Alexandria Democrats sweep General Assembly races, help flip House of Delegates

BY CAITLYN MEISNER

Democrats maintained their hold on the city of Alexandria – and took full control of the state legislature – Tuesday night as both chambers in the General Assembly now tout a Democratic majority.

Incumbent State Senator Adam Ebbin (D-39) and incumbent Delegates Alfonso Lopez (D-3), Charniele Herring (D-4) and Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (D-5) all won easily, with Herring and Bennett-Parker running unopposed. Though Alexandria’s district numbers and boundaries changed due to redistricting, the result was familiar.

There was a 36% voter turnout in the city of Alexandria, with more than 40,000 registered voters casting ballots out of the 112,080 total registered voters.

The odd-year election for General Assembly seats and other local offices will likely thwart much of the ambitious agenda that had been laid out by Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, which included a 15-week ban on abortions, except in cases of rape, incest or for the life of the mother.

Republicans had hoped to flip the State Senate, which the Democrats narrowly controlled for the last two years, and to maintain their slender control of the House of Delegates. Instead, it was the Democrats who maintained their hold on the Senate and narrowly captured the House.

Democrats won 21 seats in the Senate and Republicans had captured 19. In district 16 – which represents Rich mond – Schuyler VanValkenburg, a Democrat, flipped the seat from incumbent Republican Siobhan Dunnavant. Both candidates spent more than $4.5 million in the campaign, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

Democrats won 51 seats and Republicans took 48 as of the Times’ deadline. Dozens of races went uncontested around the state. In district 97, which represents the coal tar from the soil and groundwater, pipe upgrades to the storm sewer to keep coal tar contamination from migrating down into the river, sediment testing to see if more remediation is needed and the Mussel Project where the city plans to add 20,000 freshwater mussels into the river to naturally purify it.

Nancy Stoner, the president of the PRKN, heralded the settlement as a historic win for the people of Alexandria.

“We commend the city for agreeing to take the necessary corrective action to halt and clean up this pollution, which has been harming the Potomac River for decades,” Stoner said.

Resident enjoying a boat parade on the Potomac River.

A ‘blue wave’

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The settlement provides a comprehensive plan that includes upland remediation enhancements to remove the coal tar from the soil and groundwater, pipe upgrades to the storm sewer to keep coal tar contamination from migrating down into the river, sediment testing to see if more remediation is needed and the Mussel Project where the city plans to add 20,000 freshwater mussels into the river to naturally purify it.

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Pia Taylor
pia.taylor@compass.com

The Rivkin Group
bonnie.rivkin@compass.com
courtney.rivkin@compass.com
Week of November 9 crime roundup

A commercial robbery took place on November 2 in the early morning at 30 South Reynolds St., according to a press release from the Alexandria Police Department. A weapon was involved and no injuries were reported. APD is still investigating.

A commercial robbery took place on November 2 in the early morning at the 1600 block of North Quaker Lane, according to a press release from APD. A weapon was involved and no injuries were reported. APD is still investigating.

- ivanpate@alextimes.com

WEEKLY BRIEFING

AlexMoves survey launched this week

The city is requesting input from residents on how to improve transportation in the city in a survey called AlexMoves, according to a general press release. The survey will be distributed in the mail this week to select individuals and should take around 10 minutes to complete.

Alexandria residents who do not receive a survey in the mail can still participate in an online survey that will be available in the coming weeks. All survey answers will be confidential and those interested in completing the survey must be 18 years or older. Those with questions or concerns should contact Carson Lucarelli at carson.lucarelli@alexandriava.gov.

- ivanpate@alextimes.com

City secures flood insurance discount

Flood mitigation efforts in the city earned a 20% discount for Alexandria residents on flood insurance policies, according to a press release from the city. The city received a class six rating from the National Flood Insurance Community Rating System. The CRS program recognizes local communities implementing flood management practices that exceed federal minimum requirements. The city has met three goals of reducing flood damage to insurable properties, strengthening and supporting insurance and encouraging a comprehensive approach to flood management. Alexandria was the first community in the Commonwealth to receive this rating in 2013.

- cmeisner@alextimes.com

IMperfeKtlymade Foundation fashion show

The IMperfeKtlymade Foundation supports blind and visually impaired individuals. Two of the models – who are blind or have poor vision – strut down the runway at the fashion show.

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“This is a win for the Potomac River, the residents of Alexandria and for everyone who relies on the river for drinking water and recreation.”

Deputy City Manager Emily Baker provided background on what exactly took place between the city and the Riverkeeper Network.

“The city has been negotiating with the Potomac Riverkeeper for some time, and we just entered into an agreement that was filed [November 1], a settlement, for the city’s remediation of the remnants of the coal tar contamination that occurred as part of the operation of the Alexandria Town Gas Manufacturing Plant over 100 years ago,” Baker said.

The Alexandria Town Gas Plant, which was in operation from 1851 to 1946, is said to be the source of the coal tar contamination that exists in the river today.

Andrew Macdonald, founder of the Environmental Council of Alexandria and former vice mayor of Alexandria, believes the contamination is due in part to a poor cleanup job that took place in the 1970s when new housing was built around North Lee and Oronoco Streets under the supervision of Dayton L. Cook, the Transportation and Environmental Services Director at the time.

“We wouldn’t be having the problem today if the plant had been cleaned up properly, so the assumption is that [Cook] was certainly the person that should have made sure that the cleanup was done properly. You wouldn’t be having the stuff still leaking into the river all these years later if the soil had been cleaned up,” Macdonald said.

Macdonald raised concerns that the coal tar was allowed to fester and drip into the river between the plant’s closing and the cleanup that took place afterwards, emphasizing that there may have been a window of more than 30 years to clean the area.

“If the plant closed in 1940, what was going on between [the] 1940s and 1970s?” Macdonald asked. “I don’t know, but you had an opportunity there to clean it up, and the chemicals themselves are incredibly toxic.”

Coal tar contamination and the dangers it poses are not to be underestimated. Macdonald, who is a geologist, broke down the many toxic chemicals...
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cals at play and the potential harm they can bring to aquatic life and the broader ecosystem, including the risks to human health.

“There’s all sorts of toxic chemicals. Polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and chemicals I can’t even remember. Some of which get into the groundwater; some of them dissolve easily; some don’t dissolve easily,” Macdonald said. “Some can be absorbed into aquatic life and result in harming the different types of fish and other creatures in the Potomac. Obviously, you don’t want to be drinking the stuff and you don’t want to be breathing it.”

Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks said he came across the coal tar contamination in 2015 while doing an investigation of Alexandria’s combined sewer system.

“We were on the wrong side of the pier, and we found this outfall [where] there was all this oil coming out. And I was like – what is going on here?” Naujoks said. “It is absolutely illegal for any stormwater pipe to be discharging oil. If you see a sheen there, it’s called an illicit discharge. There’s no permit that you can get anywhere in the country for discharging oil into a public waterway.”

Naujoks said the toxins in the water released a petroleum-like odor into the air.

“All neighbor will tell you: you could smell petroleum,” Naujoks said. “Especially when it’s low tide, when those sediments were exposed to the open air, all those volatile organic compounds, all these naphthalene and coal tar [chemicals] would all of a sudden be in the air. People could smell it, it was nasty.”

Throughout the next few years, the Riverkeeper Network went back and forth with the city multiple times, urging them to eliminate the source of the oil instead of implementing band-aid measures.

“The bigger issue for us was they had no real plan to stop the source of contamination. The oil that was just charging out the pipe sometimes daily,” Naujoks said. “Even if you dredge this – they did dredge it by the way, I think it costs $3 million to dredge the contaminated sediments – you’re going to recontaminate this site if you don’t actually eliminate the source.”

Macdonald echoed a similar sentiment on why it’s important to clear up the contamination at its source.

“Part of the problem with all of this [are the questions] ‘Where is the source of the contamination?’ And ‘Are we really cleaning up?’” Macdonald said. “Are they going to just continue to pump and treat and try to keep it from getting into the river, which is certainly a good thing to do. But the question is, ‘Have they really addressed where the source of the pollution is and can they get at it and clean that up?’ Because that’s really the only way, unless it’s spread now.”

Frustrated with the lack of significant progress, the Potomac Riverkeeper Network filed a lawsuit suing the city in 2022.

“For [six] years, we tried to avoid filing a lawsuit to be perfectly blunt. We really tried to work with the city from 2016 all the way till 2022. And in January of 2022, we sent a letter to the mayor telling him, if you don’t come up with a real plan, we’re going to move forward with our lawsuit,” Naujoks said.

Baker maintains that the city had already been well
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ELECTION

FROM | 1

parts of Virginia Beach City, Democrat Michael Feggans unseated incumbent Republican Karen Greenhalgh. This race was also expensive, as both candidates spent upwards of $2 million according to the VAPAP.

Ebbin said he was excited to get to work with fellow Democrats in the House and Senate now that there is a majority in his party’s favor.

“After [Youngkin] was just served the biggest political rejection by Virginia voters ... Democrats remain ready to work across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions for the betterment of our Common-wealth,” Ebbin wrote on X – the platform formerly known as Twitter – Tuesday night. Here are the Alexandria results, with 97% of the vote in.

State Senate District 39

State Senator Adam Ebbin won reelection Tuesday night in a race against Republican Sophia Moshasha. Ebbin managed to get nearly 79% of the vote, with Moshasha taking 21% according to the official Virginia election results website.

Ebbin, who has represented Alexandria in the State Senate since 2012, said he remains committed to the district and is excited for the upcoming session.

“I remain eager to serve all Alexandrians to the best of my ability,” Ebbin said. “I want to serve the people of the 39th in good faith.”

Ebbin also said – in a late-night phone call with the Times – he and the Democratic Party are “where they’ve always been,” in terms of looking for solutions.

“Republicans were clearly for book bans and MAGA,” Ebbin said. “The people of Virginia don’t want to let Youngkin run amok. We are in sync with the Virginia voters.”

Looking ahead to the next session, which starts January 10, Ebbin said he is hopeful the General Assembly can pass or consider constitutional amendments on marriage equality and other progressive policies.

“Republicans are ideologically rigid and out of step [because] they have refused to consider [constitutional] amendments,” Ebbin said. “Now, that’s all back on the table.”

This will be Ebbin’s fourth term in the State Senate.

House of Delegates, Third District

Democrat Alfonso Lopez won the third House district with a share of 78% of the vote compared to opponent Maj. Mike Webb, an independent, who received nearly 20% of the vote according to the official Virginia election results website.

Lopez represents parts of both Arlington and Alexandria. In Alexandria, Lopez represents the Charles Barrett, George Mason School, Chinquapin Park and Blessed Sacrament Church precincts.

This will be Lopez’s fourth term in the House of Delegates. He was the first Latino Democrat elected to the General Assembly in 2011. He also served as the Democratic Whip in the House from 2016 to 2022.

House of Delegates, Fourth District

Democrat Charniele Herring won the fourth House district with a share of nearly 93% of the vote according to the official Virginia election results website. She ran uncontested.

On X, Herring posted her excitement for taking back the House of Delegates and her win.

“This would not have been possible without the hard work of our amazing candidates, volunteers, donors and staff,” Herring wrote. “You all made history and I couldn’t be more proud. Let’s keep moving Virginia forward!”

Herring represents parts of Fairfax County and the city of Alexandria. In Alexandria, Herring represents James K. Polk School, Charles E. Beatty Library, Olympus Condo and South Port precincts.

This will be Herring’s fifth term in the House. She also serves as the Democratic Caucus Chair, a position she’s held since 2015, and was the first African American elected to the chair position of the state’s Democratic Party.

House of Delegates, Fifth District

Democrat Elizabeth Bennett-Parker won the fifth House district with a share of 91% of the vote according to the official Virginia election results website. She ran uncontested. Write-in candidates received nearly 2,100 votes, or nearly 9% of the vote.

Bennett-Parker represents almost all of the City of Alexandria, excluding the precincts covered by Herring and Lopez. The largest precincts under Bennett-Parker include Douglas Macarthur School, Temple Beth El Synagogue, Ladrey Senior Building and City Hall.

“I am so honored and grateful to ... continue to serve Alexandria,” Bennett-Parker wrote on X. “I’m thrilled to be returning with a Democratic majority in the House and Senate.”

Bennett-Parker was elected to City Council in 2018, and received the most votes to become vice mayor, a position she held from 2019 through 2021. She ran in 2021 for the House Delegate seat, unseating incumbent Democrat Mark Levine in the primary.

-cmeisner@alextimes.com
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High school football regular season review

Ireton looks to playoffs, storied rivalry approaches for Episcopal
BY RYAN HOPPER

Another regular season of Friday night lights has come to a close in Alexandria, with varying results for the city’s four high schools. From historically good to bad seasons, here is how high school football played out this year.

Bishop Ireton Cardinals

Bishop Ireton had a successful season under third-year head coach Gary Wortham Sr., going 7-3 overall and 2-2 in the tough Washington Catholic Athletic Conference. This is the Cardinals’ best record and first winning season since 2015 when it went 8-3.

Ireton, led by senior dual-threat quarterback Omar Diallo, beat five schools by margin when it went 8-3.

On Saturday, Ireton will play its most anticipated game in years: a playoff tilt with Archbishop Carroll in the WCAC Metro Division semifinal. The Cardinals will return to Carroll’s campus, where the Lions narrowly prevailed 18-16 over Ireton early last month. An Ireton win wouldn’t just avenge the school’s loss to Carroll – which went 5-1 in WCAC play – but give the Cardinals its first playoff win since 2007, a lifetime ago for many on the field.

The winner will most likely go on to play St. Mary’s Ryken for the division crown. The Knights have been the dominant team in the WCAC Metro division this year, beating division opponents by an average of 25 points per game.

Episcopal Maroon

Ranked No. 17 in the Washington Post’s pre-season top 20 and coming off a conference title, expectations were high for Episcopal entering the 2023 season. After a solid 2-1 start in out-of-conference play, the Maroon squared off against city rival St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes looking to preserve its 14-game winning streak against the Saints, dating all the way back to 2007. Episcopal took care of business at the Hummel Bowl, handily beating the Saints 34-9 and Landon were to lose this week, Episcopal would clinch back-to-back IAC titles.

Results from across the Potomac presumably are not the main thing on the team’s mind as the Maroon prepares for the 122nd edition of “the game.” Dating back to 1901, Episcopal’s storied rivalry with Woodberry Forest – an all-male boarding school in Orange, Virginia – is one of the oldest high school football rivalries in the nation. Virginia Living called it “the South’s oldest continuous high school football rivalry.”

“The game” is so meaningful to students and alumni of both schools that former presidential candidate and Episcopal alum John McCain called the Episcopal team on the day of “The game.”

The Titans were not competitive in many games, allowing 39 points per game and losing by an average of 27.5 per game. This was a sharp drop-off compared to head coach Rodney Hughey’s first three years at the helm, with the Titans going 14-14 with two playoff appearances during that span.

St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes Saints

Similar to ACHS, the Saints did not have the season they hoped for. Initially, there were optimistic signs as SSSAS went 2-2 in its first four games, including a 51-14 win over Bishop O’Connell and a 25-0 shutout of the Potomac School.

Unfortunately, the Saints could not carry any momentum into IAC play, with the aforementioned lopsided loss against arch-rival Episcopal sending its season into a tailspin with five straight conference losses to end the year. This season marked the first time the Saints hadn’t won a conference game since 2016.

-Drew Hopper 
rhopper@utexas.edu
underway with these initiatives and that they would be fixing
the pollution now even without pressure from the River-
keeper Network.
“Even though [this consent decree] hasn’t actually gone
into effect yet, we’ve already started implementing the work
that’s in there, because we’re committed to doing it, and we
would be committed to doing it even without the lawsuit from
the Potomac Riverkeeper,” Baker said.
Naujoks, however, saw the
situation in a different light.
“The city said in 2016, they
wanted to work with us to de
velop a solution. And here it
was six years later in 2022,
there was no solution in place,”
Naujoks said. “I’ve never
waited that long to sue a pol-
luter ever. I’ve been doing this
for 22 years. I will never wait
that long again ever.”
Macdonald said he’s thank-
ful for the Riverkeeper’s efforts
and is hopeful for the future of
the river.
“Hopefully [this lawsuit]
will lead to a more proper cleanup of this site,” Macdon-
ald said. “I think it’s long over-
due and I hope that it leads to
some real meaningful reduc-
tion in the pollution and as-
suming that can be done easily
without actually going and re-
moving soil and sediment up
from the river.
A key component for the
city’s plan to fix the contami-
nation in the river is the Mussel
Project. Baker explained what
the project entails.
“We have committed to
providing funds of $300,000
to the Virginia Department
of Wildlife Resources to fund
a project to introduce over
20,000 freshwater mussels
to the Potomac River, which
they will serve as cleaning out.
They remove nutrients and
pollutants from the water,”
Baker said.
Naujoks says that instead of
paying a mandated fine to the
Department of Treasury for
environmental violations, the
city will instead reinvest that
money into the Mussel project.
“The city would have been
required to pay a fine to the
Department of Treasury, and
we asked that that money go
back into the Potomac River,”
Naujoks said. “Alexandria
agreed to reinvest $300,000 of
mussels back into the Potomac
River rather than pay a fine or
penalty to the Department
of Treasury.”
In adhering to the new
plan, the city aims to address
past failures and ensure the
Potomac’s viability for fu-
ture generations. The Mussel
Project is expected to start in
early 2024, with the other pro-
grams to begin implementa-
tion shortly after.

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Alexandria Film Festival returns for 17th year

BY LAURA VAN PATE

The Alexandria Film Festival returns for its 17th year Friday through Sunday. More than 50 films will be shown at various locations, including the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, the Lyceum, and the AMC Hoffman Center.

Patti North said she started the festival back in 2007 because she felt there was something missing in the arts culture in Alexandria.

"People kept telling me that we needed a digital revolution to display art in Alexandria instead of being stuck in the Renaissance, and that's why I came up with the festival," North said.

The festival shows a variety of film genres, including thrillers. One of these films is "Art Thief" directed by Arthur Egeli, which is based on a true story of a 1990 robbery at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. The film follows an untalented artist who ends up stealing a painting.

"We were invited to the film festival by Patti North, and we didn’t have to think twice about attending. Me and the ... cast and crew chose to show our film at the Alexandria Film Festival because it’s an independent festival, and our movie is an independent film," Egeli said. "We thought it would be an amazing opportunity, especially in a city that’s close to Washington D.C."

"Privacy" is another thriller film being shown at this year’s festival. Directed by Sudeep Kanwal, "Privacy" is an Indian film about a woman who investigates a robbery and a murder. The film was shown earlier this year at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival in South Korea.

"Privacy" is one of the selected films at the festival that will provide the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer panel with directors, actors and producers after the showing.

The festival will also show drama films, including "Normal" and "Two Lives in Pittsburgh."

"Normal," directed by Olivier Babinet, is a French film and tells the story of a 14-year-old girl who must juggle school, writing a novel, a part-time job and taking care of her father who has multiple sclerosis.

"Two Lives in Pittsburgh," directed by Brian Silverman, is a story about a blue-collar man struggling with his mother’s illness and his child’s exploration of gender. The man is torn between who he has always been and what his child needs him to be.

The festival also has a slate of comedy films such as Bob Byington’s “Lousy Carter,” which tells the story of a “man-baby” English professor suffering from a moody reality, which worsens when he finds out he only has six months to live.

"It’s really hard for me to pick a favorite film because we’re showing many great ones," North said. "I think what’s great about this festival is that we get to showcase such amazing works of art, especially in a historic city like Alexandria."

North said this year’s festival will differ from years past.

"The new location is that we get to show our movie at the Lyceum, which is based on a true story," Egeli said. "We thought it would be an amazing opportunity, especially in a city that’s close to Washington D.C."

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North said this year’s festival will differ from years past.

"This movie resonates with me because it’s about someone going through ALS, which my husband battled. It’s these types of movies that tell personal stories that make me love the Alexandria Film Festival," Tobin said.

Those interested in attending the film festival can buy an all-festival pass for $80 at alexfilmfestindie.eventive.org/passes/buy. Those who want to buy tickets for specific films can go to alexfilmfestindie.eventive.org/schedule. Those interested in volunteering at the festival can email alexfilmfestvolunteer@gmail.com.
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Education section

Fusion Academy holds bake-off

Fusion Academy recently hosted its first-ever bake-off competition last month, dreamed up by a student as a class project. This soon turned into a campus-wide initiative. Students divided into teams and collaborated to create their confections. The students whipped up a variety including homemade churros, pies, cookies and cakes to be judged. The winner was a freshman who baked an apple pie, coconut cake and two types of cookies.

The event fostered new connections among shy students and strengthened campus morale.

“The bake off was a lovely moment of campus unity and support for a student exploring new interests,” the teacher who coordinated the event said. “It was so exciting to see everyone’s creative takes on Halloween desserts and really feel the Fusion community spirit kicking off for the holiday season.”

ACDS students celebrate World Food Day

Alexandria Country Day School participated in several community-centered activities in honor of World Food Day, an international day to celebrate the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade sorted food donations, stocked the Little Free Pantry, made birthday boxes and activity kits for ALIVE! and made sandwiches.

Students participated in a bake-off schoolwide.
Blessed Sacrament sixth grader wins award

Blessed Sacrament School recognized sixth grader Isabella Yepes for her outstanding achievement in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education Contest. Yepes won first place at the local, state and national level for her creative piece that reflects the Dominican Sisters’ Virtues in Practice. This October, Blessed Sacrament focused on the virtue of reverence, showing your deepest respect for things of God, encapsulated by our school wide commitment to adoration and Marian devotion. Yepes’ piece touched on October’s theme of the virtue of reverence, which transitions into this month’s theme of stewardship, returning to God the first fruits of your time, talent and treasure.
Students and staff at Charles Barrett Elementary School celebrated the school’s 80th anniversary last month with the planting of a willow oak donated by the North Ridge Citizens’ Association. Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D. joined Loren Brody, principal of Charles Barrett and Assistant Principal Marcella Ahern to plant the tree.

“The school] has historic roots across generations of school families, staff and community members,” Brody said. “This ... expresses our gratitude for the dedication of so many people through the years – past and present – who have made Charles Barrett the loving and joyful school community it is today, and our commitment to a bright, flourishing future.”

Browne Academy’s Halloween parade

Ghouls and goblins paraded up the Browne Academy campus with friends and family cheering them on. The smallest Bruins stole the spotlight with a bewitching performance, leaving everyone speechless. Trick-or-treat fun and a fall festival with bounce houses, lawn games and delicious grilled food followed.

Alexandria Country Day School

Alexandria Country Day School provides a personalized experience for children, which leads to superior preparation for continuing academic and personal success. Students are challenged by the school’s curriculum, which uses leading methodologies, effective assessment and thoughtfully integrated technology. Highly trained and engaging faculty take a student-centered approach to instruction and spark enthusiasm for learning. An emphasis on speaking, writing and multimedia communication skills across all areas of the curriculum better prepares students for school, work and life.

The school’s approach to instruction encourages reflection, self-awareness and critical thinking – skills that are essential to current and future academic success. ACDS’ attention to balance and social-emotional learning help its students become kind, empathetic and community-minded individuals who work effectively with others and engage in respectful discourse. ACDS graduates are generous, kind, thoughtful, articulate and confident individuals. They are successful at highly regarded independent day and boarding high schools, and in public school STEM, honors and IB programs.

This is advertorial content.

School Profile

Alexandria Country Day School

School name: Alexandria Country Day School
Address: 2400 Russell Road
Year founded: 1983
Grades: Kindergarten through eighth grade
Number of students: 200
Mission: Challenge students intellectually; inspire their confidence, curiosity and creativity; and prepare them to thrive in a diverse and complex world by ensuring that they are independent learners, effective communicators, community-minded citizens and balanced individuals.
Website: acdsnet.org
Contact: Liz Hendrickson
703-837-1303
lhendrickson@acdsnet.org

Left: First graders release Painted Lady butterflies after studying butterfly mimicry and development. Right: An 8th grader delivers a speech in front of parents, teachers and peers at the annual Speeches & Sweets event.
As more people choose foods that are not made with meat or animal byproducts, an increasing number of Alexandria restaurants are providing vegetarian or vegan options on their menus, while others offer only vegetable and fruit-based food. Options are not limited to just entrees, as some restaurants have crafted vegetarian and vegan desserts. The options below show that residents don’t have to leave Alexandria’s city limits to dine out on excellent vegetarian or vegan food.

**Plant-licious places**

**A tour of vegan, vegetarian options in Alexandria**

BY LAURA VAN PATE

SEE VEGETARIAN

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**Foodie**

Take a page out of Elaine’s recipe book.

Page 21

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**Kindred Spirits**

Learn more about the history of whiskey in the U.S.

Page 22

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**Theatre Roundup**

Learn more about the history of whiskey in the U.S.

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Hawwi Ethiopian serves many vegan and vegetarian dishes for their customers.
Open Sunday - Wednesday
208 Queen Street, Alexandria, 22314
elaines-restaurant.com
(571) 970 - 0517

ELAINE'S

Food

We run a scratch kitchen, which means everything is cooked from scratch to order, just like grandma Elaine would have liked it. We are proud to offer a new lunch menu with guests’ favorites.

Come explore the modern Mediterranean flavors of Alexandrian cuisine. We have a wide variety of vegan and vegetarian dishes. Happy hour is everyday from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. can find the event calendar at elaines-restaurant.com/events

Events

Elaine’s has four beautiful dining rooms where we host private events such as corporate events, bridal showers, and wedding receptions.

Elaine’s has become the literary hub for the DC Metro area. Elaine’s literary salon hosts interviews with bestselling authors, book signings, launches, readings, and literary group events. You can find the event calendar at elaines-restaurant.com/events

About

Elaine’s is named after the owner’s grandmother. When she was twelve years old in Cairo, Egypt, she promised her grandmother that one day she would own a restaurant and name it after her.

The owner is proud to share her family’s recipes with the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Elaine was the first female investor in the Egyptian stock exchange in the 1950s. She lived a long life of generosity and philanthropy and she lifted thousands of people out of poverty. She lived her life dedicated to serving others, with uncompromising kindness, integrity, and love.
**Port City Flavor**

**Vegetarian from | 17**

**Hawwi Ethiopian**

With a mixture of vegan, vegetarian and meat-based meals and appetizers, Hawwi Ethiopian – located at 1125 Queen St. – has delivered a taste of Ethiopian food to the city since 2013.

Vesekadu Mosa, the owner of Hawwi, said he enjoys cooking vegan and vegetarian meals for everyone to enjoy.

“Veggies are a big part of our culture,” Mosa said.

Sambusas, also known as samosas, are a popular vegan appetizer Hawwi offers. The appetizer is a fried pastry stuffed with lentils, spinach or a mix of vegetables. This is a staple in Ethiopian cuisine and often consumed during Orthodox fasts.

One of Hawwi’s most popular dishes is the vegan sampler, a platter of 10 different dishes. It includes red and yellow lentils, red split peas, collard greens, chickpea puree, cabbage, potato, green beans, carrots, beets and spinach. The sampler is served with either basmati rice or injera, a sour fermented pancake-like flatbread and a staple in Ethiopia.

Hawwi also has breakfast options. Foule consists of plain fava beans, olive oil, cloves of garlic, diced red and green onions and tomatoes. The restaurant also makes its own traditional Ethiopian coffee often known for its vibrant fruity or flowery tones.

**Just Fine Donuts**

Just Fine Donuts, which opened in June 2021, provides a full menu of vegan donuts for all to enjoy. Located within The Dairy Godmother on Mount Vernon Avenue, Just Fine Donuts strives to pave the way for vegan desserts in Alexandria.

“I had a friend who is vegan, and one day, he decided to make me vegan donuts to show that they’re delicious,” Russell Gravatt, owner of Just Fine Donuts, said. “Before I had them, I didn’t believe that vegan donuts could be good, but I was wrong.”

Gravatt said he now wants to create the same delicious donuts that his friend made for him for vegans in Alexandria.

“There are very few restaurants out there that specifically cater to vegans, let alone restaurants that make desserts for them,” Gravatt said. “I want to make donuts that vegans in Alexandria can enjoy.”

Just Fine Donuts offers their specialty made with many different bases, including cake and yeast. The cake donuts are made from vegan cake batter. There are a variety of flavors, including two specialty flavors – apple cider and blueberry, which are only available on the weekends.

The yeast donuts – the typical base of many donut shops – are also a fan-favorite, and a common flavor is strawberry with vegan icing and sprinkles. There is also the option for a yeast donut either glazed or vegan chocolate. Just Fine also offers donut holes coated in cinnamon sugar or glazed.

Fritters are another vegan-safe option at Just Fine. Many are fruit-flavored, including apple, peach, blueberry and cherry. The fruit changes regularly.

**Zen Press Juice**

Zen Press Juice, a woman- and Asian-owned business, has offered vegans and vegetarians a variety of healthy and delicious food since moving to Alexandria in 2022 at 806 King St.

“I really enjoy making vegan and vegetarian food,” owner JuAnn Wong said. “I realized there’s a need for vegan and vegetarian options because society is becoming more conscious about eating healthy and if their food is ethically sourced.”

Although Zen Press has a limited food menu, many of the items are vegan or vegetarian-friendly, including their coconut jam toast, acai bowls, pitaya bowl, pad thai, elote burrata and avocado toast.

One of the most popular vegetarian-friendly dishes is the berry peachy burrata, which consists of arugula, peaches, strawberries, mint, cashews, burrata, balsamic glaze, and sea salt. Burrata is an Italian cow milk cheese.

A popular vegan dish is the pitaya bowl, a dragon fruit-based bowl with jackfruit, mango, strawberries, oat milk and agave as options. Topping options include granola, strawberries, lychee, coconut, hemp seeds and honey.

Many of their juice options and cleansing packages are vegetable and fruit-based. A popular juice is “Joy,” made of beets, carrots, apples, cucumbers and ginger for pre-workout.

“I think our food is really special for vegans and vegetarians to try,” Wong said. Most vegan and vegetarian places focus on replicating a burger, but instead, Zen Press Juice wants to focus on highlighting the freshness of produce paired with a clean product like tofu.”

**Elaine’s**

Elaine’s, a new Mediterranean restaurant that opened in March at 208 Queen St., is...
already serving delicious food to vegans and vegetarians. “My wife Cynthia and I really like making vegan and vegetarian options for our customers,” Jeffery Higgins, co-owner of Elaine’s, said. “I would say our sofra, which is a Greek dish that could include hummus and pita, is one of our best options for vegans and vegetarians because it can be a filling appetizer.”

One of Elaine’s famous vegetarian dishes is their salty feta, a mixture of tomato, chives, oregano and urfa pepper. Another popular dish is their vegetable shish which includes mushrooms, zucchini, squash and muhammara.

Elaine’s also offers halaloumi goulash containing phyllo-wrapped halloumi, banana-tahini and fennel.

“We opened Elaine’s because my wife promised her grandmother she would open a restaurant named after her, as her grandmother’s name is Elaine,” Higgins said. “We really think food – whether it’s vegan, vegetarian or meat – brings people together and that’s our mission with Elaine’s.”

-hvnpate@alextimes.com
Preparations
Remove cauliflower core and cut into bite size pieces. Wash dill, parsley and chives. Allow herbs to air dry, then cut into one inch pieces and combine all in a bowl to be used as a garnish and/or additional fresh flavor. Juice fresh lemon to be used for seasoning after cauliflower has been fried or roasted. Place walnuts in the oven for eight minutes at 450 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ingredients
- 2 cups cauliflower
- 4 cups roasted red pepper
- ⅛ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 ¼ cups toasted walnuts
- 8 to 10 cloves fresh garlic
- ¼ cup tomato paste
- ¼ cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons aleppo pepper
- 1 tablespoon sumac
- 3 tablespoons salt
- 1 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon pomegranate molasses

Directions
Start by frying or roasting cauliflower until tender and lightly golden brown in color. Remove cauliflower and drain on a paper towel. Remove paper towel, then season cauliflower to taste with fresh lemon juice and salt. Pour lemon juice over breadcrumbs and let them sit for 10 minutes. Add remaining ingredients to a food processor and blend for eight minutes. Add lemon breadcrumbs to mix and continue blending for two minutes.

Smear two ounces of muhammara sauce on a plate, add seasoned cauliflower on top of sauce then finish with fresh herbs. Cauliflower is best served immediately while it’s still warm.

The writer is a chef at Elaine's Modern Mediterranean.
Americans are serious about their whiskey and their taxes
BY JAY TEST

The tradition of distilling grains to create alcohol did not originate in the United States, but the craft of raising, harvesting and distilling grains to make whiskey has certainly been practiced and perfected in this country.

For a variety of reasons, governments have decided that taxing items of voluntary consumption are easy targets to generate operating revenue. Whiskey is just one of these easy targets.

Opposition to taxes, especially whiskey taxes, created a challenge for George Washington in his first term as president. In 1790, the newly formed federal government was in need of revenue at the conclusion of the American Revolution. During the war, many states took on heavy debt to support the war effort. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton thought an excise tax on whiskey would help provide the funds necessary for his plan to help repay the states.

From its inception, the tax on whiskey was a failure. The tax fell heaviest on farmers in western Pennsylvania. Over the next few years, most farmers simply ignored the government's efforts to collect the tax while others threatened the revenue officials sent for that purpose.

Washington was not in favor of Hamilton’s tax plan when he allowed it to be implemented, but the opposition of the Pennsylvania farmers escalated the situation to a crisis. Federal agents were sent to serve warrants and were eventually detained and threatened, but ultimately were released unharmed.

Washington had no choice but to enforce the excise tax and restore order in western Pennsylvania. With 1,200 militia from eastern Pennsylvania and Virginia, he marched to western Pennsylvania in 1794 and peacefully put an end to the uprising.

From its founding, it is clear that many in this country take their whiskey – and their taxes – seriously. What is this beverage that inspires revolution?

“Whiskey” is a general term for an alcoholic liquor made from fermented grain mash. The grain or mix of grains used will often depend on what is available locally. Irish whiskey is typically made from Irish barley, while American whiskey is usually made from locally grown corn or rye. Most whiskies are aged in wooden casks and almost always are at least 40% alcohol by volume.

To be classified as bourbon, the whiskey must be made from a grain mixture that is at least 51% corn. True bourbon production uses specific types of barrels and traditional distillation methods.

Whiskey can be made from a variety of grains with the general definition requiring that the content be made from at least 51% of the named grain. Rye whiskey must be at least 51% rye. Note that a blended whisky, like Crown Royal, is made from a number of whiskies and has no dominant grain on its label.

And why is whiskey not whisky in the U.S.? The two words are names for an alcoholic beverage made from grains. Ireland and the U.S. use the term whiskey, yet other regions of the world – including Scotland, Canada and Japan – use whisky.

Either way, with more than 250 different labels, you will find the whiskey or whisky of your choice at “1986,” the Whiskey Bar, at Union Street Public House. Alexandria has several other establishments that carry fine whiskies, too. Check out the selection at Daniel O’Connell’s Pub, Whiskey & Oyster or Two Nineteen Restaurant.
Six ways to weatherize your home for the season

BY FAMILY FEATURES

A changing of the seasons may mean adjustments to your routine and updates to your home decor, but it also brings maintenance and upgrade opportunities for homeowners. As temperatures shift and cooler weather rolls in, weatherizing can help you conserve energy, save money and improve comfort while protecting the exterior and interior of your home from the elements.

This checklist can help you keep the outdoors out.

**Inspect heating and cooling systems**

Turn to the professionals to have your furnace and air conditioning inspected before temperatures change. They can make sure the system is working properly so you can have heat or cool air when you need it while conducting safety checks to keep your family safe from carbon monoxide leaks and other hazards. Plus, having your system inspected before any extreme weather means necessary repairs can be completed before you’re relying on it for comfort.

**Trim trees**

Your trees and shrubs might provide a beautiful aesthetic in spring and summer, but winter weather can turn them into hazards for your home. Heavy winds and snow and ice buildup can cause branches to break off and damage roofs or windows. Some experts recommend waiting until leaves fall to prune, so be sure to research the types of trees on your property and understand the best maintenance methods.

**Clear gutters**

While it’s a bit of a dirty job, clearing gutters of debris and buildup like leaves and twigs keeps the system running as it should. Gutters can’t properly drain when they’re blocked, which means water isn’t being diverted properly. This leads to water spilling over and can cause problems ranging from mold or mildew to larger issues like foundation damage.

**Secure outdoor furniture**

It may cause a bit of sadness putting patio furniture away for the season, but it’s an important step in protecting both the furniture itself and your home from high winds or increased moisture during the rainy season. Some pieces may need to be stored away while others can simply be covered, but make sure to clean and carefully dry to avoid mold and mildew growth beforehand.

**Hire a roof inspector**

The roof is a critical component in keeping your home structurally sound. A professional can examine your roof for damage and assess anything that may need to be fixed or replaced ahead of winter weather or rain.

This examination includes shingles, soffit, fascia, chimneys, gutters and more along with a check for signs of interior damage like water stains, mold, holes or wood rot.
NOVEMBER 10

17TH ANNUAL ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL
With more than 50 independent films, the 17th Annual Alexandria Film Festival will be jam-packed with entertainment. Directors, producers and actors will partake in interactive “Meet the Filmmaker” events following screenings. Passes are $80.
Time: Noon to 6 p.m.
Location: Hoffman Theater, The Lyceum and Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Central Library
Information: alexfilmfest.com

NOVEMBER 11

TEEN PAINTBALL TRIP
Children aged 11 to 17 are invited to participate in a paintball trip. Strategize, dodge and aim while engaging in thrilling paintball battles. Registration is required and costs $75 per person.
Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: Hoffman Theater, The Lyceum and Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Central Library
Information: alexfilmfest.com

NOVEMBER 12

HISTORIC CEMETERY TOURS
Discover a walking expedition through the historical Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex and delve into the lives of individuals laid to rest with connections to the Lee-Fendall House. Tickets are $20 per person – $15 for museum members – and must be purchased in advance. Space is limited.
Time: 1 to 2:15 p.m.
Location: Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St.
Information: contact@leefendallhouse.org or 703-548-1789

NOVEMBER 13

INFO SECURITY FOR SENIORS
Join the library for a presentation on avoiding scams and keeping personal information safe in time for holiday shopping. Learn about current and common scams and how to avoid them while online shopping.
Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon
Location: Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Information: alexlibraryva.org/events

NOVEMBER 14

PUZZLE SWAP
Swap your completed puzzles for a new challenge. Located on tables outside the Large Meeting Room and is meant to be an ongoing event. Ensure all pieces are in the puzzle before depositing.
Time: 4 to 7 p.m.
Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr., Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Information: 703-746-1702

NOVEMBER 15

O’CONNELL’S WHISKEY SOCIETY
Join O’Connell’s for whiskey tastings paired with menu bites. This month will feature Scotch. $45 per person.
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Location: 112 King St.
Information: danieloconnells.org or call 703-739-1124

BEAUJOLAIS AND BEYOND
Tour the diverse and delicious regions of France in an evening of indulgence with the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee. French chef and culinary instructor Hugh Cossard will join to guide attendees through French delicacies. Marc Lotterie will guide the wine tasting. Guests must be 21 or older to participate. $65 per person.
Time: 7 to 9 p.m.
Location: Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St.
Information: shop.alexandriava.gov

NOVEMBER 16

SENIOR FALL HARVEST LUNCHEON
Embrace the autumn season and compete for prizes with seniors. Seasonal meal provided with games, crafts, music and friendship. For ages 55 and older. Free.
Time: Noon to 2 p.m.
Location: Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave.
Information: 703-746-5557

NOVEMBER 17

AT A GLANCE
Address: 1305 Dartmouth Road, Alexandria, 22314
Neighborhood: College Park
Price: $2,395,000
Square feet: 6,500
Bedrooms: 6
Bathrooms: 4.5
Year built: 2001
Contact: Kerry Adams 703-587-7841
Melissa Shelby 703-627-0074

HOMES ADVERTORIAL

Spacious College Park home

Nestled at the end of a private street, this beautifully renovated residence has all the features today’s buyers expect – an open floor plan, abundant space, high ceilings and custom details throughout. The inviting main level with newly refinished hardwood floors features a brand new kitchen with chef-caliber appliances, custom cabinetry, quartz countertops and a large walk-in pantry. Upstairs, you’ll find four bedrooms and three bathrooms, including a luxurious owner’s suite with two walk-in closets, sitting area, fireplace and newly renovated designer bathroom. The fully finished walk-out basement has a large rec room, two bedrooms, a den/gym, storage area and full bathroom. Entertain or relax in the stunning outdoor oasis with over $300,000 in professional landscaping, an expansive deck, putting green and lawn area. The location is ideal with shopping, dining, parks and the brand new MacArthur Elementary within a short distance.
Onstage, Alexandria

Spend the holiday season in the theaters with these showings

BY MARK EDELMAN

Theaters in the DMV are lit up brightly for the holidays in November and December. Check out some of these productions, live onstage in the DMV.

MEL BROOKS’ “YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN” Little Theatre of Alexandria, through November 11

From the creators of Broadway’s record-breaking musical comedy sensation, “The Producers,” comes this monster of a hit musical based on Mel Brook’s comedic film masterpiece. A wickedly inspired re-imagining of the legend of Frankenstein, YF is the story of a bright young grandson who travels to Transylvania to complete his grandfather’s experiment. Like the movie, it’s for mature audiences. Tickets at www.alex剧场.com

“FAT HAM” Studio Theatre, through December 4

The D.C. premier of James Ijames’ hit Broadway play based on “Hamlet.” Swapping a Danish castle for a North Carolina barbecue pit, “Fat Ham” remakes Shakespeare’s tragic tale of murder and revenge into an often hilarious play about a Black queer Southern kid who has a lot on his plate when his father’s ghost shows up demanding vengeance. Tickets at www.studiotheatre.org

“RAGTIME” Signature Theatre, through January 7

Signature reinvents this expansive Tony Award-winning epic musical for its intimate second stage. The stories of three turn-of-the-century American families intertwine against the backdrop of a towering slate of historical figures. Tickets at www.signaturetheater.org

“The Winter’s Tale” Folger Theatre, through December 17

With the magic and fantastical elements of a fairy tale, Shakespeare’s late career romance takes us on a journey filled with fascinating characters, complex relationships — and a bear chasing everyone around. One of the Bard’s more complex offerings. Tickets at www.folger.edu

“MOSES” Theatre J, December 1 through 24

A world premier about faith, love and going it alone, this one man show takes us on a singular journey to find forgiveness, a long-lost dream, and the man himself. Tickets at www.theatrej.org

“CONFEDERATES” Mosaic Theater, through November 19

Award-winning playwright Dominique Morisseau, fresh from her Broadway successes in “ Ain’t Too Proud” and “Skeleton Crew,” serves up the fascinating, parallel stories of slave turned Union spy Sara and modern day professor Sandra. Across 160 years, these brave women struggle on the frontlines of freedom, no matter the cost. Tickets at www.mosaictheater.org

“Miracle on 34th Street” Toby’s Dinner Theatre, November 10 through January 7

The holiday classic becomes a Broadway musical in this adaptation of the film about a young girl who doubts the existence of Santa Claus until a very special old man changes her mind. Tickets at www.tobysdinnertheatre.com

“PUBLIC OBSCENITIES” Woolly Mammoth, November 13 through December 23

A bilingual — Bengali and English — play about coming home to the things we see, the things we miss and the things that turn us on. A grandfather’s photograph exposes some of the unspoken past that threatens to come between a Kolkata native and his Black American boyfriend. Tickets at Tickets at www.woollymammoth.net

“A Christmas Carol” Little Theatre of Alexandria, December 2 through 16

Join all your favorite Dickens characters — Tiny Tim and the Cratchit family; the Fezziwigs; the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come; and, of course, everyone’s favorite curmudgeon, Ebenezer Scrooge — as they transport us back to Victorian England in this annual holiday classic. Tickets at www.thelittletheatre.com

“A Steampunk Christmas Carol” Next Stop Theatre, December 2 through 17

Ebenezer Scrooge’s Phantasmagorical Holiday Adventure marks its tenth anniversary, a “by kids for kids” holiday tradition suitable for the whole family. Expect an imaginative retelling of this beloved holiday story. Tickets at www.nextstoptheatre.org

“AS YOU LIKE IT” Shakespeare Theatre Company, December 2 through 31

In this hippie-dippie adaptation of the Bard’s youthful comedy, Beatles tunes, mixed signals and mistaken identities make for a total blast this holiday season. Rosalind and the gang discover that “all you need is love” in this sometimes silly take on one of Shakespeare’s lighter efforts. Tickets at www.shakespearetheatre.org

“The Seafarer” Round House Theatre, December 6 through 31

Conor McPherson’s riveting play, set on a stormy Irish coast, brings a pair of down-on-their-luck brothers together to confront their pasts and fight for their futures. The dark comedy celebrates camaraderie and the hope provided by second chances. Tickets at www.roundhousetheatre.org

“The Snow Maiden” Synetic Theater, December 9 through January 6

Arlington’s renowned physical theater company presents a holiday tale about a boy whose snow friend miraculously comes to life. Their time together is full of mischief and laughter, but can the cold winter keep their friendship alive forever? Tickets at www.synetictheater.org

The writer is a playwright who loves writing about theater. He is a lifetime member of the Broadway League and a Tony voter.
Editorial

Better late than never

A cleanup of toxic material that takes place 80 years later is better than no cleanup at all. But it does beg the question: “What have you been doing these four score years?”

For those not familiar with the issue, a settlement between the city of Alexandria and the Potomac Riverkeeper Network over a lawsuit filed by PRN was announced on November 1. The site in question is the old Alexandria Town Gas Manufacturing Plant at the intersection of North Lee and Oronoco streets.

The plant at the edge of the Potomac River fueled Alexandria with natural gas produced from coal for 95 years, but left the site inundated with coal tar residue when it closed in 1946. Not surprisingly, over the years this highly toxic residue made its way into the Potomac River. For more information on the issue, see the Times page 1 story, “Lawsuit settled between city, Potomac Riverkeepers.”

What’s astonishing is that it took a lawsuit from the PRN filed in 2022 to nudge Alexandria, a proud holder of the “Eco-City” designation, into action.

And for those new to the topic of waste from Alexandria polluting the Potomac River, this is not the first time the PRN has helped prod the city of Alexandria into faster action. In the mid-2010s, Alexandria was also dragging its feet over swift remediation of the city’s four sewer outfalls, which during heavy rain events discharge raw sewage into the Potomac River.

Alexandria’s leaders were slow-walking plans for the costly remediation when the PRN began raising the alarm on the need for swift action on the outfalls.

For a year prior to April 2017, when Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed a bill into law requiring Alexandria’s sewer system to be fixed by 2025, PRN had pushed Alexandria’s leaders – both privately and in public statements and opeds – to move faster. Go to alextimes.com and search under “outfalls” for many pages of stories, editorials and letters on this topic.

Expedited action was forced upon Alexandria when Republican state legislators, whose downstream districts were suffering from our city’s pollution, generated a bill to force Alexandria to a tighter timeline for remediation. The bill passed with bipartisan support from environmentalists in both parties before McAuliffe signed it into law.

So, given that history, why did Alexandria dither for six years – according to PRK member Dean Naujoks – from the time PRK first raised this issue with city leaders in 2016 until the organization filed a lawsuit in 2022?

We don’t doubt Deputy City Manager Emily Baker’s assertion that Alexandria was moving ahead with planning to deal with the problem when PRK filed its lawsuit. But we also don’t doubt that, as with the outfalls issue, the city’s timeline for action was significantly longer than the situation required.

As with many issues, we sometimes fall into a false sense of security that severe pollution is something that happens elsewhere. We think of oceans filled with plastic and skies in China filled with fumes from polluting factories.

It’s startling to realize that a city as environmentally conscious as Alexandria has a significant pollution problem.

Yes, it’s a situation inherited from past polluters and long-ago city officials who were remiss in cleaning up these messes from the city’s industrial past. And, yes, the city’s budget is under pressure on many fronts.

But the first function of government at any level is protection. Cleaning up Alexandria’s toxic messes, now not later, is a vital component of protecting those who live and visit here.
The proposed zoning change is silent on a replacement for the term “family” to describe the permitted occupants of dwellings. Instead, it would allow the Virginia uniform building code to become the only limit on occupancy of dwellings, which would allow two occupants per bedroom, e.g., a four-bedroom dwelling could have eight unrelated occupants, provided certain minimal standards are met.

Historically, Alexandria has protected against the potentially undesirable impacts of having large numbers of unrelated adults sharing single-family homes by imposing detailed regulations on the operation of “rooming houses” in the city. The third element of the proposed zoning change would eliminate all the restrictions and regulations on such facilities.

As a result, any existing home in the current single-family neighborhoods could be converted into and operated as a rooming house without the need to obtain any approvals from the city. The current zoning restrictions were put in place to protect neighborhoods from various problems that had arisen from the conversion of many homes in the Del Ray neighborhood into boarding houses or single-room occupancy dwellings before the 1990s.

Finally, the proposed changes to the zoning code would dramatically reduce the parking requirements within the current single-family zones. Imagine the impact on many of Alexandria’s residential streets if houses that today are occupied by two adults and their children—and their two cars—are transformed into de facto boarding houses with eight adult occupants and their eight vehicles.

The proposed new zoning provisions contain no safeguards to prevent such a scenario, and most residential streets cannot accommodate the additional parking that would result.

Why are these proposals being pursued?

Nominally, two reasons are driving them. First, some proponents say Alexandria needs to expand its population as the greater Washington region continues to grow. A counter argument: Alexandria is already one of the most densely populated jurisdictions in the United States and there is no need to make it even more congested.

The second argument by the proponents—and indeed a driving force behind the “Zoning for Housing/Housing for All” initiative—is the perceived need to create more affordable housing in the city.

We can leave the question of whether such efforts ever succeed to another day. For now, it is sufficient to note that city staff have publicly indicated the proposed changes to zoning for single-family neighborhoods would do little or nothing to make housing in Alexandria more affordable.

Alexandria’s city leaders must take a pause on implementing the single-family neighborhood zoning changes embodied in their broader “Zoning for Housing/Housing for All” initiative. Those of us who live in the existing single-family neighborhoods deserve to have our interests much more thoroughly considered before Alexandria breaks the covenant that has existed since long before we chose to purchase our homes.

The writer served on the city Planning Commission for 22 years, including nine as its chair.

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Family engagement in education is a partnership that helps create a positive learning environment and improve academic outcomes. As we observe Family Engagement Month in November, it is a time to reflect on all we can accomplish in working together to provide an equitable educational experience for all students. This underscores the importance of a one team, one journey mantra.

While reasons for family engagement in education may change over the years, its benefits are a constant. In pre-K and kindergarten, family engagement may help in introducing students to a new environment where they can socialize and learn.

Elementary and middle school is filled with transitions and engagement helps in addressing those challenges. During the high school years, family engagement is instrumental in ensuring every student finds their path beyond graduation, whatever that may be.

The importance of family engagement within Alexandria City Public Schools is reflected in our Family and Community Engagement Center. FACE is the only such center in a Northern Virginia school division dedicated to family engagement. It is strategically located at Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School on Alexandria’s West End, making it convenient for our diverse and ever-changing community.

FACE is where families, volunteers, children, staff and the community come together to advocate for all ACPS schools and students. At FACE, you can take advantage of family workshops and other learning resources and are provided computer and internet access. Families can also meet with our bilingual family liaisons at the Center.

Our family liaisons serve as cultural brokers between our families, schools and community, building the trust needed for a true partnership. ACPS has four division-wide family liaisons, two Spanish-speaking, one Amharic-speaking and one-Dari speaking, in addition to 10 school-based liaisons. These liaisons help empower our families, making them feel welcome and a valued partner in the learning process with our schools.

ParentSquare, a mass communications platform introduced last year, plays an important role in family engagement. It assists our families through automated translation to communicate with teachers and counselors without language being a barrier. It also centralizes all communications in one space. ParentSquare helps track student absences at the secondary level, informing parents when a student is absent after the first period, after lunch or at the end of the school day.

Family engagement is also the cornerstone of Anne. R. Lipnick Special Education Parent Resource Center. The PRC is instrumental in establishing cooperative partnerships between families and schools for our students with special needs. It also helps families navigate the special education process through its free workshops and training.

The Alexandria Parent Teacher Association Council also promotes meaningful family engagement. PTAC connects 17 PTA units, which enable families to share best practices, resources and financial support. Our PTA's provide our families the opportunity to take an active role in the school division which helps ensure students’ educational success.

Family engagement is valued for many reasons. It assists ACPS in addressing educational disparities across economics, language and race. It enables the school division to work with our families in a partnership where everyone feels welcome and concerns are addressed and contributions appreciated.

Family engagement opens the lines of communication between our families and schools and our students are the recipients of its rewards. When our schools, staff and families work together as one team, students reap the benefits in terms of improved self-esteem and reducing risky behaviors. We see regular attendance rise along with student achievement and graduation rates.

Family engagement promotes social and emotional development. It helps a child transition from early childhood education to high school graduate and successful adult, moving on to college or a career of their choice. As ACPS’ superintendent, I invite our families, staff and community to come together as one team, on one journey for the advancement of all students.

The writer is superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools.
As we celebrate Veterans Day this week, Historic Alexandria wants to highlight the contribution of 52 African American locals drafted to fight in France during World War I. Two of them, William Thomas and Christopher Cloxom, gave their lives during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and are buried in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery in France. The Alexandria Gazette chronicled Alexandria’s 1917 farewell parade for the 52 draftees and included some comments on the fighting capacity of African American soldiers that may have surprised some of its white readers.

The October 29, 1917, edition of the Gazette reported on the King Street parade given the day before to the African American men headed to Camp Lee for training. The parade included, “a local band” and “young and old of both sexes” as they escorted the draftees to Union Station. The newspaper noted that the spectators included “many white residents of the city,” as well as “old men and women, some representatives of the antebellum race of colored people.” The paper followed its well-wishes from an apparently unified Alexandria with two paragraphs of interest.

First, it emphasized the trustworthiness of African Americans during the Civil War, which was more than 50 years earlier. The paper claimed:

“Farmers and planters at that time in the custody of negroes ... we have no recollection of hearing of any crimes perpetuated by the colored people upon the helpless ones they were left to guard.”

The article concluded:

“The negro made a good soldier in the latter part of the war between the states. In the war with Spain they again manifested their nerve. There is every reason to believe they will again be found trustworthy in the greatest of all wars...”

African American soldiers had to fight with their own government to get the chance to serve as combat troops both in the Civil War and World War II. That fact makes this article’s enthusiasm for the use of African American Alexandrians as combat troops all the more notable.

In 2018, the City of Alexandria and American Legion Post 24 updated the plaques at Union Station and in Old Town to include William Thomas and Christopher Cloxom among the names of Alexandrians who gave their lives in service of our country during the Great War.

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

Weekly Poll

**Last Week**

What do you think of the city’s outreach efforts on the Zoning for Housing initiative?

- 71% They have ignored concerns expressed by residents.
- 16% I’m impressed with the number of public input sessions.
- 10% I can’t believe they spent $100k on consultants.
- 3% What’s Zoning for Housing?

**This Week**

Where should cleaning up Alexandria's toxic waste sites on the waterfront rank among our city’s priorities?

- A) First. What could be more important?
- B) It’s important, but public safety is more important.
- C) I would put it after education and public safety.
Weekly Words

DEATH NOTICES

DOUGLAS ELLMORE (78), of Alexandria, Oct. 31, 2023
MARY CATHERINE FANNON (27), of Alexandria, Oct. 30, 2023
CAROLE FERRICK (84), of Alexandria, Oct. 30, 2023
EVANGELINE GADDIS (91), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 30, 2023
ERNA BECKMANN HARRIS (86), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 20, 2023
JOHN WILLIAM JARRELL, JR. (54), of Alexandria, Oct. 30, 2023
SHIRLEY PINE KITZMILLER (91), of Alexandria, Nov. 1, 2023
KENNETH WARREN MARLOW (63), of Alexandria, Oct. 22, 2023
CHRISTA JEAN NICELY (31), of Alexandria, Nov. 2, 2023
ARTHUR MCKINLEY REYNOLDS (95), of Alexandria, Oct. 31, 2023
JOHN BRAIDWOOD SAVAGE III (77), of Alexandria, Oct. 27, 2023

APPLIED MATH by Jeffrey Martinovic & William Yuan, edited by Jeff Chen

ACROSS
1. Busy locales
5. Humphrey of "Casablanca"
11. Tool creating many parts?
15. Obsessive captain
19. Capital of Norway
20. Words from Juliet
21. ___ Sea (shrinking body of water)
22. ___-Cola
23. Big fake
24. *The punny math teacher had six lessons for her students.
To tackle factions ...
27. Org. with octagons
28. Plead
29. Court
30. Relative who might be once removed
31. *For adding negative numbers ...
38. Eats less
39. Like a toon whose head is steaming
40. Mythology with Thor
41. Pull one over on
43. Fitting name for an Uber driver?
44. "Obvs"
46. Bad sign at a beach
47. Untruth
50. Pirate's supporter?
52. *In trig problems ...
(Denzel Washington movie)
57. Baby dog
59. Midmonth time
60. Some food truck staff
61. MLB postseason round
63. Dark genre
64. Ballet move
65. In between
66. *For linear equations ...
67. In between
68. *With calculus problems ...
72. Hardly special
73. Canadian neighbor, colloquially
74. Art form that welcomes curse words?
75. The ___ Planet (nickname for Mars)
76. Small digit?
77. Full of dirt
78. Sophocles tragedy
79. Villain's lackey
80. Director Lee
82. "Shh!"
84. Wit bit
85. Outperform
86. Doesn't prevail
87. Call at a soccer game
88. Premier League powerhouse, to fans
91. Canadian actor Rogen
93. Ring, as a bell
97. Female in a den
100. Looks intently (at)
101. Broadway award
104. Doesn't prevail
105. Certain gut bacteria
107. WWII sub
109. Christmas beverage
110. Giuseppe who composed "Falstaff"
111. Polynesian Disney princess
112. ___ salts
113. Fuel number
115. Self-synopsis
116. Toss in some change, perhaps
117. Soak (up)
118. *Her punchline, if a student fails to apply her advice
119. *With geometry problems ...
In the Matter of the Adoption of KENALI JAMELLE ATTIDORE
(DOB: May 26, 2011)
A child under the age of eighteen.

No. 23-5-00504-6
NOTICE OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

TO: Reggie Harris and any other man who may claim a parent-child relationship with the above-named child.

The petitioner has filed a petition in this court requesting that any parent-child relationship between you and the above-named child be terminated. The child was born on May 26, 2011 in Alexandria, Arlington County, Virginia. The mother of the child, whose name was Jacquila Chanele Attidore when the child was born, has consented to the stepparent adoption of the child by the petitioner, who is her spouse.

The court has set the time and place of the court hearing on the petition to terminate your parent-child relationship. That court hearing will be on Friday, December 15, 2023 at 9:00 AM at Pierce County Juvenile Court, 5501 Sixth Avenue, Tacoma, Washington 98406.

As an alleged father of the child, you have the right to file a claim of paternity under RCW 26.26A or 26.26B and to seek custody of the child, to support the child, and to seek to establish a parent-child relationship.

You have the right to be represented by counsel and counsel will be appointed for an indigent person who requests counsel.

Your failure to appear at the hearing referred to above or to respond to this Notice or the Petition for Termination of Parent-Child Relationship within 30 days of the date of first publication of this Notice will result in the court entering an order terminating your parent-child relationship without further notice.

One method of responding to this Notice is to send your response to the Clerk of the Court whose address appears below and to the attorney for the petitioner at the address below by certified mail with return receipt requested.

You are further notified that if the child named above is an Indian child and if you acknowledge paternity of the child or if your paternity of the child is established prior to the termination of the parent-child relationship, your parental rights may not be terminated unless you (i) give valid consent to termination, or (ii) your parent-child relationship is terminated involuntarily pursuant to chapter 26.33 or 13.34 RCW.

DATED and signed this 3rd day of November, 2023.

MICHELE GENTRY
HINZ – WSBA #8449
Attorney for Petitioner

Mailing address and Telephone Number of Attorney for Petitioner:

Michele Gentry Hinz
Attorney at Law
33035 – 52ND Ave. S.
Auburn, WA 98001-3622
(253) 740-0667

Mailing Address of Clerk of Court:
Pierce County Superior Court Clerk
County-City Building
930 Tacoma Avenue
South, Room 110
Tacoma, WA 98402-2177

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Alexandria City School Board will hold a budget public hearing on the FY 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget during the Special Called School Board Meeting on November 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room located at 1340 Braddock Place in Alexandria.

Public comments regarding the FY 2024-2033 CIP Budget may be submitted in the following ways:

• Sign up to speak at the Novem-
ber 13th public hearing at: https:// acpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/p127g- 8ta05yshp9/

Only comments related to the FY 2025-2034 CIP Budget will be heard at the public hearing. Requests to speak or to submit written comments must be submitted by Noon on November 12, 2023.

For more information, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 703-619-8316.


BUDGET ANALYST

JLP Contractors seeks a budget analyst to conduct construction materials cost analysis to minimize customers project expenditure. Requires: BS + 1 year of experience. It is an office job located in Alexandria, Virginia. Send your resume to luigabrideleo@gmail.com

ACTIONS

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