

# WEEKLY BRIEFING



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## Friendship Symposium to be held Sunday

In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of organized firefighting in Alexandria, a three-panel symposium is being held on Sunday at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Shooter's Hill. Each panel will have two or more presenters on topics related to the history of firefighting in the city, historical or notable emergencies and the evolution of best firefighting practices. The event is free and open to the public. To register, contact jimmiemcclellan@gmail.com.

Here is the schedule of events:

- **The Great Fires, 10:15 a.m.:** Jim McClellan, Ph.D.; Catherine Weinraub, Chris Ruli
- **Remembering Those**

**Who Served, 11:30 a.m.:** Clarence Jewell III, Former Alexandria Fire Department Chief Robert Dube, Tim Winkle

• **Responding to Terror, 1:30 p.m.:** Former AFD Chief James Schwartz; Denis Onieal, Ed.D.  
-cmeisner@alextimes.com



PHOTO/JORDAN TOVIN

The event will be held at George Washington Masonic Memorial on Shooter's Hill.

## ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK



### EMPTY NEST? 🐾

ADOPT A PET! Rootie is here to invite you to the Shelter to meet him and his home-hopeful buddies. They are ready to fill your home with joy while your kids are away at school. These happy pups promise to make you laugh, provide affection, and although they love riding in the car, they won't ask you to borrow it!

### Meet Rootie!

AlexandriaAnimals.org  
703-746-4774

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"Because everyone needs a home."



PHOTO/ELIJAH GRIFFIN

Mayor Justin Wilson speaking with a volunteer at the inaugural Black Family Reunion on Nov. 29, 2023.

## Alexandria Library to hold second annual Black Family Reunion

The Alexandria Library is hosting its second annual Black Family Reunion on Saturday, a library release stated. The event begins at 11 a.m. at the Kate Waller Branch Library following a proclamation delivered by Mayor Justin Wilson. The event aims to bring neighborhoods together and fill in the gaps in the documented

history of Alexandria's African American community. Families are encouraged to bring documents and images to be scanned and added to the library's special collection archive. Those who donate will receive free food tickets at the event. The reunion is free and open to the public.

A local resident, Jason

Wood, will also share a presentation, "Local Legacies: The Wood Family," based on what the donations made last year mean to him. His family has resided in Alexandria for decades and they once owned the land where the current Alexandria City High School is located.

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