



Remembering the Fallen

Ivy Hill ceremony honors fire and EMS personnel.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria's fallen firefighters and EMS personnel were remembered by members of the city's first responder and law enforcement agencies at a memorial service and wreath laying ceremony Oct. 13 at Ivy Hill Cemetery as part of the annual National Fire Prevention Week ceremonies.

The ceremony, which dates back to 1856, honors those who have died in the line of duty and also marks the passing of members of the department who have died during the preceding 12 months.

"The Alexandria fire department will always honor our employees, both those that are here and those that have departed," said Fire and EMS Chief Corey Smedley. "Today for me is about honor and remembrance."

Held in front of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial obelisk, the centerpiece of the ceremony is the Roll Call of the Fallen, a reading of the names of fire safety and EMS career and volunteer personnel who have died in the line of duty. Following the Roll Call, Chief Smedley and Volunteer Fire Department President Jay Johnson placed a



Alexandria Fire Chief Corey Smedley, right, and Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department president Jay Johnson salute after placing a wreath at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Oct. 13 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Alexandria Fire Chief Corey Smedley, left, with keynote speaker Victor Stagnaro, Chief Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation at the Fallen Firefighters memorial ceremony Oct. 13 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

wreath at the memorial to honor the fallen firefighters.

Sheriff Sean Casey, Mayor Justin Wilson and other city officials were in attendance to SEE REMEMBERING THE FALLEN, PAGE 12



Fire Chief Corey Smedley delivers remarks at the wreath laying ceremony for fallen firefighters Oct. 13 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.



Former firefighter Ed Snyder, center, is escorted by firefighter Francisco Castaneda as he places a rose in the vase to honor a fallen firefighter Oct. 13 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.



Members of the Alexandria Fire, Police and Sheriff Honor Guard present the colors at the wreath laying ceremony for fallen firefighters Oct. 13 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

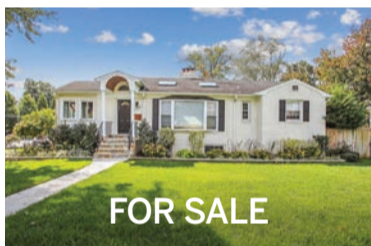


It's a New Real Estate Market

With interest rates hitting 25 year highs THIS WEEK, it's time to talk about creative financing, special financing, seller held financing, discounted notes, land contracts, assumptions, equity sharing, etc. Creative financing and helping folks downsize have become Gordon's focus these days. Purchasing, selling and downsizing can all be intimidating.

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\$1,100,000



FOR SALE

7910 Ellet Road
Ravensworth
Springfield | 22151
\$745,000



FOR SALE

5412 Franconia Road
Land | 1.43 acres
Alexandria | 22310
\$1,300,000



UNDER CONTRACT

1109 Prince Street
Old Town
Alexandria 22314
\$1,395,000



SOLD

130 N. Columbus Street
Church Square
Alexandria | 22314
\$1,850,000



SOLD

515 Fort Williams Parkway
Seminary Ridge
Alexandria | 22304
\$1,420,000



SOLD

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Keene Mill Station
Springfield | 22152
\$755,000



SOLD

4608 Luxberry Drive
Kingsberry
Fairfax | 22032
\$692,500



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Ravensworth
Springfield | 22151
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Those Were The Days

GWHS Class of 1963 reunites.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the George Washington High School class of 1963 gathered for a reunion of old friends and schoolmates Oct. 6 at The Royal Restaurant.

“In 1963 Alexandria was a small southern town where everybody knew everybody,” recalled Bud Mayo. “Traffic moved without congestion and King Street was still the primary shopping area.”

Mayo recalled the local hangouts for GW students.

“GW students frequented the Burger Chef across Mount Vernon Avenue from the school,” Mayo said. “On Tuesday nights the Hot Shoppe on Washington Street was a popular meeting place for members of the nine fraternities and sororities at GW and Hammond.”

Jackie Bridges was one of the three dozen or so alumni who attended the gathering.

“It is so rewarding to see old friends get together again,” Bridges said. “Some have known each other since elementary school. I was just there for three years but it’s really a privilege to be a part of this wonderful tradition.”

“It is so rewarding to see old friends get together again.”

— GWHS '63 alumni Jackie Bridges



Members of the George Washington High School Class of 1963 pose for a photo after a reunion Oct. 6 at The Royal Restaurant.

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Ready for Winter CCNA holds coat distribution, vaccine clinic.



Families line up for the start of the CCNA winter coat distribution and community resource day Oct. 9 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria partnered with St. Joseph's Catholic Church for a winter coat distribution and community resource day Oct. 9 at the church on North Columbus Street.

Families lined up outside the church to have children

and adults fitted with new winter coats. COVID-19 and flu vaccines were also available.

Additionally, Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria had a voter registration table set up as early voting kicked in across the state for the upcoming November elections.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Families try on new winter coats as part of the CCNA winter coat distribution and community resource day Oct. 9 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.



Her quilt depicting the Woodlawn Quaker Meeting House, site of an anti-slavery colony and some of Sims's ancestors.



The Door of No Return in Senegal where Africans were warehoused, sold into slavery and shipped across the Atlantic.



A quilt portraying the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision.

Her Art Quilts Tell Stories

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

After Sheryl Sims got bored with traditional quilting, she started making story quilts and found her calling. "I paint with fabric. I quilt what is in my heart and mind," she explained at an Oct. 2 opening reception attracting 94 admirers.

Until Dec. 31, Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House are displaying 63 of her story quilts in a free exhibit titled "Story Quilts, Inspired by Family and Faith." Quilt sizes vary, with many around 20 by 30 inches and each recounts her family history, her faith or an African-American historical event.

She does machine quilting with raw edge appliqué. She often uses colorful fabrics and eschews patterns. Sims enjoys the creativity, what she calls "the no-rules approach." She can make a story quilt in one day.

Stitching her family history evolved from her efforts to join the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), an organization that requires one "to prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence," says the DAR website. The daughter of a military officer, Sims had lived all over the world and knew little about her ancestors beyond her great-grandparents. In six years of research, she traced ten generations, complicated by scant records for the enslaved people in her



Sheryl Sims, quilt artist.

background. She found an ancestor who contributed money to the cause, a White, sixth great-grandfather. "I did not find a patriot of color," she says. She joined the DAR in 2022.

Her Stories

Several quilts portray members of her

family, including her parents. One depicts her second great-grandmother, Chancy Tillman, an enslaved Louisiana woman who was freed and lived to age 100. Another portrays the Hollingsworth family reunion. Valentine Hollingsworth, her maternal great-grandfather, came to America from Ireland with William Penn.

Presentation on Quilts

On Nov. 4 at 4 p.m., Sheryl Sims will make a presentation about her quilts. Visit <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcoming-events>.

Especially poignant are the African-American history quilts, like a scene depicting the 1968 assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King at Memphis, Tennessee's Lorraine Motel. Another shows Rosa Parks on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, titled "Rosa Parks Takes a Seat." In 1955, Parks refused to give up her seat to a White man as the law required.

One quilt portrays the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Brown v. Board of Education, which found that public school racial segregation was unconstitutional.

Another relates the horrors of Goree Island, Senegal's "Door of No Return." According to the African American Registry, "Goree Island was a slave-holding warehouse, an absolute center for the trade of African men, women and children. Millions of West Africans were taken against their will. Many of these Africans were brought to Goree Island, sold into slavery and held in the holding warehouse on the island until they were shipped across the Atlantic Ocean."

"Hope" greets arriving exhibit visitors, created after former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died in 2020. It recalls the day Sims joined a diverse crowd at the U.S. Supreme Court building and reflects Ginsburg's spirit. "She wouldn't want everyone out here crying. She would want us to maintain hope," Sims believes.

Two quilts highlight local landmarks, the Woodlawn Quaker Meeting House and Alexandria's Christ Church.

"Here at Woodlawn, we are in the midst of a transition as we endeavor to better tell the full history," said Shawn Halifax, Woodlawn's Executive Director. "We are engaging with our community to preserve history at this former site of enslavement, and I cannot think of a more appropriate way to do this than collaborating with Sheryl on this exhibit."

Sims lives in the Manchester Lakes area of Fairfax County and is legal secretary in a Washington, D. C., firm.



The slaying of Reverend Martin Luther King in 1968.



Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on a public bus in 1955.

NEWS BRIEFS

\$100 Million for VRE for Franconia-Springfield Bypass

The Federal Railroad Administration announced recently that it will advance more than \$1.4 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for 70 rail improvement projects in 35 states and Washington, D.C.

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority will receive up to \$100 million to design and build the Franconia-Springfield Bypass, a critical bridge that will alleviate congestion on one of busiest railways in Virginia.

In the meantime, the comment period for a proposed increase to Virginia Railway Express (VRE) fares, and other components of the rail service's preliminary fiscal year 2025 budget (<https://bit.ly/3Qa0N1T>), is open and runs through 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

VRE's draft FY 2025 operating budget totals \$119.9 million, which includes operations, maintenance, and existing debt service. This is an increase of \$11 million or 10 percent over the approved FY 2024 operating budget. The budget includes increases to fares of 5 percent and the jurisdictional subsidy of 14 percent. VRE's last broad-based fare increase was 3 percent in FY 2020.

The proposed budget provides for the first-ever operation of VRE weekend service. It also includes proposals to allow children 18 and under to ride free, make permanent the current \$5 fare for travel between zones

1, 2 and 3, and simplify fare payment.

Individuals interested in providing comment may do so at the in-person public hearing on Oct. 26 in Fredericksburg, or via mail, email, telephone or fax. Public hearings are scheduled for:

Thursday, Oct. 26 from 6-7 p.m., Fredericksburg City Hall (walking distance from VRE's Fredericksburg station), 715 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dates for two other in person hearings have passed.

A virtual public presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 12-1 p.m. via VRE's YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/3PQDCcv>)

The VRE Operations Board will vote to refer the FY 2025 budget to the rail service's two parent commissions on Friday, Dec. 15. The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission's boards will vote to adopt the proposed budget at their January 2024 meetings. If the budget as currently proposed is approved, a 5 percent fare increase would take effect Monday, July 1, 2024. The inauguration of weekend service would be dependent on agreements to be worked out with VRE's three host railroads.

VRE connects Central and Northern Virginia with the District of Columbia. Addi-

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 6

Drug TAKE BACK Day

DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICATIONS

OCTOBER 28 | 10 A.M.-2 P.M.



Pet prescriptions also accepted!

ALEXANDRIA.VA.GOV/OPIOIDS | PREVENTALEXANDRIA.ORG

SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

The U.S. is experiencing an opioid epidemic and Alexandria is far from immune. The best way to fight this epidemic is to dispose of unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medication. Individuals can drop off medication at these designated locations or year-round at a permanent drop box location. Never flush medication down the toilet or place down the sink! Unsafe disposal of drugs can harm the environment.

Everyone should stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and get tested if they have symptoms. Individuals may choose to wear a mask at any time. Specific settings, such as health care and congregate facilities, may require masks.

To learn more about the importance of safe medication disposal, visit alexandria.gov/Opioids.

Alexandria Take Back Day Drop-Off Locations*

- Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Ave.
- The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray
2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Alexandria Fire Station 210
5255 Eisenhower Ave.
- Woodbine Rehab. & Health Center
2729 King St.
- Goodwin House Alexandria
4800 Fillmore Ave.

Can't make it to Drug Take Back Day? Dispose of medications year-round at one of these permanent drug drop box locations!

- The Neighborhood Pharmacy
2204 Mount Vernon Ave.
Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Ave.
Just inside the entrance
Available 24/7

- Inova Alexandria Hospital
4320 Seminary Rd.
Visitor's Lobby
Next to the cashier's window
Daily: 8 a.m.-11 p.m.

NEEDLE DISPOSAL BOX ALSO AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION!



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Appropriations Committee Meeting News

Revenue is exceeding predictions; will there be a recession?

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

On Monday, I traveled to Richmond for the October Appropriations Committee meeting to hear an update on Virginia's budget forecast from Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. This meeting was a special one, as it was the first ever to be conducted in the brand-new General Assembly Building, which had its grand opening last week. In this new building, the House Appropriations Committee has our very own state-of-the-art, modern committee hearing room.

Overall, the Commonwealth remains in a good financial position. September completed the first quarter of fiscal year 2024, and revenues were ahead of projections by more than \$400 million, and all major revenue sources are meeting or exceeding expectations. This economic resilience is primarily attributed to higher non-withholding revenues.

There are worries that a recession may occur sometime in the next 6-12 months, however, the

current budget has accounted for that possibility and we are prepared accordingly. The current revenue forecast built into the budget assumed a 20% decline in revenue. More revenue information will become available in December after the November deadline for income tax extension filers and the necessary tax refunds are calculated. September is also the most significant month for corporate income tax collections. Corporate income tax revenues are up 18.7% over the last fiscal year.

To date, the US economy has also shown much resilience. Second quarter real gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 2.1%. Third quarter GDP growth, which will be released on October 26th, is currently estimated at an additional two percent growth. In addition, while long-term trends suggest a cooling labor market, September showed a surge in employment. US employers added 336,000 jobs in September, mostly in leisure



Krizek

and hospitality and government. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August remained unchanged at 2.5%, and the labor participation rate held steady at 66.7%. The current GDP estimates and "hot" September jobs report increase the likelihood of a federal rate hike by year's end.

The current factors that will need to be monitored in the coming months include the threats of an impending federal government shutdown, which was narrowly avoided a few weeks ago, escalating conflict in the Middle East or Ukraine which may impact energy prices going forward, and high interest rates that will impact the housing market and consumer spending.

The Virginia economy is growing more strongly than expected in the official budget forecast. Overall, the budget, crafted to conservatively measure revenues has served the Commonwealth well and prepared us for excellent

financial health in an uncertain year. But, inflation pressures still persist, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rising 0.4% in September, and remaining up 3.7% from last year.

In December, Gov. Glenn Youngkin will present his FY 2025-2026 budget to the Joint Money Committees, his first budget as Governor. To combat the rising cost of living, Virginia's amended budget recently incorporated an additional \$1 billion in tax relief. However, it is important to recognize that this tax relief was a necessary measure to support families, veterans, and workers in the short term, but it should not set a precedent for further tax cuts. While the September figures show a remarkable increase, it is imperative not to lose sight of the bigger picture. To ensure fiscal responsibility and safeguard against potential economic uncertainties, the new budget's focus should be on sustaining the economic well-being of the Commonwealth, including more for education and the environment, and addressing pressing issues such as inflation and geopolitical instability.

Halloween Rides by SoberRide

A local nonprofit organization will offer free safe rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this month's Halloween celebration.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2023 Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 and operate until

4:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 29th as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones then enter the SoberRide code in the app's 'Payment' tab (under the 'Add Lyft Pass' option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15)

safe transportation home. WRAP's 2023 Halloween SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 on www.SoberRide.com.

WRAP also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the winter holidays through and including New Year's.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2023 Halloween SoberRide campaign in-

clude 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 86,805 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

NEWS BRIEFS

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tional information is available at www.vre.org.

Public comment may also be provided by:
Mail: VRE FY 2025 Budget Public Comment, 1500 King Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, VA 22314
Email: publiccomment@vre.org
Telephone: 540-524-2662, Fax: 703-684-1313

Different Kind Of Sticker Shock

Saturday, Oct. 21, the City of Alexandria will "shock" local shoppers with the Project Sticker Shock Campaign. This youth-led event will kick off with a press conference at the Del Pepper Community Resource Center (4850 Mark Center Drive) at 10

a.m. featuring youth and community leaders speaking about preventing underage alcohol access.

Following the press conference, teams of youth and adults will place warning stickers, provided by the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, on multi-packs of alcohol to highlight the legal consequences of providing alcohol to anyone under 21. Participating retail stores will receive a certificate in recognition of their partnership.

This campaign aims to reach community members ages 21 and older who might purchase alcohol for a person under age 21 – also referred to as a second-party sale. If a retail employee observes activity of a second party, such as passing of money, participation in selection, or bringing the alcohol to the

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Civil War Show

Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Bud Mayo and Don Hakenson will be sponsoring the Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show. Admission is \$5 and vendors are welcome. SCV members receive a table discount. Contact Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net or 703-971-4984, or contact Bud Mayo at mayo5304@cox.net, or 703-389-1505.

NEWS BRIEFS

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counter, ID should be requested of the second party.

In Virginia, it is a Class 1 misdemeanor to provide alcohol to a minor. Adults can face the following penalties upon conviction: a \$2,500 fine per young person provided an alcoholic beverage; up to 12 months in jail; loss of the driver's license for up to 12 months. This event is hosted by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA), the Alexandria Police Department; the Alexandria Sheriff's Office; the Department of Community and Human Services; the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities; and the Alexandria City High School U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC). Visit alexandriava.gov/SAPCA to learn more.

Mental Health First Aid Training Available Online

Mental Health First Aid training teaches the initial help given to a person showing signs of a mental health crisis. City of Alexandria residents and employees can complete the two-session eight-hour course virtually to earn a MHFA certification. Sessions will be held on Nov. 13 and 14, and on Dec. 13 and 14.

The course teaches risk factors, warning signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use disorders; the effects of the illnesses and an overview of treatments; and a five-step action plan for helping someone with symptoms.

This training does not prepare someone to diagnose or provide treatment. It is designed to help paraprofessionals and laypersons provide support until an individual is linked to professional resources. Mental Health First Aid is not recommended for licensed mental health providers.

Registration is open until filled. Visit alexandriava.gov/DCHS to register. To learn more about MHFA, visit mentalhealthfirstaid.org.

Walkathon for Access to Higher Education

The 24th Annual Project Discovery Walkathon at Fort Ward Park (4301 W Braddock Rd.) is on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 8:30 a.m.

Based at Alexandria City High School and the Minnie Howard 9th Grade Center, Project Discovery prepares and motivates low income and first-generation college-eligible students to access opportunities in higher education. Through workshops and trips to college campuses, Project Discovery provides vital information about how to set and achieve educational goals.

Walkathon registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a warm-up at 9 a.m. followed shortly after by the walk. Both individuals and teams can sign up to participate. All proceeds go to Project Discovery Alexandria. This is a pet-friendly event, co-sponsored by Your Dog's Best Friend, and will include raffle prizes. Organizations are invited to register to serve as exhibitors.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

The Walkathon is one of Project Discovery's biggest fundraisers of the year. The program is supported by the Project Discovery Advisory Board whose mission is to raise funds, promote community involvement, and foster positive public relations.

To sign up or donate, visit the Project Discovery Pledge Sign-Up webpage. Registration and donation opportunities will also be available the day of the event.

For more information, call Tashana Pulliam at 571.645.1942 or visit alexandriava.gov/ProjectDiscovery.

Bring Questions, Concerns for City Council to Upcoming Town Hall

The second in a series of City Council Town Halls is Saturday, Oct. 21. Mayor Justin Wilson and members of City Council will be present to address the questions, concerns and feedback submitted by community members. Questions can be submitted in advance through the registration form or in person at the event via question cards, which will allow Council time to respond to as many questions as possible.

The Town Hall will take place at the Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe St.) on Saturday, October 21, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Registration is strongly encouraged.

Register for the Curbside Food Waste Composting Pilot

Residents receiving City trash and recycling services can register for the Curbside Food Waste Composting Pilot. This eco-friendly program was launched in the spring of this year, aimed to reduce and compost food waste, generate finished compost, and promote sustainability.

In spring of 2023, the City of Alexandria was selected by the USDA as one of the 2023 Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreement recipients. With this federal funding support, the City has been piloting a food waste composting program for residents receiving City trash and recycling services. This program is separate from yard waste collections, and participants have been composting food waste at the curb every week.

Registration for the pilot program is open to residents. As part of this program, the City has also been conducting a Food Waste Reduction outreach campaign to provide residents with everyday tips to reduce food waste.

For residents who are not receiving City trash and recycling service, free farmers' market composting services is available to everyone. There are six locations in the City with the newest farmers' market addition at the Southern Towers Farmers' Market.

For additional information and how to register for the Curbside Composting Pilot, Farmers' Market Composting, and Food Waste Reduction Tips, visit alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste.

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Alexandria Youth AND Caring Adult Summit

let's TALK

First Baptist Church of Alexandria
2932 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302
Thursday, November 9, 2023
4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Attendees must be high school students or caring adults

Gift Card Raffle!

Why You Should Attend:

- Hear from youth about their lived experiences with mental illness
- Talk about mental health awareness and promoting youth safety and resilience
- Support youth leaders in impacting change in our community

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/GO/4871

09.25.23

Class of 2023 Hall of Fame

ACPS honors city athletes.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Athletic excellence of nearly a century was celebrated as Alexandria City Public Schools held the induction ceremony for the 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame honorees Oct. 14 at Alexandria City High School.

The latest inductees include five women and five men: Mike Agee; Rudy Argueta; Philomena Fitzgerald; Jasmine Goffe; Ada Hicks; Elena Parent; Joseph Pisciotta; Donald Riviere; Brianna Smith; and Dominique Wimbush.

Additionally, the 1984 T.C. Williams High School state championship football team

“It is unbelievable to be part of this very select group.”

— Former athletic director
Don Riviere

and coaches were recognized at the ceremony as inductees.

“This is a great moment for myself, my staff and mostly for the kids,” said former head football coach Glenn Furman. “The team took over the show tonight and they were great – they’ve been great their whole careers. I love every one of them.”

Under the direction of Furman, the 1984 team went undefeated and outscored their opponents 404-42. They finished the season



ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt speaks prior to the unveiling of the 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame plaques Oct. 14 at Alexandria City High School.

ranked #3 in the nation.

“This year’s Hall of Fame class has some spectacular athletes who won on the highest level and represent what being a Titan is all about,” said Executive Director of Athletics and Student Activities James Parker.

Since its inception in 2014, the Hall of Fame has inducted athletes, coaches and teams representing a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, crew, diving, field hockey, football, gymnastics, soccer, swimming and track.

Among this year’s inductees was Ada Hicks, a 1929 graduate of what was then Alexandria High School. Hicks was the captain and leading scorer for the girls’ basketball

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ACPS Hall Athletic Hall of Fame inductees and representatives watch as the 2023 honoree plaques are unveiled Oct. 14 at Alexandria City High School.



William Moten, second from left, and fellow 1984 football teammates celebrate on stage at the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony Oct. 14 at Alexandria City High School.

NEWS



Dominique Wimbush congratulates Brianna Smith at the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony Oct. 14 at Alexandria City High School.



1984 football team member Mike Porterfield, left, shakes hands with Don Riviere, former athletic director at Francis C. Hammond and T.C. Williams high schools at the 2023 ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony Oct. 14 at Alexandria City High School.

ACPS Honors City Athletes

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team. One of the first star female athletes in the history of the city, Hicks led the team to an undefeated 11-0 record. Alexandria High School won their first Northern Virginia Conference Championship during a time when state level championships did not exist

for girls' sports. Former Alexandria Sportsman's Club president Marion Moon accepted the award on behalf of Hicks.

The ACPS 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees include: Mike Agee, George Washington High School 1956 - Football, Bas-

SEE ACPS HONORS, PAGE 10

SAVE THE DATE!
Mark Your Calendar for the

Project Discovery WALKATHON

8:30 a.m. Saturday, October 28, 2023
Fort Ward Park
4301 W Braddock Road

To learn more, sign up, or donate, visit:
alexandriava.gov/PDwalkathon

All proceeds benefit Project Discovery of Alexandria.

THE CHAMBER ALX
Professional Women's Network



Join us for The Chamber ALX's

EVENING OF PERFECT PAIRINGS

Wine + Chocolate, Women + Business

presented by The Goodhart Group

2 November 2023
5:30PM-7PM
@Goodwin House Alexandria

Get your tickets at
thechamberalx.com



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
RUSSELL	16424	624	DRILL ROAD	LEWIS CREEK	9/14/2023
HALIFAX	9250	639	ROCK BARN ROAD	BUFFALO CREEK	9/1/2023
MECKLENBURG	11980	635	SAFFOLD ROAD	MEHERRIN RIVER	9/1/2023

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.



1984 football team member Willie Crenshaw, second from left, joins fellow players on stage at the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame induction Oct. 14 at Alexandria City High School.



Coaches of the 1984 T.C. Williams football team are inducted into the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Oct. 14 at Alexandria City High School. Pictured from left: Head coach Glenn Furman and assistant coaches Dennis Shaw, Bill Allan and Don Futrell.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET

Glenn Furman, former T.C. head football coach, holds his plaque as a 2023 inductee into the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Oct. 14 at Alexandria City High School.

ACPS Honors City Athletes

FROM PAGE 9

Williams 1995 – Basketball, Track, Baseball; Rudy Argueta, T.C. Williams 1997 – Soccer; Philomena Fitzgerald, T.C. Williams 2016 - Field Hockey, Soccer, Indoor Track; Jasmine Goffe, T.C.

Williams 1995 – Basketball; Ada Hicks, Alexandria High School 1929 – Basketball; Elena Parent, T.C. Williams 1994 - Crew, Swimming; Joseph Pisciotta, T.C. Williams 1970-2000 - Soccer/Intramural Coach; Don-

ald Riviere, Francis C Hammond, T.C. Williams 1965-1992 - Administrator/Athletic Director; Brianna Smith, T.C. Williams 2015 - Football, Track, Soccer, Crew; Dominique Wimbush, T.C. Williams 1998 – Football.

“I loved all my years here,” said Don Riviere, who served as an administrator and athletic director at Francis C. Hammond and T.C. Williams high schools. “It is unbelievable to be part of this very select group.”



ACPS 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Joseph Pisciotta.



Former T.C. Williams principal John Porter, left, with 2023 Hall of Fame inductee Don Riviere and former athletic director Aly Khan Johnson.



ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame inductees Donald Riviere and Brianna Smith.

APD New Leadership

The City of Alexandria’s Police Department (APD) is set to welcome Assistant Chiefs Raul Pedroso and Tina Laguna, and Communications Manager Tracy Walker. Each brings valuable experience and a commitment to community service.

Walker started Oct. 2, while Pedroso and Laguna begin Monday, Oct. 23.

“We are expanding APD leadership at a necessary time when our community

is looking to us for more information sharing and innovative approaches to crime reduction,” said Alexandria Police Chief Don Hayes. “We look forward to the incoming expertise they will bring to further bolster our collective commitment to public safety in Alexandria.”

Communications Manager Tracy Walker

Tracy Walker will be responsible for the

department’s communications and public information strategy. Prior to joining APD, she served as the Public Affairs Director for the Richmond Police Department. In that role, she focused on informing and educating public audiences and led the team respon-



Tracy Walker

sible for managing critical incidents and crises, fostering community engagement, and sharing success stories that showcased the positive impact of law enforcement officers in community policing.

Assistant Chief Raul Pedroso

Raul Pedroso will serve as APD’s assistant chief and commander of the Criminal Investigation Bureau; he will lead multi-
SEE APD NEW, PAGE 11

APD New Leadership

FROM PAGE 10

ple divisions including Criminal Investigations, Crime Scene Investigations (CSI), and Special Investigations, among others, in the resolution of criminal incidents. He joins the department having served the Coral Gables Police Department in Florida as the major over its Criminal Investigations Bureau.



Raul Pedroso

During his 30-year tenure there, he held various commands and strived to foster cohesive working relationships where everyone would collaborate and develop problem-solving initiatives. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy with a master's degree in criminal justice.

Assistant Chief Tina Laguna

APD welcomes Tina Laguna as assistant chief and commander—leading the Administrative & Technology Bureau—identifying and employing innovative technology

that aids in crime deterrence and investigations. She will also be responsible for areas related to accreditation, training and recruitment, along with fleet, facility, and records management. She joins APD from the Manassas City Police Department where she served as the Assistant Chief over Investigative Services.



Tina Laguna

She is the financial secretary for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and a past chair of Leadership Prince William. She is a member of the International

Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police.

Laguna holds a master's degree in public administration and a graduate certificate in management and leadership.

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Alexandria firefighters listen to remarks at the wreath laying ceremony for fallen firefighters Oct. 13 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

Remembering the Fallen

FROM PAGE 1

pay homage to Alexandria's fallen fire department first responders. Victor Stagnaro, Chief Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, delivered the keynote remarks.

"This ceremony remembers everyone who wears a uniform or who has ever worn a uniform," Stagnaro said. "Not all make it home from their tour of duty and it is a tribute to the city of Alexandria that they are remembered."

Stagnaro addressed the families of the fallen, calling them heroes.

"While the firefighters are called heroes, in my book so are the families," Stagnaro said. "Whether your loved one died in the last year or 25 years ago, please know that the fire service community stands by your side to honor the memory of your loved one and will continue to do so in the days and years to come."

Added Wilson, "Our firefighters every day do the unspeakable – they place their lives at risk to protect others. We do not minimize the sacrifice that they make for the safety of the people of our community."

"The Alexandria fire department will always honor our employees, both those that are here and those that have departed."

— Fire and EMS Chief Corey Smedley



Fire Chief Corey Smedley stands at the Fallen Firefighters memorial wall Oct. 13 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.



City Councilwoman Aliya Gaskins, right, holds daughter Eliana as she talks with John Renner and Fire Chief Corey Smedley at the wreath laying ceremony for fallen firefighters Oct. 13 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

ENTERTAINMENT

ALEXANDRIA COLONIAL TOURS' GHOST & GRAVEYARD TOUR

Wednesdays through Sundays in September at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. Nightly in October at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 for adults; \$10 for children; free for children under 6 years old. Tours meet at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street, Alexandria. Walk your way through the charming streets of historic Old Town Alexandria. Follow a colonial-costumed guide by lantern light for an engaging history tour on Alexandria's original Ghost and Graveyard Tour. During this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends, folklore, unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Visit alexcolonialtours.com.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

OCT. 2-29

Cascades Art Exhibition. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center (Gallery 311), 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Van Landingham Gallery presents a solo exhibition from Gregory Logan Dunn entitled Cascades, a collection of oil and acrylic paintings created during his studio residency at the Torpedo Factory this past year. Original paintings and print reproductions of the artist's work will be available for purchase.

OCT. 3 TO NOV. 13

"The Spirit Within" Exhibit. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Drive, Alexandria. Mosaic artist Nina Tisara and artist-photographer Steven Halperson will exhibit their art work in the Fireplace Art Alcove. MVUC members and friends are invited to an artists' reception on Sunday, November 12, 2:30 - 5 p.m. RSVP: ninat@ninatistara.com.

OCT. 6-28

The "Curses! Foiled Again! The Art of Swords and Sorcery" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that evokes the fantastic and swashbuckling. Opening Reception: Friday, October 6, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on October 29, 2023). Details on the art exhibit and related creative programs at DelRayArtisans.org/event/curses-foiled-again

OCT. 10 TO NOV. 19

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The Alexandria Fall Festival will take place on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023 at River Farm in Alexandria.

Exhibit by Fred Zafran. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. Opening Reception: Sunday, October 22, 2023, 2 - 4 p.m. Fred Zafran has long been interested in photography as a distinctive means of storytelling. His work examines the artistic possibilities of photographs that combine the poetic with a representational view of the world. The resulting photo essays which Zafran calls "poetic narrative," are post-documentary in that the stories are open ended, subjective, rich in symbolism and metaphor, and encourage consideration and interpretation by the viewer.

OCT. 17-23

Fall Book Sale – At Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Fall Book Sale from Tuesday, October 17 through Monday, October 23. Members' Preview on Tuesday, October 17, 3 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, October 18, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 19, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, October 20, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, October 22, Half Price Day, 1-4:30 p.m.; Monday, October 23, \$10 Bag Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA; info: 703-746-1702; www.beatley-friends.org.

OCT. 19, 26

Jane Franklin Dance Performance. 7 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance Performance in response to Temporary Public Art Installation "Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson" by Nina Cooke John. The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts was awarded a grant from

the National Endowment for the Arts to fund its community Artist Residency Program. The Artist Residency Program integrates visual and performing artists in the community to conduct interactive art engagements at the Waterfront Park public art initiative Site See. As part of the Artist Residency Program, Jane Franklin Dance was selected to bring interpretive movement pieces inspired by the artwork to the Waterfront Park.

FRIDAY/OCT. 20

Book Talk: Gen. David Petraeus and Andrew Roberts. 7 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Hear from General David Petraeus and acclaimed British biographer Andrew Roberts, authors of Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine. Two leading authorities—an acclaimed historian and the outstanding battlefield commander and strategist of our time—collaborate on a landmark examination of war since 1945. Conflict is both a sweeping history of the evolution of warfare up to Putin's invasion of the Ukraine, and a penetrating analysis of what we must learn from the past—and anticipate in the future—in order to navigate an increasingly perilous world. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions and have their books signed.

OCT. 21-22

Fall Harvest Festival. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At George Washington Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Attendees can explore the expansive farm, meet General Washington, view demonstrations of 18th-century cooking, candle-making, spinning, and textiles, play 18th-century games, navigate a straw bale maze, and more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Second Annual Chalk Walk. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On sidewalks throughout Old Town North. Old Town North

becomes an outdoor art studio as the Old Town North Alliance hosts the second annual Chalk Walk. Artists will be creating sidewalk chalk artworks throughout Old Town North, stationed throughout the neighborhood in 10 by 10 spaces, and will create new works of art in chalk. Attendees will be invited to stroll by each site and admire the artists at work or the finished work.

TUESDAYS, OCT. 24, 31

Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, Tuesdays @ 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Simpson Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe Ave, Alexandria. Meet and talk with Extension Master Gardeners in the Simpson Demonstration Gardens to learn the best uses for fallen leaves and other organic garden waste. Free.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Project Discovery Walkathon. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Fort Ward Park Amphitheater, 4301 W. Brad-dock Road, Alexandria. Anyone may attend. Visit www.alexandria.gov/projectdiscovery

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Lights Out – Halloween Party at the Cemetery 7 to 9:30 p.m. At Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria. Costume contest, games and prizes, haunted vault, cemetery tours. Register online - bit.ly/3Pwtbtt

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Carlyle Halloween Stampede. 2 to 6 p.m. At Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. The 3rd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede features all-day festive cocktails, signature party favors, costume contests, photo ops, giveaways and more. Guests can start the crawl and pick up their wristbands at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna's, Tequila and Taco or Lost Boy Cider. Costumes are recommended. There will

be costume prizes for the most festively dressed participants. Visit eventbrite.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Tall Ship Providence Presents the Halloween Howl. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; tours 45 minutes to one hour. At Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Arrive in costume for some Halloween fun aboard tall ship Providence! Little ghosts and goblins will be taking over the floating maritime center as they rotate through stations of story time, crafts and activities then step aboard Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Visit tallshipprovidence.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Old Town Family Trick or Treat. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in the various shops and restaurants in Old Town along upper and lower King Street and select side streets. Visit oldtownbusiness.org for the starting point and map pick-up location.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Tall Ship Providence Presents "Ghost Ship Providence". 7 to 10 p.m. At Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. All aboard for an adults-only costume party! Cross the gangway (if you dare) for a hauntingly good time. DJ, open bar, food, costume contest and raffles will all take place at the floating heritage center and aboard Providence. Visit tallshipprovidence.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Old Town Doggie Trick or Treat. 1 to 5 p.m. At The Dog Park, 705 King Street, Alexandria. Bring your dog for a howling day of walking through Old Town and visiting participating merchants who will offer treats for your four-legged

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Obituary

Charles Dwight Fellows Captain USN retired, passed away August 24th with his loving wife of 68 years, Alix by his side.

Charles "Chuck" Fellows was born in Strahan, Iowa January 20, 1930. The eldest son of Dwight Daniel Fellows and Margaret Richter. An Iowa farm-boy he attended Walnut Public High School and the University of Iowa for two years awaiting appointment to a military academy.



Chuck enrolled in the Naval Academy class of 1953 with visions of flying airplanes. After completing academy flight training and qualifying for flight school he had a decision to make. Having never seen the ocean before leaving Iowa, Chuck fell in love with the sea and enrolled in submarine school, choosing the submarine force over aviation. His first tour after graduation would lead him to circumnavigate the globe on the USS John W. "Leaky" Weeks (1953 - 1954). A decorated Naval career that culminated with the rank of Captain, would include Commanding Officer on the submarines USS Marlin (1962 - 1963) and USS Entemedor (1967 - 1969), Personnel Officer for the US Submarine Force's Atlantic fleet, Director of Enlisted Recruiting for the US Navy, and Equal Opportunity Officer for the US Navy. He earned a National Defense Service Medal w 1 Star, Korean Service Medal, and United Nations Service Medal.

Following his retirement from the Navy (1981), Chuck earned his MA in History from American University. After which he became Associate Professor at NOVA Community college. Chuck and Alix spent many of their summers in their bayside cottage in Milbridge, Maine. The red cottage has been a Fellows family summer tradition for more than fifty years.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Alix, sister Ruth, brother Dan, five sons and their wives, James Dwight and Gail, Daniel Mackie and Katie, David Alexander and Celeste, Peter Charles and Helena, and Andrew Stanford and Gabriela; along with fourteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother Bob on August 23, 2015 and grandson Daniel Hunt on June 10, 1988.

Chuck will be remembered by his loved ones as a resolute man; a caring and generous person, quick to exude gratefulness and encouragement to all of those around him.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Alexandria Virginia on November 18 at 11AM followed by a reception at the Army Navy Country Club. An interment service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined in early 2025.

Obituary

Legals

ABC LICENSE
Founding Farmers ALX LLC trading as Founding Farmers, 461 Swann Ave. Alexandria, VA 22301. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On and Off Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant, caterer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Vucurevich, Officer/ The Veritas Law Firm. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2 p.m. Begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte Ave. Alexandria. One of Del Ray's favorite traditions, the annual Del Ray Halloween Parade, returns once again. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb. For more information, including details on entering the house decorating contest, pet costume contest and stroller decorating contest, visit www.visitdelray.com.

MONDAY/OCT. 30

Halloween Tales at River Farm. 6-7 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Acclaimed local actor (and retired Arlington Judge) William T. Newman Jr. joins Classical WETA's Nicole Lacroix and ghost storytellers Nikisha Kozik and Jimmy Meritt at River Farm to narrate suspenseful (and slightly spooky) passages from the Old Town Mystery book series by local author John Adam Wasowicz. You'll hear passages from Daingerfield Island set on Halloween night along the Potomac River and from Gadsby's Corner as The Female Stranger helps solve a crime that occurs on 'Mystery in the Museum' night at Gadsby's. Admission is free for children and adults.

NOV. 3-26

The Housemates exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Exhibit showcases art from Del Ray Artisans members celebrating the beings we live with. Housemates may have fur, feathers, fins, scales, or be human. Opening Reception: Friday, November 3, 7-9 p.m.. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on Thanksgiving Day). Plus bring in donations for cat and dog rescue groups. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/event/housemates

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

David Buskin with Heather Aubrey Lloyd. 7 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. David Buskin's songs and jingles have been recorded by many great artists; a sample: Judy Collins, Peter, Paul & Mary, Johnny Mathis, Astrud Gilberto, Tom Rush, Dixie Carter, Roberta Flack, Mel Tormé, Take 6, Phoebe Snow, Richie Havens and Arlo Guthrie. He is a New York Nightlife Award, Bistro Award and Clio Award winner and tonight he's joined by local singer/songwriter Heather Aubrey Lloyd for a special night of "melodic, sensual pop, folkie grit and killer wit". Visit www.focusmusic.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SUNDAY/NOV. 5

Alexandria Fall Festival. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Dr. in Alexandria. Food trucks, pony rides, magic shows, beer garden, bounce houses and more. A lineup of local culinary favorites will be in attendance including Goodies Frozen Custard & Treats, Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company, Port City Brewing Co., Lost Boy Cider, Paradise Springs Winery, DC Slices, Big Boy Tacos, A.M. Kettle, The Little Well, Mi-laap Chai, Taste of Asia and F.T. Valley Farm at Mont Medi. Expect all your fall favorites — from kettle corn and hot chocolate to apple treats and much more! There will be plenty of family-friendly fun at River Farm — two magic shows from The Great Zucchini, caricature drawings from Capital Artworks, face painting from Sunrise Face Painting, pony rides and petting zoo from Mary's Go Round Petting Zoo, Big Country Amusements bounce houses, Something Vintage lawn games and more! Visit alexandriafallfestival.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 5

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra: New World Symphony "Going Home" featuring Stephen Seifert, Mountain Dulcimer. 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria. Sweet tones of Appalachia imbue Conni Ellisor's concerto for mountain dulcimer featuring Stephen Seifert. America's beauty and diversity inspired Czech composer Antonín Dvořák's New World Symphony. The program opens with a surprise guest artist. Saturday concert attendees are invited to the pre-concert talk with Maestro Ross at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace section. Adults: \$20-\$89; Students: \$15; Youth: \$5.

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

61st Holiday Shop. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Artisan vendors of many styles and mediums, plus baked and canned goods, jewelry, household collectibles, lunch, quilt raffle. Visit www.mvuc.org.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

OCTOBER

Wed. 18: Rodney Crowell w/ Rob Ickes & Trey Hensley \$59.50 (Rescheduled from 7/16/23)
 Fri. 20: Phil Vassar w/ Martin & Kelly \$49.50
 Sat. 21: Raven's Night presents "Masquerade" \$35.00
 Sun. 22: The Secret Sisters w/ Amy Stroup \$29.50
 Mon. 23: Gene Noble w/ Diamond Pynk \$35.00 (Rescheduled from 8/24/23)
 Tue. 24: The Zombies: Different Game Tour 23 w/ Wendy Colonna \$59.50
 Wed. 25: Euge Groove \$45.00 (Resched from 6/7/23)
 Thu. 26: Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin \$129.50 SOLD OUT!
 Fri. 27: Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin \$129.50 SOLD OUT!
 Sat. 28: Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin \$129.50 SOLD OUT!
 Sun. 29: Tom Paxton & The DonJuans and John McCutcheon \$45.00

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper-local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward to 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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Couch The Entire Meal



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I just got my dog's refrigerated food delivered — for the first time. Multiple times already I have gotten my dog's 30lb bag of dry food delivered. For much longer we have been getting our cats wet food, dry food delivered, and recently, thanks to Martha Stewart, we're getting the cats' litter delivered as well. Additionally, as concerns the critters (four cats and one dog), their various prescription medications (flea and tick, heartworm, and kitty Prozac), and miscellaneous animal accessories (waste bags, treats, toys, and bowls) are likewise delivered. During the early stages of the pandemic, we were getting our groceries delivered (no more though), also we were members of a wine-delivery club; monthly they'd replenish our diminishing inventory. Back to us humans, I also get my prescription medication (including my cancer drug), office supplies/computer paper, and most importantly, I get my jellybeans all delivered to my home. (Crucial that I have an ample supply of "Jelly Bellies" as one of the side effects of my thyroid cancer medication is dry mouth/saliva issues so that chocolate doesn't have the same effect on me/satiate in my mouth as it has for the past 65 years or so.) As a result, I still need sweets; ergo the jellybeans, but certain long-standing (and sitting) standards have fallen out of favor. And if today is any indication, we'll also be receiving via the mail, all my wife's beauty products, and horse supplies which will segue nice into the monthly — or so, delivery of clothes — with seasonal accommodations, she's been receiving for a few years now. And even automobiles — via the "car vending machines" can be delivered to your door. In fact, one can pretty much have your cake and eat it too, and have it delivered to your home as well. And finally — for the sake of this article; (this is not an entire list, just the more recent conveniences) travel channels nightly feature and boast destinations/locations from all over the world advertising that one doesn't have to leave home to have adventure and exposure. But wrapping up this paragraph: where's the fun in all of this? Life is for living, not sitting, right?

Getting in the game is way better than sitting on the sidelines/sitting on your couch. Although, the couch may be as far as anybody ever gets — or needs to get anymore. Granted, the couch is likely very comfortable, positioned in front of a rather large television (perhaps even with surround sound/stereo sound), near a bathroom, unaffected by weather and/or traffic/parking hassles, way less expensive than the real thing, close to the refrigerator/snacks/adult beverages, and finally, you don't have to mingle with the masses — which for some might be a good thing. Present company occasionally included.

Despite all these push-button-type amenities, I'm beginning to realize that the availability of all these modern conveniences is making Kenny a dull boy, and as the Brits say: "a bit of a dismal Jimmy." All I must do is to mind my own business, but not necessarily my own manners, and have a cell phone handy, as all I really need to see and do, I can have done and delivered without ever leaving my home. Granted, I can't get my passport stamped but if I pick my channels carefully, I never have to pack my bags and try to locate the proper size plastic bag in which to pack my toiletries. The world isn't necessarily inconvenient, but neither does it typically offer all the comforts of home. But if those comforts and conveniences matter more than touching and seeing and feeling the real thing than perhaps a Barcalounger is in your future.

Still, convenience may be one thing — and an important thing at that, but one's preference/inclination might be quite another. Certainly, as written above, I can appreciate — and benefit from the many super-easy ways there are to consume nowadays. And consume without lifting a finger; well likely lifting a hand to turn a doorknob and open the front door to accept your delivery and/or move your package from porch to pantry. Not only will most of this activity be out of sight, but the effect of it will be that you're increasingly out of touch. There has always been delivery of stuff, but the pandemic — and Amazon (lest not forget) really ratcheted up the delivery options and accommodations possible for man, woman, and child — and of course, business. Now however, after years are calling it in, so to speak and having been there and done that — repeatedly, I'm beginning to reassess. Do I want to stay home and disconnect, or do I want to engage and interact with my fellow man/woman? And though it may not always be pleasant to do so, getting out and about, "mushrooming" (being in a dark and putrid environment) is not exactly ideal either.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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www.JodieBurns.com



Cameron Heights | \$650,000

This charming, move-in ready rambler has been freshly painted with newly refinished floors. Spacious family room addition with large windows and vaulted ceiling. Finished lower level with kitchenette, lots of storage, full bath, and laundry room. 180 Cambridge Rd
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www.JoanCromwell.com



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Charming 4-level townhome in North Old Town offers 2 bedrooms, 2/1 baths, and a wealth of modern amenities. From the living room with a private brick patio, to the kitchen with pantry, it's the perfect blend of comfort and functionality. Walk to an array of dining options & Mt Vernon Trail. 1214 W Abingdon Dr

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