Restaurants adjust to fixed parklets

Some business owners raise regulations concerns
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Earlier this month, the City of Alexandria made permanent the parklet system that was installed during the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to keep businesses afloat when people could not dine inside restaurants. Now that the system is here for good, those restaurants are adjusting to the changes.

Established in 2020, the temporary policy allowed some eateries to create outdoor dining for the first time, while others expanded their current capacity. After shifting to a permanent model, the city began charging fees for these parklets – which are defined as an extension of a sidewalk.
Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Halloween!

This spooky holiday is one of our favorites and Alexandria offers so many fun activities and traditions! Here are a couple of our favorites -- will we be seeing you?

1. The Del Ray Halloween Parade: One of Del Ray’s favorite traditions! Children, strollers, pets and neighbors all stroll down Mt. Vernon Ave in their scariest Halloween garb. This year’s parade is Sunday, October 30 at 2p!

2. Halloween on S. Lee Street: a must-experience! Every year, from 5p-8p, Lee street from King to Gibbon is closed...and the party begins!

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City names new independent policing auditor

On Oct. 25, The Alexandria City Council approved the appointment of Kim Neal as the new independent policing auditor. In her new role, Neal will “lead the effort to conduct independent investigations of complaints and serious incidents and will make recommendations on policing practices, policies and procedures,” according to a news release.

Neal earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Georgetown University and juris doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law. She is certified in compliance and ethics. Neal is currently the director of the Office of Police Oversight Monitor for the City of Fort Worth, Texas. She worked to design Fort Worth’s first restorative justice mediation program and established the agency’s model of oversight and accountability for their police department. Neal was also the executive director for the Citizens Complaint Authority in Cincinnati, where she oversaw the investigations of serious misconduct allegations by police officers. She has also held senior-level positions covering diverse policy areas such as employment, higher education, compliance and ethics. Neal was also previously a professor of legal studies at the University of Maryland Global Campus in Adelphi, Md.

She is an active member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Police Executive Research Forum, Ethics and Compliance Initiative and Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics.

Neal is anticipated to begin her new role as independent policing auditor in early December.

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com

Fort Ward to hold Veterans Day tour

The Fort Ward Museum will hold a special tour in honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 12.

The Fort Ward Museum will hold a special tour in honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 12.

On Nov. 12, there will be a free 90-minute tour in the museum in which attendees will be guided through the museum, learning about Civil War veterans’ organizations, the history of Fort Ward, army life in the Civil War Defenses of Washington and the design and construction of Civil War forts in the 1800s.

Visitors can also view the full historic sight with highlights; the reconstructed Officers’ Hut, ceremonial entrance gate and the fully restored Northwest bastion.

Please call 703-746-4848 for more information about the event. Reservations are not required.

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The Potomac Yard Metro station is moving along, with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority tweeting on Tuesday that the first ever test train on Monday has gone through the station.

“Major milestone in our efforts to complete the work for the new station,” the tweet reads. “Testing is on schedule & we appreciate everyone’s patience as our teams work to get the station completed.”

The milestone follows several delays in the station’s opening, which was originally scheduled for spring 2022 and then fall 2022. Last month WMATA stated that the Potomac Yard Metro opening would be pushed back to 2023, due to issues with the underlying soil that affected the stability of the ground beneath the tracks.

The closure includes six stations south of Reagan National Airport, and free shuttle bus service will continue to be available through the extension.

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Walk to Bust Cancer raises $150,000

On Oct. 23, breast cancer survivors, families and supporters attended the seventh annual Walk to Bust Cancer held at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria. The walk was held by the National Breast Cancer Foundation and was both in person and virtual. $150,000 was raised thanks to the efforts of those that participated.

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ASO to give away 100 free tickets

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will give away 100 free tickets for the concert on Nov. 12 for newly-arrived members in the community from Afghanistan.

The ASO has received $5,000 in corporate sponsorship from three area Walmart stores to be able to make this possible.

At the concerts on Nov. 12 and Nov. 13, two newly-arrived members of the Afghan community will join the ASO for both concerts. The first is Negin Khpalwak, former conductor of the all-female Zora Orchestra in Afghanistan, and the second is her husband Hamid Habib Zada, who will perform a tabla concerto.

The ASO will also be playing arrangements of songs by Ahmed Zahir – who was known as the “Elvis of Afghanistan” in the 1970s. In attendance will be his widow, who fled Afghanistan after his death and now resides in Alexandria. His daughter, who is making a documentary about her father’s life, will also be in attendance. She will be filming footage of the concert to use in her documentary.

For more information on the concerts and how to get tickets, visit https://alexsym.org/performance/scheherazade/.

--kmcdonald@alextimes.com

First test train runs at Potomac Yard Station

The Potomac Yard Metro station is moving along, with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority tweeting on Tuesday that the first ever test train on Monday has gone through the station.

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“Ghosts of Alexandria.” One of the tales in Pope’s book details Robert’s recollection to Segal of the devil-bat living in the belfry of city hall, looking over the city to protect its clock tower.

Pope’s book retells the legend of the devil-bat in an interesting way.

“I bounced off the idea of the devil-bat as being like a concept or a recurring theme. The lack of affordable housing is a devil-bat ... using the devil-bat as a way to think about problems that plague the city and never seem to go away. There’s always a devil-bat. Flooding in Del Ray is a devil-bat. The metro being shut down is a devil-bat,” Pope said.

Not only does Pope retell the tale of the devil-bat in his book, he also includes other ghost stories like the female stranger, a more well known tale. Pope said that a lot of Alexandrians know about the female stranger but not many know about the devil-bat.

“It’s kind of a more obscure Alexandria legend,” Pope said. “I would not have known about it unless Eric Segal wrote about it in his booklet. I’m glad that he did sort of write down this legend that he got from Louie Robert because I would have not heard about it.”

Since Alexandria’s founding, and then in 1817 when Alexandria built the clock tower for city hall, the legend of the so-called devil-bat has been around. The animal eventually began living in the clock tower until a fire destroyed it. The city worked to rebuild the structure and once it was re-built in 1871, legend says that the devil-bat returned to its original home.

Several reports claimed that the devil-bat had flown over the city at night and some residents had claimed they had seen it, but the most famous sighting was when Robert saw the devil-bat chase away a group of drunken sailors one night. The North Boat used to come into the city and would bring a typically rowdy crowd, according to Robert in Segal’s publication.

“No, ‘twasn’t long ago that the North Boat used to come

**Obituary**


He was a 1958 graduate of West Point and retired as a Colonel in 1981. He served a tour as an artillery advisor to the South Vietnamese in 1969.

After retiring from the military he founded his governmental relations firms, Van Fleet Associates, MOVAN, and Legislative Associates International.

He lived in Alexandria for more than 40 years where he was active in community politics. He served with the Old Town Civic Association, the Waterfront Commission and the Federation of Civic Association. He unsuccessfully ran for Mayor in 2005 and for City Council in 2006 and 2015.

In his life, Van did not always agree but he was never disagreeable.

He was predeceased by his parents and his second wife, Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet.

A visitation will be held at Demaine Funeral Home of Old Town Alexandria on Oct. 30 from 3 to 7 p.m.
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to port in Alexandria. It came in at night, about eleven or twelve. There were lights all over it, people singing, the boat rocking back and forth. It was generally pretty hard to miss. 'Til, of course, they stopped it a couple of years ago. I think it burned down or something. Anyway, the crowds that used to get off that boat were, well, there were hundreds of them and they were always real rowdy and full of liquor: screamin’ and shoutin’ and raisin’ hell. I don’t know; something about that boat made those guys really wild. I don’t know what it was, but they always came on shore a little more than drunk ... Yeah, they was always a sight, let me tell you,” Robert detailed to Segal.

On one night in particular, the crowd that had come off the North Boat was especially rowdy. They were gallivanting up and down King St., making a lot of noise and breaking doors and windows. It was even rumored that the men were planning to tear down city hall, where the devil-bat lived. Legend then says as Robert watched the events unfold, he had screamed out to stop the rowdy sailors’ violent ways. He yelled out to the animal, “Devil-bat, Devil-bat! Keep this crowd back!” The mob was practically at the doors of city hall when all of a sudden a huge creature swooped in.

“I didn’t know if anything would happen but there wasn’t anything else I could do. Well, the next thing I knew, I saw this big black thing, real close to the ground, come zizin’ around the corner in the same
direction the crowd or mob, I guess I should say, was comin’ from. And it just kept goin’ ‘til it got to the doorway, on Royal Street, of city hall. It hid there, and I didn’t know what to expect then, but you can bet that I wasn’t goin’ anywhere ‘til I found out. Well, the mob kept gettin’ closer and closer, ‘til it was practically on top of the Hall, and then, just at the very last possible moment, this black thing shot out of the doorway like nobody’s business,” Robert told Segal.

After the devil-bat swooped in, the violent crowd of sailors were frightened and ran away. Robert then looked in the middle of the street and there was a huge dead skunk in the middle of the road where the creature swooped in. Legend says that the devil-bat saved city hall from the rowdy crowd planning to destroy Old Town, but not everyone believes the tale. “Some say that proves the devil-bat doesn’t exist, it’s just some old skunk,” Segal’s booklet reads. “But others say, that proves it does, it just turned into a skunk to protect its old home.”

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City hall construction was completed in 1874.
walk into a city parking lane to be used for a business’ extra space, such as outdoor dining.

City Council approved a fee structure for the program in March, but pushed back the start date for the fees to Oct. 1 instead of July 1, as initially proposed.

By the end of 2021, there were 37 parklets established by businesses. Since starting the permanent parklet program earlier this month, 27 permits have been issued so far.

In order to receive an annual “Right of Way — Parklet Permit,” businesses must fill out an application. They first meet with Max Devilliers, an urban planner with the Transportation and Environmental Services, to go over all the parklet requirements and outdoor dining guidelines. Then, the businesses must notify neighbors and the presiding civic association, and obtain a letter of support from the businesses in front of the proposed parklet. Finally, they apply for the permit, which is then reviewed by T&ES and the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Several eateries have found the shift in regulations confusing and somewhat troublesome. For example, Stacey Wharam, owner of Fontaine Caffe and Creperie, contended that the required letter of support in the city’s regulations was too vague.

“There was a caveat that said you had to get a letter of support from neighbors. It didn’t expand on that, it just said ‘letter of support.’ That’s all it says,” Wharam said. “I think it’s wrong for the city to put in a rule like ‘letter of support’ with no conditions.”

Specifically, the city’s regulations state that “if the parklet is at all located in front of any properties not occupied by the applicant, letters of support from the businesses, residents, and/or property owners of said building(s) are required.”

Wharam subsequently obtained letters of support from neighboring businesses such as Alexandria & Company and the Seeding Collective, both located directly next to her business. She also asked for a letter from the Alexandrian Hotel, which denied the request.

According to Wharam and Devilliers, the reason was due to the fact that the current occupant Long & Foster is moving out at the end of December. As a result, the hotel desires to make the space as appealing as possible for future tenants. The Alexandrian did not return the Times’ requests for comment.

According to Devilliers, the city’s rules indicate that if a parklet extends beyond the frontage of the business’ property, that business must obtain permission from the property on which it encroaches.

Fontaine, for example, is located at 117 S. Royal St. Its parklets extended past that, facing north – near the Al-

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exandrian Hotel's property. Although no property has jurisdiction over the spaces directly in front of it, Devilliers said the city allows businesses to express their comfortabiliy with other businesses’ parklets operating near their property.

“Because of how parklets [can] distract customers … we want to give everyone the opportunity to have a say in whether they’re okay with these parklets being in front of their business, because it could affect them negatively,” Devilliers said.

Therefore, if one business wants to operate a parklet in front of another's business, the city requires a letter of support from the business it would be affecting.

Yet Wharam argued that the parklet was not in front of the Alexandrian but to the side, facing a brick wall, and would not affect the hotel whatsoever.

“I am forced to cut my outdoor dining in half, all for someone I don’t even impact,” Wharam said. “Whereas, next door to me, [the companies] who gave a letter of support – I could see them saying, ‘People can’t park, it’s hurting my business,’ and that’s a valid reason. I’m impacting your business if that’s the case. But here, I don’t affect their parking, I don’t affect their restaurant, and I don’t affect entering and exiting their hotel. I impact them zero.”

The loss of two parklets has forced Wharam to relegate the furniture she purchased for the space to a storage unit. The two parklets in question annually generate $75,000 in revenue and $19,000 in tips, Wharam said, and the reduction will “most certainly necessitate the reduction in staff hours and perhaps a reduction in staff.”

Still, Devilliers said the parklet impinges on the Alexandrian's property and thus requires a letter of support. He emphasized that Fontaine is permitted to operate parklets, but they can only be in front of the businesses that have expressed support.

“The Alexandrian, rightfully so, wants to make the space as attractive to a potential tenant as possible. So they don’t want to preclude that by allowing this parklet to be there now, and then have potential tenants come in and say, ‘Oh, but this outdoor seating right there,’” Devilliers said.

Katye North, division chief of mobility services, clarified that because Wharam did not receive a letter of support from the Alexandrian – even if she did from other businesses – she is unable to operate a parklet there.

“‘She did not get a letter of support from the business she wanted to go in front of. She got a lot of support from the neighbors. I know she talked with some of the other businesses, and just got general support for having a parklet on the block itself, but for the space in front of the hotel, she

Wharam argued that Fontaine's parklet was not in front of the Alexandria but to the side.
was not able to get a letter,” North said.

According to North, many businesses have expressed support for the changes to the permanent program, such as the removal of tents and formalizing of the spaces.

“I think the permanent program has helped us address a lot of the things that people didn’t like about the temporary program,” North said.

The businesses that opted to move forward will pay different amounts based on where they’re located. The fee structure charges parklets open to the public at all times $15 per foot, parklets used by a commercial business within King Street $150 per linear foot, parklets within an equity emphasis area, such as Arlandria, $50 per linear foot and all other areas $100 per linear foot.

According to Wharam, much of her frustration comes from the city allowing this program for more than two years, and then effectively allowing one business to determine the fate of another’s parklets without what she considers valid reason.

“I think there needs to be some rules attached to it, something that says, ‘You’re taking up three valid parking spaces I need and I’m losing business,’” Wharam said. “Without that, you’re giving an extreme amount of power to certain individuals that have no right to have that power over you.”

Despite some hiccups, Devilliers said the overall shift to permanent parklets has been going smoothly.

“The businesses that have decided to move forward despite all the requirements, have been cooperative and we have a good working relationship with all of them. We talk to them pretty much every day,” Devilliers said.

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Since starting the permanent parklet program earlier this month, 27 permits have been issued so far.
School Board discusses overcrowded classrooms
BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

The School Board met on Oct. 20 to discuss strategies for recruitment and retention of teachers in Alexandria City Public Schools.

The meeting started off with public comment where many parents of ACPS students spoke about their frustration and disappointment with overcrowding in their children’s classrooms. Patrick Henry Elementary and Samuel Tucker Elementary were the two schools that raised the most concern within ACPS. Multiple speakers emphasized these two elementary schools have faced overcrowding for a while, while other schools in the district don’t face the overcrowding to the same extent.

Parents said that their children’s experience is of utmost importance and the board should be working to release information about classroom sizing to the district so that solutions can be created and implemented. Parents also raised concerns about teachers having strained resources and time with larger class sizes. Two parents spoke about their children, both who attended kindergarten at Samuel Tucker Elementary. The class sizes were around 27 to 28 kids. One parent said he noticed all five kindergarten classes at Tucker had 27 to 28 kids and that there was even an empty kindergarten classroom that was not being utilized. Hiring another kindergarten teacher and having another class would help balance out the number of students in the other classrooms.

Not only do these large classes make it harder for teachers to provide kids with special attention, they said, but many students who may have special needs go un-identified within a larger classroom. There is also overcrowding on the playground, which raises the risk for injury in young children. Solutions parents raised during public comment included rezoning schools to achieve smaller

At the Oct. 20 School Board meeting, much of the conversations centered around teacher recruitment and retention.

How is ACPS handling teacher recruitment and retention?

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class sizes and recruiting more teachers to fill the empty classrooms so class sizes can be smaller and more individualized, which helps their children learn more effectively.

Margaret Browne, director of recruitment and retention for ACPS, delivered a presentation on a results driven solution to some of the problems parents addressed during public comment.

Browne started off by addressing the challenges ACPS is facing in hiring new teachers to fill gaps they may have.

“In a challenging recruitment year, ACPS will continue to commit to creative, dynamic, and diversity-focused recruitment strategies and events to bring in top talent to our schools. To do so, the Human Resources division is committed to strengthening existing university and professional organization partnerships and to greatly increase the number of partners to create direct pipelines to our applicant pool,” the memo to the board reads.

Some specific challenges Browne listed that ACPS faces are fewer applicants, especially in harder to fill positions, low attendance at recruitment fairs and events, increasing teacher vacancies, COVID-19 concerns and a negative overall outlook on pursuing teaching or education as a profession.

Some areas of focus for ACPS’ recruitment efforts will be focusing on applicant and candidate diversity as well as partnerships with different organizations like universities and HBCUs. There will be a major focus on LatinX organizations, Browne said.

“Applicant and candidate diversity is a huge focus area for us. We did start that last season and we’re going to rep-
I am a firm believer that getting to know our student teachers now and seeing them as a wonderful pipeline is absolutely paramount,”

– Margaret Browne, director of recruitment and retention for ACPS

School Board Feature

Margaret Browne said that particularly around LatinX organizations, “I did partner with both professional organizations and I’m also working with our dual language and ELL teams to go out to universities that have strong programs … also working with some HBCU organizations as well as universities directly to make sure that we attend those events and establish those partnerships.”

Browne said that recruitment is a “collaborative effort,” in which she and her team are already preparing for the 2023-24 school year. Some of the ways Browne is planning to combat these challenges include holding the Spring 2023 fair schedule earlier in November and continuing it throughout the rest of the school year.

Hiring events will be held earlier this school year than they ever have before, so ACPS can “hit the ground running,” she said. They will now begin in February instead of March. Applicant pools are also typically posted in late January but will be moved to an earlier date this year.

“We’re also really thrilled about some of the work we’ve been doing with our student teachers,” Browne said. “I am a firm believer that getting to know our student teachers now and seeing them as a wonderful pipeline is absolutely paramount. So we’re doing a lot of recruitment conversations and connections with school leaders, so we can very easily and quickly convert those student teachers once they graduate – both in December as well as in May.”

For the next few months and continuing throughout the school year, Browne and her team are getting to work on advertising through job boards, newsletters as well as social media efforts to better target younger people trying to get into the education field. Browne also pointed out to the board the importance of hooking candidates faster by having a fast and efficient interview process and extending early offers. Browne even said she was interviewing a candidate last week who is choosing ACPS over teaching at another district because the interview process was more efficient.

Board member Kelly Carmichael Booz asked to see a breakdown of roles, especially for tough to fill positions, so that the board can have an idea of what is vacant. She then asked a question about retaining teachers and exit interviews.

“What is some of the feedback we’re getting on why teachers are leaving or support staff is leaving and what are we doing to make sure we’re also just retaining the teachers that we have right now … you can continue to fill a bucket of holes but if you don’t try to fill
those holes and try to hold on to it we’re going to lose some great teachers,” Booz said.

Interim Superintendent Kay-Wyatt said that the exit survey was revised last spring to better suit ACPS needs and gather more data. The employee engagement and relations team handles retention of teachers within ACPS and are working closely with Browne’s recruitment team to come up with strategies to utilize data from the exit surveys. Kay-Wyatt also said they’re looking into crafting exit interviews, but found it difficult last year with COVID-19.

Booz continued to say that she recently read an article about a number of school districts conducting “stay interviews” as to why teachers chose to continue to work in a specific district, which could also help give ACPS important information to retain their teachers.

“At the end of last year we did create a draft stay interview that would go out this year and we are also doing a 90 day check-in for new staff, so they’ll get like a little survey with questions that we can address or maybe we didn’t address. Sometimes, you know, when we did the new teacher license staff orientation, that was a really quick three days, so we give them another opportunity at the 90 days to check-in,” Kay-Wyatt said.

ACPS is also looking into expanding its new teacher mentoring program from only being available year one to a two or three year mentorship, in order to better help adjust new teachers within ACPS and career-switchers who may be new to the teaching industry.

The board also discussed engaging with support staff already within ACPS, like long-term substitute teachers and instructional assistants to get them schooling and licensing to move up to a teaching position if they are interested to “grow from within.”

“We did receive some money from the [Virginia Department of Education] that will actually go towards covering tuition for individuals who are interested in obtaining a provisional license, so that is absolutely something we are working on currently,” Browne said. “The partnership that I referenced earlier is also to establish a pipeline of teachers... and that could be individuals who are currently employed, and it can be external folks that would be able to go to university, we’ll cover part of that tuition, and they’ll also be simultaneously employees of ours in teacher positions. So there are many items at play there to solve that need.”

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com

SY 23-24 Recruitment Plan

- Targeted, strategic employment fair planning
- Increased specialized recruitment events
- Student Teacher and Intern conversions
- Increased and creative engagement with applicants
- Early offers for exceptional Candidates
- Continue general candidate pools to increase applicant #s
- Support principals with hiring benchmarks
- Significant advertising through online media, newsletters, job boards

The recruitment plan for next school year continues to focus on applicant and candidate diversity.

- The 2020-2025 strategic plan: equity for all

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SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER
Fall festivities are all around, and Halloween is quickly approaching. The City of Alexandria welcomes the revival of traditions and haunted delight. Explore the extensive history of Alexandria through ghosts and gore or walk the King Street Mile to peruse shops, restaurants and decor. Here is a list of spooky activities to enjoy before the month ends:

**Spooky Alexandria tours:**
- Alexandria Colonial Tours’ Ghosts & Graveyards Tour
  - Walk by lantern light through historic Old Town Alexandria with a colonial-costumed guide. Experience the history tour on Alexandria’s original Ghost & Graveyard Tour. These tours are for individuals ages 21 and older. Visit https://nightlyspirits.com/alexandria/alexandria-ghost-tour-pub-crawl/ for tickets and more information.
- Specialty Tour: Poison at the Apothecary Museum
  - Explore the sinister side of medicine on the Apothecary Museum’s Poison Tour. See it for yourself through Oct. 30. Recommended for ages 18 and up.

**Night on the town:**
- 2nd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede
  - Mark your calendars for Oct. 29 from 2 to 6 p.m., in which the second annual Halloween Stampede in Carlyle neighborhood will take place. Start your crawl at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna’s, Tequila and Taco or Lost Boy Cider. Scary costumes are highly recommended and prizes will be awarded to the most festively dressed participants. There will be a dog costume contest as well.
- Raven’s Night at The Birchmere
  - On Oct. 29, dress up to spend Halloween weekend with The Birchmere for a unique event featuring fusion belly dance, live music, a costume contest and a pre-show carnival. This year’s theme, “Underworld,” brings the most iconic demons, witches and wizards to the stage — a magical night and a feast fit for all fandoms. See https://www.birchmere.com/ for more information. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster or at the box office on the day of the show.

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**Tips on how to make the most of spooky season**

**BY ARIANA WILSON**

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HALLOWEEN FROM 17

- Poe in Alexandria at Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum
Join The Alexandria History Museum on Oct. 30 or Oct. 31 to experience actor David Keltz as visionary author Edgar Allen Poe. This year’s performance will include short stories, poems, musings, literary criticism and a comic essay never before performed at The Lyceum. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the performance begins at 8 p.m.

Fun for the family:
- Nightmare at Barkhaus
Barkhaus celebrates All Hallows’ Eve with their third annual Halloween party. It’s your pup’s favorite season, and Barkhaus dares all four-legged friends and their parents to join the celebration on Oct. 29. The event will include a costume contest and spooky food and drink specials. Costumes are highly recommended for both humans and pups. Admission is free, for more information visit, https://brewskisbarkhaus.com/calendar/nightmare-at-barkhaus-2022.

- Del Ray Halloween Parade
The Del Ray tradition returns on Oct. 30. Children, pets, and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their best spooky attire. Awards will be given for best pet costume, best decorated business, best decorated home and best decorated stroller. The parade map and Costume Contest voting is available at, https://www.visitdelray.com/latest-events/.

- Lowerys Dial & K Aubrey’s Halloween Sidewalk Party
Lowery’s Dial and K Aubrey Flowers invite you to join our first annual Halloween Sidewalk Party. Join the party on Oct. 29 for a frightfully fun fall celebration featuring spectacular sales, fresh flowers and a special fall craft – make your own pumpkins. Don’t forget to wear your costume for a trick-or-treat discount.

- Hocus Pocus Brunch at King & Rye
Join the Sanderson sisters and King & Rye on Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for themed cocktails, specials and an epic costume contest.

- Little Theatre of Alexandria presents Design for Murder
Murder, romance and comedy are the three best ingredients for a fun suspense-filled evening of theatre. This fast-moving, highly tense whodunit treats the audience to a remote mansion, a sleazy blackmailer, a trench coat clad detective and even a dark and stormy night. Tickets are on sale now! Visit https://thelittletheatre.com/ for tickets to current and upcoming shows. Don’t miss Design for Murder, because the curtain call for this spirited show is Nov. 5.

- wilson@alextimes.com

Supporting Healthy Youth and Healthy Families: Celebrating Safely

As fall begins and homecoming approaches, SAPCA encourages parents and teens to celebrate safely and substance-free and to know the legal consequences related to underage drinking.

Parents and Caregivers: It is against the law to provide alcohol to any persons under the age of 21.

Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

Support our youth to be happy, healthy, and substance-free by making your values clear about substance use -- particularly underage use of substances -- with your children and other parents, and pledge to keep celebrations for youth substance-free.

Learn more at PreventItAlexandria.org

COURTESY PHOTO

Enjoy Old Town establishments and untold Alexandria history on a Nightly Spirits tour.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Little Theatre of Alexandria presents romance and mystery in Design for Murder.
Stress less, love more

How to boost your mood and happiness

BY HEATHER JENKINS

Stress is a response to needs going unmet. Changing your thoughts and focusing on the things you can change in your life is a wonderful place to begin.

How do I feel today? What am I thankful for right now?

Positive thoughts boost your mood, energy and generate even more positivity and happiness in your life. Your thoughts dictate how you live your life and how others perceive you. It takes practice, but soon enough your mind will naturally gravitate toward positive thoughts. Practice cultivating a happy outlook with these tips.

Let go of:

Your Ego

It’s nice to be right, but it’s nicer to be happy and kind to yourself and others.

Limiting Beliefs

Replace beliefs that aren’t serving you anymore with uplifting, supportive thoughts. Do not let others’ perception of your reality take away from what you want and deserve in this life.

Resisting Change

If you want different results, do things differently. Make small changes consistently and they’ll add up to transform your life. Change is scary but staying in the same place you are now will not help you grow and learn; don’t resist it.

Negative self-talk

Stress triggers many areas in the body and mind, which takes a toll on your health. When you hear negative self-talk, replace it with a positive comment to be kinder to yourself.

SEE SELF-CARE
Comparison
While it’s easy to want what others have, comparing yourself is like discarding everything you’ve worked so hard for at this very moment. Learn to distinguish between admiration and comparative self-judgment.

Hold on to:
Gratitude
Even when you think you don’t have it all, focus on what you have right now. Keep a gratitude journal and write down 10 things you’re grateful for each day. Starting your day with a grateful heart will change everything.

Your purpose
Even if things are not going the way you planned or you’re not where you think you should be, stand tall and smile. Understanding why you are here and your purpose is one of the greatest gifts of all. It will take work but will absolutely be worth it.

Positive people
People who are on a positive frequency will keep you grounded, inspired and connected to your greater purpose. They will support you and listen when you need someone there when life happens.

Self care routine
Take time to read, meditate or simply make quiet time for yourself. Self-care is not selfish, it is necessary for your overall health and well-being. You deserve it!

Give love and receive it in return
Do something kind for someone and notice how it impacts your mood and energy. Give from the goodness of your heart and expect nothing in return. Say “I love you” and “thank you” more often.

The writer is a National Board Certified Health & Wellness Coach, owner of Calming Connection & Wellness and CalmConnectWell Self Care Gifts. She is also a member of Made in ALX where her self care gifts are available.

Hold on to the positive people in your life who will keep you grounded and connected to your greater purpose.
Banish the bandits
Four tips on how to protect your holiday packages
BY BRANDPOINT

A recent survey conducted by Chamberlain Group found that 69% of homeowners worry about their package deliveries going missing during the holidays, adding to the stress they feel this time of year. The survey also found that 74% of homeowners take extra measures to ensure they are home when their packages arrive, including canceling plans or staying home from work to wait for the package. Here are some ways to protect your holiday packages without having to worry about reorganizing your day:

Get deliveries inside your garage. From getting neighbors to grab packages to exploding glitter bombs, homeowners are not short on ideas for how to keep porch pirates at bay. However, if you really want to get serious about protecting your packages, you’ll want a smart garage door opener, many of which offer a convenient, secure in-garage delivery experience. With in-garage delivery, you don’t have to worry about packages going missing or groceries being left out in the rain. Packages and groceries are securely delivered to the garage where they stay until you are free to get them, whether you’re home or away.

Request a signature. If you are ordering expensive items online, it’s smart to require a signature for delivery. Requesting a signature ensures that your online purchases are never left unattended. If you’re not at home, the mail carrier will typically leave a note with options for rescheduling the delivery or picking up the package in person.

Do the neighborly thing. Work with neighbors and friends to look after each other’s packages. If a neighbor is home when you are expecting a delivery, ask permission to have packages sent to their address or have them hold deliveries that come to your front door.

Using these tips to protect your packages will help relieve some stress during the holiday season.
THEFT
FROM | 21

doors. Don’t forget to treat them to some holiday cookies as a thank-you.

Put your packages on hold if you're traveling for the holidays. If you’re traveling this holiday season, check to see if your mail carrier or delivery service offers a temporary hold on eligible packages. Placing a hold on deliveries ensures the packages are kept in a secure location until you can retrieve them, and can be a convenient way to ensure packages don’t pile up on the porch while you’re away. When you return from your travels, you can pick up your packages or have them delivered to your home depending on the service.

Give yourself the gift of peace of mind by trying out some of these package delivery tips, and spend more time enjoying the moments that matter.

Placing a hold on deliveries ensures that packages are kept in a secure location and that they don’t pile up on the porch while you’re away.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Here is a truly special opportunity to own a waterfront home on one of George Washington’s original farms. This stately and expanded Cape Cod was completely remodeled from top to bottom in 2017, has breathtaking views of the Potomac River and is positioned beautifully on a thoughtfully maintained lot that boasts exceptional scenery in the most comfortable of settings. The house flows pleasantly from room to room and floor to floor. On the main level, there is a formal living area with a gas fireplace, dining room, gourmet kitchen, family room with a wood-burning fireplace, a mudroom and a main level primary bedroom with en-suite bathroom. There are panoramic doors from the family room to the screened-in porch that can be completely opened and allow for a seamless pathway from indoor to outdoor living and entertaining. There is a delightful flagstone patio overlooking a sprawling yard and a secondary brick patio with a built-in fireplace. Stairs from the backyard lead down to a 275-foot pier with a dock and boathouse that have been planned with the utmost care and consideration. The covered boat house has a remote-controlled boat lift, power/electricity, water and WiFi. The required land preservation was conscientiously and painstakingly handled over a continuous three-year period. For parking there is a 2-car side-load garage.

Great opportunity to own waterfront second to none

Left: Stately Cape Cod remodeled and expanded in 2017. Middle: The Potomac River is on full display and the line of sight is simply magnificent. Right: The screened-in porch is complete with a TV and stunning fireplace.

Address:
4001 Belle Rive Terrace,
Alexandria, 22309

Neighborhood: Belle Rive

Price: $3,499,000

Bedrooms: 5

Bathrooms: 5

Year built: 1967

Parking: Private space

Contact:
Tracy Dunn
McEnearney Associates
Realtors, Old Town
tdunn@mcenearney.com
www.tracybdunn.com
571-212-3658

COURTESY PHOTOS

PHOTO/BRANDPOINT
Weekly Words

ACROSS
1 Assistant that "battles" Siri in some online videos
6 "Fernando" quartet
10 Lose your cool
14 H.S. transcript figure
17 Sprayed (down)
18 Sand particle
19 ___ bag (slouchy purse)
20 Arched facial feature
21 Space jam fan, perhaps?
24 Threw, as David did
25 Honeycomb builder
26 Naan's cousin
27 Harsh on the ears
28 Remove, as a splinter
29 Created a bike trick once again?
34 Intelligence org.
35 Fake numbers in some dating profiles
36 Follow the advice of Poetic planets
40 "Fudge!"
42 Flower shop smell
44 Show with a "Mattress Store" sketch, briefly
47 The "p" of mph
48 Couple on a tandem bike?
53 Fed. air monitor

DOWNS
1 Seeker of Moby Dick
2 One may finish last
3 Lauder of lotions
4 Boomer's baby, maybe
5 Decorates
6 Striped stone
7 UCLA athlete
8 Comic's routine
9 DOJ agency
10 Uses a camera
11 "Well, obviously"
12 Dentist's recommendation
13 "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" writer
14 Paltry porridge
15 Fraudulent type of scheme
16 "Oh, golly!"
17 Nestling's noise
18 Cocky walk
19 "The D'Urbervilles"
20 Put up with
21 Apprentice to the ___ of mph (Ipanema" genre)
22 Weird Al parody of a Michael Jackson hit
23 Make more attractive, as a deal
24 Jazz group?
25 Outs' opposites
26 Sharp flavor
27 Some waffles
28 Jazz group?
29 Cry while speeding downhill
30 Bring a stoned band helper on tour?
31 Sharp flavor
32 Some waffles
33 "Well, obviously"
34 Aha!
35 Provide a tax
36 They're history
37 Give up
38 Made level
39 Create a bike trick once again?
40 Provide a tax
41 "Well, obviously"
42 Volunteer to the ___ of mph (Ipanema" genre)
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44 "The D'Urbervilles"
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DEATH NOTICES

JAMES BRANHAM (46), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 19, 2022
DARRELL HAYES (75), of Alexandria, Oct. 13, 2022
WARREN LOVE (84), of Alexandria, Oct. 16, 2022
MARY PRYOR (84), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 17, 2022
WENDY WEISEL (55), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 16, 2022
DEANNA WILLIAMS (83), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 13, 2022
Ethical Reflections
with Rev. Ian Markham

Keep a sense of perspective: The danger of anxiety

BY REV. IAN MARKHAM

As we approach the midterm elections, there is a palpable sense of anxiety in the air. The political divide runs deep. Add to this mix, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the veiled threats of the use of a tactical battlefield nuclear weapon, we wonder whether Alexandria could be at risk given our proximity to an obvious nuclear target called Washington, D.C. We also find ourselves living with high inflation, high gas prices and continuing problems with supply chains.

Anxiety can destroy the moment we are living in. It can lead to excessive drinking and eating. It can unsettle close relationships with those we love. And, in the end, it is not helpful. It was Jesus who asked the pointed question: “Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” (Matthew 6:27) All worry does is corrode the moment we are living in. Worry does not improve the situation; worry does not solve the problem. Instead, all it does is exacerbate the problem.

Prophets of doom do play an important role. Fortunately, they are often wrong; the United States has faced many challenges and survived them. But their warnings can be part of the reason why things improve. Their analysis invites a response: we need to become more civil in our political discourse; we need to be alert to nuclear escalation; and we need firm action to bring inflation under control.

But perspective is also important. We need to pause and recognize the progress that we are making. From the minor miracles of every day – car drivers still wait dutifully behind the school bus as children are dropped off in their neighborhoods – to countless people volunteering at food kitchens, there is much to affirm. Plenty of Americans are being very generous with their gifts to help hurricane victims in Florida; and more bipartisan legislation has gone through the Congress in the last few years than happened for at least a decade.

Comparison is also a tool to build perspective. Granted, we have plenty of problems but compared to many countries of the world one can expect a life of relative calm, to earn a living and exercise your religion without interference. You can still say and believe what you like and gather with others who share those beliefs. Sadly, there are plenty of countries in the world where that is not the case.

Living with a sense of perspective does not mean that one is indifferent to the challenges we face. There are always challenges; and the current set of challenges are serious. But the sense of perspective means that we carry our anxiety more gently; we don’t allow ourselves to get overly preoccupied; and we can still have evenings with family and friends where we relax and have fun.

So, let us keep a sense of perspective. Let us acknowledge the seriousness of the problems but let us not allow our lives to be dominated by a destructive sense of anxiety that damages the precious moment that we have been given.

The writer is dean of Virginia Theological Seminary.

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Opinion

“Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe.”

- Thomas Jefferson

ARISE program is flawed

To the editor:

I was stunned to read about the city’s new ARISE pilot program, from “City to launch guaranteed income pilot” in the Oct. 20 edition of the Times, which will provide a guaranteed income of $500 per month to 170 participants for the next two years.

According to the city’s official website, applicants who qualify will be “randomly selected” from the application pool, meaning that the benefits will be distributed like a lottery without taking into account any specific individual factors that could help distinguish more needy applicants from others. But the program is even more fundamentally flawed. The cash payments will be provided with “no strings attached,” allowing participants to spend the money however they see fit and with no requirement for work, job training or school. This is a terrible mistake. A better approach would have been to use the money to provide job training or other skill building assistance. This would have transformed the program from a free handout lasting only two years, into something that will benefit the recipients for the rest of their lives. What a missed opportunity.

-C.J. Wenk, Alexandria

The opinions expressed in letters and columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the views, nor receive the endorsement, of the Alexandria Times.
The Bicentennial Project: A collection of ghost stories

The Nation’s Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 led to major historic preservation efforts in Old Town. Buildings such as Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, The Lyceum, the Carlyle House and the Torpedo Factory received extensive renovations in preparation for the big celebration. At the same time, the Alexandria Bicentennial Youth Commission did a different kind of preservation. Eventually published as a booklet titled “Alexandria Ghosts,” the Commission embarked on an oral history project to collect ghost stories from residents.

Alexandria secondary school students composed the Alexandria Bicentennial Youth Commission and received the support of the Alexandria Bicentennial Commission, who thought it would encourage youth participation in the Bicentennial. One member of the youth commission, Eric Segal, felt a special connection to the project. It led him from lengthy interviews at the library to appearing on a television news program. The end product is a 20-page booklet with a collection of six ghost stories and a summary of other stories he encountered.

Segal says in the booklet’s preface:
The purpose was not to attack or justify the authenticity of these tales; nor was it to simply collect a few of them; rather, it was to retell the stories as they might have happened and in doing so reflect a special facet of Alexandria’s culture. The most famous story in the booklet is “The Teller of Tales and the Devil-Bat of Market Square,” which is referenced on page one’s ‘Haunted Tales’ and ‘The devil-bat.’ Segal’s version was related to him by Louie Robert, who owned a frame shop in Old Town. Another story involves a story of the ghost of John Dixon, who was supposedly executed by the British for espionage for the colonies. Dixon supposedly lived in the Michael Swope House at 210 Prince St., and it is at that location that his supposed ghost has kept more than one potential buyer from purchasing the property.

Other stories include the tragic story of Culross, which used to occupy the 1100 block of Oronoco. There, the children of Judge Thomson Mason, William and Anne met unfortunate and early ends, and their supposed haunting of the house that they had lived in caused the property owner to move the building to New Jersey in 1925.

The other two stories are titled “The Captain’s Lady of Red Hill” and “The Ghost of the Blue Door.” Online versions of these stories usually cite Segal’s booklet as their source.

The booklet was published in 1976 by the Alexandria Bicentennial Youth Commission. It is no longer in publication, but the Local History and Special Collections Library on Queen Street has a copy for reference. It is a fun reminder that the Bicentennial Celebration allowed Alexandria to preserve more than buildings.

Out of the Attic is provided by The Office of Historic Alexandria.

Weekly Poll

This Week
How often do you dine outdoors when eating at a restaurant?

A) As often as I can.
B) Sometimes.
C) Rarely. It doesn’t matter much to me.
D) Never.

Last Week
Do you support City Council’s decision to approve Alexandria Hyundai’s special use permits through 2045?

41% Yes.
33% No.
13% I don’t care.
13% I didn’t know Alexandria Hyundai existed.
OCTOBER 29

CAMERON RUN REGIONAL PARK TRUNK OR TREAT
Join the staff from Cameron Run Regional Park for a free trunk or treat event. Wear a costume to win prizes and join in on the free candy trick or treating from car to car. Visitors will also have a chance to learn more about the upcoming Ice & Lights Winter Village event starting in November.

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: 4001 Eisenhower Ave.
Information: https://visitalexandria.com/events/cameron-run-regional-park-trunk-or-treat/

DEL RAY HALLOWEEN BICYCLE RIDE
Come see some of Del Ray's spooky Halloween decorations on this free, family-friendly bike ride organized by the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. There will be a daytime ride and an evening ride.

Time: Morning ride starting at 10 a.m. and evening ride starting at 6 p.m.
Location: 1000 Main Line Blvd.
Information: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/halloween-bike-ride-in-del-ray-daytime-edition-registration-443050063667

OCTOBER 30

CHORALIS CONCERT TO SUPPORT UKRAINE: THE VOICE OF COMFORT
This concert will support United Help Ukraine, a DC-based non-profit, and its efforts to bring therapy programs to Ukrainian children who have been displaced and traumatized by the war in Ukraine. A portion of the proceeds from this concert will support United Help Ukraine’s Hibuki Project.

Time: 5 to 8 p.m.
Location: 4915 E. Campus Dr.
Information: https://choralis.org/events-2/

NOVEMBER 5

ALEXANDRIA PEOPLE’S ASSEMBLY
The Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria is returning to Patrick Henry Recreation Center for the Alexandria People’s Assembly. This event is hosted by PLTI Alumni Racial Justice Fellows to continue the civic advocacy, leadership and community building work from our 2019 Racial Equity Forum. Join your neighbors for a day of African-centered advocacy & community building to make life better for all Alexandria children and families.

Time: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location: 4643 Taney Ave.
Information: https://bit.ly/AlexPeoplesAssembly

NOVEMBER 8

SPECIALITY TOUR:
HAMILTON’S BFF 7 FRENEMIES
Inspired by the musical Hamilton, hear about Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Madison and Burr who all came to the tavern and delve into the issues they faced and how their choices impacted local citizens.

Time: 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Location: 134 N. Royal St.
Information: https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=49193

NOVEMBER 18

THE JOHNSON GIRLS AT THE LYCEUM
In partnership with the City of Alexandria, the National American Morris Dance Organization will present The Johnson Girls in concert at The Lyceum. The Johnson Girls are an energetic all-woman mostly a capella group performing folk music with an emphasis on songs of the sea and shore.

Time: 7 to 10 p.m.
Location: 201 S. Washington St.
Information: https://ticketstripe.com/TheJohnsonGirls
ALEXANDRIA PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The following requests have been received for administrative review and approval.

For information on the following applications or to comment, visit the City’s website at www.alexandriava.gov/planning or call (703) 746-4666.

**Special Use Permit #2022-00090**
806 King Street
Administrative Special Use Permit request for a New Use for a Restaurant; zoned: KR/King Street urban retail
Business Name: Zen Press LLC
Applicant: JuAnn Wong
Planner: Mavis Stanfield – mavis.stanfield@alexandriava.gov

In accordance with Section 11-500 of the Zoning Ordinance, the above listed request may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning & Zoning. If you have any comments regarding the proposal above, please contact Planning & Zoning staff at (703) 746-4666 or email the planner listed no later than November 17, 2022.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notification is given that First National Bank of Pennsylvania, 166 Main Street, Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125, has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on or about October 25, 2022, as specified in 12 CFR 5, for permission to establish a branch office at 704 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with Debra Burke, Director for District Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 12 CFR 5, or by email to Debra.Burke@occ.treas.gov, within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication. The public portion of the application is available upon written request to the Director for District Bank Licensing. The public may find information regarding this application, including the date of the end of the public comment period, in the OCC Weekly Bulletin at www.occ.gov.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 37-foot utility telecommunications structure at the approx. vicinity of 5225 Winter View Drive, Alexandria, VA 22312. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, McKayla Grasham, m.grasham@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

**POTOMAC WINDOW CLEANING**

Residential window cleaning inside and out. Serving the local area for 35 years. Family owned and operated. (703) 356-4459. Licensed, Bonded, Insured. The Montgomery family thanks you for your interest.

**CHEVY CHASE FLOOR WAXING SERVICE**

Wood floor polishing, buffing, waxing. Serving local area 30 years. Licensed, bond & insured (301) 656-1810. We do not repair damaged floors.

**SMITH RIVER LAND AUCTION**

Henry Co., VA. 1,244 +/- acres with 20,500’ of Prime Smith River Frontage. These prime building and recreational tracts will be offered in 17 tracts, ranging from 18+/- acres to 144+/- acres, on November 17, 11 AM at Chatmoss Country Club – Martinsville, VA. The section of the Smith River north of Mitchell Bridge is known as the big trout waters! Property Location: 2900 Mitchell Road, Ridgeway, VA will put you in the middle of the property. For information, visit woltz.com or call Woltz & Associates, Inc. (VA#321), Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers 800-551-3588.

**ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net**

**AUCTIONS**

Prepare for power outages today
WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(844) 947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* – A $695 Value!

Prepared for power outages today WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

$0 MONEY DOWN – LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions.

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE**

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(844) 947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* – A $695 Value!
LET US GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE
SPOOKY REAL ESTATE MARKET

Happy Halloween

Follow us and our famous client,
Bixby - ALX Dog Walk Ambassador, on Instagram:
@kristenjonesrealestate  @bixby/englishcreammolde

KRISTEN JONES
DC Modern Luxury Top 50 Real Estate Agents in the DMV 2022
Northern Virginia Magazine Best Real Estate Agent 2018-2022
Washingtonian’s Best Real Estate Agent 2018-2022
RealTrends America’s Best Real Estate Professionals 2018-2022
Proud sponsor of Old Town Business
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109 S. Pitt St, Alexandria, VA 22314 | Equal Housing Opportunity