility on a new standalone pole adjacent to 1 Prince Street.
Applicant: Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless

BAR #2020-00361 OHAD
Request for encapsulation at 700 South Washington Street (Parcel Address: 610 Franklin Street).
Applicants: CH Sullyfield Associates, LLC, Randon Sullyfield, LLC, and CH South Washington Associates, LLC

BAR #2020-00345 OHAD
Request for addition at 700 South Washington Street (Parcel Address: 610 Franklin Street).
Applicants: CH Sullyfield Associates, LLC, Randon Sullyfield, LLC, and CH South Washington Associates, LLC

BAR #2020-00365 PG
Request for partial demolition/ encapsulation at 315 North Alfred Street.
Applicant: SW Alfred Development LLC

BAR #2020-00364 PG
Request for addition and alterations at 315 North Alfred Street.
Applicant: SW Alfred Development LLC

BAR #2020-00366 PG
Request for partial demolition/ encapsulation at 902 Pendleton Street.

Applicant: Michelle Haynes
BAR #2020-00346 PG
Request for addition and alterations at 902 Pendleton Street.
Applicant: Michelle Haynes

BAR #2020-00371 OHAD
Request for alterations at 707 Prince Street.
Applicant: DBL2M Prince LLC

BAR #2020-00370 PG
Request for alterations at 428 North Peyton Street.
Applicant: Bethany Chalfant

BAR #2020-00376 OHAD
Request for partial demolition/ encapsulation at 109 South Lee Street.
Applicant: Cabell Hickman

BAR #2020-00374 OHAD
Request for partial alterations at 109 South Lee Street.
Applicant: Cabell Hickman

BAR #2020-00378 OHAD
Request for concept review at 114 North Alfred Street.
Applicant: Mechanic's Hall Properties, LLC


BAR #2020-00379 OHAD
Request for concept review at 3601 Potomac Avenue.
Applicant: CPYR Theater, LLC

BAR #2020-00380 OHAD
Request for concept review at 2407 Potomac Avenue (2405, 2401, 3701, 3251 Potomac Avenue, 700 Carpenter Road, 1702, 1880 and 2500 Potomac Greens Drive)
Applicants: City of Alexandria and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

BAR #2020-00197 OHAD (Amharic Translator Will Be Provided)
Request for complete demolition at 450 South Patrick Street, 900 Wolfe Street & 431 South Columbus Street.
Applicant: Heritage at Old Town PropCo LLC

BAR #2020-00196 OHAD (Amharic Translator Will Be Provided)
Request for concept review at 450 South Patrick Street, 900 Wolfe Street & 431 South Columbus Street.
Applicant: Heritage at Old Town PropCo LLC

Old and Historic Alexandria District (OHAD); Park-er - Gray District (PG)



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RETAIL LICENSE APPLICATION—PART 2 (POSTING AND PUBLISHING)

PUBLISHING NOTICE

Please publish the following item in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 9.

<p>[Full name(s) of owner(s):] <u>Brewskis Barkhaus, LLC</u> <small>If general partnership, enter partners' names or name of partnership. If LP, LLP, LLC or corporation, enter name as recorded with the State Corporation Commission. If association or tax-exempt private club, enter name. Only if a sole proprietor, enter first, middle and last name.</small></p> <p>Trading as: <u>Barkhaus</u> <small>(trade name)</small></p> <p><u>529 E Howell Ave</u> <small>(exact street address where business will trade)</small></p> <p><u>Alexandria</u> <small>(city/town)</small></p> <p><small>(county)</small> _____ <u>Virginia</u> <u>22301-1215</u> <small>(state) (zip + 4)</small></p> <p>The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a <u>Wine and Beer On Premises</u> license <small>(type(s) of license(s) applied for)</small></p> <p>to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.</p> <p><u>Justin LeGore</u> <u>Managing Member</u> <small>(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)</small></p> <p>NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.</p>	
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805-52 (rev. 07/2018). This is an official state document. All information contained or submitted therein is public information. Please refer to privacy statement (pg. 3) regarding personal/tax information. Reference instructions (provided separately) with questions. Retail License Application, page 11



Live Where You Love, Give Where You Live.

Thank you to Sara Campbell Old Town for donating a percentage of the pre-sidewalk sale purchases to The Twig! With the support of my friends, colleagues and fellow Twigs, the event was a huge success!

From Florida, to Texas, to New Jersey, to New York...I did not find my true home until I moved to Alexandria. Here is where I became part of a community. Not only where I live, but throughout my work and involvement in organizations and activities in the city.

Contact me for more information about The Twig or Real Estate in Alexandria.

Lisa Groover

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