

Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 14, 2024



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Sheriff Sean Casey, center, cuts the ribbon to the new ALIVE! refrigerated food truck Nov. 12 at the organization's headquarters in Old Town. The truck was donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

ALIVE! executive director Jennifer Ayers, center, talks with attendees following the ribbon cutting to celebrate the new refrigerated food truck Nov. 12 in Old Town.

ALIVE! Celebrates New Food Truck

26-foot truck donated by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the community joined ALIVE! in celebrating the donation of a 26-foot refrigerated delivery truck from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with a ribbon cutting Nov. 12 at the organization's warehouse in Old Town.

The donation of the truck will increase the capacity of ALIVE! to transport food donations, collect donated furniture, and bring essential groceries items to distribution points in the City of Alexandria.

"Our other four trucks are each 16 feet long," said ALIVE! executive director Jennifer Ayers. "This larger truck allows us to transport more pallets, more furniture, and has a ramp and lift, thus increasing our

ability to deliver more efficiently and effectively. And because it's refrigerated, it significantly increases our capacity to transport and maintain cold goods."

Joining Ayers were ALIVE! board president Rolf Blank, Bishop Zach Parks from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, ALIVE! program chairs Jim Karlson and Nancy Lopez, ALIVE! Congregational Representative to the Church

of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Maggie Haslam, and Alexandria Sheriff Sean Casey.

"That word 'neighbor' perfectly captures the work of ALIVE! because ALIVE! involves neighbors serving neighbors in the most literal sense of the word," Bishop Parks said. "Since 2020, members of the Alexandria congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints have organized 11

trucks sent from Salt Lake City with 40,000 pounds of food to ALIVE! and various partner organizations here in our community."

ALIVE! provides support to Alexandrians struggling with food insecurity and economic disparity. Each month, ALIVE! helps roughly 20,000 Alexandrians secure essential food, respond to financial emergencies, and meet other basic needs
SEE ALIVE! CELEBRATES, PAGE 4

Honoring 'Old Folks'

Legacy of Robert Dawkins remembered at Hall of Fame ceremony.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Robert Dawkins, endearingly known as "Old Folks," was celebrated on what would have been his 84th birthday with the unveiling of a plaque commemorating his contributions to the community Nov. 9 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Dawkins was memorialized in the Alexandria

African American Hall of Fame, an organization he founded in 2013 to preserve the history of African Americans in the city.

"We are honoring and celebrating the legacy of Mr. Robert 'Old Folks' Dawkins, our founder of the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame," said Julian "Butch" Haley, the president of the organization. "He has done so much with the city, progressing it in terms of Black history. He loved the city, loved the community and we are honoring him and his legacy on his birthday."

A reception and the unveiling of the Hall of Fame plaque was attended by local officials including Mayor
SEE LEGACY OF ROBERT DAWKINS, PAGE 4

Adrian Dawkins, left, Anthony Suggs and Curtis Dawkins gather at a reception honoring Robert "Old Folks" Dawkins Nov. 9 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

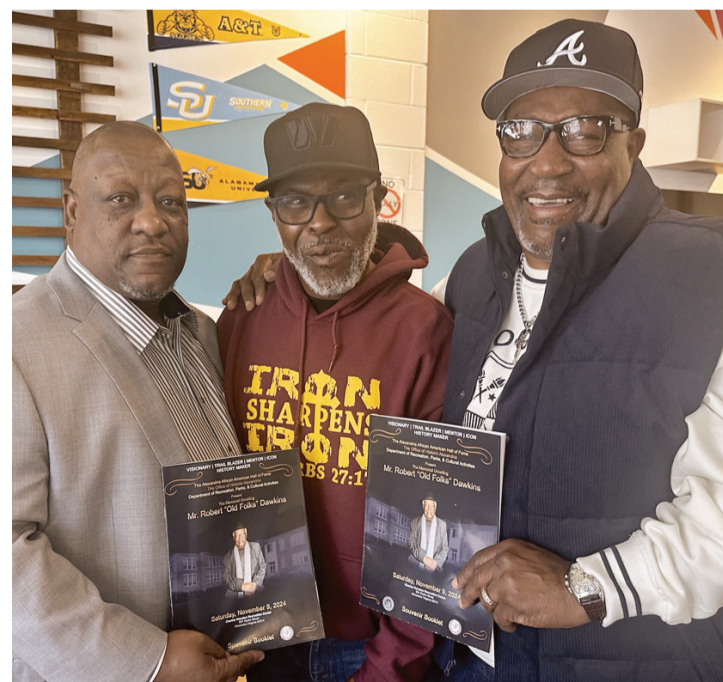



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

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SENIOR LIVING

Volunteering and Staying Engaged In Retirement

Senior Services of Alexandria's 'Senior Living in Alexandria' Nov. 20 event

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

According to Forbes Health online newsletter, "more than one in five older adults volunteer — and with good reason. Volunteering can be a meaningful opportunity for people of any age, but especially for those later in life." It goes on to say that volunteering is good for your physical and mental health.

Knowing how to find volunteer opportunities can be a challenge, or figuring out what type of organization would best suit you. Are you interested in tutoring kids, helping with animals, helping older adults, or learning more about our city's history? If you are not sure, then the Senior Services of Alexandria's Nov. 20 event might help you sort it all out.

The event "Volunteering and Staying Engaged in Retirement" is taking place at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, located at 3830 Seminary Road from 10 am to 12 noon. There will be speakers from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Computer Core, ALIVE! and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Also, you can speak with many other non-profits including: AARP; Alexandria Health Department; Alexandria Division of Aging and Adult Services; At Home in Alexandria; Campagna Center; Carpenter's Shelter; Casa Chirilagua; The National Center for Women's Innovations; Northern Virginia Falls



@SENIORSERVICESOFALEXANDRIA

Earlier this month, Senior Services of Alexandria recognized Councilwoman Sarah Bagley and David Colton as our Volunteers of the Week. "We were honored to have Sarah deliver Meals on Wheels," they said on Instagram. David Colton is a longtime Meals on Wheels volunteer, Senior Ambassador, and advocate for seniors in Alexandria.

Prevention Alliance; Office of Historic Alexandria; Ten Thousand Villages; and Volunteer Alexandria! They will all be there for participants to visit and talk to about their missions. As we head into the holiday, check out the needs of Alexandria's local non-profits, and find ways to get engaged.

This event is free, open to the public, with plenty of parking. Please register by email at events@seniorserviceslex.org or call Senior Services at 703-836-4414, ext. 110. We look



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Independent Living | Assisted Living | Gallery Assisted Living | Dementia Care 

Michael Gemmell

Civic leader dies at 81.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Michael Gemmell, a public health champion and civic leader for 25 years in Alexandria and for 20 years more in Natchez, Miss., died peacefully in his sleep Nov. 3 in his Natchez home. He was 81.

Born Michael Remling on June 24, 1943, Gemmell was the son of Dorothy and Lt. Milton Remling, an Army Air Corps navigator who died six months later in the crash of a B-24 bomber on a training mission in England. When Gemmell was 4 years old, his mother married Alfredo Gemmell, a colonel in the Guatemalan army. His name became Michael Gemmell and Guatemala became his home. At the age of 12, he began the first of six years as a cadet at Jefferson Military College in Washington, Miss., six miles east of Natchez.

Gemmell graduated from Jefferson as valedictorian in 1962 and then attended Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., graduating in 1966 with a major in political science. Two years later, in Washington, D.C., he received a master's degree in government and world politics from Catholic University. He married Elaine Lord, a former Millsaps student from Natchez, and landed a D.C. job with the National Association of Counties, identifying successful economic developments in rural counties.

In 1978, Gemmell became executive director of the Association of Schools of Public Health, a nonprofit organization in D.C.

composed of graduate schools of public health throughout the nation. He was instrumental in steering the government's Centers for Disease Control toward more preventive health programs and getting its name changed to "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." When he retired in 2001, his mentor, Dr. D.A. Henderson, the dean of Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, hailed him as "a powerful voice of public health on Capitol Hill greatly respected for his wisdom and integrity."

For more than 30 years, as Gemmell worked in D.C., he and his wife resided in Alexandria, mainly on Russell Road in the Rosemont neighborhood. He was an active volunteer. He was chairman of the United Way of Alexandria, chaired the Alexandria Public Health Commission, served on the Vestry of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, the Mayor's Council on Emergency Medical Services, and was a coach and the president of the Alexandria Youth Soccer Association.

When he retired in 2001, the couple moved from Alexandria to Natchez, where Gemmell



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Michael Gemmell, a longtime civic leader, died Nov. 3 at the age of 81.

once again became active in civic work

For 10 years Gemmell chaired the local United Way. He served on the Vestry of Trin-

ity Episcopal Church and the boards of Trinity Day School, Natchez Stewpot, the Natchez Historical Society, the Natchez Festival of Music, and the Natchez Little Theater and was a member of the Rotary Club of Natchez. He also helped plan the Natchez Tricentennial and gained federal funds for the Jefferson Comprehensive Community Health Center. He spent most of his Thursdays greeting visitors at the Natchez National Historical Park.

Survivors include his wife Elaine Lord Gemmell; son Matthew Gemmell (Lucia) of Glen Allen, Virginia; daughter Kate Gemmell Godfrey (Mark) of Kailua, Hawaii; brother David Gemmell (Carletta) of Anchorage, Alaska; grandsons Peyton Gemmell, Jackson Gemmell, Parker Gemmell, Grayson Gemmell and Luke Gemmell; brother-in-law Lewis Lord (Dee) of Falls Church, Virginia, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Nov. 9 at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez.

Memorials may be sent to Trinity Episcopal Church, Natchez Stewpot, or the charity of your choice.

Alexandria Woman Pleads Guilty To Striking Victim with Car

An Alexandria woman pled guilty Oct. 23 to assault with a dangerous weapon with intent to do bodily harm.

According to court documents, on Dec. 29, 2022, Alexis Amani Smith, 28, entered the AAFES Main Exchange at Fort Belvoir and began to take several items of merchandise. Smith then walked past the final point of purchase with five items – perfume and earrings valued at \$342.99 – without paying.

After Smith exited the Exchange with the merchandise, a loss prevention officer of the Exchange approached Smith, questioned her about her apparent theft of merchandise, and requested identification. A verbal altercation ensued. Smith placed the stolen merchandise on the floor, then quickly exited the Exchange and entered her vehicle in the Main Exchange parking lot.

The officer followed Smith to the parking

lot to obtain the vehicle license plate number. While the officer was standing directly in front of Smith's vehicle, Smith accelerated the vehicle, striking the officer's knees and shins. The loss prevention officer placed her hands on the hood of Smith's vehicle to maintain her balance while yelling for Smith to stop. Smith accelerated again, sending the LPO onto an adjacent vehicle and then onto the pavement. Smith continued to accelerate and left the Main Exchange.

As a result of the vehicle strike, the victim suffered injuries to both her knees, her forearm, and her shoulder.

Smith is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 12, 2025, and faces up to 10 years in prison. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other factors.

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.volunteerallexandria.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.volunteerallexandria.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 dondrea@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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6

How Sweet It Has Been

Alexandria Cupcake to transition to online sales Nov. 30.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Cupcake, a mainstay on King Street for 15 years, will be closing down its retail operations at the end of the month and transition to an online operation focusing on advance orders, wholesale and catering.

Alexandria Cupcake was established in 2009 and opened its doors in the 1000 block of King Street in January of 2010.

"After 15 years, Alexandria Cupcake has decided to restructure the way we conduct business," said owner Adnan Hamidi, who also owns Fredericksburg Cupcake in the historic area of that city. "At the end of the day on Nov. 30, we will close the retail storefront on King Street. But have no fear, you can

still pick up our delicious cupcakes from designated locations. A few restaurants, delis and boutiques will carry our products, and online ordering will be available."

Alexandria Cupcake will continue to accept orders for the holidays, events, weddings, and all advanced orders.

Hamidi attributed the decision partly to rising retail lease costs in Alexandria.

"The above market rising rents, the continued inflation for the last couple of years, and the rising cost of supplies led to us making the decision to abandon the storefront," Hamidi said. "This decision should allow us to be even more successful by focusing on advance orders, catering and wholesale and still be able to serve our clientele."

Hamidi and Alexandria Cupcake have been longtime donors to sev-

eral nonprofit organizations in the city, including the Alexandria Police Foundation, Carpenter's Shelter, Living Legends of Alexandria and Alexandria Celebrates Women.

Hamidi said updates will be posted to Facebook and Instagram with details on locations where online orders may be picked up. The phone number for Alexandria Cupcake will remain the same – 703-299-9099. For more information, email info@alexandriacupcake.com.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Adnan Hamidi, owner of Alexandria Cupcake on King Street, announced the transition of the retail operations to online special orders and catering. The retail store will close Nov. 30 after 15 years in operation.



ALIVE! Celebrates New Food Truck

FROM PAGE 1

such as housing and furniture.

"ALIVE! works with many organizations and we have to have transportation to carry out our mission," said Rolf Blank, president of the ALIVE! board of directors. "A lot of our work is transporting fresh food to delivery points across the city.

This is our second refrigerated truck and is much larger so it will help us better serve the community."

ALIVE! provides services through three programming areas: food, housing, and financial assistance. Founded in 1969, the organization is supported by a 17 member staff, 50 interfaith congregations and

thousands of volunteers, partners and donors. Each month, ALIVE! helps Alexandrians through two Food Hubs, pantry partners, and distribution sites. ALIVE! Also helps respond to financial emergencies and prevent eviction; and to secure other support services and essential needs such as housewares and fur-

niture.

"Ultimately the partnership is not about how many cubic feet can be carried by a truck or how many pounds of food are distributed," Bishop Parks said. "It is about how we care for our neighbors, one by one, person by person."

ALIVE! will provide many hol-

iday meals this season, and asks that people consider donating food items and helping ALIVE! distribute meals around the holidays. Financial donations are also needed <https://www.alive-inc.org/make-financial-donation-alexandria-va/>

For more information, visit alive-inc.org

Legacy of Robert Dawkins Remembered at Hall of Fame Ceremony

FROM PAGE 1

or-elect Alyia Gaskins and the Hon. Nolan Dawkins, brother to Robert Dawkins. Dawkins' two sons were also in attendance.

"My father was a great trailblazer," said Curtis Dawkins. "He set a lot of trends for a lot of people. He was a great helper for everybody."

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

Dawkins' eldest son Adrian



Julian "Butch" Haley checks out the plaque honoring Robert "Old Folks" Dawkins prior to its official unveiling Nov. 9 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Dawkins said simply, "Thank you Dad. Thank you for everything."

For more information on the Afri-

can American Hall of Fame, contact Julian Haley at 571-217-9951 or email aaahalloffame13@gmail.com.

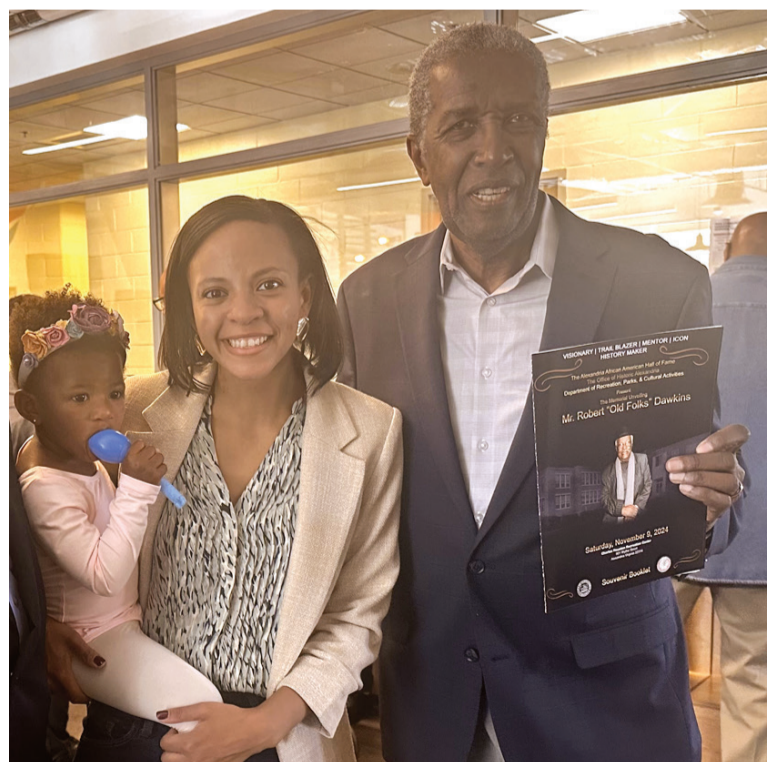


PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor-elect Alyia Gaskins, left, holding her daughter Eliana, and the Hon. Nolan Dawkins at a reception honoring Dawkins' late brother Robert Dawkins Nov. 9 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Poll workers speak with voters outside the Fire Department Headquarters polling station Nov. 5.

US President Election Results

CURRENT AS OF NOV 11, 11:31AM

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Alexandria		
Harris	60,264	77.29%
Trump	15,359	19.70%
Stein	760	0.97%
Oliver	397	0.51%
West	201	0.26%
De la Cruz	166	0.21%

32 OF 32 PRECINCTS REPORTING; 0 EARLY VOTES OUTSTANDING

Arlington		
Harris	97,228	77.89%
Trump	23,925	19.17%
Stein	1,254	1.00%
Oliver	790	0.63%
West	251	0.20%
De la Cruz	227	0.18%

54 OF 54 PRECINCTS REPORTING; 0 EARLY VOTES OUTSTANDING

Fairfax County		
Harris	377,522	65.76%
Trump	176,158	30.69%
Stein	10,178	1.77%
Oliver	2,844	0.50%
West	1,246	0.22%
De la Cruz	1,151	0.20%

264 OF 264 PRECINCTS REPORTING; 0 EARLY VOTES OUTSTANDING

Fairfax City		
Harris	8,583	64.89%
Trump	4,188	31.66%
Stein	188	1.42%
Oliver	70	0.53%
De la Cruz	47	0.36%
West	28	0.21%

6 OF 6 PRECINCTS REPORTING; 0 EARLY VOTES OUTSTANDING

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

Please join us in thanking these retailers for participating in the Project Sticker Shock Campaign.



During this youth-led event, teams of youth and adults placed stickers on multi-packs of alcohol to highlight the legal consequences of providing alcohol to persons under 21.

Thank you!

- 24 Express Food Store**
4007 Mt Vernon Ave.
- 7-11**
30 S Reynolds St.
1025 W Glebe Rd.
3023 Duke St.
331 S Whiting St.
3412 Mt Vernon Ave.
421 E Braddock Rd.
504 John Carlyle St.
800 Franklin St.
1667 N Quaker Ln.
2 S Jordan St.
2002 Eisenhower Ave.
4610 Kenmore Ave.
5725 Edsall Rd.
6120 Lincolnia Rd.
- Colonial Market**
1605 Commonwealth Ave.
- Community Market**
1006 Madison St.
- Deli for the Belly**
4926 Eisenhower Ave.
- El Paisa Grocery**
3414 Mt Vernon Ave.
- Exxon**
2320 Richmond Hwy.
- Food Star**
206 W Glebe Rd.
- Giant**
3131 Duke St.
- Harris Teeter**
4641 Duke St.
735 N Saint Asaph St.
- Jano Mart**
4105 Duke St.
- La Feria Latina**
3840 Mt Vernon Ave.
- LA Mart**
5730 Edsall Rd.
- Bjs Wholesale Club**
101 S Van Dorn St.
- Aldi**
4580 Duke St.
4602 Kenmore Ave.
- CVS**
1462 N Beaugard St.
1680 Duke St.
2441 Eisenhower Ave.
259 S Van Dorn St.
415 E Monroe Ave.
433 S Washington St.
4606 Kenmore Ave.
5101 Duke St.
- M La Tiendona Market**
3836 Mt Vernon Ave.
- Mercadito Ramos III**
4102 Mt Vernon Ave.
- MOMs Organic Market**
3831 Mt Vernon Ave.
- Nazret Galtna**
656 S Pickett St.
- Safeway**
500 S Royal St.
- Shell**
2922 Duke St.
- The Fresh Market**
3680 King St.
- Total Wine & More**
3901 Richmond Hwy.
- Tsedy Market**
668 S Pickett St.
- Walgreens**
1517 Mt Vernon Ave.
4515 Duke St.
3614 King St.
- World Foods**
640 S Pickett St.

To report concerns regarding the sale or provision of alcohol to persons under age 21, call the Alexandria Police Department's non-emergency number at 703.746.4444

Learn more at PreventItAlexandria.org

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www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

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Fairfax County Board Wants a New Tax on Food

Here's why it's a bad idea for everyone.

By GARY COHEN

Local government budgets are hard to manage. We all get that. Finances are strained and our county board is limited in how they can raise revenue. But, too often, to government officials, it's just a numbers game. They forget that, when the government at any level raises revenue, it comes from taxpayers.

Fairfax County isn't immune from budget woes. If anything, the size and diversity of our county places bigger demands on government than is the case in many of our surrounding jurisdictions. Funding infrastructure, services and schools is a huge job with huge price tags. Too often, government leaders forget that there are two sides to the ledger, and that spending restraint can be an effective budget balancing tool just as tax hikes can.

Sadly, today, in the face of anticipated budget shrinkage, Fairfax County officials are squarely focused on new taxes, not spending restraint. And, if that's not enough, the tax they are eyeing is a food

tax of up to 6%, levied on all restaurant meals, prepared ready-to-eat foods (sandwiches, grocery store chickens, etc.) and beverages sold in the county. We already pay 6% sales tax to the state on these items, so piling on another tax of up to 6% would effectively tax costs of meals and many food items by 12%. When you consider that inflation has raised food costs by 20% since the pandemic ended, it's easy to see how many family budgets are strained to the breaking point.

Imposing a new tax on restaurants and ready to eat foods is not the answer to the county's budget concerns. The reasons are clear, and simple.

First, it burdens Fairfax County families the most. County leaders want you to believe that a food tax will fall mainly on out-of-county diners at expensive restaurants ... business travellers on expense accounts. And, while some of that is true, study after study has shown that a food tax – and a restaurant meals tax – impacts local county residents disproportionately. According to the National Restaurant Association, 70% of restaurant meals between \$15 - \$25 were paid by local citizens. For meals less than \$8, that number rises to 85%. That means a meals tax will tax people who can least afford it, where it hurts them the most.

Second, it will place an un-

fair strain on county restaurants with far reaching ripple effects. It will reduce the number of diners in our restaurants, how often they dine out, what they order, and how much they tip their wait staff. This isn't just "spin" from restaurants, it's fact. Restaurants are still reeling from the economic impacts of Covid and inflation. More restaurants have gone out of business in the last year than we can count. We operate restaurants all around the DMV area. When neighboring Prince William County implemented a new food tax in June of 2022, the impact on our restaurants there and our employees was clear and significant. Upon imposing the new tax, sales in our Prince William restaurants fell almost immediately 4% lower than any of our restaurants in Fairfax County. Diners were coming in less frequently, and when they did come, our check average was lower by approximately \$1. This also resulted in smaller tips for our employees as diners, stung by the higher price, sought ways to control their spending. And, when we serve fewer meals, we buy fewer supplies so business for our suppliers falls off accordingly, impacting their employees as well.

What this means in a practical sense, for county budgeters, is that the revenue they expect to see from a new food tax will not likely materialize. It will be less because

taxpayers will reduce their purchases. Put simply, if you tax something more, people buy less of it.

But, from a bigger picture perspective, the government attitude towards taxation, and this tax in particular, result in lower standards of living for all our residents hitting lower income families the hardest. When incomes fall, families make adjustments. When business is off, restaurant owners like us do the same. It's time the county took the same level of responsibility towards finances that its residents do and make adjustments that won't lower the standard of living of our people and won't damage the businesses here that support communities with jobs, payrolls, opportunities, and choices.

Fairfax County Supervisors will consider this new food tax early next year. They hope to include the authority to impose the tax in the budget to generate as little attention and opposition as possible. Then, once authority is approved, they'll put a number on it of 1 to 6%.

They hope you won't notice, but you will when you dine out or buy that rotisserie chicken at the grocery store. Tell them no.

Gary Cohen is the Executive Vice President of Government Affairs and Franchising for Glory Days Grill, a 45 year resident of Fairfax County and a lifelong restaurateur.

Rebuttal to Krizek

On Oct. 31 the Mount Vernon Gazette ran an opinion piece by State Delegate Paul Krizek. It was another example of Democratic Party machine propaganda. He was telling people to vote for democracy by rejecting Trump. He made no mention of the Democratic party ticket of Harris and Walz. Is this the right way to talk to voters, trying to scare them into voting a certain way? And what about the other side of the story? There was no rebuttal by the Republicans. I resent the notion that everybody around here is part of the Democratic party machine. The American people voted as they saw fit. This is democracy. There is a great, big America out there beyond the Beltway and the federal government deep state swamp of Washington DC. Maybe the Democratic party needs to take stock of itself. Maybe Biden should have stayed on the ticket, maybe they made a mistake anointing Harris, maybe they made a mistake picking Walz as the VP. Take a good look at yourselves Democrats.

Greg Paspatis
Alexandria, Va

The City of Alexandria instituted a meals tax beginning in 1975, and currently the tax is 5%.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3
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.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens 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 volun-

teer 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.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



17th Annual Race Raises Over \$45K

**RUN! GEEK! RUN!
5K race hosted by
Ironistic successfully
raised funds for
Inova Peterson Life
with Cancer.**

The 17th annual RUN! GEEK! RUN! 5K race, hosted by Ironistic, successfully raised more than \$45,000 for Inova Peterson Life with Cancer. This year's event brought together tech enthusiasts, runners and community members to support a vital cause in the fight against cancer.

RUN! GEEK! RUN! is hosted by Ironistic, a full-service marketing agency based in Alexandria, Va. RUN! GEEK! RUN! has been organizing this 5K race since 2008, combining the passion for technology with the love for running. The event has become a beloved tradition, bringing together runners, walkers, volunteers, and sponsors to support a different Alexandria-based nonprofit each year.

This year's beneficiary, Inova Peterson Life with Cancer, provides programs and services to help patients and their families living with cancer.

The funds raised will support services such as counseling, support groups, educational programs and wellness activities.

"We are thrilled with the overwhelming support from our participants, sponsors, and volunteers," said Rita Foss, Executive Director of RUN! GEEK! RUN! 5K. "The Alexandria community and beyond has once again demonstrated its commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of those affected by cancer."

The race, which took place in Alexandria, attracted more than 700 participants from all around the country. Runners of all skill levels came together to support the cause while enjoying a fun and challenging course. RUN! GEEK! RUN! is made possible by the generous support of local sponsors, vendors, and volunteers. Their commitment to the event underscores the strong sense of community that defines Alexandria.

"The money raised makes a huge difference in the lives of people with cancer, and it's truly inspiring to see the community come together," said Jennifer Bires, Executive Director, Peterson Life with Cancer. "And it was a lot of fun too!"

RUN! GEEK! RUN! 5k is a nonprofit that organizes an annual 5K race (and 1-mile Fun Run) to promote health and wellness within the tech community while raising funds for local charities. Since its inception in 2008, the organization has supported various causes, donating over \$230,000, and making a significant impact in the lives of those in



Amy Richard (Inova), Melissa Riddy (Inova), Marlies Bronner (Inova), Walker Carter (The McCrystal Group), Kunal Padoa (CGI), Matthew Higgins (Inova), Rita Juhasz (Cancer to 5K), Ashley Hunt (Inova), Rachel McNinch (Cancer to 5k), Jennifer Bires (Inova), Rita Foss (RUN! GEEK! RUN!), Aileen Contreras (Ironistic), Eugene the Geek.



Matthew Higgins (Inova), Ashley Hunt (Inova), Jennifer Bires (Inova), Rita Foss (RUN! GEEK! RUN!), Chris Foss (Ironistic), Eugene the Geek.

need.

Inova Peterson Life with Cancer provides free support and education to those

affected by cancer, with comprehensive programs designed to empower individuals to live well during and after cancer.

For more information about RUN! GEEK! RUN! and their charitable initiatives, please visit <https://rungeekrun.org>.

ENTERTAINMENT

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

At Joe Theismann's Restaurant. 8 a.m. Located at 1800A Diagonal Road, Alexandria. Dates: Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, 22. This holiday season, create unforgettable memories with Breakfast with Santa in the enchanting Old Town Alexandria at Joe Theismann's Restaurant. Start with a festive family-style breakfast featuring delectable options like french toast, smoked salmon, and tater tots. Children will love the take-home treats and a magical moment meeting Santa Claus, complete with a keepsake photo. Adults can indulge in bottomless Prosecco bellinis or classic mimosas for \$15. Babies join for free, while kids are \$29.50 plus tax and adults are \$53 plus tax.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

At Mia's Italian Kitchen. 8 a.m. Located at 100 King Street, Alexandria. Dates are Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, 22. Celebrate the season with a festive breakfast feast featuring a delicious spread served family-style, including breakfast pastry & bagel basket, smoked salmon, and scrambled eggs. At Mia's Italian Kitchen, children will enjoy take-home treats and a magical visit with Santa Claus, complete with a keepsake photo that captures the Christmas spirit. Adults can enjoy bottomless classic mimosas and Prosecco bellinis for \$18. Babies join for free, while kids are \$34 plus tax and adults are \$57 plus tax.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

At Ada's on the River. 8 a.m. Located at 3 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Dates are: Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, 22. Join Ada's on the River for a festive breakfast feast, where you'll enjoy a delicious family-style spread including breakfast pastries, pancakes, yogurt parfait, and tater tots. Children will receive take-home treats and a magical visit with Santa Claus, complete with a keepsake photo that captures the Christmas spirit. Adults can indulge in classic mimosas, bellinis, or Prosecco. Adults can indulge in bottomless Prosecco bellinis or classic mimosas for \$15. Babies join for free, while kids are \$29.50 plus tax and adults are \$53 plus tax.

OCT. 31 TO DEC. 8

Susan J. Goldman Exhibit. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. 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



"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" can be seen Nov. 15-24, 2024 at Bryant Alternative High School in Alexandria.

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

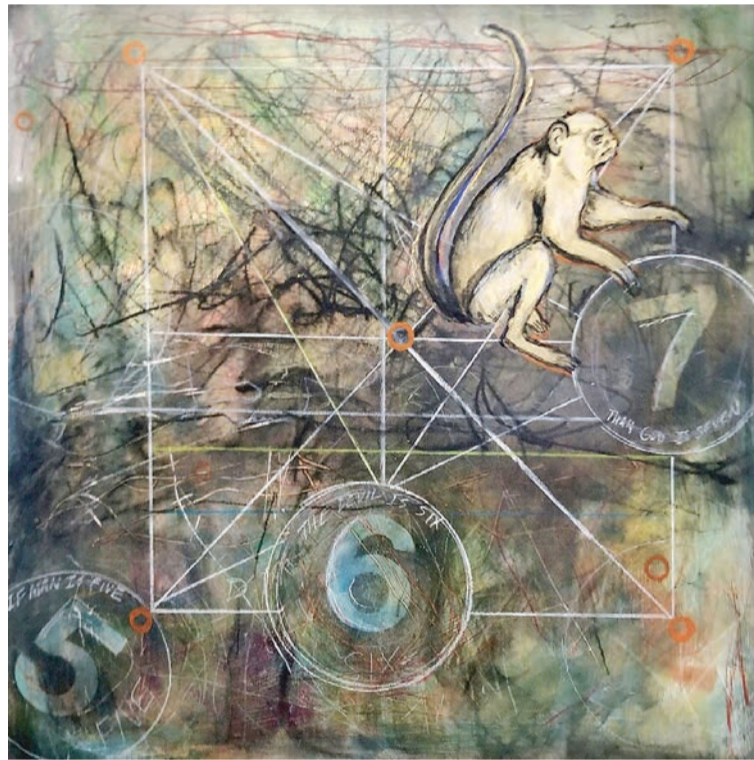
Del Ray Artisans "\$100 & Under" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Showcases members' artwork all priced at \$100 or less. The art is sold on an art-to-go basis. The gallery walls are packed with great art at prices all art-lovers can afford. Opening Reception: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

NOV. 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



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

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.

NOV. 15-24

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." At Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Presented by Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater (MVCCT). Featuring 44 young actors between the ages of 8 and 18 from 27 schools across the

DMV. The show will have a six-day run: Nov. 15 at 7 p.m., Nov. 16 at 7 p.m., Nov. 17 at 3 p.m., Nov. 22 at 7 p.m., Nov. 23 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 24 at 3 p.m. For tickets, visit MVCCT.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

Bi-Lingual Children's Concert - Musicales Bilingues Para Ninos. 4-6 p.m. At the Patrick Henry Rec Center, 4652 Taney Ave., Alexandria. Presented by WMPA - Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. WMPA offers a fairy tale set to music, narrated in English and again in Spanish. Nearly 20 WMP musicians will perform Benedikt Brydern's "The Town Musicians," an adorable tale by the Brothers Grimm. Free.

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.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Jennifer Barlow: Food Inspired Art. At the Nepenthe Gallery, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Jennifer Barlow is a local oil painter with a sweet tooth! Come to Nepenthe Gallery to meet her and see the collection of unique and fun original artworks — just in time for the holidays! Barlow is absolutely an artist whose art will lift you up!

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Tree Lighting Ceremony. 6 p.m. Celebrate the city's official start to the holiday season at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, with appearances from Major Justin Wilson, the Town Crier and even Santa himself. A few weeks later on December 8, take part in the Del Ray Tree and Menorah Lighting as you enjoy tunes and hot chocolate and hand-painted holiday windows along Del Ray's storefronts.

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.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11
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NEWS

Made in ALX Moves to New King Street Location

Saturday, Nov. 16, Made in ALX will open a new store and workshop space at 415 King St.

Made in ALX showcases and sells art and handmade products crafted by 50 Alexandria-based artists. Items include jewelry, ceramics, glass, woodworks, original art, candles and more. In addition, Made in ALX has become known for creative workshops and classes, free craft events for kids, and hosting artist pop-ups.

Two local women started Made in ALX online in 2020 as a way to connect residents with local artists, creators and makers during a time when many local artists and makers were unable to pop-up due to the pandemic. In 2021, Made in ALX opened a pop-up shop in Old Town for the holiday season, which was so successful that the organization started to look for long-term space. The store was open for more than two years in Old Town North (at 533 Montgomery St.) before this move to 415 King St., and it is now owned by co-founder Beth Lawton.

The official opening day is Saturday, Nov. 16, and a ribbon-cutting is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 20.

Coming Up at Made in ALX:

Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23 – 24: Decorate your own holiday sugar cookie. Made in ALX is a stop on the Old Town Cookie Crawl, and tin-carrying participants are invited to decorate their own sugar cookie free from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days. No tin? No problem — anyone can come in and decorate a sugar cookie for \$5.

Friday, Nov. 29: For Old Town's Plaid Friday, Made in ALX will be open all day with sales of up to 30%. In addition, the store will be giving away exclusive Alexandria-themed holiday ornaments with a purchase of \$75 or more, while supplies last.

Saturday, Nov. 30: The Made in ALX Makers' Market at Port City Brewing Co. returns. More than 30

SEE MADE IN ALX, PAGE 10

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NEWS

Made in ALX

FROM PAGE 9
local artists and makers will pop-up at Port City Brewing Co., 3950 Wheeler Ave., on Small Business Saturday. The event is from noon to 5 p.m. This sip-and shop event is free to attend and family-friendly, with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus between 2 – 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 1: From 2 – 4 p.m., make your own holiday candles with Heather Jenkins of Calm Connect Well. You'll leave this class with three small candles that you made and a lot of new knowledge about wax and wicks. Class participants must register in advance through madeinalx.com and space is limited.

Additional events and classes are listed on the calendar at madeinalx.com.

Store hours at 415 King St. will be: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday (closed Wednesdays), and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, visit madeinalx.com or call 703-239-4592.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6
is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children's learning.

- ❖ Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.
- ❖ Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit www.novasecondsaturday.com for more.

ONGOING

Robust Walking. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact jkkingconsulting@yahoo.com.

Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/contribute.

FROM PAGE 8

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>

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Georgetown Saxatones. 2 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Get ready to rock the house with everything from alternative to pop to soul with the Georgetown Saxatones. As Georgetown's only community service a cappella group, they are passionate about sharing their music in support of worthy causes. Donations are welcome during the performance and the Saxatones will donate all of their proceeds to a humanitarian charity.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Plaid Friday Alexandria. Alexandria's 50 Small Business Black Friday returns for another holiday season to highlight and celebrate Alexandria's iconic array of independent businesses. Known as the top destination for locally owned retail, 50 participating businesses are asking customers to shift their shopping this holiday season by kicking off Black Friday shopping at Alexandria boutiques for steals and deals on Friday, November 29. Several participating businesses will open at 6 a.m. For more details on participating businesses and special offers, visit plaidfridayALX.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

8th Annual Old Town Tuba Christmas. Presented by WMPA - Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. 3 p.m. At Market Square/Old Town Farmers Market by City Hall, Alexandria. Free. Christmas carols and holiday tunes with tubaists of all ages. Free.

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>

DEC. 6 - 8

Alexandria's iconic holiday weekend. The 53rd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade is Saturday, Dec. 7, followed by the 24th Annual



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

Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. <https://visitalexandria.com/holidays/biggest-weekend/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Taste of Scotland. 6:30 p.m. At The Atrium, Old Town Alexandria. Campagna Center and partners will celebrate the holiday season and its Scottish heritage during the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend in Alexandria, starting with the 2024 Taste of Scotland. This festive party, held on the Friday before the parade, invites guests to sample Scotch and enjoy delicious food, music, and entertainment, with all proceeds supporting the Campagna Center. For 50 years, this beloved event has helped improve the lives of Alexandria's children and families through impactful programs. Visit <https://www.campagnacenter.org/tasteofscotland2024/>

DEC. 6-21

Holiday Tours. 5-7:30 p.m. At woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Tour the Pope-Leighey House during special evening tours and see the home decorated for a mid-century holiday. Tours are offered December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, with tours every half hour between 5 and 7 p.m. Space is limited, advance registration is recommended. Cost: \$20. Visit the website <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org>

DEC. 6-22

29th Annual Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans 29th Annual Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus 2025 wall calendars support Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. Free admission. Holiday Market is the first three weekends in December (Dec 6-8, Dec 13-15, Dec 20-22). Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/holiday-market-2024

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Holiday Parade Day. Alexandria's

two signature holiday parades starting with the 53rd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade sponsored by Wegmans at 11 a.m. followed by the 24th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights sponsored by Amazon at 5:30 p.m., with riverside festivities for the whole family starting at 2 p.m.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Support Youth Musicians. WMPA - Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. 3 p.m. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Join both the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and the Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra as they perform. The program offers a variety of music: Hoffmeister Viola Concerto, Mvt. I - Isaiah Reed, soloist Seitz Viola Concerto, Mvt. I - Tate Commission, soloist Capriol Suite - Peter Warlock Slavonic Dance in C - Furiant - Antonin Dvořák. Free.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Holiday Dreams Orchestra Concert. 3 p.m. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Street, Alexandria. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic performs with the Alexandria Choral Society. Duke Ellington's "Nutcracker Suite" headlines, under the baton of Music Director Anna Binneweg. This concert promises to transport the audience into a realm of festive delight, "Holiday Dreams" offers a captivating blend of seasonal cheer and musical charm. Grace-Evangeline Mason's "The Imagined Forest" sets a magical tone, weaving together melodies that evoke the spirit of the holidays. Tickets \$35 adults, \$30 seniors, 18 & under just \$5.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Del Ray Holiday Sip & Shop. Special promotions and complimentary wine and refreshments.

DEC. 13-15

Gustave Marche de Noel Gift Market. New this year, be immersed in a magical new European Christmas market experience in Del Ray during the inaugural Gustave Marché de Noël Gift Market, a weekend

choc-full of holiday happenings including the Old Town North Holiday Market & Farmers Market, Christmas Market & Holiday Craft Show at John Carlyle Square and more.

DEC. 14-15

Nutcracker Ballet. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. At 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. both days. Presented by the Metropolitan School of the Arts. Veronica Quezada, MSA alumnus and part of the International Tour of West Side Story, will play the part of Sugar Plum Fairy, joining a cast of 150 MSA students. Tickets are \$21 to \$35. Visit www.metropolitanschoolofthearts.org

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

Waterskiing Santa Show. 1 p.m. Begins at BARCA Pier, 2 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. For a sight you have to see to believe, head to the waterfront between BARCA Pier and Founders Park to witness the Waterskiing Santa Show, featuring Santa and his friends gliding along the Potomac River. There is also a rumor the Grinch will try and steal the show at 12:45 p.m. before the show starts. Santa and his pals begin at BARCA Pier at 1 p.m. and ski north to Founders Park before circling back south and finishing at Ford's Landing.

DEC. 31, 2024

30th Annual First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m. - 12 a.m. Throughout Old Town Alexandria. Experience the region's signature family-friendly New Year's Eve festival of music and more. A community celebration of the performing arts, First Night Alexandria rings in the new year with music, comedy, and dance. This year's celebration will feature a twilight fireworks display at 6 p.m. on Alexandria's waterfront geared to families who want to enjoy the show with their kids and loved ones. First Night Alexandria will also still host an abbreviated encore display of the New Year's fireworks at midnight on the waterfront. Visit <https://visitalexandria.com/events/30th-annual-first-night-alexandria>

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.

NOVEMBER

Thu. 14: Mac McAnally \$79.50
 SOLD OUT!
 Fri. 15: After 7 \$79.50
 Sat. 16: After 7 \$79.50
 Sun. 17: Keiko Matsui \$55.00
 Tue. 19: John Splithoff \$29.50
 Wed. 20: Eric Benet \$79.50
 Thu. 21: Ohio Players \$79.50
 Fri. 22: Paula Poundstone \$59.50
 Sat. 23: Paula Poundstone \$59.50
 Sun. 24: Marshall Crenshaw w/ James Mastro \$35.00
 Mon. 25: Girl Named Tom: The Joy of Christmas Tour \$55.00
 Fri. 29: The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad \$45.00
 Sat. 30: The Manhattans Featuring Gerald Alston \$65.00

"Cheese and Crackers"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I remember it like it was a few weeks ago rather than the three-plus decades it has been. It was the moment when I understood – for the first time, a phrase my father had been saying for years. We were driving east on Rt. 9 from Framingham, Ma. on the way to Rt. 128 (the beltway of Boston sort of) as I was joining him on a business trip to Newport R.I. I was sitting in the passenger seat of my father's Buick Grand Marquis, we were just talking when in response to something (I can't remember that), he said it: "Cheese and crackers." Immediately I looked at him and said: "Is that what you've been saying all these years? Cheese and crackers? I thought you were saying Jesus Christ. I started laughing. I must have heard him utter this exclamation a thousand times. Yet, on this day, I heard it differently, you might say. (Say it fast, with a partial stutter, like my father always did and it might sound the same to you. It sure did to me – for years.) Add to the fact that my father regularly made-up words that were not in any dictionary ("surgerize," and "conflition" come to mind) and half the time you weren't sure what the heck he was saying. On this day, while riding in the car, I understood – for once.

Rarely would Richard or I accompany my father on his driving trips to visit clients and prospects throughout New England. Aside from the fact that we were both living in Washington, D.C., these trips home to Ma. were timed to occur during his business trips (he sold jewelry/was a manufacturer's representative) when he would be away from home for two-to-three nights. We came home while my father was away to keep mother company so she wouldn't be alone. Having suffered irreparable nerve damage in both ears years before, my mother (I was going to say "she, again" but I can still hear my father admonishing us: "Don't call your mother 'she'") was hearing impaired. As you might imagine, being home by herself was a bit scary for my mother. As an example, how could she call for help and engage in a conversation over the phone or even hear a fire alarm. Certainly, she could speak but she wouldn't be able to answer any questions and provide the kinds of answers that might ultimately save her life.

But this trip home was for my father's benefit. He was nearing aged 70 – when he was planning to retire. Yet five days a week, he drove all over New England selling jewelry. Most days he would drive hours in the morning, hours between appointments, and more hours in the evening on the way home. He never complained. He loved what he did. After owning a jewelry store in downtown Boston ("Barry's Jewelers") for over 20 years, this outside sales alternative/lack of overhead was perfect for him. Nevertheless, my mother always worried because "(A) she was a worrier and (B) my father wasn't getting any younger and she could see the toll it was taking on him. And when he told the story about driving on Rt. 9 and somehow ending up on the crossroad below, asleep at the wheel, not remembering even taking the exit, we all worried some more. My father's business was all about driving. There was no plan (B). He was the sole source of income and needed to make money so my parents could retire to Fl. This drive to Newport was in pursuit of that family goal. Since the trip there was up and back in the same day, I went along and then drove home the multiple hours back home in the late afternoon so my father wouldn't have to. My brother made similarly timed visits. It was a win-win. We got to spend time alone with our father and it helped our parents manage their lives/reach their financial goal while approaching their retirement. And the lobster roll we'd have for lunch in Newport was just a side benefit. I can still see my father taking his first bite.

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

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Old Town | \$4,375,000

Circa 1835, this magnificently restored architectural gem features original plaster moldings, heart of pine floors, 12' high ceilings, double parlor living room, regal dining room, 8 fireplaces with original mantels, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a 2nd floor library. The renovated chef's kitchen offers top-of-the-line appliances, coffee bar, large island with seating, and an adjoining family room with French doors open to the beautiful garden & private patio. Two off-street parking spaces and a small garage complete this historic beauty. 209 South Saint Asaph Street

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www.BabsBeckwith.com

OPEN SAT 11/16, 2-4

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Become the next conservator of this 3-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom, detached historic home! This property is packed with "wow factor"! Extensive renovations and 2-story addition perfectly blend this home's historical charm with elegant modern luxury. 802 Duke Street

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Hollin Hall Village | \$1,249,000

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Front Royal | \$899,999

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OPEN 11/21, 5-7, 11/23 & 11/24, 2-4

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Lives like a townhome with the ease & comfort of condo amenities! 2-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom, Old Town Village end unit condo with an open and bright plan, architectural details, & two outdoor spaces. 1424 Roundhouse Lane

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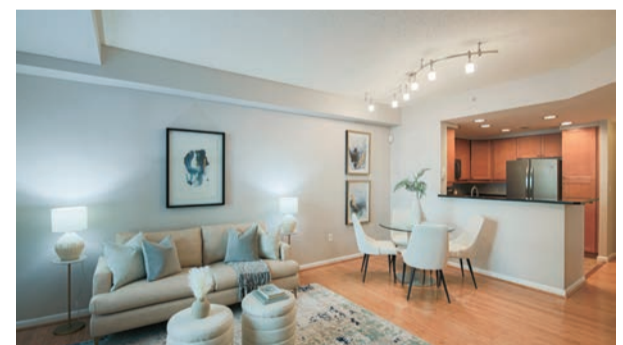


OPEN SAT 11/16, 12-2

Stonegate | \$495,000

2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, 1,210 SF, 2nd-floor unit with reserved parking, refinished hardwoods, open floor plan, white shaker cabinets, and new dishwasher and microwave. Stonegate community offers easy commute, pool, clubhouse, and tot lot. 4681 Lawton Way #203

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