

# Tying the Knot



COURTESY PHOTO

City Councilor Kirk McPike and Cantor Jason Kaufman with their beagle, Punky during their engagement photo shoot.

## *From crossing paths to joining lives*

City Councilor Kirk McPike and Cantor Jason Kaufman share their wedding story

Sometimes the best love stories don't start with love at first sight, but after vaguely recognizing each other following a prior run-in.

Technically, City Councilor Kirk McPike and Cantor Jason Kaufman's first date was in February 2016, but they had unknowingly met eight months beforehand at a fundraising event for then presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

On the official date, Kaufman instantly recalled that in June 2015 he tried to talk to Congressman Mark Takano (D-CA), but McPike, Takano's chief of staff, wouldn't let him because Takano was about to step onstage to speak.

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

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COURTESY PHOTO

Don and Megan Beyer married on Sept. 19, 1987 at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill in Alexandria, Megan's hometown.

## *Live, laugh, campaign*

Don and Megan Beyer navigate love and politics in their 35-year marriage

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

"I like to tell people I married the best politician in Virginia," Don Beyer, U.S. representative for Virginia's 8th district, said.

It's hard to find a better summation of Don and Megan Beyer's 35-year marriage, which has survived political campaigns for state and federal government posts plus an ambassadorship in Switzerland. The couple has navigated the perils and demands of political life together, yet their marriage remains as strong as ever.

Watching them interact, even over the virtual barrier of Zoom, they have the natural, lived-in chemistry of a couple that has been together for decades but the lively banter and

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Cody Mello-Klein and Anastasia Mazur at their engagement photo shoot near Charlottesville, Virginia.

## *An Alexandria romance*

Cody Mello-Klein and Anastasia Mazur  
find love after moving to the Port City

BY DENISE DUNBAR

When Cody Mello-Klein moved to Alexandria in December 2018 to work as a reporter at the Alexandria Times, the Boston-area native was not only launching his journalism career — he was ready for a fresh start with dating. Unbeknown to him, Anastasia Mazur had also moved to Alexandria from Ithaca, New York six months earlier and she, too, was looking for a new beginning.

It only took them a little over a month after Cody's arrival to find each other, and they've been essentially inseparable ever since.

They met through the Bumble dating app, and they both

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