

## NEWCOMERS GUIDE

### Agenda:Alexandria

Agenda:Alexandria is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to provoke thoughtful discussions on areas of interest to the Alexandria community. It takes a look at the issues affecting Alexandria without taking sides.

Agenda:Alexandria, which began in 1998, sponsors eight dinner meetings a year with presentations on topics of interest to Alexandrians. Membership is \$35 a year and open to anyone. One does not have to live or work in Alexandria to be a member.

Topics include issues of importance to the community such as the new healthcare system school turnarounds, budgeting for capital expenses, care and reentry for persons with mental illness, especially those in the justice system, and preparedness for emergencies. The group is also looking at its emerging role as the region's new dining capital and having a "fireside chat" with Alexandria Circuit Court Judge Nolan Dawkins, an Alexandria native. One month is being kept open for an issue that may emerge during the year.

Meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Reception (cash bar) is at 6:30; dinner at 6:45; programs (free to members; \$5 for non-members) begin at 7:15. Dinner for members who reserve by the published deadline is \$28 (nonmembers pay \$35) while dinner for members who reserve after the published deadline is \$33 (nonmembers pay \$40). Presentations are followed by a question and answer session based on written questions from the audience. Programs end promptly at 9 p.m.

Suggestions by members for program topics and speakers are welcome. Board members (who wear special name badges outlined in red) plan and organize each program: contacting and coordinating with the speakers, introducing programs, and assisting with other duties, including the question and answer session at the end of each program.

Agenda:Alexandria is a 501(c)(3) under the guidelines of the IRS. For more information, contact Executive Director, Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089 or agendaalexandria@aol.org. Visit agendaalexandria.org.

### Sesquicentennial Committee

As part of Virginia's emphasis on its important history, The Alexandria Sesquicentennial Committee plans, develops and presents programs and activities commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Under the auspices of the Office of Historic Alexandria, meetings are held at Lloyd House at 6 p.m. bimonthly and last about an hour. It plans to present eight programs a year and welcomes volunteers to assist in these efforts.

To volunteer and get more information, contact Ellen Tabb at ProfTabb1@hotmail.com or 703-549-0466 or Lance Mallamo at Lance.mallamo@alexandriva.gov or 703-746-4554.

### Democratic Committee

The Alexandria Democratic Committee is the local committee created by and composed of citizens of Alexandria who share the political beliefs and aims of the Democratic Party. The ADC welcomes new members and encourages political participation on every level. The ADC meets the first Monday night of every month at the TC Williams Minnie Howard Campus (3801 W. Braddock Road) as well as participates in and holds events year-round all over Alexandria. For more information, call 703-549-3367 or visit the ADC's website at <http://www.alexdem.org>

### Inova Alexandria Hospital

Inova Alexandria Hospital is committed to provide high-quality medical services and innovative technologies in a caring environment. It is dedicated to offering programs and services to meet the healthcare needs of the diverse communities

Some of its services: Cancer center, Cardiovascular and interventional radiology, Cardiac, pulmonary and physical rehabilitation, Diagnostic radiology, Occupational health, Certified stroke center, Surgical services including our Joint Commission-certified hip and knee replacement center; neurosurgery, and cardiac surgery, and Women's center.

For more information, visit [inova.org/iah](http://inova.org/iah) or call 703-504-3000.

## NEWS

# OAR, Church, City Join Forces

## Coordinated effort to ensure "second chances."

BY HARRY COVERT

**O**ffender Aid and Restoration (OAR) and Downtown Baptist Church have joined efforts to help those leaving jail sentences to return to their communities.

Dr. Gail Arnall, OAR's executive director, and Pastor Dan Carlton have forged an effort that aids offenders "right in the heart of Old Town."

Within a few weeks, through facilities of Downtown Baptist, OAR has begun work with 10 clients "who need re-entry services," Arnall said.

The city of Alexandria has also joined forces with the groups to fund the work for office hours in the city.

Carlton said OAR's mission to "strengthen community through second chances" resonates well "with the kind of church we want to be. We are excited to be able to partner with OAR in providing a place for their work in Alexandria."

Elizabeth Jones, chief operation officer and director of programs for OAR, said the second chances for Alexandrians returning to the community is an asset.

"Once we were notified by the city it was funding the program, Downtown Baptist stepped up with the space we needed," Jones said.

OAR is known as one of the best charities of Northern Virginia and Greater Washington and a major player in helping ex-offenders.

"People who do not have much when they come



Dr. Gail Arnall and Pastor Dan Carlton.

out of incarceration, need services to be located in a convenient place," Arnall said. "This is the reason we are so pleased to be able to offer case management right in the heart of Old Town at Downtown Baptist Church."

OAR is supported by the courts of Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax as well as the municipal and state governments.

One of the concerns for ex-offenders lately in Alexandria has been the relocation of the State Probation and Parole Office. It was forced to relocate from downtown to 4020 Eisenhower Ave., where there is no close access to the Metro and inadequate bus service.

"Those on probation and parole will have to take off at least a half-day of work, if not an entire day, just to see their probation officers," Arnall said. "This is another barrier to re-entry. Most employers won't allow that amount of time off during the work week."

Chief Judge Becky J. Moore of Alexandria General District Court, supports the work of OAR especially in Alexandria.

"I had the honor of serving as chairperson of OAR's board of directors before I began my judicial service. OAR is an invaluable resource for offenders to utilize as they begin positively contributing to our community," she said.



Chief Judge Becky J. Moore

# Connect and Contribute

## Service and citizen's associations lead community engagement.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**lexandria is home to many diverse neighborhoods, each with its own unique traditions. As each neighborhood has developed, so have the service groups and citizens associations that provide more than just an opportunity to meet and greet your neighbors. Whether you have five minutes or five hours, consider joining one of the many organizations in Alexandria that help solve problems, improve

lives, connect citizens and strengthen the community.

**Rotary Club of Alexandria**  
P. O. Box 320666  
Alexandria, VA 22320  
[www.alexandriarotary.org](http://www.alexandriarotary.org)  
**Kiwanis, Kiwanis of Del Ray**  
[www.alexandriakiwanis.org](http://www.alexandriakiwanis.org)  
**Jaycees** P.O. Box 1836  
Alexandria, VA 22313  
[www.alexjaycees.org](http://www.alexjaycees.org)  
**Volunteer Alexandria**  
123 N. Alfred St., 3rd floor  
703-836-2176  
[www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org)  
**North Old Town Citizens Association** P.O. Box 25571  
Alexandria, VA 22313  
703-549-5849  
[www.notice-alexandria.org](http://www.notice-alexandria.org)  
**Old Town Civic Association**  
P.O. Box 1213  
Alexandria, VA 22313  
[www.oldtowncivic.org](http://www.oldtowncivic.org)  
**Del Ray Citizens Association**  
1601 Mount Vernon Ave.  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
703-549-0225  
[www.delraycitizen.org](http://www.delraycitizen.org)  
**Founders Park Community Association**  
[www.alexandriafounderspark.org](http://www.alexandriafounderspark.org)



St. Stephen's and St. Agnes students Sarah Shaw, 17, and Katarina Williams, 18, volunteer at the Lemonade stand in Market Square as part of the citywide Spring for Alexandria day of service in May.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET