



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers gather for a photo at the flagpole at Alexandria National Cemetery Sept. 11 for the National Day of Service in remembrance of those lost in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

National Day of Service

Volunteers clean headstones at Alexandria National Cemetery.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 200 volunteers turned out Sept. 11 at Alexandria National Cemetery to participate in a National Day of Service to honor and remember the nation's heroes on the anniversary of those lost in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The volunteers worked in partnership with VFW Post 609 and Carry the Load, a Veterans Service organization, to clean the more than 4,000 headstones located in the cemetery.

"The setting of this gathering, this somber yet beautiful and inspirational cemetery, is a reminder of the valor of Americans who put the needs of the nation before their own," said Ted Graham, Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Reserve Integration. "All around us are the graves of service members who fought in defense of our nation's union during the Civil War. More than 130 years SEE NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE, PAGE 10



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Volunteers clean headstones in Alexandria National Cemetery as part of the Sept. 11 National Day of Service. More than 4,000 headstones were cleaned in remembrance of those lost in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



Actalent Engineering volunteer Zach Sells with 4-year Ada Sells clean a headstone during the National Day of Service Sept. 11 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



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NEWS

Rock The Ave Block Party at Carlyle Crossing

The Eisenhower Partnership, in collaboration with Carlyle Crossing, presents the 2nd Annual Rock the Avenue Block Party. Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, from noon to 4 p.m. for a free, family-friendly celebration of the vibrant Eisenhower Corridor.

Now in its second year, Rock the Avenue is a signature community event, bringing together neighbors, families, and visitors for an afternoon filled with live music, local vendors, community organizations, kids' activities, and more. The event underscores the Eisenhower Partnership's mission to foster a stronger, more connected neighborhood and highlight the Eisenhower Corridor's growth as one of Alexandria's thriving destinations.



To Go:

What: 2nd Annual Rock The Ave block party
When: Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025
Time: 12-4 p.m.
Where: Carlyle Crossing Plaza, 2455 Mandeville Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314

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PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Miracle League players enter the stadium prior to the Sept. 6 game at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center. The game was the 14th annual Miracle League tribute to first responders.

Everyday Heroes

Miracle League salutes first responders.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Miracle League of Alexandria held its 14th annual tribute to First Responders Sept. 6 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Cen-

ter.

"Sept. 11 is a very difficult day for our country," said Sheriff Sean Casey. "But we've grown from it and the support that we've gotten as first responders from people like Mac [Slover] and the community makes it easy to do our jobs every day and not think twice that if we have to again we would risk our lives to protect all of you."

The game was in tribute to the city's police, fire and rescue and sheriff's department personnel.

"Sept. 11 is a day to remember extraordinary heroes often disguised as ordinary people," said Miracle League president Mac Slover. "Even though we are all haunted by the brutal and selfish attacks of 9/11, we are proud to be an American."

Today we say thank you to our first responders who risked their lives and remember those who lost their lives for our country. All those individuals are remembered and honored today."



The City of Alexandria Honor Guard marches on the field at the Miracle League tribute to first responders Sept. 6 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.



Miracle League board member Bill Rivers, second from right, presents certificates of appreciation to APD Lt. Tony Moore, Sheriff Sean Casey and AFD Battalion Chief Patrick Evans Sept. 6 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.



Members of the Miracle League of Alexandria pose for a team photo with first responders and volunteers prior to the Sept. 6 game in honor of first responders Sept. 6 at the Nannie J. League Recreation Center.

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First responders stand at attention during the National Anthem Sept. 6 at the Nannie J. Lee Center.

Never Forget

City marks 24th anniversary of terrorist attacks.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria held a remembrance ceremony at Market Square to commemorate the 24th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and to honor and remember the victims and all those in the community impacted by the attacks.

The attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington along with the hijacking of United Airlines flight 93, which crash in Shanksville, Penn., killed 2,977 people and remains the deadliest terrorist attack in history. It is also the deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement personnel in American history, killing 343 and 72 members, respectively.

First responders from Alexandria and Northern Virginia were part of the rescue and recovery

“On that day, the inhumanity and cruelty of terror were met by the absolute best of humanity.”

— Sheriff Sean Casey

efforts at the Pentagon. They were remembered and honored along with the 16 local victims that perished that day.

“Sept. 11, 2001, is forever ingrained in our national memory, initially for the attacks themselves but almost immediately for the remarkable spirit and resilience that grew from the tragedy,” said Sheriff Sean Casey. “On that day, the inhumanity and cruelty of terror were met by the absolute best of humanity.”

Casey was joined at the podium by Mayor Alyia Gaskins, Police Chief Tarrick McGuire and Fire Chief Felipe Hernandez as speakers at the City Hall ceremony.

Tracy Walker of the Alexandria Police department served as master of ceremonies for the event. The Joint Public Safety Honor Guard presented the colors, and a Return to Quarters ceremonial bell ringing honored each of the victims.

“It wasn’t just the courage of fire-



The traditional Return to Quarters bell ringing honors the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

fighters, medics and law enforcement running into danger, it was an entire country pulling together,” Casey said. “The heightened emotions, the genuine concern, and the unprecedented commitment to help others were so powerful. But they could not be sustained forever. Each year we gather and recall that unfathomable day. We resolve to never forget. And we won’t forget.

But we need to do something more. We need to capture more of

the kindness and compassion that emerged following the attacks.”

Memorials to the attacks include the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City, the Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, and the Flight 93 National Memorial at the Pennsylvania crash site.

“We learned on Sept. 11 to never give in to fear and to always choose hope,” Casey added. “We owe it to those we lost and to each other to carry and spread that spirit.”



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Sheriff Sean Casey speaks at the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony September 11 in Market Square.



Rosa and Jack Byrd attend the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony in Market Square at City Hall.

Early Voting Begins Sept. 19 for the Nov. 4, 2025, General Election

On Sept. 19 early voting will begin for the Nov. 4, 2025, General Election in the City of Alexandria. The ballot will include contests for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff. All registered voters in Virginia are eligible to vote by mail or in person.

Voting in Person

The deadline to vote early is Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, at 5 p.m. In-person early voting hours are as follows.

Office of Voter Registration & Elections
(132 N. Royal St., Suite 100)
❖ Opens for early voting on Friday, Sept. 19, 2025
❖ Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

❖ Closed Monday, Oct. 13, 2025
Additional and Extended Hours:
❖ Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
❖ Saturday, Oct. 25, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
❖ Sunday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
❖ Monday, Oct. 27, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
❖ Tuesday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
❖ Wednesday, Oct. 29, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
❖ Thursday, Oct. 30, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
❖ Saturday, Nov. 1, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library (5005 Duke St.)
Open for early voting only during these hours:
❖ Friday, Oct. 24, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
❖ Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

p.m.
❖ Sunday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
❖ Monday, Oct. 27, 1 p.m.-7 p.m.
❖ Tuesday, Oct. 28, 1 p.m.-7 p.m.
❖ Wednesday, Oct. 29, 1 p.m.-7 p.m.
❖ Thursday, Oct. 30, 1 p.m.-7 p.m.

❖ Friday, Oct. 31, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
❖ Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Voting by Mail

Applications to request a by-mail ballot must be received in the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, 2025. Access an application in one of the following ways:

❖ By visiting vote.elections.virginia.gov to submit an application online.
❖ By downloading the application available on the City's Elections webpage.
❖ By calling Voter Registration & Elections at 703.746.4050 to request that an application is mailed to you.

SEE EARLY VOTING, PAGE 14

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**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
VEHICLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND
BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES
ARE DUE OCTOBER 6, 2025**

2025 Vehicle Personal Property (Car Tax) and Business Personal Property taxes must be paid by Monday, October 6, 2025, to avoid late payment penalty and interest. A 10% penalty applies to payments made after October 6 and increases to 25% for payments made after November 5.

Vehicle Personal Property tax payments can be made online at alexandriava.gov/Payments or mailed to: City of Alexandria, P. O. Box 34710, Alexandria VA 22334-0710.

Business Personal Property tax payments can be made online at alexandriava.gov/Payments or mailed to: City of Alexandria, P. O. Box 34901, Alexandria VA 22334-0901.

In-person payments can be made at City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 1510, or at the West End Finance Office, 4850 Mark Center Drive, Suite 2011, Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM. Payments are also accepted 24 hours a day at the City Hall drop box on the Royal Street side of the building. Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on October 6, 2025, to be considered on time.

Online information is available at alexandriava.gov/CarTax and at alexandriava.gov/BusinessTax.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, Option 2, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For vehicle registration or assessment questions, or to change a mailing address, please email vehicletax@alexandriava.gov. For Business Personal Property assessment questions, please email businesstax@alexandriava.gov.

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.

SENIOR LIVING

Celebrating a Century City honors centenarian residents.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

A Centenarian Celebration was held Sept. 9 in the Vola Lawson lobby of City Hall with Mayor Alyia Gaskins and members of City Council honoring centenarian residents from across the city.

“There are lessons you can continue to teach us.”

— Mayor Alyia Gaskins in celebrating centenarian residents

Four of Alexandria’s centenarians were in attendance with 13 listed in the program for recognition of “attaining the title and status of Alexandria centenarian,” according to the certificates pre-



Ann Samuel, 104, at the Centenarian Celebration Sept. 9 at City Hall.

sented by Mayor Gaskins.

“Today is about celebrating the love you have shared and the wisdom you have given us,” Gaskins said. “Today is about 100 years of memories and a celebration of

SEE CELEBRATING A, PAGE 15



The City of Alexandria honored centenarian residents Sept. 9 in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall. Pictured are (front): Ann Samuel, Stuart H. McIntyre and Anne Rubenstein. Back: City Council members Jacinta Grenne, Canik Aguirre, vice Mayor Sarah Bagley, Mayor Alyia Gaskins and centenarian Lois Madolyn Cross Brooks.

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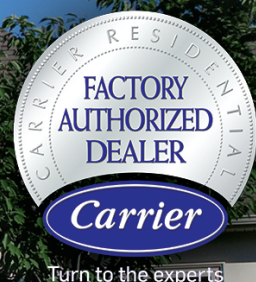
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SENIOR LIVING

Run! Geek! Run! To Champion Senior Services of Alexandria

The Run! Geek! Run! 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run, is shining a spotlight on the Senior Services of Alexandria this year. Run! Geek! Run! will take place on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. along Main Line Blvd. in Alexandria, with all proceeds going directly to Senior Services of Alexandria. Each year, Run! Geek! Run! selects a local nonprofit as its beneficiary, with all proceeds going directly to support their mission. Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) provides Meals on Wheels, Groceries-to-Go, friendly visitors, transportation, education and other vital services that help seniors live independently and with dignity. The 2025 RUN! GEEK! RUN! beneficiary is Senior Services of Alexandria. Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) is a non-profit organization that has as its mission “to foster independence and self-sufficiency, enabling seniors within the City of Alexandria to age with dignity.” SSA operates the Meals on Wheels delivery program, a fee-free Groceries to Go service, a Friendly Visitor Program; Ani-Meals; DOT Paratransit transportation; and Education and Information programs including monthly webinars and the Senior Ambassador Program. If you would like to join the effort to enhance the lives of seniors in our community, please contact SSA at (703) 836-4414. Since 2016, the Run! Geek! Run! race has raised over \$234,000 for Alexandria nonprofits, and this year they hope to continue that legacy of impact. <https://rungeekrun.org/>

Kids’ First Years To Convene ‘State of Early Childhood 2025’ Event on Oct. 7

Kids’ First Years, a collective impact initiative dedicated to being the unified voice for organizations that collaborate to support early childhood efforts in Alexandria, will convene the area’s first State of Early Childhood 2025 event on Tuesday, Oct. 7 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 2922 King Street in Alexandria. The event will bring together Alexandria’s leaders, businesses, educators, policymakers, and community advocates to focus on building a thriving early childhood system that fuels the city’s economy, strengthens the workforce and supports every family. Opening remarks by Smith Howard and Alexandria Mayor Alyia Gaskins. The program of speakers and topics includes: ♦ A panel focusing on local innovation and partnerships in Alexandria, moderated by J. Glenn Hopkins, Hopkins House. ♦ A panel focusing on national trends, state policies and their implications in Alexandria, moderated by Dr. Tammy Mann, Board Chair, Kids’ First Years. ♦ The power of philanthropy and public investment exploring how philanthropy and public-private partnerships can help expand and sustain quality early childhood education. ♦ Kathy Glazer, President of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF), will share findings and insights from the VECF’s Shovel Ready Virginia Task Force, which recently released recommendations to strengthen the child care infrastructure and workforce in the Commonwealth. ♦ 12-1p.m. – Call to Action, Lunch and Networking Smith Howard concluded: “We hope it will continue on an annual basis because our shared mission is to ensure that every child in Alexandria gets the strong start in life that they deserve.” Individuals from businesses or the community who want to learn more about the KFY Collective and its impact on early childhood care and education in Alexandria are welcome to attend the State of Early Childhood 2025 event. There is no admission fee. For more information or to register by Sept. 26, visit <https://kidsfirstyears.org/event/state-of-early-childhood-2025/>.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND



Friday, September 26 at 7:30 P.M.
Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall
Alexandria, VA

This concert is FREE – please register at usafband.ticketleap.com

And join the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants at National Harbor on September 19th for the annual Air Force Birthday Concert!



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
BUCHANAN	29736	2207	RHONDA LESTER BRANCH ROAD	KNOX CREEK	9/5/2025
GRAYSON	8910	732	LAUREL CREEK ROAD	LAUREL CREEK	9/2/2025
HENRY	10152	682	RIVER ROAD 682	JORDAN CREEK	8/22/2025
NELSON	12612	776	GRAPELAWN DRIVE	DAVIS CREEK	8/21/2025
GRAYSON	8943	797	SPENCER BRANCH ROAD	LITTLE HELTON CREEK	8/13/2025
KING WILLIAM	26122	30	ROUTE 0030	PAMUNKEY RIVER	8/6/2025

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 Traffic and Travel/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.

REMEMBERING The Victims

16 local lives lost in terrorist attacks.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It has been 24 years since an unimaginable act of terrorism took the lives of 2,977 Americans, including 16 Alexandria residents on Sept. 11, 2001. The City of Alexandria marked the anniversary of what remains the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history with a ceremony remembering those who were killed and honoring the first responders who answered the call.

The coordinated attacks at the Pentagon, World Trade Center and outside Shanksville, Pa., resulted in 2,977 casualties. The remains of more than 1,700 of those who perished have never been recovered.

Alexandria's victims of 9-11

Spec. Craig Amundson

Spec. Craig S. Amundson, 28, was assigned to the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel as a graphic artist and was at work at the Pentagon the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Award. He left behind his wife, Amber, and children Elliot and Charlotte.



Spec. Craig Amundson

Eddie A. Dillard

Eddie A. Dillard, 54, was a passenger aboard American Airlines flight 77. He left behind a wife of 15 years, Rosemary, and one son, Edrick L. Dillard.



Eddie A. Dillard

Capt. Robert Edward Dolan

Captain Robert Dolan, 43, was working on the first floor of the Pentagon as head of the U.S. Navy's Strategy and Concepts Branch when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the building. He was a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and commander of the USS John Hancock. His class ring was found in the remains of the Pentagon. Dolan was survived by his wife Lisa and children Rebecca and Beau.



Capt. Robert Edward Dolan

Cmdr. William H. Donovan

Commander William Howard Donovan, 37, was commissioned at the Naval Acad-

emy with the Class of 1986. He had been on the Chief of Naval Operations staff for a little over a year when Flight 77 struck the Pentagon. Known as "the Waynewood Dad," Donovan left behind his wife Elaine and three young children. His remains were never recovered.



Cmdr. William H. Donovan

Diane M. Hale-McKinzy

Diane Hale-McKinzy, 38, was a civilian employee for the U.S. Army at the Pentagon. Born in Lithonia, Ga., she served in the Army for four years before beginning a career in civil service.



Diane M. Hale-McKinzy

Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr.

Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr., 40, served with the Green Berets, the Special Forces and, ultimately, as a general's aide at the Pentagon. The 21-year Army veteran was an avid cyclist and regularly commuted by bike from his Alexandria home to the Pentagon. He was survived by his wife Pat, an Air Force doctor that he met when he fell ill at the Jungle Warfare School in Panama. Other survivors included his parents Wallace and Jane Hogan and sisters Meg Campbell and Kris Leggett.



Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr.

Bryan C. Jack

Bryan C. Jack, 48, was on American Airlines Flight 77 when the plane struck the

Pentagon, where he worked as the head of the Defense Department's programming and fiscal economics division. Jack and his longtime companion, artist Barbara Rachko, were married on June 16, 2001, just 87 days before his death.



Bryan C. Jack

Steven D. Jacoby

Steven "Jake" Jacoby, 43, was the chief operating officer of Metrocall and a passenger on American Airlines Flight 77. A community leader, Jacoby sat on the board of Men Against Breast Cancer and was actively involved with the Camp Fantastic Special Love charity golf tournament as well as Catholic Charities. The weekend before his death, Jacoby had celebrated the birthdays of his wife Kim and son Nicholas.



Steven D. Jacoby

Terence M. Lynch

Terence Michael Lynch, 49, was one of three consultants from Booz Allen Hamilton who perished during a meeting at the Pentagon. On the day of his death, he was attending a meeting to extend survivor benefits to military families. He was survived by his wife Jacqueline and daughters Tiffany Marie and Ashley Nicole.



Terence M. Lynch

Lt. Col. Dean Mattson

Army Lt. Col. Dean Mattson, 57, was less than three months away from retiring when he was killed while working in the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon. A 35-year Army veteran, Mattson had plans of being a Lutheran pastor before committing to the Army when he was drafted in 1964. The Belle Haven Towers apartments resident left behind his mother Bernice and brothers Glenn, Dwain and Dale.



Lt. Col. Dean E. Mattson

Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.

Major Clifford L. Patterson, Jr., 33, was a native of Washington D.C. and graduate of St. John's College High School. In 1991 he graduated from Howard University as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He was working at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.



Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.

Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel

Cmdr. Robert A. Schlegel, 38, followed his father and brothers in the Navy. Prior to being posted to the Pentagon, he was executive officer of the USS Arthur W. Radford, a 9,000-ton destroyer.



Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel

Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith (Ret.)

Retired Army Lt. Col. Gary Smith, 55, was at a meeting at the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 struck. A resident of Waynewood since 1984, Smith coached his daughter's soccer teams, kept time for the West Potomac High School track team and was a fixture at high school football games on Friday nights. A 23-year Army veteran, Smith received the Soldier's Medal for Heroism after saving a number of soldiers from a helicopter crash during his service in Vietnam. He was survived by his wife Ann and daughters Natalie, Nicole, Kristie and Tracy.



Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith

Norma Lang Steuerle

Norma Lang Steuerle, 54, was active in the Old Town community as a clinical psychologist and through Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. She was aboard American Airlines Flight 77 en route to visit a daughter in Japan and her husband Eugene, who was teaching a seminar in Singapore.



Norma Lang Steuerle

Sandra C. Taylor

Sandra Carol Taylor, 50, worked as a civilian for the U.S. Army for 30 years and at the Pentagon for almost 10. She was a volunteer at the Hospice of Northern Virginia and at the time of her death was engaged to Timothy Dudgeon. She left behind her daughter Samantha.



Sandra C. Taylor

Meta L. Waller

Meta L. Waller, 60, was a 12-year civilian employee of the U.S. Army at the Pentagon and was at her desk when the hijacked airliner struck the building. Named after her grandmother, the African American sculptor Meta Warick Fuller, Waller received a master's degree in government from Harvard University and was active in civil rights affairs.



Meta L. Waller

NEWS

The Search Continues

Local POW/MIA servicemembers to be remembered in Virginia War Memorial exhibit.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria's Medal of Honor recipient Humbert "Rocky" Versace will be among the Vietnam veterans honored by the Virginia War Memorial as part of the opening of a new exhibit "Virginia's MIA: The Search Continues" Sept. 19 in Richmond.

Taking place on National POW/MIA Day, the new exhibit features the names and stories of Virginia's still missing in action and the ongoing efforts to bring them home.

"The Friends of Rocky Versace were invited to participate in the ribbon cutting at the new exhibit."

— FoRV representative
Kevin Rue

Versace is one of seven Alexandria servicemembers who remain missing in action from the Vietnam War.

"The Friends of Rocky Versace were invited to participate in the ribbon cutting at the new exhibit," said Kevin Rue, a spokesperson for the organization who will participate in the ceremony.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is an annual observance held on the third Friday in September to honor and remember those American service members who were Prisoners of War and those who remain Missing in Action. More than 81,000 Americans are still listed as Missing in Action from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other conflicts. Of these, nearly 1,300 Virginians are still MIA.

The Virginia War Memorial will host the National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony on Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be followed with the ribbon cutting and public opening of the new exhibit.

Dedicated in 1956, the Virginia War Memorial includes the names of the nearly 12,000 Virginians who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and the Global War on Terrorism.

Admission to the National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony is free and open to the public. It will also be livestreamed at www.dvidshub.net/webcast/36827



The Virginia War Memorial in Richmond will honor and remember Virginia's Vietnam veterans still missing and unaccounted for on National POW-MIA Day Sept. 19 in Richmond. Alexandria Medal of Honor recipient Humbert "Rocky" Versace is one of seven local servicemembers still missing in action.



Humbert "Rocky" Versace, shown in an undated photo taken in Southeast Asia, remains missing in action from the Vietnam War.

MIA Recognition Day Ceremony is free and open to the public. It will also be livestreamed at www.dvidshub.net/webcast/36827

The Virginia War Memorial is located at 621 South Belvidere Street, Richmond, Va., 23220. www.vawarmemorial.org.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

NOW IS OUR MOMENT

Now is the moment we've been waiting for. With new treatments emerging in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia, now is the time for hope. But not the time to stop.

Help us keep the momentum going in your community at the Alzheimer's Association Walk To End Alzheimer's®, the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease.

Join us at alz.org/walk

2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's
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National Day of Service

FROM PAGE 1

later, on Sept. 11, 2001, and in its aftermath, the nation found in ordinary men and women the spirit of uncommon courage.”

In addition to Graham, the event included remarks by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration representative Christina Welch and representatives of Carry the Load and VFW Post 609.

“Every year, Americans are asked to treat this day as an opportunity to do some sort of national public service,” said Col. Gerry Krueger, Commander of VFW Post 609. “Our way of doing that is to join with Carry the Load and the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs to honor several thousand military veterans who have served our country honorably. We do this by cleaning their tombstones, saying their names out loud, and saluting them, to assure them their service to our country is not forgotten.”

Alexandria National Cemetery is one of the original national cemeteries founded by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. The historic nature of the headstones means that only a sponge and water are used to clean the headstones so as to not cause any damage.

Carry the Load partnered with volunteers to help clean headstones and beautify more than 60 Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries across the nation. In Alexandria, all 4,229 headstones were cleaned as part of the efforts.

“We’re here to honor those who served our country and show that America continues to give back,” said Peace Corps CEO Paul Shea.

In addition to the Peace Corps, which had offices in the Twin Towers when the attacks occurred,



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT

Peace Corps CFO Paul Shea cleans a headstone as part of the National Day of Service Sept. 11 at Alexandria National Cemetery.

volunteers included teams from AmeriCorps and Actalent Engineering.

“This has become a tradition for our company,” said Actalent volunteer Zach Sells, who cleaned headstones alongside his 4-year-old daughter Ada.

The event is co-sponsored by the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration with local VFW Post 609 serving as host. VFW Post 609 Life Member Danielle Applebee is the region’s Carry the Load Ambassador and coordinated and led the day of service.

“Every day I’m impressed to see the patriotism of young men and women who continue to serve throughout the nation,” Graham said. “Regardless of how we serve, Americans continue to give back. I want to thank you all for your choice to serve here today on these hallowed grounds as we remember Sept. 11, 2001.”



PHOTO BY STACEY SCARABELLO/AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps volunteers gather for a team photo following the National Day of Service Sept. 11 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Cook for Vets founder LJ Raspler cleans a headstone during the National Day of Service Sept. 11 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



PHOTO BY STACEY SCARABELLO/AMERICORPS

Christina Welch, Administrative Officer of the Alexandria National Cemetery and the National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico, gives welcoming remarks on behalf of the US Dept of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration Sept. 11 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers clean the headstones of the parents of the late Alexandria District Court Judge Robert Colby.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Actalent Engineering volunteers Alexandra Cajayon and Nicole Godoy clean headstones Sept. 11 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

VFW Post 609 Commander Col. Jerry Krueger (ret.), left, and his wife Jessica clean headstones at Alexandria National Cemetery.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Sophia Williams shows off the popular Beeyoutof hoodie from her Lovership Apparel designs.

Never Too Young To Beeyoutofull

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Sophia Williams sits at her iPad drawing larger and larger spirals. “Larger spirals, larger thoughts,” she explains. Sophia says she just draws whatever comes to her mind whenever it happens. Sophia, a resident of Alexandria, is 11-years-old and has been attending school for three years through Virginia Virtual Academy which gives her a lot of flexibility.

Her mother comments, “We haven’t really discussed the spirals one yet but I like the idea.”

Nikki Mills and her daughter, Sophia, are the owners of Lovership Apparel, a family brand. “Sophia is head of the Children’s Department,” Mills explains. She is the inspiration for the children’s designs and added yellow and brighter more fun colors that are only for kids. “For instance, we have our hoodies and T-shirts in azalea, orange, sand and sapphire.”

Mills is a psychologist and life coach and she started the business in 2003 to help spread peace and love. Sophia says, “a lot of people in the world need kindness. We spread love to everyone who needs it.”

Mills says a lot of people in her family have struggled with mental health so she transfers positive messages to the hoodies and T-shirts they produce. One of the

favorites is “Beeyoutofull” with “Be You to the Fullest” on the other side. “This means be yourself.” Mills says they sell it in almost every color “and every color sells; no one seems to be the favorite.”

Sophia adds they will be coming out with a new breast cancer shirt for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Mills says her daughter’s ideas come from her sketches “but I’m a middle of the night kind of creator.” She writes down her notes and then goes back later and investigates her “downloads.” Mills explains they keep journals of their ideas. “We keep track of what’s going on in the world, what’s needed. We have a new Peace Department for people of all diversities. We have rainbow T-shirts and different forms of unity and love.”

Sophia has been drawing since she could hold crayon pens in her hands. “She used to draw on my

wall,” Mills remembers.

Mills explains that Sophia is enrolled in virtual learning which is really easy. “You can go anywhere and do your work.” The transfer to virtual learning happened after Sophia struggled with health issues in the regular classroom and nearly died after contracting pneumonia from a classmate, her mother says. “She was really susceptible to a lot of things, and it just didn’t work for her.”

Now Sophia explains she gets up and opens up her computer, does a few assignments, eats lunch and finishes up with more assignments. Her mother explains Sophia has live classes online, too, where she is in the same classroom with other students and can socialize. “It’s a good life balance with a lot less stress and more fluidity, not being in the same room all day long.”

For more information: <https://www.loveshippapparel.com/>

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNews-papers.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.volunteeralexandria.org
ALIVE! Volunteers are needed
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

PUBLIC NOTICE

In-Person Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center’s FY2027 Budget (July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027)

**McLean Community Center Governing Board
Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.**

Small District 1A-Dranesville residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers’ list. The draft budget proposal will be available on the center’s website and copies can be picked up at the center’s reception desk beginning the week of Sept. 14.

Written comments may be delivered to the McLean Community Center (see address below) marked “Attention: Executive Director,” or sent by email to feedback@mcleancenter.org. Written comments may continue to be submitted after the Public Hearing through Monday, Oct. 13.



McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711
mcleancenter.org

www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU SEPT. 21

Sally Kauffman - Pleasure Park. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Sally Kauffman, a Washington, DC-based visual artist, is known for her large-scale, abstract yet illusory paintings depicting people and animals in social and communal settings. Her recent series, inspired by scenes from Malcolm X Park, captures Washingtonians engaging in activities including picnicking, hula hooping, Jiu Jitsu, juggling, gymnastics, skating, playing, dancing, and listening to music. These works celebrate the joy of gathering after pandemic isolation, emphasizing the fundamental human instinct for connection and restoration.

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.

AUG. 7 TO SEPT. 29

Masterpiece Mini Golf. Thursday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Sunday: 12 – 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Masterpiece Mini-Golf isn't just a game—it's an interactive journey through the world of art like you've never seen before! Imagine 18 artist-designed holes bursting with bold colors, iconic imagery, and mind-bending creativity. From Monet's water lilies to Banksy's graffiti walls, every twist and turn brings you face-to-face with art history's greatest paintings—reimagined in wild, surreal, and playable form. It's part gallery, part game, and 100% fun for all ages. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/masterpiece-mini-golf>

SEPT. 5-27

The "Second Time Around" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features artwork made out of recycled materials. This exhibit focuses on the thought-change concept of sustainable creativity and enhancing artistic environmental ethos, from the art to the earth-conscious workshops and events. View at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Opening Reception: Friday, September 5, 7-9 p.m.. Gallery hours: Thursdays 12-6



The Taste of Old Town North takes place on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025 in Alexandria.

p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

Taste of Old Town North. 4 to 8 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 North Royal Street, Alexandria. The Taste of Old Town North is free, family- and pet-friendly, and features an artisans' market, gourmet restaurant tastings, and other activities for all to enjoy including music from two local bands. In addition, the City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts' Mobile Art Lab will be featured at the Taste event. The Mobile Art Lab offers supplies and support staff for kids of all ages to make art. Participating Old Town North restaurants include Lula's on the Potomac, Hank's Oyster Bar, MacMillan Spirit and Ale House, Hank's Pasta Bar, Hotel AKA Alexandria's a lounge + bar, and St. Elmo's Old Town North Coffee Pub. Live music at the Taste will include performances by Hope and Nate from 5:00- 6:00 p.m., followed by The Mod from 6:00-7:45 p.m. For more information visit www.oldtownnorth.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

Fall Garden Tour and Tea. 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (Adult) Tour the glorious demonstration gardens with an Extension Master Gardener docent. Hear about Green Spring past and present and discover a wealth of ideas for your fall home landscape. Afterwards, come inside the Historic House for a traditional British afternoon tea. \$42 (lecture + tea). To register, call Green Spring Historic House 703-324-3988.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Write Like a Woman Networking Workshop. 1-3 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Founder and Facilitator, KaNikki Jakarta, welcomes you to year 9 of the Write Like a Woman Networking Workshop. This popular workshop invites amateur and professional women writers of all genres ages 18–100. Each workshop centers on uplifting and inspiring through writing and allows participants to enhance their writing styles through writing prompts and encouragement. Space is limited, RSVP to greatpublishing@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Sunset Soirée - Botanical Bath Salts Workshop. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (Adults) Join us after-hours in the Horticulture Center. View the glasshouse tropicals in the light of the setting

sun and peruse the art exhibit while enjoying a refreshing mocktail made with herbs grown at Green Spring Gardens. In this workshop, learn about the calming and restorative properties of plants and how to blend them into a relaxing bath soak. Leave with a custom blend of botanical bath salts and the knowledge to make more at home. Bring your favorite glass jar for storage (12 oz or less) or use one that will be provided. No prior experience needed; all materials are provided. Includes entry, mocktail and all supplies for bath salt mix. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Times: 5:30- 6:00 p.m. code: DTEODJJ 6:15 –6:45 p.m. code: DTEAH5D 7:00-7:30 p.m. code: DTFL3LP

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Sunset Soirée - Mini Herb Garden Workshop. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (Adults) Join us after-hours in the Horticulture Center. View the glasshouse tropicals in the light of the setting sun and peruse the art exhibit while enjoying a refreshing mocktail made with herbs grown at Green Spring Gardens. In this workshop, plant your own mini kitchen herb garden. Learn the basics of growing herbs at home—whether on a sunny windowsill or small patio—and get tips on care, harvesting, and how to use your herbs. No green thumb needed—just come ready to dig in. Includes entry, mocktail, and herbs with all the needed potting supplies. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Times: 5:30- 6:00 p.m. code: GGX.50CE 6:15 –6:45 p.m. code: GGX.IIW1 7:00-7:30 p.m. code: GGX.3FRZ

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Watercolor Workshop – Landscapes. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (16-Adult) Artist Dawn Flores helps you translate the beauty of nature into a watercolor painting by showing how to paint skies, trees, water, mountains and rocks. Learn strategies for building depth and focus in your work using color and value. Get techniques for building texture and masking to preserve the white of the page. A supply list will be emailed before the program. 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 68FUHWV

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Poetry Workshop – Harvest Season. 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (16-Adult) Join published poet Sherri Waas Shunfenthal and spend some time outdoors meditating on nature and the fall season. Using your senses, memories or an object found, Sherri will guide you in creating poetry. There will be discussion, writing and sharing time. Bring a journal or sketchbook to enhance with poetry. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code UM0.NYIL

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Family Fun – Backyard Birding. 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (6-Adult) Come backyard birding at White Gardens. Learn about different birds and their songs, then talk a walk around the gardens with a naturalist and see which feathered friends you can spot. Binoculars provided. 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 5ZPLBEZ

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

American Horticultural Society Gala. The American Horticultural Society (AHS), the national organization dedicated to inspiring Americans to garden for the benefits to all, will host its annual Gala at River Farm, its headquarters in Alexandria. Individual Gala tickets are available for purchase at ahsgardening.org/gala. AHS will honor Skipp Calvert, long-time Alexandria resident, local champion of River Farm, and former AHS Board member, and Brian Kemble, winner of AHS' 2025 Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. The Gala will feature a pop-up sculpture garden with whimsical works from Nepenthe Gallery, sure to surprise and delight. The sculpture garden will include works by Vadim Kharchenko, Kevin Carman, Dorothy Gillseppe Foundation, David Turner, and Michael Alfano – many available for purchase.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

The HalloWEIRD Art Market. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Features a variety of artwork from local artisans celebrating the spooky and playful sides of the autumn season. Join us for lots of fun at this outdoor, family-friendly, rain-or-shine event. HalloWEIRD takes place in the Mount Vernon Recreation Center fields adjoining

ENTERTAINMENT

Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/halloweird-2025

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

Evening with Dr. Krystyn R. Moon. 7 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria Historical Society invites you to join them for an evening with Dr. Krystyn R. Moon as she presents Proximity to Power: Rethinking Race and Place in Alexandria. Dr. Moon will explore how Alexandria's proximity to the nation's capital shaped African Americans' access to schools, transportation, and resources compared to other southern towns. Her work highlights the long-standing advocacy of Alexandria's Black residents, offering new insights into the intersection of race, place, and power.

SEPT. 25 TO OCT. 5

Old Town Cocktail Week. At various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Presented By Suntory Global Spirits in partnership with Captain Gregory's, Old Town Cocktail Week is a celebration of the imagination and innovation within Alexandria's cocktail scene. Grab a featured cocktail from one of the over 40 participating restaurants or join us for a curated event and enjoy it all while on a staycation at one of the participating hotels with a stay and play package specially curated for Old Town Cocktail Week.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

Wright at Twilight. 6:30-9 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. Enjoy the iconic Pope-Leighey House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, at twilight! Sit back with complimentary snacks and a glass of wine, as you watch the changing light bring out the beautiful architectural details of the house. Play games in the yard, listen to period music, and tour the house at your leisure as the sun slowly sets.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

Garden Talk – Fall Lawn Care. 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (16-Adult) Fall is the best season to get your lawn in shape! Take the luck out of lawn care and learn the tips and tricks you need to keep your lawn healthy, thick and green. Extension Master Gardener discusses fertilization, seeding and weed prevention. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code B28.BOZM

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Rare Plants at Green Spring Gardens. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (16-Adult) Many plants species are common in horticulture through legal propagation, but are rare, endangered or even extinct in the wild. Led by Green Spring's head of horticulture, Adam Bucher, take a tour of the gardens to learn about several of these "rare" plants, their ecological history and growing conditions for their care at home. \$19 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code TXWA3Z7

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Ikebana Floral Design Workshop. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (Adults) Discover the elegance and simplicity of Ikebana, the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging. Alice Buch, 2nd Degree Master of the Ohara School, teaches you the basic techniques and principles of Ikebana while demonstrating a Hana Isho Rising Form arrangement that you will then get to make yourself. Supplies included are a plastic container, kenzan, and flowers. Participants are encouraged to bring their own flower scissors. No prior experience necessary. Please register for both the class and the \$30 supply fee. \$46



The HALLOWEIRD Art Market takes place on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025 in Alexandria.

per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 3FB.DW91

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At The Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit the largest native plant sale in the D.C. Metro area. Thirteen native plant nurseries will be hosted! Find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Visit the website www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Alexandria Oktoberfest. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. At John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. Celebrate the season with the best of German culture, food, music, and fun at the beautiful John Carlyle Square in Alexandria. This family-friendly event captures the unmistakable spirit of Bavarian merriment with traditional music, lively entertainment, and a lively beer garden. Whether you're here to enjoy the delicious food, shop for unique handmade crafts, or dance to the rhythms of authentic German tunes, there's something for everyone.

What to Expect: Live German Music and Traditional Dance Performances: Enjoy lively German tunes and classic Oktoberfest songs that will fill the air with festive energy all day long. **Beer Garden:** Sip on a variety of refreshing German beers in our beer garden. Whether you love a classic lager or something a little more adventurous, you'll find the perfect brew to enjoy. **Delicious German Food:** Indulge in delicious Oktoberfest favorites, from bratwurst and pretzels to strudels and more. It's the perfect way to experience authentic German flavors. **Handmade Arts & Crafts:** Explore a variety of unique, handcrafted items by local artisans. Whether you're looking for a special gift or something for yourself, you'll find a treasure here.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Slavery and Freedom at Woodlawn. 12-1 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. Explore the lives of the people enslaved at Woodlawn through original sources, objects, and historic places. This tour traces Woodlawn's transformation as a

plantation once part of George Washington's Mount Vernon, to an antislavery community over the course of the 19th century. Engage in thoughtful discussion about our shared past and the legacy of slavery.

SEPT. 27-28

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Presents Ger-shwin and Tchaikovsky Concerto in F at 100. Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center Sept. 28 at 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial

OCT. 3 TO NOV. 1

The "Bump in the Night" art exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. This show explores those unsettling moments when you hear something strange and unexplained in the dark. Prepare for the shadows to take shape and for the mysterious bumps in the night come to life. Opening Reception: Friday, October 3, 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

FRIDAY/OCT. 3

Leave the Leaves. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. For many people, fall cleanup means raking and disposing of the leaves that have tumbled from the trees. Join Extension Master Gardener Claudia Gerwin to learn about the many benefits of leaving the leaves to provide an overwintering habitat for pollinators and other invertebrates. You'll learn how to best manage your leaves to improve the soil, suppress weeds, and retain moisture, and we'll share tips on how to make leaf compost. If you leave the leaves, your landscape will reap the benefits of more pollinators, natural pest control and more abundant wildlife in the spring. FREE. RSVP online at <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive the link to participate.

SATURDAY/OCT. 4

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. Visit <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional> for information on other days and times for the library's ongoing book sale.

SATURDAY/OCT. 4

30th Annual Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In Del Ray on Mount Vernon Avenue between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues, Alexandria. Art on the Avenue strives to reflect the diversity of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work. This year's festival will feature over 350 local and regional artists, live music, international food, children's activities, a pie-baking contest, and more. The event, voted by Virginia Living readers as the best art festival in Northern Virginia, is volunteer-run, with support from the local business community. Art on the Avenue is free and open to all.

SATURDAY/OCT. 4

The Listening Project. 1-4 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. The Listening Project is an interactive performance piece that explores multisensory listening created by Anne Willieme, a multidisciplinary artist and leader of Sensverse Studio. The Listening Project invites you to share a story which will then be translated into visual terms by Anne Willieme and into movement by dancer Kate Walker. The program explores a multisensory-media translation from language to visual and movement-based expression. The work also aims to provide the participating audience with the feeling of being deeply heard.

SATURDAY/OCT. 11

Fall Fest: Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave, Alexandria. Join the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia for our 2nd annual Fall Festival! We will have an "Ask the Master Gardener" table, kids' activities, a houseplant sale, free saplings, hand-crafted pottery, a food truck, tool sharpening, and more. Don't miss this fun-filled family event! Pick up some holiday gifts for your favorite gardeners or just come to learn more about gardening!

SATURDAY/OCT. 11

Garden Maintenance. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m., Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 Marcey Rd, Arlington. Extension Master Gardener volunteers will demonstrate the whys and hows of these final food garden tasks. Come learn how to make the most of your own vegetable plot.

SATURDAY/OCT. 18

FocusMusic and WFMA present Ali Tod. 7 p.m. At Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria. Tickets \$25 in advance (members \$22.50) / \$30 at door (members \$25), \$15 virtual. Scottish guitarist and singer Ali Tod fuses classical training with percussive fingerstyle guitar, loop-pedal wizardry, and raw, soul-stirring vocals—drawing comparisons to Rodrigo y Gabriela and KT Tunstall. Info and tickets at <https://focusmusic.org/shows#sat-10-18-ali-tod-alexandria-virtual>

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.

SEPTEMBER

Wed. 17: The Hot Sardines \$45.00
Thu. 18: James McMurtry (Band) w/ BettySoo \$39.50
Fri. 19: The Second City presents "Laugh Harder, Not Smarter" \$49.50
Sun. 21: Kathleen Edwards \$35.00
Wed. 24: The Robert Cray Band \$59.50
Thu. 25: Iris DeMent \$49.50
Fri. 26: The Wallflowers w/ Brother Elsey \$75.00
Sat. 27: The Wallflowers w/ Brother Elsey \$75.00
SOLD OUT!
Sun. 28: Arturo Sandoval \$65.00

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Obituary



Roberto Muñoz, Sr., a proud Texan, U.S. Marine, and retired Foreign Service Officer, passed away last week, just shy of his 90th birthday. Born in Tornillo, Texas, Roberto honored his Mexican-American roots throughout a life of service and dedication. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an embassy guard, reaching the rank of Sergeant, and later spent 20 years with the U.S. State Department, with postings in Paraguay, Turkey, Spain, and Guyana. While stationed in Benghazi, Libya, he met his wife, Gloria, an embassy cryptographer. They built a loving life together, raising four children—Donna (born in Texas), Roberto Jr., Patricia, and Theresa—while living around the world. Bob was known for his humor, storytelling, generosity, deep Catholic faith, and lifelong love of sports, especially women's athletics. After retiring, he and Gloria settled in Alexandria, Virginia. Bob was preceded in death by his beloved wife Gloria and his sister Apolonia and is survived by his beloved children—Donna, Roberto Jr., Patricia, and Theresa; his siblings Theodora, Cleotilde, Alfredo, Maria Teressa, Gloria, and Loretta; his grandchildren—Gregorio, Michelle, Darius, Madeline, Isabel, and Nikolai; and his great-granddaughter, Leila. Roberto will be remembered for his love of family, strong faith, and proud service to his country.

Obituary

Announcements

Announcements

Moving Sale

2200 Windsor Rd. Alexandria, VA
Friday 9/26/25 9:00-4:00
Saturday 9/27/25 7:00-2:00
Furniture, Home Accessories, rugs, art,
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BULLETIN

Early Voting

FROM PAGE 5

Completed ballots must be either returned to the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, or postmarked by Nov. 4, 2025, and received in the office by noon on Friday, Nov. 7, 2025. To vote in person, an application is not required. Applications should not be submitted before voting in person.

Ballot Drop Boxes

Ballot drop boxes will be available at all polling places on Nov. 4, 2025, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A secure outdoor drop box, under video surveillance, is available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 24 hours a day, through Nov. 4, 2025, at 7 p.m. There will also be a drop box available at the Beatley Library early voting location on days voting takes place.

Registering to Vote

The deadline for the normal registration period for the Nov. 4, 2025, General Election is Oct. 24, 2025. The Same Day Registration period begins Oct. 25, 2025, and runs through Election Day, Nov. 4, 2025. Visit vote.elections.virginia.gov to register, check registration status, or update an existing registration. Visit alexandriava.gov/Elections for complete election information, including voter registration requirements, sample ballots, precinct maps and ID requirements. For more information, contact the Office of Voter Registration & Elections at voters@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.4050.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

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 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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Celebrating a Century

FROM PAGE 6

your strength and your resilience. There are lessons you can continue to teach us.”

Anne Rubenstein, 103, is a cancer survivor and attributed her longevity to staying active.

“I used to play tennis and golf but my legs don’t let me do that anymore,” Rubenstein said. “But the secret is to keep going, keep active and have fun.”

In addition to Rubenstein, other centenarians in attendance included Lois Madolyn Cross Brooks, 101, Ann Samuel, 104, and Stuart McIntyre, 100.

Samuel spent 45 years working for the Marriott corporation and attributed her longevity to hard work. When asked about becoming a centenarian, McIntyre, a diplomat and former college professor, said “I wish I had it all to do over again.”

Kate Garvey, Director of the Department of Community and Human Services, emceed the event with the Alexandria Citizens Band providing entertainment.

Brooks summed up her secret to longevity, which is also her best advice to others: “Mind your own business.”

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



Centenarian Stuart H. McIntyre, 101, with friend Linda Major and Donna McIntyre.



Mayor Alyia Gaskins signs a birthday card for 103-year-old Anne Rubenstein.



Centenarian Lois Madolyn Cross Brooks, 101, right, with niece Beatrice Cross Taylor.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 14

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 Friends@AMHC@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.

Amazing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you regular readers wondering about my most recent scan results - and what it means to my health status, written about a few weeks ago in a column titled, “Clear as Mud,” the answer is, to quote Ken Jennings, the current host of Jeopardy, the oncologist wrote “overall, an excellent PET report.” As for my ‘overall’ health, I’m way past one day at a time, and I’m way past my original “13 months to two years” prognosis which I received in late February 2009. I am not however in remission. Nor have I passed the need for quarterly PET scans - to be followed up by quarterly in-office appointments, monthly lab work and five daily pills. I am, as the cover of this quarter’s AARP magazine teases: “Living with Cancer.”

When I saw that headline on the cover, which of course led to an inside story, I said out loud to my wife Dina, “I could write the book on that.” Actually, if you tally up all the columns I’ve had published (nearly 800 columns on the subject) beginning in June ‘09 and continuing without interruption through to this very column, I’ve published a book or two, sort of. F.Y.I., moreover, to give this column a little context, I have published a weekly column since Dec. ‘97 (beginning Jan. ‘25, the Connection is now published two times per month). Before the cancer diagnosis, I characterized my columns as “Everything in General About Nothing in Particular.” That all changed when I was diagnosed with stage IV, non-small lung cancer, an extremely terminal form of cancer.

But cancer is the exact opposite of ‘nothing in particular’ as it is also the exact opposite of ‘everything in general.’ It’s as specific as one can get, especially when asked about one’s health/life. Nevertheless, short of wearing a tee-shirt emblazoned with “F-ck Cancer” or the more acceptable: “Cancer Sucks,” I pretty much keep myself to myself unless asked. If, to quote Lily Tomlin as the kookie switchboard operator “Ernestine,” from the irreverent comedy show of the 60s and 70s: “Laugh-In,” if “the party to whom I am speaking” doesn’t know I have cancer, I will not offer it up for conversation. If on the contrary, inquiries are made about my health status, I have plenty of stories to share about my 16 1/2 years defying the odds and living despite being told a time or two that my chances of surviving beyond two years were in the low single digits.

But here I sit, writing about survival of the not-so-fittest: me. I wouldn’t say I’ve survived by ignoring advice or burying my head in the proverbial/figurative sand - below or above ground. Nor have I read everything on the subject or followed a strict regimen of non-Western alternatives, though I have embraced some: drinking alkaline water, spooning down a tablespoon of purred asparagus at least once a day, mixing Bragg’s Apple Cider Vinegar and/or baking soda in my daily drinks, plus swallowing upwards of 60 pills a day (vitamins, minerals, supplements, et cetera), some over the counter, some under the counter and a few even around the counter all selected to flush out the toxins in my body or to build up an immune system ravaged by chemotherapy. Whether, and to what extent, incorporating/adding these ‘alternatives’ to my Western care: chemotherapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy, mattered I’ll never know.

However, doing all this stuff/being proactive made me feel less a victim and more like a victor. And as they say, “To the victor go the spoils.” In my case, the spoils refer to a life I wasn’t supposed to live. And not a day goes by where I take any of it for granted.

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

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Del Ray
2100 Mount Vernon Avenue

\$3,995,000 | The Duchess of Del Ray is For Sale for the first time in 25 years! The Anne Welsh Salon and the former Welsh Woodworking building are located on five commercial lots. The main building offers a two story apartment above the salon and the second building offers the workshop on the main level and an office/guest suite on the second level. There are 12 parking spaces on the property and potential for a third building and more parking.

Kate Patterson : 703.627.2166
KatePattersonHomes.com



Eddington Terrace
2929 Eddington Terrace

\$1,650,000 | NEW PRICE! Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom, all brick colonial with a 2-car garage, 3 gas fireplaces, and ample outdoor areas, also includes a stunning sunroom.

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com



OPEN SAT 9/20, 2PM-4PM

Mason Hill
2014 Mason Hill Drive

\$1,239,900 | NEW PRICE! Beautiful home with 5 beds, 4.5 baths, and over 5,000 sq ft living area. Beautiful kitchen with island and 2 story windows. Outside you'll find lush gardens and a new deck.

Rebecca McCullough : 571.384.0941
RebeccaMcCullough.com



OPEN SUN 9/21, 2PM-4PM

North Old Town
943 Powhatan Street

\$1,195,000 | Meticulously maintained 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath brick home with renovated kitchen and baths, luxurious primary suite, home office, gas fireplace, slate patio, and 2-car off-street parking.

Wendy Santantonio : 703.625.8802
WendySantantonio.com



Belle View Condos
6624 Boulevard View C1

\$310,000 | NEW PRICE! Largest 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom Belle View condo floorplan with updated kitchen, bath, windows, and HVAC. Treetop views, courtyard setting, and easy parking.

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
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Old Town
309 S Columbus Street

\$995,000 | Charming 2-bed, 1.5-bath detached townhouse features wood floors, wood-burning fireplace, renovated kitchen & stunning garden. 1 assigned off-street parking space. Close to shops, parks, metro & more!

Wendy Santantonio : 703.625.8802
WendySantantonio.com



Porto Vecchio
1250 S Washington Street #816

\$825,000 | Beautifully maintained 2-bedroom, 2-bath penthouse has sweeping views of Belle Haven, Hunting Creek and city night lights, a fireplace and enclosed solarium. Two prime garage parking spaces included.

Mary Taylor & Pat Tierney : 703.785.5619
MaryTaylorRealtor.com



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Hollindale
1506 Hollindale Drive

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

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com



Belle Haven on the Green
1906 Duffield Lane

\$749,000 | IMPROVED VALUE! Light-filled, updated townhome with garage, 3 bedrooms, 2.55 Baths, and situated close to 495, 2 lights to Old Town Alexandria, and 12 minutes to Fort Belvoir rear gate!

Janet Caterson Price : 703.622.5984
JanetPriceHomes.com



Warwick Village
2933 Landover Street

\$749,900 | Beautiful 3 bedroom townhouse with 2 renovated baths, freshly painted throughout, refinished wood floors on 2 levels, new lighting throughout. Bright lower level rec room with new carpeting. Fenced yard with expansive patio.

Julian Burke : 703.867.4219
JulianBurke.com



OPEN SUN 9/21, 2PM-4PM

Old Town
110 Cameron Street #101

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