

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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APRIL 11, 2024



Visitors to Ben Brenman Park use special filters to take photos of the solar eclipse with cell phone cameras April 8.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

A couple views the solar eclipse April 8 at Ben Brenman Park.

## Moon Mania

Solar eclipse crosses U.S.; next one slated for 2044.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**hey came prepared. Armed with certified eclipse glasses and special filters for cell phone cameras, crowds took to the streets, parks and rooftops across the city April 8 for a glimpse of

what was billed as the Great American Eclipse.

“It was amazing to watch,” said Lenore Marema, who viewed the cosmic phenomenon with neighbors at Ben Brenman Park. “You could see the moon coming across the sky – it wasn’t a total eclipse but almost.”

Totality began in the U.S. at Eagle Pass, Texas at 1:27 pm CDT with a maximum duration of 4 minutes and 27 seconds and a shadow velocity of 1,587 miles per hour. Totality ended in Houlton, Maine in the first total eclipse of the sun to traverse the U.S. since

SEE SOLAR ECLIPSE, PAGE 5

“While it was beautiful watching the eclipse, what made it special was doing it here in a community setting.”

— Cameron Station resident Michelle Rempsey



Students enjoy the solar eclipse festivities April 8 at the ACHS campus.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



# Spring2ACTion 2024 Unites Alexandria Nonprofits

**A**CT for Alexandria, the community foundation, announces the return of Spring2ACTion, Alexandria's community-wide Giving Day on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. Celebrating its 14th anniversary, this online fundraising event allows local nonprofits to engage the community and raise critical funds. The goal is to engage 10,000 donors to raise \$2.5 million for the 188 participating organizations.

"Now more than ever, Alexandria nonprofits need our support," says Heather Peeler, President and CEO of ACT for Alexandria, which hosts the annual fundraiser. "With the end of COVID relief funding, the onset of local and national political elections, and the increasing cost of food and rent for families, the stakes are higher than ever. Our community is facing a myriad of challenges that require our collective action."

While the official Giving Day is April 24, Early Giving starts April 10 with donations accepted online at [www.Spring2ACTion.org](http://www.Spring2ACTion.org). Donors can search by organization name or cause and donate through their mobile phone, tablet, or computer.

Since its inception in 2011, Spring2ACTion has raised more than \$20 million for the nonprofit sector. Each year the local business community has played a significant role.

Spring2ACTion sponsors include Amazon, City of Alexandria, Passport Auto, The Patterson Group of TTR Sotheby's, Golden Gate Foundation, Madigan Schuler, Sikich, Penny Post, Pippin Toy Co., Red Barn Mercan-

tile, McEneaney Associates, BASH Boxing, Brown Advisory, Wegmans, Clarke & Sampson, Marks-Woods Construction Services, Betsey R. Rosenbaum and Jon H. Rosenbaum Fund, Transurban, and Virginia Tech. Media Partners include Alexandria Gazette Packet, Alexandria Living Magazine, Alexandria Stylebook, ALXNow, Alexandria Times, and The Zebra. ACT Corporate Partners include: Alexandria Restaurant Partners, ALX Community, Colonial Parking, and Reingold.

For more information about ACT and how you can support the pressing needs of the nonprofit community in Alexandria, contact ACT at 703-739-7778 or visit [www.actforalexandria.org](http://www.actforalexandria.org).

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## 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.volunteer-alexandria.org](http://www.volunteer-alexandria.org)

**ALIVE!** Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteer-alexandria.org/ALIVE>

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

**Join Friends' Board.** Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top

mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email [FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com).

**STEM Professionals Needed.** Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or [donaaldea@aol.com](mailto:donaaldea@aol.com).

**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).

**Volunteer Drivers Needed.** Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to [cancer.org/drive](http://cancer.org/drive).

**RSVP** a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5

## STATIONARY ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP



Applications for the IUOE Local 99 Apprenticeship Program will be accepted during the period of May 6-10, 2024, inclusive. Applications must be completed in person by the applicant at Engineer Center 9315 Largo Drive West, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$35 application fee includes drug screen.

For additional information scan the QR Code.



Equal Opportunity M/F



**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)



# NEWS

## Let the Festivities Begin

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

**City kicks off 275th anniversary celebrations.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**lexandria is pulling out all the stops as the city prepares to celebrate the 275th anniversary of its founding with festivities kicking off April 6 along the waterfront.

“Any birthday or anniversary we acknowledge what we have been through and where we are going,” said Ebony Fleming, Director of Communications for the City of Alexandria. “Our priorities are to recognize our past and look to our future. There are so many stories we want to be able to tell about who and what has made our city strong.”

Founded in 1749 by Scottish merchants and named after John Alexander, Alexandria is the adopted hometown of the nation’s Founding Father and first president, Gen. George Washington. Over the past 275 years, the city has played significant roles in the nation’s narrative. From its dark past of being one of the largest slave-trading operations prior to the Civil War, Alexandria has trans-



Alexandria’s Town Crier, Ben Fiore-Walker, opens the festivities to officially begin the countdown to the city’s upcoming 275th birthday celebration April 6 at Waterfront Park.



Mayor Justin Wilson, center, is joined by city council members and dignitaries in cutting the ribbon at the site of the Buried Ships of Robinson Landing archaeology exhibit April 6 at Robinson Landing.

**“There are so many stories we want to be able to tell about who and what has made our city strong.”**

— Ebony Fleming, Director of Communications

formed to a thriving city regularly named a top tourist destination in the country.

The city kicked off its celebration with the Town Crier, Ben Fiore-Walker, welcoming hundreds of attendees to the waterfront with

entertainment provided by the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums.

Mayor Justin Wilson and members of City Council participated in a ribbon cutting to officially open the Buried Ships of Robinson SEE CITY KICKS OFF, PAGE 8



The City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums performs April 6 at Waterfront Park.



Members of City Council and city dignitaries perform a ceremonial groundbreaking to plant a white oak tree as part of the city’s 275th anniversary celebration kick-off April 6 at Windmill Hill Park.



## OBITUARY

# Pam St. Clair

## King Street Gardens Park, local activist dies at 80.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**P**am St. Clair, one of the driving forces behind the development of King Street Gardens Park on upper King Street, died April 7 at her home in Grand Junction, Colo. She was 80 years old.

The longtime Alexandria resident and her husband Kerry had relocated to Colorado in 2022 to be near their son Colin and his wife Carrie.

Pamela Ann McCormick was born Oct. 29, 1943, in Kansas City to Thaine D. McCormick and his wife Rollene. She was a graduate of Pittsburg High School in Kansas and Washburn University in Topeka. She spent a year abroad in Denmark then returned to the U.S. and settled in the DC area to work for the Treasury Department. It was there that she met her future husband, Kerry St. Clair.

The two were married Sept. 27, 1969, and settled in the Rosemont area of the city. Together they raised two children, a son Colin and daughter Kathryn.

St. Clair served as the chairman of the King Street Gardens Committee. The idea for the park was first approved by the city in 1989 to “incorporate Alexandria’s distinct historical significance, integrating public art



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA/TISARA STUDIOS

**Pam St. Clair, a driving force behind the development of King Street Gardens Park, died April 7 at the age of 80.**

and place, and creating a memorable civic image in a fluid urban landscape.”

The award-winning park served as the

site for special events and farmers markets with memorial bricks inscribed around the park space.

Additionally, St. Clair was an early organizer of Christmas in April in Alexandria, now Rebuilding Together. She represented the Alexandria League of Women Voters on the city’s affordable housing task force and served as the first chair of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

She was recognized by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the Alexandria Commission for Women for her work on affordable housing.

St. Clair served as president of the Rosemont Citizens Association and the Alexandria League of Women Voters and chair of the Vocational Advisory Committee for what is now Alexandria City High School.

St. Clair was predeceased by her husband Kerry, who died in September of 2023. She is survived by a daughter, Kathryn Ellis (Darren) of Knoxville, Tenn.; a son Colin St. Clair (Carrie) of Grand Junction, Colo.; a brother Charlie McCormick (Lynne) of Fredericksburg, Va, and numerous cousins and nephews.

No services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Living Legends of Alexandria, P.O. Box 918 Alexandria, VA 22313, or the HopeWest Hospice Care Center in Grand Junction, Colo., [www.Hopewestco.org/donate](http://www.Hopewestco.org/donate).



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/  
ISARA STUDIOS

## Marion Moon Memorial

A memorial service for Marion Moon will be held Monday, April 15, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street, Alexandria Va. 22302 (wear pink!). A reception will follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rick Moon Scholarship Fund of the Alexandria Sportsman’s Club, P.O. Box 1011 Alexandria, Va. 22313 or online at [www.alexandriavasports.org](http://www.alexandriavasports.org). Moon died April 1 at the age of 82.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria City High School Titan Robotics team.

## Houston to Feel Titan Robotics IMPACT

**F**or the third year in a row, Alexandria City High School’s Titan Robotics team won the prestigious FIRST Impact Award on Saturday at the Chesapeake District Championships held in Petersburg, Va.

The win secures their place to compete at the highest level for the sport at the 2024 FIRST Championship Event in

Houston, Texas, April 17-20.

Titan Robotics gives back to the community in many ways. Help the students pay for their trip to Houston; visit their website [frc5587.org](http://frc5587.org) or through Spring2Action. Titan Robotics 5587 is a nonprofit, student-led club at Alexandria City High School.



# Solar Eclipse Crosses U.S.; Next One Slated for 2044

FROM PAGE 1

August of 2017.

While not in the path of totality, Alexandrians were able to witness a partial eclipse, with about 87 percent of the sun being obscured as the moon passed between the sun and Earth. Locally, the eclipse began at 2 p.m., reached its peak at 3:28 p.m. and ended at 4:35 p.m.

“While it was beautiful watching the eclipse, what made it special was doing it here in a community setting,” said Michelle Rempey, who watched with Cameron Station neighbors at Ben Brenman Park. “How often does that happen in the DC area?”

According to NASA, the next total solar eclipse viewable from the contiguous U.S. will be on Aug. 23, 2044. Alaska will see a total solar eclipse in 2033.

Added Rempey, “Everybody coming together, being in one place and doing this together – any experience we have like this in this area is really special.”



Equipped with special glasses, a resident enjoys the solar eclipse April 8 at Ben Brenman Park.

PHOTOS BY  
JANET BARNETT  
GAZETTE PACKET



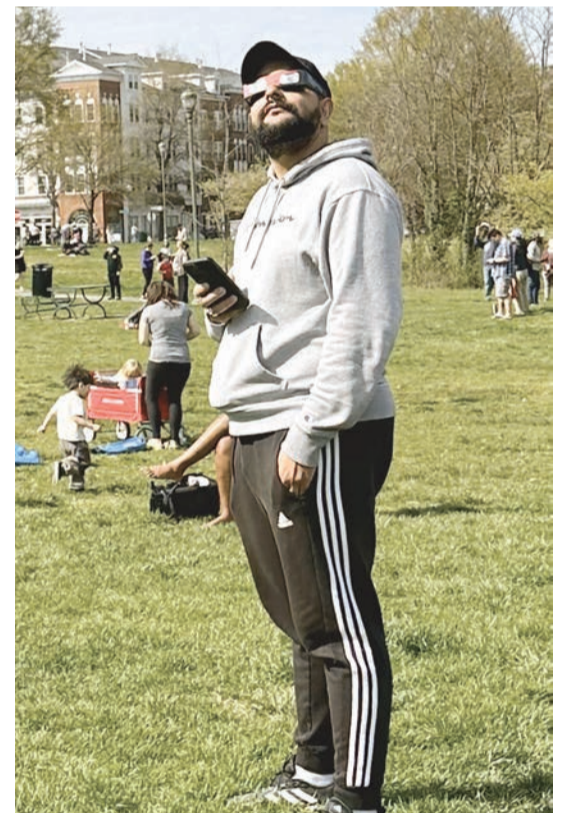
Neighbors from Cameron Station gather for a solar eclipse watch party April 8 at Ben Brenman Park.



Alexandria City High School Principal Alexander Duncan III, left, watches the eclipse from the ACHS campus.



A student catches a glimpse of the solar eclipse April 8 at the ACHS campus.



A resident watches the solar eclipse April 8 at Ben Brenman Park.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands

for “Space of Her Own,” and “Space of His Own,” serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit [www.spaceofherown.org](http://www.spaceofherown.org) and [www.spaceofhisown.org](http://www.spaceofhisown.org). For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at [sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov)

[alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov) or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer’s Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer’s Markets, email Brian Morreale, [brianmorreale@gmail.com](mailto:brianmorreale@gmail.com)

### SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following

childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at [suzjdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:suzjdoyle@gmail.com) or 571-403-0673.

The Parkinson’s Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson’s patients and

caregivers are welcome. Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit [www.novasecondsaturday.com](http://www.novasecondsaturday.com) for more.





Burke answered many questions from attendees.



Left to right: E. Hunt Burke, and Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society officers, Sallie Lyons and Glenn Fatzinger.

# Old-fashioned Banking, Thriving for 172 Years

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
GAZETTE PACKET

**B**urke and Herbert Bank has survived the Union Army's Civil War occupation, the 1930s Great Depression, toughened federal regulations, the computer revolution, super-bank-merger mania, economic downturns, economic upturns, the coronavirus pandemic and more.

In 1852, John Woolfolk Burke, 27, and Arthur Herbert, 23, opened the Burke and Herbert Banking and Exchange Office in Alexandria. That year, Franklin Pierce became the U.S. president, the Studebaker Brothers Wagon Company was established and the book Uncle Tom's Cabin came out. "Downtown" Alexandria, today called "Old Town," was a bustling port and mix of warehouses and modest shops. Gas lights and running water had just arrived.

On April 7, 2024, E. Hunt Burke, the bank's chairman and great-great-grandson of founder John Burke, walked through the bank's history and philosophy with 50 engaged attendees at a talk sponsored by the Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society at the Sherwood Regional Library. Hunt started working at the bank at age 13 reviewing cleared checks to see if they were correctly endorsed, literally working in a smoke-filled room where 12 women constantly puffed away. Burke is the fifth generation of Burkes to work there. His nephew, Taylor Burke IV, a lending officer, is the sixth.

## Downhome Trust

"We opened on a handshake,"



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

E. Hunt Burke gave a talk on April 7 to the Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society.

Burke told the audience. "We ran it that way for 81 years. A handshake goes a long way." He gave the example of his father, C.S. Taylor Burke Jr., who grew up on Prince Street, making a home loan to a Pentagon colonel. "My dad trusted the military," he explained, and practically approved a loan on the spot.

The website states the bank's purpose: "To serve and inspire people to achieve their financial goals and realize their dreams." It lists as core values, "inspire trust, respect one another, act with integrity, embrace our differences."

Now in its 172nd year, Burke and Herbert is the oldest, continuous bank in Virginia with its original name. It has more than \$3.6 billion in assets, 25 branches and over 400 employees who represent 41 different nationalities. It



The audience filled the room at the Sherwood Regional Library.

offers traditional checking, savings and lending, plus digital banking, business management financing, wealth management, retirement planning and other services.

## A Physical Presence

The neoclassical building at the corner of King and South Fairfax Streets, home to the main offices and built in 1905, is based on London's Westminster Bank, Burke explained, a style designed to convey stability, financial soundness and responsible capitalism. Bank branches in Alexandria and Fairfax, Arlington and Prince William

counties, plus a new one in Richmond, all are different architectural styles, basically whatever building the bank bought.

## A Historic Move

In August, Burke and Herbert Bank took an unprecedented step and announced a merger with Summit Community Bank, headquartered in Moorefield, West Virginia. The combined banks will have over 75 branches in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware. Burke attributed the merger to the fact that his bank has been "so safe so many

years. It's a beautiful merger," he commented. The announcement press release called it a "merger of equals," that "is expected to result in a combined earnings per share of approximately \$7.90 in the first full year of combined operations (assuming fully realized cost savings)." The merged bank will retain the Burke and Herbert name.

## Survival Secret

Many locals view Burke and Herbert as a stable, friendly, some say, "old fashioned," community institution because "we don't do goofy

SEE OLD-FASHIONED, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM





Burke and Herbert Bank's main building at King and South Fairfax Streets, Old Town, Alexandria.

FROM PAGE 6

things," Burke explained, citing the 2023 Silicon Valley bank crisis. He continued, "Banks fail because they chase the easy money. We've always been very conservative. We have a nice following. We are community oriented."

Glenn Fatzinger, president of the historical society, agreed. "It is truly a family bank and there are not many family banks today. For many years, they loaned money to churches when no one else would. The bank funded many economic development projects that changed both Old Town and Mount Vernon over the years from the 1960s to today."



The Sherwood Hall branch of Burke and Herbert Bank in the Mount Vernon area.

**Why Be a Banker?**

Given his lineage, Burke apparently has a "banking gene," but he's a banker not because he was born into it, but because he loves it. "It's fun to get to know everyone in town. It's great to be part of a community and have a place in the community."

In his street-level office with the doors open to King Street and pedestrian chatter on a balmy April afternoon, with his beagle, Rose, nearby, he affirmed that devotion to banking and his community.



In his South Fairfax Street office, Hunt Burke and a Chinese gong, a gift to his father, C. S. Taylor Burke.



Hunt Burke and a poster of the beloved Runyon.

**Avian Advertising, Runyon the Parrot**

**H**unt Burke's father, C.S. Taylor Burke Jr., was the bank's president from 1963 to 1992, a legend around town. He had "an unusual personality for a banker," Hunt commented, citing his father's quirky, fun-loving streak. "He made banking fun."

One day, his father came home with a lime-green parrot perched on his shoulder, a bird he bought at G.C. Murphy's Department Store. The female parrot, named Runyon, became a popular image for the bank.

C.S. Taylor Burke testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Banking Committee with Runyon on his shoulder. "I don't know if he got any votes," Hunt quipped. The pair made NBC television's "Saturday Night Live" comedy show. The host asked, "Would you trust your money with this man?"

Runyon "was worth millions in free advertising," Burke touted. Runyon's replacement is Harvie, who's now 40 and lives with Hunt's sister. Parrots can live for 80 years, Burke noted, enduring like the bank.



# City Kicks Off 275th Anniversary Celebrations

FROM PAGE 3

Landing archeology exhibit.

"This is one of the best places to appreciate the bridge between the old and the new," Wilson said. "At every chapter we have made our city stronger and we will continue to do that."

The archaeology exhibit showcases the recently uncovered ships that were discovered at the Robinson Terminal South location prior to the development of Robinson Landing.

"We are about to debut a 24/7 walk by exhibition that celebrates the ships that were excavated on this very site," said Gretchen Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria. "It is the ultimate example of the power of place."

Dignitaries then moved to Windmill Hill Park for the planting of the first of 275 new trees across the city.

"Increasing our tree canopy is an important investment we can make in the future of our city," Wilson said. "As we think about the 275 years of our history and turn the next chapter we will leave this living legacy for the next generation."



Jacob Simmons of the Virginia Department of Forestry presents a certificate recognizing Alexandria's 41st year as a Tree City USA April 6 at Windmill Hill Park.

Jacob Simmons of the Virginia Department of Forestry presented Wilson with a certificate recognizing the city's 41st year as a Tree City USA.

"We have a city that has done so much to understand the past," said Jan Abraham, president of the Robinson Landing Homeowners Association. "We are so honored to

be part of this place and to honor the work that has been done."

The 275th anniversary events will continue through September with the city's birthday celebration

to be held July 13 in Oronoco Bay Park.

For more information on all upcoming events, visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov)



Guests listen to remarks as city dignitaries kick off the 275th anniversary celebration April 6 at Robinson Landing.



City Manager Jim Parajon, left, with ASO Sgt. Cassandra Branch April 6 at Windmill Hill Park.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

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# ENTERTAINMENT



“Agatha Christie’s *Murder on the Orient Express*” will be featured March 23-April 13, 2024, at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. <https://thelittletheatre.com/performances/>



Japanese Inspiration will be featured April 4 to May 12, 2024 at The Athenaeum in Alexandria.

## 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/>

**MARCH 23 – APRIL 13, 2024**  
**Agatha Christie’s *Murder on the Orient Express*.** At The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Adapted by Ken Ludwig. It’s 1934, just after midnight, and a snowstorm has stopped the opulent sleeper train in its tracks. A wealthy American businessman is discovered dead, and the brilliant and beautifully mustachioed Hercule Poirot must solve the mystery before the murderer strikes again.

**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.

**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 9 TO APRIL 14

**“Every Brilliant Thing.”** At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center Performing Arts, announces its newest production, *Every Brilliant Thing*, a heartfelt one-person play that celebrates the little things that make life brilliant. “Every Brilliant Thing” is an interactive solo performance piece that explores the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity to find joy in all the little things. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and range from \$25 to \$35. For more information, visit the website ([www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org)).

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

## APRIL 1-30

**Cherry Blossom Dreams.** At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Gallery 311, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Embrace the ethereal beauty of spring this month in the Van Landingham Gallery. *Cherry Blossom Dreams* features a collection of works presented by the Torpedo Factory Artists’ Association. Artists participating in the exhibition interpret the essence of spring through a diverse range of mediums and styles.

## APRIL 4 TO MAY 12

**Japanese Inspiration: Sean Donnan, David Gootnick, Yoshiko Ratliff.** At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. To complement Washington’s festivities celebrating the Japanese cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin, the Athenaeum Gallery is featuring the work of three local contemporary artists whose work is influenced and guided by traditional Japanese art. Sean Donnan is an illustrator whose fanciful posters are inspired by Japanese mythology, anime, video games, and pop culture. David Gootnick creates lacy and delicate designs out of wood using an ancient Japanese artform called Kumiko. And Yoshiko Ratliff’s paintings are bold, but intricately detailed representations of Japanese characters and Kimonos.

## APRIL 27-28

**Metropolitan School of the Arts to Present Spring Ballet: *Coppelia*.** At George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. Showtimes at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. *Coppelia*, a captivating tale of love, mischief, and mechanical dolls. Audiences can experience a village brought to life by dance, where fantasy and reality blur in this heartwarming story, perfect for all ages. In addition to the perfor-

mances, MSA will also feature a Springtime Marketplace and a meet-and-greet session after the show. Tickets are from \$18 to \$25 and can be purchased at [metropolitanschoolofthearts.org](http://metropolitanschoolofthearts.org)

## MAY 3 TO JUNE 2

**“The Art of Tea” exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features art that explores themes and stories woven around this aromatic beverage.** From tea cups and tea pots to the Mad Hatter or Boston Tea Party, this exhibit intrigues and delights. Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Reception: Friday, May 3, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (June 2, 12-4pm). [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## APRIL 4 TO MAY 12

**Special Gallery: “Japanese Inspiration.”** At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. To complement Washington’s festivities celebrating the Japanese cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin, the Athenaeum Gallery is featuring the work of three local contemporary artists whose work is influenced and guided by traditional Japanese art. Sean Doonan is an illustrator whose fanciful posters are inspired by Japanese mythology, anime, video games and pop culture. David Gootnick creates lacy and delicate designs out of wood using an ancient Japanese art form called Kumiko. And Yoshiko Ratliff’s paintings are bold, but intricately detailed, representations of Japanese characters and kimonos.

## APRIL 5-27

**“Same But Different” Exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores notions of identity, distinctions and similarities in our natural and manmade

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11



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**Obituary**

**Obituary**



**Nancy Wells Macklin** passed away peacefully at Goodwin House in Alexandria on January 6, 2024. She was pre-deceased by her husband Daniel Keenan Macklin of Tontogany, Ohio, and her parents Virginia and Joseph Wells.

Nancy was born on September 2, 1929, and raised in Zanesville, Ohio, along with her younger sister Sally. In 1950, she married Dan and in 1951 graduated from Miami University in Ohio.

While Dan served in the Marine Corps and their family grew, they moved often until settling permanently in Alexandria in 1961. In 1964, Nancy, Dan, and Marilyn Hansen formed Macklin-Hansen Real Estate and Nancy enjoyed a successful career working well into her 80s.

Nancy was a member of Grace Episcopal Church and volunteered with United Way, Christmas in April, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Meals on Wheels, Carpenter's Shelter and tutored elementary schoolchildren.

Nancy enjoyed parties, picnics, tennis, yoga, bicycling, book club, and traveling worldwide. Nancy love adventure; in her 80s, she parasailed and went up in a hot air balloon. She, Dan, and her sister Sally ensured annual family reunions beginning in the early 1970s.

Nancy knew intuitively what makes for a fulfilling, happy life: purpose, physical and mental activity, lifelong learning, adventure, grace and optimism under pressure, gratitude, and above all holding family and friends close.

Nancy is survived by her sister Sally Wells, children Dan, Kelly, Katie, Jeff, Sally, and Amy, their spouses, seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held April 13, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Nancy's memory may be made to Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria, VA, Senior Services of Alexandria, or Grace Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA.



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FROM PAGE 9

world. This exhibit showcases the interconnectedness of humanity and the uniqueness of things that may appear to be the same. Opening Reception: Friday, April 5, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## THURSDAY/APRIL 11

**United States Air Force Band.** 7:30 p.m. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 Netherton Dr, Alexandria. Join the United States Air Force Band Airmen of Note for a Jazz Heritage Series concert featuring pianist Dave Kikoski. A highly regarded jazz pianist, Mr. Kikoski emerged in the New York jazz scene in the 1980s and quickly established himself as one of the top players, well known for his post-bop style and spontaneous swinging play. The Airmen of Note is one of the six performing ensembles within The United States Air Force Band, the premier musical organization of the U.S. Air Force.

## 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. Online tickets are now available for River Farm's annual plant and nature-inspired marketplace. Visit [www.ahsgardening.org/springgardenmarket2024](http://www.ahsgardening.org/springgardenmarket2024).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 14

**Epics & Fantasies.** 2 p.m. Featuring the President's Own United States Marine Band. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria. John Mackey's Wine-Dark Sea carries a bulk of the narrative in this Marine Band concert of poetry and stories. The 30-minute work draws its inspiration from Homer's *Odyssey*, distilling the epic poem into a handful of musical highlights. Vocal features include Sousa's "Annabel Lee," set to the chilling verses written by Edgar Allan Poe, and a whimsical tale of "The Green-eyed Dragon" by Wolseley Charles. Debussy's *Syrinx* flute solo derives its name from a nymph in Greek mythology and the instrument known as "panpipes." The Marine Band's new Assistant Director 1st Lt. Jose Toranzo will also make his debut, conducting Alfred Reed's *El Camino Real*, also known as *The Royal Road: A Latin Fantasy*.

On Sunday April 14th at 2PM Alexandria non-profit Local Motion Project will be hosting "Dance on the Green," their first outdoor community dance event in John Carlyle Square Park. This highly interactive workshop promises to be an active and enjoyable event

## THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**Jive After Five Wine Tasting.** 6-9 p.m. An exhilarating evening of professional networking and camaraderie at the upcoming Jive After Five event, hosted by the Northern Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Set against the picturesque backdrop of Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, this exclusive gathering promises an opportunity for businesses to foster meaningful connections and cultivate prosperous relationships.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**Rock the Ave Block Party.** 12-4 p.m. At SaltBox, 4700 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. This outdoor, free, family-friendly event will feature kid-friendly activities, local Eisenhower businesses and area artisans, live music from Yellow Door Concert Series, a pop-up Cider Garden hosted by Lost Boy Cider and much



The 2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm takes place April 12-13, 2024. <https://ahsgardening.org/about-river-farm/events-programs/springgardenmarket2024/>

more. The Eisenhower Partnership will also be offering bike valet services provided by Two Week Valet, to encourage individuals to bike to/from the event.

## 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)

**BEGINNING WEDNESDAY APRIL 24TH, the Friends of the Duncan Library will be holding their Spring Book Sale.** In addition to providing an opportunity to get great books on the cheap, this sale benefits the operations of one of Alexandria's neighborhood library branches.

## APRIL 20-21

**Alexandria Symphony Orchestra - Bernstein/Shostakovich.** Saturday/April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center; Sunday, April 21 at 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memo-

rial. Featuring the Alexandria Symphony with James Ross, conductor; Aldo Lopez-Gavilan, piano; Jorge Amado: Alexandria Shuffle; Leonard Bernstein: Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**Environment Expo.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria. This free family-friendly festival will feature loads of activities and exhibitors sharing information about climate action, environmental challenges we face and how we can take action to make Fairfax County, and the world at large, a healthier, more sustainable place. There will be live music, reptile and raptor demonstrations, food, face painting, make and takes, giveaways, solar cooking, CCTV Robot Camera Demos, touch-a-truck, the Purple Glass Monster, an EV Showcase and more.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 28

**PNC Parkway Classic Race.** From Mount Vernon Estate to Old Town Alexandria, the PNC Parkway Classic, produced by Pacers Running, celebrates its 40th-year and returns Sunday, April 28, 2024. The race, sponsored by PNC Bank, attracts thousands of runners and spectators throughout the DC Metro region and beyond to experience the historic George Washington Memorial Parkway from a different vantage point during the Springtime. The signature adult race, beginning at 8:00 a.m., will feature two distance options for runners - 10 Mile or 5K. The 10-mile course will start at the beautiful Mount Vernon Estate and will take runners down the tree-lined George Washington Memorial Parkway and through historic Old Town Alexandria; a unique opportunity for runners of all skill levels. Featuring a pre-race with family-friendly activities, a Kids Dash 600-meter race will take place for kids under 12 years old. For registration information, race route details and event day activities, visit: <https://www.parkwayclassic.com>.

## THE BIRCHMERE

**At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria.** All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

## APRIL

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Fri. 26: The Stylistics \$65.00  
Sat. 27: B.J. The Chicago Kid \$35.00  
Sun. 28: Take 6 \$45.00

## Driving Home a Point



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I've had very few car accidents in my life, a fender bender or two but nothing approaching totaling a car – even in high school, when such incidents seemed common. I've certainly gotten my share of speeding tickets and a few moving violations: rolling through stop signs, "running" a red light, et cetera. In general, very rarely have I been exchanging insurance information with another driver as we both considered the accident that brought us together.

Nevertheless, I have developed a car-driving reputation among my family and friends (presumably those who know me/my tendencies best). Regardless of the pavement, either driving through neighborhood streets or on highways, I have often heard – and the opinions are always the same: "Kenny, you're a lousy driver." And my wife, Dina, a constant passenger who admittedly knows me best, takes an additional pot shot at me when she says: "Even your brother thinks you're a lousy driver." (After 45 years of marriage – and having spent multiple hours together in the car, Dina has often invoked a family member of mine, particularly my late brother Richard, as a further reinforcer of her opinion/my below-average driving skill. If my brother said it, it must be true; that's the argument.)

Disputing this negative description of my driving skill (or lack thereof) has been a recurring conversation between Dina and me. As often as we have discussed – both while we drive and/or while we don't, this driving issue, this topic, has failed to disappear into the ether. It is as common today as it has been for decades and has spawned many an argument. Unfortunately, I see no sign of relief as I have few defenders or any credible evidence to the contrary. Perhaps it's time to embrace the problem.

Since I can't do much, apparently, about my driving, especially since I don't agree with much of their criticism, I thought maybe I could take a pro-active approach to other drivers – and to satisfy Dina's regular rants and warn the other drivers. How, you ask? The solution is simple. I saw it yesterday. It was a bumper sticker stuck on the back of a car I'm sure many of you drivers have seen. It said: "Student Driver. Please Be Patient." Perfect, I thought. I'll place it on the back of my car. Thereby giving my fellow drivers a heads-up that yours truly, an allegedly poor driver, is behind the wheel. With this warning, I might get a wider berth on the road or be given more time to parallel park – as but a few examples, because the driver is a student/novice. Who's going to know the truth that I'm just a bad driver? It's not like I'm advertising it. I'm simply trying to avoid meeting by accident. When another driver sees that bumper sticker, you would think – for his own safety, he would pull back on the throttle some and/or manage his aggressive driving. No driver wants to be the victim of his own stupidity. I can hear it now: "Didn't you see he's a student driver. Give him some room/time." And he'd have no defense. After all, he was warned.

All of the above being said, I have been reminded recently by some friends who think they know me and my driving, of a few incidents when my driving has come into question: when, as an example or two: while backing up the car, my rear bumper hit and dented the downspout on Martha's garage, when I destroyed a fancy decorative bush when backing out of John and Lynne's half-circle driveway and another when I nearly backed into a ditch while reversing out of Cherril's elevated driveway. Yes, I'll admit, there's been a few incidents. Fortunately, nobody got hurt, and respectfully, the damage was minor. (You'll notice, all the examples I gave were when I was backing up the car. Let me digress: you'll never see me backing my car into a parking place. It would take me too long, and besides, I just don't see the advantage of going to all the trouble to back in. I've spent too many minutes sitting in my car, idling my time away while watching the driver twist and turn and attempt to look at all their car's mirrors simultaneously while attempting to fit in between two parked cars. Way too much trouble and effort – from my perspective.)

I think I may have stumbled onto a solution/compromise here: the bumper sticker. Without directly admitting/agreeing with the Kenny's-a-lousy-driver premise, and without giving in to these "nattering nabobs of negativism," to quote Spiro Agnew, the one-time governor of Maryland and also our 39th vice president, I might be able to preempt some of the inevitable/occasional questions/situations when my driving might come into play. Nevertheless, consider yourselves warned.

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



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