

24 October 2022

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you to all who entered the Halloween House Decorating Contest! Participants are listed below in case you'd like to check out their decorations over the next few days!

- Bagget/Brydges - 3722 Templeton Place
- Barths - 531 Ft. Williams Pkwy.
- Dominicks - 3806 Colonel Ellis Ave.
- Geddis - 3813 Colonel Ellis Ave.
- Giannottis - 4001 Harris Place
- Goodharts - 4105 N. Garland St.
- Hennigans - 3721 Fort Worth Ave.
- Osbornes - 11 Fort Williams Pkwy.
- Ridenhour - 4008 Sharp St.
- Sutherlands - 813 St. Stephens Rd.

The Judging Committee will be casting their votes by November 1. The top three winners will be announced and awarded small prizes!

The Halloween parade and pizza party will commence at 5pm on October 31 in the Hardee Place cul-de-sac. This event is open to all children, parents, friends, and neighbors and will include a pizza dinner, visits from our local fire fighters and police officers, and a costume contest!



In other news, **Saturday, October 29 is Drug Take Back Day!**

This event is a great opportunity to safely dispose of unneeded prescription and over-the-counter medications, including pet prescriptions. Medication can be dropped off from **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** at the following sites:

- First Baptist Church Parking Lot (2932 King St.)
- Alexandria Police Department Headquarters (3600 Wheeler Ave.)
- Fire Station 210 (5255 Eisenhower Ave.)
- The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray (2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.)

Can't make it to Drug Take Back Day? Dispose of medication year-round at a permanent medication drop-box:

- [Neighborhood Pharmacy](#): 2204 Mt Vernon Ave.; open Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Sun: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Inova Alexandria Hospital: Visitor's Center Lobby (near cashier's window), 4320 Seminary Road; open daily from 1 - 5 p.m. (for updated hours, visit inova.org/visit)
- Alexandria Police Department Headquarters (just inside front entrance, ring bell for access): 3600 Wheeler Ave.; available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Needles are not accepted during the take back event or in the permanent medication drop boxes that provide year-round disposal. Dispose of needles and syringes in a separate designated permanent drop box specifically for these items located inside the visitor's entrance at Inova Alexandria Hospital (4320 Seminary Road). The box is located near the permanent medication drop box next to the cashier's window; both drop boxes are available daily from 1-5 p.m.

For safe medication disposal at home, [request a free Deterra pouch online](#) through October 31.

If you do not have access to a drug disposal kit, follow these steps:

Check medication bottles for instructions on proper disposal.

- If no instructions are present, remove medication from its original container. Do not crush tablets or capsules.
- Mix medication with an undesirable, inedible substance, such as kitty litter or used coffee grounds.

- Place mixture in a sealable bag or container and throw it away in the trash.
- Black out all personal information on the prescription label so it is unreadable.

Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and abuse, especially opioid prescriptions. In 2021, the City collected 2,052.6 pounds of unused medication at drug take back day events and from year-round permanent drop boxes, a 54.8% increase in the amount of medication collected in 2020.

Drugs are also an environmental hazard to waterways and should never be flushed down the toilet. Drug take back days and permanent drop boxes help support the goals of the Eco-City Alexandria initiative to ensure that people can live healthier and economically productive lives, while reducing their impact on the environment.

Learn more about Alexandria's efforts to fight the national opioid epidemic at alexandriava.gov/Opioids.

View the flyer for this event in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).