



## Arena Fail

General Assembly says no to Glendome; lawmakers to reconvene April 17.



Sen. L. Louise Lucas refused to put arena legislation on the agenda for the Senate Finance Committee, so the Senate adjourned without ever debating the proposal or voting on it.

BY JAMES LIBRESCO  
GAZETTE PACKET

The bid to bring two professional sports teams to Alexandria is in serious trouble now that Virginia legislators did not enable funding for the proposed \$2.2 billion arena in the state budget. That would have been the easiest path forward for the project, leaving the only possible avenues a budget amendment or potential special session later this year.

Chiding the decision as a “colossal mistake,” Republican governor Glenn Youngkin dug into lawmakers during a press conference in the final hours of the General Assembly session in front of the Capitol.

“Through this whole process, I have shown an absolute, repeated willingness to consider many priorities of the General Assembly,” Youngkin said. “On the other hand, the Senate refused to give the single-largest economic development deal in Virginia’s history any serious, meaningful consideration.”

Watching the conference from above on the capitol building’s steps was Sen. L. Louise Lucas (D-18), who led the opposition to the plan in the General Assembly.

“It’s just not a good deal,” Lucas said. “I just stood firm on what I believe in my heart to be in the

best interest of the commonwealth, and that was just to say ‘no’ to the Glendome.”

Lucas, who chairs the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, previously blocked two arena bills from appearing on her committee’s docket, and she did not allow consideration for the proposal in Senate budget discussions. As she and a select few lawmakers attended closed-door conferences to resolve differences between each chamber’s version of the state budget, Lucas again prevented its inclusion.

“I feel fantastic,” Lucas told reporters as budget negotiations were winding down. “We were able to, I think, save the taxpayers

**“I just stood firm on what I believe in my heart to be in the best interest of the commonwealth, and that was just to say no to the Glendome.”**

— Sen. L. Louise Lucas

a ton of money by not putting the full faith and credit of the commonwealth behind that project.”

Lucas’s efforts were to the dismay of Youngkin, who called her, though not by name, the plan’s “single roadblock.”

Conversely, some Alexandrians applaud her undertakings.

“We are very thankful for Senator Louise Lucas’s leadership on this issue,” said Andrew Macdonald, co-founder of the Coalition to Stop the Arena at Potomac Yard



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Gov. Glenn Youngkin says the Senate is making a mistake by rejecting the financing for a plan that would allow a newly created statewide authority, which would own the proposed arena and lease it to Monumental Sports and Entertainment.

and former vice mayor of Alexandria. “[The plan] was a bad public investment that would not improve our quality of life or our finances ... I consider [the news] a win for the DC region.”

But those who helped put the proposal together, such as Monumental Sports & Entertainment — the company that owns the teams that would move to the arena — and the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, aren’t happy.

“We are disappointed in the legislature’s decision not to fully consider a proposal that promises transformative benefits for Alexandria and the entire commonwealth,” read a statement from Monumental Opportunity, the company’s community engagement project for the arena.

“When introducing the framework agreement in December, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and city of Alexandria

**“We will continue to engage with policymakers in Richmond to ensure that Alexandrians ultimately get to consider a final version of this proposal.”**

— Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson

leadership were firm in our expectation that the city of Alexandria deserves the opportunity to evaluate the entertainment district proposal locally,” said president and CEO of the partnership Stephanie Landrum. “We believe that the project continues to be worthy of consideration in Alexandria, and we remain hopeful that there is a path forward for that conversation.”

Although Lucas’s actions have impeded the plan, it still has several pathways to adoption. The General Assembly will reconvene April 17 to act on bills vetoed or amended by Youngkin, who is expected to submit revisions incorporating the proposal into the budget. Youngkin

could also call a special legislative session and put forward a stand-alone arena bill, but in both scenarios, each chamber would have to approve the plan. The proposal would have been far more likely to pass if it were part of the budget, which is generally approved with bipartisan support.

Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, nevertheless, has high hopes.

“Our perspective from the beginning has been that this is a unique and transformational economic development opportunity for the city,” Wilson said. “We will continue to engage with policymakers in Richmond to ensure that Alexandrians ultimately get to consider a final version of this proposal.”

SEE ARENA FAIL, PAGE 10



## OBITUARY

# Fran Redmon

Philanthropist, arts supporter dies at 86.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**F**ran Redmon defined graciousness. Known to many as the matriarch of arts in the community, for decades she opened her home to numerous nonprofits to help raise funds for the many organizations that sought her support. On March 11, the longtime community philanthropist died after an extended struggle with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. She was 86.

Frances Mae Redmon was born May 16, 1937, in Collinsville, Ill., the only child of Herman Moritz Wilhelm and Frances Ida Wilhelm. She attended a Lutheran school until the fourth grade, when she transferred to a public school and met Gant Redmon, the man who would be by her side for more than eight decades.

Redmon attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale before transferring to the University of Illinois. She was elected president of her sorority, Sigma, Sigma, Sigma, and graduated in 1961 with a degree in speech education. Redmon and Gant married in 1958, the same year she was first runner up and talent winner in the Miss Illinois pageant, a part of the Miss America Scholarship organization.

Following graduation, the couple moved to Alexandria, first to Belle Haven then to Tall Oaks, their stately home in the Seminary neighborhood. They raised one son, Gant Redmon III.

"Both my mom and dad were so integral to the Saint Stephen's and Saint Agnes community," said Redmon's son Gant. "The cheerleaders were always saying how much they appreciated all that she did helping them with choreography. And you could always hear her ringing a cowbell from the stands during football games."

The younger Redmon remembers the more playful side of his mother, saying, "Mom was a master at surprise birthday parties – no question about that. And I don't think she ever missed one of my lacrosse games."

Redmon had begun a fashion career on the College Fashion Board of Stix, Baer & Fuller, a St. Louis department store. She continued in the Washington area as Assistant Fashion Director of Woodward & Lothrop, soon moving onto the runway as a free-lance fashion model in the frequent fashion shows sponsored by charities in hotels and embassies.

A "triple threat" performer who could sing, dance and act – she won the pageant talent competition with a dramatic scene from Joan of Arc – Redmon participated annually in the Hexagon Show, an original musical, political, satirical revue, written, produced, and presented by an all-volunteer group of Washingtonians. Later, she established an award in her name at the Universi-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Fran Redmon, a philanthropist and long-time supporter of arts in the community, died March 11 at the age of 86.**

**"When you find your niche and do something about it, you've found your place."**

— Philanthropist and Living Legend Fran Redmon



© Steven Halperson

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA STUDIOS

**Fran and Gant Redmon were selected as Living Legends of Alexandria in 2011.**



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Gant and Fran Redmon were honored for their decades of community service at the 2017 Senior Services of Alexandria gala.**

ty of Illinois to be given annually to a sorority member in the performing arts.

In the 1980s, Redmon turned her focus to advocacy, serving on the boards of several arts and civic organizations. She was active in the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and SOLA, its support organization, Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Wolf Trap, Alexan-

dria Singers, Little Theatre of Alexandria, Friends of the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, BalletNova, Washington Ballet, Washington Choral Arts, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, and others, usually concentrating on fundraising for each by chairing special events and hosting such events at her home.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Fran Redmon in her bridal portrait in 1958.**

She was appointed to the Virginia Commission for the Arts by Gov. Jim Gilmore and served from 1998 until 2003. In this capacity she advocated for grants to arts organizations throughout the Commonwealth, but especially for those in Northern Virginia. Along with her husband Gant, a managing partner with Redmon, Peyton and Braswell, LLP, Redmon was recognized as a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2011.

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# Lou Cook

Former School Board chair, Scholarship Fund founder dies at 89.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**L**ou Cook, former chair of the Alexandria City School Board and one of the founders of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, died March 8 at her home at Goodwin House Alexandria. She was 89.

Born Marylou Bernard on July 3, 1934, in Spokane, Wash., Cook was one of four children born to Lyle William Bernard and Katherine Zint Bernard. Raised in an Army family, Cook graduated high school in Heidelberg, Germany. Upon returning to the states, she attended George Washington University and obtained a degree in education.

It was during her time at university that Cook met her future husband, George Cook. At the time, George Cook was a young businessman who would eventually build Colonial Parking into the largest parking operation in the Washington region.

The couple wed June 1, 1957, living in Fairlington and Parkfairfax before settling

**“The older I got the more I understood what an amazing person my mom was.”**

— Katie Cook on her mother Lou

into the family home on Crescent Drive in 1967. Together they raised four children and were married for 61 years prior to George’s death in 2018.

Cook and her husband began their civic engagement in 1963 when they were part of a successful effort to end Alexandria’s poll tax. George Cook would go on to serve on City Council in the 1970s as part of Mayor Charles Beatley’s “dream council” with Cook a constant and active participant in her husband’s political campaigns.

Cook served on the school board from 1977-1983 with three years as chair. While on the school board she was an advocate and advanced the family health curriculum. A witty storyteller, Cook had a weekly column in the Northern Virginia Journal. She was also a longtime columnist for the Alexandria Gazette and the Port Packet.

“Mom’s column was like a humor column,” said Cook’s eldest daughter Katie. “As a kid, when each column was published, my friends always asked, ‘Did this rally happen?’



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA/TISARA STUDIOS

**Lou Cook, former chair of the Alexandria School Board, died March 8 at the age of 89.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Lou and George Cook in an undated family photo.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Lou and George Cook were married for 61 years prior to George’s death in 2018.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Politicos Lou and George Cook, right, with former vice mayor and state senator Wiley Mitchell and Marshalé Mitchell, former City Manager Vola Lawson and David Lawson, and former City Council member and state senator Bob Calhoun and Sandy Calhoun in an undated photo.**

She always had an interesting story to tell.”

In 1986, Cook unsuccessfully ran for City Council to fill a vacancy during a special election held in August of that year. Controlling development and pushing for affordable housing were key issues in Cook’s campaign. At the time, State Sen. Wiley Mitchell (R-Alexandria) spoke on Cook’s behalf, saying, “She’s tough. She’s articulate. She’s incisive ... she’s a leader.”

That same year, Cook and her husband helped establish the Scholarship Fund of Alex-

andria. A former schoolteacher, Cook wanted to help ensure that all Alexandria students, regardless of their socioeconomic background, had the opportunity to attend college.

Cook is survived by daughters Katie Cook and Kelly Adair Cook, sons Albert George Cook IV and William Bernard Cook, seven grandchildren and one great grandson. A sister, Elizabeth German, also survives her. She was predeceased by her husband George in 2018.

A visitation will be held Monday, March



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Lou and George Cook were married June 1, 1957.**

18, from 2-4 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 Braddock Road. A funeral service will take place Tuesday, March 19, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Peace, 2700 19th St. S in Arlington. Inurnment will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, 3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302-3001.

“The older I got the more I understood what an amazing person my mom was,” Katie Cook said. “She wrote these columns, was a Girl Scout cookie chair, used to drive kids to the public health center. And for at least seven years she made all our clothes. She really was remarkable.”



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## Equality Virginia: Finally, Marriage Equality is Codified in Virginia

### Gov. Youngkin signs HB 174 which updates the Virginia Code to affirm marriage rights.

**O**n March 8, Equality Virginia Advocates, the public policy and advocacy arm of the Commonwealth's leading advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) equality, applauded the signing of HB 174, a bill that updates the Virginia Code with an affirmative right to marriage for same-sex couples. Since marriage equality became the law of the land in 2015, the Virginia Code has not been updated to reflect that change, even though marriages for same-sex couples have been legal in the commonwealth for nearly a decade. Marriage equality is exceedingly popular in Virginia, with more than 70 percent of public support as of 2021. Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed the bill into law Friday, March 8, 2024.

"Two years into his term, Governor Youngkin has shown leadership and inclusivity, and has finally listened to his constituents with his signing of HB 174. The bill passed through the general assembly with support from both parties, at a time when more than 70 percent of Virginians support marriage equality," said Narissa Rahaman, executive director of Equality Virginia Advocates. "This change to the Code is a positive step forward, and shows how effectively LGBTQ+ couples, interracial couples, and our neighbors have been in sharing their stories and experiences relating to marriage in Virginia. Tonight, we honor the couples who never were able to enjoy this right, the currently married couples who can rest easier following this legal update and all those who will be able to get married here in Virginia for generations to come."

HB 174 does the following:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 20-13.2 as follows:

§20-13.2. Marriage lawful regardless of sex, gender, or race of parties.

No person authorized by §20-14 to issue a marriage license shall deny the issuance of such license to two parties contemplating a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such parties. Such lawful marriages shall be recognized in the Commonwealth regardless of the sex, gender, or race of the parties.

Religious organizations and members of the clergy acting in their religious capacity shall have the right to refuse to perform any marriage.

A 2021 poll from the Public Religion Research Institute found that 71% of Virginians support the right of same-sex couples to marry. This percentage has only increased since the question began being asked of voters. In 2006, 53% of voters supported the marriage ban.

## Sine Die

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

"Sine die" is the language that marks the end of the regular session of the Virginia General Assembly. The term, originating from Latin, means "without fixing a day for future action or meeting," and it is the customary phrase uttered by the Clerks of the Senate and House of Delegates at the conclusion of the annual legislative session.

The term Sine die refers to the fact that the General Assembly is not scheduled to meet again until next year. The exception being, of course, the single day next month — April 17 — that we will reconvene to act on vetoes and amendments from the governor on legislation that we passed during our 60-day session.

While the words Sine die represent a finish line for this year's session, it marks the beginning of the final chapter of the legislative process. All told, Gov. Glenn Youngkin received 1,046 bills from the General Assembly this year. As of this writing, he has vetoed eight bills, amended 12, and signed 52 bills into law. The governor must act on all legislation by midnight on April 8, which is 30 days after adjournment of the General Assembly.

I was encouraged to see the governor's signature of HB 174 carried by Delegate Rozia Henson

Jr. (D-Woodbridge), which codifies the legal right to marriage between two consenting adults in Virginia, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of the parties. I introduced SB 101, the identical Senate version of the legislation, which received bipartisan support in both the Senate and House of Delegates and which awaits gubernatorial action.

Much will be speculated in the coming weeks about Gov. Youngkin's potential actions on individual bills, and on the state budget. At a hastily-convened press conference outside the Capitol last week, the governor announced his displeasure with the budget passed by the General Assembly. The governor's chief complaints include: (1) removal from the budget of the proposal to sell state-backed bonds to finance the relocation of two professional sports teams to Alexandria; (2) prohibiting the governor's effort to repeal Virginia's corporate polluter tax, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); and (3) the blocking of the governor's fiscally irresponsible tax-giveaways to the wealthiest Virginians.

The governor's vetoes thus far present an unfortunate preview of



Adam Ebbin

the actions he could take on bills that await his consideration. In particular, I can only express concern and bewilderment with the governor's veto of SB 47, carried by Senator Barbara Favola (D-Arlington), and HB 46, carried by Delegate Elizabeth

Bennett-Parker (D-Alexandria), which would better protect family members of individuals who are temporarily prohibited from possessing firearms because they

are subject to a protective order or have been convicted of an assault and battery of a family or household member. I hope that the governor will heed the voices of the vast majority of Virginians and not stand in the way of additional state-level protections against gun violence in the coming weeks.

I look forward to updating you on the status of the budget and more than 1,000 bills, including 16 of mine, as we advance toward the April 8 deadline for the governor to act on legislation.

It is my continued honor to serve the residents of the 39th Senate District.

## Sine Do Or Die

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

**O**n Saturday evening, March 9, the 2024 General Assembly session adjourned sine die. "Sine die" is Latin for "without day," and in legalese, if you will, it means "indefinitely."

2,390 pieces of legislation were introduced during the legislative session, excluding commending and memorial resolutions, and of those, 1,098 passed. While the percentage of bills that passed



trended upwards this year over the recent past, the percentage of bills passing the General Assembly with more than 40% voting in opposition increased to 27%, the highest since 2021. That being said, there were many areas where the General Assembly came together to compromise and tackle the issues that our constituents sent us to Richmond to address.

Our Democratic majority had a very successful session, passing a slate of progressive bills. These

SEE SINE DO OR DIE, PAGE 5



# Gov. Youngkin Vetoes Bills to Protect Survivors of Domestic Violence

Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed HB46 and SB47, sponsored by Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Sen. Barbara Favola, critical bills to protect survivors of domestic violence. Nearly one third of all homicides in Virginia are domestic violence related, and nearly two thirds of domestic violence homicides in VA are committed with a firearm. The bills would not have affected law-abiding gun owners and would have saved lives. “Our focus was clear – we wanted to protect survivors of domestic violence from gun violence and save lives. I am deeply disappointed that Governor Youngkin chose to veto this basic accountability measure. This veto will mean that illegal guns will remain in the hands of armed abusers and

make our Commonwealth less safe,” said Del. Bennett-Parker of Alexandria. “Fully one third of Virginians are, at some point, endangered by the people with whom they share their lives. I am deeply disappointed that given the opportunity to better protect innocent lives, uphold our laws against domestic abusers, and lift up families, this governor has instead turned his back. Women deserve better,” said Sen. Barbara Favola of Arlington. “These bills were crafted with input from law enforcement, judges, and domestic violence survivors and advocates. It’s past time that we give law enforcement, courts, and advocates the tools that they need to enforce and implement the

law and to save lives, and it is unacceptable that Governor Youngkin denies this,” said Jonathan Yglesias, policy director of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. The bills would have closed a dangerous loophole in existing Virginia law to ensure that those convicted of domestic violence do not have access to illegal guns. Current law prohibits convicted domestic abusers from purchasing, possessing, or transporting firearms. However, there is no accountability mechanism to ensure that they surrender, sell or transfer their firearms and many domestic violence survivors share that their abusers still have access to firearms, despite the requirement to relinquish access.

These bills simply required that the person complete a form for the court with the name and address of the person or entity in possession of their firearm. They also would have applied the same requirements for the transfer found in existing law for individuals subject to domestic violence protective orders and substantial risk orders to convicted domestic abusers to help ensure they do not continue to have access to illegal guns. This technical fix would have provided clarity for our courts and allowed for more effective enforcement of our current laws. They would have closed a dangerous loophole in ensuring that the transfer of the firearm - which is already required by law - actually takes place and there is a record in Court.

## Sine Do Or Die

FROM PAGE 4  
bills prioritize public and higher education, expand access to mental healthcare and substance abuse treatment, combat gun violence, revitalize our infrastructure statewide, protect abortion and reproductive healthcare, bolster our economy, and support Virginia’s working families. Our majority blocked legislation that sought to restrict voting and reproductive rights, and blocked legislation to give tax breaks to the very wealthiest, just to name a few measures unpopular with the majority of Virginia’s electorate.

ily and medical leave insurance program to ensure that hardworking Virginians do not have to choose between paying their bills and caring for a sick family member. I am pleased to report that twelve of my bills are headed to the Governor’s desk. I am most proud of those bills which passed after multi-year efforts, including HB 1157 which establishes a policy of consultation with Virginia’s federally recognized tribal nations on actions and projects with potential impacts on their environmental, cultural, and historic significance. This legislation was the top legislative priority of Virginia’s federally recognized tribes, and I was honored to be chosen to carry it.

There are many democratic priorities that I hope become law and are not vetoed by the Governor. HB 1 incrementally increases Virginia’s minimum wage to \$13.50 by January 1, 2025, and \$15.00 an hour by January 1, 2026. HB 2 bans the sale, purchase, manufacture, transport, or transfer of assault firearms. The bill defines an assault firearm as a semi-automatic rifle or pistol with a fixed magazine capacity of over 10 rounds or the ability to accept a detachable magazine. HB 570 establishes a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to combat high costs of prescriptions. SB 373 establishes a paid fam-

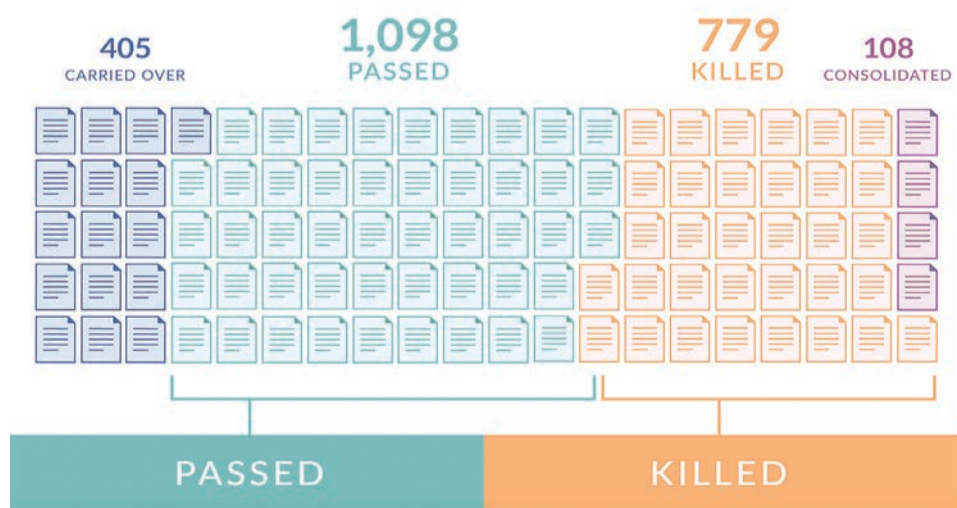
Another key victory was the passage of HB 698 and its Senate companion SB 448 carried by Senator Rouse, which creates a legal adult-use cannabis retail market. As you know, in 2021 cannabis was legalized for adult-use, but with no legal framework for sales outside of medical dispensaries. This left open a \$3 billion per-year illicit market with untested and dangerous products on the street. Here’s some of what I said on the floor of the House: “The fact of the matter is that drug dealers don’t ID. They are not checking for age. Those products aren’t lab

tested for purity or potency. They don’t accurately label them, and they don’t use child-proof packaging. This bill mandates all of those things and more. We need to bring this into a regulatory framework that will protect our children and our Commonwealth, and that’s what I’m trying to do here.” The very last bill to pass this Session was the budget. A government’s budget is a showcase of its values. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am proud of the work our body did to produce

a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of our citizens to keep Virginia moving forward. Our budget provides a 6.75% pay increase for our public school teachers, invests \$500 million in additional support to our most vulnerable students, supports an additional 3,440 DD waiver slots and increase in provider rates, provides \$30 million in funding to combat the opioid epidemic, invests \$110 million for community violence intervention programming, provides \$200 million

### Outcome of General Assembly Bills

There were 2,390 bills introduced in 2024, excluding commending and memorializing resolutions.



VIRGINIA PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT GRAPHIC SHOWING THE FATE OF THIS YEAR’S BILLS

### SAPCA thanks these retailers for helping to prevent underage drinking in our community. These businesses successfully passed alcohol compliance checks conducted in February 2024 by the Alexandria Police Department.

#### Thank you!

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>7-Eleven</b><br/>800 Franklin St.<br/>2108 Mt. Vernon Ave.<br/>421 W. Braddock Rd.<br/>3023 Duke St.<br/>331 S. Whiting St.</p>    | <p><b>ALDI</b><br/>4580 Duke St.<br/>4602 Kenmore Ave.</p> | <p><b>Mart 11</b><br/>301 N. Ripley St.</p>   |
| <p><b>CVS</b><br/>433 S. Washington St.<br/>415 E. Monroe St.<br/>1680 Duke St.<br/>3130 Duke St.<br/>5101 Duke St.<br/>503 King St.</p> | <p><b>Food Star</b><br/>206 W. Glebe Rd.</p>               | <p><b>Virginia ABC</b><br/>501 Montgomery St.<br/>4349 Duke St.<br/>4604 Duke St.<br/>3161 Duke St.<br/>3678 King St.</p> |
| <p><b>Harris Teeter</b><br/>4641 Duke St.</p>  | <p><b>Jano Mart</b><br/>4105 Duke St.</p>                  | <p><b>Walgreens</b><br/>1517 Mt. Vernon Ave.<br/>4515 Duke St.</p>  |
| <p><b>24 Express Food Store</b><br/>4007 Mt. Vernon Ave</p>  | <p><b>Wegman's</b><br/>150 Stovall St.</p>                 |   |

Business owners and employees can be penalized up to \$2,000 and/or have their ABC license revoked by selling alcohol to an underage customer, a violation of Virginia’s minimum-age alcohol laws.

Learn how you can support efforts to prevent youth substance use at [PreventItAlexandria.org](http://PreventItAlexandria.org)





# Honoring Social Workers

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

It is a quieter celebration but no less important as March honors social workers in National Social Work month.

“I loved my job,” said Suzanne Kratzok, who retired after 25 years with the City of Alexandria. “I made connections between people in the community and those in the community needing services. I helped teenagers make decisions about going to college and choosing a career. It was very rewarding.”

Kratzok noted the importance of social work in the community.

“Social workers are trained to look at how well people function in our community,” Kratzok said. “We are able to see what can be done to help them function better and to bring resources to them.”

Mercedes Leon has worked for the City of Alexandria for six years.

“I love my job and feel as if I don’t do it, nobody else will,” Leon said. “It is especially important for me being a minority. I speak Spanish and can help a lot of Latino families and bring them into the culture. This culture is different and coming into foster care many parents do not understand what that means.”

Leon said technology is often a barrier to families needing resources.

“The language and access to resources and technology can sometimes be a challenge,” Leon said. “People do not know how to use the system online to request resources. And a lot of parents need to understand the culture here. One example is car seats. Many Latino communities do not use car seats but here it’s the law and that is something that some do not understand or make a priority.”

Christine Levine is the coordinator for the Fund for Alexandria’s Child.

“I always really loved children and wanted to work with children and families,” said Levine, who has been with the city for 20 years. “We try to provide normal experiences for children in foster care, whether that is summer camp or dance lessons. But we do so much more. We have our holiday sharing program and fill requests on a daily basis, whether it be food, financial, medical, clothing – anything to help low-income families in the city of Alexandria.

Levine said the challenge is always going to be funding.

“Sadly the needs in Alexandria will always be great,” Levine said.



Social workers from Inova Alexandria Hospital gather for a photo March 12 to celebrate Social workers Awareness Month. Pictured are: Tara Quinn, Asia Pleasants, Courtney Brown, Shawne Golson, Colbie Lewis, Michelle Olewa Thornhill, Jensena Petersen and Anner Terry-Mock.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Retired social worker Suzanne Kratzok.

**“It’s social work month right now but I don’t think people realize what social workers do.”**

— Lauren Semanchick of Woodbine Rehabilitation.



Lauren Semanchick of Woodbine Rehabilitation.



Christine Levine.



Jennifer Simmons.

“Families need financial help and assistance with food, rental, and medical assistance. Maintaining a work life balance in this career can be challenging.”

Jennifer Simmons has been a family services specialist for 10 years.

“I love to work with people,” Simmons said. “I work with child protective services, which handles calls of abuse

or neglect. I provide services to link families to resources in the community and put together a plan for a family to be successful in the future without services.”

Lauren Semanchick is the Director of Social Services at Woodbine Rehabilitation.

“I like people and being able to help,” Semanchick said. “Social work is anywhere and everywhere you can think of.

In places like Woodbine you are advocating for patients, you are on their team supporting them but also making sure they understand what the best options are for them. My work is all about making sure everyone is set up for success when they leave this facility. It’s social work month right now but I don’t think people realize what social workers do. We don’t sit behind a desk all day.”



Mercedes Leon.



## NEWS

# Jazz Great Ella Fitzgerald Ties to Lorton

Recognizing influential women in local and national history.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

With a voice described as “earthy” and “youthful”, still familiar to many today, jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald has been described as “worth hearing in every phase of her career.” In 2023, “Rolling Stone” named her 45th in their list of the 200 “greatest singers of all time.” We remember the accomplishments of this stellar female entertainer during March Women’s History Month.

Born in Newport News, Virginia in April 1917, she was to become internationally known. She would give performance tours around the world, in places such as Australia, Norway and Panama after her rise to fame in the U.S.

Moving with her family as a toddler to Yonkers, she would eventually move to Hollywood, but it was in New York where she broke into music. Her mother died when Ella was 15, and she began busking on the streets of Harlem at the age of 16, in 1933. Though previously a good student, her grades began to slip and she got into trouble by skipping school and aligning with numbers runners. She was sent to a girls reformatory school for a time.

At the age of 17, in November 1934, she won one of the earliest amateur nights at the famed Apollo Theater. She sang with bands playing in Harlem for the next several years. Then her 1938 version of the nursery rhyme song she co-wrote, “A-Tisket, A-Tasket” brought her public acclaim, becoming a major hit on the radio and also one of the biggest-selling records of the decade.

Known as the “First Lady of Song” and the “Queen of Jazz,” in 1959 while performing in a D.C. nightclub she was first invited to sing at the summer jazz festival held at Lorton Prison; an event held exclusively for prisoners and prison staff. As early as 1955, the prison was described as “500 [incarcerated residents] above safe operations.” Chaplains serving at the reformatory believed in the “redemptive and connective power of music.” They organized summer concerts held on the prison’s ball



COURTESY LUCY BURNS MUSEUM

Fitzgerald steps off prison bus to the Lorton Jazz Festival; she performed at the festival five times between 1959 and 1968



Statue of Lucy Burns, a leader in suffrage movement in the U.S., seen at the Lorton museum dedicated in her honor.

field, visiting D.C. nightclubs to invite musicians to participate. Fitzgerald was to sing there four more times between 1961 and 1968, the date of the last festival held there. Over the years, the annual Lorton Jazz Festival drew other big names, including Louis Armstrong, Count Basie and Frank Sinatra during the same time period, but Fitzgerald was the first and most frequent famous performer.

Fitzgerald adapted her style several times over the 60 years of her career, from the swing era with big bands, to be-bop, to a series of song books featuring known composers, to blues, and rock and roll. She was known for singing “scat,” a vocal improvisation using word-

less nonsense syllables, creating an instrumental sound with voice. She sang a glass shattering note in a Memorex cassette tape commercial, which when played back on tape also broke another glass, as viewers were asked “Is it live, or is it Memorex?” Although she popularized scat in the mid-40s, in recent years rap artists use her scat techniques to set the rhythms for songs, before coming up with their words.

Fitzgerald died in 1993 at the age of 79, a musical titan; the winner of 14 Grammy Awards, the National Medal of Arts, the NAACP’s inaugural President’s Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Visitors to the Lucy Burns Museum, located on the grounds of the former Lorton Reformatory where Fitzgerald delivered her concerts to appreciative prisoners, can see historic photos of the times and life at the prison. The Museum memorializes the work of many other dedicated women. Women who were instrumental in gaining the right to vote for women in the United States. For more information on the museum, see <https://www.workhousearts.org/lucy-burns-museum>.

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## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
PRINCE GEORGE	14124	641	MOODY ROAD	WALLS RUN	2/26/2024
TAZEWELL	18429	19	GOV.G.C.PEERY HWY	BLUESTONE RIVER	2/29/2024
SPOTSYLVANIA	30675	2302	WILLOW RIDGE WAY	STREAM	2/21/2024

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.*

## NEWS BRIEFS

### New Deputy City Manager

Alethea Predeoux will be new Deputy City Manager effective Monday, March 18.

As Deputy City Manager, Predeoux's responsibilities will focus on community health and human services and employee support.

Predeoux comes to Alexandria from the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM), where she was Chief of Staff. Before OPM, Predeoux worked in healthcare policy and labor for groups including Paralyzed Veterans of America and the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO.

A long-time resident of Alexandria, Predeoux is a graduate of Spelman College with a master's degree from George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government.



Alethea Predeoux

### Fish Kill on Four Mile Run

Shortly before 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 13., the City of Alexandria's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) received notification from Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services concerning a fish kill event at Four Mile Run, located between Mount Vernon Avenue and Route 1. Witnesses reported a significant number of dead fish alongside live fish, reptiles, and waterfowl.

An investigation found a manual operation error at the County's Water Pollution Control Plant that released higher-than-usual levels of sodium hypochlorite into the waterway late on March 12 as part of the regular wastewater treatment process. A correction was made in less than 90 minutes.

As of 2 p.m. today, water quality levels in Four Mile Run are returning to normal. There is no ongoing threat to Four Mile Run. Officials at the plant will review and refine procedures in coordination with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

City staff responded to the area and are coordinating with the City's Fire Marshal, HazMat, Arlington County, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Northern Regional Office, which was contacted by Arlington staff. Arlington officials are addressing the Plant's procedures in coordination with DEQ.

### City Affordable Housing Projects Win State Funding

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will award \$14.3 million to three Alexandria affordable housing projects: \$3.4 million for Community Housing Partners' Witter Place; \$8.1 million for Phase I of Housing Alexandria's Sansé and Naja project; and \$2.9 million for Housing Alexandria's Seminary Road project.

Located at 2712 Duke Street, Witter Place will redevelop a former car dealership into 94 family-sized affordable rental units for residents with incomes between 40% and 60% of the area median income (AMI); the project will start construction this Fall.

Over multiple phases, a total of 474 units, including 416 rental units affordable at 40-80% AMI, and 58 affordable condominium units will be built as part of the Sansé and Naja communities in Arlandria Chirilagua. The project includes neighborhood-serving commercial space and flex space for City agencies. Construction of the underground parking, as well as infrastructure and stormwater management improvements, are underway.

Seminary Road is a new affordable condominium community offering 36 townhome and multifamily-style homeownership units affordable to first-time buyers with incomes up to 80% AMI. Three additional condominium units will welcome adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, replacing an aging group home at the development site. Sitework began in January, and homes are anticipated to be delivered in mid/late 2025. Funding for Seminary Road also included an award for Housing Innovations in Energy Efficiency (HIEE), a program that supports energy efficiency upgrades in affordable housing buildings.

For information see [alexandriava.gov/Housing](http://alexandriava.gov/Housing)

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THRU APRIL 15

**Exhibit: "Searching for Truth in the Garden" at Freedom House Museum.** At Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke Street, Alexandria. Gonzaga High School's groundbreaking research on slavery, "Searching for Truth in the Garden," found new life at the Freedom House Museum. The traveling exhibition, on view through April 15, 2024, delves into the life of Gabriel, a teenager enslaved at Washington Seminary (now Gonzaga) in 1829. Gabriel's story offers a poignant lens through which to examine the complexities of slavery and its lasting impact.

## 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 MARCH 31

**Christine Ruksenas-Burton Exhibit.** At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Christine Ruksenas-Burton's body of work is composed of hard-edge color field linear abstractions, a style rooted in a movement that began in New York City in the 1940s and pioneered by Mark Rothko, Josef Albers, Carmen Herrera, Fanny Sanin, Barnett Newman, Ellsworth Kelly and Clyfford Still.

## MARCH 1-30

**March Luck. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria.** March Luck explores the serendipitous forces that drive artistic expression. Join us to reflect on the role of luck in shaping both art and life in the Van Landingham Gallery. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association presents a group exhibition including jewelry, paintings, photography, mixed media work, hand pulled prints, and more during the month of March.

## MARCH 1-31

**Woodlawn Needlework Show.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodlawn Plantation. Tuesday, February 27th at 10:00am - 1:00pm - Lotus Leaf Mat Workshop with Youngmin Lee (Fee \$165, includes materials) Learn traditional Korean needlework techniques at this in-person workshop conducted by renowned textile artist, Youngmin Lee. This workshop will teach you how to construct a lotus leaf shape Sangbo (covering bojagi) that you can use in daily life. Gamchimjil and Kkojipgi techniques and the Yeonbong (Lotus Bud Knot) technique will finish this simple and organically-shaped bojagi with raised line composition. Every Wednesday and Friday at 2:30pm in March - Special Tours of 61st Anniversary Woodlawn Needlework Show (Fee: \$18, includes

Needlework Show Admission) Join the special tour for a brief history of Woodlawn while discovering the unique stories behind many pieces of the Needlework Show as a Woodlawn guide and Nelly's Needlers expert lead visitors through the house.

Saturday March 16th, Monday March 25th, and Wednesday March 27th at 3:30pm - Beginners Needlework Techniques (Fee: \$25 per class or \$65 for all three, includes Needlework Show Admission and supplies)

Join members of Nelly's Needlers to learn the basics of three fundamental needlework techniques; counted cross-stitch, canvaswork (needlepoint), and surface embroidery.

March 16- canvaswork coasters  
March 25 - cross-stitch towel  
March 27 - embroidered hat  
Virtual Programs  
(All virtual programs are free, with a suggested donation to support Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House)

Saturday, March 23rd at 4:00pm ET -What Linens Know with Ruth Tabancay

Enjoy a fascinating virtual presentation by multi-disciplinary artist Ruth Tabancay as she discusses "What Linens Know" on exhibit at the Woodlawn Needlework Show. Ruth's exhibit is an unique spin on this year's theme, "Needlework in Everyday Life" as she examines the uses of vintage linens in everyday living and embroiders a lasting memory of the remains.

## MARCH 1-30

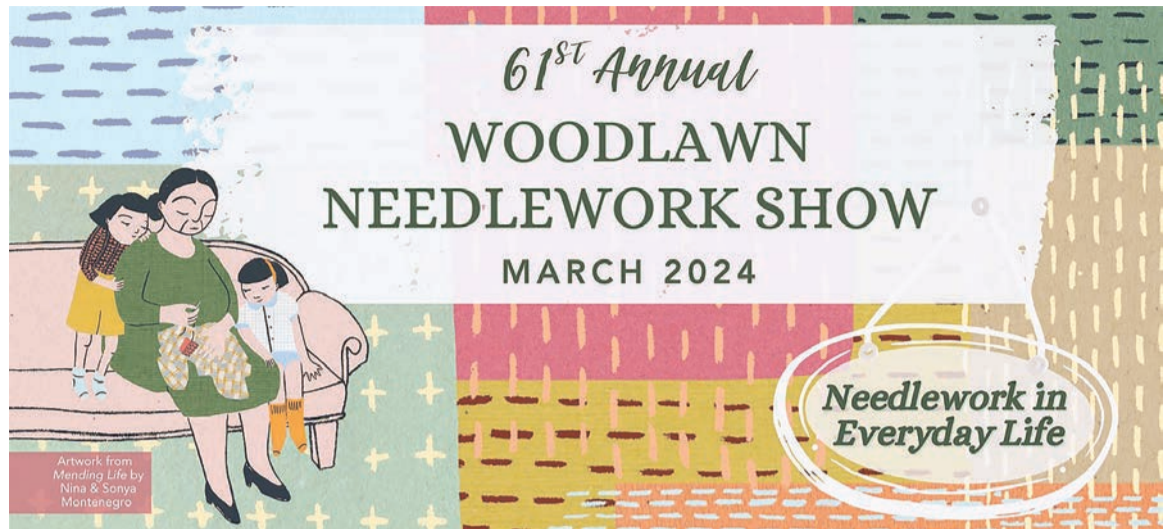
**"The Power of Two" Exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that showcases two related items in one piece of art; for example, two-of-a-kind, complementary items, double-exposures, duos, twins, or multiple generations. "Double your pleasure, double your fun." Opening Reception: Friday, March 1, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed Sunday, March 31). Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/](http://DelRayArtisans.org/) exhibits

## MARCH 5 THRU APRIL 28

**Mosaics by Nina Tisara and Photographs by Steven Halperson.** At Green Spring Gardens, 4601 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The Opening Reception is Sunday, March 10, 1-3 p.m. The mother-son team had worked together at Tisara Photography in Old Town for three decades. Steven now manages the Alexandria portrait studio as well as creating painterly photographic images and unique etched copper art. Nina creates intricate mosaics of unglazed porcelain tile which are widely exhibited and collected. Their work may also be seen by appointment at Serenity Place Gallery, Nina's in-home gallery,

## MARCH 12-18

**Spring Book Sale** - At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. The Friends of Beatley Central Library will hold their Spring Book Sale from Tuesday, March 12 through Monday, March 18. Members' Preview on Tuesday, March 12, 3:00 -7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, March 13,



The Woodlawn Needlework Shop takes place March 1-31, 2024 at Woodlawn Plantation in Alexandria.

10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, March 15, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 17, Half Price Day, 1-4:30 p.m.; Monday, March 18, \$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. Visit [www.beatleyfriends.org](http://www.beatleyfriends.org)

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

**Potomac Harmony Chorus Concert.** 7:30 p.m. At The View Alexandria (formerly The Hermitage), 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. The Potomac Harmony Chorus invites you to their upcoming free performance as they prepare for regional competition. This will be the first competition for Potomac Harmony following the hiring of their new director, Allison Lynskey. As part of their preparation, they will host a Friends & Family night to hone their skills in full costume and make up in front of a live audience. Contact Jackie Bottash, [backrowlead@aol.com](mailto:backrowlead@aol.com)

## THURSDAY/MARCH 14

**Alexandria Baroque.** 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join Alexandria Baroque for an intimate evening of beautiful chamber music. Playing on period instruments of the Baroque era, Michael De Sapio (violin) and John Armato (lute) bring to life music of refinement, grace, and humor--including works by Vivaldi, Uccellini, Hagen, some English country dances, and Biber's Sonata representativa (in which the violin imitates a whole menagerie of birds and animals).

## TUESDAY/MARCH 19

**March Madness at Lena's Wood Fired Pizza & Tap: Hoops Hour Happy Hour.** In Del Ray/Alexandria. Lena's is kicking off Hoops Hour Happy Hour on March 19 with Happy Hour prices all day. Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap located in the heart of the Del Ray section of Alexandria has your March Madness watching covered. With 7 TVs and Happy Hour prices extended 4 - 9 p.m. on game days, Lena's Tap Room is your college hoops headquarters! \$6 Select Beers, \$6 Lena's House Wines, Great Prices on Snacks and Small Plates. For more information, visit <http://www.lenaswoodfire.com>.

## BEGINNING MARCH 20

**Water Taxi to The Wharf to See**

**Cherry Blossoms.** Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Washington, D.C., to enjoy the famous cherry blossoms. City Cruises Potomac Water Taxi offers a 25-minute direct water taxi from Old Town to The Wharf in D.C. From the dock at The Wharf, it is a 10-minute walk to the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin. The water taxi docks at the Transit Pier, 950 Wharf St. SW, near the Tidal Basin, the National Mall, Hains Point and a Capital Bikeshare station.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 21

**2024 General Assembly Breakfast.** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. At The Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King Street, Alexandria. Join in a timely conversation with our General Assembly delegation where they will discuss the 2024 session and the opportunities and challenges currently facing the Commonwealth. Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker will attend.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 22

**The Four Seasons with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5.** At 7:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. With Alexandria Symphony conductor James Ross.

## MARCH 16 THRU APRIL 21

**Cherry Blossom Cruises with City Cruises.** Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Traverse the Potomac River from Old Town Alexandria and cruise past the cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C. on the Monuments Sightseeing Cruise from City Cruises. View and listen to the history of the iconic monuments, memorials and bridges as the D.C. region awakens to spring. See beautiful cherry blossom trees as you glide past the Tidal Basin and head onward to Georgetown. The cruise is 45 minutes one-way and approximately 90 minutes roundtrip. Riders also have the option to explore Georgetown and return on a later boat. City Cruises is a proud sponsor of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

## MARCH 23 TO APRIL 14

**Pink Torpedoes: Cherry Blossom Art in An Old Munitions Factory.** At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Alexandria. Explore all three floors of Torpedo Factory Art Center, home to the nation's largest

collection of working artists' open studios under one roof, to view a building-wide exhibition of art inspired by the iconic cherry blossoms. Participating artists will exhibit one or more unique artworks in their studio or gallery. Each artist will explore their interpretations of the cherry blossoms—culturally, colorfully and viscerally—and visitors will discover new ways of thinking about the region's seasonal pink event. Visitors will receive a "Pink Torpedoes" building map with locations of the artwork to discover. Each studio artist in the Art Center is selected by art experts and rank among the best in the region. Artists work in front of the visitor and discuss their work on view. Visitors may shop for one-of-a-kind art inspired by the cherry blossoms, plus more. Can't visit the exhibition? A select exhibition of artwork will be on view at torp

## SUNDAY/MARCH 24

**Idea of Bark Dog Festival.** 1-4 p.m. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. The day features treats from local canine businesses, playtime in the dog park, pet care and delicious food from local Mount Vernon District business, Chalkboard Wings & BBQ. The Festival is a paw-sitively wonderful way to connect with our community, meet new friends (4-legged and 2-legged) and enjoy a day in the park.

Activities:

Meet & Greet with the FCPD K9 Section in the field: 2:00 p.m.  
PetTech demos: 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Jane Franklin Dance Presents Prime. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Prime journeys through the visual art of exhibiting artist Christine Ruksenas-Burton whose "paintings are conversations of colors inspired by her homeland (Australia) as well as modern art, minimalism, modernist architecture, and design." Jane Franklin's work positions solo dancers in conversation with color, duets in conjunction with line, and trios in hard edge abstractions of color and mood.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 6

**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,

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11



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**Obituary**



**Dr. Shirley Teaford Urquia** of Alexandria, VA passed away on February 25, 2024 at the age of 92 in Richmond, VA. She was preceded in death by her parents, John K. Teaford and Selene Brierly Teaford, her husband Col. Alfred P. Urquia, and her niece Dana McClain. She is survived by her sister Joan Teaford Goree, son Dr. David C. Urquia (Dorothy Laite Urquia), daughter Cynthia U. Caravati Lake (Kevin Allan Lake), granddaughters Dr. Lindsey Urquia and Morgan Urquia Poletti (Caio Poletti), step granddaughters Jane Lake and Elizabeth Lake, nieces Brigitte de Cambourg, Francoise Urquia, Debbie Lyons and nephew Dr. Ray Lyons.

Born and raised in Union City, Indiana, Shirley graduated from West Side High School. She attended Indiana University where she obtained her Bachelors and Master Degrees in Education and met her future husband Alfred, who was commissioned into the Air Force in 1952. Shirley taught at Elementary schools wherever Al was stationed including Montgomery, AL, Tokyo, Japan, Honolulu, HI, and Wiesbaden, Germany. After tours of duty were over, they settled in Alexandria, VA where Shirley obtained her Doctorate Degree in Elementary Education at George Washington University and career positions included teaching at Mt. Vernon and Ramsey Elementary Schools, Assistant Principal at Polk and Stonewall Jackson Elementary Schools, Principal at George Mason Elementary and Assistant Superintendent of Schools (Elementary Education) and interim Superintendent of Schools for the City of Alexandria.

Shirley was an avid reader, loved to garden, collected antiques and was a talented cook and enjoyed these activities after retiring from the City of Alexandria school system. She moved to Richmond, VA in 2021 to be closer to her children.

Family and friends are invited to gather for a visitation at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA on March 19, 2024 from 9:00-11:00am followed by a memorial service in the chapel at 11:00am. Shirley will be interred next to her husband Alfred at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to the Campagna Center's "Wright to Read" program. Visit their website at [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org) for donation information.

**Employment**

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-Werner Heisenberg

**Legals**

**ABC LICENSE**  
Woodland Kelly Financial Corp trading as AR Workshop Alexandria, 1212 King St, Alexandria Alexandria City, Virginia 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Retail Marketplace Application - Art Instruction Studio, Wine, Beer, Consumed On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Stephanie Woodland Kelly, Owner. 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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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# Arena Fail

FROM PAGE 1  
Macdonald agrees the plan still has time left on the clock.

"We are not relaxing our guard until the final buzzer sounds on April 17, when the budget will be approved and possibly amended," he said.

Even if the proposal gets approval at the state level, members of the Alexandria City Council would also have their say on the matter. While most council members have spoken in favor of the arena, Vice Mayor Amy Jackson recently became one of the first members to publicly express opposition earlier this month.

"Fully expected it," Jackson posted on social media after news broke that the budget would not include funding for the proposal. "It was not ready for prime time. Let's start discussing another path for an entertainment district without an arena but [one that] will have affordable family-centric activities for our youth and families!"

Macdonald also spoke on the potential for alternative urbanization projects in the area.

"I think there are other development options that will result in far fewer environmental and quality of life impacts, and create a more sustainable revenue stream," he said. "There needs to be development in Potomac Yard, but a sportsplex is simply not suitable for Alexandria."

Results from a recent poll of Del Ray, Hume Springs, Lynhaven and Rosemont residents conducted jointly by the neighborhood civic associations seem to agree that the City is not ready for an arena.

The survey, which had 496 respondents, found that 58 percent oppose the project, 29 percent support it, 12 percent have mixed opinions and less than 1 percent are unsure.

"[Arena proponents] failed to prove this was a good public investment," said Macdonald. "The city failed to engage the community from the start in a meaningful way, preferring instead to ignore public concerns and hire lobbyists (using our local tax dollars) to push the bill through the General Assembly."

Wilson says he agrees that more work must be done to get residents on board.

"There are still many details on transportation, neighborhood protection, land-use and beyond that must be addressed in a collaborative community process," he said.

According to Landrum, the partnership is open to community input as well.

"Should the project move forward," she said, "we welcome all feedback on how to make sure its implementation is successful."

But until at least April 17, the plan is stuck.

"Our hope is that Alexandrians will be able to make the decision about whether this moves forward," said Wilson. "For that to happen, we need the General Assembly to take action."



# ENTERTAINMENT

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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>.

## APRIL 12-13

**2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Celebrate the start of gardening season with the American Horticultural Society's annual Spring Garden Market at River Farm. This much-anticipated outdoor event, one of River Farm's largest and most popular fundraisers, brings together plant, seed and garden accessory retailers, nature-focused artists and authors, gardening experts, food vendors, and fun for the whole family. Proceeds from the Spring Garden Market directly contribute to the maintenance, beautification and preservation of River Farm, headquarters of the AHS since 1973. Entrance to the Spring Garden Market may be purchased online beginning in March at [www.ahsgardening.org/springgardenmarket2024](http://www.ahsgardening.org/springgardenmarket2024).

## SATURDAY, APRIL 20

**Historic Garden Week Old Town.** Take a behind-the-scenes peek into the spectacular homes and gardens of six historic Old Town Alexandria properties kicking off the Garden Club of Virginia's historic annual statewide tour. Offering a glimpse into the town's storied past, the tour features homes dating from 1785. Expertly updated, tastefully furnished, and filled with spectacular floral arrangements designed by blue ribbon garden club members, each property features lovely, curated gardens filled with bountiful Spring flowers timed to bloom in concert with the tour. Tickets include admission to five private homes and gardens, Lee-Fendall House, a one-time private home with a rich history that now houses a museum and garden, as well as six nearby public properties, including: Mount Vernon, River Farm, Carlyle House, Gunston Hall and Green Spring Gardens. Advance tickets are \$55 online at [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org) and may be purchased tour day at the Alexandria Visitor's Center located at 221 King Street. The Garden Club



The 2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm takes place April 12-13, 2024.

of Virginia's (GCV) eight-day statewide tour from April 20 to 27 includes 170 private properties throughout Virginia. The Old Town Alexandria tour is hosted by the GCV's two local garden clubs, Hunting Creek Garden Club and Garden Club of Alexandria. For more information, visit [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

## SATURDAY, APRIL 20

**Third Annual ALX Dog Walk.** 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. A 2-mile dog walk and celebration is back in Old Town Alexandria. Walkers meet at Oronoco Bay Park in Alexandria for an unforgettable experience. Walk and spread awareness about the importance of plastic-free and sustainable living. It's time to educate the community and make a positive impact. Pre-event registration check-in on Wednesday April 17th, from 12 pm to 7 pm to check-in and collect your sustainable Goodie Bag, t-shirt and doggie bandana, treat, and more. Register now! [www.alxdogwalk.com/register](http://www.alxdogwalk.com/register)

## 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).

## MARCH

- Fri. 15: Newmyer Flyer Presents LAUREL CANYON. \$35.00. SOLD OUT!
- Sat. 16: Tom Rush with Matt Nakoa & Cheryl Wheeler. \$49.50
- Sun. 17: WATCH Awards -7pm- \$20.00. SOLD OUT!
- Fri. 22: Who's Bad - The Ultimate Michael Jackson Exp. \$39.50 (Resched from 1/26). SOLD OUT!
- Sat. 23: Oleta Adams. \$45.00
- Sun. 24: Honoring Teddy Pendergrass, with Gladys Knight & Eddie Hendricks Tributes. \$39.50
- Wed. 27: The Zombies w/ Wendy Colonna. \$59.50
- Thu. 28: Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives w/ Wyatt Ellis. \$76.00. SOLD OUT!
- Fri. 29: Johnnie Steele & The Steele4Real Band. \$35.00
- Sat. 30: Raul Malo (of The Mavericks) with Seth Walker. \$49.50. SOLD OUT!

## A Shoe Has Dropped



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Well, you asked for it. By virtue of reading this column regularly, I am here to tell you that the scan results came in. Indeed, it will be a, as titled on my 2/28/24 column "Rocky Road Ahead" (since I'm between a rock and a hard place), "a spot of bother," as the Brits' say. Treating the thyroid cancer damages the kidney (has damaged the kidney), not treating the cancer sort of stops the damage to the kidneys - which is a huge thing because I am perilously close to becoming a dialysis patient. However, stopping the cancer medicine enables the cancer to then go untreated. (I can't see how that's good thing.) And as of this morning, the immediate future seems to be not to restart my cancer medicine. Which is sort of a problem because the results on the scan indicated some tumors grew while others were stable. (Typically, when on the medication, the tumors have been stable.) Now what? I suppose I might get some answers later this week when I meet with the nephrologist (kidney specialist) for the first time. But I think I know what the outcome/upshot will be. Given the levels on this week's lab work (along with the scan showing simultaneous growth/movement of the tumors in my lungs), which had multiple indicators that my kidneys are suffering (down to 25% of normal - and there's no way to reverse the decline), the immediate future looks bumpy indeed. There's a famous sports' line that applies here: "You can't stop him/her, you can only hope to contain him/her." I hope I can maintain them (the kidneys) because should the kidneys continue their decline, it will be "Katie bar the door," as we say in New England, which means trouble, and trouble means d, d, dialysis.

At least my oncologist and the nephrologist are talking; trying to coordinate a path forward that offers me some hope and quality of life. (My oncologist has always been concerned with my 'quality of life') The problem is, my wife and I have started reading online about my situation: patient being treated for thyroid cancer with side effects damaging the kidney is not unusual. In fact, it reads to be downright predictable. Predictable in that the doctors know the side-effect consequences of treating thyroid cancer. Unfortunately, there may not be much they can do to slow down the negative impact. It doesn't seem likely that the thyroid cancer will go into remission by itself. I guess I'll have to be happy with the knowledge that the doctors know what's happening and why and try not to be miserable that they may not be able to do much about it. To invoke Joseph Heller: it's a bit of a "Catch 22." And to invoke Alan Arkin's reply: "That's some catch, that catch 22." (Meaning: Damned if I do, damned if I don't.)

Still, it's probably keeping me alive by stopping the cancer medicine and not making a bad situation worse. And while the medicine is adversely affecting the kidneys, I must hope the slow-moving cancer will be - while not on any medication, as slow-moving as it has been since late Feb. 2009. But, to quote the Brits again: "It's early days." However, I wouldn't say it's a preliminary finding. Hardly. Nor would I say it's cast in stone but it's rocky from where I sit. And though the recliners that I'll likely be sitting in at the dialysis center are themselves comfortable, the reason I'm sitting there is quite uncomfortable: my body is incapable of performing a major bodily function. So much so that I'll need help from a machine multiple hours and days per week. Quality of life? Well, dialysis sure beats the alternative. However, until I'm in that chair for all those hours and days, I will refrain from going down any rabbit holes. Heck, I haven't even been officially diagnosed/referred yet. And not that I believe in miracles, but I remember a very comforting bit of encouragement I regularly received from my late brother, Richard, all those years ago and during various intermittent medical stops along the way while being treated for non-small cell lung cancer - and not dying; when invariably I had to change my regimen for one health reason or another: "Whatever they've tried with you, you've always done better than they expected. You're the exception that proves the rule." And that will be my attitude going forward: to think positive about the negative. As one of The Stooges said years ago: "Rome wasn't built in a day. And neither was Milwaukee." I must be patient (pun intended) and take it one day at a time. As Yogi Berra so famously said: "It ain't over till it's over."

I'm just afraid, quite frankly. I've survived so much longer than the original "13 month to two-years" prognosis (15 years and counting, hopefully still counting) I was given at the beginning. I had no idea treating the cancer would sort of lead me down the garden path so that one day, if I lived long enough, I might have kidney problems - due to the very medicine I was taking to treat the cancer (what I refer to as my underlying disease). But now, at a much older age than I was in 2009 - with a weakened immune system to boot, somehow, I must try to "keep on keepin' on." I suppose it's possible. Not sure if it's probable though. As the doctor in Miles City told Augustus McRay ("Lonesome Dove") when Gus refused to allow the doctor to amputate his leg: "I assure you sir, the alternative is grim."

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

## Fran Redmon

FROM PAGE 2

"We have shared values and enjoy being a team," Redmon said when named a Living Legend. "We can't imagine not partnering with each other. It takes a lot of planning and work to have a partnership in life and in the community, but when you find your niche and do something about it, you've found your place."

The Redmons were named the 2008 University of Illinois Alumni of the Year, the first time the distinction was awarded to a married couple. In 2017, the couple was recognized for their many years of leadership and service to the community at the Senior Services of Alexandria gala.

"From my days as a substitute teacher in the Alexandria public schools to working with arts organizations, it's been a joy watching this community grow," Redmon said at the gala.

Redmon is survived by Gant Redmon, her husband of 66 years; son Charles Gant Redmon III of Boston; granddaughter Hannah Winslow Redmon of Basalt, Colo.; and granddaughter Leah Virginia



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Gant and Fran Redmon with David Baker and Jeannie and Harry Baldwin at a Senior Services of Alexandria gala.

Redmon of Melrose, Mass.

Visitation will be held Friday, March 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road. A Celebration of Life will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 118 N. Washington St., on Saturday, March 16, at 11 a.m. Interment in Ivy Hill Cemetery will be private at a later date. Contributions to Goodwin Living Founda-

tion, 4800 Fillmore Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311 are suggested.

Redmon, who hosted fundraisers and events at her home for as many as 250 guests at a time, valued social connections in building friendships, fundraising and advocacy, saying, "People have to be so aware of the friendships they have and how we can help each other."



# The Spring Market is Off & Running!

As the weather warms up, so does the real estate market. It's the perfect time to buy or sell your home, with properties blossoming onto the market and eager buyers ready to make their move. If you're considering entering the market this spring, now is the time to act. Contact me today to take advantage of this vibrant and bustling season in real estate!



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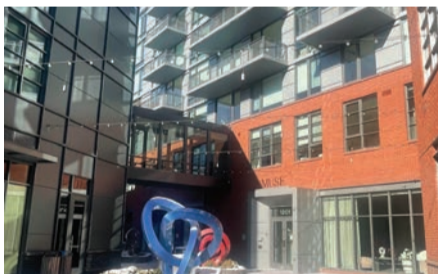
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**25 WILKES STREET**  
SOLD | \$1,090,000



**1900 WINDMILL LANE**  
SOLD | \$1,095,000



**1201 N ROYAL STREET #606**  
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**1250 S WASHINGTON STREET #302**  
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**7938 BAYBERRY DRIVE**  
SOLD | \$685,000



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