

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

There's No Place Like Home

Alexandria celebrates its 275-year history.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

From George Washington and the battlefields of the American Revolution to Noah Lyles and the competitive fields of sporting events, Alexandria has been home to those making history over its 275 years of existence.

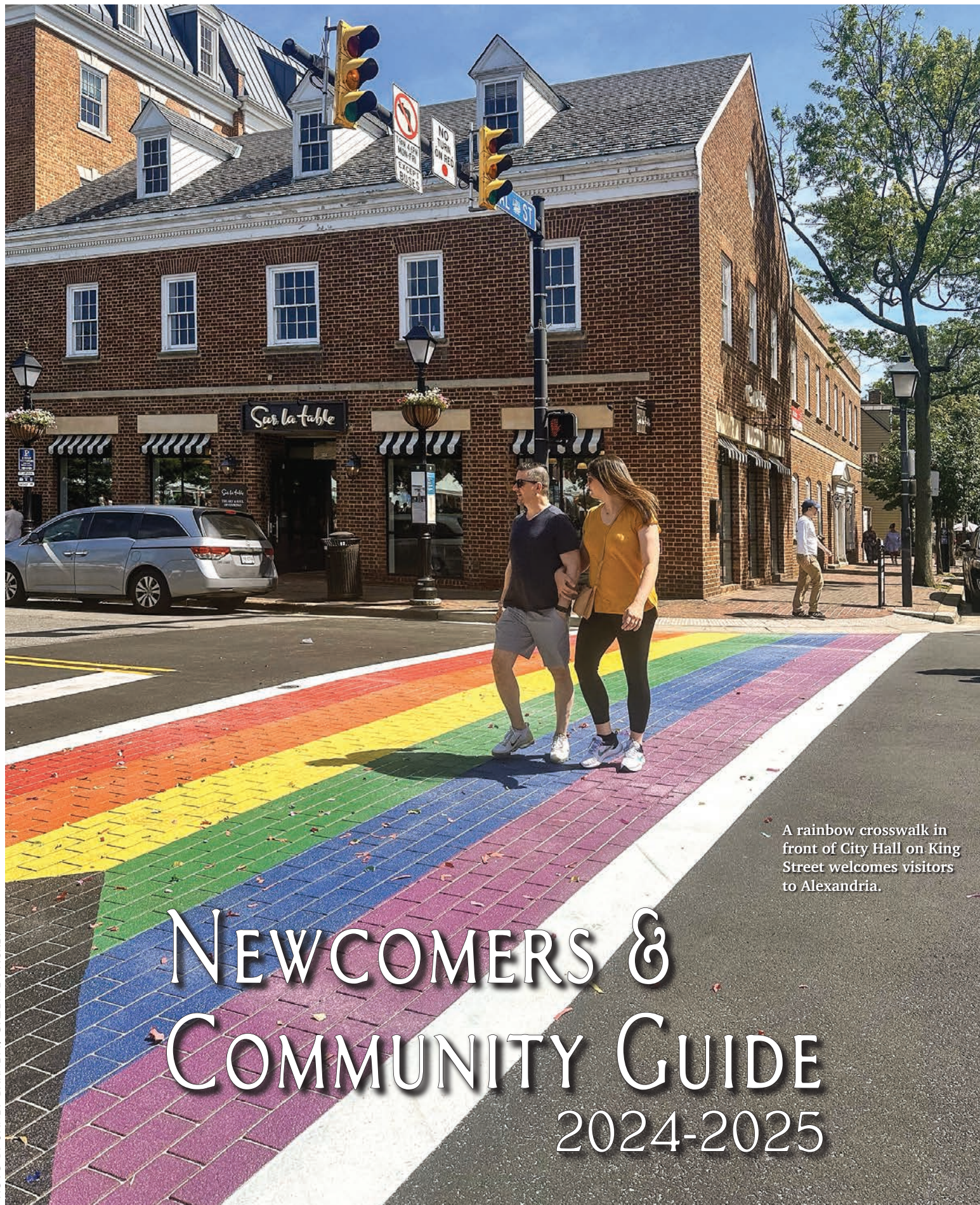
First settled in 1695 and formally founded in 1749, Alexandria has grown from a sleepy town along the Potomac River to one of the most desirable suburbs of our nation's capital.

Boasting the nation's third oldest historic district, Alexandria is nationally recognized for its rich history and preserved 18th- and 19th-century architecture. Among many accolades, the city was voted one of Travel + Leisure's Best Cities in the U.S. 2024 and a Condé Nast Traveler Best Small City in the U.S. 2023.

But there is also the city's more complicated history as home to Robert E. Lee, slavery and the slave trade, segregation, and the fight for Civil Rights. Thanks to the work of city historians and dedicated volunteers, a fuller narrative is now being told of the pivotal role Alexandria played in America's history.

During the colonial era, it was a major trading port, making it a key site during the American Revolution and the Civil War. The city was even part of the District of Columbia from 1801 until it was retroceded to Virginia in 1846.

Once known as a thriving slave trading port, thousands of African Americans fled to the city during the Civil War to flee the bondage of slavery in the south. The city was also one of the principal campsites for Union soldiers sent to defend Washington D.C. Its role in treating wounded soldiers during this time was portrayed in the fictional PBS series *Mercy Street*, which ran from 2016-2017.



A rainbow crosswalk in front of City Hall on King Street welcomes visitors to Alexandria.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2024-2025

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 11

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

About The Alexandria Gazette Packet in 2024

The Alexandria Gazette Packet, our flagship paper, is perhaps the oldest continuously publishing paper in the United States, beginning in 1784, 240 years ago.

At the Gazette Packet, we still answer the call to serve our communities, with a bit of wonder that we are able to continue at all. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, still printing thousands of copies of our weekly papers every week, and distributing thousands more digitally, with more reach via social media and our website. Certainly our approach and methods are different now.

It's still our mission to share the joy of our communities. You can find some of that joy every week, and in this community guide, especially in Jeanne Theissman's roundup of Alexandria History beginning on the front page.

We share the joy of volunteers addressing hunger and so many other needs.

It's still our mission to provide information about how to help and where to get help; to tell the stories of the helpers, and of those who are hungry. It's still our mission to tell the stories of those working for social and racial justice, and battling income inequality.

It is our mission, set out in the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution, to press (pun intended) local government for transparency, although this is more

and more difficult. The public has a right to expect transparency from local institutions. The founders clearly anticipated the ongoing need for the press to help in this role.

We are blessed with remarkable, award-winning staff, contributing writers and photographers who are dedicated to our mission. Most have been writing for the Connection/Gazette for years, some for more than a decade (or two, or three). Each brings areas of interest and expertise. Check the bylines. Don't miss Jeanne Theissman, Janet Barnett, Glenda Booth, Michael Pope, Mike Salmon, Susan Laume, Bonnie Hobbs, Mercia Hobson, Eden Brown, Shirley Ruhel and others.

Local newspapers are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide downturn in newspaper advertising that has been worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis.

Revenue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going. We will renew calls for contributions and subscriptions. <https://gofund.me/8484a551>

If you value local news and you have a budget for advertising and promotion, please endeavor to spend some of it with local newspapers including ours.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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25

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ELECTION GUIDE 2024

Nine Candidates Seeking Six Seats

On the ballot for City Council: Six Democrats, two independents, one Republican.

Early voting begins
Friday, Sept. 20

BY JAMES LIBRESCO
AND MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Voters, get your ballots ready. In-person absentee voting starts Friday, and all six seats on the Alexandria City Council are up for grabs.

In a series of interviews with the Alexandria Gazette Packet in collaboration with Alexandria City High School's student newspaper Theogony, nine candidates for six seats reveal that they are sharply divided over everything from election processes to bike lanes. The four Democratic incumbents and two Democratic candidates support programs like Zoning for Housing and Duke Street in Motion.

The two independents and one Republican offer an alternative to recent trends at City Hall, including free DASH buses and a failed arena proposal.

"There is no effective opposition to the Democratic Party in any organized way, and it's very similar to what you see in the rural parts of Virginia. Just flip the colors," said Jeremy Mayer, associate professor in the Schar School at George Mason University. "You see in one community in rural Virginia, they are the only place in the nation that reversed and went back to Confederate names, and they did that because the Republicans are so dominant that no one could stop them. So Democrats when they are in uniform control of a local government, they may go too far."

Labor groups are playing an outsized role in this election cycle. While real-estate developers usually dominate the money game, this year has seen a flood of campaign cash from NOVA Area Labor Federation and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. A group known as Workers Vote made a \$26,000 in-kind donation to one of the candidates for paid canvassing. The spending spree comes at a time when city workers and school employees are finally able to engage in competitive bargaining after anti-labor restrictions were overturned in 2020.

"A historic wave of workers are proving that the only way to improve their jobs is through a union," says Jaime Contreras, chairman of the SEIU State Council for the Commonwealth. "These candidates understand it's in everyone's best interest to ensure workers earn enough to support their families and our economy through local spending."

City Council Election 2024
WHERE THEY STAND

									
Party	DEM.	DEM.	DEM.	DEM.	DEM.	DEM.	REP.	IND.	IND.
Zoning for Housing									
More bike lanes									
Cooperate with ICE	Did not directly answer						Did not directly answer		Did not directly answer
2nd high school									
Free DASH							Free for students, discounts for residents	Free for low-income residents	Free, but just in the short term
Ward elections	Open to hybrid					No, but open to the idea			Pilot program
Duke St. in Motion									

GRAPHIC BY JAMES LIBRESCO

John Chapman



Raised: \$111,000
top donors

- ❖ \$8,500 from Reginald James Brown, partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- ❖ \$5,000 from labor group NOVA Area Labor Federation
- ❖ \$5,000 from Danielle Romanetti, owner of fibre space
- ❖ \$3,000 from labor group International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- ❖ \$2,000 from Jack Taylor at Alexandria Toyota

Democrat John Chapman is a fourth-term city councilman, a community-use program specialist for Fairfax County's school system and a tour guide for the Manumission Tour Company, which he founded.

A fourth-generation Alexandrian, Chapman attended St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School before heading up north to St. Olaf's College, where he received an undergraduate degree in social studies education. He then moved back to Alexandria, where he worked in the Alexandria and Fairfax county school systems and eventually became an administrator.

Outside of council, Chapman has held positions on several boards, including the Youth Policy Commission, the Redevelopment and Housing Authority task force and the HIV/AIDS Commission. By far the candidate with the most city government experience, Chapman has served on council for the last 12 years.

"There's still work that needs to be done," Chapman said. "Policy work continues, so there's a need for good people to get involved and stay involved."

Among the policy work Chapman says he

is passionate about is affordable housing. He voted in favor of Zoning for Housing, and says he hopes it can "provide additional options for people in various, socioeconomic backgrounds to find housing." To further address the housing crisis, Chapman said he would like to "advocate for additional support" at the state and federal levels on things like increasing the state housing trust fund instead of further raising city taxes. He says he wishes the Potomac Yards arena deal had "panned out" because he says it could have provided revenue towards housing affordability and programs like rental assistance vouchers.

"Right now we commit a lot of our dollars to new housing opportunities, but people who are already in housing are also struggling to afford it," Chapman said. "The rental voucher program would address some of those people's needs, but we need additional resources to do it."

SEE CHAPMAN, NEXT PAGE

Nine Candidates Seeking Six Seats

Chapman

As for transportation, Chapman says he supports keeping DASH buses free “as long as high ridership continues” and would like to expand bike lanes and sidewalks to ensure residents can “be safe moving around the city.” He says he supports the Duke Street in Motion project, as “something has to be done to get people to move around,” though acknowledged there is room for improvement before it is finalized.

Chapman says he is “not super excited” about the idea of switching to ward-based city council elections, though he says he’s open to a hybrid model that includes at-large positions. Though Chapman did not directly respond to a question asking if he would support city cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials in the event of a second Donald J. Trump presidency, he says he would look to what the council has “historically done.” (Alexandria turns over some inmates to ICE voluntarily, though this process has decreased in recent years. In 2018, the sheriff’s department transferred 121 inmates to ICE, compared to 33 in 2023.)

Kirk McPike



Raised: \$108,000
top donors

- ❖ \$6,000 from the candidate
- ❖ \$5,000 from labor group NOVA Area Labor Federation
- ❖ \$3,000 from labor group International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- ❖ \$2,500 from Reginald James Brown, partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- ❖ \$2,000 from labor group United Brotherhood of Carpenters

Democrat Kirk McPike is a first-term councilman who works as chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA 39). Born in Dallas, McPike attended Southern Methodist University and received an undergraduate degree in political science. He remained in Dallas for several years, coordinating and running campaigns for local Democrats. In 2010, he moved to Alexandria to manage Adam Ebbin’s campaign for state Senate District 39. Settling in the city, he chaired the Economic Opportunities Commission and worked on the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee, with a special focus on housing affordability. His first time running for office was in 2021, when he was elected to the City Council.

“I’m very proud of the things that we’ve done on this council and the investments we’ve made,” McPike said. “We’ve achieved a lot in the last three years, but challenges still remain and we need to stay focused on addressing them.”

Among the “investments” referenced by McPike are those into affordable housing, which he says was the reason he ran for office in the first place. If elected again, McPike says he would support the implementation of further stages of Zoning for Housing, of which he is a self-described “big proponent,” although he says he would prefer to monitor current changes before implementing new ones. In the meantime, McPike says he would like to increase funding to the city affordable housing trust fund, even if it would mean possibly raising property taxes. He also supports “looking at what would be involved” in a housing voucher system.

“I think we need to take a look at every possible tool that we could use to make housing more affordable for folks,” McPike said.

McPike also says he is enthusiastic about alternate forms of transportation. Cycling is “one of the main ways” he gets around the city, and McPike supports the Duke Street in Motion project as it strengthens his goal of building a “comprehensive, safe bicycle lane network” throughout Alexandria.

“Obviously, you can’t put a bike lane on every road in the city,” he said. “But we do need to make sure that you can use our bike lane network, whether you choose to drive, bike, or ride one of our free DASH buses, ... and you will pull free DASH buses out of my cold, dead hands.”

As for election reform, McPike says he would not support ward-based City Council elections. He also says he would not like the city to cooperate with ICE if Donald Trump were to win the presidency.

Canek Aguirre



Raised: \$84,000
top donors

- ❖ \$5,000 from labor group NOVA Area Labor Federation
- ❖ \$3,000 from labor group International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- ❖ \$2,500 from Reginald James Brown, partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- ❖ \$2,000 from Guadalupe Silva-Krause, parent liaison at ACPS
- ❖ \$1,000 from Bradley Beychok

Democrat Canek Aguirre is a second-term City Council member and health consultant. Born in Los Angeles, Aguirre graduated from the University of North Carolina with an undergraduate degree in Latin American studies. After college, he worked in North Carolina as a tutor for academically-challenged students, among other jobs. Aguirre moved to Alexandria in 2011, where he was the bilingual parent liaison at George Washington Middle School before creating a communi-

ty outreach program at the district central office. He then worked as an outreach specialist for Virginia Medicaid, and is now a health consultant. Among the civic positions Aguirre has held are chair of the Virginia Board of Social Work, president of Tenants & Workers United and chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission.

“I really care and am passionate about the policies that impact the community, and I want to shape them in a way that improves the lifestyles of our residents,” Aguirre said. “A lot of what I’m about is making things easier for people or creating better opportunities so that people can succeed.”

Aguirre says he’s passionate about housing affordability, and he voted in favor of Zoning for Housing, a plan he says “expanded opportunities” for residents. He also expressed support for building new developments around transit hubs. Aguirre says he would like to see the city contribute more toward affordable housing in the budget, and that he wishes the Potomac Yards sports arena plan, which would have provided millions of dollars in city revenue, could have been “discussed locally.” (The plan was shot down by state lawmakers in Richmond.) Instead of raising property taxes on residents again, Aguirre would like the state to allow Alexandria to progressively tax income, which he says would have little impact on low-income residents.

“Right now we’re overly dependent on the real estate tax,” Aguirre said. “I’d really like to ask for more flexibility and authority from the state to tax differently and generate some more revenue.”

In the event that Trump were to win the presidential election and begin mass deportations, Aguirre says he would do everything he could to stand in the way of ICE. On the transportation front, he says that he supports building a “sufficient bike network” and the Duke Street in Motion project, and “absolutely, 100 percent” wants to keep DASH buses free in the long term. He also says he is against ward-based City Council elections.

Abdel Elnoubi



Raised: \$77,000
top donors:

- ❖ \$26,000 from labor group Workers Vote
- ❖ \$5,000 from Farrukh Hameed, founder of Computer World Services of Falls Church
- ❖ \$2,500 from labor group NOVA Area Labor Federation
- ❖ \$2,500 from Reginald James Brown, partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- ❖ \$2,000 from labor group International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Democrat Abdel Elnoubi is a first-term school board member and capital program manager for Metro (WMATA). Born in Chicago to Egyptian parents, Elnoubi moved to Alexandria, Egypt at seven years old. He would stay there for 13 years, before returning to the states and receiving an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the City College of New York and a masters degree in engineering management from George Washington University. He then moved to Alexandria, Va. to work at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, before transitioning to Metro, where he has worked the last 12 years. In addition to serving on the Alexandria School Board since 2021, Elnoubi has worked on the City Community Criminal Justice Board and the Building Code Board of Appeals. He was also president of Samuel Tucker Elementary’s parent-teacher association, the school his two children attended.

“I grew up in a corrupt dictatorship where there’s no such thing as ordinary citizens being represented in government,” Elnoubi said. “Leaving that, putting myself through college, and working minimum wage jobs has shown me how policies that are really meant to help people can transform lives. I feel that I have an obligation to be part of that and make sure I’m helping shape progressive policies here in Alexandria so everyone can thrive in our city.”

One of Elnoubi’s top priorities is transportation, and he says he envisions an Alexandria where residents are able to “move freely” across the city with or without access to a car. He says he supports keeping DASH buses free in the long term and is a big fan of the Duke Street in Motion project, though “the devil is in the details — fine tuning and adjusting it as we go will be important.” Elnoubi was also enthusiastic about “transit oriented development,” and public-private partnerships to “add as much density as we can” around transit hubs. He says that he would like to add more bike lanes to the city, especially in the West End.

“As we all know, the West End is less transit-friendly,” Elnoubi said. “That’s where our economically disadvantaged population tends to live, and if they can’t move freely, that further limits their access to opportunities.”

As a School Board member, Elnoubi supported collective bargaining and voted to raise teacher salaries by 6 percent this past year, in addition adding school psychologists positions to the budget. Like all other candidates, he says he supports adding a second high school. On the city-wide level, he says he is not in favor of transitioning to a ward-based election system for city council, and would support the city not complying with ICE in the event of a second Trump presidency.

Nine Candidates Seeking Six Seats

FROM PAGE 4

Sarah Bagley



Raised: \$74,000

top donors:

- ❖ \$5,000 from labor group NOVA Area Labor Federation
- ❖ \$2,000 from Searles Bagley of Chesapeake
- ❖ \$2,000 from labor group Eastern Atlantic States Council
- ❖ \$1,000 from the candidate
- ❖ \$1,000 from Bradley Beychok

Democrat Sarah Bagley is a first-term city councilmember and the executive director of affordable housing non-profit Chisom. Born in the Virginia Beach area, Bagley received an undergraduate degree in government from the nearby College of William & Mary. She then received a law degree from the Catholic University of America and began clerking at the district court in Montgomery County, Maryland. Bagley spent the next eight years pursuing a career in law and worked at two firms based in Washington D.C. In 2015, she began working for Chisom. City council was Bagley's first city government experience, though she has volunteered on several political campaigns and served as local event lead for gun-violence prevention group Moms Demand Action and as captain of the Lyles Crouch ADC precinct.

"I genuinely want to be a part of making the place I love even better for everyone," Bagley said. "I've seen the impact that local government can have on improving the quality of life for people, and I want to be a part of what's possible for the community."

An environmentalist, Bagley helped create Alexandria's office of climate action, which works to mitigate climate change and improve energy efficiency. She is an avid cyclist, and says she would support the creation of a connected bike lane network across the city because there is "not quite enough" connectivity within existing bike lanes to "allow people to truly get from one place to another safely." She is an advocate for the complete streets program, which aims to make streets safer for all users, and says she supports the Duke Street in Motion project as well as free DASH buses.

"The DASH bus is a real point of pride for Alexandria in terms of the rideship recovery, the accessibility and the energy efficiency standards we're setting," Bagley said. "We need to continue investing in it so it can remain available to anybody who wants to give it a try or make it their primary transportation."

With a background in affordable housing, Bagley says it is also one of her top priorities. She voted in favor of Zoning for Housing and called it an "important" step

because it allows more housing to be built. She says she hopes to increase development around schools and transit hubs, and to "pursue legislative tools" that allow for "more protections for tenants." Bagley also says she would not like the city to cooperate with ICE and that she would support council doing "whatever we could" to make "immigrant families and communities in our city feel safe." In terms of election reform, Bagley says she is opposed to transitioning to ward-based city council elections because "our current style of government is serving us well" and "is reflective of geography all over the city."

Jacinta Greene



Raised: \$60,000

top donors:

- ❖ \$15,000 from Earl Wardell Stafford, founder of the Wentworth Group
- ❖ \$5,000 from Reginald James Brown, partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- ❖ \$2,100 from Robert Greene of Arlington
- ❖ \$2,000 from O'Kelly McWilliams at Holland & Knight
- ❖ \$1,750 from Nicole Johnson at Cober Johnson & Romney PLLC

Democrat Jacinta Greene is a second-term school board member and independent marketing consultant. She was born in Glen Allen, Va., a suburb of Richmond. After receiving an undergraduate degree in mass communications from Virginia Commonwealth University, Greene stayed in the Richmond area and pursued journalism. She worked for WXCX, the local ABC affiliate, as a reporter, and for the Richmond Free Press as a copy editor and advertising specialist. In 2001, she joined the marketing team at Kraft foods and moved to Alexandria. Three years later, she began working for McDonalds Corporate as the regional marketing manager for the Washington, D.C. area. In 2013, she left corporate America and launched her career as an independent marketing consultant. Before serving on the School Board, Greene was vice chairwoman of the Alexandria Commission for Women. She was also vice chairwoman of volunteering at the Alexandria Democratic Committee and created the Ruby Tucker Readers program, which promotes literacy among disadvantaged children.

"There needs to be an advocate for our school system and our youth on the City Council, and that's why I'm running," Greene said. "Our children are our most precious commodities and they deserve to get the best education possible. I want to move into a role where I can continue advocating for our school system, but also fight for those who are less fortunate in our city."

Like Elnoubi, Greene voted to raise teacher salaries by 6 percent this past budget session. However, the City Council did not allocate the full amount of funding the school system requested, and Greene is now vying for the seat where she would have a say in city budget processes. In addition to education, Greene says she is a proponent of affordable housing, and that she "absolutely" supports providing a housing allowance to teachers, emergency responders and other city employees. She also says she supports Zoning for Housing, and would like to "make sure things are very transparent and that everyone is listened to" when council makes future housing affordability policy.

"I'm a strong believer that if you want to live here in Alexandria, you should be able to," Greene said. "I have friends who could not continue to stay here because renting prices kept going up. We need to really focus on affordability. That's extremely important to me."

Greene is all for keeping free DASH buses, what she called one of the city's "best programs," and says she would like to see a bike network in the city if it will ensure safety for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. Although she supports the Duke Street in Motion project, Greene says she "very much" would like to fine-tune the plan to a point where more residents are satisfied with it. She says she is also open to hearing residents' perspectives on transitioning to ward-based city council elections, though "as of now" she is not in favor. On the topic of immigration, she says she would resist the efforts of ICE as much as possible in the event of a second Trump presidency.

Celianna Gunderson



Raised: \$5,000

top donors

- ❖ \$750 from Linda App, executive vice chairwoman of the Alexandria City Republican Committee
- ❖ \$260 from Lee Ann Gardner of marketing consultant Wiland
- ❖ \$260 from Marc Neifert
- ❖ \$260 from former candidate Bob Wood
- ❖ \$250 from former Councilman Frank Fannon

Republican Celianna Gunderson is a paralegal at an intellectual property firm in Old Town. With a father in the military, she was born in Germany and grew up around the world. After receiving an associate's degree in business management from the University of Maryland's global campus, Gunderson attended a vocational school in Stuttgart, Germany where she received a paralegal degree in international intellectual property. She moved back to the states in 1999, where she settled in Arlington before moving to Del

Ray a decade ago. Gunderson has worked as a paralegal for the last 30 years on and off, taking time away from the "strenuous hours" when family members were diagnosed with cancer. She has also worked at various restaurants in Del Ray, for Aldi and for the school system as a substitute teacher and instructional assistant in the special education department of the high school. Although she has never run for office or worked on any city boards, she described herself as a "concerned parent and citizen."

"I'm tired of seeing a one-party City Council operate in our city," Gunderson said, adding she decided to run for office after a meeting with current council members and parents about school safety went awry. "They didn't want to hear what we had to say. And I thought, 'Oh my God, somebody's got to do something.'"

Gunderson says a top priority for her is school safety and that she would support the installation of metal detectors in elementary schools (they are already in place at middle and high schools), as well as bulletproof doors and windows at all schools. She is also a staunch advocate for government reform, and says she would support transitioning to a ward or hybrid form of elections and increasing the number of seats on City Council. She also says the City Council should be non-partisan, similar to the School Board.

"I find little diversity of opinion or tolerance for disagreement on the council, and I think there needs to be more variety in the thoughts and the ideas," Gunderson said. "We're all trying to make the city a better and safer place to live, and I don't believe that has any bearing whether you're a Republican, independent or Democrat."

Although Gunderson is in favor of Zoning for Housing's promotion of accessory dwelling units, as she says they are "really important with all the affordable housing issues right now." She says she is opposed to its provisions allowing for construction of larger homes and buildings on land previously designated for single-family homes only. To confront the housing crisis, she says the city should lower property taxes. Gunderson did not directly respond to a question asking if she would support the city cooperating with ICE, but says she "is not in the business of sending ICE to someone's house if they're living quietly." Although she is a cyclist, Gunderson says that the city needs to be more conservative in installing new bike lanes and that she does not support the Duke Street in Motion project. She says she would like to keep DASH buses free for students but include a fare for adults with discounts for city residents.

SEE NINE CANDIDATES, PAGE 6

Nine Candidates Seeking Six Seats

FROM PAGE 5

Roy Byrd



Raised: \$2,000
top donors
❖ \$1,216 from the candidate
❖ \$500 from Bill Dickinson, president of the Environmental Policy Network

Independent Roy Byrd is a civic activist who co-founded and chairs the Coalition for a Livable Alexandria, an association that opposes increasing density and aims to improve quality of life in the city. Born in Berlin while his father was on active duty, Byrd moved around the world as a child. He secured a Marine ROTC scholarship to attend Purdue University, where he received an undergraduate degree in political science. After graduating, Byrd continued his global travels, serving in the Marine Corps for 30 years. He earned a master's degree in national security strategy from the Naval War College during this time, before eventually transitioning into private-sector aerospace and defense contracting. Although this is Byrd's first time running for public office, he has been active in Alexandria civic life. In addition to co-founding the Coalition, Byrd has served as co-chair of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations, president of the Clover College Park Civic Association and as a member of several city working groups.

"As an independent, my only allegiance is to residents. I don't have to have allegiance to a party," Byrd said. "I feel that there are certain aspects in the city and our gover-

nance that could be enhanced, and that I've got the experience to help do that."

Byrd is against Zoning for Housing, and his coalition is currently suing the city in an attempt to block its implementation. To increase housing affordability, he says he prefers providing a "mix of housing options that cater to various income levels." He also says he would like the city to work with nonprofits and leverage state and federal resources to promote "programs that help renters transition to home ownership." Byrd is especially enthusiastic about his plan for a "housing allowance" that would provide funds to teachers, emergency responders and other city employees to incentivize them to live in Alexandria.

"This is a complicated issue, and we need to come up with complex, realistic solutions that actually solve the problem," Byrd said. "You can't turn around and say you want affordability and then increase property taxes, because that raises the cost of housing for everyone. We're taking one step forward and two steps back."

Byrd says he believes more accountability for city elected officials is necessary, and spoke in favor of exploring alternative city council models, including increasing the number councilmembers, adding ward-specific positions (council elections are currently at-large), and transitioning to a strong-mayor form of government where the mayor is chief executive instead of the city manager. In terms of transportation, Byrd says he is against the Duke Street in Motion project, as he believes its "configuration [will be] inconsistent." He supports keeping DASH buses free, but just for low-income residents, and prefers bike trails instead of

bike lanes. In the event that Trump wins the presidency, Byrd said he would like the city to refuse to cooperate with ICE.

Mason Butler



Raised: \$1,000
top donor
❖ \$1,000 from the candidate

Independent Mason Butler is a technology executive for Accelerated Solutions Group. Born in Louisville, Ky., Butler received an undergraduate degree in English from Wittenberg University, where he also played soccer. After college, Butler got a job at IBM, and later worked for several tech startups. In 2004, Butler began working for Accelerated Solutions and moved to Arlington. He settled in Alexandria nine years later. Butler is a graduate of the City Academy, a board member for the Campagna Center and a poll worker. He also served on the city Scooter Commission.

"I'm running a campaign based on moderate politics," Butler said. "When you have a country that continues to be as divided as ours, we have to find ways to recognize each other as Americans. What strengthens us is the ability to make decisions to benefit a greater group of people."

Butler says that he opposes Zoning for Housing, as "there was a huge disconnect" between the city and residents, and that he "can't support anything that causes the city and a group of citizens to fight it out in a courtroom." He also says that he envisions

an Alexandria where tall buildings are not constructed in historically "quaint" districts such as Del Ray. He says he does support "thoughtful" development throughout the city to increase housing affordability, and that he is "absolutely" in favor of a housing voucher program, though he says he would like to get to a point where that is not necessary to mitigate the cost of housing. He also says lowering the cost of housing could help change the culture of Alexandria.

"Where I grew up, there's a lot of pride that people take in the city they live in," Butler said. "They'll go to college, or wherever else, but then they want to move back. I've seen that here, people that come in, they make their money and they want to leave. I think the next generation of Alexandria should be fueled by people that want to put someone ahead of themselves."

Butler is open to the idea of ward-based city council elections, and says he would support a pilot program to test if they work, as he "doesn't believe that you should change global policy overnight." When asked if he would support city cooperation with ICE in the event of a second Trump presidency, Butler did not directly respond, saying that he "doesn't treat people differently" depending on their nationalities, but "is not in favor" of immigrants staying in the country if they "want to cause chaos and break laws." On the topic of transportation, he says he supports keeping DASH buses free in the short term, but not the long term, as he says the buses could provide critical city revenue. Butler says he is opposed to the Duke Street in Motion project and that he thinks there are too many bike lanes in the city, although he would support creating "sectioned-off" bike lanes and a "comprehensive" bike trail network.

Early Voting Begins Friday, Sept. 20

Source: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/elections/key-early-voting-dates-deadlines>

In-person early voting begins 45 days prior to each primary and general election. No appointment is needed.

In-Person early voting for the Nov. 5, 2024 elections begins Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections, 132 N. Royal Street, #100. The deadline for early voting is Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024 at 5pm.

In Person Early Voting

Normal Business Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open on Indigenous Peoples' Day, Oct. 14, 2024.

Day	Date	Times
Saturday	Oct. 5	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	Oct. 12	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	Oct. 19	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday	Oct. 21	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Tuesday	Oct. 22	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday	Oct. 23	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Thursday	Oct. 24	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 25	Regular business hours (see above)
Saturday	Oct. 26	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	Oct. 27	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Monday	Oct. 28	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Tuesday	Oct. 29	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday	Oct. 30	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday	Oct. 31	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday	November 1	Regular business hours (see above)
Saturday	November 2	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Early, in-person voting takes place at Charles Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, starting Monday, Oct. 21, 2024.

Day	Date	Times
Monday	Oct. 21	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Tuesday	Oct. 22	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday	Oct. 23	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday	Oct. 24	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 25	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday	Oct. 26	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	Oct. 27	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Monday	Oct. 28	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Tuesday	Oct. 29	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday	Oct. 30	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday	Oct. 31	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday	November 1	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	November 2	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Satellite early in-person voting locations also open up at the Minnie Howard Campus of Alexandria City Public High School (3775 Braddock Road) and George Washington Middle School (1005 Mt Vernon Ave) for the dates listed below.

Days	Dates	Times
Saturday	Oct. 26	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	Oct. 27	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday	Nov. 2	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

By Mail Voting

The quickest way to request a by mail ballot is to apply
SEE EARLY VOTING, PAGE 8

COMMUNITY GUIDE

Where To Give Locally in Alexandria and Mount Vernon

Local nonprofits serve critical roles in the community, and they need your help.

A new survey by No Kid Hungry Virginia shows that more than three-quarters of Virginians (78%) say groceries have become harder to afford in the last year and 62% of families have had to decide between purchasing food and paying for another essential bill, such as rent, utilities, gas or home or car repairs. Also parents of K-12 students are more likely to sacrifice healthy foods in response to costs, with 55% buying less or no produce or 54% buying less or no protein. Nearly half of Virginians (42%) report at least one sign of food insecurity, such as not having enough to eat, eating low-quality food or eating a limited variety of food due to cost. Two-thirds (68%) of Virginians would worry about their ability to afford food if faced with an unexpected \$1,500 expense.

The need extends beyond hunger.

There are literally thousands of ways to give locally. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed and any corrections. Send corrections or updates to mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com with "Give Locally" in the subject line.

❖ **ALIVE!** Alexandria; 2723 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302; 703-837-9300; **ALIVE!** serves thousands Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent, utilities, medical care and other critical needs; emergency food; and deliveries of donated furniture and houseware. www.alive-inc.org

❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp) aliceskids.org P.O. Box 60, Mount



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Just Neighbors is dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community of Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia by providing high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees.

Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity or heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. It helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area and beyond through small acts of kindness. Alice's Kids aliceskids.org 703.746.8108 contact@aliceskids.org

❖ **United Community**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and in-

dividuals living along the Route 1 Corridor; UC provides housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center. Make a Financial Contribution to support the Holiday Gift Room 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org

Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.

❖ **At Home in Alexandria (AHA)** is a nonprofit village that builds and sustains a 55+ community to successfully navigate aging. Together, we share activities, programs and services, including access to needed assistance. Our vision is for AHA to be an advocate for older Alexandrians to live safe, active and connected lives. AHA is a membership organization, which means you pay an annual membership fee that, in turn, entitles you to request services from AHA

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 15



Congratulations

Udeme (Udy) Ekong, RN

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Community Champion Medical Professional of the Year

Alexandria Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center Administrator, Jennifer Patrick, and the entire Alexandria Rehabilitation Team Congratulate Udy, our Director of Nursing, and an exceptional professional, leader and caregiver on this well-deserved award!



THE CHAMBER ALX

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Hi Friends! I am a "We the People" Independent who will always fight for the quality-of-life issues that matter to you. Together, we can reject divisive politics ... and embrace our common good!



Learn more at www.DaveKennedy2024.com

Paid for by David R. Kennedy for Congress

CEREMONY

Pow/MIA Recognition Day

Local veterans to be remembered in Cemetery of the Pacific ceremony Sept. 20.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Two of Alexandria's Vietnam veterans initially reported as Missing in Action will be remembered during a ceremony Sept. 20 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in a first-of-its-kind Rosette Addition Ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

The cemetery, also known as the Punch-bowl, will be the site of a ceremony to place rosettes next to the names on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial to symbolize that their remains have been repatriated to U.S. soil and positively identified.

The marble walls of the monument list the names of all service members who went missing in the Pacific theater during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The American Battle Monuments Commission, which oversees the Courts of the Missing, attaches a bronze rosette beside the names of the missing whose remains have since been recovered and identified.

The two Vietnam War walls were erected in 1980 and hold 2,504 names. But while the remains of more than 900 of those service members have been identified and accounted for since it was built, only one rosette has been placed. The upcoming ceremony will place rosettes beside the names of 953 former MIAs, including Spengler and Lockhart.

Spengler was killed April 5, 1972, when he was shot down as he piloted an AH-1G Cobra in Vinh Long Province. His remains could not be recovered immediately following the incident. In 1989 his remains were recovered and positively identified on Aug. 18, 1989.

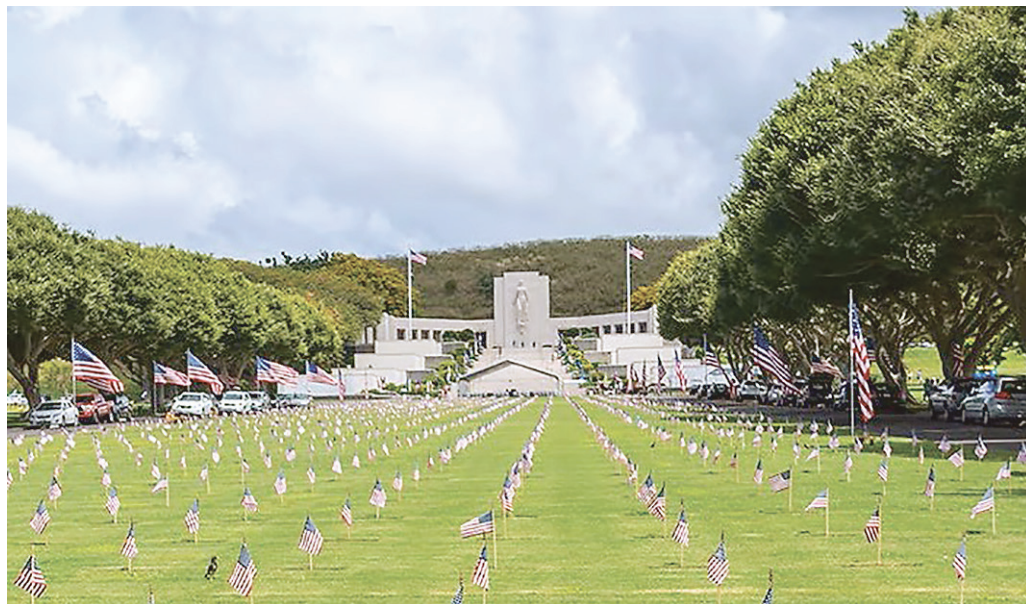
On Dec. 21, 1972, Lockhart was the co-pilot of a B-52G Stratofortress on a combat mission over Hanoi. The Stratofortress was



Capt. Henry Spengler



Capt. G. Barry Lockhart



Two Alexandria Vietnam veterans will be remembered during a Sept. 20 ceremony at The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

downed by a surface-to-air missile and Lockhart was killed in the incident. Heavy enemy presence in the area prevented search

efforts for the aircraft's crew.

In December of 1988, the Vietnamese government returned a set of remains to U.S.

custody that they had associated with the crew of Lockhart's B-52G. Forensic analysis identified Lockhart among the remains recovered.

Both Spengler and Lockhart are memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Their names are also inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC and the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Del Ray.

Colleen Shine of Arlington is one of two daughters of Vietnam War pilots killed in action who have spearheaded the ceremony. Shine was 8 years old when her father, Air Force Lt. Col. Anthony Shone, went missing in 1972 while flying a reconnaissance mission over the Laos border. His remains were identified in 1996.

"The POW/MIA flag that flies is a symbol that America stands behind those who serve."

— Gold Star daughter Colleen Shine

"The rosette ceremony that we will do is proof that answers are possible," said Shine, who has long been involved with the National League of POW/MIA Families. "The POW/MIA flag that flies is a symbol that America stands behind those who serve."

The ceremony will take place Friday, Sept. 20 at 10 a.m. HST (4 p.m. EST) and can be viewed online at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency website beginning at 9:45 a.m. EST. www.dpaa.mil/Livestreams

Early Voting Begins Friday, Sept. 20

FROM PAGE 6

online through the Virginia Department of Elections website.

This process is only for voting by mail and is not used for voting early in person.

Step 1: Apply

Apply online through the Department of Elections website. You will need your social security number and a Virginia Driver's license or Virginia DMV-issued ID number. Or;

Complete a paper application. Use the links below to download an application. You may also call our office (703-746-4050), and we will send you an application.

Download Virginia Vote by Mail Application Return the completed application to our office by mail (132 North Royal

St., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA. 22314), fax (703.746.4540) or scanned email attachment (VoteAbsentee@alexandriava.gov).

The deadline to submit an application to have a ballot mailed to you is 5pm on the 11th day prior to an election. Applications must be received at the Voter Registration Office by this time. You can check to see the status of your application and ballot on the Virginia Department of Elections website.

Step 2: Mark your ballot

Ballots are mailed to voters beginning 45 days before an election.

After the mailing period begins, ballots are mailed within three business days via first class mail.

Follow the instructions enclosed with your ballot materials.

If you make a mistake, email voteabsentee@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4050.

Step 3: Return your ballot

If you return your ballot by mail or a commercial delivery service (Fedex, UPS, etc), your ballot envelope must be postmarked (or dated by commercial delivery service) before 7pm on Election day AND received by the Officer of Voter Registrations & Elections by 12 noon the Friday after the election. OR;

Return your ballot at a Drop Box. Information on drop boxes is available in the section below.

If you decided to vote in person, either early or on election day, bring the ballot you received in the mail with you!

Permanent Absentee Voting List

As of July 1, 2021 all registered voters can request to be added to the permanent absentee voting list. Voters on the permanent absentee list will be automatically mailed a ballot to their residence address for every

general election and primary election (if the voter selects a political party for primary elections). Voters who choose not to be added to the permanent list still have the option of requesting a mail-in ballot for single elections. Voters who wish to remove their name from the permanent absentee voter list can submit the Permanent Absentee Voter Cancel Request.

Drop Box

A secure outdoor ballot drop box will be available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, from the start of early voting till 7pm on Election Day. This drop box is under video surveillance and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ballot drop boxes will also be available at all polling places on Election Day from 6am-7pm.

Abigail Spanberger Keynote Speaker at Women's Conference

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer says that U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger will be his special guest and keynote speaker at Beyer's Eighth Annual Women's Conference: The Time Is Now on Sept. 26.

Abigail Spanberger is the first woman ever elected to represent Virginia's Seventh Congressional District in the House of Representatives, where she has developed a reputation for finding common ground and getting things done. During her time in the House, Spanberger has led critical efforts to support Veterans and federal employees, strengthen workforce training programs, prevent fentanyl overdoses, and protect Virginia's natural resources. Her public service career spans decades, beginning as a federal agent with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigating money laundering and narcotics cases and then serving as a case offi-

cer with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) where she handled counterterrorism and nuclear proliferation cases.

Beyer's Women's Conference is an annual event that convenes local stakeholders and experts to discuss a wide array of issues and how they impact women. This year's conference will feature a conversation between Spanberger and Beyer, moderated by community leader Heather Peeler. Topic: how we can all do our part to secure an equal future where women can realize their full potential.

This year's conference will be held at George Mason University's Arlington Campus, on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 26. George Mason University (Mason Square), 3351 Fairfax Drive Arlington, VA 22201

Registration and additional information are available here. <https://shorturl.at/oAjwH>



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
SCOTT	16850	689	LUNSFORD MILL RD	STREAM	9/4/2024
FRANKLIN	7869	641	CALLAWAY RD/ ROUTE 641	BLACKWATER RIVER	8/29/2024
RUSSELL	16339	67	SWORDS CREEK RD	BIG LICK CREEK	8/27/2024
LEE	10795	612	ROUTE 612	WALLENS CREEK	8/27/2024
HANOVER	9529	656	MOUNT HERMON RD	CAMPBELLS CREEK	8/21/2024
BEDFORD	2872	735	ROCK CLIFF RD/ ROUTE 735	DIFFICULT CREEK	8/13/2024
TAZEWELL	18610	642	ROUTE 642	CROCKETT'S COVE CK	8/12/2024
GREENE	9005	636	GOOSEPOND RD	SWIFT RUN	8/7/2024
ROANOKE	15104	758	CARSON RD/ROUTE 758	BRANCH GLADE CREEK	7/29/2024

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit vdot.virginia.gov and navigate to Traffic and Travel/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota 804-786-4064.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730 or corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Rev. Jim Wallis Lecture and Reception,
"Faith and Democracy."

7-9 pm, Virginia Theological Seminary
(Addison Academic Center),
3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

Wallis will speak about Christian White Nationalism and the counter-movement among people of faith and conscience in support of democracy. He is the author of the New York Times bestseller, The False White Gospel.

Sign up for free tickets or the livestream at
<https://www.eventbrite.com/d/va--alexandria/jim-wallis/>

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<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

From Ashes to Beauty: Stories After Incarceration

Alexandria Film Festival features diversity of films in upcoming event.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

This is the third in a series focusing on the 18th Alexandria Film Festival scheduled in several locations around the city from Nov. 7-10.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Mabel Malhotra, creator and director of "From Ashes to Beauty: Stories After Incarceration."

The 100 film submissions have been evaluated and 58 filmmakers notified of their acceptance including eight local filmmakers. Currently the films are being arranged by theme and venue, and the schedule is expected to be published on Oct. 1. The films will be shown at Beatley Library on Duke Street, the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum in Old Town and NOVA Alexandria Campus Auditorium on Dawes Street. <https://alexfilmfest.com/>

Interview with Mabel Malhotra, creator and producer of "From Ashes to Hope."

Alexandria Film Festival
The 18th Alexandria Film Festival is scheduled in several locations around the city from Nov. 7-10. <https://alexfilmfest.com/>

Q. What is your film background?

I attended the University of Wisconsin Madison in film and psychology. I had made a few shorter journalistic films in the past before this one. But this 33 minute film I consider to be my first fully independent capstone created for my final project at school.

Q. Describe your film.

This is a documentary that highlights four formerly incarcerated people in Wisconsin, one Menomonee Indian from the reservation, two from Madison and one in Milwaukee. I happened to be taking a course in film development but I came up with the idea for this film with a professor who had connections with the incarcerated community.

The four featured in my film had a variety of experiences that got them put in prison and a variety of experiences while in prison but what they had in common was the peer support they received while they were there. They went through a lot of personal transformation. A lot of people helped them so

they went on to help others in the community upon their release. I

talked to all of them afterwards and one thing they had in common was a lot of desire to return to prison. The choices are limited when

you get out. Tony called the prison transporter to take her back. She didn't have a job and didn't know what to do. Luckily the prison put her call on hold and never came back so eventually she hung up the phone. She went on to start a ministry for people coming out of prison dealing with domestic violence. There was no one in prison to talk to about it, and when she was in prison she saw the gap and filled it by creating programs there.

Q. What were the challenges in creating the film?

I didn't have the resources to know how the industry does this, how to make the subject feel comfortable and how to gain their trust in the 1-2 days I had with each of them.

They were recalling really personal experiences telling their stories and they had been exploited in the past. In the beginning it was hard for me to show them they could trust me. I have a great relationship with them now. Some of them have come to talk on a panel after the film's screening in the Wisconsin Film Festival. They were grateful for



"From Ashes to Beauty" is a film that tells the stories of humanity and hope of four formerly incarcerated prisoners emphasizing the role of peer support in their path forward.

their stories being told.

Q. Take me back to your childhood. When did you know this is what you wanted to do?

I've always been a huge photophile. I've always loved using a camera, interviewing people, making videos since I was a kid. In high school I made a video for the newspaper. I explored it more in college. I've always had a passion for social justice. It came from growing up in D.C. in a diverse high school with a lot of people who cared about making the world a better

place. I learned what people are motivated by. I took a course in the criminal justice system and learned that most of the people who were incarcerated were not bad people but people who had experienced trauma.

Q. What next?

Since February I have been working for the Minnesota Justice Research Center making a documentary for them going into community focus groups on how the pre-trial systems could be better. This will lead to making legislative recommendations. I feel still in-

involved in the social justice work but in a different way. I would love to make another film but I would like to work with a team. I'd like to grow, and I don't have the resources available that I had as a student. One thing that really was clear to me when I was making this film is that the Department of Corrections works to improve themselves but it was really the peer groups that made the difference. It's really a beautiful thing but at the same time sad that the prisoner has to take on the work of lifting themselves up.

Alexandria Celebrates Its 275-Year History

FROM PAGE 1

In 1864, after hundreds had perished, the Superintendent of Contrabands, as the free African Americans were known, ordered that a property on the southern edge of town be confiscated for use as a cemetery and an estimated 1,800 African Americans were laid to rest before the last burial took place in January of 1869. Today, the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial is a significant site as part of the African American Civil Rights Network.

Also founded during the Civil War is Alexandria National Cemetery, one of the original 14 national cemeteries established in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln. By 1864, the cemetery was nearly filled to capacity, which eventually led to the construction of Arlington National Cemetery.

With a population of just under 13,000 in 1860, Alexandria is now home to more than 160,000. King Street in Old Town and Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray serve as the shopping and dining hubs of the city. King Street is lined with more than 200 locally owned boutiques and restaurants while Del Ray is home to signature events like Art on the Avenue, the Halloween parade and the annual Turkey Trot.

But off the tourist shopping paths are attractions such as the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier and the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Located in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, the plaza honors the

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 12



PHOTO/NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Noted Civil War photographer Matthew Brady captures an image of African American laborers at the Coal Wharf in Alexandria, ca. 1860-1865. The site is near Tide Lock Park in North Old Town.



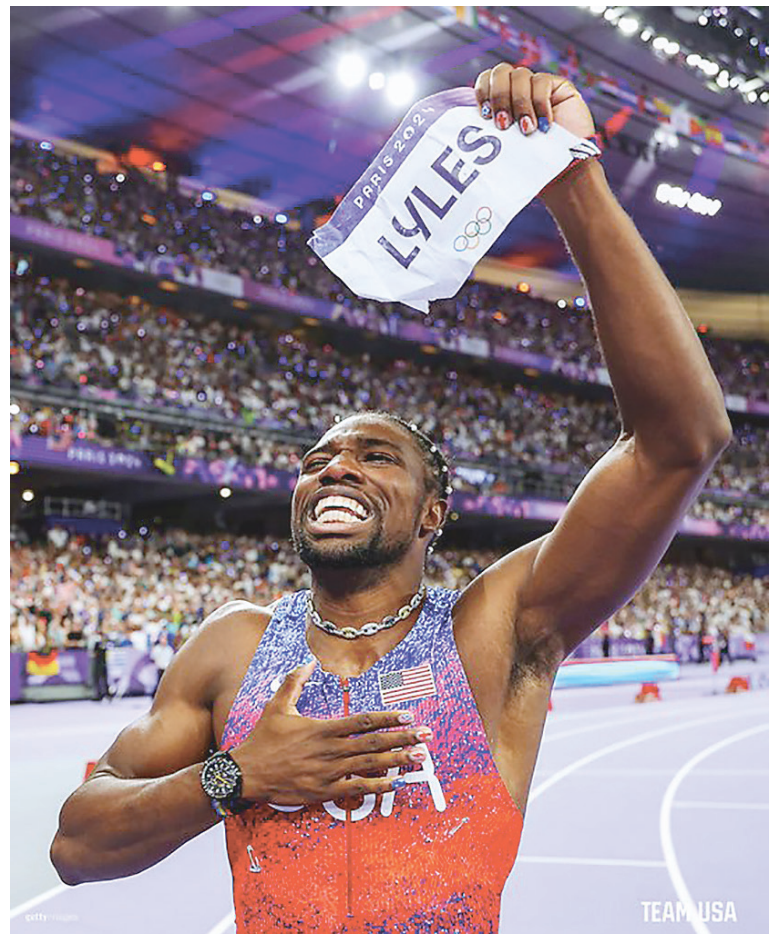
PHOTO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

President Calvin Coolidge and first lady Grace Coolidge, standing, attend the laying of the cornerstone of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in 1923.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

A rainbow crosswalk in front of City Hall on King Street welcomes visitors to Alexandria.



TEAM USA

PHOTO/TEAM USA

Alexandria's Noah Lyles, representing the United States, celebrates winning the gold medal in the men's 100-meter Aug. 4 at the 2024 Paris Olympics.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria National Cemetery is one of the original national cemeteries established during the Civil War in 1862.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Alexandria Celebrates Its 275-Year History



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers lived in Alexandria after he was released from a Soviet prison in 1962.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jim Morrison, standing rear second from right, and The Doors pose with DJ Jack Alox, holding a copy of GO Magazine between his teeth, before The Doors' show at the Alexandria Roller Rink (now the site of the Sheraton Suites) on Aug. 18, 1967. The show is believed to be the only time that Morrison, who graduated from George Washington High School, played in Alexandria.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 1971 Titans football team went undefeated to take home the state championship. The storybook season was depicted in the film Remember the Titans.

FROM PAGE 11

68 Alexandrians who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

Versace, still considered missing in action, is one of three Medal of Honor recipients from Alexandria. Francis C. Hammond posthumously received the honor for his actions in the Korean War and Paris Davis, one of the Army's first African American Special Forces officers, was honored in 2023 for heroism on the battlefields of Vietnam.

City landmarks include the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, where President Calvin Coolidge helped lay the cornerstone in 1923.

The Torpedo Factory Art Center, once a munitions plant, is now home to numerous artist studios and galleries. Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Friendship Firehouse Museum offer glimpses into the city's colonial past.

History buffs will know that U.S. president Gerald Ford was a longtime resident, and that U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers lived here after he was released from a Soviet prison in 1962. And Earl Lloyd, who grew up in a segregated Alexandria, was the first African American to break the color barrier in the NBA in 1950.

NFL Hall of Famer Joe Namath made his pro football debut on Aug. 7, 1965, in Alexandria when the New York Jets took on the Houston Oilers in a preseason game at what was then George Washington High School. Having just signed the richest contract in pro football history, Namath led the Jets to 13 points and threw for 110 yards. The performance inspired Gazette reporter Lloyd Groves to write that Namath, "no

doubt, made believers out of most of the fans who witnessed his pro football baptism." In the end, however, "Broadway" Joe wasn't enough to knock off the Oilers, who took home a 21-16 victory.

Six years later it was Alexandria's high school football team that made national headlines when the 1971 Titans went 13-0

and were ranked second in the nation. They dominated almost every game that they played, shutting out their opponents in nine of their 13 games and outscoring them by a margin of 338-38 en route to the state championship. The storybook season was depicted in the Disney film Remember

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 13



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the service and sacrifice of the 68 men from Alexandria who either died in Vietnam and the surrounding area or remain missing in action.



PHOTO BY CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria's Earl Lloyd (11), playing in an NBA championship game in 1955, made history as the first African American to play in the NBA when he took to the court for the Washington Capitols on Oct. 31, 1950, in Rochester, N.Y.

Alexandria Celebrates Its 275-Year History

FROM PAGE 12

the Titans.

The Alexandria Aces took home the championship of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League in 2022 and most recently Noah Lyles, who grew up in Alexandria, took home the gold in the men's 100-meters in the 2024 Paris Olympics, crowning him the "fastest man in the world."

Whether you're exploring historical sites or enjoying the vibrant arts scene, the city offers a rich tapestry of experiences that celebrates its storied past while embracing a sense of community for those who call Alexandria home.



PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED

Joe Namath talks with New York Jets coach Weeb Ewbank during Namath's professional NFL debut in Alexandria on Aug. 7, 1965. The Jets played their first preseason game against the Houston Oilers at what was then George Washington High School.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER
GAZETTE PACKET
Fireworks over the Potomac River are a tradition of First Night Alexandria.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Friendship Fire Company, depicted in 1910, is celebrating the 250th anniversary of Alexandria firefighting.

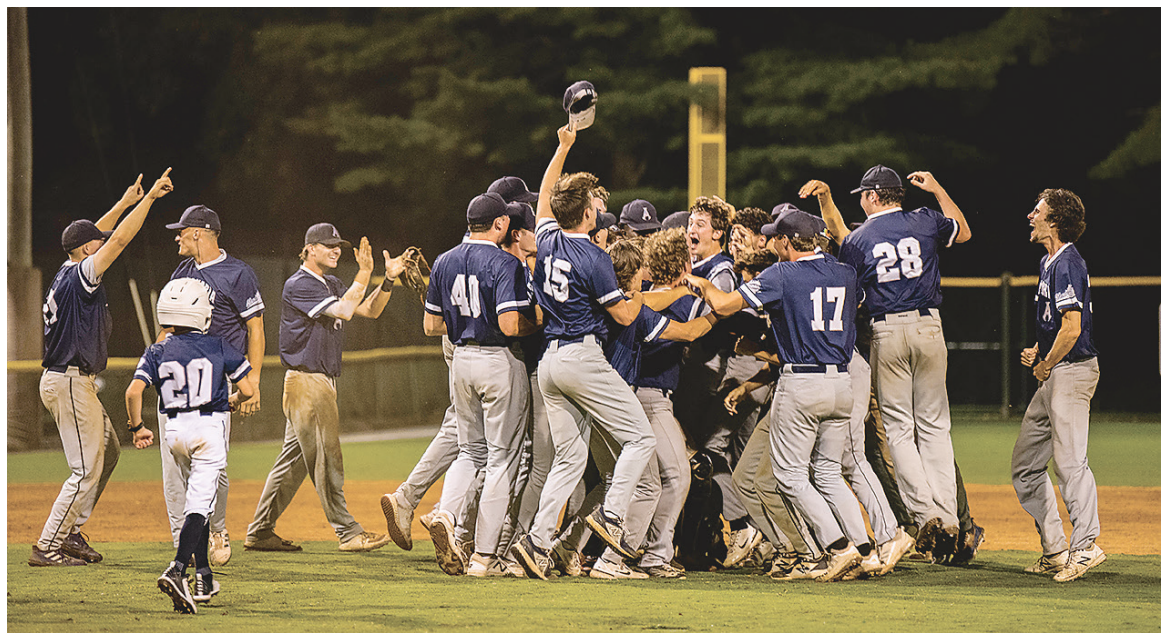


PHOTO BY

TESS WILHELM

Alexandria Aces players storm the field after winning the 2022 League Championship Series of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The annual Scottish Walk parade draws tens of thousands of visitors from across the region to kick off the holiday season and raise funds for the Campagna Center.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial is a significant site in the African American Civil Rights Network.

COMMUNITY GUIDE: ABOUT ANIMALS

AWLA's Pets & People Community Wellness Events

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria kicked off its fall Pets & People Community Wellness events at Four Mile Run Park on Saturday, Sept. 14. It was a great turnout with more than 100 animals in attendance. Participating dogs and cats received free vaccines, microchips, dewormer, preventions, pet supplies, behavioral advice and more.

People in attendance could get a free bag of shelf-stable groceries courtesy of ALIVE! Additional services and goods for humans were also available, along with resources and information on human services.

Many volunteers, including the veterinarians who donated their time and expertise, make these free community events possible.

The next event will be in October. See AWLA's events calendar on the website. <https://alexandrianimals.org/events/>



Alexandria's Free Fall Festival for Animal Lovers is Oct. 13

Paws in the Park, benefiting the AWLA, returns to Oronoco Bay Park.

Paws in the Park, presented by Amazon, returns to Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town Alexandria on Sunday, Oct. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and promises to be an even bigger party than previous years. This annual event celebrates Alexandria's — and Northern Virginia's — love for animals. The day offers a family and pet-friendly free festival featuring

vendors, adoptable animals, and a variety of entertainment for kids and adults.

Along with many local artisans, nonprofits, and animal-focused businesses, Paws in the Park will host food and beverage vendors, too. Attendees can pack a picnic and also savor drinks and food from local cideries, breweries, wineries, bakeries, food trucks, and more while enjoying the day's entertainment and shopping.

SEE PAWS IN THE PARK, PAGE 15

About the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) has been a beacon of hope for animals and the people who love them. Through adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education, community service and outreach, the AWLA plays a key role in promoting responsible pet care across Northern Virginia. Additionally, the AWLA works with the City of Alexandria to provide animal care, control, protection and operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, an open-admission animal sheltering facility.

The AWLA is able to support pet families and at-risk animals thanks to the kindness of generous donors. You can learn more about the AWLA and find ways to support Alexandria's animals at www.AlexandriaAnimals.org/Support-Us.

COMMUNITY GUIDE: ABOUT ANIMALS

First Call Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

Call immediately when you suspect a wild animal is injured, ill, or in danger – or that animal presents a danger to humans or domestic animals.

This submission is in response to the article “Father-son Duo Save Raccoon” published on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria wants to remind our community about wildlife safety and the critical importance of contacting our Animal Services team immediately when you suspect a wild animal is injured, ill, or in danger – or that animal presents a danger to humans or domestic animals.

We are incredibly thankful that the father and son who directly handled the ill raccoon were uninjured, but this could easily not have been the case.

While raccoons are certainly cute critters

and have earned an adorable reputation as nature’s masked marauders and “trash pandas,” they are first and foremost wild animals.

It is not recommended to handle wildlife that is behaving normally, and it is immensely dangerous to handle wildlife that is acting sick or behaving abnormally. Many people know the dangers of rabies, but distemper (a fatal viral disease affecting the central nervous system and more) is another concern in wild animals like raccoons and foxes. Distemper can not be transferred to humans, but can be transmitted to domestic dogs and cats on our clothes or through the air.

We empathize with the father and son and understand their desire to intervene.

It is immensely dangerous to handle wildlife that is acting sick or behaving abnormally.

We also deeply appreciate our community’s overall concern for all animals’ wellbeing.

Above all else, here is what we want you to remember. If you think you’ve found a wild animal in need...STOP. Interfering with the animal could cause damage to you and the animal. Contact AWLA’s Animal Services



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT

This young, sick raccoon was helped across an Alexandria street, and later was euthanized.

at 703-746-6000 for advice on what to do, and if the animal needs help, our team of trained officers will provide that assistance.

It is our job to ensure our community can safely enjoy our area’s diverse ecosystem, living in harmony with our wild neighbors.

Paws In the Park Oct. 13

FROM PAGE 14

If you’ve been looking to add a furry member to your family, the 10+ animal welfare organizations and rescues in Rescue Row, sponsored by First Georgetown Securities, Inc., will have adoptable animals available to meet.

This year’s entertainment, sponsored by TTR Sotheby’s International Realty, begins at 11 a.m. and includes repeat musical favorites like Uno Dos Tres Andres, and new acts and stage events like

the Pet Costume Contest, sponsored by Pet-Medic Urgent Care. The costume contest is open to everyone, and pre-registration is required. Each category winner will receive a cool prize.

There’s plenty more fun to be had at both the Family Fun Tent and AWLA Tent. The Family Fun Tent will feature arts and crafts geared for kids of all ages, as well as story time. Stop by the AWLA Tent to purchase your 2025 AWLA calendars and bid on items in our silent auction. The silent auction will

be available online as well, so winners will not need to be present to participate or win. Bidding is open now through event day. <https://www.32auctions.com/PITPSilentAuction2024>

“At the AWLA, we celebrate the love that our community has for animals each and every day,” said Executive Director Stella Hanly, “but Paws in the Park is one of our favorite ways to connect with that community, meet a lot of amazing animals, and raise awareness and funds for Alexandria’s

animals.”

The first 1,000 attendees at Paws in the Park will receive a one-of-a-kind swag bag. Paws in the Park is open to leashed, well-behaved pets of all types.

Proceeds from Paws in the Park benefit the AWLA, which supports homeless animals in Alexandria, as well as pets and people throughout the community. Visit www.PawsintheParkVA.com.

SOURCE: AWLA

Where To Give Locally in Alexandria and Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 7

for an entire year. These services include transportation, errands, technical support, light maintenance, organizing and decluttering, short-term pet or lawn care, and much more. 3139 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22305-2669 (703) 231-0824 Email: aha@athomeinalexandria.org Website: www.athomeinalexandria.org

❖ Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 703-746-4774, www.alexandrianimals.org, Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education, wildlife management, community service and outreach. See pages 14-15 for more.

❖ ACT for Alexandria, 703-739-7778, www.actforalexandria.org, Nonprofit and donor services, Alexandria’s community foundation.

❖ Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, 703-549-6670 ext. 119 <https://alexandriatutors.org/>, Tutoring for Alexandria City Pub-

lic Schools kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling to read. Mission: To help Alexandria City Public School students read on or above grade level by the end of kindergarten and first grade.

❖ Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. The organization has reshaped its Weekend Food For Kids program to assist the struggling families of the students we serve. Contact info@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org

❖ Bethany House, 6121 Lincoln Rd #303, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-658-9500; <http://www.bhvnv.org/>; Bethany House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.

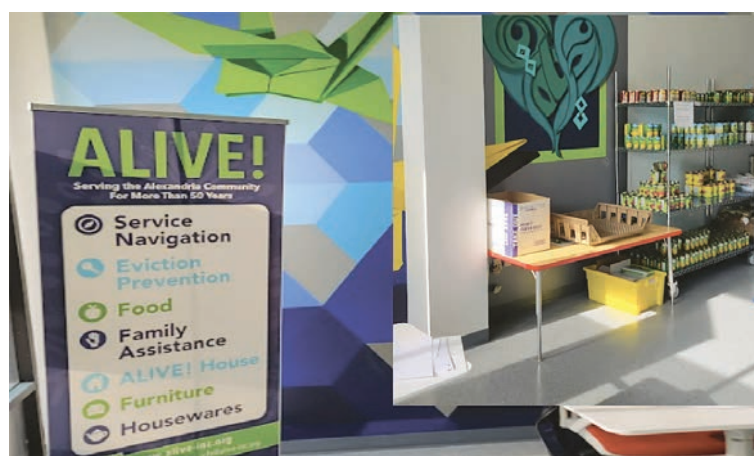


PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

ALIVE! is the oldest and largest private safety net in the City of Alexandria dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger. They opened their first brick and mortar food hub at 501-E South Van Dorn Street in 2022.

❖ The Campagna Center, 703-549-0111, www.campagnacenter.org, Educational and social development programs for children, teens, and adults.

❖ Carpenter’s Shelter, 703 548-7500, www.carpentersshelter.org, Homeless services and programs including education and case management.

❖ Center for Alexandria’s Children, 703-838-4381, www.centerforalexandriachildren.org, Child abuse and neglect and parent support.

❖ Child and Family Network Centers, 703-836- 0214, www.cfnc-online.org, Provides caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families in their own neighborhoods to prepare them for success in school and life

❖ Community Lodgings, Inc., 703-549-4407 Transitional and affordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.

❖ The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Make grants in its focus areas of interest

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 19

ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallship-providence.org/>

NOW THRU SEPT. 22

Fleeting Moments: Street Photography II. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Artist Talk, Sunday: September 22, 2:30 p.m. Fleeting Moments features photographs that capture candid moments, revelatory interpretations, and brilliant reflections of the mundane - work commonly referred to as "street photography."

NOW THRU SEPT. 28

"Fascinating Fiber, Alluring Fabric" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Features art that is either created with fiber or fabric or depicts fiber or fabric as its subject. Opening reception on Friday, Sept. 6, 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on Sunday, September 29). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SEPT. 17-23

Fall Book Sale. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Fall Book Sale from Tuesday, Sept. 17, 3 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 22, Half Price Day, 1-4:30 p.m.; Monday, Sept. 23, \$10 Bag Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria; info: 703-746-1702; www.beatleyfriends.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Coffee & Connections. 8:30-9:30 a.m. At The Landing Alexandria, 2620 Main Line Blvd., Alexandria. Join The Chamber ALX's Professional Women's Network for September Coffee & Connections. Hear from Dr. Sarah Johnson Conway, a practicing internal medicine physician at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the interim Senior Vice President of the Office of Johns Hopkins Physicians, who will share her story and highlight ways to stay healthy heading into the Fall.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Taste of Old Town North. 4 to 8 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. The Taste of Old Town North is a free, family-and pet-friendly event featuring an artisans' market, gourmet restaurant tastings, children's improv with Alexandria Children's Theater and other activities for all to enjoy, including music from two local bands. Participating Old Town North restaurants include Jula's on the Potomac, the Perfect Pita, Hank's Oyster Bar, MacMillan Spirit House, Hotel AKA Alexandria's a.lounge+bar, St. Elmo's Coffee Pub and Royal Restaurant.

GROW WITH YOUR GARDEN AT GREEN SPRING GARDEN TALKS

The Park Authority is here to help gardeners this fall with a plant-tastic lineup of Green Spring Garden Talks, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Learn some tips and techniques that will spruce up your plants and other "soil-mates" with the help from fellow gardeners, VCE Master Gardeners and naturalists. All events are held at Green



Housing Alexandria is hosting its annual Fall Festival on Thursday, Sept 26, 2024 at The Garden Alexandria featuring live band entertainment, a jazz performance from the Metropolitan School of the Arts performing arts students, food and wine trucks and games.



The HalloWEIRD Art Market takes place Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024 at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria.

Spring Gardens and are \$12 per person. Additional fees apply for out-of-county residents. Build the Lawn of Your Dreams. Friday, Sept. 20, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Let your yard flourish all season long with the right fertilization, seeding and weed prevention methods. Alternatives for Invasive Plants. Friday, Oct. 11, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Discover the different plants you can grow to avoid other bullying plants from taking over your yard. Make a Backyard Sanctuary for Wildlife. Saturday, Oct. 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Learn gardening techniques for attracting pollinators, birds and other native insects into your garden to improve habitat loss. Composting Made Simple. Friday, Nov. 8, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Learn the value that comes with putting compost into your yard and garden instead of your trashcan.

Adapt & Thrive with Climate Change. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Extension Master Gardeners share ways to adapt your garden practices to changing climate patterns through plant selection, water management and more!

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

HalloWEIRD Art Market. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the park adjoining Del Ray artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria (corner of Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenues). The HalloWEIRD Art Market features a variety of artwork from local artisans celebrating the spooky and playful sides of the autumn season. Join them for lots of fun at this outdoor, family-friendly, rain-or-shine event. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/hallo-weird-2024

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Write Like a Woman Networking Workshop. 1 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Enjoy an afternoon of engaging conversation and writing! Facilitated by poet, author, and Athenaeum Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta, this workshop welcomes amateur to professional women writers ages 18-100. Each workshop centers on uplifting and inspiring through writing and allows participants to enhance their writing styles through writing prompts and encouragement. Space is limited, RSVP to greatpublishing@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. At Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss Street, Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons early in the evening (one line dance lesson, one couples dance lesson) followed by open dancing. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$15; children under 18

accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

82nd Annual Historic Alexandria Homes

Tour. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. The 82nd Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour will showcase some of Alexandria's finest homes. This year's event will include a bonus tour of Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Presented by The Twig, the Junior Auxiliary of INOVA Alexandria Hospital, the Historic Alexandria Homes Tour is a ticketed tour with proceeds benefiting INOVA Alexandria Hospital. Their designated Tour Book serves as a guide to the homes and will be accessible to ticket holders via mobile device. Hard copies of the Tour Book are available for purchase in advance for \$5 each. Visit thetwig.org/homes-tour

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

2024 American Horticultural Society Gala. 6-10:30 p.m. At River Farm, Alexandria. The annual soiree not only highlights the vibrant culture of gardening and horticultural practices but also raises vital funds to support AHS's outreach and educational programs and the stewardship of River Farm, headquarters of the AHS. The gala will feature cocktails, dinner, dancing and mingling set amongst River Farm's stunning gardens on the Potomac River. Complimentary valet is also included. Attire is black-tie. Individual tickets are \$375 each, and sponsorships start at \$1,250. Visit www.ahsgardening.org/2024gala to purchase tickets and sponsorships.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Tons of Trucks. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Chinquapin Park, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Attendees of all ages are invited to explore and get behind the wheel of their favorite City vehicles, meet the staff who help build, maintain, serve, and

ENTERTAINMENT



The Chalk-A-Block will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024 in Old Town Alexandria.

protect the community, and learn about the vehicles they use. Other activities include an art project with the City's Mobile Art Lab, giveaways, photo opportunities, and food truck vendors. Parking is available at Alexandria City High School, 3330 King St.; the First Baptist Church, 2932 King St.; and Oakland Baptist Church, 3408 King St. The City will also provide a sensory-friendly hour for the first 60 minutes of the event, 10 a.m.-11 a.m. For additional information, visit alexandriava.gov/rpca/tons-of-trucks-2024.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

Community Baby Shower. 12-2 p.m. At Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Join ALIVE! member congregation @sixteenth_tabernacle_beth_el for the annual Community Baby Shower. Discover a wide range of resources for ensuring healthy pregnancies, self care and parenting. Topics and information range from nutrition in pregnancy to what to expect in the first year, both mother and child. There will also be free raffles for large prizes, baby walkers, cribs, strollers and more. For more information text 347-495-9233.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

"Life in Alexandria's Civil War Prisons Lecture. 7 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria Historical Society is pleased to announce its upcoming lecture, "Life in Alexandria's Civil War Prisons." Local historian Madeline Feierstein will present her research on the five military prisons of Alexandria during the Civil War. Her lecture will provide an in-depth look at life within these institutions for both Confederate and Union prisoners, examining how their presence disrupted the daily lives of Alexandria residents. Additionally, Madeline will explore the medical treatment of jailed soldiers and prisoners of war at hospitals such as Grosvenor Branch, which was the confiscated Lee-Fendall House. Attendees will gain insight into first-hand accounts from individuals who experienced imprisonment within Alexandria's city limits, from the earliest days of battle to the beginnings of Reconstruction. For more information, contact David Heiby, Treasurer of the Alexandria Historical Society,

at davidheiby@gmail.com or 703-869-0872.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Housing Alexandria's Annual Fall Festival. 4-8 p.m. At The Garden Alexandria, 5380 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Housing Alexandria, a leading non-profit dedicated to affordable housing, invites the community to its annual Fall Festival. Tickets range from \$10-\$60, with all proceeds directly supporting affordable housing initiatives in Alexandria. Tickets include food, beverages, and raffle entries – a complete package for a fun-filled evening with a purpose. The family-friendly fair hosts a captivating performance by a jazz/tap ensemble of talented students (ages 12-18) from the renowned Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA). Guests can also enjoy live music from local band, Live at Zac's House, while indulging in various Alexandria vendors. To purchase tickets, go to www.housingalexandria.org.

SEPT. 26 TO OCT. 6

Old Town Cocktail Week. At locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Old Town Cocktail Week will feature spirited events, workshops and activities at shops and restaurants around Old Town. The festivities kick off at Art on the Rocks at the Heron Hotel on September 26 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Guests can sample up to ten unique cocktail and appetizer pairings and vote for their favorite pairing while enjoying imaginative artwork, live music and more.

SEPT. 26 AND 27

Jane Franklin Dance's Moving Stories. 7 p.m. At The Lloyd House Gardens, 220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Moving Stories is a movement-based work that is about historical Lloyd House and its Gardens, not as a static landmark, but rather as a place where people of different generations interact. The performance resonates with the landscape and references the site's history. Lloyd House, built in 1796, has housed many prominent people and is important to the streetscape of Washington Street, part of George Washington Memorial Parkway. The architecture of the building, the people who have lived there, and the changing community surrounding it,

makes the location important to ALX275, the City of Alexandria's 275th Anniversary.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Chalk-A-Block. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Throughout Old Town Alexandria. Follow the Old Town North Tern's footprints from site to site throughout Old Town North and complete the scavenger hunt to be entered to win prizes. Chalk artists will transform the sidewalks and parking lots of Old Town North into their canvases. Live music will fill the air from a variety of artists including local favorites Mars Rodeo at Montgomery Park and Yellow Door Jazz at Canal Center. Local artists and makers will be on hand to showcase their works. From ceramics to jewelry to bath products to books and more, there's something for everyone. For more information about Old Town North Alliance, visit: <https://www.oldtownnorthalliance.com>.

OCT. 4-6

Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Taste unlimited samples from Virginia wineries after hours at George Washington's estate. Bring a blanket and relax on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River, and enjoy concessions available for purchase from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant. Note that the Mansion will not be open during this event. Visit mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

29th Annual Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Mount Vernon Ave. between Hume Ave. and Bellefonte Ave., Alexandria. The 29th Annual Art on the Avenue festival held in Del Ray features more than 300 juried artists, from quilters to card-makers to cartographers, displaying their one-of-a-kind wares. Arrive with an appetite and grab a bite from dozens of food vendors while soaking up live music (Irish, folk, rock-n-roll, country and more) along the avenue. Plus, kids activities abound with pumpkin painting, screen art weaving and more. Please note parking is extremely limited. Trolley transportation will be available from the Braddock Road Metro.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Fairy House Festival. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Build your own tiny fairy house using materials found in nature. Special activities will take place throughout the day including story times and crafts on the grounds of the Pope-Leighey House. The Pope-Leighey House was designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright as a small, affordable home that was built in harmony with the nature around it. Perfect for children, families, and nature lovers of all ages!

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Chamber Music Series. 6 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Presenting The President's Own United States Marine Band. Free.

FRIDAY/OCT. 11

Book Signing. 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Depression Made Me Write This, by C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas. Join in an inspiring book signing event with poet, orator, and teaching artist, C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas, the author of the powerful new

work, Depression Made Me Write This. At first glance, the title might suggest a narrative of glorifying struggle, but Thomas's writing takes an entirely different path. Instead, this book invites readers to see themselves as a collection of experiences, each shaping the landscape of their lives.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Designing American Living. 3-4:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House provide a unique opportunity to put two American styles of architecture – separated by over a century – in conversation with one another. Take a close look at both houses to examine what it was that the architects who built these homes were trying to convey about the people who lived here, the period they lived in, and what they thought the future held. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents/2024/10/12/designing-american-living>

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

The Carpenter's 20th Anniversary Cook-Off. Noon to 3 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Indulge in an afternoon of food and fun while supporting Carpenter's Shelter! Attendees will enjoy tastings from 20 area restaurants, bid on hot ticket items during the live and silent auctions, and listen to live music. Restaurants to Date: Hard Times Café, Hen Quarter, Nando's Peri Peri Chicken, The Majestic, The Royal, What the Chef, Mystic BBQ & Grill, Bittersweet Catering, Landini Brothers, Misha's, The Warehouse, The Wharf, Pork Barrel BBQ. General Admission (Now until October 11): \$75 Adults, 25 Children (12 and under). At the Door Tickets (on October 13): \$100 Adults, \$30 Children (12 and under). All proceeds from this event will support Carpenter's Shelter, which now operates two homeless shelters in Alexandria, VA and serves 909 people total—248 children, 67 families and 500 single individuals experiencing homelessness.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 16

Yacht Haven Garden Club Benefit. Yacht Haven Garden Club's 40th annual Fashion Show, Silent Auction and Luncheon fundraiser "40 Years of Friendship, Fashion and Flowers," will be held at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria. Fashions will be provided by Sara Campbell. Tickets are \$60.00. Deadline is October 9. For reservations, contact: Joyce Tami at yachthavengardenclubva@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon. TDMV Ride 8:30 a.m.; Youth and Family Ride at 9 a.m. Starting and ending at Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Early bird special! Register for the 9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon by August 31 for a discounted rate and be guaranteed a pair of Tour de Mount Vernon socks! #Tdmv2024 Register now: <https://buff.ly/46VNVtx>

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

SEPTEMBER

Thu. 19: Amy Grant \$95.00
Fri. 20: Michelle Collins: The Big Natural Tour \$45.00
Sat. 21: Atlantic Starr \$65.00
Sun. 22: Atlantic Starr \$65.00
Tue. 24: Stella Cole \$35.00
Wed. 25: Suzanne Vega 'Old Songs, New Songs and other Songs' \$55.00
Thu. 26: Phillip Phillips \$49.50
Fri. 27: Eric Roberson \$69.50
Sat. 28: Eric Roberson \$69.50
Sun. 29: Jonathan Coulton and Paul & Storm \$39.50

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Legals

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
**VEHICLE AND BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY
TAX DUE OCTOBER 7, 2024**



The City of Alexandria has mailed the 2024 vehicle personal property and business personal property tax bills. Payments must be received by October 7, 2024, to avoid late payment penalty and interest. Starting in 2024, the late payment penalty increases from 10%, if paid up to 30 days late, to 25%, if paid later than November 6.

Vehicle personal property tax payments can be made online at alexandriava.gov/Payments or mailed to: City of Alexandria, P.O. Box 34710, Alexandria, VA 22334-0710.

Business personal property tax payments can be made online at alexandriava.gov/Payments or mailed to: City of Alexandria, P.O. Box 34901, Alexandria, VA 22334-0901.

In-person payments can be made at City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 1510, or at the West End Finance Office, 4850 Mark Center Drive, Second Floor, Suite 2011, Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM.

Payments are also accepted 24 hours a day at the City Hall drop box on the Royal Street side of the building. Drop box payments must be in the drop box by midnight on October 7, 2024, to be considered on time.

Comprehensive information regarding vehicle personal property taxes is available at alexandriava.gov/CarTax and business tax information is available at alexandriava.gov/BusinessTax.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For vehicle registration or assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email vehicletax@alexandriava.gov. For business personal property assessment questions, please email businesstax@alexandriava.gov.

Si necesita ayuda en Español, por favor llame al 311 o 703.746.4311 (Alex311).

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**Virginia
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Where To Give Locally in Alexandria and Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 15

while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists.

❖ Computer C.O.R.E. 703-931-7346, www.computercore.org, Adult education, computer training and career development. Email: info@computercore.org

❖ Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. Mailing address: 4201 Wilson Blvd., #110-284, Arlington, VA 22203, CFC #33011, Phone 703-591-4965, cause-usa.org

❖ Hopkins House, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.

❖ Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, 703-237-0866, www.lcnv.org, Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English.

❖ Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as a safety net for clients of the CSB who encounter extraordinary or emergency financial needs. More than 98 percent of donations and grants go to direct client support and co-sponsorship of free public educational programs. bit.ly/friendsoftheAMHC

❖ Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/

❖ Just Neighbors is dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community by providing high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees. <https://www.justneighbors.org/>

❖ Neighborhood Health, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. Partners with patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. Ten clinics throughout the region taking a leading role during COVID. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org

❖ Northern Virginia Family Services, www.nvfs.org, Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families. 571-748-2500

❖ Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) seeks to provide low-income individuals, senior citizens, and families residing in Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington and other portions of southeast Fairfax County with access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through LCAC's self-sufficiency programs. <https://lortonaction.org>

❖ Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation helps homeless pets find their way into loving homes through rescue and adoption. We offer same-day adoptions and two-week trial periods. All pets are spayed or neutered



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Guest House celebrated their 50th anniversary of hope on June 6. Guest House provides a residential program with individualized support services including job assistance and counseling for formerly incarcerated women with non-violent offenses.

prior to adoption. lostdogrescue.org

❖ Mount Vernon At Home, 703-303-4060, www.mountvernonathome.org. Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of our community, neighbors helping neighbors with volunteer support. Mount Vernon at Home has stepped up its efforts to help members stay safe, secure, and connected during the pandemic crisis. More grocery shopping and errand services to members; online activities and support for members to access these new technologies; members check in with members by phone regularly; weekly email newsletters with helpful, important and enjoyable items to keep members connected during this time.

❖ NAMI Northern Virginia (National Alliance on Mental Illness) works to raise awareness and provide education, advocacy, and support programs for people living with mental illness, families, students, educators, law enforcement, and the public throughout our neighborhoods. Many excellent programs. NAMI Northern Virginia serves Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, and Loudoun www.nami-northernvirginia.org/ HelpLine: 571-458.7310, Email: info@nami-nova.org

❖ New Hope Housing, ending homelessness in Northern Virginia by providing housing, offering hope, and building community. We currently offer various Housing Programs, and Support Services. 8407E Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309 www.newhopehousing.org/how-to-help/donate/

❖ Potomac Riverkeeper Network works to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams; to stop pollution; to promote safe drinking water; to protect healthy river habitats; and to enhance public use and enjoyment.

3070 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. (202) 888-2037

www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org

❖ Potomac Conservancy, 962 Wayne Ave,

Suite 540

Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301.608.1188; potomac.org, seeks to improve the Potomac River's water quality by building an impassioned base of river advocates to impart change at the local level. www.potomac.org

❖ Rebuilding Together Alexandria, 703-836-1021, www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org, Home repair and maintenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children.

❖ Senior Services of Alexandria, 703-836-4414, Senior Services of Alexandria provides support services for older adults enabling them to maintain independence and age with dignity. Services include the City's Meals on Wheels program, daily meal delivery to homebound older adults; Groceries to Go, no fee, no minimum shopping and delivery service; DOT Paratransit Program, low-cost transportation for people who live in Alexandria with a disability; Friendly Visitor Program, pairs volunteers with socially isolated seniors for once a week visits; Senior Ambassador Program, over 100 volunteer leaders, including a new program for Spanish-speaking residents, delivering information on senior resources to their communities; Speaker Series, robust monthly education program covering important topics of interest to seniors; and more. 703-836-4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org

❖ Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, 703-820-9001, www.scanva.org, Parent education, public education — re: child abuse and court advocacy for abused and neglected children.

❖ Volunteer Alexandria, 123 N Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-836-2176; <http://volunteeralexandria.org>; Volunteer recruitment and placement, court-referred community service placement, community awareness events, and volunteer management training.

The Negative Effect



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I don't think about cancer/having cancer every day, but on well-balanced days, at least those thoughts are not hourly. And it's on those occasions when the hours belong to me, that my mind can wander outside these cancer constraints and think non-cancer thoughts. Many of which serve as the basis/origin of the non-cancer columns I write sometimes. And recently, I've been mentally blocked, hardly wandering at all. Somewhat worrisome. But then the reason I haven't been thinking too many non-cancer thoughts hit me. This is one of those "cancer-centricity" weeks: Tuesday I have lab work. Thursday, I have a P.E.T. scan. Next Monday, I have an in-person/in-facility appointment with my oncologist to assess and discuss it all. A "three-for." And on the days when there's no specific cancer activity, there is preparation for, reaction to, and worry about any and all of the consequences of being a cancer patient under active treatment. How does all this make me feel? You can imagine, I'm sure. But as the late Philadelphia comedian David Brenner used to joke: "It's not the mosquitos you can hear that you should worry about. It's the ones you can't hear."

As with cancer, it's a rollercoaster of unpredictability where the only guarantee, given the numbers of appointments, lab work, scans, infusions, et cetera, is that there are no guarantees. What you feel today may mean something or nothing at all. Conversely, what you don't feel may likewise mean something or nothing. Today's result leads to tomorrow's activity. Treatment could change or not and you, as the patient can only wait for the results to know how you're really doing. And until your oncologist summarizes the results for you, emotionally you're sort of on a precipice. Comfort level? There is none. Cancer is the big dog, and it rarely gets off the porch. And that's pretty much what I know. There's so much more that I don't know. And it isn't until I have one of these cancer-centric weeks when all this information is thrown at me that it really reminds me how little I know and how precarious my situation is. I'm hearing/reading all sorts of medical jargon, medical data and medical mumbo jumbo and though I've read it/heard similar things for 15-plus years, I can't make sense of it when I should be making dollars of it, if you know what I mean?

It's these weeks, when I feel my life is on the line, so yes, I worry. There's no more denying it. My cancer is front and center/top of mind (bottom too). And though I've been down this road many times before, the longer I live/experience one of these weeks, the more likely I feel that I'm running out of the good fortune I've experienced all these years. I mean, at some point, you use up your luck, don't you? And since given a two-year prognosis in late Feb. 2009, my luck allotment must be nearing zero. I mean, it's been 15 and half years. Who am I to break the bank of prognosis?

Yet here I sit/type all these years later writing my pen how someone initially diagnosed with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer (reclassified to stage IV papillary thyroid cancer in year 11-ish) thinks and feels about the day-to-day life efforts to assimilate a previously certain death diagnosis/scenario to one where my death is less certain, but inevitable, nonetheless. A misdiagnosis and a chronic kidney disease side effect will do that to you. And it's all never more obvious; the good, bad and ugly about my disease/diagnosis, than during one of these hell-type weeks when I fear that my luck will finally run out.

It's all of this reality that clogs my creative juices. All my subconscious can think about is what happens if. And 'what happens if' is not funny. What damage has occurred in my body because of the cancer I haven't a clue. I'll find out soon enough and that's what scares me; what I can't see or hear.

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

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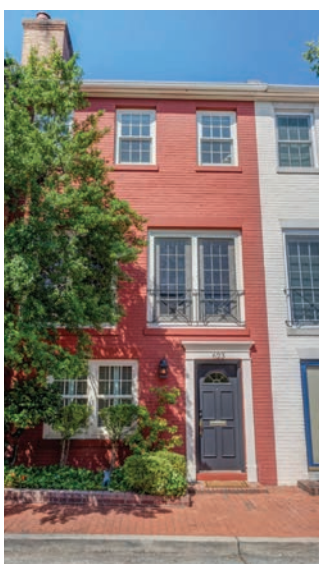
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