

# Tying the Knot



COURTESY PHOTO

John and Monika Chapman were married at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

## *Simmer to boil*

Romance was a long time in the making for City Councilor John Chapman and wife Monika

Monika and John Chapman's love story is a slow burn. Though they married in 2019, the couple had known each other for about a decade prior to tying the knot. Theirs is a story crafted with binged television shows, local politics and the benefit of time.

After years of gradually getting to know one another, their kindling finally grew into a hardy fire and it simply made sense for them to finally wed.

John is a fourth-generation Alexandrian who graduated from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School and St. Olaf College with a

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

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PHOTO/AMOGH PANT

The couple fashioned their wedding bands in their workshop.

## *With this ring*

Partners in business and life  
share their story

Old Town boasts history and charm. Tim Shaheen and Meaghan Foran perfectly capture those ideals in their life, work and marriage. The founders of Alx&Co. delight in merging the past into new beginnings through their craft.

Located at 121 South Royal St., the independent jewelry workshop specializes in bespoke pieces like engagement rings, heirloom redesign and jewelry restoration.

It was in this very shop where the couple met for the first time. In 2005, Tim began working for jeweler Lawrence Miller and Co. As he developed as a craftsman, he took over the business in 2007. The workshop had a great foundation, reputation, location and

BY KAITLIN MURPHY

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PHOTO/AMANDA GILLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

The couple had a small and intimate ceremony on a gorgeous and bright day.

## *Love on the water*

Local couple share cookies and deep community connections

BY KAITLIN MURPHY

Civic-minded couple Jim Lewis and Trevor Riley met in July of 2013. Trevor, who works in theater, lived in Washington, D.C. near the National Cathedral. Jim worked on the Hill but lived in Alexandria.

Once they started dating, the distance caught up with them and so in 2017, Jim convinced Trevor to move across the river from D.C. to Alexandria.

Hailing from Richmond and Pittsburgh respectively, the transplants felt at home in Alexandria.

“Everyone looks out for each other, creating a true neighborhood vibe,” Trevor said. “Alexandria still feels like a small town but

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