

All Fired Up

Friendship Firehouse Festival celebrates 25 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
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The Friendship Firehouse Festival made a triumphant return after a one-year hiatus to celebrate its 25th anniversary Aug. 7 at the historic Friendship Firehouse Museum on S. Alfred Street.

“We had around 200 people come through the museum today,” said Catherine Weinraub, the historian and site manager of the Friendship Firehouse Museum. “I think that is a good turnout for the first festival in two years.”

Sponsored by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, the festival saw early crowds enjoying clear skies, learning about the city’s historic firefighting apparatus and perusing the many booths lining the 100 block of South Alfred Street, including that of local author Larry Issa.

“This has been a good day,” said Issa, who was debuting his award-winning “Get Back to the Book.”

“I enjoy meeting and talking with everyone and I don’t think the rain dampened anyone’s spirits.”

Cloudy skies moved over the region followed by a steady rain, causing the festival to end one hour early, but not before attendees were given free fire helmets and special cookies handed out in memory of longtime Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association president Joe Shumard.



Gretchen Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, holds cookies given to attendees in memory of longtime Friendship Veterans Fire Association president Joe Shumard Aug. 7 at the Friendship Firehouse Festival.

“I am happy with our turnout and hope people will come back and visit,” Weinraub added. “We are open once a month and invite everyone to learn about the history of firefighting in Alexandria.”

www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse

PHOTOS BY
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Nur Telli, left, with son Sulaman, 4, and Aisha, 6, pose for a photo in front of 19th century firefighting apparatus during a visit to the Friendship Firehouse Museum as part of the Friendship Firehouse Festival Aug. 7.



Alexandria author Larry Issa debuts his award-winning “Get Back in the Book” at the Aug. 7 Friendship Firehouse Festival.



Representatives of the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office in front of historic fire fighting apparatus Aug. 7 at the Friendship Firehouse Festival.



Del Ray Balloon Boutique owners Robert Groves and Linda Johnson display their creative designs during the Aug. 7 Friendship Firehouse Festival.