



Visitors enjoy some of the art available at Art on the Avenue Oct. 5 in Del Ray.



A young girl points at her favorite art objects Oct. 5 at Art on the Avenue.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

McGuire Named APD Chief

Texas Assistant Chief to begin Nov. 25.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Tarrick McGuire, currently the Assistant Chief of Police in Arlington, Texas, has been named the new Alexandria Chief of Police effective Nov. 25.

City Manager Jim Parajon announced the appointment, praising McGuire's accomplishments in Texas. Parajon also came to Alexandria in 2022 after serving as City Manager in Arlington, Texas, and announced the selection of McGuire following a nationwide search.

"It is vital that our public safety leadership possesses the expertise and vision to implement effective interventions that safeguard our residents," Parajon said. "Chief McGuire is a proven leader who will continue to lead our police in effectively serving our community."

McGuire succeeds former Chief Don Hayes, who stepped down in early 2024. Assistant Chief Raul Pedroso will continue serving as Interim Chief of Police until McGuire formally begins his new role.

"I am honored and grateful to accept the position of Police Chief of the Alexandria Police Department," McGuire said in a statement. "I believe in a community-oriented approach to policing, building public trust through transparency, and emphasizing communication and collaboration."

Prior to his role as Assistant Chief of the Arlington, Texas Police Department, McGuire served as Deputy Chief since 2018 and has 11 years of command-level experience. During his tenure, he spearheaded the creation of Mentoring Arlington Youth, a multidisciplinary program that significantly reduced crime rates and garnered national recognition from the Department of Justice's COPS Office as a model for 21st Century Policing.

In his various positions within the Arlington, Texas Police De-



PHOTO COURTESY APD

Tarrick McGuire will take over as Alexandria Chief of Police effective Nov. 25.

partment, a department of 900 employees, McGuire accumulated specialized experience in patrol, investigations and community relations. In 2016, he was appointed as an IACP Law Enforcement Fellow for the National 21st Century Policing Reform initiative. In 2020, he was appointed to the Council on Police Reform and Race by the National Police Foundation (now the National Policing Institute) in Washington, D.C., and previously served as chairperson of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Committee.

In 2022, he was inducted into the Evidence-Based Policing Hall of Fame. As a Fellow here in Alexandria, he collaborated with police departments nationwide, the Department of Justice, and the Obama Administration to implement the recommendations of the 21st Century Task Force on Policing.

McGuire holds a Doctorate in Public Administration from California Baptist University, an M.A. from Criswell College, and a B.A. from Oklahoma State University, where he played football for the Cowboys.

"I look forward to working alongside our dedicated officers, community leaders, and residents to create a safer Alexandria for everyone," McGuire said. "I am excited to begin this journey together."

Artrageous!

29th Art on the Avenue takes over Del Ray.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 50,000 visitors flooded the streets of Del Ray Oct. 5 for the 29th annual Art on the Avenue multicultural arts festival on Mount Vernon

Avenue.

Considered one of the top arts events in Northern Virginia, the event is entirely volunteer run, with support from the Del Ray Business Association and the local business community.

Held each year on the first Saturday in October
SEE 20TH ART ON THE AVENUE, PAGE 6



Art on the Avenue attracted more than 50,000 visitors to Del Ray.

Munitions to Masterpieces

Torpedo Factory Art Center celebrates 50 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Torpedo Factory Art Center celebrated its 50th birthday in style, hosting a weekend of celebrations commemorating the conversion of the former munitions factory into a nationally recognized arts facility on the Alexandria waterfront.

Art Center founder Marian Van Landingham was the star of the show as city officials joined past



The Torpedo Factory Art Center celebrated founder Marian Van Landingham at the 50th Anniversary gala Sept. 15. Pictured are: Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Mayor Justin Wilson, Councilwoman Sarah Bagley, Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, Marian Van Landingham, Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins, and Councilman Kirk McPike.

PHOTO JA'MON JACKSON/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

and present artists in the festivities. Van Landingham is credited with the idea to convert the dilapidated former munitions plant to an arts center while serving as president of the Art League of Northern Virginia.

In 1973, Van Landingham sought a new building to house the nonprofit. Alexandria was also preparing for its bicentennial celebrations and wanted to improve the derelict waterfront by 1974. James W. Coldsmith, editor of the Alexandria Journal, suggested Van Landingham consider the abandoned torpedo plant, solving two problems at once.

After renovations were completed, the new art center began offering studio space for rent to artists at a rate below market value, a commitment that continues today. When the Art Center opened to the

SEE TORPEDO FACTORY, PAGE 3



PHOTO/TFAC

The former munitions plant officially opened as the Torpedo Factory Art Center on Sept. 15, 1974.



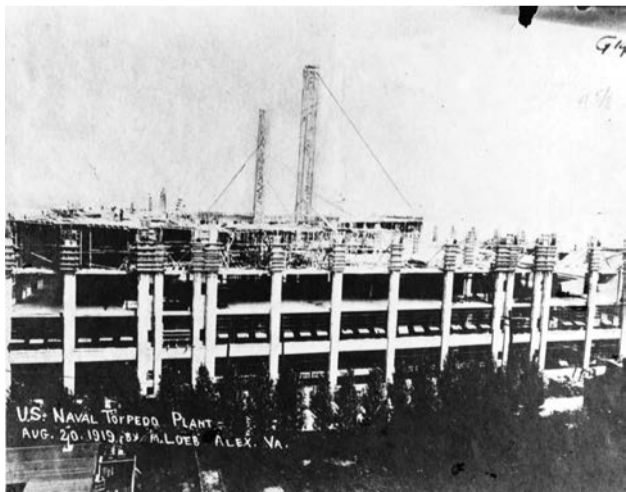
PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Jewelry maker Susan Sanders is one of the few remaining original artists who established a studio when the Torpedo Factory Art Center was founded in 1974.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The Torpedo Factory Art Center held a '70s theme 50th birthday celebration on Sept 13.



PHOTO/COURTESY NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND
Construction on the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station began Nov. 12, 1918, and was completed the following year.



PHOTO/COURTESY NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND
Shop workers at the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station in Alexandria adjust and overhaul torpedo afterbodies during World War II.



PHOTO/COURTESY NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND
The U.S. Naval Torpedo Plant was converted to a storage facility for federal records, which were held there from 1950-1968.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Today's Torpedo Factory Art Center is the centerpiece and main tourist attraction along the Alexandria waterfront.



PHOTO/TFAC

Artists gather for a photo celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in September of 2024.

Torpedo Factory Art Center Celebrates 50 Years

FROM PAGE 2

public in September 1974, 142 artists had studios in the building.

Susan Sanders was fresh out of college in 1974 when her mother saw a newspaper article seeking artists for the new studio spaces at the Art Center and suggested she check it out. She is now one of five remaining original artists who took on the challenge of making Van Landingham's experiment a reality.

"It was pretty rough those early years," said Sanders, a jewelry designer. "We had no heat, no air conditioning and only cold-water sinks. But I still knew it was the right place for me."

The building was first erected along the Alexandria waterfront in 1918. Due to its location near Washington, D.C., Alexandria became strategically important with the opening of the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station, which manufactured torpedoes until 1923.

Munitions manufacturing was resumed during World War II. At the height of production, the complex expanded to 16 buildings with more than 5,000 workers. It was considered a desirable place of employment for women and Black workers since the workforce was not segregated, which was unusual in Virginia at the time.

After the war, the complex was used as a storage facility by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives, which stored military documents at the site, including records from the Nuremberg Trials. From 1950 to 1968, it was known as the Federal Records Center.

In 1969, the City of Alexandria purchased three blocks of the site from the federal government for \$1.6 million, including the main torpedo manufacturing facility along the Potomac River waterfront, as part of its urban renewal



PHOTO/TFAC

Artist and Torpedo Factory Art Center founder Marian Van Landingham in her studio in the 1970s.

plans.

Despite only living a few blocks away at the time, Van Landingham had never been to the waterfront.

"Let's put it this way, the waterfront was not attractive," Van Landingham said. "But still I went down to see the building. It was a big, hulking thing with fencing all around. But there was an open gate so I walked around to the docks, which were pretty rotted. But the waterfront was amazing, and I was impressed."

The interior space was still filled with federal furniture, debris, and broken windows.

"It was a mess," Van Landingham said. "But I was astounded by the space and felt immediately it would be great."

Van Landingham got the Art League members on board, as well as Mayor Charles Beatley.

"Chuck Beatley was always open to new ideas and was very supportive," Van Landingham said. "He could see the possibilities immediately and brought City Council on board."

City Council approved Van Landingham's plan, which was proposed as a three-year pilot program in May 1974. The council appropriated \$140,000 to fund the initial



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Artist Kristina Hagman, daughter of television actor Larry Hagman of "I Dream of Jeannie" and "Dallas" fame, talks with an attendee at an exhibit of her work in April of 2024.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Sarah Bentley prepares a canvas in her studio at the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

renovation. City workers used fire hoses to power-wash the building's interior and removed forty dump trucks of debris. The Torpedo Factory Art Center officially opened in September of that year.

"We still had a lot of work to do," Van Landingham recalled. "The city had given us a very small amount of funding, which was only enough to paint the exterior of the building and put in a few cold-water sinks. It was the sweat equity of the artists that really transformed the building."

What began as a three-year experiment is now home to the largest number of publicly accessible working artist studios in the country. At 76,000 square feet with 165 professional artists working in a variety of media, the Torpedo Factory sees more than half a million visitors each year. It is also home to The Art League and the Alexandria Archaeological Museum.

The City of Alexandria managed the Art Center until 1996, when

it was turned over to the Torpedo Factory Artists Association. The nonprofit Torpedo Factory Art Center Board managed the center from 2010 until 2016, when the city's Office of the Arts assumed responsibility for its management.

Various commissioned studies had determined that a management change was necessary due to governance, management and financial issues.

The most controversial change was the implementation of an annual jury and re-jury process that is part of the Torpedo Factory Art Center vibrancy and sustainability plan that was adopted by City Council in 2020. It was the first time re-jurying was required for current artists in the center's fifty-year history.

"The re-jurying process is very anxiety inducing," said Sara Bentley, a painter who was selected for a three-year studio lease in the inaugural 2022 jurying process. "I need to reapply next April and if

I don't make it back then I lose my livelihood."

The city's action plan is to reimagine the Art Center for the 21st century. While a redesign is planned for the entire building, particular focus will be on transforming the first-floor space as a more interactive, hands on and accessible experience for visitors. The five-to-10-year plan includes a comprehensive business plan partnered with a marketing and rebranding effort to include a new logo, signage, website and marketing campaign.

Van Landingham, who served as the center's first director before embarking on a 24-year career in the Virginia State Senate, just recently gave up the studio space she occupied for 50 years.

"The Torpedo Factory meets a need in the community," Van Landingham said. "It is my hope that it will continue as a place that the public enjoys and the artists find a supportive place in which to work."

The GW Memorial Parkway Needs Attention

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

As someone who has lived in our area for 54 years, I view the George Washington Memorial Parkway (the “Parkway”) as one of our community’s crown jewels. After the U.S. Army relocated 15,000 new employees to Fort Belvoir in 2005, nonresident commuter traffic increased on the Parkway and so has the speed of cars. The road has become much more dangerous, especially at intersections, resulting in dozens of injuries and even some deaths.

Between 2018 and 2021, Congressman Don Beyer, Delegate Paul Krizek, Supervisor Dan Storck and I worked to develop a community consensus on solutions. Congressman Beyer secured funding for road marking improvements and the National Park Service (NPS) conducted a lengthy safety study to identify solutions. NPS found excessive speeding to be a major problem.

I gathered and submitted over 500 community comments offering solutions. In 2021, NPS implemented a “road diet” to slow vehicles’ speed, cause vehicles to bunch and create gaps for safer intersection left turns. In addition, NPS made further modifications to the Belle Haven Road and Belleview Boulevard intersections after receiving community feedback via Congressman Beyer’s Office.

Accidents have declined with implementation of the traffic diet and increased traffic volumes on Fort Hunt Road and Sherwood Hall



Lane have not materialized according to VDOT data. However, in the last week, there have been three accidents at the Parkway and Belle Haven Road. We clearly need to do more.

A HISTORIC ROAD

The Parkway is not just a highway like most others. Congress authorized its construction to preserve and enhance the Potomac River valley, to keep the river’s banks in public ownership and to pay tribute to the first U.S. President George Washington by creating a grand gateway to his home, Mount Vernon. It opened in 1932 as a 40-mile, slow-speed road with various units that combine the natural, historic and recreational sites with over 7,000 acres of parkland.

Changes to the road are subject to the National Historic Preservation Act because the Parkway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Features like stop lights are inconsistent with Congressional intent and the Parkway’s historic character. Some have suggested building a Belle Haven Road roundabout, for example. That is projected to cost \$7 million and is likely cost prohibitive. NPS must comply with the historic preservation law and inconsistent changes could subject the NPS to litigation.

ADDRESSING SPEEDING

In addition to the accidents, I have received

complaints about excessive speeds and late night-drag racing. The U.S. Park Police have been missing in action, many locals contend, and our requests for more enforcement have been largely ignored. Therefore, Delegate Krizek and I asked the Virginia State Police to conduct enforcement operations, but because the Parkway is federal property, its traffic rules are set in the Code of Federal Regulations and can mostly only be enforced by the U.S. Park Police.

Congressman Beyer has asked the NPS to install speed cameras, but federal law does not allow the revenues from enforcement to be recaptured by the NPS to fund the program. Congressman Beyer introduced legislation, but it has been blocked by members of the Congressional Freedom Caucus, claiming privacy concerns.

Therefore, I am drafting legislation for the state legislature to authorize the Virginia State Police and Fairfax County Police to conduct traffic enforcement on the Parkway. In addition, I am researching the legality of authorizing either the state or Fairfax County to enter into an agreement with the NPS to install and operate speed cameras on the Parkway.

We will continue to engage the community to help find solutions to improve safety on the Parkway, reduce collisions and maintain its historic character.

If you have additional questions or ideas, please email me at senatorsurovell@senate.virginia.gov. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vote to Support Tax Relief for Military Families

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

On the ballot this year, Virginians will have the opportunity to vote for a constitutional amendment to provide equitable tax relief to surviving spouses of military service members who died in the line of duty.

A question I’ve seen asked is why this tax exemption must be accomplished through a constitutional amendment as opposed to passing a bill. The short answer is that the Virginia Constitution outlines the framework for how taxes are levied in the state, as well as grants local governments the general right to impose personal property taxes within Article X. Also listed within that article is property that is considered exempt from state and local personal property taxes such as certain state-owned property, public libraries, and non-profit cemeteries. Because taxation is es-



tablished through the Constitution, any changes made to tax-exempt property must therefore be a constitutional amendment. However, it is important to understand that the standard for passing a constitutional amendment is much higher than an average bill.

So, what is the process for an amendment to the Virginia Constitution to be passed? Making any change to the constitution is cumbersome by design to prevent the adoption of frequent or impulsive amendments. First, an amendment must be proposed by the House of Delegates or Senate and agreed to by the majority of the members in each chamber. Next, the same amendment must be passed by the legislature a second time, but only after the General Assembly has undergone an election. Only then can the amendment be placed on the ballot for voters to decide.

The amendment on our ballots this year was first introduced by my colleague Delegate Kathy Tran in 2022, and the amendment subsequently passed the required two times in the 2023 and 2024 sessions with a legislative election in between.

The Virginia Constitution currently provides property tax relief for certain members of the military

and their spouses. In 2010, Virginia voters approved a property tax exemption for veterans who have a 100% service-connected permanent and total disability and their spouses at their principal place of residence. In 2014, Virginia voters agreed to a property tax exemption for surviving spouses of members

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 10

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Your name and town will be published with your letter, other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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NEWS

“Smart Aging” – Ready Your Home and Finances

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) is kicking off its 2024-2025 speaker series, Senior Living in Alexandria, with an important topic that older adults face – how to age smartly.

It includes whether to stay in our own home as long as possible, and all that entails, from downsizing and decluttering to getting your finances ready for the next stage of life.

This event takes place on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 10 am – noon at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. Presenters include Sue Goodhart with the Goodhart Group at Compass Realty. Sue will lead a discussion about issues to consider when making the decision to age in your home, downsize to a smaller residence, or move to a senior community. She'll also explore the reality of the housing market and the limited availability of affordable, suitable housing.

Laurel Beedon with the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) will discuss how to get your finances ready for the next stage of life. Danielle Baynes-Boateng and Yolonda Pride with Ararity Services, a Senior Movement Management Company, will talk about how to declutter and how to make decisions on what to keep. Mary Lee Anderson, SSA's Executive Director, will talk about services available so you can stay in



Sue Goodhart



Laurel Beedon



Danielle Baynes-Boateng



Mary Lee Anderson

your home and live independently.

The event is free and open to the public. Please register by sending an e-mail to events@seniorservicesalex.org or calling SSA at 703 836 4414 ext. 110.

**Smart Aging –
Ready Your Home and Finances**

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16, 10 AM – 12 NOON
Westminster Presbyterian Church,
2701 Cameron Mills Road

NEWS BRIEFS

Register or Update Voter Registration by Oct. 15

The deadline to register or update existing voter registration for the Nov. 5, 2024 General Election is Tuesday, Oct. 15. After that date, the same day registration period will begin but that process requires using a provisional ballot.

The Nov. 5, 2024 General Election ballot in Alexandria will include contests for US President and Vice President, US Senate, US House of Representatives, Mayor, City Council, School Board and a proposed Constitutional Amendment.

If you have moved since the last time you voted, please make sure you are registered at your current address. You may check your registration at vote.elections.virginia.gov, by email at voters@alexandriava.gov, or by calling 703-746-4050. Voters who do not update their registration records before the deadline may be required to cast provisional ballots through the same day registration process.

The following voter registration methods are available to U.S. citizens living in Virginia who will be 18 or older by Nov. 5, 2024:

- ❖ Submit the application online at vote.elections.virginia.gov before midnight, Oct. 15.
- ❖ Register in person at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections, 132 N. Royal St., Suite 100; by 5 p.m. on Oct. 15.
- ❖ Download an application at alexandriava.gov/Elections. Print, sign and mail the completed form to the Office of Voter Registration and Elections, 132 N. Royal St., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22314. Applications must be postmarked on or before Oct. 15.

Voter information letters for new or transferred registrants will be mailed within one week of the registration date.

Individuals who choose to register to vote through the same day registration period must do so in person. Starting Oct. 16 same day registration will be available at early voting locations or on Election Day at the voting location assigned to their current residential address.

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PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Blocks of Fun Two-year-old Audrey Valentine, right, is joined by her sister Lillian, 8, during the Chalk-a-Block art event Sept. 29 in North Old Town. The Chalk-A-Block event combined two previous events, Chalk Walks and Art Blocks, hosted by the Old Town North Alliance in 2022 and 2023.

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ANY WAY YOU BANK

29th Art on The Avenue Takes Over Del Ray



Vendors featured arts and crafts for pets Oct. 5 at Art on the Avenue.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Visitors make a purchase during Art on the Avenue Oct. 5 in Del Ray.



FROM PAGE 1

between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues, the festival featured 350 artists along with 34 food vendors, 30 live musical acts on four stages and numerous kids' activities.

The popular pie-baking contest was once again held in memory of long-time festival and Del Ray volunteer Pam Fitzgerald, who died in 2019 at the age of 51 following a

A young attendee takes a break during Art on the Avenue.

battle with breast cancer. Proceeds from the contest are used to support the Alexandria Domestic Violence Safe House.

The festival is one of the signa-

ture events sponsored by the Del Ray Business Association in celebration of the community's diversity through the arts.

On Oct. 27, Del Ray will host

the Alexandria Halloween parade, named one of the top 10 Halloween parades in the country by USA Today.

www.visitdelray.com



Musicians from the George Washington Middle School orchestra perform Oct. 5 at Art on the Avenue.



A balloon street vendor at Art on the Avenue.



Art created with antique watch parts at Art on the Avenue.

FILM FEST

Two Bicycles Fall in Love at Alexandria Film Fest

18th Alexandria Film Festival scheduled in locations around the city from Nov. 7-10.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Fourth in an ongoing series; alexfilmfest.com

This is the fourth in a series focusing on the 18th Alexandria Film Festival scheduled in several locations around the city from Nov. 7-10. The schedule of films has just been released and is available at alexfilmfest.com. The films will be shown at Beatley Library on Duke Street, the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum in Old Town and NOVA Alexandria Campus Auditorium on Dawes Street.

Interview with filmmaker Nancy Breslin whose film, "Velo Love" will be shown in the film festival on Nov. 9 at 8 pm at the Alexandria Historical Museum at the Lyceum. She recently returned from the world premier of her film in Mexico City followed by the FirstGlance Philadelphia Film Festival where "Velo Love" won the award for Most Imaginative. Interview is edited for length and clarity

Q. What is your film background?

A. As a kid I used to put plays on in the basement. But I can't say I thought of myself as a creative writer until about 15 years ago when the first scene of a movie started playing in my head. I moved to Delaware in 1997 after burning out as a psychiatrist in DC from 1983 to 1987 with psychiatric residency at GW Hospital, then in Alexandria until 1997 with three years as a fellow at the NIMH and then on the GW medical faculty. I got my MFA in 2000 at the University of Delaware and taught photography there part-time until we moved back to DC in 2013. I didn't do any film work in college but as part of my photographic work after my MFA I made some short videos that showed in galleries or museums. I wrote my first feature-length screenplay while living in Delaware in 2005 and four more when I moved back to D.C. 10 years ago and joining Women in Film and Video. Screenwriting was a fun healthy outlet, but it's impossible to get a producer.

Q. Describe your film.

A. Well, this was actually a family affair. My daughter got the idea for "Velo Love" in 2016. This Vespa shows up, flirts with the bike. The rider flirts with the woman. I thought it was a charming idea. My daughter was at a coffee shop and thought of it. I hadn't been able to get any of my five feature films produced so decided to go ahead and work with my brother to produce my own. I was going to make a live action film but my brother, who is a film producer in Seattle, had worked with animators in Mexico so I decided to try this approach instead. My stepson, Matthew Caws, is a musician and he wrote the music for the film. My brother was the co-producer. I wrote



Nancy Breslin, producer, and her daughter Eliza Caws, whose film "Velo Love," will be shown at the Alexandria Film Festival. It is the story of two bicycles falling in love.



Placing a real tattoo on a puppet figure in "Velo Love."

the script from scratch.

It is the story of two bicycles who fall in love. They stop at the

same coffee shop but their owners don't know each other so the challenge is to get the owners to fall in love so they'll keep coming back to the same coffee shop and the bicycles can see each other. There are some mishaps along the way. The film is 11 minutes and one second long with 90 seconds of credits—a lot of time for credits but they had all worked so hard that I decided to include it all.

Q. What were the challenges?

A. There were a lot of decisions with the animation because we were creating it all. What does the cafe look like, the characters?



Set of animated film "Velo Love"

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Sam Mendez in the animation studio in Guadalajara.

we went through 10 different kinds of brick. Then we had to choose a color for the bike that would pop from the background so we chose yellow. The figures were a bigger scale than the animators had worked with before—the human figures were 9-10", like Barbie-size figures. The set was 2-3' tall.

A funny thing that happened was that all shooting of the puppets was from the neck down because we didn't want to focus on the people's relationship; we wanted to focus on the bikes. One of the puppets needed an arm tattoo but we couldn't get the paint to stick on the silicone so we had to get the tattoo done by a tattoo artist with an actual tattoo gun. The film took two years to do the filming. It got pushed aside while they did other projects.

Q. What's Next?

A. I do have five feature scripts. I got news in May that a company wants to produce one of my feature films but they haven't offered me a contract yet. I had a contract on a different film but then Covid hit, and you know where that went. She moved on. But each film festival is almost like a full time job. I can't think of anything else until I'm finished with this one. I keep entering festivals but it's complicated, involves a lot of choices, and takes a lot of time. There are 4,000 film festivals every year but I'm not eligible for a lot of them because the categories don't fit — LGBTQ, Jewish etc. I have to narrow it down; sometimes it's a city where I have a friend I want to visit. Then you have to decide about expenses — hotels are cheap in Mexico but it costs \$700 to get there, and you like to be there in person. I keep entering festivals but I'm on the merry-go-round as



Nancy Breslin in Mexico City at the world premiere of her film "Velo Love" at the Faculty de Cine

We had to build the world, and the puppets were animated figures. The characters were created out of silicone so they had a ball and socket to make them bendable at the joints. On the bike, the knee goes up, the pedals turn. It was very time consuming. I went to Capitol Hill one day and took pictures of storefronts and once we had settled on brick

I try to catch the cheaper early bird entry fee. You try to avoid appearing in two festivals at the same time so you have to make a judgment on your chances.

In the meantime when this is all over, my ideas for scenes will still keep popping up in the shower. I can see all the characters and the story just keeps coming.

ENTERTAINMENT



Alexandria Ghost Tours and Haunted Pub Crawls have started at various locations in Old Town Alexandria.

ONGOING

Alexandria Ghost Tours and Haunted Pub Crawls. Alexandria Ghosts offers guided ghost tours and adults-only haunted pub crawls nightly that highlight the city's dark history and unique local lore highlighting Alexandria's haunted history. The tours feature stories from historic sites and iconic locations like the Carlyle House, Ramsey House, and the infamous Wilkes Tunnel. Each experience transports you to the city's eerie past, a time before it was a trendy place to live, work, and play. Alexandria has a tragic history so disturbing it's often hidden from tourists who descend upon the city daily.

The Four Terrifying Tour Experiences of Alexandria Ghosts:

1. Alexandria Ghosts: Phantoms of the Potomac: Explore Alexandria's haunted history as you follow in the ghostly footsteps of George Washington and other restless spirits in this colonial city.
 2. Alexandria Ghosts Boos and Booze Haunted Pub Crawl: Combine history, hauntings, and a lively pub crawl in Alexandria's haunted bars.
 3. Alexandria Ghosts Ultimate Dead of Night Haunted Ghost Tour: A deep dive into Alexandria's eerie past, from Native American history to Civil War hauntings.
- ❖ Meeting Locations: 323 Cameron St, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Phantoms of the Potomac); 138 N Royal St, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Pub Crawl & Ultimate Dead of Night Tour); 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Washington's Footsteps). Visit <https://alexandriaghosts.com>.

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 muse-

um on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

GROW WITH YOUR GARDEN AT GREEN SPRING GARDEN TALKS

The Park Authority is here to help gardeners this fall with a plant-tastic lineup of Green Spring Garden Talks, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Learn some tips and techniques that will spruce up your plants and other "soil-mates" with the help from fellow gardeners, VCE Master Gardeners and naturalists. All events are held at Green Spring Gardens and are \$12 per person. Additional fees apply for out-of-county residents.

Alternatives for Invasive Plants. Friday, Oct. 11, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Discover the different plants you can grow to avoid other bullying plants from taking over your yard.

Make a Backyard Sanctuary for Wildlife. Saturday, Oct. 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Learn gardening techniques for attracting pollinators, birds and other native insects into your garden to improve habitat loss.

Composting Made Simple. Friday, Nov. 8, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Learn the value that comes with putting compost into your yard and garden instead of your trashcan.

Adapt & Thrive with Climate Change. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Extension Master Gardeners share ways to adapt your garden practices to changing climate patterns through plant selection, water management and more!

NOW THRU OCT. 27

Alexandria Plein Air. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Six artists began regular outdoor painting sessions in and around Alexandria, VA to help cope with the pandemic. They have continued the practice and this exhibit displays their interpretations of local sites, natural and man made, in a variety of seasons. Featuring: Mary Anne Cochran-Fox, Calina Franzosa, Seana Gallagher, Renee Lachman, Theresa Miller and Karen Thuermer.

OCT. 4-26

The "Artificial or Intelligence?" Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.,

Alexandria. Features art that explores what the future might look like with AI and whether machine learning feels artificial or intelligent at the present moment. Opening Reception: Friday, October 4 from 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed October 27). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

OCT. 9-10

Flower Show: "The Chemistry of Fall." Wednesday, 2 to 5 p.m.; Thursday 8-11 a.m. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. The 19 garden Clubs in District II from Northern Virginia are holding a flower show titled "The Chemistry of Fall" at River Farm. The public are invited to view the local horticulture grown by the garden club members as well as the beautiful designs and photography they have created. District II is one of the 4 districts in the National Capital Area Garden Club organization. There are currently 60 garden clubs with over 2,100 members in our area that covers northern Virginia, southern Maryland and the District of Columbia. Contact Anne Dremluk at yachthavengardenclubva@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 11

Book Signing. 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Depression Made Me Write This, by C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas. Join in an inspiring book signing event with poet, orator, and teaching artist, C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas, the author of the powerful new work, Depression Made Me Write This. At first glance, the title might suggest a narrative of glorifying struggle, but Thomas's writing takes an entirely different path. Instead, this book invites readers to see themselves as a collection of experiences, each shaping the landscape of their lives.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Designing American Living. 3-4:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy.,

DEL RAY ARTISANS Neighborhood Arts Day
Chirilagua
 Del Ray Artisans en colaboración con Casa Chirilagua
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 Creación de arte gratis para todas las edades
SÁBADO, 12 DE OCTUBRE, 12-4PM
LUGAR: FOUR MILE RUN CONSERVATORY
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 Patrocinado por la ciudad de Alexandria & The National Endowment for the Arts



Chirilagua Neighborhood Arts Day takes place on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024 in Alexandria.

Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House provide a unique opportunity to put two American styles of architecture – separated by over a century – in conversation with one another. Take a close look at both houses to examine what it was that the architects who built these homes were trying to convey about the people who lived here, the period they lived in, and what they thought the future held. Visit the website:

<https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents/2024/10/12/designing-american-living>

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Chirilagua Neighborhood Arts Day. 12-4 p.m. Free, outdoor, community art-making event at the Four Mile Run Conservatory (4109 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA) in partnership with Casa Chirilagua. Artist instructors will lead hands-on art activities for all ages, including ColorWOW drawing, brite kites, paper flowers, gelli prints, and Guatemalan worry dolls. Live music by the band Marimba Maya Awal. This is a family-friendly event! Details: delrayartisans.org/community-arts

OCT. 12-20

5th Annual Old Town Oyster Week. 11 a.m. 5th Annual Shucking Competition at Daniel O'Connell's Irish Restaurant & Bar at 112 King Street on Saturday, October 12th at 11 a.m. Visit participating restaurants throughout the week for featured oyster and Guinness pairings, and don't forget to vote for your favorite one!

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

The Carpenter's 20th Anniversary Cook-Off. Noon to 3 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Indulge in an afternoon of food and fun while supporting Carpenter's Shelter! Attendees will enjoy tastings from 20 area restaurants, bid on hot

ticket items during the live and silent auctions, and listen to live music. Restaurants to Date: Hard Times Café, Hen Quarter, Nando's Peri Peri Chicken, The Majestic, The Royal, What the Chef, Mystic BBQ & Grill, Bittersweet Catering, Landini Brothers, Misha's, The Warehouse, The Wharf, Pork Barrel BBQ. General Admission (Now until October 11): \$75 Adults, 25 Children (12 and under). At the Door Tickets (on October 13): \$100 Adults, \$30 Children (12 and under). All proceeds from this event will support Carpenter's Shelter, which now operates two homeless shelters in Alexandria, VA and serves 909 people total—248 children, 67 families and 500 single individuals experiencing homelessness.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 16

Yacht Haven Garden Club Benefit. Yacht Haven Garden Club's 40th annual Fashion Show, Silent Auction and Luncheon fundraiser "40 Years of Friendship, Fashion and Flowers," will be held at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria. Fashions will be provided by Sara Campbell. Tickets are \$60.00. Deadline is October 9. For reservations, contact: Joyce Tami at yachthavengardenclubva@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Aware. 1-3 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join in a family friendly, free event curated by the Athenaeum's Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta. Aware is a community-based collaboration with a mission to entertain and inform the community. Twelve (12) pre-selected poets, musicians, and storytellers will provide awareness artistically that focuses on important topics bringing forth their knowledge, personal experiences, and perspectives using

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 9

Early Voting

All registered voters in Virginia are eligible to vote early in person or by mail. In-person early voting for this election continues until 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2. Voters are encouraged to review the sample ballot in advance. For sample ballots and full list of voting hours, visit alexandriava.gov/Elections.

Ballot Drop Boxes

Ballot drop boxes will be available at all polling places on Nov. 5, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A secure outdoor drop box, under video surveillance, is available in front of the Office of Voter Registration and Elections 24 hours a day through Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. A mail-in ballot may be returned at a drop box or by mail.

Applications to request a by-mail ballot must be received in the Voter Registration Office by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25. Completed ballots must be either returned to the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, or postmarked by Nov. 5 and received in the office by noon Friday, Nov. 8.

Visit alexandriava.gov/Elections to learn more about deadlines and other election information, including sample ballots, mail-in ballot applications, in-person early voting hours, precinct maps and ID requirements.

For more information, contact the Office of Voter Registration and Elections at voters@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.4050, Virginia Relay 711.

Man Charged in 2023 Hit and Run

Alexandria detectives charged 29-year-old Zsavon

Walters, a non-city resident, in connection with the hit-and-run incident that occurred on Oct. 4, 2023.

Zsavon Walters was taken into custody by the United States Marshals Service Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force on Oct. 3, 2024. Walters faces charges of Malicious Wounding and Hit and Run with Personal Injury.

The hit-and-run occurred at approximately 3 p.m. on Oct. 4, 2023, involving a Penske truck and a 15-year-old male at the corner of Montgomery and North Patrick Streets. The injured juvenile was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

After the crash, the driver of the truck drove to the rear of the George Washington Middle School, nearly striking children. The School Resource Officer drew his service weapon to protect the students from being harmed and to stop the driver from moving in the direction of the students. The driver drove off and no other injuries occurred. The SRO and other officers pursued the vehicle but lost sight of it.

If you have any information about this incident, please call APD Detective Gardizi at 703-746-6265. Tips can remain anonymous.

Stream Cleanup

The City of Alexandria invites the public to participate in a stream cleanup event at the Historic Holmes Run at Charles E. Beatley Library on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The event is hosted by the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services Stormwater Management Division as part of the City's Eco-City efforts to clean and protect city waterways and in recognition

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 11



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Legals

ABC LICENSE

10 Duke (It Out), LLC trading as Cooper Mill, 10 Duke ST, Alexandria, Alexandria city, VA, 22314-0000. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, Consumed On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Noe Landini, Owner/Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

Obituary

On Friday October 12th, 2018 at our home in Alexandria, Virginia my Beloved, Precious Wife departed this earth to arrive at her Heavenly Home.

Ethel V. Nelson, wife of Charles H. Nelson, Sr., mother of Charles H. Nelson, Jr. (deceased) and daughter Gail O. Nelson. She was also loved by her adorable Granddaughters, Shaye L. (Aubrey), Toyri(Troy) and Nikia (Aaron), and six great grandchildren. Also, her brother, Robert Chichester and a host of relatives and friends.

You may have left us on earth, but will always remain in our hearts.

"WE STILL DO"

Obituary

Alexandra Mackie Fellows (1933 - 2024)



Alix was born April 17, 1933, in Greenisland, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Her mother, Marsha Hopkins Mackie, an American from Boston, MA, married a Northern Irishman, James Mackie in 1927 residing in Belfast, NI. Alix retraced her mother's steps back across the Atlantic Ocean to marry a US naval officer, Lt. JG Charles D. Fellows in 1955, and became an American citizen in 1965.

Alix had 5 sons, James, Daniel, David, Peter and Andrew. She embraced her life as a navy submariner's wife residing in Charleston, SC, Key West, FL, Groton, CT, (3 tours), Annandale, VA, Norfolk, VA, and eventually settling in Alexandria, VA, for the last 49 years of her life. She remained connected to the cadre of navy wives, a sorority of sorts, as they had each other's back when their husbands were deployed.

In 1975, Alix became a volunteer coach for the St Agnes (later Saint Stephens / St Agnes) girl's field hockey and lacrosse teams; a relationship that lasted over 40 years. She coached generations of girls and young women while her legacy included instilling the value of women's sports and fostering competition, accountability, commitment and sacrifice. Alix was inducted into the Hall of Fame at both Saint Stephens / St Agnes School as well as the US Lacrosse Potomac Chapter.

Always the most optimistic person in the room, Alix was engaging and made everyone she interacted with feel important and worthy of her attention. She loved summer visits to "Red Cottage" in Milbridge, ME, and she was always one to make the effort to stay in touch.

Alix was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Capt. Charles D. Fellows, USN Ret., grandson Daniel Hunt, sisters Sheila and Gloria and survived by her 5 sons and daughters-in-law, 15 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren and her sister Buntly.

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Krizek

FROM PAGE 4

of the United States Armed Forces who were killed in action, as determined by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The current definition of "killed in action" in the Virginia Constitution refers to military members killed in combat, while "killed in the line of duty" references members who died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the United States Department of Defense which includes members killed during active or inactive duty training, drill week-ends, or traveling to or from their place of duty.

I first became aware of this oversight in our tax code in early 2021 when a constituent contacted me to share her experience as a Gold Star spouse receiving the property tax exemption for surviving spouses in Fairfax County. After several years, she was sent a letter that she owed back taxes due to an eligibility error as her spouse was killed in the line of duty instead of as a result of enemy action. My office assisted her with a one-year exemption for her property tax, but it was clear that a permanent legislative fix was necessary.

This election, I encourage you to vote yes on this critical amendment to recognize the broad scope of service and sacrifice made by our service members and their families. Service members who were killed in the line of duty, including in training or operational accidents, were serving essential roles defending our nation. This amendment brings fairness to tax relief benefits for families of Virginians who made the ultimate sacrifice, regardless of how they died during service.

The surviving spouse community in Virginia is small. According to the United States Department of Defense Actuarial Report in 2021, out of over 8.5 million Virginians, there are only 182 surviving spouses, including those of individuals killed in the line of duty. If approved, this constitutional amendment would be meaningful and impactful for this small community of surviving spouses.

CALENDAR

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

the Power of Words and Voice to focus on such topics as: What it means to be Brave, Running Towards Love, Women's Mental and Physical Health, Kidney and Liver Health, Cancer, Musical Self-exploration, and more! Space is limited and RSVP is required. RSVP to greatpublishing@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon. TDMV Ride 8:30 a.m.; Youth and Family Ride at 9 a.m. Starting and ending at Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Early bird special! Register for the 9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon by August 31 for a discounted rate and be guaranteed a pair of Tour de Mount Vernon socks! #TDMV2024 Register now: <https://buff.ly/46VNVTx>

OCT. 24 TO DEC. 21

"A Focus on Nature." At Coldwell Banker Realty, 310 King Street, Alexandria. Opening reception Oct. 24 from 6-7:30 p.m. Art exhibit featuring the nature-themed photographs of Steven Halperson and mosaics of Nina Tisara. Steven Halperson, Tisara Photography, has over 30 years' experience in portrait and event photography. For this exhibit, he is returning to his roots in fine art photography and making use of digital camera software to create strikingly beautiful images. Nina Tisara retired from the photography studio in 2007 and began creating intricate mosaics which are now widely exhibited and collected. Nina is the founder of Living Legends of Alexandria. A portion of all sales will be donated to the Coldwell Banker Realty Cares Foundation, a program that helps support selected nonprofits in Alexandria and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. For additional information, contact Rachel Carter, RCarter@cbmove.com or Nina Tisara, Ninat@ninatisara.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

Old Town Family Trick or Treat.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 9

of the International Coastal Cleanup. Established more than 35 years ago by the Ocean Conservancy, its goal is to gather communities together to help clean and protect local coastlines and waterways. The City has participated in this effort for more than 15 years.

Event participants will meet at the Charles Beatley Library parking lot (5005 Duke Street) for a sign-in and event briefing before walking to Holmes Run.

The City will provide gloves, bags, and first-aid kits during the event. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately, in long pants and covered footwear, and to bring water.

To register for the event or request more information, contact gavin.pellitteri@alexandriava.gov

Maker Faire NoVa Debuts at Alexandria City High School

Inventors, entrepreneurs, educators and curious minds will gather on Sunday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m to debut Maker Faire NoVa at Alexandria City High School (3330 King St.) and Chinquapin Park (3210 King St.). This event will occur rain or shine.

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"A Focus on Nature" can be seen Oct. 24 to Dec. 21, 2024 at Coldwell Banker Realty in Alexandria.

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in various shops and restaurants in Old Town along upper and lower King Street and select side streets. Visit oldtownbusiness.org in the coming weeks for details on the starting point and map pick-up location.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

Old Town Doggie Trick or Treat.

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At The Dog Park, 705 King Street, Alexandria. Bring your dog for a howling day of walking through Old Town and visiting participating merchants who will offer treats for your four-legged companion. Start at The Dog Park boutique, located at 705 King Street. Visit oldtownbusiness.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

28th Annual Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2 p.m. Begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte Ave. Alexandria. One of Del Ray's favorite traditions, the annual Del Ray Halloween Parade, returns once again. Costumed children, pets and babies in decked-out strollers are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb. For more information, including details on entering the house decorating contest, pet costume contest and stroller decorating contest, head to visitdelray.com.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere

at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

OCTOBER

Wed. 9: Rickie Lee Jones \$55.00

Thu. 10: Gerald Albright \$55.00

Fri. 11: Bilal with Halima \$39.50

Sat. 12: TUSK - The World's #1 Tribute to Fleetwood Mac \$45.00

Sun. 13: Both Sides Now: The Music and Lives of Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen Starring Danielle Wertz and Robbie Schaefer \$39.50

Mon. 14: An Evening with Larry Wilmore: Comedy, Magic, and 'Merica \$35.00

Wed. 16: Debbie Gibson - Acoustic Youth: Songs and Stories from The Electric Youth Era \$59.50

Thu. 17: Yächtley Crëw \$45.00

Fri. 18: The Whispers \$95.00

Sat. 19: The Whispers \$95.00

Sun. 20: Boney James \$95.00 SOLD OUT!

The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts and Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities (RPCA) will partner with Nova Labs to co-produce Maker Faire NoVa in Alexandria. More than 100 makers will take over the high school and park grounds to share their knowledge through hands-on projects, demonstrations, workshops, and a speaker series in the areas of engineering, science, art, robotics, drones, biology, 3D printers, and more.

Featured activities include: Master of Ceremonies NBC4's Tommy McFly; Ribbon-cutting welcome to celebrate ALX275 at Maker Faire; Drone flying with Virginia Tech; Artists with Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; Hands-on activities with George Mason University and American University; History of Inventors with United States Patent and Trademark Office; Maker Educator Meetup for educators and librarians; Exhibitions featuring ALX275 Anniversary Grant Recipients

Tickets are now on sale online. Advance tickets are available through Monday, Oct. 14. General admission prices will apply beginning October 15. Family tickets, each one good for a group of five people entering the Faire together, are available.

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact daniel.guzman@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.5419, Virginia Relay 711. If you prefer communication in another language, free interpretation and translation services are available, please email LanguageAccess@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.3960.

Having My Cake and Eating It, Too



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You regular readers might remember a two-part column I published a year or so ago concerning a specific dessert: "Entenmann's Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake" that I love but am rarely able to find it in any of my local supermarkets (and/or per the Entenmann's site, which enables you to locate a selected item within a designated number of miles: "10, 25, 50," et. cetera). This difficulty has forced me to make arrangements elsewhere. (The two columns detailed my purchase in Phoenixville, Pa. of said item while visiting friends.)

Fast forward to a few weeks ago. I'm shopping at my local Safeway looking for some sale items. However, regardless of my main point in shopping there, I always swing by the Entenmann's display to see what's new and if by some miracle, anything interesting has appeared. Rarely, per this column, has anything interesting appeared. But, as a lifelong member of Red Sox Nation, I know about hope springing eternal or for you non-members: even a blind squirrel finds an acorn once in a while.

As I approached the Entenmann's display, I could see what looked like, my "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake". At first reaction, I couldn't believe my eyes. Why now, all of a sudden, is this cake on the shelf? To be certain, I picked it up, confirmed its identity, checked its sell-buy date and examined the box as thoroughly as I've examined anything. I couldn't find any reason not to buy/believe what I was seeing so I grabbed two boxes and soon was out of the store giddy with enthusiasm. Once home, I placed both boxes in the freezer and waited to surprise my wife, Dina. (Not that she's the cake fiend that I am, but I figured she'd be happy for me, knowing my eating requirements as well as she does).

Since my arrival home sort of coincided with dinner, I decided to get through the main course as quickly as possible and then dessert to my heart's content. However, knowing Dina as I do, the idea of skipping dinner to go right to dessert wouldn't have flown. It would have barely walked, so I ate my dinner with as much fake gusto I could muster. As soon as it was prudent/safe (if you know what I mean?), I asked Dina if she was ready for dessert. She replied in the affirmative - like she was doing me a favor. Doing me a favor? This cake is royalty in the dessert world. It deserves respect and appreciation. A cake of this substance and taste doesn't exactly grow on trees. Heck, it rarely appears in stores - that I ever know about anyway. And yet, here it is. And there it goes. Cake number one was gone in a day, cake number two soon followed.

Something unexpected has happened at this Safeway. When I return, naturally I likewise return to the Entenmann's display looking for my cake. And more often than not, the cake is placed in its familiar spot. And as often as you can guess, I am indulging my sweet teeth and buying the cake. I've purchased more than a few of these cakes over the past four weeks, making up for lost time you might say, and have thoroughly enjoyed myself. Even Dina has admitted that this cake is pretty good (stop the presses).

I think that I've now purchased enough of these cakes that, (and I've never worked in a store with inventory, so I don't know how things get re-ordered, but I'm starting to wonder), I think my purchases are registering. I say this because every time I return to the store now, there sits my cake in the Entenmann's display, as if it's just another dessert item. Does the reordering algorithm include feedback from the store manager/department heads. Do they just reorder products that have been purchased previously? Or is it handled by the regional people? Conversely, if the item isn't bought, will it stop being reordered?

I don't know what to do. I'm afraid, if I believe any of the last paragraph, that if I stop buying the cake, it will stop being ordered and will disappear from the Entenmann's display. I still love the cake but I'm feeling some pressure. I think I may have become my own worst enemy. I never thought I'd feel or say this, but I might need a break. But then what?

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

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OPEN SUN 10/13, 1-3

SE Old Town | \$1,100,000

Classic Yates Gardens row home. 2 generous bedrooms, 2 baths. Elegant, open plan main level with bright sunroom addition. Lower level rec room with great storage. You'll love the patio in front; walled garden in back. 907 S Saint Asaph Street.

Sarah Bobbin 571.225.8716
www.SophisticatedLivingNOVADC.com



OPEN SAT 10/12 & SUN 10/13, 1-4

Chapel Square | \$974,900

This wonderful 5-bedroom, 3-bathroom home on a corner lot of a double cul-de-sac has a 1-car garage and over 3,400 square feet of finished space. Beautifully updated in every way with quality materials and finishes! 4610 Quarter Charge Drive

Tammi Curran 703.309.3119
www.TammiCurran.com



Belle Haven Mews | \$939,900

Hallmarks of this 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home are the room sizes plus the variety of options for the use of space. There is fresh paint and new carpeting throughout plus hardwood flooring. The roof, driveway and attic fan are 3-years old. 2015 Swan Terrace

Susan Anthony 703.795.9536
Rochelle Gray 703.328.1686



OPEN SAT 10/12 & SUN 10/13, 12-2

Nethergate | \$895,000

Charming 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home in the Nethergate community of North Old Town! Features 2 parking spaces and a private courtyard. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

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Casey Shaw 703.718.6530
www.CaseyShawHomes.com



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Hollin Hall Village | \$885,000

Not your average HHV ranch! This 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom, expanded 2-level home has been thoughtfully renovated! Stunning primary suite and open concept main level with the WOW-factor you've been waiting for! 8002 Hamilton Lane

Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
www.RealtorHeidiB.com



Collingwood Estates | \$830,000

With many new updates and thoughtful details, this home is a must see. Located in the idyllic and popular Fort Hunt area, a short walk from Waywood Elementary this lovely home offers 4 bedrooms, and 3 updated full baths. 8317 Fort Hunt Road

Crombie & Olsen 706.575.7926
www.CrombieAndOlsen.com



Stratford Place At Kings | \$450,000

Beautifully remodeled, corner 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo. A serene treed view, brand new kitchen and primary bath, updated 2nd bath, fresh paint and new carpet throughout. Plus deck and fabulous amenities. 6105 Wigmore Lane Unit E

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Logan Circle | \$425,000

Spacious 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom 1st-floor unit features a bright and open floor plan in a pristine building in a prime DC location. Easy access to 3 metro stations, restaurants, cafes, and more! 1111 11th Street NW #104

Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802
www.WendySantantonio.com



Belle View | \$279,000

Fantastic 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom condo in prime Belle View location. Move-in ready with refinished hardwood flooring, renovated kitchen and bath, brand new HVAC, replacement windows throughout. 6620 10th Street #B-2

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