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JUNE 4, 2020

# Discord within APD



PHOTO/ MISSY SCHROTT

The Alexandria Police Department Headquarters, located at 3600 Wheeler Ave.

## Current and former employees criticize, while supporters defend, police chief's leadership

BY MISSY SCHROTT

For years, there have been grumblings of conflict at the Alexandria Police Department.

Some current and former employees allege that the department has a culture of favoritism and retaliation that fuels a hostile work environment and is damaging to health and morale. Few dispute that there have been

SEE APPD

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# King Street opens for business

## City establishes a new pedestrian zone and expanded outdoor dining as part of phase one launch

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

The 100 block of King Street looked a bit different last weekend, with residents walking down the middle of the street and outdoor restaurant seating

extending onto sidewalks and parking spaces.

The city closed the block to vehicular traffic in order to make room for more outdoor dining at restaurants that have struggled in recent months because of the coronavirus pandemic. Now that Northern Virginia has entered

SEE KING STREET

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# Local response to the killing of George Floyd

## Amid nationwide protests, Alexandrians look for a way forward

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

What appeared to be a couple hundred people gathered outside the Alexandria Police Department headquarters on Tuesday night, standing in silence with signs held high.

Then, a chant emerged, rising like a wave from the previously silent

crowd: "Black lives matter." Hands clapping in rhythm with the words, the crowd repeated the phrase, the chant gaining volume, the words gathering strength as they echoed off the façade of the police headquarters.

The Tuesday night vigil, organized by Showing Up for Social Justice's Northern Virginia chapter, comes amid nationwide protests in the wake

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PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Protesters gathered outside the Alexandria Police Department Headquarters on Tuesday.

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Our special section featuring articles by kids and for kids.

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### Pets

How to care for your cat during the pandemic.

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JULY 30, 2020

## Flash floods strike Parkfairfax, Del Ray

**City's stormwater capacity overwhelmed for second year in a row**

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Parts of Alexandria experienced flash flooding after more than 2.5 inches of rain fell in the city in less than an hour on the night of July 23.

The Parkfairfax and Del Ray neighborhoods were hit

hardest by the floods, but residents in Rosemont and West Alexandria also experienced surging stormwater, as the city's infrastructure was quickly overwhelmed by the intensity of the rainfall. The area remained under a flash flood warning until 2:30 a.m. on July 24.

This is the second time in two years that a major storm has swept through

SEE FLOOD

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## Woman killed on West End

**Incident marks first city homicide of 2020**

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

The Alexandria Police Department reported the city's first homicide of 2020 on Wednesday.

APD officers responded to a report of shots fired on South Greenmount Drive on Wednesday at 6:20 a.m., according to a news release. Upon arriving at the scene,

officers found the body of a woman with gunshot wounds on her upper body. APD has not released the name, age, race or ethnicity of the deceased woman.

The case is currently under investigation, and no suspects have been arrested. Those with information regarding the homicide are encouraged to contact APD Detective Gill at 202-420-6290.

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### COVID-19

The death rate in Alexandria is 20% lower than the state average.

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### Home Profile

Journalists in Del Ray made their house a gathering place.

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PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

A 150-year-old oak tree on the property of T.C. Williams High School.

## ACPS to cut down 150-year-old tree

**Some protesters vow to chain themselves to the trunk**

BY MISSY SCHROTT

Residents are banding together to protest Alexandria City Public Schools' plans to cut down a 150-year-old oak tree at T.C. Williams High School.

The tree, located near the high school football field, is slated to be removed to make way for a new concession stand and bathrooms as part of the Parker-Gray Memorial Stadium modernization project.

ACPS declined to comment on when the tree will be removed. However, several residents who caught wind of the removal last week say it could happen at any time since it appears that ACPS is prepping the area for construction.

According to a July 13 update on the project on ACPS' website: "Construction fencing along portions of the project perimeter is scheduled for installation starting July 15, 2020. This will be followed by the disconnection of utilities and the installation of a con-

struction entrance. Erosion control measures are scheduled to be installed in late July, 2020, with demolition commencing the first week of August."

An online petition created last week to "save the tree" collected 1,087 signatures as of Wednesday at 5 p.m.

"The tree is estimated to be around 150 years old, and in good health. It provides an invaluable source of shade and beauty on the school campus," the petition reads.

SEE OAK TREE

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NOVEMBER 12, 2020

*"It's not over yet. We've got a few battles ahead of us, but let's take this moment to celebrate. We've got a lot of work to do. Let's do it."*

-Mo Seifeldein, member, Alexandria City Council

## Alexandrians react to 2020 election

### City registrar discusses ballot processing

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

After a tense post-Election Day tally, former Vice President Joe Biden is projected to be the country's 46th president, and Alexandria's residents have expressed a mix of relief, bewilderment and, for some, disappointment.

Biden's lead in his home state of Pennsylvania put him over the 270 electoral vote threshold on Saturday, securing a path to the White House for himself and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Soon after, Nevada turned blue. Biden's electoral lead currently stands at 290-217 over President Donald Trump.

Local Democratic elected officials started weighing in almost immediately on social media after the news broke on Saturday.

"Monumental win for our democracy. Monumental win for our nation," Councilor Mo Seifeldein said in a Facebook video he published on Sunday. "... It's not over yet. We've got a few battles

ahead of us, but let's take this moment to celebrate. We've got a lot of work to do. Let's do it."

"Our nation has its first woman and first African American Vice President" state Del. Charniele Herring wrote on Facebook. "Hope for our nation's future has been restored. Congratulations Vice President-elect Kamala Harris & President-elect Joe Biden!"

Biden and Harris won Virginia early on Election Day, and incumbent Sen. Mark Warner (D) and Congressman Don Beyer (D) won their re-election bids as well.

The city's voters overwhelmingly supported Biden, with 80.28% voting for Biden and 17.63% voting for Trump, according to the Virginia Department of Elections. In addition, 1.24% of residents voted for libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen and 0.85% wrote in candidates.

Voter turnout in Alexandria, which hit 82,773 according to the city's registrar Angela Turner, surpassed that

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### Community

Elderly man lifts 500-pound grave-stone off dog walker.

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### Business

Alexandria chef wins Food Network's 'Chopped.'

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PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

Members of Open ACPS, a grassroots group advocating that Alexandria City Public Schools reopen for in-person learning, have been distributing yard signs to share their message.

## Parent activists push for ACPS reopening

### Grassroots group criticizes schools' transparency, pace of planning

BY MISSY SCHROTT

A group of parents and community members have taken a stand against Alexandria City Public Schools' reopening plan –

or a perceived lack thereof.

The group, which calls itself Open ACPS, is advocating that ACPS make in-person instruction available to all students so that parents can have a choice of in-person or virtual learning. The

SEE OPEN ACPS

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## PORT CITY FLAVOR

*Our food and drink section featuring all things culinary in Alexandria*

