

## Head of the Class ACHS teacher Eva Irwin surprised with \$25k Milken Educator Award.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Rumors were swirling as students and faculty at Alexandria City High School prepared for an assembly March 19 that ended with a surprise announcement that English teacher Eva Irwin was the recipient of a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award, one of only 70 presented across the country.

"I had no idea," said Irwin after being presented with what has been dubbed "the Oscar of teaching."

"I heard all sorts of crazy things, even that Denzel Washington was coming. No one knew."

Milken Educator Awards founder Lowell Milken presented Irwin with the award along with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Lisa Coons in front of a gymnasium filled with cheering students, teachers and local dignitaries. The Award includes an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize that Irwin may use for any purpose.

"During her short time at Alexandria City High School, Eva Irwin's dedication and leadership are commendable and making a positive impact on stu-



A check for \$25,000 is presented to ACHS teacher Eva Irwin, third from left, as the recipient of the Milken Education Award. The surprise announcement was made March 19 at ACHS.

dents, colleagues and the community," Milken said. "We are proud to welcome Eva to the Milken Edu-

catators and students." Prior to the surprise announcement, Milken addressed the assembly.

"I am here today because I believe that teachers and principals have the most important job in our country," Milken said. "We ask them to prepare every one of you so that you can have a successful

future. What could be more important than that?"

SEE ACHS TEACHER, PAGE 5

**"The Milken Educator Awards were created to say that greatness in education should be recognized and celebrated."**

— Founder Lowell Milken

ator Network and look forward to seeing her accomplish even greater things in the future to advance ed-



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria City High School English teacher Eva Irwin reacts to being named the recipient of the Milken Foundation Educator Award during a March 19 assembly at ACHS. Irwin is the first Alexandria educator to receive the award.

## Friends of Guest House Receives Transformational \$2M from Mackenzie Scott's Yield Giving

Friends of Guest House, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting women reentering the community after incarceration, has achieved a monumental milestone in its 50th-anniversary journey. Friends of Guest House has been awarded a \$2 million grant from philanthropist Mackenzie Scott's Yield Giving fund, as one of the Yield Giving Open Call's awardees working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States.

In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations whose explicit purpose is to enable individuals and families to achieve substantive improvement in their well-being through foundational resources. In total, 6,353 organizations

from around the nation participated in this grant process for the opportunity to win a \$1 million award, and after two rounds of consideration, Guest House was ultimately recognized as one of the "highest scoring" organizations (out of the 250 chosen award winners) and was instead awarded \$2 million for their mission.

"This transformative grant from Mackenzie Scott's Yield Giving is a testament to the dedication and impact of our organization over the past five decades," said Sonja Allen, Executive Director of Friends of Guest House. "We are deeply grateful for this extraordinary gesture of support that will enable us to strengthen our programs, reach more women in need, and create lasting positive change in our community."

Founded in 1974, Friends of Guest House has been a symbol of hope and stability for women seeking to break the cycle of incarceration and build brighter futures for themselves and their families. Through comprehensive reentry services, including housing, employment assistance, counseling, and life skills training, the organization equips women with the tools and support they need to successfully reintegrate into society.

As Friends of Guest House celebrates its 50th anniversary with its Half a Century of Hope Gala on June 6, the organization remains committed to its mission of empowering women to transform their lives and make meaningful contributions to their communities. Despite this significant milestone and the recent grant from Mackenzie

Scott's Yield Giving, the need for reentry support for women remains critical.

"Our work is far from over," said Allen. "This grant will not solve the problem of the lack of resources and grace available to our women as they reenter our community. But it is a lifesaver. To be blunt, this transformative gift came at the most opportune time to help make our mission more sustainable for the future. ..."

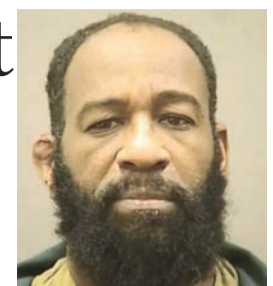
"Our organization has welcomed over 5,000+ women in our programs, and with the continued help of our community, we can transform even more lives in the future."

To learn more about Friends of Guest House and support their mission, please visit [www.friendsofguesthouse.org](http://www.friendsofguesthouse.org).

## NEWS

# Old Town Manhunt Leads to Arrest

APD apprehends suspect wanted in N.C. murder.



Rahman Akbar Ferguson

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

the suspect on foot, eventually apprehending him without incident in the 100 block of Madison Place.

A manhunt through the streets of Alexandria during the early morning hours of March 20 ended in the apprehension of a homicide suspect wanted for a murder committed in North Carolina the previous day.

Rahaman Akbar Ferguson, 53, was apprehended by Alexandria police following a search that included helicopter patrols by Fairfax County Police and U.S. Park Police. Virginia State Police, the Metropolitan Police Department Harbor Patrol and APD K-9 bloodhounds were also part of the search that began when the suspect was spotted driving north on Interstate 395 in Alexandria.

At approximately 10:57 p.m., APD officers received a “be-on-the-lookout” notice for a male suspect wanted on charges related to a homicide in Huntersville, N.C. At 11:39 p.m. officers spotted the suspect’s vehicle, a black Dodge Ram, and pursued as the suspect exited the interstate and drove through the streets of Old Town.

After traveling south on North Fairfax Street, the suspect turned west on King Street then north on Washington Street before heading east toward the waterfront. Police pursued the vehicle as it drove to a dead end in the 100 block of Madison Street where the suspect fled the vehicle and ran from the scene. Officers pursued

APD issued the following alert via social media at 12:19 a.m.: “There is a significant police presence in northeast Old Town at Madison St. and Rivergate Pl. as officers search for a homicide suspect from another jurisdiction. Area residents are asked to remain in their homes and lock all doors.”

According to police in North Carolina, Ferguson had been identified as the man accused of killing 55-year-old Sureita Angelia Samuels, of Huntersville, N.C., in a Walgreens parking lot just after 6:30 p.m. on March 19.

Witnesses described hearing gunshots and saw a man, later identified as Ferguson, getting out of the victim’s vehicle right after the shots were heard. Ferguson got into a black Dodge Ram and left the area heading for Virginia.

The Alexandria Police Department later informed the Huntersville Police Department they had attempted to stop Ferguson’s truck, but he fled from them twice, crashed, and ran from the truck. He was taken into custody at approximately 2:15 a.m. after a search of the North Old Town area.

APD is assisting Huntersville Police in the recovery of evidence in the North Carolina shooting. Ferguson is being held at the Alexandria Adult Detention Center and is awaiting extradition to North Carolina.

## Federal Funds Earmarked for Local Projects

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

family have no financial interest in any projects for which they request funding.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer announced that he had secured funding for 15 projects in Virginia’s 8th congressional districts including four in the City of Alexandria and three in Fairfax County.

The rules adopted by the House of Representatives allow each Representative to submit FY24 funding requests (earmarks) for up to 15 projects in their Congressional districts within a limited scope of federal accounts and direct funds to state and local government and select non-profits, and with each Member certifying that they and their

The Alexandria projects included \$1 million for On-Route Electric Transit Bus Opportunity Chargers, \$963,000 for The Virginia Tech “Smart Mobility Lab,” \$670,000 for a Pilot Program for Crime and Violence Prevention for the City of Alexandria and \$850,000 for Restoration of Affordable Housing at 1022 Pendleton Street Boarding House.

Projects in Fairfax County include \$850,000 for Bush Hill Elementary Safe Routes to School, \$1 million for Construction of an Early Childcare Center at the Original Mount Vernon High School and \$500,000 for Mason Neck Trail Northern Segment.

## City of Alexandria Food Insecurity Report

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) released the “Food Insecurity Report: Understanding the Disparities and Experiences of Hunger Across the City of Alexandria” on March 13.

The report summarizes an assessment of food insecurity for families in Alexandria, the resources available, the experiences of people accessing food programs, and recommendations for improvements to better meet the needs of residents.

Read the executive summary or the full report and share your feedback.

Key findings include:

❖ 8% of households in Alexandria are food insecure and 9% of Alexandria residents are living with resources below the federal poverty line.

❖ 44% of individuals in Alexandria who are food insecure are not eligible for government assistance due to income.

SEE FOOD INSECURITY, PAGE 8  
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# Will the Arena Create 30,000 Jobs?

Secretive calculations raise questions about proposal.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The promise of 30,000 jobs has been at the center of arguments in favor of a controversial proposal for a sports arena in Potomac Yard. It was a talking point for Gov. Glenn Youngkin at the December announcement, and he has deployed it countless times in person and online. Supporters frequently use it as an argument in favor of the proposal to create a public authority that would own the land and lease it to Monumental Sports & Entertainment.

But is it true?

Two months after announcing the proposal, the city of Alexandria is now finally releasing some additional information about how a consultant calculated the projection of 30,000 jobs. But the one-page document that was produced 54 days after a request for information is heavy on graphics and light on details. It says nothing about the assumptions leading to the numbers. Questions to the city government about the assumptions



SOURCE: CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Consultant HR&A says the arena proposal will create 30,000 jobs. But does that number stand up to scrutiny?

were referred to HR&A, the consulting firm that is the source of the projection. HR&A declined to be interviewed for this story, referring questions to the Alexandria Econom-

ic Development Partnership.

“The delay in providing you specific information about jobs is that information was never intended to be released at this level,”

says Stephanie Landrum, president and CEO of the AEDP. “We cannot release information while we are still negotiating, and frankly that has been the major deciding factor in how and what we’ve released.”

THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY is raising SEE SECRETIVE CALCULATIONS, PAGE 4

	JOB CATEGORY	DIRECT*	INDIRECT*	INDUCED*	TOTAL	NOTES
ARENA PHASE	Arena/Event Day Operations	941	273	199	1,413	Includes all event/game day activities, including parking, security, food concessions, arena retail sales, players, and other arena event activity.
	Performers	—	—	—	—	Performers do not represent any permanent jobs to Alexandria or the Commonwealth of Virginia since the performers are assumed to be traveling through rather than being based in the city or state.
	All Other Arena Phase Activity	1,184	537	601	2,322	Includes activity associated with MSE HQ, spec office, retail, and remainder of Arena Phase development program.
PHASE I	Retail Employment	242	49	46	337	Includes direct employment associated with all commercial retail space in this phase, inclusive of food & beverage uses.
	Multifamily Employment	72	44	28	144	Includes direct employment associated with residential development such as maintenance/repair, on-site staff of multifamily buildings, etc.
	Mixed Use Employment	830	213	191	1,234	—
PHASE II	Retail Employment	302	50	40	392	Includes direct employment associated with all commercial retail space in this phase, inclusive of food & beverage uses.
	Multifamily Employment	75	47	29	151	Includes direct employment associated with residential development such as maintenance/repair, on-site staff of multifamily buildings, etc.
	Mixed Use Employment	1,113	882	787	2,782	—
PHASE III	Retail Employment	832	201	175	1,208	Includes direct employment associated with all commercial retail space in this phase, inclusive of food & beverage uses.
	Multifamily Employment	104	64	40	208	Includes direct employment associated with residential development such as maintenance/repair, on-site staff of multifamily buildings, etc.
	Mixed Use Employment	7,745	6,143	5,476	19,364	—
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13,440</b>	<b>8,503</b>	<b>7,612</b>	<b>29,555</b>	

\*Direct jobs reflect employment generated on-site in Potomac Yard by operations and activity in the new district. Indirect jobs reflect additional employment generated from spending on goods and services by the companies making up direct employment. Induced jobs reflect additional employment generated by the personal spending of direct employees. Indirect and induced jobs together make up the multiplier impact generated by direct jobs.

SOURCE: CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Details about jobs provided by the city of Alexandria 54 days after a request for information

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## Agenda Alexandria on Proposed Monumental Arena

On Monday, March 25, 2024, Agenda Alexandria will host a panel discussion at the historic Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum, starting promptly at 7 p.m.

### Panelists:

- ❖ Katie Waynick, President of the Del Ray Citizens Association, spearheaded a survey regarding the arena plan in collaboration with neighboring civic associations — Rosemont, Lynhaven, and Hume Springs. She will unveil survey findings.

- ❖ Former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald, a key figure in the Coalition to Stop the Arena.

- ❖ Dr. Dennis Coates, Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland Baltimore County

- ❖ Tom Kopko, board member of the Cameron Station Civic Association.

Note: Board members of Agenda Alexandria made several attempts to invite decision-makers from Monumental Sports and Entertainment, JBG Smith (owner of the Potomac Yard property), and the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP) to participate as panelists but these parties declined to participate.

- ❖ March 25, 7 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314

# Secretive Calculations Raise Questions About Proposal

FROM PAGE 3

new questions about the proposal, which is now in a state of limbo after being rejected by the state Senate. Lawmakers are expected to return for a reconvene session next month, and they could theoretically consider a budget amendment from the governor reviving the discussion. Even if there's no resolution on April 17, the governor could theoretically call for a special session whenever he thinks he has the votes.

"The Senate has to engage," the governor told reporters last week. "I would strongly suggest that they piggyback on the great work that was done in the House so we can get together and deliver something for Virginia that helps all of Virginia in the most extraordinary economic development opportunity that I think Virginia has seen."

Not everyone agrees about the merits of the economic development opportunity. Critics worry that the 54-day delay in providing information about the 30,000 jobs is a red flag, and they point to a lack of specifics in the document that was eventually provided. They say the lack of detail is alarming, especially considering the magnitude of what the governor is asking lawmakers to approve. Ultimately, the idea that the area would create 30,000 jobs has not been substantiated.

"This is ludicrous," says Heywood Sanders, a professor of public policy at the University of Texas San Antonio. "It's simply not plausible."

**THE TWO-MONTH** delay in providing support for the claim of 30,000 jobs is an indication to Sanders that the city and Monumental are now scrambling to come up with some kind of data to justify a claim that's already in widespread circulation. Many media outlets have reported the claim even though its origins are still shrouded in mystery. Now that the city is sharing the one-page document detailing some additional information about the 30,000 jobs, Sanders says it's clear the emperor has no clothes.

"It either assumes that anyone who reads this is totally naive," he says, "or it's based on the assumption that the governor of Virginia quoted 30,000 jobs some months ago as the product of this project, and they somehow finally had to come up with a document that got close to 30,000."

Landrum denies that city leaders were scrambling to come up with an after-the-fact justification. She says that the projection was from June, when HR&A delivered a document that included that forecast. That document has never been released to the public, although the city did eventually release a document from HR&A dated Jan. 22 that makes predictions about the number of software publishers and management consultants who would be employed at Potomac Yard. That document accounted for some but not all of the 30,000 jobs, which is why an additional document needed to explain the forecast.

"It's not a normal part of what gets released to the public because it does include proprietary information," says Landrum. "Frankly, it shows other businesses how we evaluate projects and will give them better

Table 20 | Proposed Private Development Operations: Office (Non-Arena-Related Office Uses)

Office Industry	Scenario 1: Baseline			Scenario 2: Arena + Accelerated Dev.		
	Square Feet	SF Per Employee	Total Jobs	Square Feet	SF Per Employee	Total Jobs
Online Retail	59,979	152	395	113,728	152	748
Software Publisher	59,979	152	395	113,728	152	748
Data Processing	59,979	152	395	113,728	152	748
Internet Publishing	59,979	152	395	113,728	152	748
Computer Programming	59,979	152	395	113,728	152	748
Computer Design	59,979	152	395	113,728	152	748
Scientific Research	59,979	152	395	113,728	152	748
Advertising & PR	69,975	152	460	132,682	152	873
Management Consulting	69,975	152	460	132,682	152	873
Management Of Companies	69,975	152	460	132,682	152	873
Design	69,975	152	460	132,682	152	873
Legal Services	69,975	152	460	132,682	152	873
Marketing Research	69,975	152	460	132,682	152	873
<b>Total</b>	<b>839,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,524</b>	<b>1,592,189</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,475</b>

Source: JBG SMITH; CBRE, HR&A

Note: Analysis assumes employment at non-arena-related offices uses is made up of 50% technology jobs (software publisher, data processing, internet publishing, computer programming, computer design, and scientific research) and 50% professional services (advertising & PR, management consulting, management of companies, design, legal services, and marketing research).

Note: Space per office employee is based on analysis by CBRE of average office space per worker in current "post-Covid" environment.

SOURCE: CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

A document dated Jan. 22 has some details about some of the jobs projected for the entertainment district

**"This is ludicrous. It's simply not plausible."**

— Heywood Sanders, professor of public policy, University of Texas San Antonio

information to come negotiate with jurisdictions moving forward."

**THE SECRECY** surrounding the prediction is alarming to critics of the proposal, who say that the public has a right to know how these numbers were calculated. The idea that supporters could keep that kind of information secret based on a claim of protecting proprietary information is not persuasive to critics, who wonder if more data might have been available sooner if it had supported the thesis.

"If they really understood what was going to happen and really had the cost and benefits mastered, they would have rolled those out right away," says Greg LeRoy, executive director of Good Jobs First, a non-profit research group on economic development. "Without giving us the underlying assumptions, there's no way to judge this. And there's every reason to believe that it's inflated by faulty assumptions."

For now, all those assumptions remain a secret. And elected officials in Richmond

and Alexandria are being asked to make decisions based on faith that the projection of 30,000 jobs is believable. City officials say HR&A has already done a significant amount of work in Potomac Yard, and they stand by the projection as a solid analysis.

Critics aren't buying it.

"If there are a whole bunch of numbers and you don't have the backing data and you don't have the footnotes, then the numbers can say absolutely anything," says Neil deMause, co-author of the book "Field of Schemes," which is also the title of his blog. "And I think that's kind of the goal here."

**HE POINTS TO DECADES** of research he says show these kinds of deals are bad for taxpayers. Team owners rake in profits, he says, and some businesses stand to benefit. But, he says, in example after example the rich get richer while the public gets fleeced. City leaders say their proposal is different because it catalyzes one use and a district around it.

"I guess it's possible that Alexandria will be different from all of the other hundreds of times this has happened since the 1980s," said deMause. "But I would not put my money or Virginia taxpayer money on it."

When asked for a model of a publicly financed deal that worked out well for taxpayers, Landrum instead points to a 2013 project in Georgia. Cobb County spent \$300 million in taxpayer funds to construct Truist

Park to host the Atlanta Braves. Advocates said the deal would be a home run, but an analysis from Kennesaw State University concluded that the project resulted in a property tax increase rather than a rollback.

"Despite being ideally located and developed as part of a comprehensive mixed-use project, Truist Park is not an exception to the dismal economics of stadiums," wrote J.C. Bradbury, a professor of economics at Kennesaw State University. "This stadium has not been different from past publicly subsidized stadiums that have failed to generate promised economic returns."

**ACCORDING TO INFORMATION** that has been released, almost 1,000 people will be directly employed at the arena. These include parking, security, food concessions and arena retail sales. These are jobs critics say are not really created at all because they are essentially pirated from the existing facility in DC. The vast majority of the jobs come in what city officials call "Phase III," which starts in 2031 and continues through 2036.

"There's actually a large number of jobs on day one because the whole project needs to be constructed," says Landrum. "So in addition to the 30,000 permanent jobs that we've shared there are also 17,000 construction jobs that will be operating on site from day one and throughout the buildout of the various phases."



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

ACHS students hold signs revealing the amount being presented to Eva Irwin as recipient of the Milken Educator Award March 19 at ACHS.

# Head of the Class

FROM PAGE 1

Irwin is the first Alexandria City Public Schools teacher to receive the Award and was unaware of her candidacy.

"I am truly honored that they see such potential in me," Irwin said. "But this award could have gone to so many teachers at Alexandria City High School. We are truly blessed with the best staff in the state."

Irwin joins fellow Virginian Travis Dodds, a science teacher and department chair at Atlee High School in Mechanicsville, who received his Award earlier that day. Dodds was also first in his division – Hanover County Public Schools – to receive the Milken Educator Award.

"We are blessed with outstanding teachers in Virginia, and Eva Irwin at Alexandria City High School is one of the best in the nation," Coons said. "It is great to see her receive the recognition she deserves and that we could all celebrate her achievement. She is a great representative for Virginia teachers across the Commonwealth."

A relative newcomer to ACHS, her first



English teacher Eva Irwin waves after being named the recipient of the Milken Educator Award March 19 at ACHS.

year (2022-23) saw her impact contribute to notable student achievement growth in English and writing. Seventy-five percent of students passed the state English exam and 82 percent passed the state writing exam, both up from 68 percent in 2021-22 and above state and district rates.

Irwin also serves as the substitute assistant principal, the grade 11 English team professional learning community (PLC) lead, and the English department's representative on the Staff Advisory Council. As an assistant coach, Irwin helped lead the varsity volleyball team to a state championship in 2022 and serves as the head coach for the junior varsity team.

Irwin completed her Bachelor of Arts in child development and education at Washington and Jefferson College in 2014 and earned a Master of Arts in educational leadership and policy studies from Virginia Tech in 2021.

"Teachers play such a critical role yet we seldom give them the recognition, the honor and the celebration that they deserve," Milken said. "The Milken Educator Awards were created to say that greatness in education should be recognized and celebrated."

For more information, visit [www.MilkenEducatorAwards.org](http://www.MilkenEducatorAwards.org) or call the Milken Family Foundation at (310) 570-4772.



ACHS teacher Eva Irwin addresses the media after being named the recipient of the Milken Educator Award March 19 at ACHS.



# SPRING 2024

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DAILY STARTING: MARCH 20

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MARCH 23 THROUGH NOV. 2024

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APRIL 14

Del Ray Dog Fest

APRIL 20

ALX Dog Walk and Sustainability Festival

APRIL 20

91st Old Town Alexandria Historic Homes & Gardens Tour

APRIL 28

PNC Parkway Classic 10 Miler, 5K & Kid's Dash

MAY 17-19

Mount Vernon Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour

MAY 19

Old Town Festival of Speed & Style



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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Jayden Moseley, left, and his mother Lisa and another scout at the project.



Jayden Moseley earned his Eagle Scout badge with this project at the cemetery in Alexandria.

# Eagle Scout Project Focuses On Historic Cemetery

By MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Through the years, the tree roots, weather and erosion take their toll on many wooded cemeteries in the Alexandria area so when the scouts at Hayfield Troop 1519 became aware of this happening at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria, Jayden Moseley jumped in and took it on for his Eagle Scout project.

His project, called the “Ivy Hill Cemetery Conservation Improvement project,” employed planning and manpower to help preserve this historical cemetery. Jayden’s grandparents are buried there, and also a fellow friend and scout

of Troop 1519 so he looked at this with familiarity as well. Not only are the graves of his relatives at this cemetery but also graves of Charles Goodman a modernist architect and primary architect for Hollin Hills, and Wernher von Braun, the German rocket scientist who created the V-2 ballistic missile.

They all set their sights on Saturday, March 9 to meet at the cemetery and the rain came out as well, but this didn’t hinder the project. In fact, Jayden and other volunteer scouts that came to help brushed off a little rainfall and mud, completing the project as planned.

They worked with the current Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society, led by Lucy Goddin,

to establish what steps needed to be taken and the materials needed to make this a positive addition to this part of Alexandria. The scouts planted native trees and shrubs, put in mulch and replaced benches that were in disrepair.

“The entire project was fantastic and shows the Hayfield community and our BSA Troop 1519 is the best troop and live by the scout law,” said Jayden.

The Scout Law has many virtues that sit well in the Moseley family including trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent, and these were all part of the energy that went into this project.



Discussing the project beforehand.



Others from Hayfield Boy Scout Troop 1519 helped out.

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## NEWS

# Online Tickets Available for River Farm's Marketplace

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. The 2024 Spring Garden Market will take place April 12 & 13, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at River Farm.

Entrance to the Spring Garden Market may be purchased at the event or online in advance at [www.ahsgardening.org/sgm2024](http://www.ahsgardening.org/sgm2024). Entry fee is \$5 per person for walk-up or \$20 per car including all passengers. There is no entry fee or parking fee for AHS members including car passengers. Children six years of age and under are free. Additional restrictions and exceptions are available on the Spring Garden Market webpage.

Joining the Spring Garden Market for the first time this year are Mid-Atlantic Pine Straw Mulch, Plants with Purpose Farm featuring edible landscape plants, Gryffin River Shack and their decorative oyster garlands and wreaths, Pawfectly Delicious Dog Treats, and many others. Returning horticultural favorites include Nature

by Design, Hill House Farm & Nursery, and Radical Roots Community Farm, among many others. Ask your toughest plant and gardening questions with the Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association. Boost your energy with delicious botanical baked goods from Lilian and Nathalie Cake, a cup of fresh coffee from The Little Well, and the always pleasing barbecue from Rocklands.

Proceeds from the Spring Garden Market directly contribute to the maintenance, beautification and preservation of River Farm, headquarters of the AHS since 1973. Once part of George Washington's farmland, the 25-acre site overlooking the Potomac River is enhanced by a blend of formal and naturalistic gardens, including an award-winning children's garden, woodlands, and many breathtaking views. With free access to the community six days a week, River Farm is truly a local and national horticultural and historical treasure.

River Farm is located at 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, Virginia 22308. Current hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free entry and parking (excluding special events). For more information, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 114 or visit [www.ahsgardening.org](http://www.ahsgardening.org)

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## Food Insecurity

FROM PAGE 2

❖ There are high satisfaction rates with current services, but some families have access challenges, including food availability on weekends and evenings.

❖ Four populations are identified as under-resourced: the unhoused, older adults, immigrants and non-English speakers, and the Latino community.

Certain population groups have a harder time accessing the tradition-

al charitable food system model, the report reveals. At the same time, thousands of community members facing food insecurity find the traditional models to fit their needs. The City of Alexandria can use its resources and networks to continue to provide the services currently appreciated by many people while adapting or adding programs that address the particular needs of those groups that are being missed.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the

ideal candidate. [www.volunteeral-alexandria.org](http://www.volunteeral-alexandria.org)

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit [www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto:volunteers@alive-inc.org).

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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.

## NOW THRU APRIL 7

**Seen Better Times Exhibition.** At Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union Street, Studio 312, Alexandria. MEG is pleased to announce Seen Better Times, a new fine art photography exhibition juried by Michael Borek. The exhibition features 24 images that depict scenes that have "seen better days." Juror Michael Borek says the images he chose from the 14 included photographers go behind the surface of obvious decay and "invite viewers to use their imaginations to finish the hint of a story that is sketched out, but unfinished." Exhibition Artists: Soomin Ham, Eric Johnson, Irina Lawton, Sandy LeBrun-Evans, Matt Leedham, Francine B. Livaditis, Maureen Minehan, David Myers, Van Pulley, Sarah Hood Salomon, Alan Sislen, Tom Sliter and Fred Zafran.

## 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



March Luck can be seen at Van Landingham Gallery at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria during the month of March.

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.

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. 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 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/exhibits](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.

## 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-min

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11



# Senior Services OF ALEXANDRIA



SSA is grateful for this support in our 56th year of service to the city of Alexandria's older adults.

Senior Services of Alexandria would like to thank all of its 2024 Gala, Raffle and Silent Auction sponsors, donors and volunteers for their generous support of SSA's Gala, an overwhelming success. A special thank you to Benchmark at Alexandria for being this year's Presenting Sponsor. It was good to return to the Westin for a delicious dinner, silent auction and raffle. We were pleased that we could honor Debra Collins, Brenda and Lucky Elliott and Donan Chancellor Wintermute for their commitment to making Alexandria a caring community for all ages. Lastly, thank you to Creative Liquid for the production of the beautiful honoree and volunteer videos.



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## Obituary

### Dennis Leon Cordell



Dennis Leon Cordell Sr., of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away on Thursday, March 14, 2024. He was the loving father of Dennis L. Cordell Jr. (Sarai Johnson), Rebecca L. Cordell Thompson (Jonathan Thompson,) and Amanda J. Casey (Sean Casey.) He was the devoted PopPop to Benjamin, Caroline, Campbell, Ella, and Margaux. He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Linda Joyce Cordell, sister, Alice Stoner, and parents, Joseph and Maybelle Cordell.

Dennis was born in Munich, Germany on March 22, 1948. His parents, stationed in Germany with the Air Force at the time, adopted him shortly after birth.

Dennis attended George Washington High School. After graduating in 1966, he majored in History at the College of William and Mary. After graduation in 1970, Dennis moved back to Alexandria to teach history at Parker Gray Middle School and began pursuing his Master's degree at George Mason University.

Shortly after moving back, he reconnected with a high school friend Joyce Dakin. They married in August 1973 and were together until her passing in 2008.

Dennis taught for 39 years, moving to George Washington Middle School, after Parker Gray closed. He retired from Alexandria City Public Schools in 2009.

He coached the girls' crew team for T.C. Williams High School (now known as Alexandria City) in the 1980s and Little League for 15 years.

He was a longtime member of Del Ray Baptist Church where he was baptized, became a deacon, and served as the treasurer for many years.

Visitation will be held at the EVERLY-WHEATLEY FUNERAL HOME, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302 on Thursday, March 21st, from 5 to 8 p.m. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, March 23rd, at 11 a.m. at the Del Ray Baptist Church, 2405 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22301. Interment to follow at Mt. Comfort Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions in memory of Dennis L. Cordell, Sr. to the Dementia Society of America by mail to PO Box 600, Doylestown, PA 18901, or online [www.DementiaSociety.org/donate](http://www.DementiaSociety.org/donate).

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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

## 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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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

ute 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

**Cherry Blossom Candle-Making with The Burning Wic.** 3-5 p.m. At Shop Made in VA, 1121 King Street, Alexandria. Immerse yourself in the delicate beauty of cherry blossoms during this enchanting class with The Burning Wic. Craft your own candle in a stunning Rose Gold Mercury Tumbler, infusing it with the soft allure of cherry blossoms, and the candle will captivate during the day and radiate warmth at night. This unique class not only includes an 11 oz. candle but also a car diffuser, ensuring you can carry the essence of cherry blossoms wherever you go. Come for a magical experience, creating a shimmering masterpiece that adds a touch of spring inspired by the fleeting beauty of cherry blossoms to both your space and travels.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 24

**Ides of Bark Dog Festival.** 1-4 p.m. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. The day features treats from



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

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 Ruksensas-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.

## MARCH 29-30

**The Art of Acting.** At The Art Loft, 119 S. Fairfax Street, Loft Floor, Alexandria. Dates: March 29, from 6-8 p.m., and March 30, from 4-6 p.m. The Art Loft's first workshop will be "The Art of Acting: Theatre Tools for Everyday Life" by Pablo Andrade. In this 2-day workshop, New York-based, Award-Winning Actor, Director and Producer, Pablo Andrade will be teaching us useful acting techniques that can be applicable to our professional and personal lives. For both actors and non-actors. Contact: info@ncocreative.com, 202-798-2505, ncocreative.com

## 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, 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 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. 22: Who's Bad – The Ultimate Michael Jackson Exp. \$39.50 (Resched from 1/26). **SOLD OUT!**

## Not Great News



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Not Great News." What kind of a moron am I? "Why," as Curly of The Three Stooges asked years ago in a typical two-reeler, "is there more than one kind?" If you've been following along recently (reading my column regularly), you might recall that I'm in a bit ('bit'! Isn't that the understatement of the year?) of trouble. After reviewing, my most recent scan, some tumors grew, some remained stable. In addition, my regular monthly lab work showed some kidney function at disappointing levels (another understatement). As a result, both my oncologist and nephrologist are beginning to use the dreaded "d" word: dialysis in our conversations/emails. And so, the prospect of kidney failure and dialysis loom large as the possibility of spending multiple hours a day, multiple days a week hooked up to a machine that will function as my kidneys moves ever closer to becoming my reality. 'Not great news' for sure. In fact, one might describe it as the worst possible news (considering my medical circumstances).

To be honest, I don't yet have the details. Never had I been told that dialysis was inevitable (given the side effects of the anti-cancer medicine I have been taking for three-plus years). What I have been told in the last two days by both my oncologist and nephrologist (kidney doctor) is fairly discouraging (yet another understatement). The likelihood that I'll be moving off this slippery slope and into a Barcalounger (at the dialysis center), a fear I've been compartmentalizing for years, may very well be in the offing. It seems the only straw that would suspend/re-think this treatment is if my thyroid cancer tumors began growing and moving and causing all sorts of complications. Since I'm presently not taking any anti-cancer medicine due to the adverse side effect to the kidneys, this seems likely. Inevitable? One more prediction the doctors can't/won't make.

And so, my body/organs, left to their own medical devices, have succumbed quicker to the cancer than they otherwise had. In this situation, no medicine means no luck. Even with my wife hanging horseshoes right-side-up (so the luck doesn't run out) at the horse barn she frequents, it may be that after 15 years of being my oncologist's "third miracle," the tide or the worm, depending on your preference, has turned. And turning in an unfavorable direction.

But so, what? I'll approach this next phase of my cancer journey as I have with all the others. I will remain positive about the negative. Throughout my years of treatment, I have often surprised my oncologist by my much-better-than-anticipated reaction to whatever he was prescribing.

Moreover, I've lived so much longer than the experts - who provide the figurative handbook of AMA-approved steps and procedures, expect their patients diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer stage IV to live. Having exceeded my original "13 month to two-years" prognosis by over a decade, the standard steps sort of don't apply to me/haven't applied to me for many years. The "Hippocratic oath," (do no harm), has been invoked a time or two by my oncologist as I was no longer the norm, and so a lot of my treatment was common sense type measures/don't make the patient worse. And we all succeed beyond any of our wildest dreams to the point where I am now still living into year 16.

I can understand - and imagine, how certain medical treatment/protocols aren't necessarily suitable for long-term exposure, especially when you're diagnosed with cancer. As such, your orientation becomes more short term.

The present matters most. What happens in 15 years? The doctors are more concerned about what happened today and tomorrow. Considering how the patient's body will react to non-stop chemotherapy - while living so much longer than doctor's training and experience would have led them to believe, is sort out of the doctor's purview. By surviving so long, I may have become my own worst enemy (sort of outkicked my punt coverage, if you know football?). As for the medical side of it, certain organs aren't/weren't structured to endure so much chemotherapy. And because I am still an active patient, up until recently, having been on chemotherapy, targeted therapy and so forth for 15 years nonstop, I can speak from experience. And when I was asked regularly by my oncologist if I wanted to take a break from treatment, I always said "No." I was too afraid of what the cancer might do if left untreated. Well, I sure am going to find out now. Unfortunately, due to the kidney complication, I might never be able to re-start my cancer medicine. If that happens/continues and I'm off my thyroid cancer medicine for an extended period, I will be grateful for the extra time that I've earned, but I wouldn't bet the over. Having stage IV papillary thyroid cancer is bad enough, especially after having been treated for non-small cell lung cancer, also stage IV, for 10 years previously. I can't say it's totally been fun while it lasted. Nor will I say how much fun it's going to be living forward, given these recent complications. Nevertheless, it (life) has always beaten the alternative: death. With no guarantees, especially with respect to cancer treatment, one must be open to a maybe. I have been, and I still am. No maybes about it.

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

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OPEN SUN 3/24, 2-4 PM



## Mount Ida | \$2,650,000

Located in close proximity to SSSAS Lower School and ACDS while DC and Old Town Alexandria are easy commutes. Built in 2008, this home has been recently updated. There is flex space throughout on 4 levels with 5-7 bedrooms and an in-law/nanny suite on the lower level with private entrance. The main level features a primary suite – one of three – great gathering rooms, and separate private spaces. The kitchen's premier appliances, butler's and storage pantries, and oversized island are eloquent. And there is an oversized 2-car garage. 3107 Russell Rd  
**Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984**  
[www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)

OPEN SUN 3/24, 2-4 PM



## Old Town | \$1,845,000

Light-filled 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath renovated home offers hardwood floors, custom built-ins, 2 gas fireplaces, chef's kitchen, and spacious rooms for entertaining. Generous primary suite with spa-like bath. Stunning family room overlooks the private patio. 622 S Lee St  
**Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421**  
[www.BabsBeckwith.com](http://www.BabsBeckwith.com)



## Mount Vernon on the Potomac | \$1,635,000

At the intersection of fun and comfort, a sparkling classic Georgian colonial home, is now on the market. Standing tall on almost one-half acre, this stunning home was the model for the community. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2-car garage. 9329 Mt. Vernon Circle  
**Ann Duff 703.965.8700**  
[www.AnnDuff.com](http://www.AnnDuff.com)

OPEN SAT 3/24 & SUN 3/24, 1-3 PM



## Rosemont | \$1,250,000

This light-filled home features high ceilings, spacious living areas, 3 bedrooms upstairs with a renovated ensuite primary bath and shared hall bath, and a private yard. Relax on your front porch or leave your car in the driveway & walk to Old Town & Del Ray! 27 E Maple Ave  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)

OPEN SAT 3/24 & SUN 3/24, 12-2 PM



## Burke | \$560,000

This 3 level, end unit townhome has received an interior makeover and is waiting for its lucky new owner! The home is conveniently located just off Burke Lake Road, giving you a fast pass to Braddock Road, I-495, and all of Northern Virginia! 5701 Burke Towne Court  
**Jamie Gallagher 703.405.6489**  
[www.JillianHoganHomes.com](http://www.JillianHoganHomes.com)

OPEN SAT 3/23, 2-4 PM



## Yates Gardens \$1,300,000

Gorgeous 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome with dedicated parking! The spacious and light-filled main level affords easy living with seamless flow between the kitchen, dining room, and living room. Cozy wood-burning fireplace and expansive windows across the back of the home. 917 S Lee St

**Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079**  
[www.LaurenBishopHomes.com](http://www.LaurenBishopHomes.com)

OPEN SUN 3/24, 1-4 PM



## Old Town \$1,075,000

Listed just TODAY, glowing with pride in the SE Quadrant with 3-sides of windows and beautiful brick, this sparkling home is an ideal location for walking to stores! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, paved patio and upper deck, wood floors, 3 fireplaces and eat-in kitchen. 426 S Saint Asaph Street

**Ann Duff 703.965.8700**  
[www.AnnDuff.com](http://www.AnnDuff.com)

OPEN SAT 3/24 & SUN 3/24, 1-3 PM



## Del Ray \$824,900

3-bedroom, 2-bath home with landscaped front yard and porch. Open living space, a gourmet kitchen, and a sunlit back room overlooks the fenced-in backyard. First floor full bath. Upstairs 3 bedrooms and a stylish full bath. One block from The Avenue. 120-A E Raymond Ave

**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
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