

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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MAY 2, 2024

## The Ultimate Sacrifice ASO remembers Deputy Truesdale.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**S**heriff Sean Casey led employees and members of the Alexandria Sheriff's Association in a tribute to fallen Deputy William G. Truesdale as part of the kickoff to National Correctional Officers and Employees Week beginning May 5.

The May 1 ceremony opened with Casey and ASA President Deputy Carlos Cañas placing a wreath at the memorial for Truesdale, who was killed in the line of duty Jan. 27, 1981.

"In remembering Deputy Truesdale, we also remember the lives that have been saved since then because of lessons learned from his tragic death," Casey said in recalling the fallen deputy.

Casey observed a moment of silence in memory of the four law enforcement officers, including two members of the North Caro-

**"[Deputy Truesdale's] legacy in the Sheriff's Office and in Alexandria remains strong."**

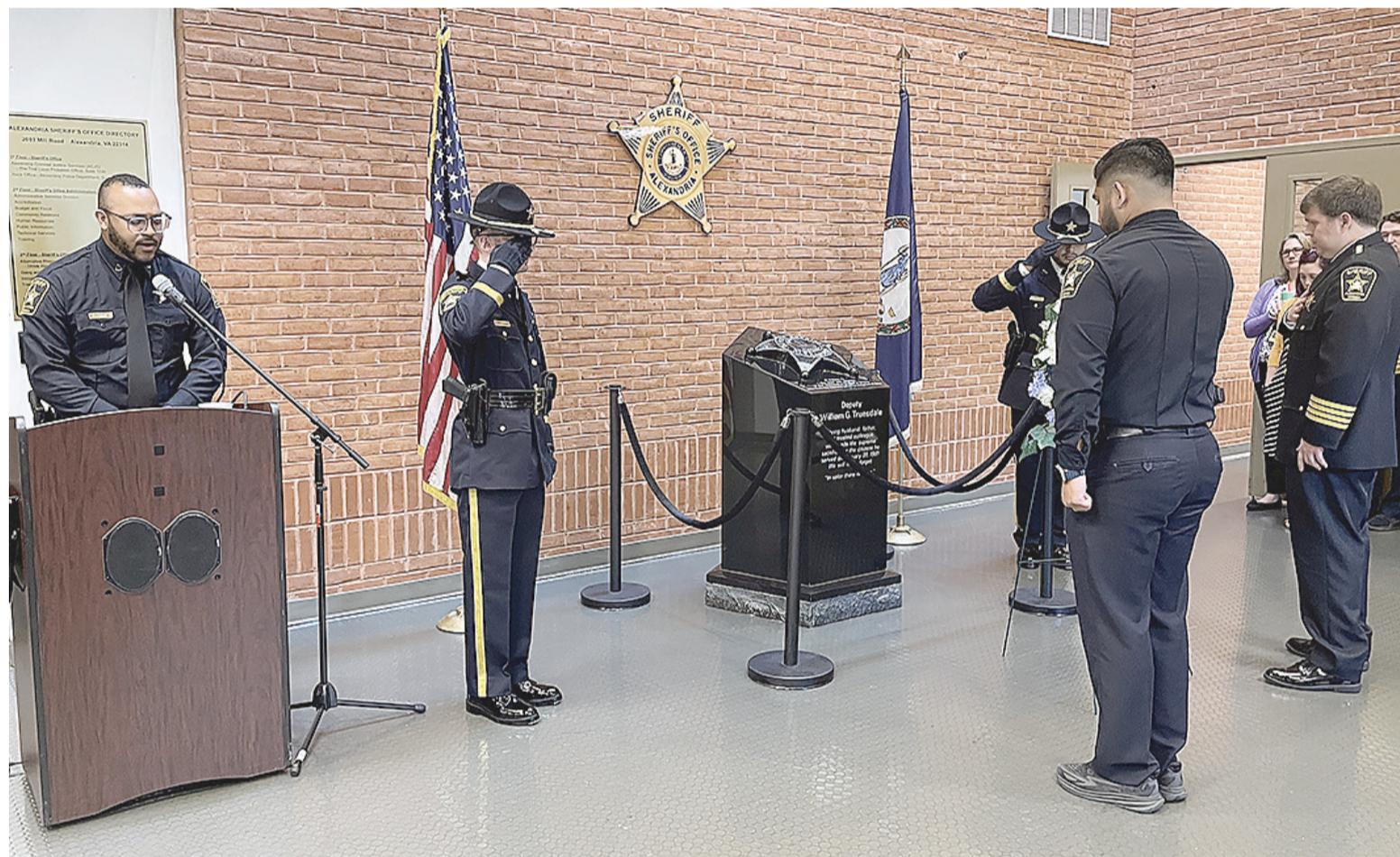
— Sheriff Sean Casey

lina Department of Adult Correction, who were killed in Charlotte on April 29.

Casey then spoke of Truesdale, asking that in remembering the fallen deputy, the public also remember the lives that have been saved since his death. Truesdale was slain by a prisoner returning to the old jail from court and following his death, the Sheriff's Office made changes to how prisoners are transported.

Cañas welcomed several City officials and current and retired members from the Police Department, Fire Department and Sheriff's Office. He reflected on the meaning of sacrifice and the commitment of correctional and law enforcement officers to honor their oath.

Cañas spoke of Truesdale's ded-



Deputy Omar Herring sings the national anthem as Deputy Carlos Cañas and Sheriff Sean Casey pay their respects at the memorial for Deputy William G. Truesdale May 1 at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office headquarters.

PHOTOS BY AMY BERTSCH/ASO

ication to public service, including serving in the U.S. Navy, the Fairmount Heights (Md.) Police Department and the D.C. Department of Corrections, before joining the Sheriff's Office in 1973.

Truesdale was on assignment providing security at the courthouse when three prisoners appeared in court and one of them, Wilbert Lee Evans, who was facing robbery and murder charges in North Carolina, became disorderly.

As Truesdale was escorting the prisoners back to the jail, located at the time in the 500 block of Princess Street, Evans grabbed Truesdale's gun and fired the .38-caliber revolver, shooting Truesdale in the chest.

Evans attempted to escape and ran from the jail but was quickly apprehended in a parking lot behind the 300 block of North Washington Street. Truesdale was taken to Alexandria Hospital where he died from his wounds. He was 47 and left behind a wife and four children.

Evans was convicted of Truesdale's murder, sentenced to death



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Deputy William G. Truesdale was killed in the line of duty Jan. 27, 1981. The Alexandria Detention Center is named in honor of the fallen deputy.**

and executed on Oct. 17, 1990.

During National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in May 2011, the Alexandria Adult Detention Center was renamed the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center in Truesdale's honor.

The Sheriff's Office will join the Alexandria Police Department and Alexandria Retired Police, Fire and Sheriff's Association on May 7 at 9 a.m. for a wreath laying at Waterfront Park in memory of all of



Deputy Omar Herring and Deputy Carlos Cañas listen as Sheriff Sean Casey remembers fallen Deputy William G. Truesdale May 1 at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office headquarters.

Alexandria's fallen officers.

Said Casey, "We will never forget Deputy Truesdale and it is

clear that his legacy in the Sheriff's Office and in Alexandria remains strong."

# A Safe Harbour

Chamber celebrates new board chair.

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce celebrated board of directors chair Ann Harbour at its annual Chair's Reception April 18 at Hotel AKA Alexandria.

Presented by Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, the reception welcomed Harbour as the 2024-2025 board chair with LaJuanna Russell recognized as chair-elect.

Harbour follows in the footsteps of Nicole McGrew, owner of Threadleaf & Company.

Hotel AKA Alexandria, celebrating its one year anniversary following the transformation of the former Holiday Inn on First Street, hosted the event in the expansive outdoor patio space.

An advocacy-based nonprofit organization, the Chamber of Commerce consists of more than 875 member businesses and acts as an advocate for the business community.

For more information visit [www.thechamberalx.com](http://www.thechamberalx.com).

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Jatrice Martel Gaitor and chair-elect LaJuanna Russell celebrate at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Reception April 18 at Hotel AKA Alexandria.



Chair-elect LaJuanna Russell, Blue Cross Blue shield sponsor Yulonda Barlow and board chair Ann Harbour at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Reception April 18 at Hotel AKA Alexandria.



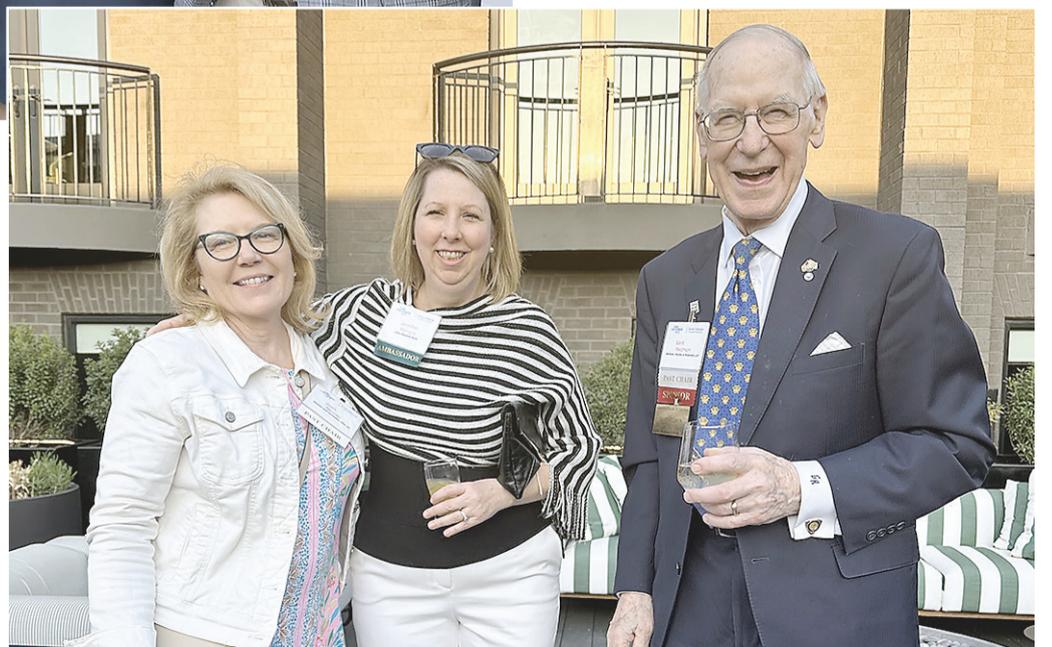
Jane Hughes, past chamber board chair Elizabeth Moon, Maya Tanna and past chair Robert Shea at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Reception April 18 at Hotel AKA Alexandria.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/  
GAZETTE PACKET



Auctioneer Allen Brooks offers live auction items at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Reception April 18 at Hotel AKA Alexandria.

Joan Renner, Jennifer Ferrara and Gant Redmon at the Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Reception April 18 at Hotel AKA Alexandria.





Dr. Morgan Delaney, right, with Office of Historic Alexandria director Gretchen Bulova at the 2013 Historic Alexandria Foundation garden party.



Dr. Morgan Delaney, Leslie Ariail, Osborne Mackie, Bob Armacost and William Seale at the Historic Alexandria Foundation Antiques Show in 2003.

# Dr. Morgan Delaney

Preservationist dies unexpectedly at 77.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**D**r. Morgan Delaney, a lifelong Alexandrian known equally as a respected leader in the medical community as he was a passionate protector of historic preservation, died unexpectedly April 24 at George Washington University Hospital following routine surgery. He was 77.

Recognized as one of the leading pulmonologists in Washington DC, Delaney also served as president of the Historic Alexandria Foundation for more than four decades.

“Morgan was at the helm of HAF for 40 years,” said Osborne Mackie, Delaney’s spouse and longtime partner. “It was not always an easy time but Morgan never shied away from a fight. He always wanted to protect the fabric of historic Alexandria.”

Morgan Dennis Delaney was born July 16, 1946, in Alexandria, to Dr. Martin D. Delaney Jr., and Maude Owens Delaney. His father’s ancestor, who had earlier emigrated from Ireland, settled in Alexandria shortly after the Civil War and purchased a large farm in Prince William County where he raised horses to supply the U. S. Army. Delaney’s grandfather was a distinguished Alexandria physician as were his father and uncle. Delaney and his three brothers followed in those footsteps all pursuing medical careers.

Delaney attended the University of Virginia for both his undergraduate and medical degrees, and followed with internships, residencies and fellowships at Emory, George Washington, and the University of Miami, to become an associate professor as a pulmonologist with expertise in interstitial lung disease at George Washington University School of Medicine.

Delaney was a fellow of the College of Chest Physicians. During his over 45-year tenure at GW, he was recognized as one of the leading pulmonologists in Washington. He taught thousands of medical students, residents and fellows and mentored many



Dr. Morgan Delaney, a pulmonary specialist and decades-long champion of historic preservation, died April 24 at the age of 77.

junior faculty members.

“One of Morgan’s legacies was in medicine,” Mackie said. “He was a great teacher and compassionate man. So many of his patients have come up to me to tell me what a wonderful doctor he was. He taught so many students and inspired so many professors.”

In recognition of his prowess in academic medical education, Delaney received the American College of Physicians Walter Lester Henry Jr. Memorial Award for a Lifetime of Excellent Teaching and received the best faculty teacher of the year award at GW. He retired in June 2023.

In addition to his dedication to medicine, Delaney was an accomplished scholar of the decorative arts, including regional furniture, and a passionate restorer of old houses. Over the course of his life, Delaney meticulously preserved three early houses in Alexandria: 220 S. Fayette Street, 808 Prince Street, and his current home, Ghequiere House, 202 King Street, a late 18th century merchant’s house with most of its original ornamental plasterwork and woodwork intact. He also saved an early 20th century cottage in Fauquier County nearly destroyed by neglect.

Under Delaney’s long-time leadership, Historic Alexandria Foundation made nu-



Dr. Morgan Delaney presents a plaque from the Historic Alexandria Foundation to Elizabeth Hooff for her Seminary Hill home Hooff Cottage in 2006.



Dr. Morgan Delaney presents a preservation award at the Historic Alexandria Foundation annual meeting in 2007.

merous preservation grants to support local historic institutions, such as the Athenaeum and the Lee-Fendall House, led the effort to save important buildings under threat, such as the now restored 1785 Alexandria Academy, which was acquired by HAF in 1995, and generally advocated for commonsense solutions to sometimes thorny problems, with preservation always paramount.

“Morgan was very determined,” said Mackie, who shared Delaney’s passion for preservation and served as the first director of Tudor Place in Georgetown. “Alexandria would look very different if it had not been for him.”

**“Morgan always wanted to protect the fabric of historic Alexandria.”**

— Osborne Mackie on Dr. Morgan Delaney

Under Delaney’s direction, the HAF has given over \$2 million to projects ranging from bricks and mortar restoration work to conservation of artifacts in local museum buildings, to scholarly research on aspects of Alexandria’s cultural and architectural history.

“Morgan called himself a purist,” said Mackie, who first met Delaney in 1991. “If

he found out that an original feature to a home had disappeared, he insisted it had to be restored.”

Delaney was a longtime supporter of the Washington National Opera, the performing arts organization Music in the Country, and the Piedmont Environmental Council, which preserves rural land in Piedmont.

Delaney is survived by his spouse, Osborne Phinizy Mackie, two brothers, Dr. Michael Delaney (Margot), and Dr. John Delaney (Mary), four sisters, Margaret Baldwin, Mary Jo Warren, Martha Delaney, Patricia Delaney Yurgaitis, a sister-in-law, Katharine C. Mackie, and a brother-in-law, Dr. Clayton Boardman Wimberly, as well as many devoted nieces and nephews.

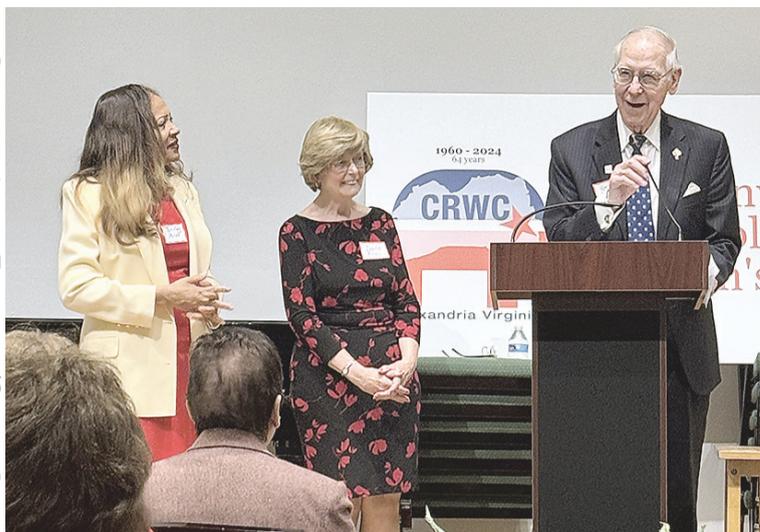
A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 17, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, in Old Town.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Dr. Morgan D. Delaney to: Historic Alexandria Foundation, 218 North Lee Street, Suite 310, Alexandria, VA 22314. (or PayPal at [HistoricAlexandriaFoundation.org](http://HistoricAlexandriaFoundation.org)) Contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

“To his dying day Morgan was all consumed with future projects,” Mackie said. “Even on his sick bed he was going through details and telling me what had to be done. Preservation and restoration – these truly were his passions.”



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



Jeanne Jacob, center, accepts a check on behalf of the George Washington Legacy Foundation presented by the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club in honor of foundation founder Marion Moon April 25 at The Lyceum. Pictured are: CRWC president Shirley Miles, CRWC's Laurie Kirby, Jeanne Jacob, WMAL's Vince Coglianese, and Shawn Eyer of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Gant Redmon, right, makes remarks after accepting a donation on behalf of the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria in memory of his wife Fran, a longtime SOLA supporter and board member. The donation was made by Shirley Miles and Laurie Kirby, left, on behalf of the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club April 25 at The Lyceum.

# CRWC Honors Redmon, Moon

## Donations made to SOLA, GW Legacy Foundation.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

WMAL News talk radio host Vince Coglianese was on hand as the Common-

wealth Republican Women's Club paid tribute to two of its members with donations in their memory as part of the CRWC's annual meeting April 25 at The Lyceum.

Coglianese was the keynote speaker at the event which honored recently deceased CRWC members Fran Redmon and Marion Moon.

Gant Redmon accepted a donation in his wife's memory on behalf of the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria, where Fran

**"It is only fitting that we honor and pay tribute to Fran Redmon and Marion Moon."**

— CRWC president Shirley Miles

Redmon was a longtime supporter and board member.

Shawn Eyer of the George Wash-

ington Masonic National Memorial and Jeanne Jacob accepted a donation in memory of Marion Moon on behalf of the George Washington Legacy Foundation, which was co-founded by Moon.

"It is only fitting that we honor and pay tribute to Fran Redmon and Marion Moon," said CRWC president Shirley Miles. "They have both left a legacy and lasting impact on our organization and our community."

www.alexandriacrwc.org

### OPINION

## Endorsements by Northern Virginia/Realtors Political Action Committee

Candidates for the City of Alexandria and Arlington County Board/

The Northern Virginia/Realtors Political Action Campaign Committee (NV/RPAC) has announced its endorsements of nine candidates running for various positions with the City of Alexandria and the Arlington County Board.

The endorsements are approved by an 11-member board of Trustees appointed by the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors President of the Board. The NV/RPAC Trustees evaluate candidates through questionnaires, interviews, and voting records.

NV/RPAC Realtors put affiliations aside to represent the best interests of NVAR members, said Ryan McLaughlin, CEO, NVAR. "Candidates receive NV/RPAC funding based on their support of Realtor issues only."

City of Alexandria residents will vote for Mayor and candidates for six open seats on the Alexandria

City Council. For Mayor, NV/RPAC has endorsed current City Council member Alyia Gaskins.

"Alyia's consistent leadership on housing affordability was a key to securing her NV/RPAC endorsement," said Burstein. "She has displayed a commitment to hearing all voices and creating pathways to ensure housing for all Alexandria residents."

For City Council, NV/RPAC has endorsed the following four incumbent candidates, and two who are new to Alexandria politics:

- ❖ Jesse O'Connell (challenger)
- ❖ James "Jimmy" Lewis (challenger)
- ❖ John Taylor Chapman (incumbent)
- ❖ Canek Aguirre (incumbent)
- ❖ Sarah Bagley (incumbent)
- ❖ R. Kirk McPike (incumbent)

"The NV/RPAC endorsed candidates have a clear plan for Alexandria's future and they have addressed issues such as housing affordability and aging in place for older Alexandrians," said Mary Bowen, Vice Chair of the NV/RPAC. "They will guide us well into

the future."

For the Arlington County Board's one open seat, the NV/RPAC Trustees endorsed Natalie Roy and Tenley Peterson. According to the Trustees, Roy, who is a Realtor and a member of NVAR, is dedicated to promoting sustainable living and development, as well as affordable housing policies that will benefit the Arlington community. The Trustees said Peterson, a political newcomer, is knowledgeable about Arlington and how the county works, from affordable housing to transportation and development.

She's dedicated to improving the quality of life for Arlington residents.

"While these candidates are starkly different, each would well represent the interests of Realtors in Arlington County as we face housing shortages, skyrocketing prices, and transportation challenges across the region," said Mary Ann Burstein, Chair of the NV/RPAC Trustees.

Registered voters will head to the polls during the Arlington and Alexandria primary elections on June 18, 2024.

## Michael Joseph Slavin Memorial Service

A memorial service will be held for Michael Joseph Slavin, who died April 22 at the age of 65. A Mass will be held at St. Rita Catholic Church in Alexandria Monday, May 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Reception to follow at Parkfairfax Community Center, 3360 Gunston Road, Alexandria.



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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.





# Need Cat Companionship?

Mount Purrnon provides an experience designed for anyone who needs a cat fix.

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

In August 2020, Mount Purrnon in Old Town became Alexandria's first — to date, only — cat café, and Virginia's first one to serve wine, beer, and food.

"Cat cafés were big in Asia before the first ones started opening here in the States," Adam Patterson, co-owner and co-founder of Mount Purrnon, said. "They have exploded over the last ten years. We got the inspiration to open our own cat café after visiting one in Charleston, South Carolina, on a weekend trip years ago. We were finally able to open in 2020."

The Mount Purrnon team fosters these cats from Fancy Cats and Dogs Rescue Team, a Fairfax, Va.-based non-profit organization that the café has partnered with since its inception.

"Mount Purrnon enables us to take in more cats per year, and save more lives, because our cats are the ones on the brink of euthanasia," Catherine McCullough-Awad, Executive Director of Fancy Cats and Dogs Rescue Team, said. "Mount Purrnon is proven to be able to adopt out a lot of the senior and special needs cats that we take in—many with legs and eyes missing. They have a really good model for us to be able to adopt out these cats."

Mount Purrnon houses between 20 to 30 cats at a time from Fancy Cats and Dogs Rescue Team.

"They all live at the café, where we take care of them until they get adopted," Patterson said. "People pay to come in and play with the cats. If they fall in love, they can adopt them. A lot of cat cafés have that adoption model. We've been trying to take the concept and elevate it a bit. We offer beer, wine, coffee, sandwiches, salads, and a lot of desserts."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Cats of Mount Purrnon, good for a visit, or consider bringing one home.

Patterson and his Mount Purrnon co-founder Kristin Cowan collaborate extensively with the Fancy Cats and Dogs Rescue Team to determine which cats are most suitable for the cafe lifestyle before they take any animals in.

"We want to make sure all the cats who come here will be comfortable in this environment," Patterson said. "While being around this many people is great for some cats, we understand that it might be stressful for others."

It's a good life at Mount Purrnon

for its furry residents.

"All the cats roam free, all the time," Patterson said. "They only go in cages if they get sick — we won't even cage them at night so long as they are healthy. Also, during the day when patrons are in the restaurant, the cats can go to a quieter space through a cat door if they get overwhelmed. They always have a safe space to retreat to if they need to."

Cowan added that the cats are restricted from the dining area,

SEE NEED CAT, PAGE 9

## CITY COUNCIL BREAKFAST

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May 7, 2024 | 8-10AM

The Alexandria Old Town

TICKETS AT THECHAMBERALX.COM



The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

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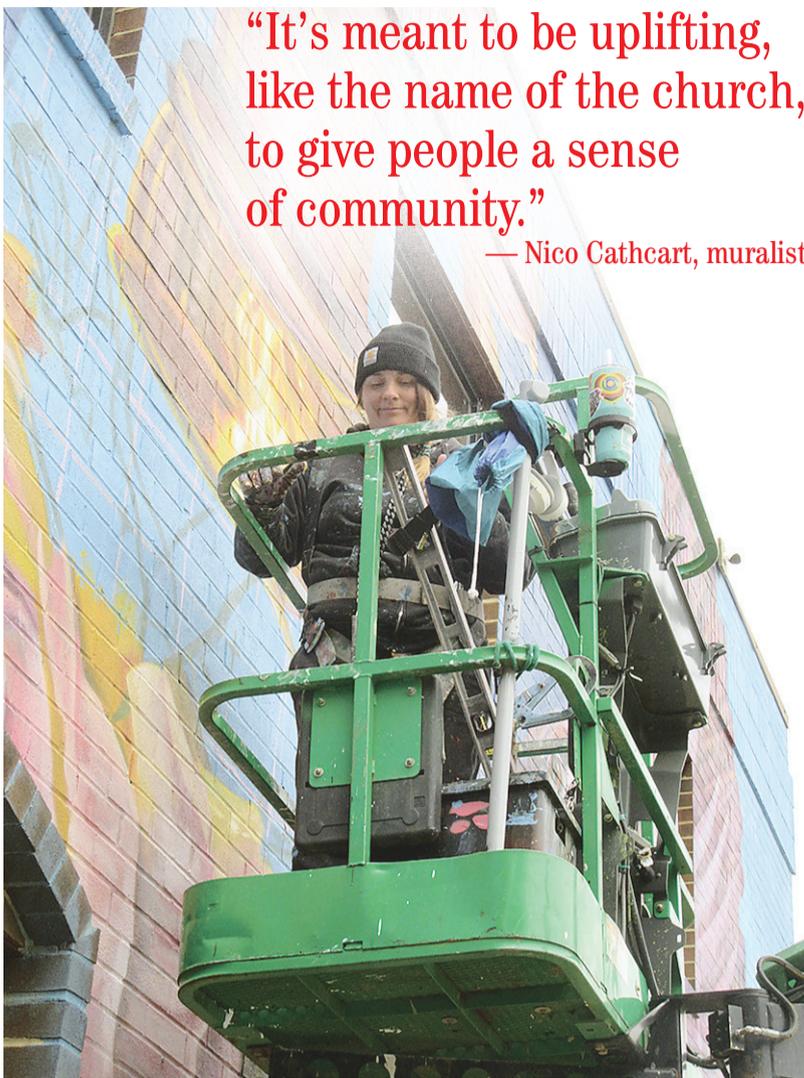
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## MURAL OF HOPE

**“It’s meant to be uplifting, like the name of the church, to give people a sense of community.”**

— Nico Cathcart, muralist

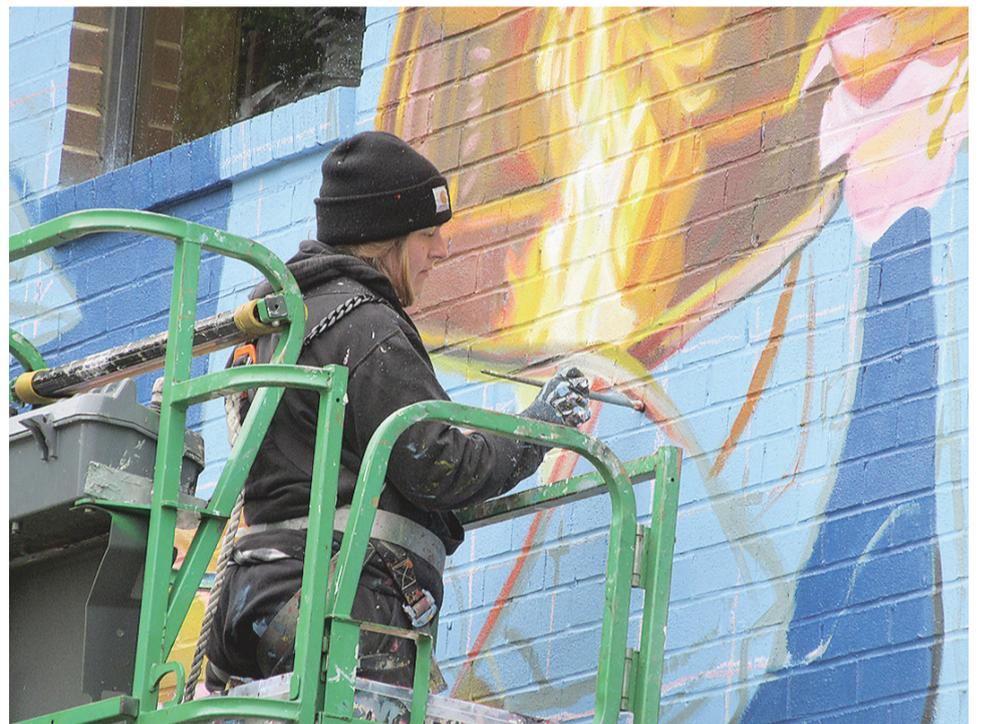


Nico Cathcart uses a lift to paint murals.



Nico Cathcart painting from the lift

PHOTOS BY  
GLENDA BOOTH



The muralist painting from the lift.

# A Mural of Hope on U.S. 1

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

**T**here’s a beautiful new lantern glowing on a blue wall and beaming toward U.S. Route 1 at its intersection with Russell Road. On April 23, Richmond muralist Nico Cathcart completed a mural ten feet above the ground on the east wall of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church next door to a 7-11 and within view of the busy highway, offering a big splash of beauty and cheer to the corridor.

The mural, 20 feet tall and 50 feet long, has a sparrow on each side of the lantern with a lily at the top and peony on the bottom. Cathcart was inspired by the church’s mission and chose these elements to bring people toward the church’s warmth and light.

“It’s meant to be uplifting, like the name of the church, to give people a sense of community,” Cathcart said.

Rising Hope is a mission church where Reverend Kameron Wilds ministers to the “least, lost, lonely and left out,” typically people unable to support a traditional church. The church has a kitchen, food



Cathcart uses primary colors and mixes them as she works.

pantry and other services. On cold winter nights, unhoused people can sleep in the fellowship hall.

The church’s philosophy: “Love unconditionally, include everyone and celebrate life.”

### THE MURAL’S DESIGN

After talking to Wilds and Evan Kaufman, Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation’s (SFDC) Executive Director, Cathcart prepared several designs and Rising Hope chose this one.

“This is art for people who have historically been denied access to beauty because

of poverty, policy, stigma and other factors. This space is a light that draws people in,” said Wilds.

Wilds added, “We encounter so many people who are hurt, hard up, in pain and suffering trauma. These people are fighting every day. They deserve the access to art that everyone else has, noting, that Russian writer Fyodor Dostoevsky said, ‘Beauty will save the world.’”

### HOW SHE DID IT

Cathcart, 41, raised herself up on a green Sunbelt aerial lift, a vehicle she’s been driving for ten years, which has spurred some second looks, she snickered. “When they see a woman starting up a lift, many people just assume you can’t drive it,” adding, “Street art is very gendered,” observing that the field is dominated by men.

She used six gallons of primer paint and hoisted up the primary colors. “I mix as I

go,” she said. On a chilly April 21, her black pants, sweatshirt and sock cap splattered with paint recalled a Jackson Pollock painting. “It’s dirty work, sunup to sundown. It’s not glorious. It has real high highs and real low lows,” Cathcart noted.

### ALWAYS AN ARTIST

Dirty or not, Cathcart never questioned that she would be an artist, starting with a watercolor set as a child. “You don’t choose it. It chooses you,” she believes. She grew up in Toronto, Canada, moved to central New York as a teenager and attended the State University of New York at Oswego and Courtland. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting and ceramics. When she moved to Richmond in 2008, she got involved in the Richmond Mural Project. “I never looked back,” she said.

# MURAL OF HOPE



The partially completed mural on April 21

**Rising Hope's philosophy: "Love unconditionally, include everyone and celebrate life."**



The completed mural on April 23.



The lantern completed.



The muralist's signature in the bottom right corner.

FROM PAGE 6

She paints murals all over the United States, in 2023 hitting 23 states. Last year she was honored as one of the best muralists in the national mural awards. She was named as one of the world's top 50 muralists in a book titled "Street Art Women."

## SFDC INITIATIVES

This is SFDC's third mural on the U.S. 1 corridor in Fairfax County. Cathcart painted the "Fabric of the Community" on the ZIPS dry cleaning building at 6216 North Kings Highway. At its center is a bald eagle pair, inspired by a nesting pair on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The mural has local flora and portraits of an El Salvadoran immigrant and a local African American nurse, representing the diversity of the

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**"This is art for people who have historically been denied access to beauty because of poverty, policy, stigma and other factors. This space is a light that draws people in."**

— Reverend Kameron Wilds, Rising Hope

community.

"The Rising Hope mural aligns with our plans to create a stronger identity and sense of place for the corridor community and connects with our larger plan of creating an art corridor," Kaufman said. "Small incremental changes in placemaking including our murals, new public sculpture, parklets and other targeted interventions help create a new perception of the area that begins

to attract the types of small businesses and community-focused development projects that we seek." SFDC hopes to have more murals, sculpture, unique landscaping and repurposing of hardscapes.

"This mural is a story of resilience and strength, people refusing to give up," said Wilds.

"Street art is the most accessible art," commented Cathcart. "A lot of public art ig-

nores the people nearby. This is art for them. It's meant to be uplifting and give a sense of warmth. It shows that someone cares."

## Information

Nico Cathcart, <https://www.nicocathcart.com/>

Rising Hope Mission Church, <https://www.risinghopeumc.org/>

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, [www.sfdc.org](http://www.sfdc.org)

SFDC Murals, <https://sfdc.org/blog/mural-progress/> and <https://sfdc.org/blog/new-mural/>

# ENTERTAINMENT

## 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/>

## 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 9 - MAY 19

**There and Back Exhibit of Photographic Art by Maureen Minehan.** At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union Street, Studio 312, in Alexandria. There and Back reflects Maureen's ceaseless desire to explore the beauty inherent in solitude. Through her artistic vision, she portrays isolated landscapes not as desolate or forsaken, but as sanctuaries where quietude reigns supreme, and narratives yet untold await discovery. Maureen will be at the gallery on Sunday, April 21st from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## 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



Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War Weekend takes place May 4-5, 2024 at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.



A Sunset Concert with Soulfire takes place on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at River Farm in Alexandria.

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.

## THURSDAY/MAY 2

**May Coffee & Connections.** 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. At The Landing Alexandria, 2620 Main Line Blvd., Alexandria. The Chamber ALX's Professional Women's Network May Coffee & Connections. Hear from ACT for Alexandria President & CEO Heather Peeler who will share her amazing story.

## THURSDAY/MAY 2

**Maskerade: Moving Tradition Forward.** 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. In celebration of Asian Heritage month in May, Fiesta Asia & Dance Asia jointly presents Maskerade: Moving Tradition Forward - a dance showcase of

mystery and enchantment featuring Asian mask cultures. This presentation will feature works that explore the influence and charisma of masks across different regional cultures. The jovial, the forbidden, the divine, the sanguine, masks are significant elements in many folk and traditional ceremonies, rituals and traditions and are often of an ancient origin. Witness the vivacity of movement and partake in the dance!

## MAY 4-5

**Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War Weekend.** At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Step back in time at Mount Vernon's Revolutionary War Weekend on May 4th and 5th. Mount Vernon's 12-Acre Field transforms into a battleground as Continentals, Redcoats, and Hessians conduct military drills, perform cavalry demonstrations, and engage in 18th-century tacticals.

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**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>.

## MAY 17-19

**Mount Vernon Wine Festival.** At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Secure tickets early for the popular Mount Vernon Wine Festival on May 17th, 18th, and 19th. Bring a blanket to relax on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River while sampling wines from Virginia wineries and enjoying the live music of Bruce

Ewan and the Solid Senders.

## FRIDAY/MAY 17

**The Thirteen: Beautiful as the Sky.** 7:30 p.m. At Washington Street UMC, 109 South Washington Street, Alexandria. In this program, The Thirteen explores moral beauty in three guises: the second World War, the American Civil War, and the women's rights movement in America. Poulenc secretly composed his Figure Humaine in Vichy France, with the intention that it should be performed in Paris upon liberation from Nazi rule. Last performed by The Thirteen in 2018, this twelve-part tour de force is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and to the practice of remembrance. Leonard Bernstein Award-winning composer Hilary Purrington writes a new work for The Thirteen that traces the progress and intimate stories of the American women's rights movement. Jeffrey Van's A Procession Winding Around Me sets Civil War poems by Walt Whitman for choir and solo classical guitar with music as evocative and transcendent as the poetry.

## SUNDAY/MAY 19

**Old Town Festival of Speed & Style.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Across lower King Street in Old Town Alexandria. Sponsored by Burke & Herbert Bank. The event is a high-sensory spectacle for participants, spectators and car enthusiasts, allowing them to experience the "Speed & Style" variety of exotic supercars and vintage motorcycles rarely seen sitting still for up-close viewing. Center-stage at noon, a unique Fashion Demonstration will be hosted by Maria Elizabeth of Alexandria-based Salon DeZEN. Maria will discuss the elegance and importance of natural fashion and its profound impact when paired with beautiful automobiles. An award presentation highlighting cars judged to be the finest in 11 categories, will immediately follow the Fashion Demonstration. In addition to the Festival itself, the pre-Festival High-Octane Ball will take place the night before, on Saturday, May 18th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria. For more information about the festival and to purchase tickets to the High-Octane Ball, visit [www.festivalofspeedandstyle.com](http://www.festivalofspeedandstyle.com).

## SATURDAY/MAY 25

**Singer Kate Campbell.** 7:30 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Kate Campbell is a southern singer-songwriter who writes and sings memorable folk songs infused with undercurrents of delta blues, folk, pop, and country that originate from a musical landscape spanning the less-traveled back roads from Nashville to Muscle Shoals to Memphis. Over the course of 20+ years since her acclaimed debut album *Songs from the Levee*, she has resisted the temptation to follow musical trends but instead chooses to set the pace for her unique musical journey. Advance tickets \$25 at [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org), day-of \$30 (member / congregation as-applicable \$25 at the door) | webcast \$15 | Info: at [rob@focusmusic.org](mailto:rob@focusmusic.org) or [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org).

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# NEWS BRIEFS



**32nd annual NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is the second Saturday of May, May 11, 2024. Leave nonperishable food by your mailbox.**

### Help Stamp Out Hunger with ALIVE!

Can you help on the evening of Saturday, May 11th with the Stamp Out Hunger food drive? ALIVE! is looking for volunteers to meet at key post offices to load food donations into the ALIVE! trucks when letter carrier return from their postal routes.

The 32nd annual NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is the second Saturday of May. On May 11, 2024, local letter carriers will be collecting non-perishable food items to help those in need right here in Alexandria.

Leave non-perishable food donations by your mailbox no later than 9 a.m. on May 11. Local letter carriers will collect the food on their normal route, and food gathered here will be donated to ALIVE!

Sign up online for specific times and locations

at: <https://www.alive-inc.org/we-need-volunteers-alexandria-va/>

### Early Voting Begins May 3

June 18, 2024 is Election Day for dual Primary Elections, and early voting begins this week.

On May 3 early voting will begin for the June 18, 2024, Dual Primary Election in the City of Alexandria. The ballot will include contests for either the Democratic nominations for Mayor and City Council or Republican nomination for United States Senate.

In a Dual Primary Election, qualified voters may vote in either Primary, but not both. They must indicate their choice to the Pollbook officer and may not be challenged

on their choice.

All registered voters in Virginia are eligible to vote by mail or in person.

### VOTING IN PERSON

The deadline to vote early is Saturday, June 15, at 5 p.m. In-person early voting hours are:

Office of Voter Registration & Elections (132 N. Royal St., Suite 100)

- ❖ Opens for early voting on Friday, May 3, 2024
- ❖ Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- ❖ Closed Monday, May 27, 2024, Memorial Day
- ❖ Additional and Extended Hours:
- ❖ Saturday, June 8, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 10

# Need Cat Companionship?

FROM PAGE 5

too, per health regulations.

Since opening in August 2020, Mount Purrnon has grown in popularity and in the number of cats it adopts out.

"We are getting more and more people in the cafe, and every year, our number of adoptions goes up," Patterson said. "In 2023, we had 256 adoptions. We are on pace for more this year, with January 2024 being our best month ever. On average, we adopt out about five cats per week and the average length of stay is three weeks."

Mount Purrnon offers proof that the cat café model could lead to lower animal return rates, too.

"We have a three to four percent return rate, where shelters experience about a nine to ten percent return rate of adopted cats," Patterson said. "I think it's because people know more of what they are getting into when they get to spend time with a cat at the cafe before adopting them. They are interacting with the animal before bringing it home and they get to see personality and gauge if the cat is going to be a good fit for their home."

The café life is good for cats in other ways, too. Patterson

has seen many previously stray, nervous cats turn into more relaxed creatures who enjoy people's company after a relatively short amount of time living in the cafe.

"A lot of stray cats who first come here hide under couches and limit their play with other cats," Patterson said. "Then after a few weeks of being here, these same cats will seek out people's attention and be very social. I'm not sure that kind of growth happens in shelter environments."

Mount Purrnon isn't just for people who want to adopt cats, either. It provides an experience designed for anyone who needs a cat fix.

"The majority of people who come in are just there out of curiosity," Patterson said. "They might be tourists, or perhaps they have a live-in family member or roommate who is allergic to cats so they can't have one. There are a lot of ways to enjoy the cafe without bringing a cat home. We offer monthly passes and wifi, so it's even a popular place for people to come in and work or even just hang out."

To learn more about Mount Purrnon, visit <https://www.mt-purrnoncatcafe.com>.

## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

### THURSDAY/MAY 30

**Sunset Concert with Soulfire.** 6-8 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Get ready for a soulful evening to remember as the captivating band Soulfire takes the stage at River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society (AHS). This outdoor family-friendly concert promises an unforgettable evening of music, nature, and stunning views overlooking the Potomac River. The event is free. Donations are appreciated. Parking fee is \$20. For more information and to purchase parking in advance, visit [www.ahsgardening.org/sunsetconcert](http://www.ahsgardening.org/sunsetconcert). For more information, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 114 or visit [www.ahsgardening.org](http://www.ahsgardening.org).

### SATURDAY/JUNE 8

**Old Town Alexandria Arts & Crafts Fair.** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 Prince Street, Alexandria. Volunteer Alexandria is thrilled to present the Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair on June 8, 2024, at Waterfront Park located at 1 Prince Street on the Potomac River. The fair is free to attend and features local and regional artisans who showcase their pieces across various mediums including pottery, stationary, fabrics, paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Featuring more than 80-plus vendors including food and drink to purchase.

### 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).

### MAY

- Thu. 2: Al Stewart with The Empty Pockets \$49.50
- Fri. 3: Al Di Meola Electric Band \$59.50 SOLD OUT!
- Sat. 4: VARIETOPIA with Paul F. Tompkins \$35.00 SOLD OUT!
- Sun. 5: Madeleine Peyroux w/ Joy Clark \$59.50 SOLD OUT!
- Wed. 8: Vienna Teng w/ Jean Rohe \$35.00
- Thu. 9: The String Queens \$35.00
- Fri. 10: 10,000 Maniacs \$55.00 SOLD OUT!
- Sat. 11: The Longest Johns "The Voyage Tour" w/ Sean Dagher \$29.50 SOLD OUT!
- Sun. 12: The Longest Johns "The Voyage Tour" w/ Sean Dagher \$29.50 SOLD OUT!
- Mon. 13: Stanley Clarke Band \$59.50
- Wed. 15: David Sanborn \$49.50
- Fri. 17: BoDeans \$35.00
- Sat. 18: Harmony Sweepstakes A Capella Festival Mid-Atlantic Regionals \$35.00
- Sun. 19: The Sun Ra Arkestra - 100th Birthday Celebration of Maestro Marshall Allen \$39.50
- Mon. 20: Leonid & Friends \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
- Tue. 21: Lucero w/ William Matheny \$39.50
- Thu. 23: Ruth Moody (of The Wailin' Jennys) \$35.00
- Fri. 24: Chante' Moore \$79.50 SOLD OUT!
- Sat. 25: Walter Beasley \$49.50
- Sun. 26: Maggie Rose: No One Gets Out Alive Tour w/ Fancy Hagood \$29.50
- Fri. 31: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston \$65.00

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**Obituary**

**Alison C. Withers** passed away on Easter day, March 31st, 2024, near Alexandria, Virginia at age 69. Alison grew up in the Spring Branch area of Houston, Texas and graduated from Spring Branch High School. She graduated from Texas Woman's University in 1976 and entered the Army Nurse Corps, where she served for 16 years, achieving the rank of Major. Alison met her husband Ben during initial training at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. Being an Army family, Alison and Ben lived in many locations, but she remained a Texan at heart. She served her community in many ways, e.g., school nurse, Sunday school teacher, choir member, and Co-President of West Potomac High's Band Booster Club. Above all, she loved raising her three daughters. A lifelong believer, Alison was a longtime member of Plymouth Haven Baptist Church. Her sharp wit and kind disposition drew people to her and her loss is felt by many. She was predeceased by her sister Susan, and leaves behind her loving family: Ben Withers, Rachel Belkin, Sarah Withers, Leah Brown, seven grandchildren, and brothers Casey and Travis. A Celebration of Life will be held in Houston on May 13, 2024. To honor Alison, consider donating to Capital Caring Health, Adler Center for Inpatient Care. <<https://capitalcaring.funraise.org>>

**CALENDAR**

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

- FROM PAGE 9
- ❖ Sunday, June 9, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
  - ❖ Monday, June 10, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
  - ❖ Tuesday, June 11, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
  - ❖ Wednesday, June 12, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
  - ❖ Thursday, June 13, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
  - ❖ Saturday, June 15, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

**VOTING BY MAIL**  
Applications to request a mail-in ballot must be received in the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 5 p.m., Friday, June 7. Access an application in one of the following ways:

- ❖ By visiting [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov) to submit an application online.
- ❖ By downloading the application available on the City's Elections webpage.
- ❖ By calling Voter Registration & Elections at 703.746.4050 to request that an application is mailed to you.

Completed ballots must be either returned to the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, or post-marked by June 18 and received in the office by noon on Friday, June 21. To vote in person, an application is not required. Applications should not be submitted before voting in person.

**BALLOT DROP BOXES**  
Ballot drop boxes will be available at all polling places on June 18, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A secure outdoor drop box, under video surveillance, is available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 24 hours a day, through June 18 at 7 p.m.

**REGISTERING TO VOTE**  
The deadline for the normal registration period for the June 18, 2024, Dual Primary Election is May 28. The Same Day Registration period begins May 29 and runs through Primary Election Day, June 18, 2024. Visit [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov) to register, check registration status, or update an existing registration. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Elections](http://alexandriava.gov/Elections) for complete election information, including voter registration requirements, sample ballots, precinct maps and ID requirements. For more information, contact the Office of Voter Registration & Elections at [voters@alexandriava.gov](mailto:voters@alexandriava.gov) or 703.746.4050. For reasonable disability accommodation, contact [angela.turner@alexandriava.gov](mailto:angela.turner@alexandriava.gov) or 703.746.4050, Virginia Relay 711

**Alexandria Begins Air Quality Action Days Program May 1**  
The City of Alexandria's Transportation & Environmental Services Department will begin its "Air SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 11  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# Native Plant Advocates Win 2024 Ellen Pickering Award

**O**n Sunday, April 21, the City of Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) and AlexRenew, Alexandria's wastewater authority, presented the 2024 Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award to Scott Knudsen and Jennifer Pease. The two are known for co-managing their biannual native plant sale and grassroots efforts to educate their community about sustainable landscaping.

Rebecca Hammer, AlexRenew Board Director and Ellen Pickering Award Selection Committee member, presented the award to Knudsen and Pease at the Del Ray Citizens Association's Gardenfest, one of Alexandria's many community events celebrating Earth Month. In addition to Hammer, Jennifer Debias with City of Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission, and Duff Pickering representing the family of Ellen Pickering. Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, and Councilmembers also attended the event.

Residents of Alexandria's Parkfairfax neighborhood, Knudsen and Pease have been hosting the biannual native plant sales since the fall of 2003.

Knudsen began developing his vision for native planting as a member of the first Alexandria Tree Steward class when he realized that invasive plants were infesting local woodlands. At the time, it was difficult to find quality native species to plant without having to travel far, and anyone with an interest in sustainable landscaping had few local options. He and his wife, Jennifer, hosted their inaugural native plant sale to provide native plant alternatives while educating neighbors about sustainable gardening.

Since then, Knudsen and Pease have ex-



**2024 Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award winners are Scott Knudsen and Jennifer Pease, known for their biannual native plant sale and grassroots efforts to educate their community about sustainable landscaping.**

panded the sale to include vendors from Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, as well as information tables staffed by local volunteers and experts from Tree Steward and Virginia Master Naturalists volunteers who provide guidance on the use of native plants. Knudsen and Pease personally assist plant sale patrons and offer advice to those new to sustainable gardening.

The concept of sustainable landscaping was not popular when they started the native plant sale over 20 years ago, but Knudsen and Pease have worked diligently to change the mindset in Alexandria. Over the years, they have made native plants more accessible to local gardeners, boosted demand for native plants in local nurseries, and increased local biodiversity by introduc-

ing native plants into hundreds - perhaps thousands - of public and private outdoor spaces in Alexandria.

The Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award recognizes Alexandria community members who demonstrate a commitment to protecting the environment and preserving local natural resources. The annual award honors the late Ellen Pickering and her lifelong dedication to preservation of green space throughout Alexandria. Nominations are accepted each year starting in February and awarded in April as part of the City's Earth Month celebration.

Visit [alexandriava.gov/EarthDay](https://alexandriava.gov/EarthDay) for more information about the Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award and other Earth Month activities.

## NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 10

Quality Action Days" program today, May 1. This program is designed to increase awareness about the health and environmental dangers of ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter, known as smog.

From May through September, residents may use several options to access regional air quality forecasts for the following day. Air quality for the next day will be categorized as maroon, purple, red, orange, yellow or green. Residents can watch for "Air Quality Action Day" notifications on the City of Alexandria's Air Quality website or the City homepage when forecasts are orange or above. They may also sign up for daily notices through Clean Air Partners EnviroFlash program.

Residents can help improve and protect air quality by taking voluntary actions when at or above a Code Orange Day is forecasted, including:

- ❖ Replace driving with walking, biking, or using mass transit
- ❖ Avoid mowing lawns with gas-powered mowers
- ❖ Put off any painting until cooler weather

AIR QUALITY INDEX		
Values of Index	Levels of Concern	Daily AQI Color
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 and higher	Hazardous	Maroon

**When is it safe to breathe outside?**

- ❖ Avoid the use of aerosol products
- ❖ Avoid idling unnecessarily and refuel cars after 7 p.m.
- ❖ Spread the word and alert neighbors and community members about the day's air quality warning.

Contact the T&ES Office of Environmental Quality at 703-746-4065 if you have questions about the Air Quality Action Days program. For more information about Air Quality Action Days notifications, visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/AirQuality>

## Ticked Off



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For approximately 14 and half, years I experienced a very unexpected side effect from my ongoing cancer treatment. It may be a coincidence but ever since I began chemotherapy, my body chemistry apparently became unappetizing to two of our least favorite insects: ticks and mosquitos. Previously, I had been what seemed like a magnet to these two bloodsuckers. I realized that effect my chemotherapy was having (as they seemed to default to my wife instead) and enjoyed every unique minute of their disinterest. I am writing this column, to say that the party, such as it is, is over. And there is yet again a coincidence: I have been off my chemo/targeted therapy for four months or so. As such I am no longer medicated. My warranty, so to speak is up, and my body has once again become a relatively enticing and safe haven for ticks and mosquitos - and I'm not too happy about it. To invoke Don Imus: I am "torqued" off about this change.

In addition to killing cancer cells, the various types of chemotherapy, toxic as there were/are to me, they were even more toxic to the insects. Somehow the word/consequences of taking a bite out of me traveled around the insect world and I was - or so it seemed, off limits and/or the insect advisory was proceed/bite at your own risk. And this was quite noticeable. Instead of representing an unending chemical attraction to insects; all sudden, after a few months of infused chemotherapy, I became anathema to these insects. It was never so clear as it was that first summer (I began infusions in early March) when the insects need to establish their dominance in nature's harmony or something akin to that. And for both ticks and mosquitos, the road to their afterlife involved biting and latching on to me like there was no tomorrow (and when I slapped or picked them off, very often there was no tomorrow). It wasn't exactly a cure for cancer, but it was something of significance, something that made my life as a cancer patient more manageable (like the installation of mobile televisions at the infusion center mounted on flexible arms which enabled the patient to watch television while infusing away your day - and hopefully not your life. But in this context when your life is very much hanging in the balance, "one less thing," as "Forrest, Forrest "Gump" said repeatedly matters disproportionately to the actual task at hand. And no more ticks and/or mosquitos, certainly qualified. Can you imagine? No more swatting, slapping, spraying, picking 'tweezering' and disinfecting. You were, for the first time in your life (and for me, that meant 54- and one-half years), the king of your castle. It truly was "Serenity now"/then. Right this second, I just picked a G. D. tick off my neck as I felt it crawling. It's creepy writing about it but it's creepier when it happens - in real-time, in your safe place no less, in my home office/domain.

This major inconvenience happens, as I said coincidentally with the stoppage of my cancer medicine, which creates its own rather disappointing scenario/problem. In addition to the discomfort (bug wise) I feel when I'm outside - now that the warmer weather is mostly here, I feel tremendous anxiety and fear, if I'm being honest, with respect to my now no-more-cancer-medicine-being-taken. And that medicine is not being taken because I'm cured. Hardly. It has stopped because a side effect of the drug used to treat my thyroid cancer was - and is, possibly damaging my kidneys. Well, those researchers were right. My kidneys are now down to about 25% of normal. Moreover, kidney damage is irreparable so all that the doctors can do, generally, is try and prevent the kidneys from further deterioration. Unfortunately, there's no medicine for that - as there is for almost anything else. As a result, I am now left with untreated cancer, damaged kidneys, and more mosquito bites and tick "embeds" than I've ever had in my life. Talk about adding insult to injury. I can live with the cancer and kidney damage (though possibly for fewer years than I anticipated) but making me suffer while doing so seems like cruel and unusual punishment. (Is there a constitutional lawyer in the reading audience?) Whether there is or not (Jamie Raskin), I do need the best. Moreover, I need someone who can help me beat the thyroid cancer, the damaged kidneys and the encroaching ticks and mosquitos.

And do so in a relatively timely manner because every day that I'm left to fend for myself is one less day that I feel like I'm beating the odds. And not beating the odds makes Kenny a very dull boy and one who really hates mosquitos and ticks - for all the wrong reasons.

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

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[www.theirmergroup.com](http://www.theirmergroup.com)



OPEN SUN 5/5, 1-3

## Old Town/Yates Gardens | \$1,100,000

Charming 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home with an open plan, chef's kitchen, beautiful moldings, bright sunroom addition, and loads of updates. The plantings in the walled garden are sure to impress! 902 S St. Asaph Street  
**Sarah Bobbin 571.225.8716**  
[www.SophisticatedLivingNOVADC.com](http://www.SophisticatedLivingNOVADC.com)



OPEN SAT 5/4 & SUN 5/5, 12-2

## Old Town | \$925,000

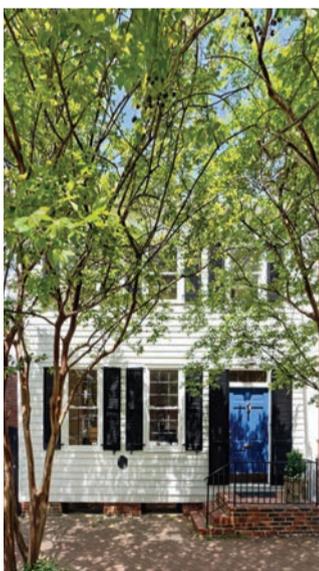
This 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom end unit is quintessential Old Town living located in the historic St. John's Square community. Ease of walkability, parking and commuting methods such as King St Metro and VRE make this location unbeatable! 306 S Columbus Street  
**Jillian Hogan Homes 703.951.7655**  
[www.jillianhoganhomes.com](http://www.jillianhoganhomes.com)



OPEN SUN 5/5, 2-4

## Valley View | \$725,000

The chic and updated Cape Cod features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, a 1-car garage, a finished lower level, and a fully fenced yard. Minutes to Huntington Metro, I-495, Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Huntley Meadows Park, recreation, shops, and more. 3302 Collard Street  
**Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802**  
[www.wendysantantonio.com](http://www.wendysantantonio.com)



## Old Town

**\$2,498,000**

Wonderful semi-detached 3-bedroom, 3.5-renovated bath townhome offers original hardwood floors, 5 fireplaces, open chef's kitchen, new mud room and half bath, and a lovely primary suite. Deep brick patio with mature landscaping.  
 211 Duke Street

**Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421**  
[www.oldtownalexandrialiving.com](http://www.oldtownalexandrialiving.com)



OPEN SUN 5/5, 1-4

## Old Town

**\$1,849,000**

Impeccable Charleston style 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom townhome in wonderful Old Town Village. Three private outdoor spaces, gourmet kitchen, primary suite out of a magazine. Tons of custom features.  
 1211 Wilkes Street

**Lisa Groover 703.919.4426**  
[www.lisagroover.com](http://www.lisagroover.com)



## Old Town

**\$599,999**

This well-maintained 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom home with its own entrance boasts an open design with natural light. A spacious bedroom with walk-in closet and new kitchen appliances. This condo in the heart of Old Town is the perfect blend of convenience and history.  
 120 Cameron St #CS107

**Dawn Gerson 703.625.2389**  
[www.dawngersonrealtor.com](http://www.dawngersonrealtor.com)

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