

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 15, 2024

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Sisters Gabriella Carr (left) and Calarda Williams model their new backpacks at Charles Houston Recreation Center



Children choose the right backpacks for the coming year at the event at Charles Houston Recreation Center



A young girl chooses a backpack from a volunteer while Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins looks on

## Firefighters & Friends to the Rescue

**Hundreds of families come to Charles Houston Recreation Center to get ready for the first day of school next Monday.**

**F**irefighters & Friends to the Rescue, ARHA and HRP Group gathered backpacks, school supplies and more for students whose families would not have the resources to get what they need for school, which starts on Monday, Aug. 19. “We gave away [more than 1,000] backpacks with supplies, over 200 pair of new sneakers and over 900 books,” said former school board member and retired firefighter

Willie Bailey, who started Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue 26 years ago. “As someone that did not always have the needed items for the start of school year, it’s an honor and a blessing to be a part of this worthy cause. It goes without saying that without the support of our sponsors this would not have been possible.” Amelia Alcivar is head of corporate affairs for HRP Group, which is the firm that

is redeveloping the power plant in Old Town North, and one of the event’s sponsors. “Today we’re out with our community partners here in Alexandria helping get local kids ready for school.” Gaynelle Diaz, director of resident services at ARHA, said, “We are providing backpacks and school supplies and sneakers for kids to get them ready to go back to school so they can be prepared and ready to start the year off strong.” Bailey took a few minutes to explain how Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue got its start. “As a firefighter, we were running calls on Richmond Highway in the 90s during the holidays, and we could see these kids didn’t have anything. There were no Christ-

mas trees or gifts or anything like that. So we started collecting toys. At different fire stations we raised some \$2000 the first year and went and bought some toys and took them to the kids that didn’t have anything. “Now 20-some years later we’re giving out thousands of toys every Christmas, we’re giving out [thousands of] backpacks with school supplies, and [will give out] a total of about 4,000 brand new coats to needy families.” To cover the costs of backpacks and school supplies, plus coats, plus toys, Firefighters and Friends must raise \$150,000-160,000 each year. Bailey said donating monetarily helps the most. Go to <https://www.ffandfriends2therescue.org/>



Sergeant Cassandra Branch passes out bookmarks at the event at Charles Houston Recreation Center on Aug. 11



The Miller family stands with Sgt. Victor Ignacio and their new backpacks at Charles Houston Recreation Center



A young girl chooses her books at the annual school readiness event sponsored by ARHA and HRP Group, as well as Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, at Charles Houston Recreation Center on Aug. 11.

# NEWS

## School Zone Speed Cameras Back in Effect Starting Aug. 19

The City of Alexandria will resume enforcement of school zone speed cameras beginning August 19, 2024, the first day of school for Alexandria City Public Schools. These cameras will start automatically issuing tickets to drivers who speed in school zones. The cameras are located at the following places:

- \* Francis Hammond Middle School (Seminary Road, between Kenmore Avenue and North Jordan Street)
- \* John Adams Elementary School and Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School (North Beauregard Street, between North Highview Lane and Reading Avenue)
- \* George Washington Middle School (Mount Vernon Avenue, between Braddock Road and Luray Avenue)

Speed cameras are active only during school zone hours, which are indicated by flashing signs. Drivers who are found to be in violation of the speed limit while the school zones are active will receive a \$100 citation in the mail.

In 2020, the Commonwealth of Virginia passed a law authorizing speed cameras in school and work zones. Alexandria City Council adopted an ordinance in 2022 for speed cameras in these zones and funded five cameras. Joining other Virginia communities like Arlington County, Fairfax County, and the City of Fair-



fax, Alexandria's program aims to reduce traffic speeds, increase compliance with posted speed limits, and improve traffic safety.

More information about the school zone speed camera program can be found on the program webpage <https://www.alexandriava.gov/traffic-safety/speed-camera-safety-program>

## Community-Centered Health Assessment

All residents are invited to participate in Alexandria Health Department's 2024 Community Health Assessment, beginning with a kick-off event on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. This year-long assessment process examines a wide variety of health data and creates conversations with community

members to understand their experiences.

All Alexandrians must have the opportunity to thrive. Community conditions, like structural racism and all forms of discrimination, along with neighborhood factors such as housing, parks, and grocery stores impact Alexandrians' health. Health data reflects these impacts, but the data alone does not tell the full story. The community assessment is your chance to weigh in on what health issues you experience, and what matters most.

Alexandria Health Department will host the 2024 Community Health Assessment Kick-Off Event on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., at Patrick Henry Recreation Center (4753 Taney Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304). Outdoor and indoor activities will be available for kids ages four and older.

Attendees will learn about the Community Health Assessment process, how it will impact the community, and ways to participate. Attendees will also hear how they can get involved with the Department of Community and Human Services' Children and Youth Community Plan and Alexandria City Public Schools' Strategic Plan.

The event is open to the public. Join in for a free boxed meal and activities for kids. Interpreters in Spanish, Amharic, and Dari will be available. Other language interpretation is available upon request in advance.

Register online or call 703-244-5654.

The Community Health Assessment results will inform Alexandria's next Community Health Improvement Plan. To review the last assessment, visit the Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan website.

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[www.BrightviewAlexandria.com](http://www.BrightviewAlexandria.com)

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Gallery Assisted Living | Dementia Care



# Alexandria Police Kill Armed Man Having Mental Health Crisis

**Man in his 60s pronounced dead at the scene.**

SOURCE: ALEXANDRIA POLICE PRESS RELEASE

On Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, Alexandria Police Officers responded at approximately 10:46 p.m. to a 911 call from a man asking police to check on the well-being of one of his co-workers. The caller said the co-worker had made very concerning statements about harming himself and advised he was armed with at least two guns.

Officers, including those with specialized crisis intervention and negotiation training according to the police report, responded within three minutes, and located the man in his Maris Avenue apartment. Police said that the man exited his apartment into a common area stairwell while holding a gun. The police describe the man as a white male in his 60s.

According to the report released by Alex-

andria police, the officers negotiated with the armed man for more than 35 minutes, while attempting to de-escalate the situation. Through the course of the negotiation, the officers pleaded with the man numerous times to drop his weapon. In response to what police described as a threatening action, at approximately 11:21 p.m., one APD officer discharged their service weapon, striking the man. The man was pronounced dead at the scene. No other weapons were discharged, including the man's weapon.

Investigators are withholding the man's name pending notification of next of kin.

The APD officer, a nine-year veteran and current member of the department's Special Operations Team, has been placed on administrative leave while an investigation is being conducted by a regional Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) comprised of investigators from other regional law enforcement agencies independent of APD.

The investigation will be conducted in two parts, according to police. First, CIRT will conduct a criminal use-of-force investigation. Then the APD Office of Professional Responsibility will conduct an administrative inquiry monitored by the Office of the Alexandria Independent Policing Auditor and will coordinate a review of the results of the investigation with Alexandria's Independent Police Review Board.

The CIRT was established by Northern Virginia localities in 2021 to investigate critical incidents involving law enforcement officers. At the completion of its investigation, the CIRT may present evidence to the Commonwealth's Attorney Office or other prosecuting authority for review. The Alexandria Independent Policing Auditor was also at the scene and will monitor the APD's administrative investigation once the CIRT investigation has concluded.

Anyone with information is asked to call the APD non-emergency line at 703-746-4444

# Familiar Face on the Mount Vernon Trail is Moving On Up

**GW Parkway Superintendent Charles Cuvelier got a well deserved promotion.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Through the years along the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Mount Vernon Bike Trail, Superintendent Charles Cuvelier has been there as the National Park Service representative, taking it all in from the trail enthusiasts, families, bicyclists and the commuters who live along the George Washington Parkway.

He was recently selected to the Senior Executive Service and will join the National Park Service Washington Office senior leadership team as the Associate Director for

Visitor and Resource Protection. In this position he will lead nine divisions that encompass nearly 30 national programs, including public health, law enforcement, fire and aviation, regulations and special park uses, as well as the United States Park Police.

He will continue as Park Superintendent through Aug. 24 and aid in the transition at which time Christine Smith will serve as the Acting Superintendent.

"My time at GWMP is transitioning, and I'd like to share this with you. I want to extend my sincere gratitude for the opportuni-



PHOTO BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**GW Parkway Superintendent Charles Cuvelier**

ty to work with you and your organization. Park partnerships are essential for achieving shared vision and goals, and your efforts provide direct benefits to park visitors for which we are very grateful. Together, we have realized many priorities and actions outlined in the GWMP handbook, enhancing our stewardship

of the park," he said.

Cuvelier has been with the National Park Service for 32 years and since 2019 he has served as the Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, managing a workforce of over 100 employees. Under Charles's stewardship, the George Washington Memorial Parkway has hosted over 7 million visitors annually to notable sites including the Mount Vernon Trail, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove, Lady Bird Johnson Park, Arlington House (the Robert E. Lee Memorial), the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Glen Echo Park, Clara Barton National Historic Site, and Great Falls Park, the NPS said. With the NPS, he has also worked at Sequoia Canyon, Kings Canyon, Yosemite, the Natchez Trace, and Great Smoky Mountains.

Christine Smith, an Alexandria resident, will be taking over temporarily while the job is announced through the Federal government channels. Smith worked with Cuvelier through the years. "He absolutely earned it," she said.

# Cure for Olympics Withdrawal

**2024 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics offers 70 events.**

"The 2024 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) may not have breakdancing or pole vaulting or water polo, but we do have 70 plus events including track and field, swimming, cycling, pickleball, bocce and so much more beginning Saturday, Sept 14," said Chair Riley Geary. "Hundreds of folks are registering as they check out the wide variety of both indoor and outdoor events," he said. "We also award gold, silver and bronze medals after each event and encourage families to attend," he said.

Online registration closes Thursday, Aug. 29 at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us). The fee of \$20 covers a multitude of events.

Participants must be 50 years of age by Dec. 31, 2024 and live in a sponsoring jurisdiction. "Last year we hit a record number of registrations and are prepared for even more this year," said registration chair Herb Levitan. "We have also added new events including a Sudoku pentathlon, a 100 yard individual medley to the swimming events, and badminton and bunco are returning this year," said Levitan.

NVSO opens Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington and closes Sunday, Sept. 29 after 10K and 20K cycling events. Throughout the two weeks of competition, events will take place at 26 different venues throughout Northern Virginia.

Sponsors of the NVSO are Arlington County, City of Alexandria, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, Loudoun County, Fairfax County, Fauquier County and Prince William County. NVSO is also supported by patrons including AARP Virginia, Adobe, Anthem Healthkeepers, Goodwin Home Health, Greenspring by Erickson Senior Living, Johns Hopkins Health Plans, Sentara Health Plans, The Jefferson, The Virginian, The Woodlands and the Woodbine, Alexandria and Belmont Bay Rehabilitation & Healthcare Centers.

NVSO is a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 thus making donations tax deductible. Revenues received from registration, patrons and individual donations are used for equipment, judges, event officials, T-shirts for participants plus volunteers, graphics and flyers. There is no paid staff. Committee members include representatives and volunteers from the sponsoring jurisdictions.

SOURCE: [WWW.NVSO.US](http://WWW.NVSO.US)

## Sidewalk Sale at Belle View Shopping Center

Saturday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., experience a day of shopping and dining at Belle View Shopping Center, 1632 Belle View Boulevard. Get ready for the Fall season by exploring the stores and local restaurants.

More than 30 merchants will be offering special deals and offers throughout the day. Discover the bargains at spots like Top It Off Outlet, Pampered Pet, LIGHT, and Virginia Florist, with sales tables set up both inside and outside.

To add to the festivities, Revel and UnWined will be hosting a wine tasting from 2 to 5 p.m., either indoors or outdoors depending on the weather



Hair stylist Iye Bayoh and owner of Iye Beauty Salon styles the young girl's hair for school which begins next week



The girls smile as hair stylist Iye Bayoh finishes the new braids.

## Hair Styles

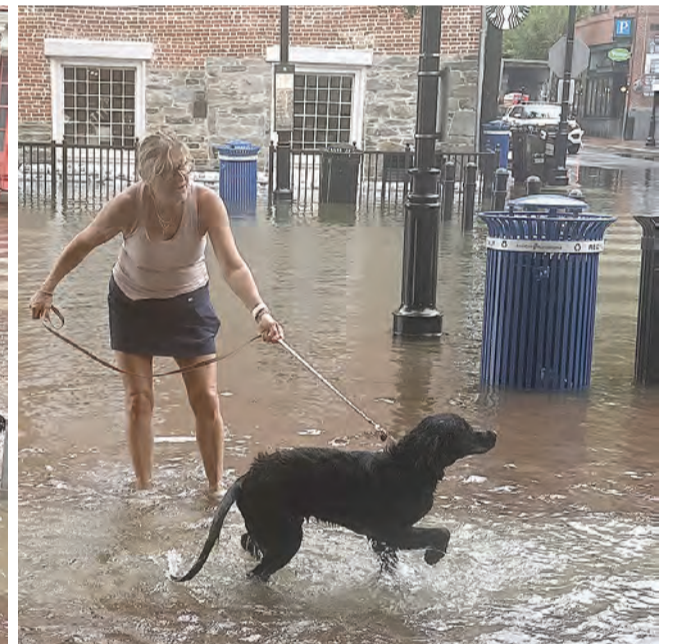


Students show their new hair styles provided by the Iye Beauty Salon on Aug. 12. Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins sponsored the hairstyling in partnership with Iye's Hair Salon and The Divine Touch Hair Salon to give girls new hair styles to go back to school on Monday.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



A dog and dog parent wade through the water. In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debby, floodwater gathered in Old Town Alexandria.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT



At King and Union streets, Old Town Alexandria, tire-deep in flood water



Ankle-deep at King and Union as an unknown photographer takes a picture

## Stormy Weather ...



A flag hangs on Howard Street

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Alexandria Film Festival — Behind the Scenes

Interview with Patti North, executive director and founder of the Alexandria Film Festival.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Film Festival will run from Nov. 7-10 in several venues around Alexandria. It features high quality short and feature length films, documentaries, filmmaker panels and arts presentations. This is the first in a series of articles focusing on the background, the process and a look at the movers and shakers who make it all happen.

**Q: What inspired you to start the Alexandria Film Festival 18 years ago?**

**Patti North:** Well, at the time I was a member of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. I had always loved movies since I was a child. I realized it was the time of DVDs; a digital revolution was happening and it was going to be big. I thought there is a whole thing under our radar and we are promoting things from the Renaissance. At the time Alexandria had a number of Ethnic festivals and I thought we could put them together in an international film festival. It worked. We did get together but they didn't give up their individual festivals.

**Q: Take me back. What was it like the first year?**

**North:** The first year we had fewer than 20 film entries but we had some significant entries. One of the films by local filmmakers was nominated for an Oscar. It was about a music festival in Uganda and the devastating stories of the participants before then. One girl lost her parents who were slaughtered. She ran into the jungle and when she returned to her village she found her mother's head in a cooking pot. The music festival became a metaphor for their survival. The first year we held the festival in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office which was new and had auditorium space. It was good and bad. It wasn't set up for film and the location was buried and a challenge to get there.

**Q: How did things develop from there?**

**North:** It took a few years to attract filmmakers to come here. But we made steady progress and some of the filmmakers returned a few different times. But there was kind of a sea change in 2012. The City was still backing us at the time, and the Office of the Arts had a very good staff person who gave us significant time, especially the three months before the Festival. Suddenly she left, and the City told us they didn't have any bandwidth to give us anymore and if we wanted to continue we'd have to do it ourselves. At that point I was ready to let it go; there's only so much volunteers can do. But the volunteers wanted to go ahead so I said ok. There were some advantages to not being connected with the City because it gave us a lot of freedom to choose what we wanted without worrying whether some language or content in the films would be offensive to them.

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**Q: What is your budget and what are your largest expenses?**

**North:** This year the budget is \$43,000-45,000. The biggest expense is venue rental. We can show films anywhere but if the venue doesn't have the equipment, we have to bring it in but if they have the equipment, they are top dollar. AMC Hoffman is a big well-equipped theater and top dollar; Beatley Library is the most affordable. The next largest expense is marketing. I can't believe after 18 years people still say, "Alexandria has a film festival?" The competition for people's attention is extremely intense. If you could just run one ad, you'd do it but you don't know what message is working to compete with everything out there. We support the Festival with a grant from the City of Alexandria and the Commission on the Arts which was \$11,000 this year, and we've had some of our corporate sponsors for all 18 years. And our fellow citizens are loyal and generous in making sure the festival can prosper and grow.



Executive Director  
Patti North.

## Alexandria Film Festival

Find out more, <https://alexfilmfest.com/>

**Q: What unexpected things have happened along the road?**

**North:** Well, Covid was unexpected but it had some dividends. We had to do two years virtual watching on the computer. But a new platform was rising up, and we had to figure out what to do. None of us is very technical but we got the ability to offer pop up films anytime and we have done that. In person is best but it doesn't mean we shouldn't be open. Last year we had a power outage so the films had to be rescheduled until later in the day until we could solve the problem. I had eaten at a restaurant across the street and parked my car in a zoned area. When I finally left at 1 am, I found my car had been towed. It cost me \$265 to get it back. One thing I didn't expect was my new collaboration with the maestro of the Alexandria Symphony. We invited filmmakers to submit a film that would be accompanied with an orchestral piece played by the symphony. Seeing a film played in perfect synchronization — people couldn't believe it.

**Q: What is the incentive for film makers to appear in the Alexandria Festival?**

**North:** One of the reasons film festivals exist is to serve as a bridge between the film maker and getting noticed by the distributor. If you win an award you are not an unknown quantity anymore. We give awards at the end of the Festival in a number of different categories including Best of Festival, Best Foreign Language, Best Audience and Best Documentary Short. We don't have any overhead with the Alexandria Film Festival since all volunteers are unpaid, and I work out of my home so we are able to keep the entry fees modest although running a festival is expensive so they aren't cheap. Also we have a good professional reputation and the filmmakers know we aren't going to take advantage of them. And filmmakers like to come here

SEE ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL, PAGE 11

**AUG. 31 – SEP. 21, 2024**  
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## Fall Kick-Off

Join Councilman Chapman to kick-off the fall season and ramp-up his campaign for Alexandria City Council.

RSVP  
<https://bit.ly/JTCLaunchEvent>

John Taylor Chapman  
for Alexandria City Council

Bronze: \$25 Silver: \$50 Gold: \$100 Platinum: \$250

**SATURDAY**  
31 AUG 2024

**TIME**  
12:00PM - 3:00PM

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Alexandria, VA 22314

Authorized by Friends of John Taylor Chapman

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# Wading Birds Disperse, Stand Out

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

A little-noticed sign of summer's end and the approaching fall is the gathering of large white birds, great egrets, in areas like Hunting Creek's mudflats and in wetlands like Dyke Marsh, Huntley Meadows Park and Mason Neck. "This is a phenomenon known as post-breeding dispersal," explains veteran birder Larry Cartwright. "Fledged young and adults depart the breeding grounds and forage in wetlands, rivers and lakes, places with food abundance. This can last for a month or more starting generally in August until birds depart for their wintering areas."

In Northern Virginia, great egrets, which can number well above 100 at times, are dispersing now, Cartwright notes, and can be seen locally. "In the past several years we have even seen American flamingos dispersing from their Gulf Coast breeding grounds and documented on the Hunting Creek mudflats."

In recent weeks, locals have delighted in some rare sightings for Northern Virginia. Several people have spotted American avocets in Dyke Marsh and nearby. These are regionally rare shorebirds more common near an ocean. They have long-legs, black-and-white bodies, rusty heads and necks and distinctive upturned beaks that they swish back and forth to nab invertebrates.

On July 22, Russell Jones saw several glossy ibises near the Porto Vecchio condos on the Potomac River. Glossy ibises, more common near the Atlantic coast, are long-legged wading birds with down-curved bills. They too disperse after the nesting season and forage in wetlands and mudflats. In a strong light, their stunning maroon, emerald, bronze and violet hues glisten.

In 2021, roseate spoonbills excited birders and non-birders. These are tall, pink water birds with football-shaped bodies and spoon-shaped bills, common in coastal southeastern U.S. states and South America.

## Long-legged, Wading Birds

Wading birds typically have long legs, long necks and long bills. They wade in shallow water foraging for fish, frogs and other small aquatic animals. Shorebirds of varying sizes are also considered to be waders.

Great egrets are white birds around 37 inches tall that typically

stand still waiting for prey to pass by. "Then, with startling speed, the egrets strike with a jab of their long neck and bill," says Cornell University's All about Birds. They have an S-shaped neck and dagger-like bill.

Another regionally common long-legged wading bird with an S-shaped neck is the great blue heron, a tall blue-gray bird that often stands motionless scanning for prey or moves with long, deliberate steps. Great blues also make lightning-fast strikes to grab a fish or other food. These birds occur from the north coast of South America to the south coast of Alaska.

Mason Neck State Park has a heron rookery where birds come together in a colony to breed, rest and raise their young. They build clusters of stick nests high in trees which some joke are "bird condos."

Least bitterns and American bitterns are other wading bird species seen locally. The least bittern is chestnut brown and often draws in its long neck as it probes amid marsh cattails. Bitterns present challenges to even experienced observers because if threatened, to camouflage they freeze into a reed-like pose and point their neck and bill skyward. Virginia classifies the least bittern as a "species of greatest conservation need."

The American bittern is also a stealthy forager, often with a hunched posture. "There are relatively few Virginia occurrences during the breeding season," says Sergio Harding, a conservation bird biologist for the state. "I would characterize it as rare, but Virginia is toward the southern end of its breeding range, so I would not consider it imperiled. We just don't have many of them breeding here because we are at the edge of its range. I believe they are more numerous during the winter and would call them uncommon during that season, but again, not imperiled, as Virginia is toward the northern end of its wintering range."

Other long-legged wading birds include other egrets, herons, cranes and storks. All live near water.

## Where to See Wading Birds

"Huntley Meadows Park is the best place to see wading birds this time of year," says Larry Meade, President of the Northern Virginia Bird Club. The park's Natural Resources Manager Chris King reports that the most common large wading birds spotted there are herons -- great blue herons, lit-

tle blue herons, green herons and yellow-crowned night herons; plus American bitterns and great egrets. Others seen less frequently include the least bittern, snowy egret, tri-colored heron, black-crowned night heron and white ibis.

The Mason Neck peninsula also has some large wading birds, including great blue heron year-round; green herons, least bitterns and great egrets in the summer; and snowy egrets, American bitterns and black-crowned night herons in spring and fall migration.

Dyke Marsh and the Hunting Creek embayment's mudflats are hotspots for many wading birds. From the bridge over the creek's mouth, people also spot smaller waders like sandpipers and yellowlegs.

Because many wading birds are large, up to five feet tall, they are relatively easy to see if you know where to look.



Great egrets often fish in groups.

PHOTO BY RUSSELL JONES.



PHOTO BY ELDON BOES

Great egrets like these 40 gather on these old marina pilings on the Potomac River south of Old Town Alexandria every year. Great egrets gather on wooden pilings on the Potomac River near Porto Vecchio condominiums.



A great blue heron catching and eating a fish.



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



A glossy ibis was seen recently, here probing in the Potomac River tidal flats alongside snowy egrets. Photo by Russell Jones.



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

American bittern, a somewhat furtive wading marsh bird.



PHOTO BY UECKER, SANDRA/USFWS

American avocet, rarely seen in Northern Virginia



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

Least bittern, a stealthy wading bird that thrives amid wetland plants.

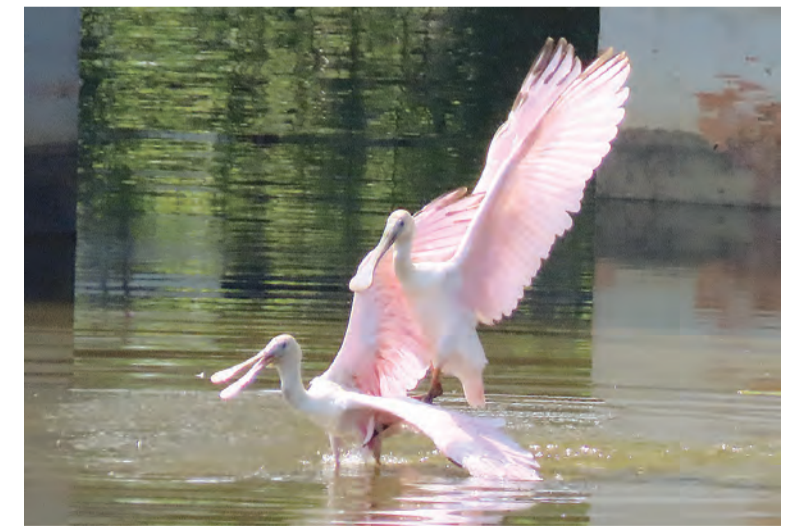


PHOTO BY JOAN MASHBURN

Roseate spoonbills provided much excitement in Northern Virginia in 2023.

# ENTERTAINMENT



The 48th Annual Arlington County Fair takes place Aug. 14-18, 2024 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center and Park in Arlington.



Alexandria Restaurant Week takes place Aug. 16-25, 2024 throughout Old Town Alexandria, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End.

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## NOW THRU SEPT. 22

**Fleeting Moments: Street Photography II.** At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Artist Reception: Sunday, August 18, 4 - 6 p.m. Artist Talk, Sunday: September 22, 2:30 p.m. Fleeting Moments features candid photographs that capture candid moments, revelatory interpretations, and brilliant reflections of the mundane - work commonly referred to as "street photography."

## 34TH SEASON OF THE LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES

**The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) announces the 34th season of its Lyceum Chamber Series, under the guidance of Music Director Laureate Ulysses James.** Hosted at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, located at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria, this series promises to offer an array of exceptional weekly performances throughout the summer. All concerts are at 3 p.m.; no tickets required. Suggested donation \$25.

## LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.

Featuring Anna Binneweg, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic  
Ulysses James, Music Director Laureate, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic  
Alberto Rodriguez, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra  
Martin Garfield-Levine, Music Director,

Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra  
Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director  
**MUSIC SCHEDULE**  
August 18: Quodlibet, Flute/Clarinet/Bassoon  
August 25: Samuel Runolfson, Cello  
September 1: Michael De Sapio, Violin  
September 8: Hai Jin, Piano  
September 15: John Sutherland Earle: Piano & Friends

## JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

**Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts.** Learn techniques in drawing, stone carving, jewelry, resin, mosaics, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria) unless noted. Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer](https://DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer)

## MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

**Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.**

### At Grist Mill Park

4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria

Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

### AUGUST

16 Burn the Ballroom (Alternate Rock)  
23 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)  
30 Melissa Qinn Fox (Country/American)

### AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton  
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

### AUGUST

17 Alex Hamburger (Jazz)  
24 The U.S. Army Band Country Roads (Country)

## AUG. 2-31

**"The Science of Our Surroundings" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features art that draws inspiration from science and math, with a focus on diagrams, cutaways or cycles that the artist or creator may find particularly fascinating.** View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, August 2, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-

6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed September 1). Details at [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](https://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## AUG. 2-16

**ALX Bark Bingo.** Come and celebrate Alexandria during the first two weeks of August with a free and fun game of bingo! ALX Bark Bingo is simple to play: 1) Fetch a bingo card from participating stores that feature a bright yellow box on the storefront; 2) Scan the QR code on the storefront's yellow box to reveal a dog, and 3) Have a match on your bingo card? Pop into the store and get your card stamped! Win with one horizontal/vertical/diagonal bingo and email a photo of your winning card to [barkbingo@alxdogwalk.com](mailto:barkbingo@alxdogwalk.com). Winning cards will be entered into a drawing on 8/19, and four winners will receive a bag of \$300 worth of gift certificates from participating stores! ALX Bark Bingo participating stores include: Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Bad Ass Coffee of Hawaii, Beeliner Diner, Bellies & Babies, Benny Diferza's Pizza, Boxwood, Cameron Café, District Biscuit Company, The Dog Park, ERA Clothing & Accessories, fibre space, Fiscus Glassworks, Frizzles Hair Salon, Kungfu Kitchen, Lost Boy Cider, Magpie Reclamations, Ms. Moxie's Moon Shop, Pippin Toy Co., Taqueria Picoso, Ten Thousand Villages, Today's Cargo, Top it Off Accessories, Whiskey & Oyster, and Zuki Moon. Visit [www.alxdogwalk.com](https://www.alxdogwalk.com)

## AUG. 14-18

**48th Annual Arlington County Fair.** At Thomas Jefferson Community Center and Park. The five-day extravaganza features a diverse array of food vendors, thrilling rides, friendly competitions, vendor markets, and so much more. Sensory-friendly hours will provide a quieter environment without the usual bells, whistles, and chimes on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The community is invited to the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, August 14, at 5 p.m., which will feature local singers The Arlingtonges and a

ribbon-cutting.

New at this year's Fair (\*denotes free):

- ❖ Petting Zoo: Get up close and personal with your favorite farm animals, including goats, sheep, and a mini horse!
- ❖ Solace Brewing Beer Garden: Enjoy a cold beer from Solace Brewing while listening to live music and enjoying the sights and sounds of the fairgrounds.
- ❖ Children's Market: Young entrepreneurs will showcase their products and services on Saturday afternoon at the Fair.

• Portable Planetarium Dome: Explore the cosmos in this unique viewing experience suitable for all ages, located inside the Thomas Jefferson Gym.

- ❖ WOW Wheelz Lil' Racer Track: Kids, start your engines and join us on Thursday evening to zoom around an inflatable race track.
- ❖ Headliner Bands: We are excited to welcome Pictrola, So Fetch, and The Uptown Band to this year's Fair. These energetic musicians will rock the main stage on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights of the Fair.

Fairgoer favorites returning this year include:

- ❖ Virginia Museum of Fine Arts: The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts returns with an exhibit of some of its most popular works of art.
- ❖ Pie Eating Championship: Compete for the title of pie-eating champion at our annual pie-eating championship, sponsored by Livin' The Pie Life, TriVistaUSA, and Team Showalter.
- ❖ Big Trucks: Youngsters of all ages will delight in encountering the massive trucks on display, including kid favorites: a backhoe, dump truck equipped with a plow, and a vacuum truck, accompanied by other surprise vehicles.
- ❖ Rocknoceros: Get ready to rock the house with weekend live kids' entertainment by Rocknoceros.

## AUG. 16-25

### Alexandria Restaurant Week.

Throughout neighborhoods in Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End. For 10 days and two weekends, dozens of restaurants in Alexandria, Virginia, will offer

a \$27.50, \$40 or \$50 in-person dinner for one during Alexandria Restaurant Week, August 16-25, 2024. The special \$27.50 offer is a playful nod to Alexandria's 275th anniversary. Find additional special offers and discounts at fast casual restaurants throughout Alexandria during Alexandria Restaurant Week. Alexandria Restaurant Week showcases the inventiveness of local chefs and international cuisine in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower and the West End. In early August, guests will find a digital flip-book of menus at participating restaurants on AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 17

**Port to Port Beer Festival.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria. Port to Port Beer Festival will bring 14 breweries from ports near and far to showcase their best brews. Featured breweries include Sideward Brewing and Jackie O's all the way from Orlando, Florida and Athens, Ohio, respectively, alongside local favorites like Lost Boy Cider and Cedar Run Brewing. Festival guests will receive a commemorative 5 oz. glass with their admission ticket along with three tickets for 4 oz pours. Additional drink tickets can be purchased during the festival to keep the party going. Guests will also enjoy yard games, tented seating, and live music from Road Street Avenue. On August 17th, the Tasting Room and outdoor Beer Garden will remain open to the public for regular business. However, festival beers are only available to ticket holders! Tickets are on sale for \$20 a person with an early-bird discount, increasing in price on August 10th to \$25 a person, so make sure to snag yours today for this fun new event in Northern Virginia's backyard.

## SATURDAY/AUGUST 17

**Del Ray Bands & Brews Bar Crawl.** 12:30- 6 p.m. At Del Ray Business Association, 2308 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Join the fun and vibrant Del Ray community for a

# ENTERTAINMENT

special summer event, featuring live music in outdoor restaurant venues along the Avenue! Bands & Brews. This event is being brought to you by the Del Ray Business Association and will benefit a local non-profit. The first 250 registrants will get a swag bag with a 16 oz souvenir collectors cup! Advance tickets are \$15 (\$25 at the door), and include specials on cocktails, beer, and food at each of the 20+ participating restaurants, live music at every venue, trolley transportation, 50/50 raffles, a photo booth, and many more fun giveaways. You must be 21+ to participate in the crawl, but children and families are welcome at family friendly establishments and at the main stage at Pat Miller Square. Visit [visitdelray.com](http://visitdelray.com).

## TUESDAY/AUG. 20

**Tuesday Night Trivia.** 7 p.m. At Atlas Brew Works Alexandria, 2429 Mandeville Lane, Alexandria. The Capital City Showcase is bringing their high-flying, knowledge-dropping trivia action to Atlas Brew Works Alexandria every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m., starting Tuesday August 20th. The host is Mark Warburton.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 23

**Summer Concert Series.** The U.S. Air Force Band returns to the Air Force Memorial in Arlington. Free and open to the public. Friday, Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. - Airmen of Note

Friday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Air Force Birthday Concert.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 24

**Around the World Cultural Food Festival.** 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, downtown Old Town Alexandria. Come and enjoy delicious foods from around the world while watching a diverse folk show with singers and dancers from different countries, then take a break and go shopping from the ethnic artisans and crafters participating in the festival.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

**Find Your Ancestors!** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Attend this conference featuring one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. John Colletta will discuss how historical research can help to understand the day-to-day lives of our ancestors. Lively discussions will follow. Cost: \$40. Email: [contact-us@mvgenealogy.org](mailto:contact-us@mvgenealogy.org). Website: <https://mvgenealogy.org/store.php?sid=7>

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

**Used Book Sale:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. 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.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

## SEPT. 17-23

**Fall Book Sale.** The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Fall Book Sale from Tuesday, September 17, 3:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, September 19, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, September 20, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, September 22, Half Price Day, 1:00-4:30 p.m.; Monday, September 23, \$10 Bag Sale, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria; info: 703-746-1702; [www.beatleyfriends.org](http://www.beatleyfriends.org).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

**Life in Alexandria's Civil War Prisons Lecture.** 7 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria Historical Society is pleased to announce its upcoming lecture, "Life in Alexandria's Civil War Prisons." Local historian Madeline Feirstein will present her research on the five military prisons of Alexandria during the Civil War. Her lecture will provide an in-depth look at life

within these institutions for both Confederate and Union prisoners, examining how their presence disrupted the daily lives of Alexandria residents. Additionally, Madeline will explore the medical treatment of jailed soldiers and prisoners of war at hospitals such as Grosvenor Branch, which was the confiscated Lee-Fendall House. Attendees will gain insight into first-hand accounts from individuals who experienced imprisonment within Alexandria's city limits, from the earliest days of battle to the beginnings of Reconstruction. For more information, contact David Heiby, Treasurer of the Alexandria Historical Society, at [davidheiby@gmail.com](mailto:davidheiby@gmail.com) or 703-869-0872.

## THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

## AUGUST

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 Sun. 18: The Secret Sisters w/ Jon Muq \$35.00  
 Fri. 23: Marcus Miller \$69.50  
 Sat. 24: Kim Waters \$35.00  
 Sun. 25: Sandi Patty \$59.50  
 Thu. 29: Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore with The Guilty Ones w/ Jon Langford & The Bright Shiners \$45.00  
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 Sat. 31: Raheem DeVaughn \$85.00



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# “Sing Along with Susannah” at the Kate Barrett Library on Aug. 8

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT



Children frolicked and danced along as well as singing at “Sing Along with Susannah” at the Kate Barrett Library on Aug. 8.

# Alexandria Film Festival

FROM PAGE 5

and spend a weekend in Alexandria hanging out with other film people and enjoying our restaurants and fun, interesting city. Frankly, other areas that host film festivals aren't as interesting as Alexandria.

**Q: What is your biggest worry?**

**North:** At this time of the year, I try to go to sleep. This is a huge logistical nightmare. You have to have all of your ducks in a row and things have a chain reaction. You can't promote the films until they have been accepted. So many things are closely related. The logistics of operating in multiple venues at the same time, organizing content and collateral and getting folks where they need to be at the right time is pretty challenging and to do it all with unpaid volunteers is amazing. In the longer term, I worry and hope we can always retain the theater experience; it's not the same as watching TV. I screen some of the films on my computer but when I see them on the big screen the visual potential is “wow.” It's really different in person. I worry about expectations falling so low that people accept artificial experiences.

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The busy Alexandria Film Festival box office

**Q: How would you describe the film festival?**

**North:** We feature more substantive material so we're not likely to get Marvel submissions. The content is driven by what we like — social justice, equality, and opening the door on a little known part of the world. We aren't a themed festival like environment for instance. Once you do that there is new ma-

terial that you have to let go, and we don't want to do that. We focus on things like the slave trade in Alexandria's history, our city's grandeur but also its disgrace. You have to look at the whole picture. We want to make people think and feel.

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## Really Dina?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How long have we been married? Nearly 46 years, right? Yet, you felt the need to tell me, as an inducement to go to a Saturday-crowded local Farmer's Market to buy two tomatoes and six ears of corn: “Why don't you buy yourself a whoopie pie while you're there.” Thanks, Dina. I hadn't thought of that. If there ever was a sentence/suggestion that didn't need to be uttered, it was that one: Get ‘a whoopie pie? Are you serious? I'm getting six for \$9.95. (I wouldn't have considered running that errand if it were not for the whoopie pies at the other end.

Certainly, Dina knows a few things about me after all these years. Things, let's say incontrovertible facts, that she never need think about. A few examples: I live and die with The Boston Red Sox, I love The Three Stooges, (the ones with Curly), I miss my late brother, Richard, I love my dog Burton, I'm no good with tools and repairs, and I love, sweets, especially chocolate-centric ones. I don't simply have a sweet tooth. I have sweet teeth.

Now was this comment from Dina a temporary lapse in her judgment or was it an early sign of older age? After all, we have been married since “before the flood,” as my late mother so often said. We're not exactly spring chickens, we're more like old goats. We pretty much have been there and done that in the relationship business. We don't (or rather won't) finish one another's sentences (that would require listening attentively to what the other is saying), but we can, with reasonable confidence, list some of undeniable truths about each other. (If you think I'm going to list some of Dina's ‘undeniable truths,’ you're crazy. I may be a slow learner, but I'm not stupid. I wouldn't write that list with a 10-foot pen.

She could write anything she wants about me. I'm an open book, especially, every week in this space. I'm not very complicated. I do, eat, say, buy, joke and think the same things, over and over and over again. Some might say ad nauseum. I'd say more like a continuing opportunity. Dina, on the other hand is far more in tune with the real world than I am. She prefers variety in her life, except for me. I'm the exact opposite of variety. I am, to invoke an old “Firesign Theater” bit from the 70s: I'm not simply “the same old place,” “I'm the old same place.” Meaning, in this context anyway, I'm like Popeye the sailor man: “I y'am what I y'am.” One of the great philosophers of the Baby Boomer generation.

Olive Oil never wondered if Popeye really liked spinach. If he did, he would have muttered something memorable. (Have you seen the very old Popeye cartoons? He was always muttering something under his breath. Classic stuff.) This column is sort of what I was muttering under my breath after Dina suggested that I buy myself a whoopie pie. Like I hadn't already thought of it. Thought of it? I was already thinking where I was going to hide the remaining five whoopie when I got home.

As the errand turned out, the line for produce was around the block. I was number 79. The last number I heard called was 31. That was my cue to leave - empty handed. I then went over to the bakery where the line was much shorter, and so “it wouldn't be a total loss,” to invoke a favorite Three Stooges line, I did indeed buy my six whoopie pies. And they were delicious.

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



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