



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE 60s ★ ALTON BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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 Wendy (Cox) Gray
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What's Happening in A-Town

Alton History Made on April 6, 2021

Congratulations, Mayor David Goins!

Goins is the first African American to be elected mayor of Alton. He defeated two-term incumbent Brant Walker with 2,021 votes to Walker's 1,625 votes.

Former Mayor Walker and his diverse team of department heads are to be commended for their accomplishments during Walker's eight-year tenure. Through trying times they did much to put Alton on an optimistic path forward.

Mayor Goins defeated Walker in an election to define the future for the City of Alton. We all need to pull together in order to keep this city on the right track toward the bright future that our new mayor envisions.

Message from the President

The Friends of the 60s/Alton Black Alumni Association (FOS/ABAA) seeks to keep alive professional and social relationships for Alton Black alumni, while providing assistance, guidance, and support to our community.

Our focus and objectives for 2021 include the following:

- Expand our Leo C. Cox Scholarship program – explore possibility of including financial support for students interested in pursuing 'Vocational / Trades' careers
- Community Outreach – 1) Increase our involvement and support of youth programs; 2) Continue building collaborative relationships with other organizations that have similar / shared objectives and interests.
- Return to normalcy – “Break out” social events: bring community together with our 'signature' social activities, e.g., Trivia Night, Old School dance party, ABA biennial reunion.

The organization solicits gifts/financial donations that enable us to continue our mission of mobilizing the Alton community to prepare our youth for productive adulthood. Our 2020 4th quarter Donor Campaign produced \$6,500 in donations. Thanks to all who participated and supported us.

You are truly our greatest asset, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support. Our aspiration is to continue evolving as an organization...shaping the future by preserving our heritage and sharing our collective knowledge and resources with the community.

Scholarship News



Trinity Ingram is 2021 Leo C. Cox Scholarship Winner!

Trinity, a senior at Alton High School, Class of 2021, will be attending the University of Tennessee where she plans to major in Architecture or Interior Design.

During her last two years of high school, Trinity succeeded in raising her GPA and maintaining straight A's. She has received several awards in academics and talent including the Art-Fahrner's Remarkable Redbird of the month award. She has been a member of the Student Council, German Club, American Sign Language Club and the Cooperative Work Training Program.

Trinity's greatest aspiration is to help inspire and educate other African American girls who may not have self-assurance to move forward.

Alumni Highlights

Alton High School 2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Each year the Alton School District selects and recognizes recipients of the Alton High School **Distinguished Alumni Award**. To be recognized, nominees must have contributed significantly to their community, achieved exceptional lifetime achievements, and/or exhibited extraordinary leadership. We are so proud of our alumni who were chosen to receive this prestigious award.

- **Dr. Cheryl M. Killion** (class of 1965), Associate Professor at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University- Cleveland, Ohio
- **Danita Smith** (class of 1994), owner of My Blooming Health, a mobile health unit which serves a 50 mile radius in St. Louis, Missouri and the Illinois border. The mobile unit offers clinical and walk in laboratory work
- **Ruth A. (Bruce) Wilson** (class of 1965), Retired Clerk of Superior and State Courts, Rockdale County, Georgia

Health Update

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

Key Things to Know:

- Covid-19 vaccines are safe and effective
- These vaccines cannot give you Covid-19
- You may have side effects after vaccination, but these are normal

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

Covid-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes Covid-19. It typically takes 2 weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus. That means it is possible for a person to still get Covid-19 before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection. People are considered fully protected 2 weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna Covid-19 vaccine or 2 weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine.

You should keep using all the tools available to protect yourself and others until you are fully vaccinated. After you are fully vaccinated, you may be able to do some things you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

The CDC has developed a new tool, v-safe, to help quickly find any safety issues with Covid-19 vaccines. V-safe is a smartphone-based, after vaccination health checker for people who receive Covid-19 vaccine.

What the CDC Is Still Learning:

- How well vaccines prevent you from spreading the Covid-19 virus to others, even if you do not have symptoms.
- How long Covid-19 vaccines protect people.
- How many people must be vaccinated against Covid-19 before most people can be considered protected (population immunity)
- How effective the vaccines are against new variants of the virus that causes Covid-19

Upcoming Events

Alton Black Alumni "BREAK-OUT" PARTY

Sep 4

- **Tired of pandemic enforced lockdowns? Miss socializing with your friends?** Join us for our "Break-out" party. We are proactively planning this major event in anticipation of a return to social openness and normalcy. At the current pace of the mass vaccination process, we are optimistic that things will open by the end of the summer.
- **We are working on adding a 'Zoom' element to this event...**Just imagine...our Houston alumni crew getting together as a group and partying with us long distance via zoom.

FOS/ABAA Social Event (TBD – hold the date!)

Oct 16

FOS/ABAA 'TRIVIA NIGHT'

Nov 13

- Due to the pandemic, we were unable to host our annual Trivia Night event in 2020. Initial plans are in the works to get back on track with a November event.

2022 Alton Black Alumni 'all class' REUNION

Sep 2 – 4

- **People get ready...**we would like to make the 2022 event our biggest & best all class reunion ever!

Stay in touch! Details on each of these activities will follow. For updates, please check our **Facebook page** and **website**, www.AltonBlackAlumni.org.

Support Your Alton Black Alumni Association

The coronavirus pandemic has limited our fundraising activity options. We ask for your support in helping us continue our mission of mobilizing the Alton community to prepare our youth for productive adulthood and to provide scholarships to college bound students.

Any donation will be of great help to the continuation and expansion of our programs and activities. THANK YOU!

Donation options: Check, PayPal or Cash App (**\$FOSAB**)

Checks...remit to:

FOS/ABAA Donor Campaign
P.O. Box 1033
Alton, IL 62002

SEPTEMBER 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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OCTOBER 2021

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31						

NOVEMBER 2021

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

In Loving Memory

To the many alumni and friends we have lost:

"They who think that you are gone, because no more your face they see, are wrong, for in our hearts you live, and always will in memory."

Be safe...**Please get vaccinated!**