

Douglas MacArthur modernization begins

Elementary school set for complete rebuild ahead of 2023 re-opening

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Plans are solidifying for the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School modernization project, which will involve demolishing the existing building and constructing a new one from scratch.

The modernization process began in earnest at a community meeting on Oct. 30. The meeting, led by members of DLR Group, the architecture firm selected by Alexandria City Public Schools to oversee the design process for the project, was the first of many in a process that is set to take about three years.

The rebuild itself is slated to take place from late 2020 to late 2022. During construction, Douglas MacArthur students will take classes in the old Patrick Henry Elementary School building, originally slated for demolition in March, due to a lack of space on the current Douglas MacArthur site. The school board approved the Patrick Henry swing space in April.

The decision remains controversial. Many Patrick Henry parents claim ACPS is using a

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A lifetime of football



COURTESY PHOTO

Quarterback Robert Longerbeam leads T.C. to playoffs

BY MISSY SCHROTT

You could say T.C. Williams High School senior Robert Longerbeam has had a good fall. As quarterback of T.C.'s football team, he has led the Titans to the state playoffs, breaking several school records along the way. He was also T.C.'s homecoming king.

Longerbeam's football success can be traced to his father, who is T.C.'s head

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Veterans Day

Businesses throughout the city will offer free food and services to veterans.

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Mark Raabe shares a glimpse of his Goodwin House apartment.

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Keep your furry friends in mind when preparing for colder weather.

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Democrats take state legislature

All five incumbents representing Alexandria are reelected

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

All five of Alexandria's incumbent state officeholders for the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates were reelected on Tuesday. In addition, Greg Parks was elected as Alexandria's clerk of court.

The five incumbents reelected to the state legislature are Democrats. The results were part of a statewide trend, in which Democrats flipped both the House and Senate, making it the first time since 1993 that the state has had a blue House, Senate and governor.

Locally, four of the elected Democratic legislators were running unopposed. Four Republican write-in candidates ran against the unopposed Democrats, although they did so without the sponsorship of the local Republican party.

State Sen. George L. Barker (D) defeated S.W. "Dutch" Hillenburg (R) in the 39th district. State Sens. Adam Ebbin (D) and Dick Saslaw (D) won reelection bids in the 30th and 35th districts, respectively, while Dels. Mark Levine (D) and Charniele Herring (D) took the 45th and 46th House districts, respectively.

Parks was elected Alex-

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PART 8 OF A SERIES

The future of e-scooters in Alexandria

City releases phase two pilot proposals to mixed response

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Are scooters a vibrant new part of Alexandria's transportation puzzle or a dangerous eyesore? That's the question, and city residents have five more days, until Oct. 15, to weigh in on city staff's recommendations for a phase two e-scooter pilot program.

City staff presented a set of draft recommendations for the phase two scooter pilot to city council on Oct. 2, bringing the program's future to the forefront of the conversation.

As the city's controversial, yet highly used, scooter pilot program nears the end

of its initial ride, city staff, council and the community have begun to ask, "What is the future of scooters in Alexandria?" Staff's recommended changes for a phase two pilot, and the window for resident input, come ahead of city council's scheduled vote on the program in November and the end of the original pilot on Dec. 31, 2019.

For the past nine months, Alexandria's city staff and city council – like others around the country – have wrestled with how to regulate fleets of dockless scooters. The city initiated a pilot program in January 2019, with the first permitted scooter company, Lime, deploying its fleet that month.

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PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

With council scheduled to vote on the e-scooter pilot program in November, city staff released a set of proposed draft recommendations for a phase two pilot to the public on Oct. 1.

'Ramblin' Boy'

Tom Paxton reflects on the '60s, songwriting and a decades-spanning career

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

When he was 15 years old, Grammy-nominated folk singer-songwriter Tom Paxton pulled a guitar out of his aunt's closet in her Chicago home. It was dusty and beat-up, with signs of a life that be-

gan before Paxton, but it still had stories to tell.

Pulling that hand-me-down six string out of the closet, Paxton had no idea the places those stories would take him.

Paxton, 81, has taken his songs across the world, from the Gaslight in Greenwich Village and Newport, Rhode

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PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Tom Paxton grew up with folk music in his head, fondly recalling listening to a rancher perform "cowboy songs" at the dude ranch in Arizona that his family lived at for three months.

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Hutchings proposes custodian plan

Would keep 20 positions in ACPS budget, outsource 10

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

After months of public outcry, a plan is in the works to address the 30 Alexandria City Public Schools custodians who could lose their jobs with the passage of the fiscal year 2020 budget.

Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D., proposed the plan, which involves salvaging 20 custodian positions and decreasing ACPS' substitute teaching funding, during the May 9 school board meeting.

Without the new plan, ACPS' FY2020 proposed budget involves outsourcing the positions of 30 custodians with 20 years of experience or less to private contractors. At the core of the issue is the school board's decade-long promise to establish an attrition plan

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PART 2 OF A SERIES

A one-mile revolution

For riders, scooters are more than just a fad

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

One mile. For drivers, it is a distance easily crossed. For runners, a mile is only the start of a workout. For commuters, though, that seemingly short distance can present problems; it might be only a 20- to 25-minute walk, but a mile can make all the difference.

"There's a lot of times where I need to go somewhere between a mile and a mile and a half [away]," Ethan McAfee, an Old Town resident, said. "For me, my house to my office in Old Town is 1.2 miles, and historically your options would be, I'm either going to walk – and walking would take like

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Black house renovation advances

Council affirms BAR decision on historic Old Town property

BY MISSY SCHROTT

The Hugo Black house controversy came to a peak in the crowded city council chambers on Tuesday evening, when council unanimously voted to allow the renovation project to move forward.

Specifically, council voted to affirm the Board of Architectural Review's

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Crime

Serious offenses in Alexandria decrease
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Tying the Knot

ACPS Superintendent Greg Hutchings shares his love story
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