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The Taste of Old Town North presents local flavors, music, art of unique Alexandria community

Alexandria, VA - September 8, 2023 - Celebrate local food, music, art and more at the Taste of Old Town North! This year's Taste event is on Thursday, September 21st, 4:00 - 8:00 pm, in Montgomery Park, 901 North Royal Street, Alexandria, VA.

The <u>Taste of Old Town North</u> is a free, family-and pet-friendly event where you can shop at the farmers market, create 'art in the park,' taste gourmet dishes and wines from local restaurants and businesses, taste cider from Lost Boy Cider, participate in instructor-led wellness demos and listen to music from two local bands. Participating restaurants include Jula's on the Potomac, St. Elmo's, Yunnan by Potomac, and Hank's Oyster Bar.

The Taste will feature a reading by City of Alexandria Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam of the three winning haiku from the Haiku Project. Visitors to the Taste can also learn more about the great work of ALIVE!, a local non-profit dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger and helping neighbors in need.

Located next to the Potomac River waterfront, Alexandria's Old Town North is a walkable, vibrant and diverse community with a variety of businesses, restaurants, and residential neighborhoods.

"The Taste of Old Town North, like the neighborhood where it happens, has something for everyone," says Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson. "It truly represents the best of Alexandria. I'm excited to kick off the event again this year and see how our community and visitors to Alexandria come together to enjoy our restaurants, people, local arts and businesses."

Two local bands, Sally and the Mander, and New Breed Soul Consortium (formerly Three ManSoul Machine) will perform beginning at 5:00 pm.

"It's the nature of Hank's Oyster Bar to become part of any community we establish ourselves in," said Luis E. Garcia-Cruz, general manager of Hank's Oyster Bar, Old Town Alexandria. "As a neighbor of Old Town for over 15 years, we look forward to participating in the Taste of Old Town North this year and to continue sharing our food and service with our neighbors."

"What I love most about Old Town North is the people and their unwavering commitment to celebrating and building deep community connections," said Alyia Gaskins, councilmember, Alexandria City Council. "From the farmers market to the emerging art and restaurant scene, I am amazed by this neighborhood's passion for creating places and spaces that are fun, unique and contribute to people's happiness and wellbeing."

The Taste of Old Town North is presented by the Old Town North Community Partnership with support from Annual Season Sponsor Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP), the Old Town North Alliance, River's Edge Yoga, and the Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society.

"At Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP), we believe building inclusive, sustainable communities is about more than developing physical buildings; it's about being engaged partners and good neighbors," said Melissa Schrock, executive vice president, mixed use development HRP. "We are privileged to have the opportunity to transform this extraordinary site into a vibrant and sustainable space that will serve Old Town North for decades to come, and are proud to support the work of Old Town North Community Partnership to bring this community together."

On street parking is available in the Old Town North neighborhood or the public parking lot located at 625 North Washington Street.

The rain date for the Taste of Old Town North is September 28, 4:00 - 8:00 pm.

For more information visit <u>Taste of Old Town North – 2023 | Old Town North Community Partnership!</u>