

Democrats Sweep Local Elections



PHOTOS BY ROZALIA FINKELSTEIN/GAZETTE PACKET

The newly elected Democratic candidates for City Council celebrate their victory at Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray. From left: John Chapman, Jacinta Greene, Sarah Bagley, Alyia Gaskins, Abdel Elnoubi, Kirk McPike, Canek Aguirre.

Gaskins secures historic mayoral bid; City Council remains 100% Democratic.

BY JAMES LIBRESCO
GAZETTE PACKET

For the fifth consecutive election, Democrats swept Alexandria's races for City Council and mayor. It's been more than 15 years since the city has elected a Republican or independent candidate, three of which ran for City Council this election and lost by a wide margin.

Alyia Gaskins, who ran unopposed, was elected mayor. She takes the spot of Justin Wilson, who has served since 2018 but decided late last year not to run again.

"Because of you, we are going to deliver the most progressive coun-



Alyia Gaskins, soon to be Alexandria's first Black female mayor, accepts the nomination.

cil," Gaskins told attendees of the Alexandria Democratic Committee's watch party at Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray. "You are going to see a council that is going to deliver for you, on housing, on transportation, on climate change, on the issues that matter most to this community."

Gaskins will be Alexandria's first Black female mayor.

"Our city is the first tonight to break that barrier, to shatter glass ceilings, to show the country what happens when you believe in strong Democrats and progressive leadership," she said. "I could not be more humbled and more excited to serve you."

Jacinta Greene, who was elected to City Council, said she is happy for Gaskins, but disappointed it's taken so long to achieve diversity in the office.

"This is 'her-story,'" Greene said. "It's absolutely amazing. But you'd think in 275 years, we would have already had our first female mayor of color."

At press time, the race for vice mayor is still too close to call. Traditionally, the vice mayor is the City Council candidate who received the most votes. Incumbents Sarah Bagley and John Chapman currently lead the pack. The two other incumbents, Canek Aguirre and Kirk McPike, were also reelected to the City Council, in addition to current school board members

Alexandria City Election Results

CURRENT AS OF NOV 6, 12:00PM

Mayor

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Alyia Smith Parker Gaskins	58,001	93.78%
Write-In	3,846	6.22%

32 OF 32 PRECINCTS; 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

City Council

TOP 6 FINISHERS

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Sarah R. Bagley	42,291	14.74%
John Taylor Chapman	41,627	14.51%
Jacinta E. Greene	40,554	14.14%
Canek Aguirre	37,157	12.95%
Abdel S. Elnoubi	37,083	12.93%
R. Kirk McPike	34,960	12.19%
Roy R. Byrd	18,509	6.45%
Celianna R. Gunderson	17,594	6.13%
M. Mason Butler	13,692	4.77%
Write-In	3,437	1.20%

32 OF 32 PRECINCTS; 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

School Board (District A)

TOP 3 FINISHERS

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Michelle M. Rief	16,421	36.00%
Tim J. Beaty	14,319	31.39%
Ryan Edward Reyna	13,903	30.48%
Write-In	973	2.13%

11 OF 11 PRECINCTS; 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

School Board (District B)

TOP 3 FINISHERS

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Ashley E. Simpson Baird	16,079	35.32%
Kelly Carmichael Booz	14,395	31.62%
Alexander Crider Scioscia	13,978	30.71%
Write-In	1,067	2.34%

12 OF 12 PRECINCTS; 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

School Board (District C)

TOP 3 FINISHERS

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Donna L. Kenley	9,954	34.79%
W. Christopher Harris	9,250	32.33%
Abdulahi Omar Abdalla	8,906	31.12%
Write-In	504	1.76%

9 OF 9 PRECINCTS; 00 EARLY VOTES LEFT

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.VPAP.ORG/ELECTIONRESULTS/20241105/LOCAL/ALEXANDRIA-CITY-VA/](https://www.vpap.org/electionresults/20241105/LOCAL/ALEXANDRIA-CITY-VA/)

Abdel Elnoubi and Greene.

"I'm truly grateful for the fact that Alexandria voters are entrusting me to govern the city," Greene said. "It is a feeling like no other."

Greene said her main priorities are ensuring city employees, in-

cluding teachers and emergency responders, can afford to live in the city.

"If we were able to put something in place where they could

SEE DEMOCRATS SWEEP, PAGE 11



ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL NOV.7-10.2024

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ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL

COMMUNITY

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Families receive information on city and nonprofit health programs at Community Resource Day Sept 22 at Patrick Henry Elementary School.

Community Resource Day

**CCNA sponsors
event for families.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Landmark Church and the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA) joined forces to present the Community Resource Day, an event to welcome and support families while providing information on city and nonprofit services available in the community.

Held Sept. 22 at Patrick Henry K-8 School, the event also served as a 'West End Welcome' to Kenard Robinson, the new principal at Patrick Henry.

"This was our best event ever," said project leader Bobby Mathieu from Landmark Church.

ACT for Alexandria provided financial support for the event, with CEO Heather Peeler welcoming families to the celebration.

"The purpose of today is to get families connected to great services," Peeler said. "We have so many wonderful nonprofit organizations doing amazing work. This is just another opportunity for them to connect with the community."

Over 150 family members participated, with gift cards, books and other resource materials distributed to attendees.

Activities were held in the Kids Zone while families enjoyed entertainment by Captain Token the Magician (Louis Hofheimer).

"As a new resident, this event made my family feel truly welcomed," said Nadira Demarios, a new Patrick Henry parent.

Added Sean Curry, Public Health Planner for the Alexandria Health Department, "This is a wonderful opportunity to share critical info with our community."

Jim Paige, CCNA executive director, said the event was a celebration of families in the community.

"Today we are celebrating diversity and welcoming all of our families back this year,"



Magician Captain Token, aka Louis Hofheimer, uses his sleight of hand skills to entertain kids at the Community Resource Day Sept. 22 at Patric Henry Elementary School.

**"The purpose of today is
to get families connected
to great services."**

— ACT for Alexandria CEO Heather Peeler

Paige said. "This is a very special partnership between Landmark Church and CCNA. And the financial backing from ACT was instrumental in providing key resources to our families."

Peeler said the sponsorship is part of a series of community grants.

"We want to create a welcoming environment here in Alexandria and make sure everyone knows there is a place for them here," Peeler said.

Added Paige, "It was a beautiful day and a good turnout. But especially it is a day to give a special welcome to families in the community."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Inova Opens Oakville Health Center

Emergency, primary care available in Potomac Yard area.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Justin Wilson was joined by members of City Council and Inova leadership to celebrate the grand opening of the new Inova Health Center – Oakville at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 31 in the city’s Oakville Triangle area across from Potomac Yard.

“This is a significant milestone in Inova’s commitment to expand access to world-class healthcare across Northern Virginia,” said Dr. J. Stephen Jones, President and CEO of Inova. “The Oakville Health Center will allow us to serve our community with more convenience and accessibility, offering both emergency care and outpatient services under one roof. We are excited to officially open our doors and welcome patients to this state-of-the-art facility.”

The Inova Health Center – Oakville officially opened its doors Nov. 6 offering a range of services, including a full-service emergency department, outpatient surgery, advanced diagnostic imaging, and primary and specialty care, including cardiology, gastroenterology and general surgery.

The new facility is part of the ongoing redevelopment of the Oakville Triangle area located across from Potomac Yard. It acts as the anchor of a new mixed-use development that serves neighboring Amazon HQ2 and the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus.

The Inova Health Center – Oakville ribbon cutting follows on the heels of the Sept. 30 groundbreaking of two new state-of-the-art



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local officials, community members, Inova team members and leaders celebrated a ribbon cutting for the Inova Health Center – Oakville Oct. 31. The facility officially opened Nov. 6.

“The opening of this facility marks a new chapter for healthcare in Alexandria and its surrounding communities.”

— Inova Alexandria CEO Dr. Rina Bansal

hospitals in the region, including the Alexandria location on the West End site of the former Landmark Mall and a new Inova location in Franconia-Springfield. Together those two facilities will replace the existing

Inova Alexandria Hospital and are expected to be completed in 2028.

“The opening of this facility marks a new chapter for healthcare in Alexandria and its surrounding communities,” said Dr. Rina

Bansal, President of Inova Alexandria Hospital. “With the Oakville Health Center, we are continuing to bring high-quality care to families in a setting designed for comfort and healing.

This facility will help us provide comprehensive care and support to even more people in our community.”

The Inova Health Center – Oakville is part of Inova’s broader Eastern Region development plan. For more information on Inova’s eastern region development plans, visit <https://www.inova.org/easternregion>

Robert ‘Old Folks’ Dawkins to be Honored

Memorial unveiling ceremony to be held Nov. 9.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria will celebrate the legacy of Robert Dawkins, endearingly known as “Old Folks,” at the unveiling of a memorial Nov. 9 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

A reception will begin at 1 p.m. followed by a dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. memorializing Dawkins in the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, an organization he

founded in 2013 to preserve the history of African Americans in the city.

“Robert loved the city, loved the community and wanted to make the community aware of the rich African American history of Alexandria,” said Julian “Butch” Haley, chairman of the African American Hall of Fame. “He had the vision to highlight, acknowledge and showcase African Americans who meant something to the city. These people succeeded against all odds and excelled in their careers and he wanted to showcase that.”

In addition to the African Ameri-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The legacy of Robert Dawkins, founder of the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, will be remembered at a ceremony Nov.9 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

“Robert wanted to make the community aware of the rich African American history of Alexandria.”

— African American Hall of Fame chair Julian Haley

can Hall of Fame, Dawkins also established the Hoop Academy. This initiative demonstrated his belief in the power of sports to inspire and mentor the next generation. Through this foundation, he not only taught basketball skills but also instilled values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance that extended far beyond the court.

Dawkins died in November of 2023 at the age of 83. The dedication will be held on what would

have been his 84th birthday.

The Memorial Unveiling Ceremony is presented in partnership with The Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, The Office of Historic Alexandria, and the Department of Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities.

For more information, contact Julian Haley at 571-217-9951 or email aaahallof-fame13@gmail.com

Election Day 2024 at Arlington's Central Library

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS BY SHIRLEY RUHE THE GAZETTE



Stephanie Sanders, who is the chief Election official at the Central Library voting site, says "It is crazy here. It has been very busy this morning."

A few minutes observation indicates Sanders is like a traffic cop directing all of the activities around the room. Sanders says she started in 2007 volunteering as an election worker and when early voting came on-line she noticed a dip in voting in-person. "And of course very few people showed up in 2020 because of COVID. But today there was a crowd lined up at 6 a.m. when the polls opened. Today's turnout has been steady, not people coming in waves before and after work like it used to be." She adds, "Things have been really good here with the wait at most 20 minutes."



Danny Debner, an election official, reports a voter count of 725 at 10 a.m. at this location, Arlington's Central Library.



The voting booths are full at Central Library mid-morning but with a smooth progression of voters and little wait.

Gerren Sayco says his main issue is immigration policy. "I come from a third generation of Asian-Americans and see how easy it is these days for migrants to get across the border and to get taxpayer money for housing and cash. It's a good thing to have but for me, whose relatives came here the right way and it took a long time, I don't think it's fair. It's a slap in the face to my parents and grandparents. I voted for Trump."



Frank Fowler says the economy is his primary issue. "Inflation seems to be getting better; you have to work to get it down, and time needs to pass. I voted Libertarian because I believe in a free-market economy. I have a beef with the two-party system. I'm suffering fatigue; I can't morally vote for either the Republican or Democratic Party."



Election officers waiting for next voters at Central Library polling place.



Chung says this is a national organization because various states have voter suppression and, "We want to make sure to bring this issue to the forefront and to raise it to the local election board if it happens." So far this morning they have seen no issues in Arlington.

Maddie Thomas and James Chung are standing outside the Central Library conducting an Asian-American exit poll to determine whether there have been any language

Daniel Alther says his main issue is, "Trump says he wants to be a dictator. I voted for Kamala."



Signs outside the library represent the spectrum of choices at the 2024 election.



Arlington's Central Library is booming with activity on the morning of Election Day with voters, candidates and media competing for space on the steps outside the door.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteer-alexandria.org

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteer-alexandria.org/ALIVE>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average

10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvp.org.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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Events

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run
NOV. 15 - JAN. 5

City of Alexandria Tree Lighting and ALX275 Closing Event
NOVEMBER 23

Old Town Alexandria Cookie Crawl
NOVEMBER 23 - 24

Plaid Friday: Alexandria's Small Business Black Friday
NOVEMBER 29

Small Business Saturday
NOVEMBER 30

Holiday Maker's Market at Port City Brewing Co.
NOVEMBER 30

53rd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade
Sponsored by Wegmans
DECEMBER 7

24th Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights
Sponsored by Amazon
DECEMBER 7

Del Ray Holiday Season Kickoff
DECEMBER 8

Gustave Marché de Noël (Christmas Market) in Del Ray
DECEMBER 13 - 15

Christmas Market & Holiday Craft Show
at John Carlyle Square
DECEMBER 14

Old Town North Holiday Market
DECEMBER 15

Waterskiing Santa Show
DECEMBER 24

First Night Alexandria Festivities & Fireworks
DECEMBER 31

For even more holiday events and things to do, check out:

VisitAlexandria.com/Holidays





Lafayette and Vicky Embrey who came from Savage, Maryland, in 19th century dress for the event.



In the re-enactment, Lafayette studied the ring containing a lock of George Washington's hair.



Inside the tomb. A sign says that 20 people were buried here.

'Lafayette' Is Back, Retracing His 1824 Visit

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

Two hundred years to the day, Major General Marquis de Lafayette was again honored by admirers when Mount Vernon Estate held a re-enactment of his Oct. 17, 1824, return to George Washington's home.

"Lafayette stood right here 200 years ago today," said Chuck Schwam, Executive Director of the American Friends of Lafayette, at the "old tomb" overlooking the Potomac River where George and Martha Washington and 18 other family members were interred. (They were later moved to the "new tomb," as Washington instructed in his will.)

President James Monroe invited Lafayette to visit America to help celebrate the nation's 50th anniversary. On Aug. 15, 1824, he arrived in New York City with his son, George Washington Lafayette, and was met by over 80,000 cheering fans, his first trip to America in 40 years.

He had originally come to America in 1777 from France at age 17. In the Revolutionary War, Congress made him a major gen-

Information and Other Events
<https://friendsoflafayette.wildapricot.org/>

eral without pay or command, and later, Washington put him on his staff, promoted him to general and gave him command of a division. Describing Lafayette's relationship with Washington, Patti Maclay said, "It was more than a wartime alliance. Washington was his beloved adopted father. Washington treated him as a son." Maclay is National Vice Chair of the Lafayette Bicentennial Committee.



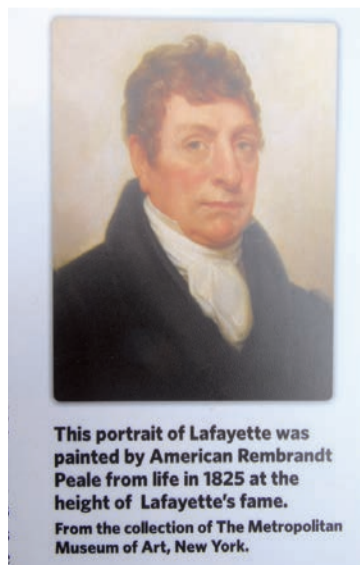
At the Oct. 17 event, members of the Maryland Society of 1812 posted the colors at the tomb.

ette Bicentennial Committee.

At the ceremony, Ben Goldman, re-enacting Lafayette, got teary-eyed when he received a replica ring that had a lock of Washington's hair from Michael Halbert, portraying George Washington Parke Custis, Washington's adopted grandson.

In 1824, Lafayette's secretary, Auguste Levasseur, wrote about the poignant moment at the tomb: "Lafayette descended alone into the vault, and a few minutes after re-appeared, with his eyes overflowing with tears." Lafayette had commented at that time, "This moment oppresses my heart," said Schwam. The Frenchman then went into the mansion and viewed

SEE 'LAFAYETTE' IS BACK, PAGE 7



This portrait of Lafayette was painted by American Rembrandt Peale from life in 1825 at the height of Lafayette's fame. From the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Lafayette's portrait on the historic marker at 301 South St. Asaph Street in Alexandria.



The wooden door to the "old tomb." Washington directed in his will that a new tomb be built.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Mount Vernon's Lafayette Drive intersects with Fort Hunt Road.

'Lafayette' Is Back, Retracing His 1824 Visit

FROM PAGE 6

the key to the Bastille prison on the wall which he had sent to Washington as a gift in 1789. The key is

“Lafayette was America’s first rock star. He had 80,000 people in New York City [in 1824]. The Beatles only had 6,000.”

— Chuck Schwam,
American Friends of Lafayette

still there today.

The event was organized by the Sons of the American Revolution and the American Friends of Lafayette. Schwam told the crowd of around 200, “This is a very special day.” He lauded Lafayette as one who “crossed the ocean to fight for independence, liberty and equality. His visit was a tribute to the cause of freedom and justice.”

Several speakers related that Lafayette fought for freedom in both America and in France, calling

him a “hero of two revolutions.” He played a prominent role in the French Revolution and proposed a declaration of rights. “Lafayette was a deeply committed abolitionist, and the great irony that the land of liberty prospered due to the forced labor of millions of enslaved people was certainly not lost on him,” according to “The Nation’s Guest: Lafayette’s Grand Tour of America,” in the current Virginia History and Culture magazine.

In an interview, Goldman, a Washington, D. C. resident who did five re-enactment events in five days, said he only portrays Lafayette because of the Frenchman’s “commitment to a revolutionary mission.” Doing Lafayette re-enactments is my “side hustle,” he quipped.

“Lafayette was America’s first rock star,” Schwam told the gathering. “He had 80,000 people in New York City. The Beatles only

had 6,000.”

A Visit to Alexandria Too

Historic Alexandria also hosted several events commemorating Lafayette’s visit where in 1824 he was honored with a grand parade. “Women waved handkerchiefs from open windows along neighboring buildings,” says a new placard at 301 South St. Asaph Street, where he spent the night.

The house today is known as the Lafayette House.

He had planned on a three-month tour, but it evolved into a 13-month journey in the nation’s 24 states.

He spent more time in Virginia than any other state.

He named his son George Washington Lafayette to honor his spiritual father and hero and named his daughter Virginie after Washing-

ton’s home state. His grave in Paris is covered with soil from Bunker Hill.

The Office of Historic Alexandria reports that 35 U.S. cities took on his name. In Alexandria, Fayette Street is named for him. The Mount Vernon area has Lafayette Drive.

Information and Other Events
<https://friendsoflafayette.wildapricot.org/>

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria’s pre-teens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for “Space of Her Own,” and “Space of His Own,” serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit

www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer’s Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer’s Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following

childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Parkinson’s Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson’s patients and caregivers are welcome.



Lafayette spent the night at 301 South St. Asaph Street in Alexandria, before going to Mount Vernon.

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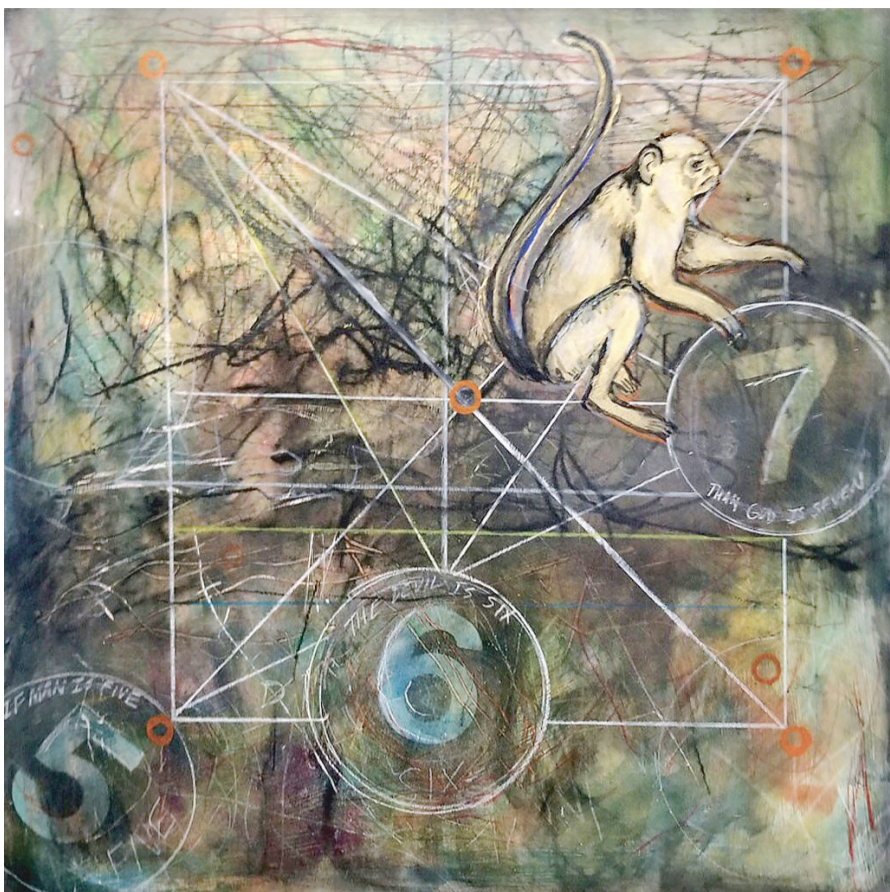
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Nov. 15 - Dec. 28
ChristmasAtGaylordNational.com

SO MUCH CHRISTMAS



ENTERTAINMENT



The Del Ray Artisans “\$100 & Under” exhibit runs now through Dec. 1, 2024 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Alexandria.



The 18th Annual Alexandria Film Festival runs Nov. 7-10, 2024 in Alexandria.

ONGOING

Alexandria Ghost Tours and Haunted Pub Crawls. Alexandria Ghosts offers guided ghost tours and adults-only haunted pub crawls nightly that highlight the city's dark history and unique local lore highlighting Alexandria's haunted history. The tours feature stories from historic sites and iconic locations like the Carlyle House, Ramsey House, and the infamous Wilkes Tunnel. Each experience transports you to the city's eerie past, a time before it was a trendy place to live, work, and play. Alexandria has a tragic history so disturbing it's often hidden from tourists who descend upon the city daily.

The Four Terrifying Tour Experiences of Alexandria Ghosts:

1. Alexandria Ghosts: Phantoms of the Potomac: Explore Alexandria's haunted history as you follow in the ghostly footsteps of George Washington and other restless spirits in this colonial city.
2. Alexandria Ghosts Boos and Booze Haunted Pub Crawl: Combine history, hauntings, and a lively pub crawl in Alexandria's haunted bars.
3. Alexandria Ghosts Ultimate Dead of Night Haunted Ghost Tour: A deep dive into Alexandria's eerie past, from Native American history to Civil War hauntings.

❖ Meeting Locations: 323 Cameron St, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Phantoms of the Potomac); 138 N Royal St, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Pub Crawl & Ultimate Dead of Night Tour); 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Washington's Footsteps). Visit <https://alexandriaghosts.com>.

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://tallshipprovidence.org/>

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 Spring Gardens and are \$12 per person. Additional fees apply for out-of-county residents.

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!

OCT. 31 TO DEC. 8

Susan J. Goldman Exhibit. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Artist's Reception is Sunday, Nov. 10 from 4-6 p.m. Artist talk, Saturday, November 30, 1 p.m.

OCT. 24 TO DEC. 21

“A Focus on Nature.” At Coldwell Banker Realty, 310 King Street, Alexandria. Art exhibit featuring

the nature-themed photographs of Steven Halperson and mosaics of Nina Tisara. Steven Halperson, Tisara Photography, has over 30 years' experience in portrait and event photography. For this exhibit, he is returning to his roots in fine art photography and making use of digital camera software to create strikingly beautiful images. Nina Tisara retired from the photography studio in 2007 and began creating intricate mosaics which are now widely exhibited and collected. Nina is the founder of Living Legends of Alexandria. A portion of all sales will be donated to the Coldwell Banker Realty Cares Foundation, a program that helps support selected nonprofits in Alexandria and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. For additional information, contact Rachel Carter, RCarter@cbmove.com or Nina Tisara, Ninat@ninatisara.com.

NOV. 1 TO DEC. 1

Del Ray Artisans “\$100 & Under” exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Showcases members' artwork all priced at \$100 or less. The art is sold on an art-to-go basis. The gallery walls are packed with great art at prices all art-lovers can afford. Opening Reception: Friday, November 1, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm. Closed Thanksgiving Day. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

NOV. 7-10

18th Annual Alexandria Film Festival. Featuring more than 60 films and 40 filmmakers at four venues. For the schedule, tickets, and passes, visit AlexFilmFest.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 7

Nepenthe Gallery Exhibit. At 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Nepenthe delights in offering original



The Nepenthe Gallery is offering original works by Hunt Slonem on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, in Alexandria.

works by the renowned, devoted and whimsical artist Hunt Slonem. Slonem is celebrated around the world for his vibrant and joyful paintings of bunnies, birds, butterflies and beyond. Known for his distinct neo-expressionist style, Slonem blends Pop Art with expressionism and captures the magic and energy of the natural world. His works can be found in the permanent collections of more than 250 museums, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, and New Orleans Museum of Art. Five new works will be unveiled and added to the current collection of original pieces by Slonem.

THURSDAY/NOV. 7

Evening of Perfect Pairings: Wine + Chocolate, Women + Business. 5:30-7 p.m. At Goodwin House Alexandria, 4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Presented by The Chamber ALX's Professional Women's Network. Join in an unforgettable night of curated wine and food pairings, networking, and celebration. Contact Maria Ciarrocchi at

mciarocchi@thechamberalx.com

SATURDAY/NOV. 9

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. Cost \$25 for adults, \$12 students (K-12). Website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents/2024/10/12/designing-american-living>

SATURDAY/NOV. 9

Civil War and Militaria Show and Sale. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Route 50, Fairfax. Vendors are welcome. For vendor registration and more information contact Bud Mayo at 703-389-1505

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ENTERTAINMENT



“A Focus on Nature” can be seen Oct. 24 to Dec. 21, 2024 at Coldwell Banker Realty in Alexandria.

or mayo5304@cox.net

NOV. 10 TO DEC. 10

Pope-Leighey House Tours. 12-1 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. By 1941, the year Pope-Leighey House was completed, Frank Lloyd Wright had studied Japan for almost a half-century. He had become a serious collector of woodblock prints—even writing a book on the subject—and had won acclaim for his design of the Tokyo Imperial Hotel, one of the few buildings to survive the Great

Kanto Earthquake of 1923. On this special tour, visitors will discover how the famous American architect incorporated his love of Japanese art, architecture, and philosophy into Usonian homes, and how this East Asian influence shines in Wright’s Pope-Leighey House.

THURSDAY/NOV. 14

Matt Higgins: Artist and Art Professor. At Nepenthe Gallery, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Nepenthe Gallery is honored to partner with Philadelphian Matt Higgins and represent his original, dynamic

and powerful paintings. Higgins’ paintings are included in numerous private collections and a wide range of interior design projects including residential properties, corporations, and hotels. Higgins paints with passion, expression and JOY and uses a wide variety of mediums that are often unexpected and just right!

NOV. 15-23

“A Man for All Seasons.” At Bishop Ireton High School, Garwood Whaley Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. It runs November 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 7 p.m., and November 17 at 2 p.m.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

Celebrate Gum Springs’ 191st Anniversary. 6-9 p.m. At George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Celebrate Gum Springs -- The oldest African American community in Fairfax County with Keynote Speaker Don Scott. Tickets \$125. Event host: The Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Presents Carmina Burana “Abound.” 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center. Featuring the Chorale and Youth Choir with Ingrid Lestrud, Artistic Director. Visit alexsym.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 17

Autumn Afternoon Serenade. 2 p.m.

At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Join in an afternoon of chamber music! Music will include pieces by Ginastera, Telemann, Valerie Coleman, Louis Karchin, and Mozart & Ravel arrangements by Liam Cameron.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Alexandria Cider Festival. 1 to 5 p.m. At Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Celebrate Virginia Cider Week with a special tasting event on the grounds of the historic Lloyd House in Old Town Alexandria. Event tickets include cider tastings, live music, a tasting glass and a little history, too. This event will take place outdoors. Proceeds benefit the historic Alexandria museums. Admission: \$50 (Presale through October 31); \$55 (November 1 to 22); \$65 (at the door); \$25 designated driver purchase.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Holiday Shop 2024. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Over 50 vendors including Pottery, Ceramics, Glass, Wood, Metal, Fabric, Jewelry, Yarn, Paintings, Photography, Mosaics, Cards, Books, Bags, Candles, and Soaps, Baked and Canned Goods, Household Collectibles and Lunch. Quilt Raffle “Yakata Dreams” \$3 per ticket. Free entry, Free parking, Cash and cards accepted - some vendors may not be able to accept cards. Visit the website www.MVUC.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

The Good Folk Performs. 7 p.m. At Saint Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. FocusMusic and WFMA present The Good Folk at Saint Aidan’s Episcopal Church. The Good Folk, Meghan Mette, Eileen Estes, Joanna Clare, Sophie Chang, Agi Kovacs, and Patrick Winch, deliver powerful instrumentals, haunting vocals and three styles of percussive dance. Cost is \$25 in advance (members \$22.50) / \$30 at door (members \$25) Virtual Tickets: \$15 (\$13.50 for members. Info at <https://focusmusic.org/shows#sat-11-23-the-good-folk-alexandria-and-virtual>

DEC. 6 - 8

Alexandria’s iconic holiday weekend 53rd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade is Saturday, Dec. 7, followed by the 24th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. <https://visitaalexandria.com/holidays/biggest-weekend/>

TUESDAY/DEC. 3

Yoga Nidra. 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Experience Pope-Leighey House in a unique way through Yoga Nidra, a type of guided meditation that allows participants to achieve deeper states of relaxation. Cost: \$25. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents/2024/12/3/yoga-nidra>

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Democrats Sweep Local Elections

FROM PAGE 1

afford to live and work here, it would very much benefit our city," Greene said. "It would help with morale as well."

Greene previously told Theogony and the Alexandria Gazette Packet that she would support a housing allowance for city workers.

Aguirre also shared gratitude towards Alexandria's voters.

"Winning this election is extremely, extremely humbling," Aguirre said. "This was a difficult cycle, and I'm extremely humbled that the residents of Alexandria have the confidence to put me back in office one more time."

According to Aguirre, the top city issues remain the same, but his strategies for how to approach them may change.

"I am excited to go back and tackle some of the same issues that we've been dealing with, like equity, transportation and infrastructure," Aguirre said. "But at the same time, if there's anything that we need to take a different approach on, I am totally open to it."

On election day, voters said that their decisions were rooted in issues like housing, quality of life and global warming. Pushing

"Our city is the first tonight to break that barrier, to shatter glass ceilings, to show the country what happens when you believe in strong Democrats and progressive leadership."

— Alyia Gaskins

her newborn daughter, who was decking a "future voter" sticker, in a stroller at the Mount Vernon precinct, resident Sarah Wagner said her daughter "had a lot to do with" how she voted — fully Democratic.

"My key issues are climate things," Wagner said, while her husband Alex Wagner nodded in agreement. "But also, just everything on the ballot."

Wagner said that opposition from the Republican and independent candidates toward Zoning for Housing, which lifted restrictions on where multi-family homes can be built, also swayed her vote.

"I am definitely pro-having zoning that allows for more housing," she said. "Washington D.C. is a growing city, and Alexandria, which is basically a suburb of D.C., needs to help by providing more housing."

Outside of the Beth El precinct, resident



Mount Vernon is typically the city's busiest polling site.



PHOTOS BY JAMES LIBRESCO/GAZETTE PACKET

The new Douglass MacArthur building awaited voters on election day.



Although excitement filled the air for local elections, Democrats like Alyia Gaskins were on edge watching national results come in.

Charles Grace said he was on the opposite side of the spectrum.

"They have their agenda," Grace said, exhibiting frustration towards Democrats on the City Council. "They believe that we should set aside automobiles to ride the bus or ride bicycles. Zoning for Housing wouldn't be appropriate for a neighborhood like this."

But ultimately, voters across Alexandria approved of the Democratic vision for the city.

"This is very exciting," said Sandy Marks, who leads the Alexandria Democratic Committee. "I watched all of us out there today with kindness and courtesy for one another. ... I think that's why we win and that's why we box out our opposition at every turn."

Theogony Staff Writers Rozalia Finkelstein and Noah Sternberg contributed reporting. This article was published in Theogony, Alexandria City High School's student newspaper, on Nov. 6.

Relatively Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

No. I'm not talking about a family member/cousin. I'm writing about something which, in the scheme of things, considering my original non-small cell lung cancer stage IV, diagnosed in late Feb. 2009, hardly seems worth mentioning. More so after receiving a "13 month to two years" prognosis at that initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist. Hearing that bombshell - out of the blue, at aged 54 1/2, even less mattered. But when I didn't die - after 10 or so years, I developed a jawbreaker-sized lump (now you know my frame of reference. It's not fruit or vegetables or sporting equipment, to invoke an old George Carlin bit about terms used in medical verses weather situations, mine is candy). This new tumor was located just above my Adam's Apple, which after an approximate nine-month delay finally led to a needle biopsy followed by outpatient surgery. Then it was confirmed that I had stage IV papillary thyroid cancer, affectionally referred to in medical parlance as "the friendly cancer." Meaning the cancer is often curable - except, my tumor had metastasized and was not friendly at all. Updated meaning was that I was still terminal but for different cancer reasons than with the previous diagnosed lung cancer.

Now (meaning then), I was firmly in the grip of thyroid cancer. The medicine I was prescribed had a two to three-year window before - who knows what? It was closer to three years-plus when the window closed. The cancer was still in check but because of the treatment, I had developed chronic kidney disease, a possible side effect, which immediately led to a cessation of my previous treatment. After a few months of no treatment and of choosing a new oncologist (this was a crossroads-type moment and we felt a change was needed), a new medicine was selected, one that would not harm the kidneys while keeping the underlying thyroid cancer at rest. Six months into this new protocol, all is well except all that wasn't. And what's all the fuss/worry/attention about the kidneys? Kidney dialysis, end-stage renal failure. That's what! Trouble with capital "T." Exactly what you don't want to happen. Moreover, given my age and pre-existing condition: lung/thyroid cancer, I am hardly a candidate for a transplant. In effect, I am on my own and whatever I abuse, I'll have to use or lose.

Nevertheless, I am thankful however, for many things. I rarely go down any emotional rabbit holes. I'm able to keep my perspective - and sense of humor about the cancer journey I've been on for 15 1/2 years. And most of all: I'm still in the game.

But what I am unusually thankful for is that I didn't inherit the psoriasis gene that my mother carried. In my formative years, I can remember the pain and suffering my mother experienced with her psoriasis. It was a constant negative and nothing she tried/the doctor's recommended helped. It wasn't until she quit smoking her four packs of Chesterfield Kings cigarettes that the psoriasis disappeared, on its own, sort of. Coincidence or not, the psoriasis was gone.

I am often reminded of those days while I'm watching television. Specifically, ALL the commercials for psoriasis medication/presumptive cures. There must be at least a dozen. None I can remember. None I can pronounce. And none I could possibly spell. Sometimes, the commercials are one after another and/or appear during multiple commercial breaks throughout any one program. My mother had none of these options. Nothing she tried offered her any relief. I think she suffered more with her psoriasis than I ever have with all my various cancer medicines. I guess it's all relative.

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

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