

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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AUGUST 20, 2026

Shear Delight Mayor's Back-to-School Event empowers Alexandria students.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

As families count down the days for students to return to the classroom, Mayor Alyia Gaskins continued her tradition of providing free hairstyling, school supplies and encouragement to young people across the city before the start of a new academic year.

Now in its fourth year, the Mayor's Back-to-School Hair Salon event was held Aug. 18 and hosted at Iye's Beauty Salon on Duke Street. The initiative was created after Gaskins observed that many backpack drives offered haircuts for boys but few services tailored to girls. She saw an opportunity to help ensure that every child feels prepared, confident and valued on

"Everyone deserves to feel their best for the first day of school."

— Mayor Alyia Gaskins

the first day of school.

"Yesterday's Back to School Hair Salon helped an incredible 37 girls prepare for the first day of school," said Gaskins in a social media post on the event. "I'm so grateful to the stylists who dedicated their time and our sponsors who helped make this event possible. Nothing but smiles all day long."

What began as a small effort serving only a handful of students has grown into a community-wide program reaching dozens of young people each year. Participants receive professional hairstyling, backpacks filled with school supplies and meals for themselves and their families.

According to Gaskins, confidence and self-esteem play an important role in a young person's success; helping students feel their best can positively impact their outlook as they begin a new school year. The idea was also influenced by her experience on a gang prevention task force, where she learned about the relationship between self-esteem and youth well-being.



PHOTO/ALYIA GASKINS

Mayor Alyia Gaskins poses for a selfie with a participant during the 4th annual back-to-school hair event Aug. 18 at Iye Beauty salon.



Khadija Yahya gets a haircut from stylist Nickie Wedderburn Aug. 18 at Iye Beauty Salon.



A stylist provides a new look for an attendee at the back-to-school hair event Aug. 18 at Iye Beauty salon.



Elizabeth Luseni volunteers at the back-to-school hair styling event Aug. 18 at Iye Beauty Salon.



Attendees pose for a photo at the back-to-school hair styling event Aug. 18 at Iye Beauty Salon.



A volunteer stylist works on an attendee at the back-to-school hair event Aug. 18 at Iye Beauty salon.

Prior to the event, participants were signed up through the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Community Lodgings and ACPS social workers.

In addition to the hairstyling, attendees received a backpack filled with school supplies provided by

Alexandria City Public Schools. A goodie bag of hair care products and accessories was provided along with breakfast, lunch and snacks throughout the day.

Salon owner Iye Bayoh and a team of stylists donate their time and expertise to provide personal-

ized services for participants. Community leaders and supporters also contribute school supplies, meals and other resources that help families prepare for the school year.

Sponsors included The Fraternal Order of the Eagles, the Concrete Rose Scholarship Foundation, Just

Fine Donuts, Cassandra Lewis, Ryan Belmore and Jennifer Martin, and AYAH.

Said Gaskins, "Everyone deserves to feel their best for the first day of school."

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ALEXANDRIA POLICE FOUNDATION board chair Charlotte Hall, left, presents a check for \$20,000 to Lt. Steve Carr and Police Chief Tarrick McGuire Aug. 11 at Police Headquarters. The donation is to benefit the Alexandria Police Youth Camp, which is held over six weeks each summer during July and August. Carr spearheads the efforts for the Alexandria Police Youth Camp which provides both partial and full scholarships for Alexandria children who want to attend camp but cannot afford it. www.alexpyc.org



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 Structure	Route	Route Name	Comments	Effective Date
ORANGE	13035	675	DOLLEY MADISON ROAD	NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY	7/28/2026
LEE	10857	640N	ROUTE 0640	SHAFFER CREEK	7/27/2026
CAROLINE	4483	647	REEDY MILL ROAD	MATTAPONI RIVER	7/27/2026
TAZEWELL	18654	693E	ROUTE 693	CLINCH RIVER	7/16/2026
WISE	19475	748E	CUB HOLLOW ROAD	DOTSON FORK	7/8/2026
AMHERST	1417	610	PUPPY CREEK ROAD	HORSELEYS CREEK	7/8/2026

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 vdot.virginia.gov and navigate to Travel and traffic/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. 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 or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota at 804-786-4064.

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 or corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov.

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OBITUARY

Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel



Capt. Eugene McDaniel and his wife Dorothy in an undated photo with daughter Leslie and son Michael.

Decorated fighter pilot, POW dies at 94.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Capt. Eugene Barker “Red” McDaniel, a decorated U.S. Navy aviator who survived nearly six years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam and spent the rest of his life advocating for America’s missing servicemembers, died Aug. 7 at his home in the Mount Vernon

section of Alexandria. He was 94.

To the public, McDaniel was a war hero. To fellow prisoners, he was something more enduring: a source of strength in the darkest conditions imaginable.

Shot down near Hanoi on May 19, 1967, while flying an A-6 Intruder during the Vietnam War, McDaniel was captured almost immediately and disappeared into the North Vietnamese prison system. For years, his wife Dorothy and children Michael, David and Leslie had little certainty about his fate. The Hanoi government did not acknowledge he was a prisoner until March 1970.

After six years as a POW McDaniel



PHOTOS/MCDANIEL FAMILY

A crowd awaits the return of Capt. Eugene McDaniel to his Virginia Beach neighborhood following his release from six years as a POW in Vietnam.

“Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is the presence of faith.”

— Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel

iel was released on March 4, 1973, following the Vietnam cease-fire.

Born Sept. 27, 1931, in Kinston,

North Carolina, McDaniel grew up as the eldest of eight children in a family of tobacco sharecroppers.

Athletic and ambitious, he attended Campbell Junior College and later Elon College on scholarships. Aviation ultimately proved a stronger calling than athletics, and after entering the Navy he earned his wings as a naval aviator.

SEE DECORATED FIGHTER, PAGE 8



Capt. Eugene McDaniel, right, with bombardier-navigator James Kelly Patterson celebrating the 75,000 carrier landing aboard the USS Enterprise. The two were shot down in 1967 and Patterson remains missing in action.

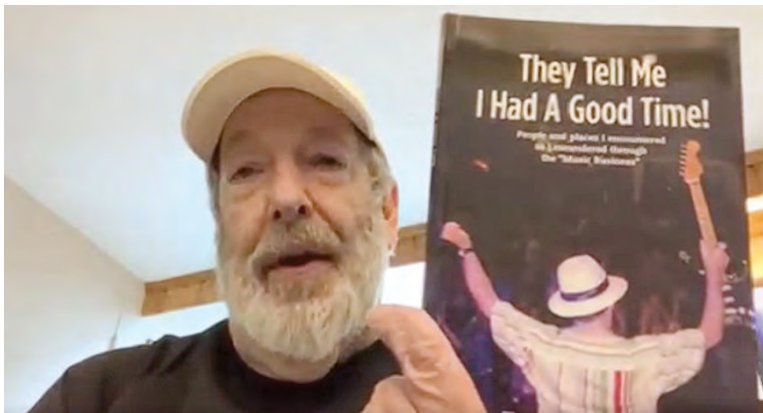


With his wife Dorothy by his side, Capt. Eugene McDaniel waves to the crowd gathered in his Virginia Beach neighborhood following his release from six years of captivity in Vietnam in 1973.



Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel (USN ret) died Aug. 7 at his home in the Mount Vernon section of Alexandria. The highly decorated Vietnam POW was 94.

Musician Now Involves Old Softball Bats and Gloves



Tom Principato has been doing readings from his book.

Old Town musician Tom Principato shifts direction.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

In the late 1980s, it was common to see Tom Principato's name on the Old Town Alexandria musician list, particularly at venues like The Wharf and 219 on King Street where he hammered out a blues sound that fit in perfectly.

"We used to play there a lot, we had a regular show every Wednesday night," said Tom Principato of his shows at The Wharf.

Fast forward 40 years and Principato is focusing on promoting past performances, writing books, and refurbishing used softball equipment. Wait, used softball gear? Like bats and gloves? Old guitars too? These are all on his

"to-do" list.

"There really is a market for refurbished baseball gloves, they're soft and broken in," he said.

In the yard of his Falls Church home, a shed has been transformed into a shop called "GOOD AS NEW" run by Tom and Virginie Principato.

"We have the area's largest selection of good condition used baseball and softball gear at very affordable and reasonable prices," their social media page says. "Why pay so much more at a Sporting Goods store for new gear when we offer all the name brands like DeMarini, Mizuno, Rawlings, Easton, Wilson and Nike as well as classic brands."

There are used bats, gloves, batting helmets, ball buckets, a Washington Senators pennant, Babe Ruth's picture and the air is full of baseball vibes. You can almost hear the roar of the crowd too.

It all started when Tom's wife Virginie Principato spent a short time in a job that she hated so the complaining got the best of her. They both evaluated the situation,



Used softball and baseball gear is now getting a new life at the Principato's store.

and went right to refurbishing bats and baseball gloves. She became an expert in reigniting the magic in these old items. "So that became her job," Tom said.

There's not much overhead either. Social media is their advertising medium and since every office on K Street and King Street has a softball team of some sort, the demand is out there. "Word of mouth is a big part of our business," he said.

Tom Principato as a musician is entering the retired status, but he still plays around the house some,

and maintains his music on the website. The old days were worth remembering though. At The Wharf on King Street, he jammed night after night, and one time a person from the Turkish Embassy came in and liked the sound so much, "she arranged a trip to Turkey for the group," Tom said. Another time, Shirley Povich came in for a show. Frank Zappa came in once when they played at the Speakeasy in Massachusetts.

In 2021, Principato gathered all his thoughts from the past 40 years

of music and put them in a book called "They Tell Me I Had a Good Time," which he wrote during the pandemic. In the book he mentions shows with BB King at the Cellar Door in DC, the Danny Gatton band, and his brush with Frank Zappa.

"The book is full of road stories and anecdotes," he said.

And the softball gloves, hats and bats? They cover the walls of his shop and not in the landfills. Virginie has a large Bobble head collection too.

Major General George A. Alexander, M.D. Elected Surgeon General of the Military Order of the World Wars

Major General George A. Alexander, M.D., U.S. Army (Retired), an Alexandria resident and member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), was elected Surgeon General of the Military Order of the World Wars during the Order's National Convention, held August 12-16, 2026, in San Antonio, Texas.

A distinguished physician, military leader, and longtime advocate for Veterans and public service, General Alexander brings decades of medical and leadership experience to this national position. As Surgeon Gen-

eral, he will provide professional medical counsel and support to MOWW leadership and its membership nationwide. The Northern Virginia Chapter proudly congratulates General Alexander on his election and this well-deserved recognition of his distinguished record of service.

Major General George A. Alexander, M.D.



BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](https://www.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

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.volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE>
Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Recipients of the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities awards pose for a photo June 30 at the American Physical Therapy Association. At left are Louis Tremante IV, recipient of the Gerry Bertier award, and Danelle Johnson, recipient of the John Duty Collins III award. Also shown are representatives of ServiceSource and the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund. ServiceSource was recognized for its work with the BEST Gift Shop in Old Town.

Celebrating Diversity

Disability Awareness Awards celebrates inclusion and advocacy.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities, presented the 2026 Disability Awareness Awards on June 30 at the American Physical Therapy Association in Pottomac Yard.

The annual event recognizes individuals and organizations whose efforts advance accessibility, inclusion, employment opportunities and disability awareness throughout the Alexandria community.

This year's awards highlighted the contributions of local advocates, students and organizations that are helping create a more inclusive city. The event is co-sponsored by The Chamber ALX and the ACPD and serves as a platform to celebrate achievements while encouraging continued progress in disability empowerment.

The Chamber ALX's 2026 Commitment to Disability Awards were presented to ServiceSource and The Joey Pizzano Memorial

Fund for their work with the BEST Gift Shop in Old Town. The shop promotes and supports artisans with disabilities from across the United States, helping create opportunities for financial independence and community engagement. The award recognizes organizations that make significant contributions in areas such as hiring, accessibility and disability awareness.

In addition to the Chamber award, the ACPD recognized two individuals for their outstanding achievements.

Louis Tremante IV received the Gerry Bertier Scholarship, which supports students with disabilities pursuing post-secondary education. Danelle Johnson was honored with the John Duty Collins III Outstanding Advocate for Persons with Disabilities Award for her efforts in promoting equal opportunity and inclusion within the Alexandria community.

The Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities is a 17 member volunteer resident at large body appointed by the Mayor and City Council to provide advice to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager on policies, programs and legislation affecting Alexandria's residents with physical and sensory disabilities.

Its mission is "to promote the rights of persons with disabilities by advocating for equality, dignity and independence through advising the community and advancing public awareness."

www.alexandriava.gov/ACPD

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Local WWII Veteran Celebrates 101st Birthday

A model of courage, resilience and service to others.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Romuald “Rom” Lipinski has lived a remarkable life – from his 1925 birth in Poland to his teens in Siberia to fighting in the Polish Army in Italy during WWII. He later became a civil engineer, moved to America, married and raised a family, never stopped learning and passed on his knowledge to others.

And on July 25 – still sharp as a tack – he celebrated his 101st birthday with his children and friends at Brightview Senior Living in the Centreville area, where he’s a resident. The festivities included Polish pierogies, birthday cake and entertainment by the Wiślanie Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble that first performed for him on his 97th birthday.

Afterward, he and his daughters, Eva Lipinski and Yolanda Hipski, told The Connection about his life. (His son Adam had already left).

When war broke out in September 1939, both the Germans and Russians invaded Poland. Rom was 13 then and his future wife, Izabela, was 9, but they didn’t meet until both were adults. And in the early 1940s, the invaders deported both their families to Siberia.

Then in late 1944, the British government helped the Polish people leave there. Izabela went to a refugee camp in Africa for five years, and teenaged Rom joined the free Polish Army – a branch of the British Army. An infantryman, he and his unit went to Sicily and then up through Italy to Rome.

Along the way, Rom Lipinski, then 19, fought in the historic Battle of Monte Cassino – one of the toughest and most significant campaigns of World War II. Monte Cassino was an Italian monastery occupied by the Germans on a high, rugged mountain. The Allies fought them there from Jan. 17 to May 18, 1944, and the resulting Allied victory opened the road enabling them to reach Rome.

Rom was in the 12th Podolski Lancers Regiment from the 3rd Infantry Division, at Monte Cassino



Director of Assisted Living Belinda Griffin and Rom Lipinski enjoying the entertainment together.



Rom Lipinski in 1944 or '45.

from April 30 to May 23, 1944. Finally, on the morning of May 18, 1944, a patrol from this regiment planted its pennant and the Polish flag on the ruins of the Monte Cassino monastery. Before then, however, came fierce fighting.

“The first patrol at Monte Cassino was from my regiment,” said Rom. “We did reconnaissance to find out where the German artillery and soldiers were. Everybody was scared; I was thinking about survival. These memories never leave me. But I considered it my duty to serve. I still keep in touch with the Polish regimental office in Poland.”

After the war ended and he was discharged from the Army, he resettled in England, attending the University of London to continue his education. “That was a feat in itself because, first, he had to learn English,” said Eva Lipinski. “He speaks five languages – Italian, French, Russian, Polish and English.”

“He literally fought for his education,” added Hipski. “He went to ninth and 10th grade in high school; and when he was fighting in Italy, he would take the test to place out of one grade level to another while wearing his battlefield gear. His high school wasn’t as thorough as it should have been. And when he got to college, he had to fight extra hard to get in.”

“Then he had to translate everything from English to Polish, understand those concepts in his mind and then translate them back from Polish to English. Later, he taught us that you go for your education. He’d say, ‘They can take everything away from you, but they can’t take your mind.’ And that’s what he conveyed to us and what I



This photo of Lipinski was taken a few years ago.

conveyed to my child.”

While he was in England, in November 1951, “There was a big rally in Manchester, England, and I went there to see my brother,” said Rom Lipinski. “We went to a dance, and I saw this beauty, and there was a spark between us. She came to our table and we hit it off, right away. After many years of marriage, she told me that, after our second meeting, she went home and started writing, ‘Izabela Lipinski.’”

However, her family had already applied for visas to move to America – which they did, two months later, in January 1952. Many letters and a long-distance courtship followed; and later that year, Izabela returned to England to marry him. Then in December 1953, they moved to America, settling in Perth Amboy, N.J., where Rom continued his studies. In 1961, he received a master’s degree from Newark College of Engineering and became a civil engineer.

“My first job was as a draftsman and designer for a company,” he said. “It paid \$56/week.” In 1965, he and his family moved to An-



Rom Lipinski with daughters (from left) Eva Lipinski and Yolanda Hipski.



Both children and adults performed for the birthday celebration.

nandale, and he became a civil engineer for the U.S. Navy before working for the federal government. He was a civil engineer for the Atomic Energy Commission, later renamed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

“He wrote the building code, still used today, for nuclear power plants throughout the U.S.,” said Eva Lipinski. “Then in 1989, he left to work in a similar field in the private sector until 1997, when he retired at age 72.”

But instead of just relaxing, Rom continued his pattern of being a lifelong learner, taking college classes wherever he lived. He also made it a point to share his knowledge with others.

“After retiring, he took math and philosophy classes at George Mason University,” said Hipski. “He also tutored high-school and college students in math. And during his student career in this area, he tutored students at UVA and NOVA for their professional-engineering licensing exams. He did this until he was 90.”

“He was mowing his lawn until 1993,” added Eva Lipinski. “My mother used to yell at him to stop, but he said it was good exercise for him.” Izabela died in 2019 at age 90, after 68 years of marriage. Besides their three children, they have six grandchildren, one great grandchild and another on the

SEE LOCAL WWII VETERAN, PAGE 11
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

The AWLA and PetSmart Charities Team Up to Keep West End Pets with Their People Healthy



BY ASHLEY SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

When the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria first opened its doors in 1946, animal welfare mostly meant getting animals to safe shelter. The animal rescue playbook didn't consider people who struggled to care for the pets they loved. Celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, the AWLA has reimagined its mission to reflect how deeply human and animal well-being are intertwined.

"Even 10-to-15 years ago, we saw ourselves primarily as an animal sheltering organization, and we felt that was our main purpose," says Joanna Fortin, Director of Community Programs for the AWLA. "Now, we are evolving and trying to look much further upstream rather than waiting until a crisis happens. We're looking at the larger picture because we can't preserve the bond between a person and their pet without understanding the broader factors impacting them. Animal welfare used to operate in a silo, but now we see that when you support the entire community, the pets and their people all benefit."

The AWLA has spent the last year and a half engineering a human-centric approach to animal care in the Mark Center area along North Beauregard Street. This historically marginalized West End community lacks both a local vet-

erinary practice and a pet store within walking distance or via public transit.

Backed by a highly-selective, two-phase incubator grant from PetSmart Charities, the AWLA aims to keep thousands of West End animals right at home with their families.

"The Mark Center and North Beauregard area has a clear gap in access to veterinary care," says Aimee Gilbreath, President of PetSmart Charities, the leading funder of animal welfare in North America. "The area we are focusing on is a small neighborhood, in a community that faces significant social and economic challenges. More than one in four residents live below the poverty line, and many face barriers related to cost, transportation, language, and appointment availability."

Instead of assuming needs in this area mirror those of other Alexandria communities, the AWLA has been facilitating intentional, meaningful conversations with Mark Center residents to understand what sustainable pet ownership really takes in this neighborhood.

"Because we are working with a community where fear and distrust exist, our priority was simply showing up, listening, and building relationships for a full year," says Fortin. "Rather than coming in to prescribe solutions or act as 'saviors,' we focused on giving residents a platform to share their true

needs so we can deliver what the community actually wants."

This discovery process was specifically funded by the PetSmart Charities Phase 1 grant of \$100,000, allowing the AWLA to compensate Mark Center residents for their time. To analyze the outreach data, the AWLA team partnered with the University of Denver's Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC).

For years up until this point, the AWLA maintained only a surface-level relationship with this West End community, comprising roughly 9,500 residents. Though contracted to provide animal shelter and control services citywide, AWLA leaders recognized they were out of touch with this growing pet population, which today numbers more than 4,000.

"We had been able to do some things in the community, but it was surface-level; we hadn't really engaged with people to give them the opportunity to tell us what they need," says Fortin. "Now, we are building a true relationship with these neighborhoods. People are starting to recognize our faces. They see us in the community, and they are smiling and waving."

The AWLA received the first phase of this grant — which organizations must be invited to apply for — in early 2025 after a long and involved application process.

"We were incredibly honored to be selected," says AWLA CEO

SEE THE AWLA, PAGE 12



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AWLA ALEXANDRIA

With monthly Vaccine Clinics and regular Pets & People Community Wellness Events, AWLA brings volunteer vets and other animal professionals to communities to help with basic medical and grooming needs. Several clinics at John Adams Elementary School are pictured.





Capt. Eugene McDaniel with his bombardier-navigator James Kelly Patterson in 1967 shortly before the aircraft was shot down over Vietnam. Patterson remains MIA.



Capt. Eugene McDaniel next to his A-6 Intruder aircraft in Vietnam.



Capt. Eugene McDaniel, left, being released from captivity in Hanoi in March of 1973.



Capt. Eugene McDaniel lifts his daughter Leslie after his return to Virginia in 1973. At left is McDaniel's wife Dorothy.



Capt. Eugene McDaniel stands on the flight deck as commander of the USS Lexington.



Capt. Eugene McDaniel, right, with President Ronald Reagan. Reagan campaigned for McDaniel during the veteran's unsuccessful run for congress in North Carolina in 1982.

Decorated Fighter Pilot Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel, POW Dies at 94

FROM PAGE 3

By the time he arrived in Vietnam, McDaniel was an experienced officer and pilot. He had flown 81 combat missions before his aircraft was shot down.

What followed became the central chapter of his life story. Fellow POWs and supporters later recalled his willingness to endure punishment and torture while helping sustain the morale of other prisoners. His Christian faith, widely cited by McDaniel himself, became a cornerstone of his survival. Decades later, he would describe faith as the one thing his captors could not take from him.

“Courage is not the absence of fear,” McDaniel said often. “Courage is the presence of faith.”

When he returned home in 1973, McDaniel was awarded the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest award for valor. His military honors also included two Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit with Combat “V,” three Bronze Stars with Combat “V,” and two Purple Hearts reflecting both combat service and extraordinary courage for injuries suffered during his imprisonment and torture.

“My grandfather was truly a remark-



Capt. Eugene McDaniel with his wife Dorothy celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary earlier this summer.

able man with a backstory even Hollywood couldn't dream up,” said McDaniel's grandson Casey Lindsay. “Despite all the trials and tribulations he faced, he never once wavered in his faith. I often hear the phrase, ‘they don't make ‘em like they used to’ and in this instance, I couldn't agree more. He was tough as nails but kind and compassionate and never failed to do what was right. The world would be a better place if we had more men like him.”

Following his release from captivity, McDaniel resumed his Navy career, later com-

manding USS Niagara Falls and the aircraft carrier USS Lexington. He retired from the Navy in 1982 after serving as a captain and as Navy-Marine Corps liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Following an unsuccessful run for congress in 1982 in North Carolina, with President Ronald Reagan campaigning on his behalf, McDaniel and his wife Dorothy settled in the Mount Vernon section of Alexandria. He authored a book, “Scars and Stripes,” a memoir of captivity, survival and faith. Dorothy McDaniel published her own book, “After the Hero's Welcome,” detailing her experience as the wife of a POW and advocate for nearly 20 years following her husband's return.

McDaniel devoted much of his civilian life to public service and advocacy. He founded the American Defense Institute and the American Defense Foundation, organizations focused on promoting a strong national defense. More significantly, he became one of the nation's most persistent voices on behalf of POW/MIA accountability, spending decades seeking answers about Americans who never returned from the Vietnam War. Through his writings, public appearanc-

es, and advocacy work, he kept attention focused on the unresolved fate of missing servicemembers, including his bombardier-navigator James Kelly Patterson, and the obligation to account for them.

Still active today, American Defense Institute provides citizen education and leadership training for young Americans. Its POW Awareness Program focuses public attention on American servicemen who are still missing in Southeast Asia.

In 1994, McDaniel helped found Adult Companion Care, (now known as ACCfamily, Inc.) after his own struggles to find quality home care for a family member. Headquartered in Alexandria, ACCfamily is a senior home care agency whose vision is to allow people to stay in their homes for as long as they desire. It now serves seniors throughout Northern Virginia and southern Maryland.

In December of 2023, McDaniel and fellow Alexandria resident and Medal of Honor recipient Col. Paris Davis were honored by Governor Glenn Youngkin as the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke was renamed the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center. In 2019, McDaniel was named a Living Legend of Alexandria.

McDaniel is survived by his wife of 70 years, Dorothy Howard McDaniel of Alexandria, their children Capt. Michael Howard McDaniel (USN ret), and Leslie McDaniel Lindsay, both of Alexandria, and David Eugene McDaniel of San Diego, Calif. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Life will be held Aug. 22 at 1 p.m. at Alexandria Presbyterian Church, 1300 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302. Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to the American Defense Institute (ADI), 9316 Craig Ave, Alexandria, VA 22309.

For many Americans, “Red” McDaniel became part of a generation of Vietnam-era servicemembers whose courage was tested not only in combat but in years of imprisonment. His life bridged the tobacco fields of North Carolina, the flight decks of Cold War aircraft carriers, the cells of the Hanoi Hilton, and a long campaign to remember those who never returned home.

“Captain McDaniel, thank you for loving our country,” Youngkin said at the VA renaming dedication. “Thank you for demonstrating what selfless service means. And thank you for reminding all of us that freedom is not free.”



Capt. Eugene McDaniel and his wife Dorothy with children Michael, David and Leslie following McDaniel's release as a Vietnam POW.



Dorothy and Eugene McDaniel were married June 23, 1956, in Buies Creek, N.C.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET
Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin, center, stands with Navy Capt. Eugene McDaniel (ret) and Army Col. Paris Davis (ret) at the dedication of the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12, 2023, in Roanoke.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET
Capt. Eugene McDaniel with members of his family Dec. 12, 2023, in Roanoke.



Capt. Eugene McDaniel receives a hero's welcome in his Virginia Beach neighborhood following his release from captivity in 1973.



Capt. Eugene McDaniel, left, with great grandson Ethan McDaniel, son Mike McDaniel and grandson Michael McDaniel.



PHOTO/ALLISON SILBERBERG
Capt. Eugene McDaniel (USN ret), seated, poses for a photo with Scout troop members and leaders June 20 at American Legion Post 24 in Old Town. McDaniel was a featured speaker during an open house celebrating the nation's 250th birthday.



Capt. Eugene McDaniel delivers the keynote address at the prayer breakfast for the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival in 2013.

‘Your Daughters Will Prophecy’

Local authors find hope for today from 19th century women’s movement.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

This August, on the 106th anniversary of the official certification of women’s right to vote in the United States, we note that, in today’s world, women’s rights and words, still, are often questioned. Modern American women themselves often forget just how recently come-by are the rights that we consider basic. Such as the right to vote, to be protected from domestic violence, to hold a personal bank account, to receive credit without a husband’s permission, and to serve on a jury. Relatively recent too, and often challenged, is the right for women to make personal reproductive choices; and even social acceptance of women’s conduct and dress, including speaking, holding office; and wearing pants in public.

A recent book, by local authors Lisa Marie Gring-Pemble and Martha Watson, takes us back to the time before passage of the 19th amendment, when women had fewer rights than we enjoy today. The authors note the dilemma of 19th century women who felt called to improve society “caught between their identity as Christians and social norms that silenced them.” The book tells how they argued against the challenges of expected subservency by women of their day.

Gring-Pemble relates that women were expected to be silent in public. That society in 19th century America recognized two spheres: public, which belonged to men; and private, which belonged to women. “The Cult of True Womanhood” defined the core virtues for women as: piety, purity, submissiveness and domesticity. The authors’ book describes how four particular women used the agency of accepted scripture to argue for change and to claim their voice on the moral questions of the day. For its title, “Your Daughters Will Prophecy,” the book borrows directly from a specific Biblical text: Joel 2:28, to argue for women’s right to speak in public. The authors relate how several women used that, and other scripture, to turn passages derived from the Bible, previously used to create social norms repressing women into arguments to favor their cause. Joel 2:28: “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophecy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”

The Gring-Pemble/Mason book analyzes the rhetorical resources of four American women of the time: Jarena Lee, Sarah Moore Grimke, Lucretia Coffin Mott and Frances Willard; who used scripture to “claim moral and then rhetorical agency;” their right to be heard.

Author Lisa Marie Gring-Pemble has been a professor at George Mason University for 10



Author Lisa Marie Gring-Pemble holds the book she authored with college and friend Martha Watson.

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE GAZETTE

26 years, where she teaches courses on professional skills, business and communication. She also developed and teaches a course on the early women’s movement during the 19th century at Mason. Her co-author, Martha Watson, formerly of the University of Maryland, was her dissertation adviser, now friend. It was Watson who suggested the two write the book together. Watson is now retired from teaching and serves as an Episcopal priest.

Borrowing on its historic atmosphere to help envision women’s call to public speaking entangled with religion, we sat down with Gring-Pemble in the pews of the historic Pohick Episcopal Church. The Lorton church, called George Washington’s church, has held services since 1774. Following is an edited summary of questions and answers.

Q - What led you to examine women’s history in the 1800’s?

A- The author notes the era was a subject of her study “before the book adventure”. And she has had an on-going interest “in the way people use language to transform their communities, and the realities of where they live.” She describes being “captivated when imagining a time when women could not speak in public and could not advocate at all. How did they find each other and start the wom-

SEE LOCAL AUTHORS, PAGE 11



NY PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTION
Historical photo of Jarena Lee who worked for women’s right to speak in public.

Votes for Women

This year marks the 106th anniversary of the official certification of the 19th Amendment, for Women’s Suffrage Rights.

On Aug. 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment; providing the required majority of the then-48 states. Virginia’s General Assembly had voted against ratification in February 1920. It was one of twelve, mostly southern states to do so. However, in February 1952, Virginia symbolically ratified the amendment, after it was law.

The amendment, introduced in 1878, took 42 years to become law. It was officially certified on August 26, 1920. It contained the simple text: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any States on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



US POSTAL SERVICE

Stamp honoring Frances Willard who worked temperance reforms, raising the age of consent, and the 8-hour work day.



US LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Historical photo of Sarah Moore Grimke who worked for abolition and women’s suffrage.

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Local Authors Find Hope for Today from 19th Century Women's Movement

FROM PAGE 10

en's movement?" She points to the opportunity provided by the Second Great Awakening in the early 1800s. "It was a time when abolitionism, temperance and women's rights were sweeping the country, along with growing church membership. In the competition to save souls, anyone could preach, even women."

Q- Why was it the Bible the women turned to for agency?

A- Gring-Pemle describes that the Bible was well known and readily available at the time, thanks to Martin Luther and the printing press. Many knew the biblical verses, stories, and characters. "The Bible had authority, so women could use its words to challenge and enlarge women's role. They could take passages that people knew but were overlooked when considering women's roles. Like Mary Magdalene, who was the first to find the resurrection of Jesus at the tomb. They reinterpreted that story to suggest Mary Magdalene was obviously a preacher, as the first to proclaim the risen Lord. They also reclaimed passages that were overlooked, such as God taking the rib from Adam to form Eve, as a helpmate. They suggested that God had created Adam and Eve in his own image; creating

male and female, which seemed to put them on an equal playing field."

"They also found passages that white men leave out, that suggested that God's wishes should be honored in how to work with women. They found examples of women all over the globe with positions of authority; and those in the Bible in authority." Such as Deborah, a prophet, judge and spiritual leader, who led Israel back to God. "Deborah was a major war player, and she and others document scores of Biblical women, and show what women can do that men have ignored."

The book highlights four women:

❖ Jerena Lee, born a free black woman, who taught herself to write; was the first female preacher in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), and was the first African American woman to publish an autobiography. She faced hostility while preaching and AME ultimately ruled that women could not preach in 1872. Earlier she preached in the slave state of Maryland, saying, as Gring-Pemle relates, "She can be called to preach because the Bible says 'daughters will prophesy.'" She ignited a conversation in Methodism and her spiritual journey book became that

first published autobiography."

❖ Frances Willard, a college educated teacher, who was a founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and later became its president until her death. Gring-Pemle describes her as "seen as less caustic than suffrage leaders Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton, and regarded as greater and better known than Queen Victoria [at the time]. She tempered her argument for more women's rights by emphasizing 'home protection' rather than for suffrage."

❖ Sarah Grimke, born to a wealthy South Carolina planter family, she moved to Pennsylvania, became a Quaker, and spoke on the abolitionist lecture circuit; becoming an outspoken advocate for education and suffrage for African American women. It was acceptable for women to write letters. Gring-Pemle says "Grimke wrote her Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Woman to a friend, knowing the letters would be published. The Governor of South Carolina later exiled her from the state because of the letters."

❖ Lucretia Coffin Mott, a participant in the Seneca Falls Convention, a Quaker preacher; she helped found the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, the first female

medical school, and Swarthmore College, the earliest coed college. Gring-Pemle describes her as "well liked, better known, and as a Quaker, used to speaking." She responded to the prominent Massachusetts lawyer and politician and author Richard Henry Dana, who opined on proper restricted roles for women. "Mott responds without being aggressive, complements his discourse on women, and admonishes him for having the wrong impression of God."

Q - Why did these particular four women stand out to you as representatives of their era, among all the women activists of their day?

A - "They were chosen for the things they wrote; being so influential and in getting so many other women into the women's movement. ... Lee published her spiritual journey autobiography; Willard wrote extensively on women's rights and social reform; Gimke authored the 15 'Letters on Equality' ... published serially in a newspaper; and Mott's letters were published as "Discourse on Women."

Q - With women's rights still under attack today, do you think

history holds strategies that could be effective in helping women's voices be better heard now?

A- Gring-Pemle suggests there are three lessons to take from the 19th century for use by women today. "Honor the complexity of the women's movement. Not all will share all the same circumstances and experiences. The second lesson surrounds the idea of civil discourse. The women then were passionate, biting, riveting, but with different and competing arguments. With discourse and truly understanding where others came from, they were able to find shared goals. And third, with perseverance, determination and grit they fought for issues they would never realize themselves. They never had the opportunity to exercise the right to vote, but they worked for the rights of others. We are still debating many of the same issues, but we can have great hope in women for their fortitude. Because of what they did, 'our daughters can prophesy.'"

The Gring-Pemle/Mason book was published in 2025 by the University of South Carolina press, and is available in hard/soft copy and Kindle on Amazon.

Local WWII Veteran Celebrates 101st Birthday

FROM PAGE 6

way. Growing up, recalled Hipski, "We used to go sailing in our sloop at Occoquan Regional Park and play on a little train there. We also went boating in Burke Lake Park and skiing in Vermont."

"Our dad was very principled and told us to stand up for justice and to fight and persevere in what we believe in. I also convey this to my son. My brother, sister and I were given gifts of freedom of education from our parents and said we needed to share them with our chil-

dren and the world."

Pleased with her father's 101st birthday celebration, Hipski said it was planned by the Polish Embassy. "He's always been active in the Polish community and was invited to embassy events, through the years," she explained. "Poland considered him a hero because of his activities at Monte Cassino."

"In 2025, he received a gold medal from the Polish Army's defense minister. And he also got the White Cross from the Polish government." The Polish White Cross symbolizes suffering, an unblemished past and hope for

the future. Both the emblem and organization were established to support Polish soldiers abroad and encourage their physical and spiritual wellbeing.

After his birthday festivities, Rom spoke about his life now at Brightview. "I have my good and bad moments but, overall, I feel good," he said. When asked to what he attributes his many years, Eva Lipinski said his sister lived until 102, so there's longevity in his family. He also does his best to keep his mind and body as fit as possible.

"I watch World War II movies on my iPad

and exercise two or three times a day with 2-pound dumbbells," said Rom. "I also exercise my legs, stand up and down and wiggle my feet. I read a lot when my vision was better." He also enjoys listening to classical music and, once a week, a high-school student comes in and plays chess with him.

Appreciative of his birthday party, he said, "It was a nice celebration." He was also deeply touched by the musical performers. "Many of the songs I remembered from my childhood in Poland, and I was really moved."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

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.

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents

that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com. 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 donaldrea@aol.com. ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions,

furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics

Mission: Living Healthy Longer

Michael Coleman, Northern Virginia Senior Olympics Chair said recently that Living Healthy Longer is NVSO's Mission. "We are proud to offer an ever-expanding variety of events that provide exercise, promote mental acuity and encourage socialization, all of which contribute to living longer healthier lives."

The 2026 NVSO runs from Sept. 11 to Oct. 4. Online registration is

open until Aug. 24 at www.nvso.us.

Registration fee is \$20 for an unlimited number of events. Participants must be 50 years of age by Dec. 31 and live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions.

Coleman said that among the 2026 events are track and field, swimming and diving, tennis, pickleball, cycling, 10 pin bowling, bocce, rock climbing, weight lifting plus scrabble, Mah Jong,

duplicate bridge, canasta, darts, cornhole toss, 9 hole golf, miniature golf, line dancing, sudoku, jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles, horseshoes, table tennis and much more. Most events are in 5 or 10 year age groups and some by gender. Find the full list of events and venues on the website.

NVSO is sponsored by the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax

and Falls Church. Additional support is generated by Gold, Silver and Bronze Patrons which goes toward equipment and supplies. Volunteers are always welcome. There is no paid staff.

2026 Gold Patrons are AARP Virginia, Adobe, Ashby Ponds by Erickson Senior Living, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Falcons Landing, Greenspring by Erickson Senior Living, Johns Hopkins Health Plans, Retirement Unlim-

ited, Inc. (RUI), Seniors Helping Seniors, The Beacon Newspapers, The Jefferson, The Mather-Tyson, United Health Care, Vinson Hall, Woodlands Retirement Community and Woodleigh Chase by Erickson Senior Living. Silver Patrons are Chesterbrook Residences and Koons Arlington Toyota.

NVSO is also a 2026 recipient of a generous grant from Johns Hopkins Health Plans Corporate Grant Program.

Coach Charged with Embezzlement, Computer Fraud

Fairfax County police have charged a soccer coach with multiple counts of embezzlement and computer fraud. He is Ahmed Mohamed, 31, of Fair Oaks. Police arrested him in late June but didn't make it publicly known until July 14.

They said that, on June 25, detectives received information



Mohamed.

about him through the police department's Financial Crimes Online Reporting (FiCOR) system. As a result, they were able to identify 13 separate victims of an alleged scam involving promised international soccer camps. Authorities say each victim reportedly lost between \$2,000 and \$12,000.

According to police, "After a

thorough investigation, detectives determined that Mohamed had [allegedly] conducted a scam by virtue of his employment with the Alexandria Soccer Association, through which he targeted some of his victims. Current losses among known victims are estimated at nearly \$60,000.

"Mohamed had created the Sporting Soccer Academy in December 2025 and targeted victims with advertisements of a travel

summer camp in Italy. Mohamed [reportedly] collected money from victims under the false pretense of promised travel, camp arrangements and lodging."

Police arrested him June 30 in the 4100 block of Monument Court in Fair Oaks. He was then taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, where Financial Crimes detectives charged him with 13 counts each of embezzle-

ment and computer fraud. He was later released on his own recognizance and has a Sept. 2 court date.

Meanwhile, police are asking anyone with information about this case to call its Financial Crimes Unit at 703-246-3533 or email FCPD-FiCOR@fairfaxcounty.gov. People may also contact Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

- BONNIE HOBBS

The AWLA and PetSmart Charities Team Up

FROM PAGE 5

Stella Hanly. "Unlike many funders, PetSmart didn't dictate how we should use the funds. Instead, Phase 1 was designed for us to go directly into the community and listen — a discovery process that is rarely funded."

The AWLA was thrilled to secure the grant, especially given widespread misconceptions about the overall wealth of Alexandria, where citywide income averages are skewed upward by government and D.C.-area tech salaries.

"Because Alexandria is broadly perceived as a high-income city, we weren't totally sure we would qualify," says Hanly. "People often overlook the deep income disparities here. We showed PetSmart the reality on the ground in the West End — where up to 60% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch — and shared how many calls we receive regarding pet surrender and neglect. We are so grateful they

recognized both the urgent need and that we have the capacity to make a real impact."

Mark Center residents identified five priority needs for their pets: pet food and basic supplies; required vaccinations for apartment residency such as rabies vaccination; behavioral training; grooming services; and accessible, pet-inclusive housing.

This list revealed gaps that surprised even seasoned AWLA leadership. Historically, animal welfare organizations, including AWLA, have prioritized macro-level initiatives like large-scale spay and neuter clinics over basic household needs.

"What surprised me was that pet food was still the number one need. Even with our busy pet pantry at the AWLA, residents needed more localized support there," Hanly says. "I honestly thought veterinary care was going to be at the top, but basic, day-to-day needs are what we have to address first."

In the spring of this year, the AWLA was officially granted Phase

2 funding from PetSmart Charities. This phase will distribute \$600,000 over the next three years, allowing the organization to zero in on the resident-identified priorities.

Receiving this second round was never guaranteed, but following an effective Phase 1 discovery process, PetSmart Charities leadership recognized the potential for a major success story. For one, they saw that the AWLA wouldn't have to start from scratch to respond to the Mark Center neighborhood's needs.

"The AWLA stood out because it had both the experience of doing the work and the humility to listen first," Gilbreath says. "The team brought strong financial and operational capacity, established community relationships, bilingual staff and volunteers, and an existing mobile veterinary clinic. What really stood out to our team was the care AWLA put into the discovery process. They planned to hire a community engagement specialist, provide interpretation, and compensate residents for sharing their time and perspectives."

The AWLA is focusing on the exact barriers Mark Center pet owners face, without overcomplicating things.

"I'm really confident in our ability to deliver because we were already doing a lot of this work — we're just following through with a much sharper, community-driven strategy," Hanly says. "We already have the staffing in place, so these funds allow us to immediately amplify our impact. We're expanding our pet food pantry and partnering with local groomers to teach families accessible 'kitchen floor' grooming techniques they can manage at home. Providing a rabies vaccine can help someone satisfy an apartment lease, so we're working to reach people early with that exact kind of support they need."

Long-term, the AWLA hopes to break the stigma around asking for pet help across Alexandria. And it just might start in the West End.

"99.9% of people do not want to give up their pets, and people who don't have money love their pets just as much as anyone else,"

says Hanly. "At the end of the day, it's always better for an animal to be in a loving home than in an animal shelter. If we leave judgment at the door and ask people to come to us for help before a pet becomes distressed, we can keep those families together."

It's a philosophy AWLA intends to carry forward for the next 80 years: that helping an animal is one of the most effective ways to support the people who love them.

"What we are doing as the organization turns 80 so beautifully encapsulates the changes in this community and in animal welfare," says Fortin. "A huge premise of this project is that pets are family, and no family should have to face a heartbreaking separation simply due to a lack of resources. When we stop treating animal welfare like an isolated island and start supporting the community as a whole, different experts can come together to take care of everyone's needs."

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.

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.

NOW THRU SEPT. 13

Rebecca J. White Birth of a Torii. At the Atheneum, Alexandria. The "Birth of a Torii" series re-imagines the origin of a torii, a traditional Japanese gate to a sacred space or shrine. In Rebecca's work, torii's are placed as a mark of reverence or divine protection.

NOW THRU SEPT. 17

Summer Concerts at Carlyle Crossing. 6-8 p.m. At Carlyle Crossing, 2455 Mandeville Lane, Alexandria. Beginning June 11 and continuing through Sept. 17, the free outdoor series will bring an eclectic lineup of local and regional musicians to the plaza on select Thursday evenings, creating a lively gathering place for residents, visitors, and the surrounding community.

Concert dates:

August 6 – Eric Scott (Modern Soul, Funk & Groove)
August 20 – Seneca Creek (Bluegrass)
September 3 – Femi and the Foundation (Funk, Rock, Hip-Hop, R&B)
September 17 – Sol Roots (Funk, Blues, Soul & Rock)

NOW THRU SEPT. 30

Spiritual Expressions: Differences and Similarities Exhibit. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Art Alcove, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Digital photographic images by Jeanne Tiff. Contact: Nina Tisara, ninat@ninatisara.com, 703-625-8313.



The Chalk-A-Block celebration takes place on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 at the TideLock development in Old Town North.

AUG. 7-29

The ChronoScape: Artistic Explorations of Time Travel. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Art exhibit explores humanity's enduring fascination with time travel. Join us for an experience that challenges and celebrates the infinite paths of time from ancient worlds to speculative futures. Opening Reception: Friday, August 7, 2026 from 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibit.

AUG. 14-23

Alexandria Restaurant Week. For 10 days and two weekends, restaurants across Alexandria will offer prix fixe dinner menus you won't find any other time of year. <https://visitaalexandria.com/restaurants/restaurant-week>

FRIDAY/AUG. 28

Evening in Remembrance of Benjamin Thomas. 7 p.m. At Shiloh Baptist Church, 1401 Jamieson Ave., Alexandria. The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project invites the public to a conversation about Civil Rights in Uncertain Times with Deputy General Counsel for the NAACP Myesha Braden. Also features music by Charles E. Miller and remarks from Mayor Alyia Gaskins. Braden, a Tulane Law Graduate, has spent her entire career working on civil rights. She has served in leadership positions at the Department of Justice, in the Obama White House, and in the nonprofit world. Mr. Miller, a performer and educator, has performed genres from classical to gospel with the Washington National Opera and the Maryland Lyric Opera.

MONDAY/AUG. 31

The Chamber ALX's Golf Classic. 11 a.m. At Laurel Hills Golf Club. Join in a fun day on the greens! Bring your team, invite a prospect, or treat a client; The Chamber ALX Golf Classic is the perfect way to step away from the office and connect with other local businesses in a relaxed, casual setting. Whether you're aiming for a trophy or just there to enjoy the day, everyone is welcome!

NEPENTHE GALLERY IN SEPTEMBER

Location: Nepenthe Gallery, 7928 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

September 10th: Gallery Discussion About Banksy and His Works;
September 17th: New Collection from Tamara Minarchi;
September 24th: Opening of Special Exhibit, Alexandria Experience, by World Renowned Artist, Alexei Butirskiy;
September 25th: Live Painting Demonstration by Alexei Butirskiy;

September 29th: Fundraiser for EdenSpring.

SEPT. 4-26

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Voices Through Visuals Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave, Alexandria. This exhibit honors Hispanic culture, and its rich traditions, resilience, and artistic contributions through a range of media and perspectives, and explores themes like heritage, migration, family, cultural pride, and transformation. Opening Reception: Friday, September 4 from 7-9 p.m. 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/SEPT. 5

First Saturday 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. Open every day, various hours. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional> for information on other days and times for the library's ongoing book sale.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 6

The Hot Lanes Concert. 7 p.m. At Fort Hunt Park, Pavilion A, Alexandria. The band is honored to be back for the Fort Hunt Park series and its continued relationship with the National Park Service. Bring a chair or grab a picnic table early.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

The Chamber ALX's 2026 Legislative Reception. 5:30-7 p.m. At the Alexandrian Hotel, Alexandria. Don't miss one of the Chamber's premier events of the year—the 2026 Legislative Reception. This annual gathering brings together elected officials, business leaders, and community stakeholders for an evening of meaningful conversations, valuable networking, and connections that help shape the future of Alexandria and the region.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Chalk-A-Block. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At TideLock development, 1111 N. Fairfax Street, Old Town North in Alexandria. Chalk artists will transform TideLock's interior drive into a spectacular temporary canvas, creating large-scale works of art throughout the day. Artist/architect Anila Angjeli, who captivated the crowd last year with her colorful "Wings in Bloom" creation and accompanying interactive art activity, and master muralist Patrick

Kirwin will be among the artists returning to Chalk-A-Block this fall. Visitors can watch the artwork come to life while enjoying live music from local favorite The Okays, browse handmade goods from local artisans and makers curated by Made in ALX, and sample food and beverages.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 23

The Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce's 29th Annual Chamber Golf Classic. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. For almost thirty years, this popular event has provided more than \$365,000 in scholarships for local high school students to study business, preparing the next generation of business and community leaders.

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.

AUGUST

Thu. 20: An Evening with NRBQ & The Whole Wheat Horns \$39.50
Fri. 21: Robert Earl Keen w/ Race Ricketts \$69.50
Sat. 22: Robert Earl Keen w/ Race Ricketts \$69.50
Sun. 23: Robert Earl Keen w/ Race Ricketts \$69.50
Tue. 25: Robert Gasper \$79.50
Fri. 28: Raheem DeVaughn \$85.00
SEPTEMBER
Wed. 2: The Wailin' Jennys \$75.00
Thu. 3: The Wailin' Jennys \$75.00 SOLD OUT!
Fri. 4: The Wailin' Jennys \$75.00 SOLD OUT!
Sat. 5: John Cafferty & The Beaver Brown Band \$45.00
Sun. 6: 7th Annual DANNY GATTON Birthday Celebration \$39.50
Wed. 9: Margo Price – Wild At Heart Tour, w/ Jeremy Ivey \$65.00
Fri. 11: Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone \$65.00

Sat. 12: EagleMania: The World's Greatest Eagles Tribute Band \$45.00
Tue. 15: The Robert Cray Band \$59.50
Thu. 17: Tweet \$49.50
Fri. 18: The Secret Sisters w/ Caleb Elliott \$39.50
Sat. 19: The Wellermen – USA 2026 Tour \$29.50
Sun. 20: Rufus Wainwright w/ Hohnen Ford \$69.50
Mon. 21: Sierra Hull \$45.00
Tue. 22: 40 Fingers \$45.00
Thu. 24: Robin Trower \$79.50
Fri. 25: Eric Darius \$39.50
Sat. 26: Eric Roberson w/ Allen Harris \$69.50
Sun. 27: Eric Roberson w/ Allen Harris \$69.50
Wed. 30: Shinyribs w/ Patrick Sweany \$35.00

Obituary

Obituary

Ruth Hanzlik

January 26, 1926 - June 14, 2026



Ruth Hanzlik passed away on June 14, 2026 in Alexandria, VA. She is survived by her two daughters, Deborah Tepper and Susan Moore; her three grandchildren, Travis Landry, Callie Tepper-Lewis, and Taylor Tepper; and seven great-grandchildren, Sadie Landry, June Landry, Rayla Lewis, Haisley Lewis, Luke Tepper, Penelope Tepper, and Charley Tepper.

Ruth was born in Hallam, near York, Pennsylvania, the daughter of George Milton Sterner and Catherine Carrie Houck. Ruth was the devoted wife of Charles John Hanzlik Fr. They had lived in the same neighborhood, met at church, and married immediately after Ruth graduated from Western High School in Baltimore, Maryland. Charles passed away in July 2010, after 65 years of marriage.

In the early years of marriage they lived in Petersburg, VA, while Charles worked as a civilian employee of the Department of Defense at Fort Pickett. Moving to the Washington DC area, they settled in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria, and Charles worked at Ft. Belvoir and the Pentagon. Ruth was employed as a principal's secretary and library assistant in Fairfax County Public Schools. She also served as a docent at the Lyceum in Alexandria for 15 years. Ruth donated her time and energy to various causes and charities throughout her life. She delivered Meals on Wheels and volunteered at the Mount Vernon Mental Health Clinic and Mount Vernon Hospital. She was a deeply engaged member of Luther Place Memorial Church in Washington, DC, and a beloved friend to many.

Though Ruth enjoyed gardening and water aerobics, the major hobby she enjoyed with Charles was sailing. Docked in Annapolis, they sailed from Maine to the Bahamas and from Clearwater to Cozumel. After 42 years in the Mount Vernon area, they moved to Goodwin House Alexandria in 2007. Ruth continued her love of the water by joining the Mermaids synchronized swimmers at Goodwin House.

Legals

Legals



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARINGS

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3378 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Equalization and Assessment Review for the City of Alexandria will convene on the following days to hear complaints of inequalities wherein the property owners allege a lack of equity or uniformity in assessment, errors in fact in such real estate assessments, or that the real property assessment is not assessed at fair market value. Upon hearing such complaints, the Board is legally authorized to INCREASE, DECREASE, OR AFFIRM such real estate assessments.

Participants can attend via Zoom Webinar or in person in our conference room located **100 N. Pitt St., Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314**. Notification of any meeting cancellations will be posted at alexandriava.gov/realestate. The 2026 hearing dates currently scheduled are:

August	
August 24 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	August 25 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
August 26 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	August 31 st - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September	
September 1 st - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	September 2 nd - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September 8 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	September 9 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September 14 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	September 15 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
September 16 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	September 22 nd - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
September 23 rd - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	September 28 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September 29 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	September 30 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
October	
October 5 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	October 6 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
October 7 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	October 13 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
October 14 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	October 19 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
October 20 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	October 21 st - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
October 26 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	October 27 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
October 28 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	
November	
November 2 nd - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	November 4 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
November 9 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	November 10 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
November 16 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	November 17 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
November 18 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	November 23 rd - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
November 24 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	November 25 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
November 30 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	
December	
December 1 st - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	December 2 nd - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 7 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	December 8 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
December 9 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	December 14 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 15 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	December 16 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 21 st - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	December 22 nd - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
December 23 rd - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	December 28 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 29 th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	December 30 th - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The deadline for filing an appeal is June 2, 2026, however, this appeal deadline is not applicable to appeals of assessments for real estate that was newly constructed pursuant to Virginia Code 59.1-3292.

Dockets for each hearing may be obtained by contacting the Office of Real Estate Assessments, **100 N. Pitt St., Suite 225, Alexandria, VA 22314**, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, via e-mail realestate@alexandriava.gov or by calling 703.746.4646.

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Pinwheels for Prevention

Del Ray garden raises awareness for child abuse prevention.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hundreds of colorful pinwheels were spinning in the breeze at Charles Hill Park to serve a purpose beyond decoration. The annual Pinwheel Garden in Alexandria brings attention to April's Child Abuse Prevention Month while encouraging community support for children and families.

The Pinwheel Garden, organized by Alexandria Celebrates Women in partnership with Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) and the City of Alexandria, features dozens of bright pinwheels planted throughout the park in Del Ray.

The display is part of the national Pinwheels for Prevention campaign, launched by Prevent Child Abuse America in 2008. Pinwheels have become the nationally recognized symbol of healthy, happy childhoods and the importance of preventing child abuse before it occurs.

Mayor Alyia Gaskins and Police Chief Tarrick McGuire were among those on hand April 3 as community leaders, advocates and residents gathered for the planting ceremony, which invited participants to place pinwheels in the ground as a visible sign of commitment to child safety and family well-being.

Organizers said the event is designed not only to raise awareness but also to spark conversations about prevention, education and community involvement.

Gaskins emphasized the need for collective action in protecting children as city leaders highlighted the role that community organizations, public agencies and residents play in recognizing and preventing abuse and neglect.

"Pinwheels represent the joy of childhood," said Pat Miller of Alexandria Celebrates Women. Organizers describe the garden as a reminder that every child deserves to grow up in a safe, supportive environment.

The Alexandria Pinwheel Garden has become a recurring tradition each April, drawing attention to local child advocacy efforts and honoring organizations that provide services to children and families. As visitors pass through Charles Hill Park, the spinning pinwheels offer a simple but powerful message: protecting children is a responsibility shared by the entire community.

"Today is important because it recognizes the plague of child abuse that goes on in America," said Chris Thomas, who presented an original poem to Terri Cheshire, the executive director of the Center for Alexandria's Children. "To protect children it is necessary for us to recognize what is going on and to [let it be known] that we are still fighting against child abuse. It is our job to protect every single child and family affected by abuse."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Chris Thomas, center presents an original poem to Terri Cheshire, executive director of the Center for Alexandria's Children April 3 at Charles Hill Park in Del Ray. Shown in back are Mayor Alyia Gaskins, Terri Cheshire, Chris Thomas, Fiona Kunkel-Loughlin, Kate Garvey, and Police Chief Tarrick McGuire. In front are Gaskins' children Eliana and Zeke.



Volunteers plant pinwheels in Charles Hill Park in Del Ray April 3 for Child Abuse Prevention month.



Mayor Alyia Gaskins, right, reads a proclamation as part of the ceremony dedicating pinwheels for child abuse awareness April 3 in Charles Hill Park.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Water You Want from Me?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now that can't be good news. Yet another email from the company from whom I recently purchased a water fountain for our cats: "Don't skip this" was the message in the subject box. And since I certainly recognized the sender (after as many email solicitations from it as I have already received in a few short weeks) you would too. I'd almost characterize their email pursuit of me and my future dollars as stalking, but it doesn't really meet the threshold. Besides, it's not as if they're staring at me at home from across the street or standing at the end of my driveway waiting for me leave my home. But to insert a Jerry Seinfeld quote: "It's something."

The first headline in the body of their email was reasonable enough: "How to Make the Most of Your blank Water Fountain." So far, so good. Harmless enough, maybe even potentially helpful. And a bit further down the page more key words, so much so that they were in a gold oval. Two that gives yours truly - and so many others like me, pause: "Easy Assembly ... to assure a hassle-free experience." From my perspective and experience, when the products' advisory includes the words "easy" and "assembly" I know that the hours to follow trying to assemble their product will be anything but easy - for me anyhow, and unlikely will lead to anything assembled. Which I can accept though It's very hard on my wife though. I'm well aware of my limits, maybe even understand/rationalize them; she can do neither. From her vantage point, it's pure incompetence.

Continuing on with my meager attempt at resolving this life-long challenge; as I read on down the page, I begin to wonder if I have indeed been led down the garden path, so to speak. Not exactly lambs to slaughter as I'm only talking about a water fountain for cats, not the Bible. Putting things together is not what I do. Writing about the various tasks I can't do is more how I roll. I read further. There are filters that need to be changed on multiple parts of the unit, even a water pump that might need to be likewise changed. All of which I need to pre-order and pre-pay for the next quarter or two. And what's totally worse, in looking at this How-to set of instructions, there is no phone number for me to call, and when I went to their website, from which I originally ordered the fountain, I couldn't find a phone number - or any kind of lifeline there either. I am, in effect, all alone. All of which doesn't bode well for the cats who ultimately will be the true beneficiaries of this fountain.

Moreover, another definitely-not-expected warning came even further down the page: this fountain is not self-cleaning (it needs to be cleaned? Who knew?). That means it will be my self cleaning it. Which adds a bit of insult to my presumptive pain. I mean, if this fountain is so highly rated, shouldn't it be idiot proof? Present company included.

To be fair, I have already emailed the company - which they encourage, to trouble shoot. And in only two days - since they've had an overwhelming response to their product, I received back a very well thought-out and thorough response. (My problem, rather the problem I was having, was that one of our cats was knocking the lid off the fountain and thus stopping the water flow.) I was grateful for the response but, as helpful as it was - though not exactly timely, it has led to a barrage of subsequent emails soliciting me for this, that and the other thing as well all the fountain's accessories, I could possibly want; especially if I order another fountain; because cats behavior being what it is, as with litter boxes, the recommendation is that I have one fountain per cat. And since I have four cats, I've become, at least through their electronic outreach, their hopeful best repeat buyer.

And here all I thought I was doing in buying this fountain was assuring our cats would have a steady flow of water. I had no idea - or expectation, that I'd be getting a new electronic best friend who seems to have nothing better to do than to email me, constantly (I exaggerate but I'm sure you get the idea.)

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

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