

Artist Jason Pittman, left, holds sneakers he designed for the 25th anniversary celebration of the film "Remember the Titans" with 1971 Titans defensive end player Bobby Luckett.

Old Town Boutique Community, Fall Into Fashion

A one-day showcase of style, small businesses, and seasonal fun in historic Old Town.

What: Fall Into Fashion: Alexandria Days
When: Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025
Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Where: Old Town Alexandria, VA

Celebrate the return of Fall Into Fashion, Alexandria Days with Old Town's vibrant independent business community. Presented by the Old Town Boutique Community, a collective of 30+ independently owned boutiques, the neighborhood-wide event takes place Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Explore Old Town's fashion and restaurant scene with exclusive fall collections, interactive in-store activations, seasonal bites and sips, and Instagram-worthy

moments that spotlight Old Town.

Alexandria Days began in 1959 as a cooperative campaign between local merchants and City leaders to champion small businesses during the late-summer season. The Old Town Boutique Community is bringing the initiative back, inviting visitors to experience Old Town through interactive programming and discovery.

Giveaways will be at participating stores, including a Grand Prize of a \$1,000 gift card and Aiyana Atelier Private Line products: Reverse & Regrow, and a Second Place Prize of a \$500 gift card to the participating boutique of your choice.

Learn more: <https://oldtownboutiquecommunity.com>

Alexandria City Council Town Hall Oct. 4

Hear directly from elected officials at the Alexandria's City Council Town Hall on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. The Town Hall will be held at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave.

Mayor Alyia Gaskins, Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley, and all members of City Council will be present to speak about the issues impacting you and your family. You can also get the latest news on upcoming projects and initiatives in Alexandria.

Free interpretation services are available upon request. To request interpreta-

tion services for any language, email LanguageAccess@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.3960.

To allow City Council members time to respond to as many questions as possible, please submit questions in advance through the registration form www.surveymonkey.com/r/TownHallOct4. To submit your questions in person at the town hall on Oct. 1, the City will provide index cards for written questions.

After the Town Hall, the City will post the full video online at alexandriava.gov/Dockets and on the City YouTube channel.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteer-alexandria.org

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteer-alexandria.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 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.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia.

To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

RSVP a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

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ELECTION NOTICE - CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

General Election - Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Voter Registration Information

The deadline to register or update an existing registration in advance of this election is

October 24, 2025

Eligible citizens who will be 18 or older by November 4, 2025 may apply to register to vote (or update an address) online, by mail, or in person.

★ **Online** at vote.elections.virginia.gov, prior to 11:59 p.m. on October 24, 2025.

★ **By mail** by downloading an application at alexandriava.gov/elections or calling 703.746.4050. Applications must be postmarked by October 24, 2025.

★ **In person** at our office prior to 5 p.m. on October 24, 2025:

Office of Voter Registration and Elections
 132 N Royal St, Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22314
 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 703.746.4050

Same Day Registration

is available to individuals who missed the standard registration period. Find more info at alexandriava.gov/elections.

Early Voting Information

Find a full schedule of dates, hours, and locations on our website:

alexandriava.gov/elections.

To apply for a ballot to be mailed to you, visit vote.elections.virginia.gov or contact our office. The deadline to apply for a by-mail ballot is Friday, October 24 at 5 p.m.

OFFICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

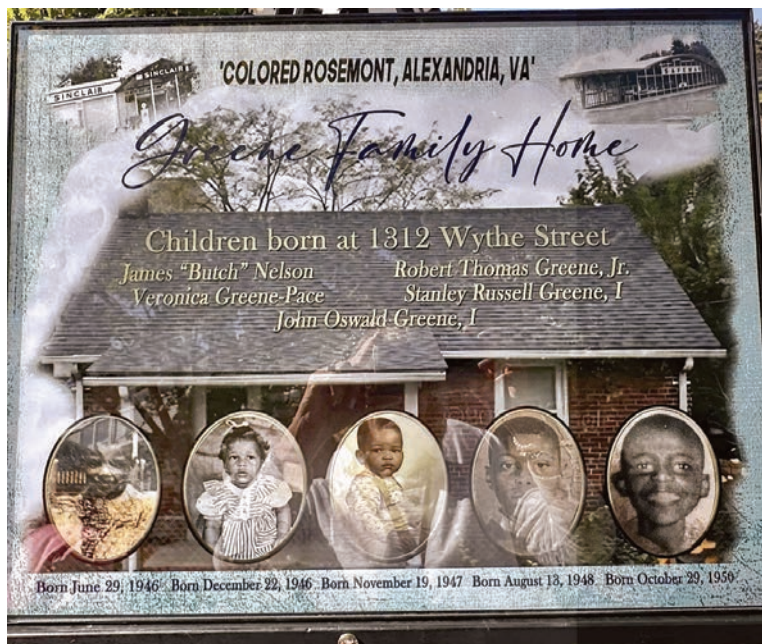
132 N Royal Street, Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22314
 Phone: 703.746.4050 ★ Fax: 703.746.4540 ★ Email: voters@alexandriava.gov
alexandriava.gov/elections



Colored Rosemont

Historic marker honors legacy of resilience.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



A sign indicating children born at 1312 Wythe Street, the last remaining original home in Colored Rosemont.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Nestled in the Parker-Gray Historic District of Alexandria, the neighborhood historically known as Colored Rosemont stands as a testament to African American perseverance. That legacy was honored Sept. 13 as the Office of Historic Alexandria unveiled a new state historic marker recognizing the significance the

their lives but to make sure that we built a community, a neighborhood where neighbors took care of neighbors."

Established in 1926, Colored Rosemont emerged when Virginia F.W. Thomas, a white real estate broker, began selling plots of land to African American families — an act of defiance against the racially restrictive covenants common at the time. Bounded by Pendleton, Fayette, Madison, and North West Streets, the neighborhood offered a rare op-

"This sign is a somber reminder of how racist housing policies and practices led to the displacement of a thriving African American community."

— Office of Historic Alexandria director Gretchen Bulova

community played in the fight against segregation.

Mayor Alyia Gasking was on hand for the unveiling of the marker, which is located at the corner of Wythe and West streets. In her remarks, she said aloud the names of the families that once resided there.

"I take the time to say each of their names because their names and their legacies are part of why we are joined here today," Gasking said. "We're joined here to celebrate and recognize their foresight and their perseverance but also the work that they put in not just to build

portunity for Black homeownership in a city where segregation severely limited housing options.

As the community flourished, families such as the Berry, Jackson, McCray, and Watsons built homes, raised children, and cultivated a vibrant neighborhood life. Though the name Colored Rosemont was never officially recorded on maps, it was widely used to distinguish the area from the adjacent white neighborhood of Rosemont, from which Black residents were excluded.

By the mid-20th century, however, the neighborhood faced chal-



Mayor Alyia Gasking and members of City Council are joined by former residents at the unveiling of the Colored Rosemont historic marker Sept. 13 at the corner of Wythe and West streets.



Former residents and guests gather Sept. 13 at the corner of Wythe and West streets for the unveiling of the historic marker for Colored Rosemont.

lenges of discriminatory housing policies. Eminent domain led to the dismantling of Colored Rosemont, with many families displaced to make way for public housing projects.

"We are beyond thrilled for this sign dedication, which honors the important legacy of Colored Rosemont," said Gretchen Bulova, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria. "At the same time, this sign

is a somber reminder of how racist housing policies and practices led to the displacement of a thriving African American community."

The ceremony brought together descendants, city officials, and historians, highlighting the importance of preserving the city's African American heritage.

"This is my heritage," said Angela Armwood, who attended the event. "It is where I grew up as a

little girl. I am glad that we are finally being recognized as the Colored Rosemont community."

Said Audrey Davis, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria's African American History Division, "The installation of this historic marker is only the beginning as we continue to conduct and publish further research about Colored Rosemont and the displacement of its residents."

'We the People'

Students, DAR celebrate Constitution Week.

"Our Constitution is one that has stood the test of time – longer than any other in world history."

— Constitution Week chair Linda Ferrara



Members of the Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution participate in Constitution Day Sept. 17 at City Hall.



Thomas Roth, Linda Ferrara, Vickie Embrey and David Embrey pose for a photo following the Constitution Day ceremony Sept. 17 at City Hall.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Songs of patriotism filled the air as students from across the city gathered to celebrate the signing of the Constitution Sept. 17 in the City Council chambers at City Hall.

Vice mayor Sarah Bagley signed the official Proclamation commemorating Constitution Week, Sept. 17 – 23, marking the 238th anniversary of the signing of the historic document.

Linda Ferrara welcomed the students and provided a background of the drafting and signing of the Constitution.

Ferrara is the Constitution Week chair of the District 5 Daughters of the Revolution. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside Sept. 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week.

The resolution was later adopted by the Congress and signed into law on Aug. 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The aims of Constitution Week are to emphasize citizens' responsibilities to protect the Constitution, to educate people about the role of the U.S. Constitution and encourage the study of historical events leading to the drafting of the U.S. Constitution in September 1787.

Participating in the ceremony were students from Alexandria City High School, Mount Vernon Community School and Douglas



Alexandria City High School students sing the Star Spangled Banner in recognition of the 238th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution Sept. 17 at City Hall.

MacArthur Elementary School. Noah Salmons led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dressed in period attire, David Embry played patriotic music while Vicki Embry, also in peri-

od attire, spoke about the role of working women in 1787.

The U.S. Constitution was signed on Sept. 17, 1787. In addition to establishing Constitution Week, the DAR erected a structure

built in tribute to the Constitution of the United States. DAR Constitution Hall, which is a performing arts center, opened in 1929, in Washington, D.C.

"Our Constitution is one that has

stood the test of time -- longer than any other in world history," Ferrara said. "It reflects the thinking of many learned Founding Fathers more than 200 years ago and yet it still applies today."

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

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SENIOR LIVING

Just When You Think NVSO Can't Get Bigger, It Does



Ann Pugh (center) and Nancy E. Jogner (right) wait their turn to compete in the basketball goal event. This is the first year for Pugh to compete in the NVSO but she has already won a medal in poker. Jogner has been competing for eight years but entered rowing for the first time this year where she won a gold medal.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

It is a week into the 2025 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO). The opening ceremony on Sept. 13 was followed by nine field and track events, and the next week is packed with everything from diving, crossword puzzles, miniature golf, tennis, bocce

and the increasingly popular Mah Jongg (American style).

On Saturday, Sept. 20, Herb Levitan stands in the Thomas Jefferson Community Center gym instructing volunteers on the rules for the basketball goal competition. Levitan has been organizing the registration for NVSO events for over 15 years. He has also been competing for many years and had

been swimming at Dulles yesterday but says he has a whole drawer full of medals from past years so he doesn't take the medals anymore.

Today they have men's and women's basketball categories competing from 50-89 years old in field goals and free throws. The

SEE JUST WHEN YOU THINK, PAGE 6

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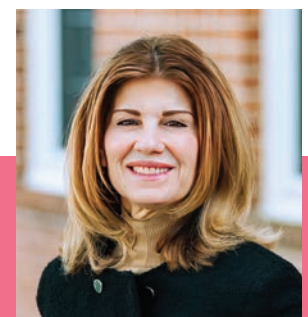
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Will it or won't it? One of 20 attempts to get a successful basket in the field goal competition at the NVSO event on Sept. 20.

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ OCTOBER 2-15, 2025 ♦ 5

SENIOR LIVING

Just When You Think NVSO Can't Get Bigger, It Does

FROM PAGE 5

competition begins at 11 a.m. with the field goal event where one person takes four shots from each of five different stationery positions.

The women sit in chairs beside the court calling out encouragement to each other.

"Nice."

"Good job Stephanie."

And clapping enthusiastically for an especially impressive shot.

Ann Pugh says this is her first time competing in the NVSO. "I entered poker last week and got a bronze medal."

Sitting beside her is Mary Lynne Brown who is entered in four events and will be defending her corn hole medal from last year.

Nancy E. Jogner says she has been competing in different events for eight years but this is her first year as an 80-year-old. "I did rowing for the first time. It was really fun. They showed me what to do, and I won gold."

The men seem focused on their turn to shoot, watching their competitors and occasionally twirling the ball around in preparation. They rotate around the court one at a time, and when the competition is finished the volunteer adds

up the numbers in the multi-age competitive category. "No ties; that's good. Everybody gets a trophy."

"That's what we want."

NVSO is open to participants 50 years old or older by Dec. 31, 2025 and who live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions, Arlington County, City of Alexandria, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, Fairfax County, Fauquier County, Loudoun County and Prince William County.

NVSO has grown from its 40th anniversary in 2021 with 50 events and 691 participants to 92 events with 1,200 participants in 2025 with 50-yard butterfly and poker added as new events this year and duplicate bridge brought back.

Sponsors of NVSO 2025 include AARP Virginia, Adobe, The Beacon Newspapers, Belmont at One University, Care-First Blue Cross Blue Shield, Goodwin Living, Greenspring by Erickson Senior Living, John Hopkins Health Plans, The Jefferson, The Landing and The Riviera in Alexandria, Retirement Unlimited Inc., United Health Care, Vinson Hall Retirement Community, Woodbine Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, Woodlands Retirement Community, Chesterbrook, and others.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics has a record enrollment of 1,200 participants in 2025.

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Gala-goers Celebrate Gardening, Art and Conservation



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH/THE GAZETTE

The early 20th century house at River Farm houses AHS's offices.

American Horticultural Society's gala at River Farm.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

Nasturtiums brightened the dinner plates, parsley greened up the centerpieces and strawberries and rhubarb starred in the dessert. Plants were inside, outside and all around.

On a balmy Sept. 20 evening, 300 gardening enthusiasts gathered under a big white tent to celebrate gardening and to honor two champions at the American Horticultural Society's (AHS) gala at River Farm in the Mount Vernon area.

Welcoming guests, AHS President and Chief Executive Officer Suzanne LaPorte said, "Horticulture is essential to life. Plants and gardens feed us, cool our cities, purify our air and bring beauty into our lives. They also offer us avenues for creativity, healing and self-expression. In a world that sometimes can feel overwhelming, gardens have a remarkable ability to surprise and delight us."

Board of Directors Chair Scott Plein presented Brian Kemble the 2025 Liberty Hyde Bailey Award for lifetime achievement in horticulture. Kemble, the curator



Skipt Calvert, long-time Alexandria resident, local champion of River Farm, and former AHS Board member, and Scott C. Plein, AHS Board Chair. At the AHS 2025 Gala, Skipt Calvert received the AHS Meritorious Service Award

at the Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery in Walnut Creek, California, described how American gardening has moved from being "Eurocentric" to adapting to local conditions, like arid gardens in parts of California.

Plein also gave the Meritorious Service Award to Alexandrian Skipt Calvert, calling the awardee "a



PHOTOS BY MICHEL ANDRÉ GAUTHIER PHOTOGRAPHER, ATELIER IMAGES, LLC
Skipt Calvert, long-time Alexandria resident, local champion of River Farm, and former AHS Board member, at the AHS 2025 Gala.



Suzanne Laporte, AHS President and CEO, Skipt Calvert, long-time Alexandria resident, local champion of River Farm, and former AHS Board member, and Scott C. Plein, AHS Board Chair.

conservationist and a cheerleader." Plein said that Calvert was one of the "Faithful Five" who served on the AHS Board for two decades and helped save River Farm from being sold and developed in 2021. "His impact is beyond any title," Plein said.

In 2020, the then-AHS Board of Directors announced plans to sell Riv-

SEE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH/THE CONNECTION

Guests enjoyed a three-course meal.

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Brian Kemble, winner of AHS' prestigious 2025 Liberty Hyde Bailey Award, and Suzanne Laporte, AHS President and CEO.

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ OCTOBER 2-15, 2025 ♦ 7

Wizards Visit William Ramsey



ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt, second from right, welcomes Washington Wizards Tre Johnson, Will Riley and Jamir Watkins to William Ramsey Elementary School Aug. 15.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Washington Wizards rookies Tre Johnson, Will Riley and Jamir Watkins were on hand as the NBA team hosted a back-to-school celebration at William Ramsay Elementary School.

The Aug. 15 event featured Wizards in-game entertainers, including DJ Heat, the Wizards Dancers and mascot G-Wiz. All William Ramsay students in attendance received a free Wizards-branded backpack filled with school sup-

plies donated by the Monumental Sports & Entertainment Foundation, the official charity of the Washington Wizards.

“We are excited to be here for our back-to-school giveaway,” said Wizards PR representative Kara Swirsky. “We want to support the community and get these kids ready to go back to school.”

Johnson, Riley and Watkins signed autographs and spoke about the importance of these events.

“As a kid you will remember these moments so it’s important for us to give back,” Riley said.

Watkins stressed the importance



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Players and cheerleaders from the Washington Wizards join in a group photo with ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt and educators at a back-to-school event Aug. 15 at William Ramsey Elementary School.

of building good habits in school that will translate to later in life.

“We need to use social media and the platform we are given in a positive way,” Watkins said.

Attendees enjoyed Wizards Pop-a-Shot, face painting, balloon art-

ists, magicians and a photo booth. Haircuts were provided by Cape-town DMV.

The team also provided Wizards-branded water bottles and folders and each student was able to choose a free book donated by

Mahogany Books.

“Today is truly about community,” said ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt. “This is about one community coming together to make sure our students are ready



Washington Wizards player Jamir Watkins looks on as a student gets a haircut at the back-to-school event Aug. 15 at William Ramsey Elementary School.



Washington Wizards Dancers were on hand at the back-to-school event Aug. 15 at William Ramsey Elementary School.



Washington Wizards player Jamir Watkins autographs a basketball during the back-to-school event Aug. 15 at William Ramsey Elementary School.

NEWS

Making the Grade

Creative Play student returns as counselor.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Noah Urchek was two years old when he first enrolled at the Creative Play School in Alexandria. Despite being quiet and shy, Urchek was an active student, remembered for staying busy and running around the playground. Now a college student at Virginia Commonwealth University, Urchek returned as a counselor to the same halls he walked as a student 18 years ago.

"I still remember all my teachers," Urchek said during a break from his own work as a counselor. "I have the best memories from this school and made many friends from the aftercare program."

Urchek attended Creative Play School through 5th grade before attending George Washington Middle School and Alexandria City High School.

"Noah was in my first class of 2-year-olds," said Kris Solberg, who has been a director at the school for 15 years. "He was always very well behaved and always loved to draw. He would run around the playground so it was no surprise that he ended up running track. As a counselor Noah is wonderful with the children and they have fun with him."

Diane Smalley opened the school in 1980. It now has two locations in the city of Alexandria.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Noah Urchek, center, returns as a 2025 counselor after attending Alexandria's Creative Play School as a child. Standing with Urchek are Diane Smalley, owner of the school, Urchek's former teachers Abby Garcia and Dora Romero, and Kris Solberg, director of the school.

"I always wanted to work with young children," Smalley said. "We have great families here and some students like Noah have come back."

Urchek is now studying communication arts at Virginia Commonwealth University. He says he can see himself in some of his own students.

"Sometimes it feels weird being back here," Urchek said. "And I can

see my younger self in some of these kids."

Two of Urchek's former teachers -- Abby Garcia and Dora Romero -- recalled the active young boy who is now a colleague.

"Noah was a quiet little boy but all over the place," said Romero, who has been at the school for 20 years. "It's amazing to have him back."

American Horticultural Society

FROM PAGE 7

er Farm, generating shock waves among supporters who contended that since River Farm is prime waterfront property, developers would pounce on it. Local groups, many elected officials and then Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam mobilized to preserve the property, block development and retain public access. Ultimately the Board re-organized and abandoned the sale plan.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck remarked, "I deeply appreciate all the folks who worked to save River Farm."

Plein said that a major related announcement is forthcoming.

Among the notables attending in addition to Storck were Virginia Senators Scott Surovell and Russet Perry and former House of Delegates member Kris Amundsen. Surovell is the Senate Majority Leader.

Art in the Gardens

Nepenthe Gallery, based in
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the Hollin Hall Shopping Center, staged fanciful sculptures throughout the gardens, works by Vadim Kharchenko, Kevin Carman, Dorothy Gillespie, David Turner, Charles Smith, Michael Alfano, Staci Katsias, Brandon Reese, and Villagers in India's Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Some pieces were for sale, with prices ranging from \$9,500 to \$38,000.

"We love any opportunity to partner with AHS at George Washington's historic River Farm, and the artists whose works we are showcasing feel that it is a special place," said gallery owner Carrie Garland. "The project is art at its very best, lifting others up and connecting us all in unexpected ways."

Alexandrian Angela Barbour wore a floral print dress and said, "River Farm's a gem. The fact that they truly saved it in perpetuity is truly exciting."

Lynn Godek, a kindergarten teacher who lives in the Mount

Vernon area, nurtures young gardeners, she explained, by having children plant kidney beans and watch them grow. "You only need dirt, water and sun," she quipped.

Why was she there? "I believe in the mission of AHS and the importance of maintaining green space and bringing gardening into everyone's life," she said.

Referring to the gala, LaPorte announced, "We passed our fund raising goals."

About AHS and River Farm

Founded in 1922, AHS is a member-based, national, nonprofit organization which includes more than 20,000 aspiring, new and experienced gardeners, plant enthusiasts, horticultural professionals and many regional and national partner organizations. AHS sponsors educational programs, awards, publications and trips. River Farm is a 25-acre site overlooking the Potomac River, one of George Washington's original five farms. Visit ahsgardening.org

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2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's
Northern Virginia
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Terri Causley Smith, a cheerleader for the 1971 Titans.



Mariana Joiner, left, with her father Jerome Murphy, a linebacker for the 1971 Titans football team.



Jerry Harris, left, a quarterback for the 1971 Titans, with 1973 Titans quarterback Kenny White.

Remember the Titans

FROM PAGE 1

be successful. And we were.”

Friday evening began with a “Titans Tailgate” in the school’s main gym, where community members, students and alumni gathered to share memories and collect autographs. Of 77 original players, 40 attended the events.

Following the tailgate, an on-field tribute took place at Parker-Gray Memorial Stadium. Members of the original 1971 team, along with surviving coaches and cheerleaders, were honored before the current Titans faced off against John Lewis High School under the Friday night lights. Players wore

commemorative jerseys, and memorabilia from the championship season was on display throughout the school.

The film, co-produced by Walt Disney Pictures and Jerry Bruckheimer Films, starred Academy Award winner Denzel Washington as Coach Herman Boone. It depict-

ed the challenges and triumphs of a newly integrated football team in a racially divided Alexandria. The real-life Titans went undefeated that season, winning the Virginia state championship.

“The Titans’ story is one of equity, leadership, and resilience,” said ACPS Superintendent Mela-

nie Kay-Wyatt. “Our students don’t just learn about this history — they live it and carry it forward.”

Head coach Herman Boone and assistant coach Bill Yoast are deceased but Boone’s daughter Sharon Henderson attended the event

SEE ALUMNI, FANS, PAGE 11



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The yearbook photo of the 1971 Titans football team.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Rachel Mackey, left, managing partner of event sponsor Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, stands with 1971 Titans football team members and their families during the 25th anniversary celebration of the release of the film "Remember the Titans" Sept. 20 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. The 1971 team players were inducted into the Alexandria Sports Hall of Fame.

Alumni, Fans Gather for 25th Anniversary Tribute

FROM PAGE 11

with Boone's grandson Roberto Small.

"I hope everyone will remember that my father really cared about the kids," Henderson said. "So many people only look at the fact that he was a tough, no-nonsense coach. But I remember a father who would say 'if I'm not fussing at you I don't care about you.'"

Henderson recalled that the players had a curfew that her father took seriously.

"I remember my father telling the players 'there's nothing out in the streets for you after 10 o'clock at night,'" Henderson said. "He would go out in the middle of the night and ride through the streets of Alexandria to make sure these kids were safe."

He cared about people, he cared about children, he cared about his players and he cared about his family."

Former NFL player and WWE wrestler Dean Muhtadi was on

hand at the gala and presented a check for \$8,000 for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. Event organizer Rich Daniels, owner and president of the D.C. Divas, and Jasmine Malone, executive director of the scholarship fund, were on hand to accept.

"This wasn't just a football story," said Wayne Sanders, a member of the original team. "It was about relationships, about coming together when the world around us was divided."



Former Mayor Bill Euille, left, and John Porter, former principal at T.C. Williams High School (now ACHS), were presented commemorative footballs for their support of the 1971 Titans football team.

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Former teammates Bob Luckett, defensive end and offensive center, and Ron Bass, starting quarterback of the 1971 Titans football team.

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'The Outsider'

ACCT shines with timely political satire.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Is Ned Newley the worst candidate to ever run for office? Despite impressively bad poll numbers, political consultant Arthur Vance thinks Newley is exactly what the public is looking for in "The Outsider." It's a timely and hilarious political comedy opening Oct. 3 at Aldersgate Church Community Theater.

Newley, a brilliant but socially awkward lieutenant governor, is suddenly thrust into the role of governor after a scandal forces his predecessor to resign. He is a policy genius but a public relations disaster — terrified of speaking and painfully uncomfortable in the spotlight. His chief of staff, Dave Riley, enlists the help of a slick political consultant, Arthur Vance, who sees Newley's awkwardness as a potential goldmine. Vance believes voters crave authenticity, even if it's clumsy and unpolished.

Things spiral into absurdity when Louise Peakes, a ditzzy temp secretary with no political experience, accidentally becomes a viral sensation and is pushed into running for office herself. "The Outsider," written by playwright Paul Slade Smith, explores how political success can hinge more on optics and relatability than competence or substance.

"The Outsider is decidedly political but it takes no sides," said Eddie Page, an award-winning director who helms the stellar cast. "There's no intent to undermine or endorse any party or candidate. As we navigate this changing climate, it becomes increasingly clear that individual actions and choices matter. Instead, it embraces a mirror up to recent years of the political climate and invites us to laugh at the absurdity we all recognize."

"The Outsider is decidedly political but it takes no sides."

— Director Eddie Page

Marg Soroos is producer along with Charles Dragonette, who does double duty on stage as AC Peterson. Steve Rosenthal is the bumbling but brilliant Ned Newley, with Elizabeth Repolgie as Louise, Sara Joy Lebowitz as Rachel, Maya Reva as Paige, Richard Fiske as Arthur, and Jim Pearson as Dave.

The fast-paced dialogue, physical comedy and strong ensemble cast balance slapstick with moments of genuine insight into the political process.

Rosenthal as Newley captures the character's endearing awkwardness with Fiske taking on a James Carville-esque charisma. Repolgie as Louise steals scenes with her clueless charm.

"Louise is brought into the governor's office as a temp after the previous governor's resignation and departure of his entire support staff," Repolgie said. "What she lacks in



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS

ACCT's production of *The Outsider* opens Friday, Oct. 3. The cast includes (front): Sara Joy Lebowitz (Rachel), Steve Rosenthal (Ned), and Elizabeth Repolgie (Louise). In back are Maya Reva (Paige), Richard Fiske (Arthur), Charles Dragonette (A.C. Peterson), and Jim Pearson (Dave). The *Outsider* runs Oct. 3-19. www.acctonline.org

intelligence — which is a lot — she makes up for with enthusiasm, unearned confidence, and a genuine desire for everyone around her to feel good about themselves."

Said Fiske about his role as political consultant Vance, "Arthur Vance is larger than life, widely experienced and massively self-confident. He could be disliked for his ego and overbearing personality, but his joy in the process overcomes this. He is a showman and his enthusiasm is contagious."

With "The Outsider" Smith provides a satirical look at how pollsters and pundits shape political candidates. He cleverly skew-

ers the absurdities or modern politics without alienating his audience. It's a comedy that asks serious questions: What do voters really want? Is authenticity just another performance? And who truly runs the show?

Said Soroos, "I would like people to see the show then go away with a smile on their face and know that democracy is worth the time and effort to keep it alive."

"The Outsider" is playing Oct. 3-19 at Aldersgate Church Community Theater, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. For tickets or more information visit www.acctonline.org.

ALX Jazz Fest Pop-Up

The next ALX Jazz Fest Pop-Up event is on Sunday, Oct. 5 at the Old Town North Farmers' Market @ Montgomery Park (901 N Royal St.) Admission is free.

Enjoy live jazz by Improviso Jazz and spoken word featuring Can Man Tha Poet.

Experience a hands-on art project with the Mobile Art Lab alongside the market's fresh produce, baked goods, and artisan vendors. More details about the Old Town North Farmers' Market @ Montgomery Park and their weekly offerings can be found on the City's Farmers Market page.

Full details of the ALX Jazz Fest and future Pop Ups can be found on the ALX Jazz Fest page.

The ALX Jazz Fest and the ALX Jazz Fest Pop-Up Series are free events produced by the City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA). This project is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Alexandria Film Festival to Include Screenings at Virginia Tech

The Alexandria Film Festival will screen films at Virginia Tech's Alexandria location in the Potomac Yard neighborhood as part of the 19th Annual Alexandria Film Festival.

"The university's new academic building in the Potomac Yard neighborhood is the perfect hub of festival activities this year," said Jill Ray, chair of the Alexandria Film Festival. "It's metro-accessible, high-tech, and ultra-modern, offering multiple spaces for film screenings including the 300-capacity Boeing Auditorium."

"Hosting the Alexandria Film Festival at Academic Building One reflects our commitment to making this building a hub for innovation, collaboration, and communi-

ty," said Lance Collins, vice president at Virginia Tech.

The 19th annual Alexandria Film Festival will kick off Nov. 2 and continue Nov. 7-9 at venues across the City of Alexandria including Patagonia Old Town, Beatley Library (free programming), the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, and Virginia Tech (Alexandria campus). The festival event website, full programming will be available soon at AlexFilmFest.com.

The Alexandria Film Festival brings short and feature-length films of all genres, filmmaker panels and arts presentations to the City of Alexandria and the greater DC-metro area. The festival highlights the talents of local, national and international film-

makers.

The Alexandria Film Festival is made possible with support from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, the City of Alexandria, as well as support of individual donors and corporate sponsors including: Adobe, Alexandria Gazette Packet and Connection Newspapers; Alexandria Hyundai; Alexandria Living Magazine; Alexandria Times; Atlas Brew Works; Bad Ass Coffee; Burke & Herbert Bank; Cheesetique; Delia's Mediterranean Grill; Glory Days; Goodwin Living; Hadeed Rug Cleaning; Jim Connolly/Long & Foster Real Estate; Law Office of Deborah Matthews; Old Town Crier; Pond Roofing; Ted's Montana Grill; Virginia Tech; The Zebra; and Zen Business.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

- strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children's learning.
- ❖ Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.
- ❖ Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings

Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road. Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to pro-

vide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit www.novasecondsaturday.com for more.

ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU NOV. 2

Women Artists of the DMV. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Artist's Reception: Sunday, September 28, 4 — 6 p.m. Local artist, curator, and advocate for the arts, F Lenny Campello, has assembled a survey exhibition of women artists spanning the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia that features over 400 artists in 18 different galleries across the region. Women artists of the DMV presenting at The Athenaeum include: Cathy Abramson, Suzi Balamaci, Sara Bardin, Jennifer Barlow, Jennifer Lynn Beaudet, Julia Bloom, Lisa Brotman, Carol Brown Goldberg, Shante Bullock, Anne Cherubim, Amanda Coelho, Andrea Cybyk, Anna U. Davis, Cynthia Farrell Johnson, Sharon Fishel, Cianne Fragione, Marilyn Horrom, M. Jane Johnson, Jessica Kallista, P D Klein, Kara Lin, Anne Marchand, Amy Marx, Ann Meagher-Cook, Carol Newmyer, Tea Okropiridze, Madeleine Sargent, Adi Segal, Susan Shalowitz, Pritha Srinivasan, Jenny Walton, Suzanne Yurdin, and Helen Zughaib.

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.

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



The 30th Annual Art on the Avenue takes place Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025 in Del Ray.

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. 4

Vola's Dockside Grill's Fall Oysterfest, Saturday, Oct. 4 from 12-3 p.m.

Gather on Vola's Airstream patio for unlimited freshly shucked and specialty oysters, a tasty buffet, beer, wine, and cocktails. Live music.

Oysterfest will also feature a Best Shucker contest, inviting both pros and first-timers to show off their oyster-opening skills. Outdoors along the waterfront (with indoor backup in case of rain). Tickets are \$144.18, inclusive of food, drinks, and gratuity, and can be purchased here: [Eventbrite Link](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-fall-oysterfest-tickets-755555555555).

SUNDAY/OCT. 5

Wild, Wild West. 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria. Presented by the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. The program features sweeping cinematic soundscapes and American classics: Elmer Bernstein: The Magnificent Seven
William Grant Still: American Scenes: The Far West
Elinor Remick Warren: Along the Western Shore
John Williams: The Cowboys Overture
Aaron Copland: Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo (Hoe-Down included!)

Visit the website: [wmpamusic.org](https://www.wmpamusic.org)

STARTING MONDAY/OCT. 6

Alexandria Santa Train Tickets. There are four dates this year for the 19th annual roundtrip train ride with Santa from Alexandria to Manassas. Tickets for the popular Santa Train go on sale Monday, Oct. 6 at Alexandria's Whistle Stop Toy & Hobby Store, located at 1719 Centre Plaza, just off Quaker Lane. The annual holiday tradition, now in its 19th year, features a roundtrip train ride with Santa from the Alexandria train station to Manassas. The dates are Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15 and Dec. 18. The fun starts at the Alexandria train station, where those boarding the train begin to gather at 1 p.m. During the train ride, from 1:25-3:30 p.m., Santa visits and takes photos with ticket-holders who also receive stickers and candy canes.

TUESDAY/OCT. 7

Kids' First Years (KFY) State of Early Childhood 2025 Event. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At First Baptist Church, 2922 King Street, Alexandria. KFY is a collective impact initiative dedicated to being the unified voice for organizations that collaborate to support early childhood efforts in Alexandria. The event will bring together Alexandria's leaders, businesses, educators, policymakers, and community advocates to focus on one mission: building a thriving early childhood system that fuels the city's economy, strengthens the workforce and supports every family.

THURSDAY/OCT. 9

Fall Festival: Celebrating Community and Affordable Housing. 4 to 8 p.m. At The Garden Alexandria, 5380 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Housing Alexandria, a leading non-profit community developer, will hold its Fall Festival dedicated to celebrating the power of community and raising crucial funds

for affordable housing. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$60 for adults. The festival is a family-friendly event, offering an evening of food, drinks, games, music, and a raffle, as well as a live performance by Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's youth orchestra, Sympatico. Port City Brewery of Alexandria, Virginia and food trucks will be available like Hangry Panda, Minas Tamales, Mac Donut, Lost Boy Cider and Boba Blass. Go to www.housingalexandria.org.

OCT. 10-12

Capital Art & Craft Festival. At Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. The Capital Art & Craft Festival will feature 225 artists from throughout the country with art in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood. Attendees may buy directly from the artisans who create the work, all of which is crafted by hand. Hours: Friday, Oct 10 and Saturday Oct 11: 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday Oct 12: 10 am -4 pm. Tickets: \$11 in advance; \$12 at the door; Senior & Military discounts available; children under 12 free. Ticket information: www.CACFart

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>

SUNDAY/OCT. 19

The Carpenter's Cook-off. 12 to 3 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Carpenter's Shelter is hosting their signature fundraising event, Carpenter's Cook-Off 2025. Top-rated local restaurants, caterers and bakeries will showcase their delicacies, which visitors get to taste and judge. There will be live music from DJ Infinite Sounds, live and silent auctions, raffles and fun for the whole family. Board Alum Jennifer Poersch will receive the Val Hawkins award which recognizes dedicated champions who work to further the mission and vision of Carpenter's Shelter. Buy Tickets: CarpentersShelter.org/CookOffTickets

NOV. 7-30

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 12

The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

Robust Walking. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com.

Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/contribute.

Senior and Job Programs. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Queen of Apostles Church, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria. St. Martin de Porres Center offers senior and job placement programming Monday through Friday at the parish. Email Kathryn Toohey, ktoohey@ccda.net.

Be Heard at the City's Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city's website. Anyone is welcome at any of the public hearings.

Public Space Recycling. Alexandria has placed more than 80 bright blue recycling containers next to public trash cans in the commercial districts along Mount Vernon Avenue and King Street, as well as other public spaces, including parks, recreation fields, and other high-traffic pedestrian areas. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recycling.

Composting and Food Waste. Alexandria now has Resource Recovery Stations, located at the City's Farmers' Markets (Old Town, Del Ray) to collect food waste. More than 270 people have participated in the food waste program over the last several months. Participants drop off items weekly, over eight tons of waste has been collected, to be composted to make a natural fertilizer. To learn more about composting visit alexandriava.gov/YardWaste.

English as a Second Language Class. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Tuesdays and Thursdays, all levels 10 a.m.-12 p.m., intermediate workshop 3-5 p.m. All classes free. Call the information desk, 703-746-1702.

The Talking Book Service at Alexandria Library will now operate Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Patrons may also reach the service at 703-746-1760.

Digital Magazines. Patrons of Alexandria Library will have unlimited access to read digital magazines, which can be viewed on most Internet-enabled devices inside or outside of the library. Accessible through www.rbdigital.com/alexandriava/zinio.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

I Stand with Winsome: She Stands with Families

To the editor:

I strongly endorse Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears for Virginia Governor, and want to share my reasons with your readers. She is a gracious, tough, smart, principled leader who practices what she preaches and knows that strong families are good for children and society.

We all know it is hard to keep our families together and on the right path in life.

Winsome is alert to the dangers our children and families face today, often due (intentionally or not) to the policies of the left. Those policies endanger communities when criminals are not held accountable and victims never see justice. They will force union membership on workers who don't want to join or pay union dues. They also endanger our girls when they are forced to share bathrooms and sports with biological males who are physically stronger.

The policies of the left have long discouraged family formation and weakened family units. Now they are usurping parental authority and seemingly considering all children to be wards of the state who need pervasive messaging on sex practices and sex changes – often keeping secrets from parents. Winsome rightly calls this out and says that it must end. Most parents agree, even if they are afraid to say so publicly for fear of



Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears with Former Alexandria Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland

ostracism in deep blue areas like Alexandria. Fortunately, votes are private.

The policies of the left are even more egregious to the Black community. Our families were more publicly, intentionally torn apart in our nation's past, even here in Alexandria, until President Lincoln stepped in and said "No more." Now, it will take Winsome to say "No more!" to the damage to our children and families.

Bill Cleveland
Former Alexandria
Vice Mayor

State of Arts ALX

The first State of Arts ALX event is on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 8:30 a.m. at the Boeing Auditorium, Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, 3625 Potomac Ave.

"This event is designed for artists and their art's missions to be seen," said Diane Ruggerio, Deputy Director of Cultural Activities, RPCA.

Attendees can expect networking opportunities, tabling from local arts organizations, refreshments and a showcase of recent arts highlights from across the city.

The program will feature keynote speaker Jen Goold, Executive Director for the Neighborhood Design Center, an organization that supports

the growth of healthy, equitable neighborhoods through community-engaged design and planning services.

Attendees will also hear from Alexandria Poet Laureate Maria Cristina Donoso, enjoy AV displays capturing successes and milestones in the local arts scene, and engage in networking opportunities with local arts organizations. City of Alexandria's Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley will be in attendance.

State of Arts ALX is free and open to the public. Reserve your spot by completing the RSVP form. Artists, arts organizations, board members, elected officials, and community stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

BULLETIN BOARD

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Eligible low income households can now use their SNAP benefits to buy local foods at the Old Town Farmers' Market. SNAP customers are able to use their electronic benefits transfer cards to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and other eligible food products at the market. The Old Town Farmer's Market is located at 301 King St., and is open on Saturdays, year round from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Opera NOVA has begun collection of used musical instruments. Any instruments welcomed, regardless of type. Snare drums, clarinets, and violins are just some of the instruments that could bring joy to a home or school. Any recorders donated will be sent to an orphanage in Haiti in order to build a musical presence there. Opera NOVA has tax-exempt status. Contact Miriam Miller at 703-536-7557 or mcdm1@verizon.net to arrange for delivery.

Free Medicare counseling is available for City of Alexandria residents through the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Pro-

gram (VICAP) to help individuals understand and navigate Medicare insurance programs. VICAP Medicare counselors will be available on Thursdays from 1-5 p.m. , by appointment only, at the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services, located at 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. Speakers are also available to present information on Medicare Basic to community groups. Call 703-228-1726.

The Military Officers Association of America's scholarship fund gives out loans and grants to children of military families. To learn more, apply or donate visit www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund.

Five-Star Toastmasters, Club # 9623. Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. at the Pentagon Conference Center. Toastmasters can help participants sharpen their speaking skills, boost their confidence and energize their leadership skills in a team-oriented atmosphere. Visit fivestart.toastmasters.org or Club President Charlie DeWitt at 202-997-5087 or Club_President@fivestart.toastmasters.org.



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Practically Pavlovian



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I first heard/read about Ivan Pavlov in the fall of 1972. How can I be so specific? Because that's when I matriculated to the University of Maryland. And Ivan Pavlov was a topic of my Psychology 100 class. A class so large, over 600 hundred, that - at least where I sat near the back, could barely see him - or his canine companion (I don't remember the dog ever barking, by the way). The professor spoke into a microphone attached to a cord which he wore around his neck. He was going through various slides illuminated on the canvas behind him and commenting on them. There was never any stoppage to ask any questions or to clarify anything he had just said. We were meant to listen, not interrupt and relearn (learn the first time) all the information he was teaching by studying our textbook. This process was foreign to me. I never was taught in the fashion that I was now being subjected (yes subjected) and expected to grasp the lessons. Neither could/would I thrive by taking multiple choice exams, being graded on a bell curve (results of which were posted out the lecture hall), and never interacting with the professor. I got my first and only "D" in this class and I was probably lucky not to fail. I remember these feelings all too well, but I remember very little else except - wait for it: Ivan Pavlov.

Likewise, I can't remember if the class was held Mon./Wed./Fri at 8:00 am for 50 minutes or Tues./Thurs. from 8:00 am for 75 minutes. Neither can I remember the professor's name, nor the breed or name of his dog. I do remember he always dressed in black leather pants and a dark shirt and certainly never a sport coat. As for his many teachings and references to the textbook that we all bought at The Maryland Book Exchange, I remember very little except Pavlov's dog experiments. Pavlov discovered an animal behavior/human interaction that us pet owners (certainly dog owners) have come to rely on when training our puppies: "Classical Conditioning." Something to do with a "learned response" resulting from a "neutral stimulus." Moreover, he discovered dogs "could be trained to salivate at the sound of a bell after it was paired with the presentation of food." (I get that way myself.) A more literal description: your dog comes/obeys you when there's a reward (food) for doing so.

Well, it's been over 130 years since Pavlov's experiments/research (they occurred the 1890s) and the worm, as is often colloquialized, has, at least in my house, finally turned. No more is the human (yours truly) the one doing the prompting. It is now the dog who prompts the human. (Moreover, in a parallel universe, the cat is also prompting/conditioning the human, but that's another paragraph.) As for my three-year-old male golden retriever Burton, he manifests a simple but recurring behavior when he wants/needs to go out: He gets up from wherever he is and walks throughout the house until he finds me, always me (we've bonded) and stands steady on all fours and stares at me. He will remain in that position until I acquiesce and say something like "OKAY Burton, I know you want to go out. Let's go." Then he turns tail, literally, and trots into the kitchen where he waits to be "leashed" up by yours truly before he gets to go "out." We don't have a fenced-in yard, so Burton has to be walked. After he goes outside first thing in the morning with Dina, the rest of the time (day and night) I am responsible for his comings and goings. This standing and staring behavior is repeated by Burton four to five times throughout the day. He comes into any room where I am, stands and stares at me until I get up, then he gets to go out. Very simple. He has me "conditioned."

It's the same story with Andrew, our cancer-surviving cat; when he walks into the kitchen, I know he's hungry. That's when I give him food. Other times, I'll put the food on the floor: nothing. However, when we meet in the kitchen, he'll sit by his bowl, look up at me and I know he wants me to get him some food. His terms. Not mine.

These kinds of behaviors are all too familiar to dog and cat owners. It's the cost of doing business, so to speak. You have to give up control and in so doing, acknowledge that you are at the animal's mercy. It's akin to the inmates running the asylum except in this context, it's not the inmates who are crazy.

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

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Old Town
1103 Prince Street

\$1,675,000 | 3-bed, 2.5-bath home with original floors, exposed brick walls, 2 staircases, 2 fireplaces, and an open chef's kitchen. Vaulted ceilings and spa-like bath in primary suite. Private patio.

Babs Beckwith : 703.627.5421
OldTownAlexandriaLiving.com



Old Town
520 S Pitt Street

\$1,200,000 | Beautifully updated 3-bed, 1.5-bath home with wood floors, bright kitchen, renovated baths, and a lush deep garden with vibrant landscaping and parking for 2 cars.

Lauren Bishop : 202.361.5079
LaurenBishopHomes.com



Porto Vecchio
1250 S Washington Street #816

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Mary Taylor & Pat Tierney : 703.785.5619
MaryTaylorRealtor.com



Old Town
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Sandy McMaster : 571.259.2673
SandyMcMaster.realestate



Taylor Run
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\$690,000 & \$775,000 | 2 adjoining, brick, half duplexes. Each with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. Sold separately. Great either for the investment-minded or resident owners!

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SophisticatedLivingNOADC.com



The Glen of Carlyn
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