

Defender of Freedom

NAACP Honors McAuliffe at Freedom Fund dinner.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Former governor Terry McAuliffe was honored by the Alexandria branch of the NAACP with the Defender of Democracy Award at the organization's annual Freedom Fund Dinner Oct. 9 at the Hotel Heron.

This year's theme was "Rooted in Justice, Rising in Power," as community leaders, advocates and citizens united to honor McAuliffe, who received the award for his significant action as governor on voting rights, including restoring voting access to over 206,000 Virginians.

"Civil Rights is something that was in my bones," McAuliffe said in his remarks. "I started looking at our criminal justice system and it was a racist criminal justice system that we had here in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

McAuliffe said that the biggest challenge he faced when he took office "was the idea that if you committed a felony in Virginia, you never voted for the rest of your life. We were one of a handful of states that passed Jim Crow laws in 1902. I am very proud to say that 114 years later I stood on the steps of the capital of Richmond, Virginia, to sign an executive order to give 206,000 people back the right to vote."

The keynote address came from Reverend Professor Quardricos Driskell of Beulah Baptist Church, who challenged attendees to confront the fragility of democratic ideals and the responsibility each citizen bears in safeguarding them.

"Justice is not passive," Driskell declared. "It demands courage, persistence, and a willingness to speak truth to power — even when the cost is high. Before power is national it is local. We must embrace the power of state and local action."

In attendance at the event were city and elected officials, including former vice mayor Del Pepper, Councilman John Chapman, State Del. Charniele Herring, State Sen. Adam Ebbin, and Congressman Don Beyer.

The evening marked the 92nd anniversary of the founding of the NAACP.

"This is a milestone that reflects nearly a century of unwavering commitment to justice, equity, and community empowerment," said branch president Darrylynn Franklin. "For 92 years, this branch has stood as a beacon of hope and resilience, advocating for civil rights, uplifting Black voices, and mobilizing generations toward meaningful change. From the earliest days of resistance to today's calls for reform, our legacy is one of courage, compassion, and conviction."

The Freedom Fund Dinner traces its roots to the NAACP's early fundraising efforts in the 1950s, designed to sustain legal battles against segregation and discrimination. Alexandria's branch, founded in 1941, has been at the forefront of civil rights advocacy in Northern Virginia, championing fair housing, equitable education, and voting rights.

"This year's Freedom Fund Dinner is more than a celebration — it is a call to action," Franklin said. "It is a moment to honor those who paved the way, recognize those who continue the fight, and inspire those who will carry the torch forward."

Franklin reaffirmed Alexandria's



Darrylynn Franklin, president of the Alexandria branch of the NAACP, with former governor Terry McAuliffe at the Oct. Freedom Fund dinner at the Hotel Heron. McAuliffe was honored with the Defender of Freedom Award at the event.

commitment to voter registration drives and legislative advocacy in honoring McAuliffe.

"Democracy only works when everyone has a voice," McAuliffe said. "We cannot rise in power if we leave people behind. Tonight reminds us that justice is not a destination — it's a journey we walk together."



Former governor Terry McAuliffe, second from left, with City Councilman Kirk McPike, former mayor Bill Euille and City Manager Jim Parajon at the NAACP Freedom Fund dinner Oct. 9 at the Hotel Heron.



James Page, Founder and CEO of Page Global Technologies, makes remarks as the premier sponsor at the NAACP Freedom Fund dinner Oct. 9 at the Hotel Heron.



Former vice mayor Del Pepper, front center, sits with Mindy Lyle, delegate Charniele Herring, Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Sen. Adam Ebbin, and Congressman Don Beyer Oct. 9 at the Hotel Heron.

Alexandria Film Festival:

The Alexandria Film Fest opened Sunday, Nov. 2 and will continue Friday through Sunday,

Nov. 7-9 at venues across the city.

See pages 8-9 to find out more.



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Dems Sweep Top Spots, Gain 13 Seats in House

New majorities set stage for vote on constitutional amendment to allow mid-decade congressional redistricting and other priorities.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Democrat Abigail Spanberger won the Virginia governor's race, securing a Democratic trifecta and full control of the state government for the first time since 2021.

"We sent a message to the whole world that in 2025, Virginia chose pragmatism over partisanship. We chose our commonwealth over chaos. You all chose leadership that will focus relentlessly on what matters most. Lowering costs. Keeping our communities safe, and strengthening our economy," Governor-elect Spanberger, 46, said in her celebration speech shortly after 8:30 p.m. Election Day, Nov. 4. Polls closed at 7 p.m.

The win flips the Governor from Republican control, removing the veto power that halted many Democratic-backed bills in the past legislative session.

Spanberger defeated Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears by a 14.7% margin, receiving 1,916,895 votes to Earle-Sears' 1,425,519, according to the unofficial count from the Virginia Department of Elections as of 2:17:33 a.m. Wednesday.

The consolidation of power was complete as the party took a House of Delegates majority to an estimated 64-36. State Senate seats were not on the Nov. ballot. The next regularly scheduled election for all Virginia State Senate seats is in two years, November 2027.

Democrats also won the Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General races on the statewide ticket. Democrat Ghazala Hashmi won the lieutenant governor race with 1,887,753 votes (55.6%) over Republican John Reid (1,499,064 votes) for an 11.4 percentage point margin. Hashmi's victory makes her the first Muslim and first South



SCREENSHOT

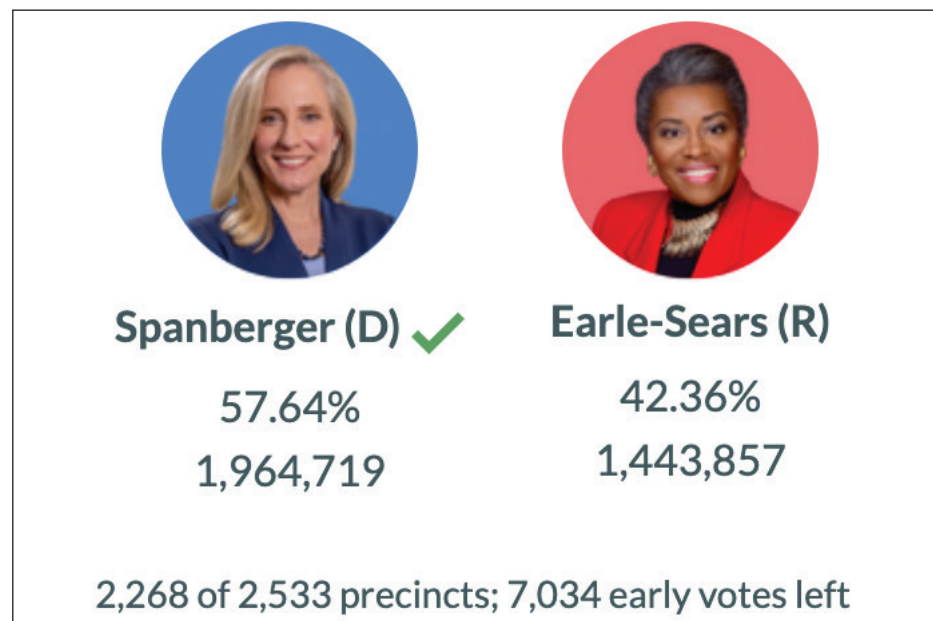
Democrat Abigail Spanberger gives her gubernatorial celebration speech in Richmond, Va., late Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025.

Asian American elected to statewide office in Virginia. Democrat Jay Jones won the attorney general race with 1,791,589 votes (53.1%) over Republican incumbent Jason Miyares (1,570,589 votes) for a 6.6 percentage point margin, based on the near-complete unofficial results from the Virginia Department of Elections as of 2:17:33 a.m. Wednesday.

Northern Virginia counties like Fairfax produced vote totals that supported offsetting Republican strength in the state's rural, historically conservative areas. The Democratic vote totals from Northern Virginia were key to securing the sweep.

Democrats also defeated incumbent Republican members of the House of Delegates in other parts of the state to increase their margin by 13 seats as of Wednesday.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) vetoed 157 bills in 2025, including legislation concerning



Abigail Spanberger will be the first woman to serve as Governor of Virginia.

gun safety (many); minimum wage; affordable housing; retail framework for adult-use cannabis; reproductive health; and many others. This week's election outcome creates an opportunity to break the to advance many of those issues.

This week's election outcome also creates a path to amend the state constitution. The Democratic majority has the numbers to pass a constitutional amendment in the 2026 session that would allow redrawing U.S. House districts. The constitutional amendment bill is House Joint Resolution 6007, or HJ 6007, formally titled the "Virginia Allow Mid-Decade Congressional Redistricting if Another State First Conducts Redistricting Amendment."

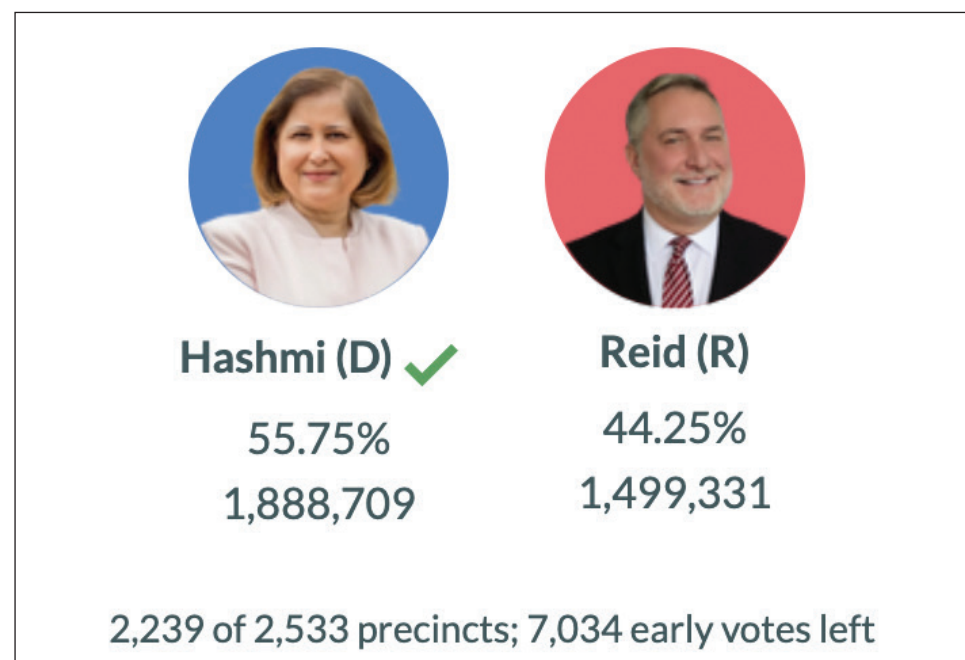
The amendment has successfully passed its first of two required votes by the General Assembly: The State Senate approved HJ

6007 in a party-line 21-16 vote on Oct. 31, 2025. The House of Delegates had approved the measure earlier in the week on a 51-42 vote. This completed the "First Passage" requirement for a constitutional amendment.

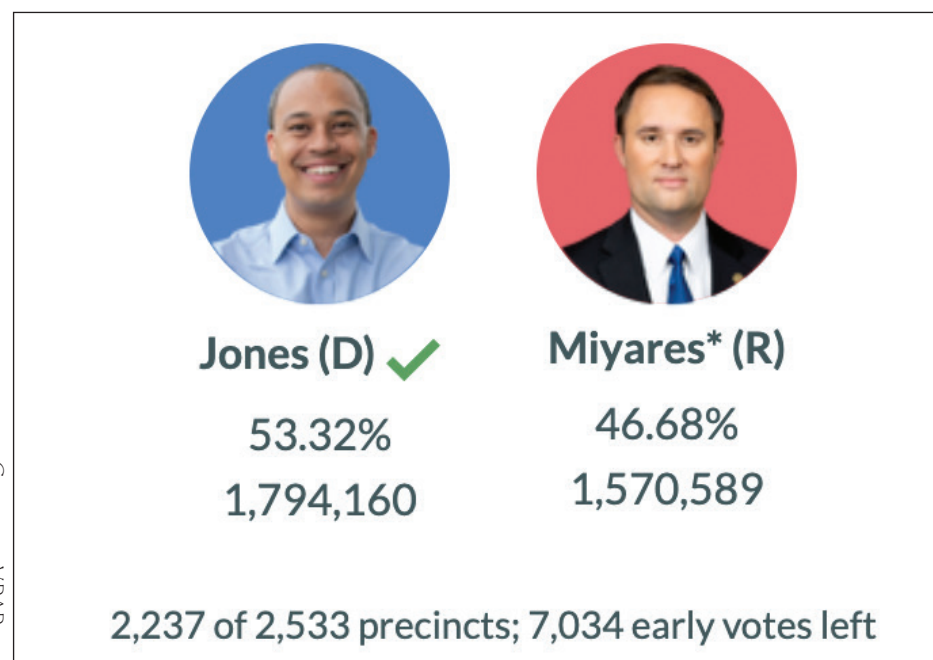
The amendment, HJ 6007, must be approved again during the 2026 Regular Session, which begins in January 2026, and then passed by voters in a statewide referendum before new maps could take effect for the 2026 midterm elections.

The amendment is temporary, granting the General Assembly this power only between Jan. 1, 2025, and Oct. 31, 2030, and only if another state first conducts a mid-decade congressional redistricting.

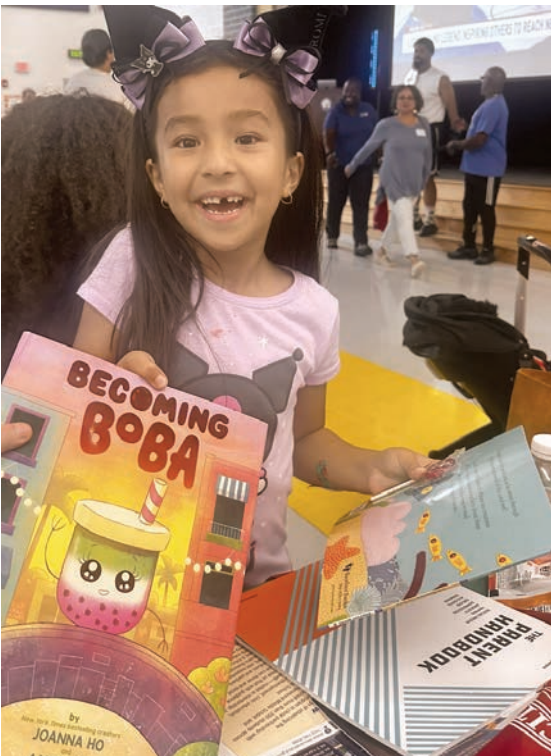
If passed, this could potentially create more Democratic-leaning U.S. House seats, impacting the national balance of power.



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A young attendee picks out some books at the CCNA Community Resource Day Sept. 28 at the Patrick Henry Rec Center.



Magician Captain Token entertains children with assistance from Pastor Elwood Jones of Landmark Community Church during the CCNA Community Resource Day Sept. 28.



The Black Meta Agency provides virtual reality experiences for attendees at the CCNA Community Resource Day Sept. 28.

Community Resource Day

CCNA, Landmark Church sponsor family event.

“Today we are celebrating diversity and welcoming all of our families back this year,”

— CCNA executive director Jim Paige

Landmark Church and the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA) joined forces to present the Community Resource Day, an event to welcome and support families while providing information on city and nonprofit services available in the community.

Held Sept. 28 at Patrick Henry K-8 School,

the event welcomed over 150 family members with gift cards, books and other resource materials distributed to attendees.

Activities were held in the Kids Zone while families enjoyed entertainment by Captain Token the Magician (Louis Hofheimer).

Jim Paige, CCNA executive director, said the event was a celebration of families in the community.

“Today we are celebrating diversity and welcoming all of our families back this year,” Paige said. “This is a very special partnership between Landmark Church and CCNA.”

— JEANNE THEISMANN

An attendee shows off her tattoo at the CCNA Community Resource Day Sept. 28 at Patrick Henry Rec Center.



Boxing champion Tony Suggs spars with an attendee at the CCNA Community Resource Day Sept. 28 at the Patrick Henry Rec Center.



Boxing champion Tony Suggs gives a thumbs up during a break at the CCNA Community Resource Day Sept. 28 at Patrick Henry Rec Center.



A volunteer provides temporary tattoos at the CCNA Community Resource Day Sept. 28 at the Patrick Henry Rec Center.



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2025 RESTAURANT PARTNERS



Beltway Express Toll Lanes Deferred to 2026

Concerns include impacts on local roads, preserving right-of-way for Metrorail and.

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

Building new I-95/495 Beltway express lanes hit a bump in the road on Oct. 15 when the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) voted unanimously to postpone a decision until 2026 and requested additional analysis to achieve more regional agreement.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) proposes to add 11 miles of express toll lanes from the Springfield interchange (I-95/I-395/I-495) to the route 210 interchange in Prince George's County, Maryland, near National Harbor. The project has drawn concerns from elected officials and others from Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Delay Decision to 2026

The board's resolution defers the project and "encourages VDOT and MDOT to continue to explore project options and work with local jurisdictions towards securing a consensus on this important regional corridor." The board added an amendment that "directs VDOT to provide the TPB a report in 2026 on the status and outcomes of its work with all relevant jurisdictions."

TPB Chair and Fairfax County Supervisor Walter Alcorn said, "This corridor across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge is of great regional and even national importance, and this vote is one that our members have taken very seriously. These decisions are not easy, and that's why it's important for the TPB to serve as a forum for regional deliberation and collaboration. I believe our action today shows that there is more work to be done on the project to achieve the regional agreement necessary to advance."

Alexandria Mayor Alvia Gaskins indicated that the city supports the deferral. "We believe additional work is needed to fully evaluate the impacts and ensure that regional solutions align with community priorities."

The proposed alternative did not adequately address the city's concerns related to environmental, equity and neighborhood impacts," she emailed.

Holly Dougherty, President of the Mount Vernon-Springfield Chamber of Commerce said, "The Chamber is disappointed about the decision to defer inclusion of the Southside Beltway Express Lanes in long-range transportation plan-



VDOT estimates that over 200,000 vehicles travel over this segment of the Beltway daily.



The lanes would extend across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to Maryland's route 210, near the MGM Casino.

ning. The daily congestion on the outer loop between Van Dorn and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge calls for attention."

Multiple Concerns

Among issues raised are those of some Prince George's County residents who believe that express lanes would move the current traffic bottleneck closer to Maryland route 210.

Some people, like Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck, question the impacts on local roads. "Anyone who drives this corridor regularly knows how severe the daily backups are along Fort Hunt Road and Richmond Highway caused by folks trying to get into Maryland," Storck said via email. "The TPB's decision to defer adding express lanes to the regional Visualize 2050 plan is the right step, as it allows everyone to step back and address the many unresolved questions surrounding the project, including those raised by Maryland."

"My position has been consistent from the start: I could support the express lanes if the project delivers funding for key improvements

PHOTOS BY GLENDA C. BOOTH



Would more toll lanes relieve traffic along this section of the Beltway that 200,000 vehicles travel daily?



Some express concerns about local impacts to roads like U.S. 1 in Mount Vernon and Alexandria.



VDOT displayed this map of the project at public meetings earlier this year.

to address our local street backups and if VDOT can clearly explain how it will prevent additional cut-through traffic," Storck continued. "My hope is that this deferral

provides the time needed to work collaboratively with Maryland and our residents to develop transportation solutions that will truly work for everyone."

Some argue that VDOT failed to evaluate multiple options. "VDOT never seriously considered any alternatives to its widening and

SEE BELTWAY EXPRESS, PAGE 7

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Beltway Express Toll Lanes

FROM PAGE 6

private toll lanes goal,” contends Bill Pugh, Transportation and Climate Director for the Coalition for Smarter Growth. “There are near-term alternatives that can be implemented sooner than VDOT’s proposed highway widening and toll lanes expansion, which even if there were regional agreement, would still be six or seven years away from completion.

These include exploring peak-period bus shoulder lanes, which are done in a number of U.S. metro areas, and expanding demand management programs and commuter incentives for bus and carpool.

“For example, VDOT and MDOT could collaborate to extend the new Northern Virginia RM3P commuter incentive program along the 495 corridor into Prince George’s,” Pugh said. “Other medium- and longer-term alternatives should also be explored, including transit, alternative managed lanes that don’t require widening and better help all commuters and boosting transit-oriented development.”

Coalition for Smarter Growth also supports preserving the option for Metrorail. Pugh noted, “The region committed to enabling future Metrorail across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in the bridge project settlement. WMATA’s June 2025 letter to VDOT stated, ‘Key open questions remain unresolved. ...’ and that ‘VDOT’s preferred alter-

native increases future risks’ to repurposing the reserved right-of-way for transit.”

Pugh added, “VDOT’s design plans show a giant express lanes ramp near I-295 landing in the space where their other renderings show future Metrorail running. VDOT has not explained how these ramps don’t severely constrain options for future rail in the corridor and raise the cost significantly.”

Mount Vernon resident Greg Crider commented, “VDOT has continued to press forward with its predetermined approach for express lanes while ignoring concerns of the community and surrounding jurisdictions. Hopefully, VDOT will change its approach.”

Congestion Could Worsen

Over 200,000 vehicles travel on this segment daily, VDOT estimates. At an April 1 hearing, Michelle Shropshire, VDOT’s Megaprojects Director for Northern Virginia, predicted, “Traffic conditions will get much worse.”

VDOT proposed three options: no build, one express lane in each direction from Van Dorn Street to the Maryland 210 interchange and two express lanes in each direction from Van Dorn Street to the I-295 interchange.

More Information

<https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/northern-virginia-district/i-495-southside-express-lanes-study/>

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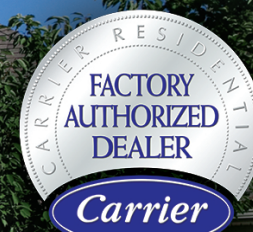
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‘Gun Show’ Provokes Conversation

‘Gun Show’ will be screened Friday, Nov. 7 at 4:30 pm at the American History Museum at the Lyceum.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

“Gun Show” is award-winning cinematographer and director Richard Chisholm’s 30-minute documentary about David Hess. Hess is a metal sculptor who made assault weapons out of junk and scraps as a reaction to the Sandy Hook massacres. It was Hess’ way of processing what had happened. It had shocked him, and it was very personal.

So Hess looked for spare parts — discarded auto mufflers, bicycle gears, pipes, discs — and welded a couple of assault weapons as art. But a museum curator, who was looking at Hess’s sculptures for an upcoming exhibit, discovered the assault weapons lying in a corner of Hess’s studio. The curator picked one up and said it was amazing, disturbing and interesting all at the same time.

He asked Hess if Hess could make more of the art assault weapons for the exhibit and gave him a whole room to exhibit them. This was the impetus that started Hess on a journey to do pop up exhibits across America. He wanted to generate conversations about assault weapons and get reactions.

By the summer Chisholm says Hess had 30 of his art assault weap-

ons, and they trucked the guns to the Eastern Shore for a show. Hess asked if he could lay the assault weapons on the ground. Chisholm says, “The night the show opened so many people came — wine and cheese — students, liberals, local people, fishermen and farmers.” Chisholm said people asked if they could pick the guns up.

Hess said it was amazing the body language changed when someone was holding a gun — sometimes bravado aiming guns, laughing at the new experience, sometimes frightened, sometimes generating conversations about guns in America. Hess and Chisholm went to new places every month for two years and ended up in D.C. They stopped when their budget of \$35,000 ran out.

Chisholm said he directed and shot the experiences and “even though I have feelings about guns we decided to have a measured approach in the film.” He continued, “A lot of people get obsessed about guns. We had all kinds of people all over the political map but we wanted all different people to watch the film so decided to be neutral.”

Chisholm explains it is difficult to raise the money to make documentaries. He says they are the stepchild of the film industry. “The TV industry itself doesn’t want to show them unless they have

sharks. Or murder mysteries get on all the time, and a celebrity helps of course.”

The challenges faced along the way were the things that didn’t happen but might have — and always lingered in the back of their minds as possibilities. “We always worried about yelling or harassing or someone trying to steal the guns. That never happened but we knew we had to be careful. On 5th Avenue the cops were driving by, and Black people were holding up the art weapons.”

“We were uncomfortable.” A black teenager commented, “You couldn’t do this on our block.”

And there was the gun show in rural Pennsylvania held in a barn. “It was mostly rural America, NRA types. We were worried they would think we were making fun of them and chase us out. It turned out they loved the art objects and wanted to buy them.”

Chisholm has been a cinematographer for more than 30 years and won a number of awards including an Emmy and a Peabody. Once in a while he says he makes his own film. Chisholm recalls he was an artist as a kid but when he was a mid-teen he started to make sarcastic films with his friends. One of his films got screened in a film festival and, “I got a rush. I said ‘this is what I want to do.’” Then Chisholm submitted his senior



Richard Chisholm shooting “Gun Show” in Washington D.C. with David Hess, the sculptor and subject of the documentary being screened during the Alexandria Film Festival.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Assembling David Hess’s assault weapons artistic display.

project in college to PBS as a lark. To his surprise PBS liked it and aired it nationally. This flicked another switch for Chisholm on the road to becoming a well acclaimed

cinematographer.

“Gun Show” will be screened Friday, Nov. 7 at 4:30 pm at the American History Museum at the Lyceum.

About the Alexandria Film Festival

Free Film
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Feds.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

The Alexandria Film Fest opened Sunday, Nov. 2 and will continue Friday through Sunday, Nov. 7-9 at venues across the city.

The 62 independent films to be screened at the 18th Film Festival this year span from 3 minutes to 118 minutes and cover topics from environ-

mental issues to documentaries about a gun show to comedies and satires to fantasies. Half of the films were made by local filmmakers and 50 of them will be present for a Q&A session after their films. Tickets may be purchased at \$15 per show or an All-Festival Pass for \$80 at affilmsthatmatter2025.eventive.org.

Jill Ray, chair of the festival announced they will offer complimentary tickets to Federal workers due to the government shutdown.

The full program is available at <https://affilmsthatmatter2025.eventive.org/welcome> <https://alexfilmfest.com/>

‘Turn Me On’ Characters Get Turned Off

‘Turn Me On’ will be screened at the Alexandria Film Festival on Friday, Nov. 7 at the American History Museum at the Lyceum.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Michael Tyburski is premiering his 99 minute feature, “Turn Me On” at the Alexandria Film Festival on Friday, Nov. 7 at the American History Museum at the Lyceum. His first feature premiered at Sundance in 2019. “Turn Me On,” Tyburski’s second feature, takes place in a world that feels like a Utopia, where everyone is comfortable with no positive or negative feelings due to a pill they take by choice every day.

Then one day Joy doesn’t take the “vitamin” and discovers a

SEE ‘TURN ME ON’, PAGE 9



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Michael Tyburski, the director of “Turn Me On” on the set with the cinematographer.

ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL

Film Discovers Too Many Annies

“The Other You,” Virginia premier at the Alexandria Film Festival on Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. at Virginia Tech (ALX) Boeing Auditorium.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

“The Other You,” Shoshana Rosenbaum’s first feature film, is having its Virginia premier at the Alexandria Film Festival on Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. at Virginia Tech (ALX) Boeing Auditorium.

The film was shot in an Alexandria house and yard in Rosemont over 17 days. “This was the biggest challenge. We had the house for a finite period of time, and scheduling it all was difficult,” Rosenbaum explains, “We had to dress the house to be a regular world and then flip it over to the closet world. Every actor plays two parts in the two different worlds, and it was complicated going back and forth.”

Then they also learned the house next door was going to be doing construction so she had to make a schedule in case they had to work around that.

“The Other You” is about a woman who is married with three children and is feeling disgruntled about her hassled and humdrum life where everyone wants something from her, and she has no time to do creative work. One day she finds a small door in her closet. Through that door she discovers another world which seems like a better version of her life — where

her children are well behaved, her husband attentive and loving, and she has plenty of quality time for her writing. She discovers her other self and another life.

But as time goes on, she learns there is more to the life through the closet door. It is an actual place, the other world, and there are problems there, too. And there seem to be too many Annies.

They worked long days to make the film. “You know Alexandria in the summer with tornado warnings and runs to the basement and thunderstorms. But we got it done. There are always a lot of things that happen along the way. But we are problem solvers.”

Rosenbaum made her first short film 10 years ago when she was 40. She had been an elementary school teacher but she says turning 40 was the catalyst; and she decided if she wanted to do it, she needed to do it now. Rosenbaum says she was always a writer but it wasn’t as accessible when she came up to produce a film, and she didn’t see it as a career path. Now she says with the digital possibilities, it is so much easier to do it yourself.

Rosenbaum says the whole life cycle of a film takes so long. She read the script in 2021. It took a year to develop the script and raise the money and it was shot in 2023. Then there is post production, sound design, and color. “Color is

very important in the film; it differentiates the two worlds for the viewer.”

For a lot of films raising money is really their biggest challenge “but we got really lucky with the funding. We received a \$100,000 grant.” She explains that while you can generally make a short film for under \$10,000, “it is expensive to make a feature.” She says you see the cast but you don’t see the writers, sound and camera crew, etc. and equipment is very expensive. “I directed, produced and edited so we didn’t have to pay for separate people.”

Now she is working on her next indie film about a mother trying to invent a robotic AI to help raise her children. “I’m trying to get it off the ground.”

Rosenbaum grew up in Arling-



Director Shoshana Rosenbaum and Casting Director/Producer Kimberly Skyrme shooting “The Other You” on location in the Rosemont neighborhood of Alexandria.

ton and she says many of the cast and crew are local and will be at the screening.

“You never know what will go.

The longer I do it I celebrate the small wins. You just hope it will resonate with other people. I’m excited to be part of the festival.”

Annie opens the portal door into the other world.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED



‘Turn Me On’ Characters Get Turned Off

FROM PAGE 8

whole range of feelings. When she shares this with her partner William and the others in her group, it causes major disruption in their lives.

“Like most satires this shines a light on our own society, taking pills to avoid feeling things, exploring the over-medication in our society.” He says, “When Angela wrote the script, it was during the pandemic, and she was looking at the idea of how young people don’t connect physically anymore. She took it to the extreme, and I could project some of my feelings when everyone was isolated during Covid.”

Tyburski says, “You have to be creative to translate a script to the screen and on a budget. With a screenplay maybe there are no limits. It took place in a cosmopolitan



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bel Powley and Nick Robinson cast in the film “Turn Me On”

future city. But,” he says, “We wanted to make it a little more original, and we didn’t have the budget to fabricate a city so we adapted it to

rural community in the wilderness. We don’t know where it is but they speak English, and we wanted to place them in nature.”

He says it took about a month to shoot the film. “The actual making of the movie took about a year’s worth of time for me — work on the script, develop for the screen, find the cast, many months of post production, sound mix and color.” He says, “You have to be quick on your feet. The biggest challenge was creating a lot of problems you have to solve. It takes a lot to make a movie.”

As the director he was involved in all the steps. “Finding the cast, working with the wonderful cast. They are very talented.

I live in New York, the leading actress in London, the other lead in LA.”

And in this case it was shot during Covid and there were the extra restrictions mandated by Covid with required medical staff on set and distancing. “Filmmak-

ing is very intimate with close conversations in small environments but with the extra restrictions mandated it was more hurdle to work around.”

He says he grew up in rural Vermont, and it was not a path everyone was doing. “But I had an interest in how things work and when I got into movies as a kid, I started experimenting with my own.” Then he studied film in Santa Fe. “I worked directing commercials and short films for 15 years.”

He is currently in the early phases of writing his third film. Tyburski thinks film has become easier technically today. “It is certainly competitive but talent does prevail and good stories find their way to the top.”

He adds, “I have a lot of tenacity, And I don’t want to stop. It’s what I love to do.”

Meet the Legends

Noah Lyles among Living Legends to be honored Nov. 12.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Olympic Gold medalist Noah Lyles, known as the “fastest man alive,” will be among 12 individuals honored as Living Legends of Alexandria Nov. 12 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial.

Lyles, a graduate of Alexandria City High School (formerly T.C. Williams), returns home to join his fellow distinguished citizens being honored for their extraordinary contributions to the community.

Other Class of 2025 Living Legends include Mary Lee Anderson, Ana Bonilla-Galdamez, Gerald File,

Charlotte Hall, Iburia Hall-Haynes, David Mercer, Robyn Nichols, Patrick O’Brien, Kitty Porterfield, Gerald Wanzer and Adrienne Terrell Washington.

Lyles will become the youngest inductee as a Living Legend of Alexandria.

“Noah is a graduate of our high school, and this is the place he calls his hometown,” said Mary Wadland, President of the Living Legends of Alexandria Board. “His worldwide achievements and boundless spirit have made him a global ambassador for Alexandria. The kids at Alexandria City High look up to him and know that any-

contributions to the City of Alexandria.

“This induction is more than a ceremony — it’s a celebration of possibility for our entire city,” Wadland added, “Noah’s story shows our youth what can happen when you chase your dreams and come back to lift others. And the other Legends being honored this year remind us that there are countless ways to make a lasting difference right here at home. Whether through arts, education, public service, or volunteer leadership, each of our 2025 honorees reflects the spirit of Alexandria at its finest.”

The reception will be held Nov. 12 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial beginning at 6 p.m.

For tickets or more information visit www.alexandrialegends.org

“This induction is more than a ceremony — it’s a celebration of possibility for our entire city.”

— Living Legends president Mary Wadland

thing is possible. He’s giving back to local kids through his foundation — he’s the definition of a Living Legend.”

The Meet the Legends reception, now in its 16th year, honors those who have made significant contri-

Alexandria’s Noah Lyles, Olympic Gold medalist and ‘World’s Fastest Man,’ will be among the 2025 Living Legends of Alexandria honored Nov. 12 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial.
www.alexandrialegends.org



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED/LYLES FAMILY

SENIOR LIVING

Local High Schools Nursing Students Making a Difference

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

High school students looking to pursue the nursing profession get a head start by taking advantage of the Fairfax County and City of Alexandria nursing programs that are now part of the staff at The Boulevard, a senior facility in Fairfax.

First the students finish the classroom lessons at their high schools and then it’s on to the center to work with the residents.

“They learn in the classroom and then they come out to work with us,” said Jane Hughes at Woodbine Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, the management company that runs The Boulevard.

On Monday, Oct. 13 the newest group of Fairfax County Public School nurse aides started their clinical rounds at The Boulevard. The nursing students help with the close day-to-day work of caring for residents, helping with getting up, bathing and meals. Many go on to

be nurses and fund their education working as Certified Nursing Assistants.

“They are the heart of any health care facility,” Hughes said.

Three of the former nursing students graduated high school and continued as nurse assistants at The Boulevard while four other CNA graduates are working in other nursing jobs within the community.

There are extensive nursing programs at West Potomac, Falls Church and Chantilly in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria where it’s known as the Governor’s Health Science Academy.

The full name is “The Boulevard Post Acute,” and it was formerly known as The Virginian, serving greater Fairfax’s post acute needs for decades. The caregivers focus on patients that come out of the hospital after an operation or other treatment but need more support before they are ready to live at home.



WOODBINE REHABILITATION & HEALTHCARE CENTER

Nursing students at The Boulevard pictured here from left, Angelie Jimenez, Darianna Paniagua, Amira Ali, Manahil Hadi, Valeria Alvarado, Abigail Kakarala, Viviana Lizarazu-Cruz, Valeria Garcia, Mary Grimmick, Camila Sorto and Instructor Zainab Kamara-Suma.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GRIFFIN FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA

Holidays in Alexandria

❖ Alexandria's Biggest Holiday Weekend.

From Dec. 5-7, Alexandria's Biggest Holiday Weekend features the 54th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade sponsored by Wegmans and the 25th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights sponsored by Amazon, two beloved holiday traditions. On Sunday, Dec. 7, take part in a tree and menorah lighting at the Del Ray Holiday Season Kick-Off.

❖ Shop Small, Gift Big.

With 100+ independent boutiques, seasonal shopping events and holiday markets across the city's neighborhoods, Alexandria is the region's "shop small" destination.

❖ Sip & Savor the Season.

Cozy up at new culinary hotspots like LaPluma Coffee & Wine Bar, blending Central American heritage with seasonal flavors, and Bar 86, a moody speakeasy tucked inside Café du Soleil.

❖ Festive Lights & Holiday Magic.

Stroll under the King Street mile's canopy of lights or glide through Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run. Don't miss Waterskiing Santa on the Potomac River, the city's quirkiest tradition, on Christmas Eve. Ring in the New Year with the family-friendly 31st annual First Night Alexandria event, which shines a spotlight on the Carlyle neighborhood this year. That same night, enjoy a fireworks show at Alexandria's waterfront presented by the City of Alexandria.

❖ Stay & Celebrate in Style.

From a Home Alone-themed pop-up bar at Hotel Heron to festive igloos at King & Rye and a wellness escape at JoyLife SPA, Alexandria's hotels are making spirits bright all season long.

❖ See Visit Alexandria for more. <https://visitalexandria.com/holidays/>



PHOTO BY EVAN MICHIO FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SECOND HALF 2025 REAL ESTATE TAX, REFUSE FEE AND STORMWATER UTILITY FEE ARE DUE NOVEMBER 17, 2025

The second half 2025 Real Estate tax, Refuse fee and Stormwater Utility fee must be paid by Monday, November 17, 2025, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

Pay online by credit card or eCheck at alexandriava.gov/Payments. Real Estate tax payments can also be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750.

Pay in-person at either the Treasury Division, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 1510, or at the West End Finance Office, 4850 Mark Center Drive, Suite 2011, between 8AM and 5PM, Monday through Friday. A drop box on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on November 17, 2025, to be on time.

General Real Estate tax information is available on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Detailed assessment, tax balance and payment information is available at realestate.alexandriava.gov.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov. For questions on Refuse fees or Stormwater Utility fees, please call Alex311 at 703.746.4311 or submit questions online at alexandriava.gov/Alex311.

For information on the City's Real Estate Tax Relief Programs for elderly, disabled, and military-disabled residents, please contact the Revenue Division, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 1700, Alexandria, VA 22314, by email taxrelief@alexandriava.gov or by phone 703.746.4800.

City Hall and Market Square are being renovated. Sign up for eNews updates at alexandriava.gov/eNews and choose the "City Hall Renovation" topic. Find out more about department moves at alexandriava.gov/CityHallRelocation.

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ASC to Host Women in Sports Night Nov. 19

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club will present the Women in Sports Night at its Nov. 19 meeting at the Old Dominion Boat Club. The meeting will feature a panel comprised of three Alexandria high school athletic directors along with a professional player from the DC Divas football team.

The panel, moderated by ASC past president Jim Gibson, includes St. Stephens's & St. Agnes Athletic Director Stephanie Koroma, Episcopal High School Athletic Director Jen Fitzpatrick, and Bishop Ireton High School Assistant Athletic Director Ashley Perez.

ASC vice president Brendan Crane will present the high school Athletes of the Month.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with complimentary dinner. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Old Dominion Boat Club Ballroom, 0 Prince Street Old Town Alexandria

Enter the Boat Club at the bottom of Prince Street near the waterfront.

Due to limited space, RSVP required to alexandriasportsmansclub@gmail.com

For more information visit www.alexandriavasports.org

- JEANNE THEISMANN



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes High School Athletic Director Stephanie Koroma



Episcopal High School Athletic Director Jen Fitzpatrick



Bishop Ireton High School Athletic Director Ashley Perez

Holiday Events, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities

The holiday season is here, and the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities has a calendar full of events to bring the community together. From tree lightings and concerts to family festivals and teen nights, there's something for everyone to enjoy as we wrap up the year.

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Saturday, Nov. 22, 6-8 p.m.
Market Square (301 King St.), Free
Start the season in the heart of Old Town with Alexandria's annual tree lighting. Enjoy music, carols, and a visit from Santa as we welcome the holidays together.

Grinchmas

Saturday, Dec. 6, 9:30-11 a.m.
Charles Houston Rec Center (901 Wythe St.), \$5

Join us for a Who-ville celebration featuring festive activities, delicious treats, and photos with the Grinch, plus a live reading of How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

Chinquapin Park Recreation & Aquatics Facility's 40th Anniversary

Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

3210 King St., Free
Join us this December as we honor four decades of splashes, smiles, and strength. Enjoy swim demos, pool inflatables, free soft play and racquetball access, giveaways, and special sales.

Family Winter Holiday Fun

Saturday, Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Leonard Armstrong Rec Center, \$7
Celebrate the holidays with gingerbread houses, crafts, cookie decorating, games, and Santa's favorite story and movie. Then snap a photo with Santa; don't forget your camera.

Very Merry ALX Jazz Fest at the Masonic Memorial

Friday, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m.
101 Callahan Dr. | Free
Get ready to celebrate the holidays at A Very Merry ALX Jazz Fest - a festive gathering of music, art, and poetry.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Mount Vernon Rec Center | \$25
A holiday tradition. Kids can enjoy breakfast and take a photo with Santa and his elves.

Senior Ugly Sweater Party

Ages 55+

Friday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Patrick Henry Rec Center, Free
Don your most outrageous holiday attire and indulge in holiday crafts, cookie-decorating, lively games and joyful music.

KIDS & TEENS

2nd Annual Alexandria Fall Chess Tournament

Grades K-12
Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | Oswald Durant Center | \$20/participant
The official City of Alexandria Championships! Open to students who live or attend school in the City. Four rounds, non-elimination. Arrive by 9:45am. Not US Chess rated.

Alexandria Holiday Invitational Cheer Competition

Sunday, Dec. 14 | 2 p.m.
Alexandria City HS, Ages 4 and Under: Free, Ages 5-12 and Seniors: \$5, Ages 13+: \$10
Get ready to dazzle, dance, and dominate! Support youth cheerleading teams from neighborhood recreation centers and the metropolitan area.

Winter Break Camps

Visit alexandriava.gov/rpca/camps for a list of winter break camps.

Teen Winter Pool Jam
Middle and high school students
Saturday, Dec. 20, 6-8:30 p.m., Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility, Free
Come warm up at the coolest party with friends, festive vibes, and non-stop fun.

FOR ADULTS

Adult Social Night

Ages 18+
Friday, Nov. 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Leonard Armstrong Rec Center, \$9
Unwind with friends old and new during our adult social night.

Line Dance Social

Ages 18+
Tuesday, Dec. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Charles Houston Rec Center, Free
Dance into the holiday spirit with a festive night of music, movement, and community.

Learn More & Register:

Visit the RPCA Community Activities page for full details, times, and registration links.

If you prefer communication in another language, free interpretation and translation services are available, please email LanguageAccess@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.3960.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event. Or email to calendar@connectionnewspapers.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager

skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteerallexandria.org
ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. [https://www.](https://www.volunteerallexandria.org)

volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE
Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and

the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.
STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for

the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551- 2488, or donaalrea@aol.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

MEETS EVERY SUNDAY

Bird Walks. 8 a.m. At 6401 George Washington Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. Friends of Dyke Marsh organizers lead bird walks every Sunday morning. Meet at 8 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Belle Haven picnic area. Walks are led by experienced birders and everyone is welcome to join us.

MEETS EVERY MONDAY

Monday Morning Bird Walk. 7 a.m. Meets at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard Alexandria. The Monday Morning Bird Walk is sponsored by the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and takes place every Monday at 7 a.m. April-September and 8 a.m. October-March. Following the walk, members of the group gather at the nearby Denny's for breakfast and to compile the morning's bird list. Call (703) 768-2525.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday Night Bingo. 7 p.m. At Atlas Brew Works, 2429 Mandeville Lane, Alexandria. The Capital City Showcase, the company that brings you some of the DC area's best events, is hosting an amazing night of everyone's favorite game at Atlas Brew Works Alexandria. Win prizes on every round, and the winner of the final round gets a \$50 Atlas Brew Works gift card for your next visit! There's also \$6 select Atlas drafts! Plus pizza served from the world famous Andy's Pizza! Email at capitalcityshowcase@gmail.com

MGNV PLANT CLINICS ARE OPEN

The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St., Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7 - 9:30 a.m. Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N. 14th and N. Courthouse Roads, Arlington operates on Saturdays from 8 - 11 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9 - 11 a.m.

YEAR ROUND ON SUNDAYS

Farmer's Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Casa Chirilagua Community Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Experience fresh foods, native plants, artisan crafts, music and community at Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market in the heart of Arlandria outside the Casa Chirilagua Community Center, every Sunday 9-1 p.m.

ONGOING

Revolutionary War Exhibit. At the National Museum of the U.S. Army, Alexandria. The National Museum of the United States Army has opened a special exhibition, Call To Arms: The Soldier and the Revolutionary War. The two-year exhibition commemorates this year's 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army and next year's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This 5,000 square-foot exhibition features a rare collection, specially curated by the Museum, that includes Revolutionary War artifacts from the original colonies, England, France and Canada. Among the exhibit's highlights are a pair of General George Washington's pistols, the original flag of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment carried by the Army's first African American Soldiers, and a complete Loyalist uniform—one of the rarest items in the collection. The sword of British General Charles Lord Cornwallis, presented to Washington at the surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, will also be displayed for a limited time.

THURSDAY/NOV. 6

2025 Alexandria Film Festival Filmmaker and Sponsor Reception. 6-8 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Alexandria Film Festival invitation-only reception welcoming filmmakers to the festival and honoring sponsors and Athenaeum members at the Athenaeum gallery. The reception kicks off the 4-day in-person festival starting Friday, Nov. 7th. The festival will screen more than 50 films, and host more than a dozen premieres, with

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performs on Nov. 8-9, 2025 in Alexandria.



The Georgetown Saxatones will perform on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025 at The Athenaeum in Alexandria.

filmmakers attending from around the world. RSVP to admin@nvfaa.org

FRIDAY/NOV. 7

Garden Talk – Ground Cover Great Lawn Alternative. 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Groundcovers are a great alternative to the traditional lawn. Learn how to use them in areas your lawn just won't grow. They are low maintenance, spread quickly and return each year. Come hear from Extension Master Gardener on how to select, grow and maintain different groundcover options. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 46G.AW65

NOV. 7-30

"The Mini World: Small Works of Art" show-

cases tiny creations by Del Ray Artisans members in a variety of media and styles. Step into this miniature world and discover the joy of life's little things. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Join in the Opening Reception on Friday, November 7, 7-9pm. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/NOV. 8

Forest Bathing Walk in the Gardens. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Experience Green Spring Gardens with all your senses. Join Certified Forest Therapy Guide and co-founder of local nonprofit Capital Nature, Ana Ka'ahanui, for a slow, meditative walk around the gardens. Inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin-yoku, this contemplative walk

inspires interaction with the surrounding nature in a way that will help reduce blood pressure, boost immunity, and enhance mood and creativity. Decompress and feel a deeper connection with the natural world. The experience concludes with a soothing spot of tea, offering a moment to reflect and savor the essence of nature. Bring something to sit on the ground, which may be damp, and a water bottle. Dress for the weather. \$35 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code ZOY.EPOO

SATURDAY/NOV. 8

Seasonal Fairy Garden Workshop. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Create a one-of-a-kind fairy garden scene out of natural materials with the help of instructor Bailey Price. Go on a guided walk to find inspiration and collect items from nature to work with. Learn how to build miniature furniture using hot glue and natural materials such as dried plants, acorns, twigs, and bark. Feel free to bring fairy garden pieces from home to incorporate in your design. Register for both the class and the \$35 supply fee. Bring a box or container that will help you transport your creation home. \$43 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code ZKJ.XQ7J

SATURDAY/NOV. 8

Special Tour: Architecture of Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House. 12 to 1 p.m. At Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House provide a unique opportunity to put two American

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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Obituary

Obituary



Pamela Margaret Wylie ('Meg' to all who knew her) died on June 26th, after a long illness. She lived in Alexandria Virginia from the mid-sixties until her death. Meg grew up in Sudbury, Massachusetts, the daughter of Craig and Angela Fowler Wylie, and went to Winsor School in Boston. She then got a degree in Special Education from Boston University, and taught for a while before moving to Alexandria, which she visited and fell in love with.

Meg was a storyteller of fact and fiction, her mind was filled with our family's history. Animals were often a part of her fables and her dogs were the true loves of her life. She had learned to cook in a restaurant and continued this passion for a long time. While she had many struggles, she was generous to her family as well as to the strangers she cared for as a volunteer for the Meade Church Lunch Program. She will remain in our hearts and the stories of her will become part of our lore.

Meg is preceded in death by sisters Charlotte and Kate, and survived by sisters Moira and Jennifer, brother Andrew, and nieces and nephews Jacob, Beatrice, Nikolas, Anna, Torquil, Marco and Zon; and many cousins.

The family would like to thank Stephanie Thomopoulos of Geriatricare Management Inc, and Kasey, Riham and Isatu of The Medical Team, for their care of Meg in her final months. Very special thanks goes to Ella Schwartz, Trust Officer at Burke and Herbert Bank, who went beyond the call of duty many a day.

Donations in Meg's honour can be made to the Meade Church Lunch Program (meadechurch.org), to the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (awla.org), or the Massawippi Foundation and Conservation Trust (massawippi.org). Cremation took place and she was buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge Massachusetts, on Thursday August 14th.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

styles of architecture – separated by over a century – in conversation with one another. Take a close look at both houses to examine what it was that the architects who built these homes were trying to convey about the people who lived here, the period they lived in, and what they thought the future held.

NOV. 8-9

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center; Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial. Featuring James Ross, conductor; Michael Rusinek, clarinet; György Ligeti: Concert Romanesc; W.A. Mozart: Clarinet Concerto; Scott Joplin: Overture to Treemonisha; and Felix Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 “Italian”.

SUNDAY/NOV. 9

Georgetown Saxatones. 2 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Get ready to rock the house with everything from alternative to pop to soul with the Georgetown Saxatones! As Georgetown’s only community service a cappella group, they are passionate about sharing their music in support of worthy causes. Donations are welcome during the performance and the Saxatones will donate all of their proceeds to a humanitarian charity.

SUNDAY/NOV. 9

Consume to Destroy. 4 to 5:30 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Confront your fears and phobias through art with Heloisa Escudero’s solo performance Consume to Destroy. In this performance art, Heloisa reverses the process of what phobias do to an individual which is consume their energy. Instead, each participant symbolically destroys their phobias, fears, and/or anxieties by eating a delicious gluten-free vegan rice ball on a wooden skewer and then the skewer is turned into a sculpture.

SUNDAY/NOV. 9

Forest Bathing at Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House. 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. At Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. Forest Bathing, also known as Forest Therapy, is a slow, mindful immersion in Nature. During a two and a half hour period, we move through the Forest and connect with the environment using all of our senses. This practice is deeply grounding and has many health benefits. Leading the session will be Emily Hampton, an Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides and Programs (ANFT) certified guide. She is a graduate of Stanford University and a 23 year veteran of the U.S. Navy. Emily is also a certified yoga teacher and Nidra meditation teacher.

NOV. 12 TO DEC. 7

Expressions in Light by Mahua Mazumdar. At the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria. Opening reception & artist talk: Friday, Nov. 14 from 6:30-8 p.m. Visit: <https://www.theartleague.org/gallery/exhibits/>

FRIDAY/NOV. 14

The Thirteen. 7:30 p.m. At Immanuel Chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary Alexandria. The Thirteen invites audiences to experience its work through the intimate configuration of a vocal quartet, with Artistic Director Matthew Robertson at the piano. Featuring Amy Broadbent, soprano; Kristen Dubenion-Smith, mezzo-soprano; Oliver Mercer, tenor; and Gilbert Spencer, baritone. The close alliance between nature and music dates to the earliest written treatises of philosophers and composers. In this concert featuring works by Barber, Brahms, Hindemith, Palestrina, and by contemporary masters, The Thirteen presents music on themes of the natural world and on nature as viewed through the kaleidoscope of love, in all its faces: divine, filial, and romantic.

SATURDAY/NOV. 15

Watercolor Workshop – Botanical Watercolor. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexan-

dria. (16-Adult) For the beginner or advanced student, artist and instructor Dawn Flores will share watercolor techniques through exercises that help you understand color, composition and improve brush control. Learn about the history and types of paper used in botanical art. Basic drawing skills are helpful for drawing the plant specimen from which to paint an elegant botanical portrait. A supply list will be emailed before class. Bring a lunch. \$112 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 6CZ.94LD

SATURDAY/NOV. 15

Garden Talk – Winterizing Your Garden. 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Cleaning up your garden beds and pruning this fall can make your spring tasks lighter and improve the overall health of your garden. Learn from Extension Master Gardeners what you need to do to ensure that your plants are prepared for winter, from pruning, transplanting and mulching. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 0CW.YFLO

SATURDAY/NOV. 15

Native Plants Tell Indigenous Stories. 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Join Smithsonian Gardens horticulturist, Christine Price-Abelow for a fascinating lecture on the garden surrounding the National Museum of the American Indian. Learn about the carefully selected native plants, their cultural significance, and the stories they tell about the land and Indigenous traditions. Discover how the landscape honors the connection between plants and the American Indian community. \$15 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code T11.DSNL

SUNDAY/NOV. 16

Open House. 4 to 7 p.m. In a creative partnership with Del Ray Artisans, Serenity Gallery, the in-home gallery of mosaic artist-photographer Nina Tisara, will host an Open House. Twenty percent of all sales (in person and online) will be donated to Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. The art may be viewed at Serenity Gallery (6408 Hayfield Place, Alexandria VA) or online. Please RSVP for the Open House. Details at delrayartisans.org/serenity-place

SUNDAY/NOV. 16

Garden Artists - Plant Poetry and Prose. 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (9-Adult) Explore nature and spark your creativity. Walk through the garden, discovering hidden poems, then work on putting your own thoughts down on paper. Learn about different poetry forms, from sonnets to limericks to haiku. Whether you love to write or are just starting, this adventure will inspire you and help you feel closer to the world around you. All attendees, including parents, must be registered for the program. \$10 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code UQU.7E12

SUNDAY/NOV. 16

Open house. Mosaics by Nina Tisara and Art Photography by Steven Halperson. At Serenity Gallery/Del Ray Gallery. 4-7 p.m. At 6408 Hayfield Place, Alexandria. Twenty percent of all sales, in-person and on-line, will benefit Del Ray Artisans. Or (all day) online: <https://tisaraphoto.com/mosaics/Serenity-Gallery.html>. Reservations strongly suggested for in-person visits : ninat@ninatisara.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Watercolor Workshop- Mono Printing. 9:30 a.m.

– 3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Join artist Marni Maree in creating many one of a kind watercolor mono-prints on various types of paper. Learn the unique process of making hand pulled prints using your watercolor palette and some very common household products. A supply list will be emailed before class. Bring a lunch. \$112 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code SOL.RADB

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Seasonal Holiday Plants and Bulb Forcing Demo. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Join Kathy Jentz, Editor and Publisher of Washington Gardener Magazine, for a festive and informative workshop on caring for classic seasonal plants. Kathy will share expert tips on nurturing holiday favorites and introduce a few unique plant varieties that make thoughtful gifts and charming additions to your home décor. You’ll also learn the basics of bulb forcing—a fun technique for coaxing spring bloomers like tulips to flower early, brightening your home just when you need it most in the gray days of late winter. As part of the workshop, you’ll decorate a pot and plant a bulb to take home—perfect for holiday gifting or bringing a touch of green to your own winter space. Please register for the class and supply fee. \$43 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code TQL.DO6W

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Appetite for Art. 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adult) As the traditional season of feasting approaches, consider food as a popular motif in paintings. Enjoy a selection of food-filled masterpieces, some playful, some provocative. Discover how they reveal fascinating details of their time and place in history and explore art that has captured the essence – and overindulgence - of Thanksgiving. \$42 (lecture + tea); \$18 (lecture only). To register, call Green Spring Historic House 703-324-3988.

DEC. 5 TO 21

Del Ray Artisans 30th Annual Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA. Holiday Market is the first three weekends in December (Dec 5-7, Dec 12-14, Dec 19-21). Offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and more! Plus 2026 wall calendars support Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. Free admission. Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/event/holiday-market-2025

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.

NOVEMBER

Wed. 5: Boney James: Slow Burn Tour \$95.00 SOLD OUT!
Thu. 6: Micky Dolenz of The Monkees: Songs & Stories \$75.00
Fri. 7: An Evening with The Jerry Douglas Band \$45.00
Sat. 8: NAJEE \$59.50
Sun. 9: Blackmore’s Night w/ Wizards Consort \$49.50 SOLD OUT!
Mon. 10: Marc Cohn & Shawn Colvin: Together Onstage \$89.50 SOLD OUT!
Tue. 11: Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox - Magic, Moonlight & Mistletoe Tour \$89.50
Wed. 12: Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox - Magic, Moonlight & Mistletoe Tour \$89.50
Thu. 13: An Evening with Colin Hay \$89.50
Fri. 14: An Evening with Colin Hay \$89.50 SOLD OUT!

Some Reward



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a regular consumer of food made by others, outside of our home, I have, when prompted, joined their respective rewards’ programs, to accumulate points, which turn into dollars which lower my net expenditures at their establishment. In setting up these accounts, a little bit of information is requested: name, address, email, date of birth, phone number, et cetera. It wasn’t until recently, when a new iteration of programs had been installed that when September rolled around, I received a five-dollar credit in my account - for my birthday which is in September. In my nearly 10 years participating in these programs (think supermarkets as the most popular purveyor of these types of programs), I have never, ever received a birthday bump until now.

And so, with my bump in hand, figuratively speaking, I called in a takeout order at one of my local haunts. Ten minutes or so later, I was standing in front of the store’s register waiting to pay for my order, which was, per my reward, about to be \$5 less than was quoted to me over the phone. The employee/young man, approximately high school age walks up to the register behind his side of the counter and asks my name. I give it to him, and he quotes the phone price. To which I reply: “I’d like to use my rewards’ birthday credit.” “Oh, happy birthday. How old are you?” He asks with a smile. “Guess” I reply. Before he could answer, I add: “Unless you think I look like I’m 80.” He shrugs his shoulders and not really answering my question says: “I don’t want to be disrespectful.” I shook my head at his response, laughed and paid for my order. After a thanked him, I turned my head and followed my body back toward the entry/exit door where I then strolled to my car parked a few yards away, snickering and still smiling.

At home, after dinner, I sat down to write of this exchange, in an abbreviated form to make sure that, given my age, I would have sufficient notes to remind what was said so that I could write a column about it. And what preceded this paragraph and what will follow are my recollections and reactions to this employee not wanting to be disrespectful.

In thinking about it then and now, I can’t quite determine what the employee meant. Did he think I looked aged 80? Was he afraid to guess an age, not 80 necessarily, but one he thought might offend me because the number was higher/older than I actually am? If truth be told, and it is a hard pillow to swallow (and believe me, due to my cancer diagnosis, I swallow a lot of pills), I am closer to aged 80 than I am to already having been aged 60. And as my fellow near-octogenarian might wonder: what happened to the last 20 years? How could I be that age (OKAY, I’ll s, s, s, say it: 71.) I don’t understand. I know time flies. But this seems like warp speed.

However, I can imagine that time doesn’t fly by nearly as quickly for this young man as it does for me. After all, I was once his age working at Baskin-Robbins, way before they started sharing space with Dunkin’ Donuts. So I have shared his one-to-one, up-close experience with customers who were mostly older than me (I was not quite aged 15, a rising 10th grader as would be said today). And I learned that summer, that guessing other people ages is fraught with all kinds of feedback/pushback. Most of it not good.

For me, this ‘How old are you question’/my answer to him to: ‘Guess,’ was simply friendly banter. For him, apparently it was following the golden rule: respect your elders.

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

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Belle Haven 6039 Edgewood Terrace

\$1,739,000 | Charming 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath Cape Cod featuring 3 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, spacious living areas, and beautifully landscaped outdoor gardens.

Kate Patterson : 703.627.2166
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Belle Haven Estates 6418 Princeton Drive

\$920,000 | Spacious 4-bed, 2.5-bath home featuring a gourmet kitchen, open living areas, sunroom, deck, hardwood floors, fireplaces, and expansive lower level with abundant storage.

Julia Smith Martin : 703.850.5543
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Stratford Landing 8917 Linton Lane

\$825,000 | Large, Mid-century raised ranch with character on a wide, 1/2-acre lot near the Potomac. Vintage charm, solid bones, and room to create your next beautiful beginning!

Genevieve Moorhouse : 703.401.5902
GenevieveMoorhouse.com



Hollindale 1506 Hollindale Drive

\$795,000 | 3-bed, 2-bath, 1-level living (with basement) on beautiful half-acre lot in prime location. Renovated kitchen and baths, wood burning FP, circular driveway, and fenced yard.

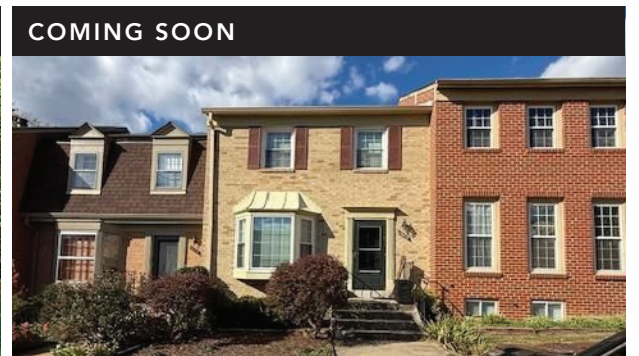
Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com



Stratford Landing 2410 Ryegate Lane

\$790,000 | 4-bed, 3.55-bath colonial with updated kitchen, large living & family rooms, abundant natural light, hardwood floors, and seller decorating credit.

Peter Crouch : 703.244.4024
Katie Crouch : 703.447.1345



Fairfax 10212 Provincetown Court

\$615,500 | Beautifully updated 3-bed, 2.5-bath home featuring a renovated kitchen, spacious living areas, finished basement with fireplace, and private patio for relaxing or entertaining.

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Kingsgate 1730 Osage Street

\$530,000 | Beautifully maintained 2-bed, 2.5-bath townhome featuring an updated kitchen, open living area, private patio, and two spacious bedroom suites each with its own bath.

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