

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

‘May We Never Forget’



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Honor Guard opens the ceremony at Police Headquarters of the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks of 2001.

City holds 9/11 25th anniversary Remembrance Ceremony.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Residents, public officials, first responders, veterans and community members gathered in Alexandria to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The City of Alexandria hosted its annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Alexandria Police Department Headquarters, honoring the victims, survivors and first responders whose lives were forever changed

by the events of that day.

“September 11, 2001, remains a solemn day of unimaginable loss and sacrifice,” said Deputy Fire Chief Garrett Dyer. “The lives of generations of families were forever changed on that day. We remember communities living through disbelief, fear and unmeasurable grief not knowing how they would make sense of what had happened or how they would put their lives back together in an intense and uncertain environment.”

The ceremony, held at police headquarters on Wheeler Avenue, marked a quarter-century since the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Flight 93. City leaders emphasized the importance of remembering those lost while reflecting on

the resilience and unity that emerged in the aftermath of one of the nation’s darkest days.

“Faced with the worst of humanity,

firefighters, emergency medical personnel, law enforcement officers, members of our

“September 11, 2001, remains a solemn day of unimaginable loss and sacrifice.”

Deputy Fire Chief Garrett Dyer



PHOTO BY PAM BROOKS

Smoke billows out of the Pentagon following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

military and countless ordinary Americans answered the call to help,” said Sheriff Sean Casey. “Each year we gather to remember that tragic day with a new promise to never forget. We will never forget those who were lost, those who survived, those who rushed towards danger to save others and all those whose lives were changed forever.”

Mayor Alyia Gaskins joined public safety officials in leading the observance. The program featured a presentation of colors, remarks from city leaders, and a traditional “return to quarters” ceremony, a solemn

tribute commonly used by fire and rescue services to honor fallen first responders. The ritual serves as a symbolic final tribute to first responders who responded to the September 11 attacks and those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The remembrance held special significance for Northern Virginia communities as local first responders were among those who assisted following the attack on the Pentagon. The city also remembered the 16 Alex-

SEE CITY HOLDS 9/11, PAGE 4

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News



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Early voting begins Sept. 18 and runs through Oct. 31 at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections at 132 N. Royal Street. Early voting will begin at the Charles Beatley Jr. Central Library Oct. 18.

Early Voting Runs Through Oct. 31

Extended hours begin Oct. 18.

Early voting for Virginia's Nov. 3 general election will begin Sept. 18 and runs through Oct. 31. In-person early voting begins Sept. 18 at the Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections Office at 132 N Royal St, Suite 100.

The ballot in Alexandria will include contests for Member of the U.S. Senate, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, 8th District and three proposed state constitutional amendments.

Voting takes place during normal business hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The office will be closed Oct. 12.

Weekend and extended hours begin at the Registrar's Office Oct. 18 with the Charles Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, open for early voting beginning Oct. 18.

A secure outdoor ballot drop box for absentee ballots will be available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, from the start of early voting till 7 p.m. on Election Day. This drop box is under video surveillance and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Ballot drop boxes will also be available at all polling places on Election Day from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

Military and overseas citizen absentee voters may receive their ballots by email, but the ballot must be returned by either U.S. mail or commercial courier (UPS, DHL, FedEx, etc.) so that your ballot is postmarked

by election day and that your voted ballot arrives no later than Noon on the Friday after the election.

Applications to request a mail-in ballot must be received in the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 23, 2026. 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 be mailed to you.

Completed ballots must either be returned to the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3 or postmarked by Nov. 3 and received in the office by noon on Friday, Nov. 6. To vote in person, an application is not required. Applications should not be submitted before voting in person.

If you decide to vote in person after receiving a ballot by mail, bring the mail ballot with you to surrender at the voting location.

The deadline for the normal registration period for the Nov. 3 General Election is Oct. 23. Following this, the Same Day Registration period begins and runs through Election Day, Nov. 3. 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.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Remembering the Victims

16 local lives lost
in terrorist attacks.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It has been 25 years since an unimaginable act of terrorism took the lives of 2,977 Americans, including 16 Alexandria residents on Sept. 11, 2001. Events across the nation marked the anniversary of what remains the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history with local ceremonies 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

Spc. 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.



Spc. 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 Academy with the Class of 1986. He had been



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria first responder Lt. Jim Morris, far bottom right, and fellow firefighters from Alexandria and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Station 11 join soldiers atop the Pentagon to unfurl an American flag during rescue and recovery efforts Sept. 12, 2001.

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

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.

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

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.

Terence M. Lynch

Terence Michael Lynch, 49, was one of three consultants from Booz, Allen and 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

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



Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr.

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



Steven D. Jacoby

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-



Lt. Col. Dean E. Mattson

City Holds 9/11 25th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony

FROM PAGE 1

andria residents who lost their lives in the attacks, a lasting reminder of the local impact of the tragedy.

During the ceremony, speakers reflected on the courage shown by emergency personnel and ordinary citizens on September 11, 2001.

"We remember the courage of first responders who gave everything they had to fight fires, make rescues, search for survivors and care for the injured," Dyer said. "Here in our own region, we remember the men and women from Alexandria and neighboring jurisdictions who responded to the Pentagon answering the call when their communities and their country needed them most."

In remarks delivered during the event, Gaskins spoke about hope and resilience, drawing inspiration from the memorial lights that rise annually over the former World Trade Center site in New York City. She urged the community to continue serving as a source of strength and light for one another during challenging times.

As the nation observed the 25th anniversary of 9/11, Alexandria's ceremony joined countless commemorations across the country. Through moments of silence, ceremonial tributes, and shared reflection, participants honored nearly 3,000 victims and reaffirmed a commitment to remembering the lessons of that historic day.

"Twenty-five years later a new generation has grown up knowing September 11th primarily through history books, photographs, videos and stories passed down from



PHOTO/APD

The Bell Ceremony is conducted at Police Headquarters to remember the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that claimed nearly 3,000 lives, including 16 Alexandria residents.

those who were there," Dyer said. "This is why ceremonies like this matter. It is our responsibility to tell those stories, to honor those who were lost and recognize those who answered the call to ensure that the next generation of first responders and public service understand not only what happened on September the 11th but what it means to serve others in the great-

est moments of need."

Dyer called for the nation to remember the 2,753 individuals killed at the World Trade Center, the 184 individuals killed at the Pentagon and the 40 passengers who lost their lives in Shanksville, Pa. "September 11, 2001, remains the greatest loss of first responders in a single day in American history including 343 firefighters."



PHOTO/APD

An Alexandria Police vehicle is on site as part of rescue operations following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, at the Pentagon.

Said Casey, "September 11th taught us that even in our darkest moments that kindness can overcome cruelty, compassion can overcome hatred, and hope can overcome fear. Twenty-five years

later let us honor those we lost by remembering their lives serving one another and working together to build a stronger, safer and more compassionate community. May we never forget."



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Police Chief Tarrick McGuire delivers remarks during the 9/11 25th anniversary remembrance ceremony at Police Headquarters.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Alyia Gaskins makes remarks at the 25th anniversary Remembrance Ceremony of the 9/11 terrorist attacks of 2001.



PHOTO/THE WHITE HOUSE

Service members unfurl a flag over a portion of the Pentagon's west side that was struck by the hijacked American Airlines flight 77 as part of the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Remembering the Victims

FROM PAGE 3

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.

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.



Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel

Radford, a 9,000-ton destroyer.

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



Norma Lang Steuerle

Airlines Flight 77 en route to visit a daughter in Japan and her husband Eugene, who was teaching a seminar in Singapore.

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 Smantha.



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 Warrick Fuller, Waller received a master's degree in government from Harvard University and was active in civil rights affairs.



Meta L. Waller

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

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.volunteeralexandria.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

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SENIOR LIVING

Young at Heart

City celebrates Centenarians.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria recognized some of its most remarkable residents through its annual Centenarian Celebration, a special event dedicated to honoring individuals who have reached the extraordinary milestone of 100 years of age or older. Organized by the City of Alexandria in partnership with the Successful Aging Committee, the celebration highlights the contributions, resilience and life experiences of Alexandria's oldest citizens.

Held Sept. 8 at the Del Pepper Community Resource Center, residents at least 100 years

old by Dec. 31 were recognized during the event.

Mayor Alyia Gaskins recognized each of the centenarians in attendance, who were presented with a certificate as well as a commemorative challenge coin from the city of Alexandria. On hand was City Councilman Canek Aguirre who participated in the presentation ceremony.

The annual gathering serves as a tribute to individuals who have witnessed profound changes in American society over the past century. Alexandria's centenarians have lived through historic events ranging from the Great Depression and World War II to the digital revolution and the nation's 250th anniversary commemorations. Their stories provide living connections to history and offer valuable perspectives for younger generations.

Seventeen residents were recognized at the event, including: Ann Buxton; Lt. Col. F. Jane Cotton; Ruth Harris; Wendy Hoge; Janet Holder; Mary Evelyn Hurley; Rossie Kelly; So May Lee; Rosamond Mandell; Pat McArtor; Stuart McIntyre; Dalia Meza; Barbara Jane Ruggles Pinel; Mary E. Price; Ruth Ring; Maxine Sorenson; and Mickey Youso.

Gaskins read brief biographies of each centenarian, which included Cotton, who



Centenarian So May Lee. Seated, with Mayor Alyia Gaskins and Councilman Canek Aguirre.



Centenarian Pat McArtor, left, with friend Dorie Waddick at the Centenarian Celebration Sept. 15.

has traveled to all seven continents around the world, Sorenson's career in foreign service, and fourth generation McArtor, whose father served on the Alexandria City Council.

The celebration reflects Alexandria's broader commitment to successful aging and community inclusion. Local organizations, including Senior Services of Alexan-

dria and members of the Successful Aging Committee, work together to identify and honor residents whose lives have helped shape the city's history and character.

Each offered advice for a long and fulfilling life, summed up by Harris, who said "the greatest gifts in life are also the simplest -- faith, gratitude, clarity of mind and the blessing of another day."



Centenarian Barbara Pinel, standing center, is honored by city officials Sept. 15 at the Del Pepper Community Center.



Centenarian Lt. Col. F. Jane Cotton, left, sits with Virginia Everette.



Division of Aging and Adult Services Asia Morgan, left, and Canise Robertson, right, with centenarian Stuart McIntyre Sept. 15 at the Del Pepper Community Center.



Centenarian Ruth Harris, seated, with Mayor Alyia Gaskins and Councilman Canek Aguirre.



Centenarian Mary Price, left, sits with Kate Hartwell surrounded by city officials Sept. 15 at the Del Pepper Community Center.



Sunrise staff Kendall McCracken and Senait Zemichael congratulate centenarian Maxine Sorenson Sept. 15 at the Del Pepper Community Center.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

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-of-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.

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 depre-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

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For questions or reasonable disability accommodation, contact jamie.ciesla@alexandriava.gov or call Virginia Relay 711.



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Public Meetings Fall Transportation Meetings

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The public will have an opportunity to learn and share feedback regarding the top transportation priorities and the vision for transportation in the commonwealth along with information related to various other initiatives. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, Virginia Department of Transportation, and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and to discuss your ideas and concerns on Virginia's transportation network. The meetings will consist of remarks from key officials followed by a town hall session where the public may engage in discussion and ask questions about the various initiatives. Meeting materials will be available at <https://ctb.virginia.gov/planning-funding/2026-fall-transportation-meetings/>

Public meetings begin at 2 p.m. in each of the locations:

Friday, September 25 Lynchburg District Lynchburg Business Alliance 300 Lucado Place Lynchburg, VA 24504	Wednesday, September 30 Richmond District VDOT Richmond District Hawthorne Auditorium 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, VA 23834	Thursday, October 8 Northern Virginia District VDOT Northern Virginia District Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030
Tuesday, October 20 Salem District Salem Civic Center 1001 Roanoke Boulevard Salem, VA 24153	Thursday, October 22 Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	Tuesday, October 27 Hampton Roads District VDOT Hampton Roads District Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435
Thursday, November 5 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Room 240 One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210	Tuesday, November 10 Culpeper District VDOT Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	Thursday, November 12 Fredericksburg District VDOT Fredericksburg District Auditorium 86 Deacon Road Fredericksburg, VA 22405

You can also submit your comments via email or mail by November 30, 2026.

- For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@vdot.virginia.gov or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1221 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219.
- For transit and rail: drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov or Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

The commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services 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 these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

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Honorees Sukumar Rao, Jane Hughes and Scott Price.

40 Over 40

Chamber ALX honors experience, leadership and community impact.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, now known as Chamber ALX, continued a growing tradition in 2026 by honoring 40 accomplished professionals during its second annual 40 Over 40 Awards program. The initiative recognizes experienced leaders whose careers, mentorship, innovation and community service have made a lasting impact on Alexandria and the surrounding region.

Presented by United Bank, the 2026 awards shine a spotlight on individuals who have demonstrated excellence across a diverse range of sectors, including business, education, government, healthcare, hospitality, finance, nonprofit leadership and civic engagement. The honorees were celebrated during the 40 Over 40 Awards Celebration on August 13 at the American Physical Therapy Association headquarters in Potomac Yard.

The 40 Over 40 program was created as a complement to Chamber ALX's longstanding 40 Under 40 initiative, which has recognized emerging leaders since 2016. While the younger-focused program highlights rising talent, the 40 Over 40 Awards celebrate professionals whose influence continues to grow through decades of leadership, service, and achievement.

"Being named to the 40 Over 40 list is a humbling reminder of how special Alexandria is," said honoree Markos Panas. "I am grateful to

live, work and give back alongside such an inspiring group of community leaders."

According to Chamber ALX, the program honors individuals who are "shattering expectations, redefining success, and demonstrating impact, innovation, and leadership." The award recognizes not only professional accomplishments but also the meaningful contributions recipients make to strengthening Alexandria's civic and business communities.

The 2026 honorees represent a cross-section of Alexandria's leadership landscape. Educators, entrepreneurs, public servants, nonprofit executives, restaurateurs, financial professionals and community advocates were among those recognized.

Notable honorees included leaders from organizations such as Alexandria Country Day School, United Bank, Alexandria City Public Schools, Dominion Energy, ACT for Alexandria, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Bastille Brasserie & Bar, and numerous other influential institutions. Their collective accomplishments reflect the depth of talent and dedication that help make Alexandria a vibrant place to live, work and do business.

Beyond individual recognition, the 40 Over 40 Awards underscore the value of experience, mentorship and community engagement.

The program also reinforces Chamber ALX's broader mission of supporting local businesses, fostering professional connection, and cultivating a strong sense of community throughout Alexandria. Chamber officials describe the



Hosts Bob Brant and Jatrice Martel Gaiter at the 40 Over 40 celebration Aug. 13 at the American Physical Therapy Association headquarters in Potomac Yard.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Chamber ALX president and CEO Joe Haggerty welcomes the crowd to the 40 Over 40 celebration.



Honoree Paige Fawehinmi stands with Hannan Hashash.



Honoree Edith Hawkins with husband Corey Hawkins.

awards as an opportunity to celebrate those whose work has helped shape the city's civic culture and business environment.

The 2026 honorees include: Scott Baytosh (Alexandria Country Day School); Cathy K. Bradford (King's Jewelry); Cerissa Cafasso (Uber); Tristan Caudron (RiverFront Wealth Advisors); Terri Cheshire (Center for Alexandria's Children); Dr. Emerald Christopher (City of Alexandria); Carlos Coutin (Revenue Streams LLC); Adepeju (Paige) Fawehinmi (United Bank); Don George (Envision Consulting); Angela Z. Green (Alexandria City Public Schools); John Hall (The Ultimate Barber); Stella Hanly (Animal Welfare League of Alexandria); Angela Regina Harris (IMperfeKtlymade Foundation); Edith Hawkins (Campagna Center); Dr. Elizabeth Hoover (RiddleWise LLC); Katherine Horrigan (Dance Academy of Virginia); Jane Hughes (Woodbine & Alexandria Rehabilitation Centers); Hon. Amy B. Jackson (The Port City Star); Emily Klassen (Alexandria Restaurant Partners); Heather D. Mansour (United States Senate Federal Credit Union); Marian Marquez (Alexandria Economic Development Partnership); Nicole Wheeler McNamara (Catalyst Innovation);



Honoree Angela Harris, left, with Marilyn Patterson, Col. Jim Paige (honoree), Sonia Price and John Hall (honoree).

Gretchyn Gay Meinken (Friedman, Grimes, Meinken & Leischner, PLLC); Pat Miller (Alexandria Celebrates Women); Jim Paige (Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria); Markos Andreas Panas (Bread & Water Company); Marian Marie Pegram (CareFirst BCBS, retired); John Porter (Alexandria City Public Schools & ACT for Alexandria); Shara Posner (Back to Health Center); Christophe Potteaux (Bastille Brasserie & Bar);

Scott A. Price (Dominion Energy); Sukumar Rao (The Parnin Group); and Tricia B. Richie (ACT for Alexandria).

The 2026 honorees represent a powerful reminder that experience, service and sustained leadership remain invaluable assets to Alexandria's future. Through their dedication and achievements, they continue to inspire the next generation while strengthening the community they serve.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Homemade Ice Cream Sales from a Hometown Bike

Fabled ice cream has a special bike to wheel around local venues selling pints.



PHOTOS BY ALLY KIRKPATRICK

Ally Kirkpatrick on her custom bike.

BY MIKE SALMON
CREATIVITY RUNS IN ALLY

Kirkpatrick's blood, flowing into her ice cream business "Fabled Ice Cream," and into an ice cream bicycle she rides around events selling pints out of the ice box contraption that's part of the bike.

Ally's bike is an "Icicle Tricycle," model they make in Portland, OR but she managed to find a used one at a good price and put some work into it. "I thought it would be cool, I found one for \$800 on Facebook Marketplace," she said. Her particular bike had some mileage on it so she had a mechanic come over and work some magic, and

now it's a part of the whole show at Fabled. "It's like a promotion for the brick and mortar," she said.

The brick and mortar she's talking about for Fabled Ice Cream is a store space she's working on at 7940 Fort Hunt Road in the Hollin Hall Shopping Center. She is currently gutting it and setting up the inside to have ready for their opening in 2027. The bike will be part of it.

Fabled ice cream is small batch ice cream Kirkpatrick makes at St. Aidens, a nearby church where she rents the kitchen a few times a month.

The ice cream bike gets noticed though, mostly from her presence at the local Sherwood Hall Farm-

er's Market. She is scheduled to be there on September 23, October 21 and November 18.

"This is the cutest little ice cream bicycle I have ever seen" said one customer on social media.

At the bike manufacturer in Portland, a brand new "Icicle Tricycle," starts at \$3,400. Their selling points include a reinforced folding frame, gloss white cargo box designed to keep the products frozen, chilled, or warm, seven speeds with an external Shimano Derailleur, and front and rear lights. Ice cream bikes are not their only type, they also sell custom vending bikes; coffee bikes, cold brew bikes, advertising bikes, and custom hand-built cargo bikes.



The Fabled ice cream tent at the farmer's market.



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The Colonel at the Cornerstone

Historic Alexandria.

BY DAVID HEIBY
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On September 18, 1793, a parade wound its way to a hilltop overlooking the Potomac, where President George Washington, in full Masonic regalia, laid the cornerstone of the United States Capitol. The ceremony was followed by celebration and feasting, and among the distinguished guests that day were two Alexandrians whose stories still rest beneath our feet: Colonel George Gilpin and the Reverend James Muir of the Presbyterian Meeting House.

This September marks the 233rd anniversary of that ceremony — a fitting moment to remember Gilpin, a Revolutionary War officer and one of early Alexandria's most consequential citizens, whose grave was lost for generations and may finally have been found. George Gilpin (1740–1813) committed himself to the American cause before the first shots were fired. In July 1774, he was one of 25 signers of the Fairfax Resolves, the bold statement of colonial rights drafted largely by George Mason with input from Washington — and the Resolves themselves appointed him to the county committee charged with carrying the cause forward, in company that speaks to his standing: “George Washington Esqr.,” as the resolve styles him, along with George Mason, William Ramsay, and other leading men of Fairfax County. When war came, Gilpin rose to colonel of the Fairfax County Militia. Revolutionary War pension records place his regiment in service by



PHOTO/ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Detail from Allyn Cox's mural of the U.S. Capitol cornerstone ceremony, September 18, 1793. George Washington, left, lays the cornerstone in a Masonic ceremony; at far right stands Rev. James Muir of Alexandria's Presbyterian Meeting House, identified by the artist himself. Col. George Gilpin of Alexandria was among the attendees.

September 1777 — veterans applying for their pensions decades later still remembered serving under “Colo. George Gilpin” — and a visitor to his brother in January 1778 noted that Gilpin had been in the public service since the war began.

Peace brought no rest. As surveyor, Gilpin oversaw one of the most dramatic transformations in Alexandria's history: the “banking out” of the waterfront. Property owners leveled the 15- to 20-foot bluffs along the town's shallow crescent bay and used the earth to build wharves reaching the Potomac's deep channel. By 1798, the project was complete, and Gil-

pin's meticulous map of Alexandria from that year — an original of which survives at the Library of Congress — captures the port city and his work made possible.

His vision reached beyond the town limits. As a director of the Potomac Company, founded in 1785 to open the river to navigation, Gilpin worked closely with its first president — his old commander, George Washington.

The company's Great Falls skirting canal, built to carry boats around the falls' 76-foot drop, can still be walked today at Great Falls Park. When Washington died in December 1799, Alexandria mourned one of its own. Gilpin

served as an honorary pallbearer at the funeral, alongside Dr. James Craik, Dennis Ramsay, and Charles Simms. Reverend Muir — his fellow guest at the cornerstone ceremony six years earlier — took part in the service. Muir now lies beneath the north aisle of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House; a plaque at 206 King Street marks the site of Gilpin's home.

When Gilpin died in December 1813, the Alexandria Gazette reported that a “train of weeping friends” attended his remains, and that he was interred with Masonic and military honors in the parish's burial ground on Wilkes Street — today's Christ Church Episco-

pal Cemetery, part of the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex, not the churchyard beside the church itself. And then, for two centuries, he was lost. His gravestone — if he ever had one — did not survive the years.

Only the weathered, broken stone of his daughter Mary, who died in 1860 at 92, marked the family's ground — ground that, in a poignant twist, lies along streets Gilpin himself surveyed in 1796 for a planned subdivision called Spring Garden.

The search for the colonel began in the archives. An early plat of the cemetery, paired with the proprietors' register, identified Plot 76 as Gilpin's family burial plot — the same plot where Mary's stone stands. On September 14, 2024, ground-penetrating radar scans of the plot revealed a grave-like anomaly directly beside Mary's grave: the presumptive resting place of Colonel George Gilpin, lost for two hundred years. Efforts are now underway to secure proper recognition for this Revolutionary War officer, city builder, and pallbearer to Washington. When the Capitol cornerstone anniversary comes around each September, Alexandria can remember that one of the men standing beside the first president that day is still here — resting in ground he once measured with his own hands.

David Heiby is a public historian and the creator of Gravestone Stories (gravestonestories.com), which tells the stories of Alexandrians buried in the city's historic cemeteries. He serves as Superintendent of the Presbyterian Cemetery & Columbarium, Treasurer of the Alexandria Historical Society, Treasurer of the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation, and as a member of Alexandria's America250 Committee.

NVSO: And They're Off!

2026 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics.

The 2026 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics is off to a great start with 10 swimming events held Friday, Sept. 11 at the Ashburn Recreation and Community Center. The competition began with NVSO Chair Mike Coleman presenting a torch run in

commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11.

Sunday, Sept. 13 events included a three mile power walk by women and men separately at the James Madison High School track in Vienna, and diving at the Long Bridge Aquatic Center in Arlington. Preliminary indoor and

outdoor events continue through Sept. 18.

A Welcoming Ceremony

A welcoming Ceremony opens the remaining events schedule on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington and will feature the JROTC Color Guard from Alexandria City High School, The Arlington Barbershop Chorus singing the National Anthem and an Olympic Torch run by NVSO member Don

Tillson of Annandale. Nine track events and ERG rowing will follow.

50-101

In total 1356 senior adults ages 50 through 101 will be competing in a total of 80 plus events through Sunday, Oct. 4 at 36 different venues throughout Northern Virginia. Results will be posted on the website at www.nvso.us.

In addition, registrar Herb Levitan, Arlington, reports many events have increased registra-

tion this year including rowing 24%; miniature golf, 50%; golf 9 hole, 3 par, 50%; and 100% in line dancing.

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

cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. Additional support is generated by Gold, Silver and Bronze Patrons which goes toward equipment

SEE NVSO, PAGE 11

OPINION

Suicide Prevention and the Workplace

September is suicide prevention and awareness month.

By JOSEPH GETCH, CEO HOPELINK
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Stress, burnout, financial pressures, caregiving responsibilities and mental health challenges do not disappear when people arrive at work. This September, HopeLink Behavioral Health, a nonprofit behavioral health and crisis services provider in Virginia, is asking employers, coworkers, families and community members to become more comfortable recognizing when someone may be struggling and understanding what to do next.

As part of Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month, HopeLink has launched its 12th annual #CallTextLive Campaign, a month-long effort focused on making conversations about suicide and mental health more open, practical and connected to help. A centerpiece of this year's campaign is a free Mental Health in the Workplace Lunch & Learn on September 15 from noon-1 p.m. HopeLink's Crisis Services professionals will share practical strategies for managing workplace stress and burnout; recognizing signs that someone may need support; starting conversations and connecting people to appropriate resources. The webinar is free and open to the public. Employers, supervisors, HR professionals and employees are encouraged to participate. Registration is available at [HopeLinkBH.org/calltextlive](https://hopelinkbh.org/calltextlive).

HopeLink operates 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline services across Virginia and nationally, giving its crisis professionals a first-hand view of the challenges bringing people to crisis and the difference that early support, human connection and access to the right resources can make.

Suicide remains a significant public health concern in the United States. More than 47,000 people died by suicide in 2024, and an estimated 1.6 million adults attempted



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Joseph Getch is the CEO of HopeLink Behavioral Health.

suicide. Behind those numbers are individuals, families, workplaces and communities. HopeLink's #CallTextLive Campaign is designed to move beyond awareness alone by helping people understand how to recognize distress, talk openly about suicide and emotional pain, and connect someone to support before a crisis escalates.

Throughout September, HopeLink will share suicide prevention information, practical resources, community activities and opportunities to learn more about mental health and crisis support. Campaign information, activities and resources are available at [HopeLinkBH.org/calltextlive](https://hopelinkbh.org/calltextlive) and through HopeLink's social media channels.

Suicide prevention is not something that belongs only to mental health professionals. Most of us will encounter someone who is struggling—in our workplace, our family or our community. We want people to feel more confident recognizing those moments, having the conversation and helping someone connect to support. Anyone experiencing emotional distress, suicidal thoughts or a mental health or substance use crisis can call or text 988 or chat through 988lifeline.org. HopeLink's trained crisis workers listen, assess safety, help de-escalate crises when possible and connect people with local services and resources based on their individual needs.

NVSO: And They're Off!

FROM PAGE 10

and supplies.

2026 Gold Patrons are AARP Virginia, Adobe, Ashby Ponds by Erickson Senior Living, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Falcons Landing, Greenspring by Erickson Senior Living, Johns Hopkins Health Plans, Retirement Unlimited, Inc. (RUI), Seniors Helping Seniors, The Beacon Newspapers, The Jefferson, The Mather-Tyson, The

Riviera & The Landing of Alexandria, United Health Care, Vinson Hall, Woodlands Retirement Community and Woodleigh Chase by Erickson Senior Living. Silver Patrons are Chesterbrook Residences, Koons Arlington Toyota and Mandy Whelan. NVSO is also a recipient of a generous grant from Johns Hopkins Health Plans Corporate Grant Program.

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Virginians Will Vote on Three Constitutional Amendments

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Three amendments to the Virginia Constitution will be on the ballot November 3 including protection of women's reproductive rights, removing the ban on same sex marriage and automatic restoration of voting rights for convicted felons. This is the first of three articles focusing on each of the proposed amendments.

A Constitutional amendment follows a rigorous process in Virginia before it can be put before the voters. The proposed language must be passed in the General Assembly. Then after an intervening election, the exact language must be passed by the General Assembly again. Finally this language goes before the voters.

The language of the first proposed Constitutional amendment reads:

"Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to protect the freedom to make personal decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management and fertility care; (ii) protect doctors, nurses and patients from punishment for these decisions; and (iii) allow for restrictions on abortions during the third trimester of preg-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

State Senate Jennifer Boysko, Fairfax County, patron of Constitutional amendment number 1.

nancy except when the patient's health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive?"

State Senator Jennifer Boysko, Fairfax County, who patroned the amendment in the Senate says this is personal for her. She was diagnosed with a rare condition when she was pregnant with her second child.

"Right before 32 weeks they told me I needed a C-section or I wouldn't have survived. It was a life and death situation for

me. Imagine having your toddler sitting beside you and hearing mommy may be ready to die."

But her doctors made sure she understood the process, and working with them she was able to make the right decision.

"Politicians shouldn't be dictating what a woman or doctor can do. In Richmond they never meet the people making these decisions."

She says her interest in this issue goes back even further to when she was a college student at Holland, and reproductive rights was a big issue. Boysko says she helped to organize an anti and pro-abortion debate. "This is really when I was trying to understand what the issues were."

The amendment doesn't change the current law on abortion and reproductive rights in Virginia. If the present law adequately protects women's reproductive rights, why repeat it in the constitution?

"When we see what is happening in other states doctors are afraid to treat patients. We are seeing really horrific stories. We want to protect what we have in Virginia."

She adds the Dobbs decision which overturned Roe vs. Wade in 2022 could have a negative impact on Virginia and put reproductive healthcare at risk. "If another

Administration comes in, we don't want them to be able to take away these rights by changing the law currently in place so we are putting these rights and responsibilities in the Constitution."

Boysko says "If we look at polling, this amendment is wildly popular for regular people to make their own decisions. They want women to be safe and to be able to make decisions with their doctor without the politicians telling them what to do."

She says she has been in office 11 years, and "this has been a top priority back to when a Republican was a seat holder in the 86th district. Republicans, women and men, Democrats all would like the General Assembly to get out of our decision making. People have had enough. We are thoughtful people. We trust our doctors who are trained in the quality of care and the pledge that doctors give."

The amendment is facing some opposition from former Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears who has announced a tour to urge Virginians to vote no on the proposed amendment. She says, "It's not what I'm against, it's what I'm for." Earle-Sears says the people will make a decision. "I'm trying to give information. That's what this is all about."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

sion 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 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 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.

Ongoing Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. 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.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Advancing Mental Health Awareness

Participants gather for a photo during the Community Stakeholders Breakfast June 26 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Hosted in partnership with Jim Paige and Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria, Father Donald Fest and St. Joseph Catholic Church, and Rawle Andrews Jr. of the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, the breakfast focused on advancing mental health awareness and access.

ENTERTAINMENT

MEETS EVERY SUNDAY

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

MEETS EVERY MONDAY

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

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

MGNV PLANT CLINICS ARE OPEN

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

YEAR ROUND ON SUNDAYS

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

NOW THRU SEPT. 17

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

Concert dates:

September 17 – Sol Roots (Funk, Blues, Soul & Rock)

NOW THRU SEPT. 30

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

NEPENTHE GALLERY EVENTS

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

September 17th: New Collection from Tamara Minarchi;

September 24th: Opening of Special Exhibit, Alexandria Experience, by World Renowned Artist, Alexei Butirskiy;

September 25th: Live Painting Demonstration by Alexei Butirskiy;

September 29th: Fundraiser for EdenSpring;

October 1st: Fundraiser with ERIKA JAMES-JACKSON for Shelter House;

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Author Heather Schneider will speak on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria.

October 8th:EVE STOCKTON: New Collection of Breathtaking Woodcut Prints;
October 15th: SUNNY GOODE and PRESLEY GOODE: Mother-Daughter DUO;
October 22nd: Tours with Bill: Art and History Featuring BILL SHUTE;
October 29th: Grand Re-Opening.

SEPT. 4-26

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Voices

Through Visuals Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave, Alexandria. This exhibit honors Hispanic culture, and its rich traditions, resilience, and artistic contributions through a range of media and perspectives, and explores themes like heritage, migration, family, cultural pride, and transformation. Opening Reception: Friday, September 4 from 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

September After Hours. 5:30-7 p.m. At Royal Restaurant, 730 N. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria. Shake off the workday and join the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce for its September After Hours at Royal Restaurant. It's taking over this Alexandria favorite for an evening of drinks, delicious bites, and plenty of good company. Come catch up with familiar faces, make a few new connections, and enjoy a night out.

SEPT. 17 TO NOV. 1

Plein Air Sketches. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Artist's reception Sunday, Sept. 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. Featuring works by Anne Alden, Ann Meagher Cook, Carol Cowie, Katie Flack, Abigail Muncy, Christine Raymond, Margaret Stewart, Ann Tannous

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Chalk-A-Block. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At TideLock development, 1111 N. Fairfax Street, Old Town North in Alexandria. Chalk artists will transform TideLock's interior drive into a spectacular temporary canvas, creating large-scale works of art throughout the day. Artist/architect Anila Angjeli, who captivated the crowd last year with her colorful "Wings in Bloom" creation and accompanying interactive art activity, and master muralist Patrick Kirwin will be among the artists returning to Chalk-A-Block this fall. Visitors can watch the artwork come to life while enjoying live music from local favorite The Okays, browse handmade goods from local artisans and makers curated by Made in ALX, and sample food and beverages.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Author Heather Schneider. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Heather Schneider presents a virtual book talk

about her Evergreen Academy series. Presented in partnership with Kingstowne Library, this event can be enjoyed online or in-person at Green Spring Gardens.



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

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Write Like a Woman Networking Workshop. 1 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Enjoy an afternoon of engaging conversation and writing! Facilitated by poet, author, and Athenaeum Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta, this workshop welcomes amateur to professional women writers ages 18-100. Each workshop centers on uplifting and inspiring through writing and allows participants to enhance their writing styles.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 23

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 24

September Coffee & Connections. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Alexandria. Presented by The Chamber ALX's Professional Women's Network. Kick off your morning with the Professional Women's Network at the September event—featuring coffee, conversation, and valuable connections with women (and men) from across the region. This quarter, they'll hear a guided look at Women in Business: We Were Always Here, a special exhibit at Gadsby's Tavern Museum that explores the remarkable stories of women entrepreneurs who helped shape Alexandria's past and present. Come ready to network, be inspired by the women who came before us, and celebrate the lasting impact of women in business.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

Senior Driving Safety & Mobility Seminar and Book Signing. 2 p.m. At Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. The event will help older adults and families navigate driving safety, mobility options, and planning for driving retirement. The seminar will begin at 2:00 p.m., followed by a book signing from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. featuring Kurt E. Gray's new resource guide, Planning Your Driving Retirement: A Practical Guide for Aging Drivers and Their Families. Gray, President and CEO of Seniors Helping Seniors Metro Springfield and Principal of KEG Consulting LLC Driver Safety Services, brings decades of experience in driver education and senior mobility. He previously spent 29 years with AAA Club Alliance, including 17 years as Director of Driver Education & Training. The program is designed to help older adults

remain safe, confident, and independent while also encouraging families to begin planning for future mobility needs before a crisis occurs. Topics will include:

How aging can affect driving ability

Warning signs that may indicate increased driving risk

Strategies for extending safe driving

When a professional driving evaluation may be appropriate

How families can begin difficult conversations about driving

Transportation and mobility alternatives

How to proactively plan for an eventual driving retirement

FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

ALX Pink Gala. 7-10 p.m. At Above ALX Community, 277 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Join Breast Cancer Collective for the ALX Pink Gala on Friday, Sept. 25 in Alexandria, supporting greater access to breast cancer screening and diagnostic care. Join ALXPinkGala.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Author Matthew Quick. 7 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum, Alexandria. The event is presented in partnership with the Alexandria Festival of the Book and Old Town Books. "The opportunity to connect with noted authors, discuss books and explore our history and culture is a special one." - Carolyn Fuller, coordinator of the Alexandria Festival of the Book.

SEPT. 26-27

Carmen & The Firebird. Featuring Louis Lohraseb, conductor; also featuring Chee-Yun Kim, violin.

Saturday, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

At Rachel M. Schlesinger Center,

Sunday, Sept. 27 at 3 p.m.

At George Washington Masonic Memorial

SEPT. 26-27

24th Annual Alexandria Art Festival. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. The free showcase features thousands of fine art works from over 125 local and national artists. The annual Alexandria Art Festival is presented by the nation's largest art festival producer, Howard Alan Events (HAE). Throughout the decades, it has become a hallmark staple event for residents and visitors alike. The show encompasses fine jewelry, exquisite works of art, and handcrafted apparel and decor. Attendees can look forward to discovering paintings, life-sized sculptures, jewelry, glasswork, photography, ceramics, and more. Visit artfestival.com.

Legals

Legals

Lillie Mae Gatlin



Case #: S10CU0FCW02601131
9/2026

Notice is given that Antonio Gatlin/Executor has been appointed and has qualified as the executor of the estate of Lillie Mae Gatlin, who died on 11/30/25 in Alexandria, VA.

All persons having claims against the estate are required to present their claims to the undersigned executor or file them with Alexandria City Court of Virginia within 3 months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or forever bar the claim.

Date of first publication: 9/17/26

Executor:
Antonio Gatlin
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NEWS

Late Summer's Butterflies Delight

BY GLENDA BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

The pearl crescent was gently waving its little wings in the sun as the morning warmed up around 10 a.m. "The butterflies are waking up, getting their juices flowing," Larry Meade, the leader, told a 12-member group on a three-hour butterfly walk in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve on a sunny Aug. 29.

He pointed out Eastern tail blues and several species of sachems flitting around in the grass of Belle Haven Park, including one Huron sachem male trying to mate with a fast-moving female. The sachem is the most common skipper, he said. A skipper is a one-or-so-inch butterfly that darts around in quick flights.

"She's a pretty nice looking butterfly," Meade quipped, pointing to a female Zabulon skipper. The male and female have very different characteristics, called "sexual dimorphism," and he showed pictures of the two from a guide by Robert Blakney and Judy Gallagher. The male is mostly yellow with brown patches. The female is rusty brown with some dark blotches.

The Eastern tiger swallowtails with their distinctive black and yellow wings stood out. "It looks like a girl," Meade said, since she has "blue skirt" which males do not have. Some females are all black, he clarified. The group saw all three. Swallowtails have tail-like extension on the hindwings.

Another highlight included three monarch butterflies. Monarchs are orange and black butterflies around two inches in size. In late summer and early fall, they migrate through northern Virginia en route to Mexico to join millions to overwinter on oyamel trees. The monarch is the only butterfly to regularly undertake a two-way migration.

The red-spotted purple stood out for its orangey-red spots, visible when their wings are closed. While this butterfly is big like swallowtails, it has no tail, Meade clarified.

A silver-spotted skipper flitted around the ironweeds' magenta blossoms. "We call them 'triple S,'" Meade said, since all three words of their name start with the letter S.

Summer azures were sipping minerals from the soil. The six-foot-tall bears' foot plants' yellow blossoms were magnets for many species.

The group zeroed in on Needham's skimmers, Eastern amberwing and common whitetail dragonflies and two damselflies, a big



PHOTOS BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

Leader Larry Meade helped the group identify 15 butterfly species.



Leader Larry Meade searched for butterflies on the bears' foot plants.

bluet and an eastern forktail damselfly.

The whitetail has a striking white body and distinctive dark bands on its otherwise translucent wings. "Dragonflies cannot walk. They fly or perch," Meade said.

The group spotted 15 butterfly, three dragonfly and two damselfly species.

Dyke Marsh Surveys

Led by Jim Waggener, Friends of Dyke Marsh volunteers have collected butterfly and dragonfly data in Dyke Marsh and Belle Haven Park since 2015 and have identified 55 butterfly, 42 dragonfly and 13 damselfly species.

Butterflies Are in Serious Decline

Butterfly abundance in all U.S. regions dropped by 22 percent between 2000 and 2020, with 13 times as many species declining as increasing, a 2025 study published in Science magazine found. Two thirds of the surveyed species

showed declines of more than ten percent. The major drivers are habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change.

How to Help Butterflies

Butterflies need host plants in their caterpillar stage and as adults, plants to feed on. The National Wildlife Federation explains, "The insects need places to lay eggs, food plants for their larvae (caterpillars), places to form chrysalides and nectar sources for adults. ... Many butterflies and native flowering plants have co-evolved over time and depend on each other for survival and reproduction."

"Butterflies are more common in areas with native plants," says the field guide Butterflies through Binoculars. "So, for example, you will find very few species of butterflies on large manicured lawns – these are essentially biological deserts."

Glenda Booth is president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh, www.fodm.org.

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APD Chief Tarrick McGuire stands with newly promoted sergeants, lieutenants, captains and assistant chiefs in a promotion ceremony held June 26.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

APD Celebrates Staff Promotions

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Chief of Police Tarrick McGuire celebrated the promotions of several APD officers in a city ceremony held June 26.

Several personnel were promoted to various ranks, including sergeant, lieutenant, captain and assistant chief.

"How you lead, how you motivate others

"I salute you and I am proud of you."

APD Chief Tarrick McGuire

will determine the success of this organization," said City Manager James Parajon. "You are well suited for this opportunity."

Promotions included: Teya Siva to crime analyst supervisor; Gabriel Terrell, Zacha-

ry Anderson, Ryan Gonzalez, Nicholas Bilardo, Johnny Larios, and Duglos Quint to Sergeant; Damon Minnix, Brendan Jackson, Gregory Holden, and Daniel Schultz to Lieutenant; Marcus Downey, John East, and Tony Moore to Captain; and Mike May and Jason North to Assistant Chief.

"I salute you and I am proud of you," said McGuire. "I look forward to what you will do to support the department and serve the city of Alexandria."



Jordan and Mason May celebrate the promotion of their father, Assistant Chief Mike May, along with their mother Tara May.



APD Lieutenant Damon Minnix celebrates his promotion with his daughter June 26.

Don't "Boss" Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

We buy a lot of fast/medium-food take out, and not just Chinese either. In fact, since Covid, the food business has become very accommodating to take out/pick up requests. Moreover, as many of you regular eaters know, there are also services that will deliver to you all sorts of food. And in so receiving, recipients can minimize their interactions with the food serving/delivering public. Moreover, there's no parking and walking to the establishment, no standing and waiting in line once you're inside, and no mixing with the hoi polloi; just sitting and waiting from the comfort and convenience of your home. But for those of us who are resistant to the advantages of food delivery, interactions with the general public and the fast/medium-food staff await - or shall I say: persists.

I've written recently of my feelings about being called "sir" by the same general public I'm referring to here: the restaurant/fast/medium-food establishments. And as you regular readers know, yours truly (as opposed to my wife) will almost exclusively be the one going to pick up and pay for the food, thereby interacting with a store employee. Hardly an awkward/unfamiliar exchange, especially given the post-Covid world where food delivery/pick up is almost di regur. As a result, people's eating routines have changed where now fewer meals are prepared at home and more are brought in ready to eat. It's become more acceptable, preferred almost, as a work-around to the miscellaneous toxins in the air that we all breathe, and of course the time and effort it takes to buy, prepare, cook and serve that food at home. But people's habits have changed. Covid has had repercussions that we're still feeling/experiencing. In fact, all these years later, I still see people wearing masks, sometimes even in their cars.

Now that I've established the context, let me finally address the particular situation that has led to this column being written: the employees greeting and thanking me after I order, receive and then pay. "Sir" in this interaction, I can tolerate. However, when an employee calls me "Boss;" that I don't tolerate nearly as well. "Sir" connotes respect, sort of. I don't like it, but it doesn't feel as if the employee is subliminally seething with contempt of our generational divide. It's not merely disrespectful, it's downright rude and snarky almost. I'm not the employees' boss so don't pretend to treat me as one. I'm your customer, not your supervisor. I place the order. You deliver the order. Though I'm not on the same side of the register as you, we are, in effect, two sides of the same request. We're practically equal. I'm happy being your customer. Let's not conflate your providing me a service with your working for me. If anything, we're working together. Calling me "Boss" raises my stature and presumes a relationship we've never actually consummated.

I don't want - or quite frankly deserve, any special dispensation, either in how my meal is prepared and/or how said meal is handed to me and what is said to me during that handoff. All I require is courtesy and gratitude. Anything more is unnecessary and likely not in your job description.

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

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