

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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MAY 30, 2024

## Remembering the Fallen

### Gold Star families join in Memorial Day ceremony.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Gold Star family members of Alexandria's fallen Vietnam veterans were among the hundreds who gathered to pay tribute to the city's fallen with a Memorial Day ceremony May 27 at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Del Ray. The names of Alexandria's 68 fallen and missing in action service members from Vietnam were read aloud as part of the annual ceremony at the site named for Medal of Honor recipient and Vietnam POW Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace.

Prior to the start of the ceremony, a nine-member contingent from the West Point Alumni Glee Club entertained the crowd with three songs from their repertoire: Let There Be Peace on Earth; Mansions of the Lord; and the West Point song, The Corps.

The ceremony included a



PHOTO BY ALLISON SILBERBERG

USMA 1959 classmates of Capt. Humbert "Rocky" Versace salute after presenting a wreath at his statue during the sounding of Taps May 27 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Del Ray.

wreath laying by members of Versace's West Point class of 1959 and was attended by several Gold Star family members, including James Spengler, brother of Capt. Henry

representative Kevin Rue served as Master of Ceremonies, welcoming those in the audience and introducing the Gold Star Family members in attendance. Gold Star family members included: Reba Bayliss, the widow of Capt. Paul Bayliss; Sue Rampey, sister of CPL Robert Cupp; Sue Harvey, sister of MIA 1LT Larry Lilly; Joan Mashburn, sister of

CPT Tschann Mashburn; CPT Henry Spengler family members Bette Meuleners, James Spengler and

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 2

**"Alexandria's fallen heroes are on our minds this Memorial Day. They are not forgotten."**

— Kevin Rue, Memorial Day ceremony organizer

Spengler and Director of Alexandria's Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department.

Friends of Rocky Versace rep-



PHOTO BY ALLISON SILBERBERG

Gold Star MIA Daughter Jeanie Jacobs Huffman and her husband, Dave Huffman, of MISSION: POW/MIA hold high a signed POW/MIA flag near the statue of Rocky Versace at the conclusion of the Memorial Day Ceremony May 27 in Del Ray.



PHOTO BY MCARTHUR MYERS

The family of fallen Vietnam veteran Jeron Valentine pose for a photo at the Capt. Rocky Versace statue May 27 in Del Ray.



PHOTO BY MCARTHUR MYERS

Members of the Saint Rita American Heritage Girls Troop 1381 pose for a photo following the May 27 Memorial Day ceremony in Del Ray.



PHOTO BY MCARTHUR MYERS

Lt. Col. Steve Tracy, right, plays Taps as members of the West Point Alumni Glee Club salute to conclude the May 27 Memorial Day ceremony at the Capt. Rocky Versace Plaza in Del Ray.



# NEWS

## SUMMER 2024

- JUNE 2** 15th Annual Taste of Del Ray
- JUNE 8** Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair
- JUNE 15-16** Juneteenth African American History Bus Tour with Manumission Tour Company
- JUNE 21-22** Portside in Old Town Summer Festival ft. ALX Jazz Fest @ Portside
- JUNE 22** 7th Annual Official Pride Bar Crawl
- JULY 13** Alexandria and USA Birthday Celebration
- JULY 20** Second Annual Best of the West by West End Business Association
- JULY 27** Beats, Bites and Brewsin Old Town Alexandria (at John Carlyle Square)
- AUGUST 17** Del Ray Bands and Brews Summer Bar Crawl
- AUGUST 24** Around the World Cultural Food Festival



PHOTO BY ALLISON SILBERBERG

USMA 1959 classmates of Rocky Versace pose for a picture at Rocky's statue following the Memorial Day ceremony in Del Ray. Pictured (left to right): LTC Mart Lidy, COL Charles Lymn, COL Ray Beurket, COL Al Phillips, LTC Jack Bohman and COL Art Bair.

## Remembering the Fallen

FROM PAGE 1

Shawn Spengler; Earl Valentine, brother of PVT Jeron Valentine; and the sister-in law of Rocky Versace.

A feature of every ceremony is reading the names of Alexandria's 68 Vietnam War fallen heroes. A volunteer stood by the name chiseled into the stone benches arranged in chronological order of their death in Southeast Asia (1963 – 1972) and read the name.

Rue emphasized that seven men remain Missing in Action: Rocky Versace, Tony Winkler, Doug Blodgett, Joe Davies, Morgan Donahue, Leland McCants and Larry Lilly. He noted that these seven are a handful of the 1,576 Americans unaccounted for in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War.

Rue related the story of Versace's capture, his resistance as a POW and his murder by the Vietcong following 23 months in captivity.

"Rocky often sang patriotic songs to boost the morale of his brother POWs," Rue said. "The last time his fellow POWs heard his voice, Rocky was loudly singing God Bless America."

As the West Point Alumni Glee Club began to sing God Bless America the crowd joined in honor of Alexandria's fallen.

Members of the Saint Rita American heritage Girls Troop 1381 led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and Lt. Col. Steve Tracy closed the ceremony with the playing of Taps. Deacon Joseph Connor, also from Saint Rita, provided the Invocation and closing prayer.

Elected officials at the ceremony included Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Mayor Justin Wilson, Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, Council members Canek Aguirre, Sarah Bagley, John Chapman, Alyia Gaskins and Kirk McPike as well as former mayor Allison Silberberg and former city councilman David Speck.

"Capt. Rocky Versace is the U.S. Army's only Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War whose remains have not been recovered and returned by the communists," explained Rue. "Rocky Versace and Alexandria's 67 other Vietnam War Fallen Heroes are on our minds this Memorial Day. They are not forgotten."



PHOTO BY McARTHUR MYERS

Friends of Rocky Versace representative Kevin Rue, organizer of the Memorial Day ceremony, welcomes attendees May 27 at the Capt. Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Memorial in Del Ray.

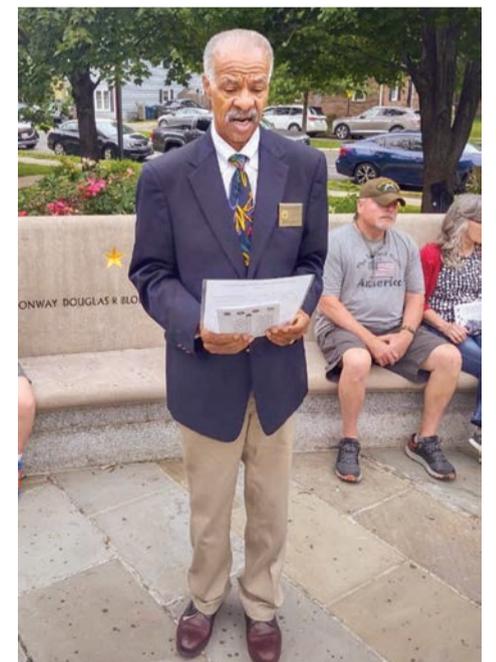


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

McArthur Myers reads the names of Alexandria's fallen Vietnam veterans May 27 at the Capt. Rocky Versace Plaza in Del Ray.

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FOR MORE SUMMER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, CHECK OUT:  
[VisitAlexandria.com/Summer](https://www.visitalexandria.com/summer)



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# NEWS

## Never Forget

### Obama makes surprise visit to honor Alexandria's fallen.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**F**ormer President Barack Obama made a surprise visit to Alexandria National Cemetery, rolling up his sleeves and joining veterans, Scouting America troops, active-duty military personnel and volunteers May 25 in placing American flags at the graves of soldiers in honor of Memorial Day.

"Each Memorial Day Michelle and I try to do something in order to simply say 'thank you,'" said Obama in his impromptu remarks. "It is to remind ourselves to be part of that remembrance of those who made such extraordinary sacrifices on our behalf and on behalf of future generations."

Obama worked alongside several hundred volunteers, including Scouts, Civil Air Patrol Cadets, local church groups, and veterans at the annual Flags In event which places flags at each of the 4,229 graves at the cemetery.

Col. Gerald Krueger (ret) is Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 609 in Alexandria and organizer of the Flags In event at the cemetery.

"The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Tanya Bradsher, was on hand as our VIP for the morning," Krueger said. "But a few minutes before we were set to begin our program, I was pulled aside and told that another VIP wanted to join in - President Obama - but that he wanted to remain inconspicuous. He did his best but it wasn't possible."

Krueger said that Obama spent more than an hour placing flags and flowers at the graves of soldiers. He then spent time visiting with volunteers and cemetery workers.

"He was incredibly gracious with his time," Krueger said. "He took the time to speak with every Scout, asking about their schooling and posing for photos. He was laid back and easy going and didn't make this a political event."

Located at 1450 Wilkes Street in Old Town, Alexandria National Cemetery is the final resting place for veterans from all wars dating to the Civil War. This includes 249 US Colored Troops who fought on the side of the Union in the Civil War, and the graves of 51 Vietnam veterans and several veterans from the Middle East wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

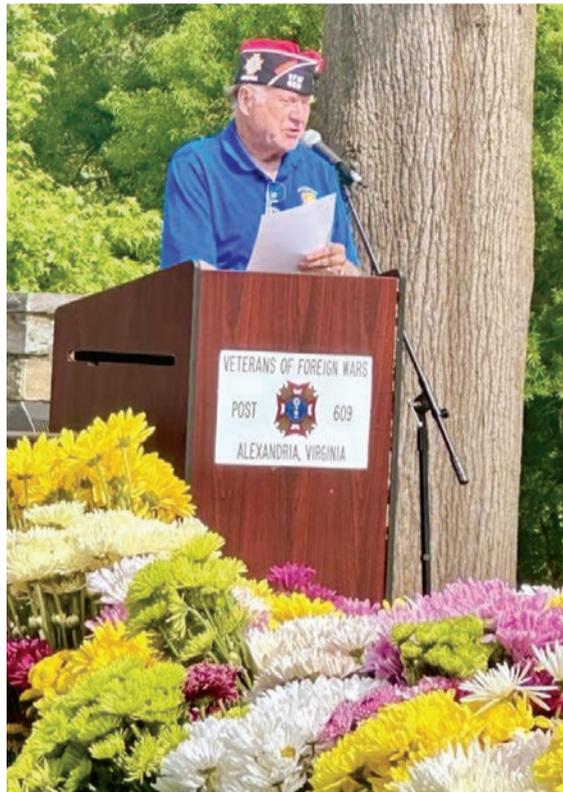
Following Obama's brief remarks, Krueger thanked the former president, placing a Challenge Coin from the VFW in Obama's palm as the two shook hands.

"The Challenge Coin exchange is a tradition in the military," Krueger said. "To my surprise, President Obama reached in his pocket and gave me a Challenge Coin and said

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**"There are certain ties that bind us together as Americans, regardless of our differences."**

— President Barack Obama  
at Alexandria National Cemetery



VFW Post 609 Commander Col. Gerald Krueger (ret) delivers remarks at the Flags In ceremony May 25 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH MATTERA/VFW POST 609

U.S. Flags adorn the graves of more than 4,000 fallen veterans May 25 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE GRAY

Former President Barack Obama places a flag at the grave of a fallen service member May 25 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH MATTERA/VFW POST 609

Former President Barack Obama poses for a photo with volunteers May 25 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



Former President Barack Obama salutes the grave of a fallen veteran May 25 at Alexandria National Cemetery.

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ MAY 30 - JUNE 5, 2024 ♦ 3

# Guest House Celebrates 50 Years

Guest House has assisted 5,000 women over 50 years.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

It all began in 1975 with one woman's dream to help women returning into society from prison who had committed nonviolent crimes. At the time there was no place for them to go and still today, Guest House is the only residential facility for these women in Northern Virginia.

According to an article in the Alexandria Gazette on Dec. 16 1974, Betty McConkey, a former prisoner herself, decided to set up a place for "delinquent women" to recover. At the time she said, "I had a place to go when I got out and my people stood behind me, but so many women have no one to turn to." But in the beginning the going was tough, and McConkey said she used to get anxiety headaches wondering where the next month's rent would come from.

There have been ups and downs since McConkey went out on a limb with few resources and rented the house. She could accommodate up to seven women at the time. She went to Charles Lankford, director of the Fairfax office of Offender Aid and Restoration, also a former prisoner, for assistance, and he reached out to churches and civic as-



Guest House in 1985

sociations who came up with clothing, food and rent assistance and even beautician and haircutting services.

But over time, the house had gradually fallen into disrepair. They had fallen into

debt with no way to raise the funds.

Guest House got a second chance when the community stepped in again and a new board rescued them with plumbers, electricians and architects volunteering free labor

to renovate the house. The new Guest House board members applied for grants from local jurisdictions including Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax counties. Kari Galloway, executive director from 2005-2022 says, "It was rejuvenated by concerned citizens who thought 'wow' this is a unique niche population and we could be proud of helping them as a community." When all was finished, they reopened with bedrooms to accommodate eight women.

When Galloway came to take over, Guest House had recently reopened. It was a challenge. She remembers that Guest House was in danger of losing their Virginia Department of Corrections funding which provides over 50 percent of their assistance. When Galloway started the job they had a budget of \$179,000 to run 24/7 with eight women. "We only had one full-time staff member so I would cover 10 hours a week myself to monitor doors, boots on the ground. It was good for me to learn the job but as executive director it wasn't sustainable.

"I fell in love with the women. They deserved a chance," Galloway said. "I started building infrastructure. They defied expectations."

SEE GUEST HOUSE. PAGE 6

## Half of Century of Hope Gala:

Half of Century of Hope Gala June 6 from 7-10 pm at ALX Community Atrium Rooftop located at 277 S. Washington Street in Alexandria. Look forward to dancing with live music, mocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by D.C. Central Kitchen and Together We Bake, laughter, joy and heartwarming moments shared by the residents. To purchase tickets or support Guest House: <https://friendsofguesthouse.org>



Guest House in the 1990s



Guest House today.





PHOTOS BY DEBBIE GRAY

Members of Scouting America troops gather to begin placing flags at the graves of fallen veterans May 25 at Alexandria National Cemetery.

# Never Forget

FROM PAGE 3

that he would leave several with me to be given to the workers who clean up the cemetery. It was really a very special gesture for everyone.”

Alexandria National Cemetery was first established during the Civil War by a July 1862 Act of Congress, predating the creation of Arlington National Cemetery in May of 1864.

Obama thanked the volunteers and the veterans service organizations that hosted the event.

“I thank each and every one of you for being out here,” Obama said. “All of you are here for the same reasons – a reminder that there are certain ties that bind us together as Americans, regardless of our differences.”



Former President Barack Obama, left, received flowers from VFW Post 609 Commander Col. Gerald Krueger (ret) to place at the graves of fallen veterans May 25 at Alexandria National Cemetery.

The flags will remain in place through June 2.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH MATTERA/VFW POST 609

VFW Post 609 Commander Col. Gerald Krueger (ret), at right, poses with VFW colleague Martin Menez at the May 25 Flags In ceremony at Alexandria National Cemetery.

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## ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER FEMA'S EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP)

The city of Alexandria has been awarded \$50,642 in EFSP Phase 40 and \$63,175 in Phase 41 through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

### United Way of the National Capital Area

Congress created the EFSP program in 1983 to supplement nonprofit, faith based and government organizations that provide food, shelter, rent, mortgage, and utility assistance. Under the terms of the grant from the National EFSP board, local agencies chosen to receive EFSP funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) demonstrate the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board.

A virtual information meeting will be held June 12, 2024, at 11:30 pm. Organizations wishing to apply please email [AlexEFSP@uwnca.org](mailto:AlexEFSP@uwnca.org) for an application and the link to the meeting.

Grant applications must be submitted to [AlexEFSP@uwnca.org](mailto:AlexEFSP@uwnca.org) by June 21, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

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# Guest House Has Assisted 5,000 Women Over 50 Years



Guest House residence on E. Luray Avenue



Sonja Allen, current executive director of Guest House



Kari Galloway, Executive Director from 2005-2022

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

FROM PAGE 4

Guest House provides a reentry program and support services individualized for each woman in the residence. Many of the women have suffered abuse and have lived chaotic lives. They learn life skills and independent good decision making while attending programs to assist them with self sufficiency and holding down a job. As time went on Galloway added case managers and other staff, job counseling and support as well as mental health resources and training opportunities supplemented with art and dance therapy.

Guest House on E. Luray Avenue was able to accommodate 10 women but others were living in rental apartments. Sonja Allen, former operations manager at Guest House and current executive director says, "It was not ideal; the women were isolated and apartments weren't conducive to the programs." In 2019 Guest House was able to rent a second residence on Payne Street. "It has been fantastic having another residential house; it runs much more smoothly. We try to focus on a sense of community so women can build relationships."

The need for a residential re-entry program for women nonviolent offenders had always been there, but as word spread among incarcerated women, the waiting list grew long. As the need grew, Guest House saw the State Department of Corrections increase the allocation of women to 17 beds in 2014, 26 beds in 2017 and 30 in 2019 when Guest House opened the Payne Street location. Today the program has grown to include the house on Luray Avenue which holds 10 women plus the new residence house on Payne Street which holds 20 with 17 beds available in the After Care.

Both Allen and Galloway agree that the biggest challenge for the program during their tenure was Covid. Galloway says, "It was really tough. We didn't want to have too many women in the same space." She says they wiped down the surfaces every two hours, wore masks and practiced physical distancing including moving the beds six feet apart. "We tried to find them virtual jobs which was hard."

And the mental stress was difficult, too. "Loneliness is the real enemy of addiction recovery and usually the strong support system at Guest House helps pull people through." But during Covid contact was minimized as many key providers eliminated in-person treatment, and virtual was much less effective which slowed the mental health and substance abuse recovery efforts. In addition, all meetings including AA were

by Zoom. The mentors from outside, who provided a strong support system, stopped coming.

Allen says, "In addition, Our Virginia Department of Correction funds were tied to the number of women we had, and the dollars diminished. Donations slowed down and also inflation affected our bottom line."

Deacon Lewis Eggleston, Director of Marketing and Generosity explains, "We get a lot of our women through word of mouth, and during Covid access to the detention centers lessened so our ability to go to these places was severely cut. The process was disrupted and even though the need was still great, the numbers of women applying were down for a while."

As a result," Allen says, "We have to re-think things in a new era with expenses increasing for food and utilities and funding decreasing."

Now 50 years later, Guest House residential program for women is celebrating assisting 5,000 women since it began. The program recently expanded from three-month to a six-month 24/7 supervised residence followed by up to 18 months in the Aftercare program to help the women transition into independent living.

The structure and responsibility involved with living at Guest House is a big adjustment, and many women struggle in the beginning. But as one former resident comments, "Real life hits you in the face." Another adds, "We are amazing women who have made a mistake."

And as Galloway says, if they complete the entire program, the recidivism rate is less than 15 percent. The staff now includes 35 full and part-time staff with an additional 150 volunteers, and the budget has grown to \$2 million.

Galloway and Allen start to recall the success stories of women who have gone through the program, women who have bought their first home, who do support jobs in doctor's offices, go back to school, and there's the woman who worked her way up to day manager at Duck Donuts. And they both laugh as they remember the recent graduate of the program who just became a long haul trucker. "I can just see her," Galloway says.

Allen says, "The other side of my job is what Guest House has done for me. Life takes crazy turns. I feel at home here, where I should be. I see the impact on women; it fuels me. This is where I am supposed to be."

Galloway agrees, "Since I left I miss the team and the women. This has been the greatest honor of my life."



Most recent Guest House additional residence on Payne Street

# The Bay's Ospreys Are in Trouble

BY RICH DOLESH  
FRIENDS OF PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE

To most of us, the status of the osprey is a conservation success story since the dark DDT days of the last century. Therefore I was surprised to learn that the osprey population is in trouble in parts of the Chesapeake Bay. These ospreys are producing far too few nestlings to sustain their numbers. Recent research by Bryan Watts of William and Mary's Center for Conservation Biology indicates that a major cause is the industrial fishing of menhaden, a key food source for these birds.

What can be done to reverse this alarming turn of events? The Chesapeake Legal Alliance has filed a petition to challenge the Virginia Marine Resource Commission's decision to continue to permit the overfishing of menhaden.

The Friends of the Patuxent Research Refuge (FOP) are putting on a program on these inter-related topics on June 22 at the National Wildlife Visitor Center (Patuxent Research Refuge) from 1.30 to 3.30 pm. Dr. Watts will present his research findings on the troubling decline in the Bay's osprey numbers. There will also be a short film on the menhaden; "The Biggest Little Fish You've Never Seen." The film is by William McKeever and it will be introduced by David Reed, CLA's Executive Director. Dr. Reed will also describe the CLA's efforts to require VMRC to regulate and protect the menhaden fishery.

Tickets are required and can be obtained at: <https://friendsof-patuxent.org/event-5726783>.

FOP expects this event to attract a lot of attendees, so you should go ahead and get your tickets without delay.

## What's Happening?

Ospreys in the Chesapeake Bay are producing only a fraction of the young needed to sustain their population. Bryan Watts, director of the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary will present his research findings on why osprey nest site numbers are so troubling.

What's being done? Conservationists are taking up the fight to protect ospreys. David Reed, executive director of the Chesapeake Legal Alliance will introduce Bill McKeever's short film "The Biggest Little Fish You've Never Seen" about menhaden, a principal food source for osprey, and guide a discussion on how the Chesapeake Legal Alliance and others are taking action. USGS researcher Barnett Ratner and naturalist Greg Kearns will discuss their findings on recent osprey nest success in the Patuxent and Choptank rivers.



FILE PHOTO BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

Ospreys, chestnut brown and white birds, return to Northern Virginia in March from their southern wintering grounds in Florida, the Caribbean and Central and South America. Expert at catching live fish, Osprey nest and raise their young near water.

### A Special Event by the Friends of Patuxent Research Refuge:

**Crisis in the Chesapeake Bay: Ospreys in Peril**  
Saturday, June 22, 2024,  
1:30-3:30pm  
At the National Wildlife Visitor Center, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, MD

File photo by Susan Laume  
A fledgling osprey was injured, tangled in branches of a tree. The bird was transported by Animal Protection Police to a local veterinary care center, then moved to the Wildlife Rescue League. The League enlisted a specialist in the care of raptors, Dr Belinda Burwell of Boyce Va., to treat the osprey.



The restoration of osprey in Chesapeake Bay has been regarded as one of the great conservation successes in America and it is now very much at risk. Come learn why and what can be done.

Tickets required. Due to the limited seating, reservations will be required. More info and background about the program and speakers including a link to reserve tickets can be found on the Friends website at: <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/event-5726783> Donations accepted

This program is hosted by the Friends of Patuxent Research Refuge in cooperation with the Maryland Ornithological Society. For more information and background on the presenters and program content, or if you have any questions, visit: [www.friendsof-patuxent.org](http://www.friendsof-patuxent.org)



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## POTOMAC HARMONY OFFERS HARMONY & LEARNING!

School may be out in June, but the learning gets started on Wednesday nights at Potomac Harmony chorus rehearsals! Learn the art of 4-part harmony treble singing while experiencing the joy of ringing chords! Together, guests and members will rehearse new music and create harmonies lead by the expertise of our talented director Allison Lynskey. Potomac Harmony members are women and nonbinary individuals from all walks of life, live around the DMV, and have various levels of musical and singing experience. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m., at The View Alexandria, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. Questions? Contact Jackie Bottash, [backrowlead@aol.com](mailto:backrowlead@aol.com).

## 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/>

## MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

At Grist Mill Park  
4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria  
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

## JUNE

- 7 Joe Falero Band (Latin Music)
- 14 Chuck Brown Band (Go Go/Funk/Soul)
- 21 Munit Meslin with Qlatse Band (Ethiopian Music)
- 28 The Artimus Plye Band - Honoring Ronnie Van Zant's Lynyrd Skynyrd (Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute Band)

## JULY

- 5 Cecily (Soul, Jazz)
- 12 Strutman Lane (Funk/Pop)
- 19 Doc Robinson (Rock and Roll)
- 26 Bio Ritmo (Salsa)

## AUGUST

- 2 Eastern Standard Time (Ska and Reggae)
- 9 Project Locrea (World Music)
- 16 Burn the Ballroom (Alternate Rock)
- 23 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)
- 30 Melissa Qinn Fox (Country/Americana)

## At Workhouse Arts Center

9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton  
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

## JUNE

- 1 The U.S. Navy Band Cruisers (Pop/Rock)
- 8 South County High School Jazz Band (Youth Jazz Band)
- 15 Beginnings - a Celebration of the Music of Chicago (Chicago Tribute Band)
- 22 Wicked Sycamore (Contemporary Folk)
- 29 Workhouse Fireworks Festival (Ticketed event. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org))

## JULY

- 6 EU Sugar Bear (Go Go/Funk)
- 13 Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)

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20 Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes (Blues)

27 Bela Dona Band (Funk/Jazz)

## AUGUST

- 3 The U.S. Air Force Strings (Alt-country/Roots rock)
- 10 Ocho de Bastos (Latin/Pop)
- 17 Alex Hamburger (Jazz)
- 24 The U.S. Army Band Country Roads (Country)

## 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)

## SATURDAY/JUNE 15

**Mount Vernon Flea Market and Arts and Crafts Fair.** 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #219, 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Up to 45 vendors, inside and outside, great variety, refreshments on site and inside the lodge. Crafters, Artisans, Antique, Vintage, Collectibles, and neighbors downsizing with practical items/household, furniture, misc. This event takes place every third Saturday of the month from March to December. Next Dates: June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21 (+ bonus holiday market Dec 7 or 14). Visit the website: <https://mountvernonfleaemarket.wordpress.com/>

## 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 1

**Dans Un Bois Solitaire.** Songs by Mozart, Schubert, Fauré, Debussy, and Ravel. 6:30 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join 28 Chairs concerts at the Athenaeum for a vocal recital of beloved and lesser-known art songs, performed by acclaimed French mezzo-soprano Anna Reinhold and accompa-



The Frank Lloyd Wright Birthday Celebration takes place on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at the Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.



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

nied by twice-Grammy-nominated keyboard artist Jory Vinikour on piano. One-hour program followed by a French wine, cheese and chocolate celebration with the artists.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 1

**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>.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 2

**15th Annual Taste of Del Ray.** 1-3 p.m. At Mount Vernon Recreation Center fields. Ticket holders will enjoy a wide range of tastes from

top Del Ray restaurants and can cast their votes for the People's Choice award. A VIP ticket option will also be offered, giving foodies the first bites! A VIP wine tasting will take place at the Del Ray Artisans gallery from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with early admission to the food festival starting at 12 p.m. Taste of Del Ray is sponsored by the Del Ray Business Association. For more information, visit [visittidelray.com](http://visittidelray.com).

## THURSDAY/JUNE 6

**Celebrating 50 years of Guest House.** 7-10 p.m. At ALX Community Atrium Rooftop, 277 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Mocktails, music and memories. Join them as they celebrate 50 years of achievements helping 5,000 women reclaim their lives. This year's gala promises to be an evening filled with laughter, joy, and heartwarming moments as we come together to support the

incredible work of Friends of Guest House. With live music, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and captivating company, it's an event you won't want to miss!

## THURSDAY/JUNE 6

**Author Event with David Baldacci.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Virginia Theological Seminary, 3630 Bishop Walker Circle, Alexandria. The Alexandria Library Foundation is excited to host #1 New York Times bestselling author David Baldacci at this year's Author Event and Reception. Mr. Baldacci's latest book, *A Calamity of Souls*, was released April 16 and subsequently landed at #1 on the New York Times Best Sellers List. Mr. Baldacci will discuss his experience as an author; share tales from the road; and talk about the historical significance and research that went into the writing of this book, more than a decade in the making.

## JUNE 6 TO AUG. 26

**"Nature's Spirit."** Nina Tisara's mosaics and Steven Halperson's photographs and etched copper will be exhibited in the Estate House at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. The public is invited to an Opening Reception on Sunday, June 23, 2-4 p.m. (RSVP: [ninat@ninatisara.com](mailto:ninat@ninatisara.com)). The Estate House is open to the public 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Since the Estate House will occasionally close for rental events the public is encouraged to call 703-768-5780, ext. 137, to be certain the exhibit is open for viewing.

## JUNE 7-30

**"All About Love" exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores love broadly: romantic love, love of family, love of pets, strong friendships, etc. Works by dozens of local artists will be on display and available for sale. Opening Reception: Friday, June 7, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## SATURDAY/JUNE 8

**Summer Huzzah.** At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Experience 18th-century life at the Summer Huzzah. This summer evening offers 18th-century entertainment, food, music, and more. A special VIP experience includes food and whiskey tastings.

## 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

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

pottery, stationary, fabrics, paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Featuring more than 80-plus vendors including food and drink to purchase.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 8

**Frank Lloyd Wright Birthday Celebration.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Celebrate the life and work of Frank Lloyd Wright! Enjoy an open house tour of the Pope-Leighey House and learn about the history of the house and its designer. In the yard, enjoy activities related to Wright's life and work, snap a photo wearing his iconic style of hat, and grab a celebratory bite of cake. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for students (K-12), 5 and under are free.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 15

**Columbia Pike Blues Festival.** 1-8 p.m. At the intersection of South Walter Reed Drive and Columbia Pike in Arlington. This year the Festival celebrates women in blues with a lineup of all-women-fronted bands offering a full array of blues, R&B, and funk performers of national and regional note that includes: headliner Bette Smith, Eden Brent, Mama Moon & the Rump Shakers; The Stacy Brooks Band and the Honeylarks.

## THE BIRCHMERE

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

## MAY

Fri. 31: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston \$65.00

## JUNE

- Sat. 1: The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw \$45.00
- Sun. 2: WMAL Free Speech Forum -7pm- \$55.00 SOLD OUT!
- Tue. 4: The Allman Betts Band w/ J.D. Simo \$59.50 SOLD OUT!
- Wed. 5: China Forbes (of Pink Martini) w/ Duo Caliente \$35.00
- Fri. 7: Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun and Dale Watson & The Lone Stars \$39.50
- Sat. 8: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes \$59.50
- Mon. 10: John Hiatt w/ Rebecca Porter \$75.00 SOLD OUT!
- Tue. 11: Happy Together Tour 2024 featuring The Turtles, Jay & The Americans, The Association, Badfinger, The Vogues, And The Cowsills \$99.50 SOLD OUT!
- Wed. 12: Eric Benet \$79.50
- Thu. 13: Marc Cohn \$55.00
- Fri. 14: Asleep At The Wheel 'Happy Trails Tour' \$39.50
- Sat. 15: Pieces Of A Dream \$49.50
- Mon. 17: Steve Earle: Alone Again - Solo & Acoustic \$65.00
- Tue. 18: Chayce Beckham w/ Pug Johnson \$29.50
- Fri. 21: Tarsha Fitzgerald Prod. Presents Voices of Motown 'Anniversary Show' \$39.50
- Sat. 22: Judy Collins w/ Oakland Rain \$59.50
- Sun. 23: Christian de Mesones aka Big New York \$39.50
- Mon. 24: The Wallflowers w/ Justin Trawick \$75.00
- Tue. 25: The Wallflowers w/ Justin Trawick \$75.00
- Fri. 28: Bela Dona Band \$39.50
- Sat. 29: Gary Puckett & The Union Gap \$45.00

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## Obituary

## Obituary

## Obituary

## Obituary

### ANNE MARIE HOHMAN



Beloved Daughter. Devoted Sister and Aunt. Committed Teacher. Strong and Brave Fighter of Cancer. These words come to mind when thinking about Anne Marie Hohman of Alexandria, Virginia, who passed away on May 12, 2024, following a tenacious battle with cancer.

Anne was born on June 8, 1964, to the late Robert L. Hohman (Col. USAF Ret.) and Mary Anne Peter Hohman. The oldest of three siblings, Anne is survived by her mother, Mary Anne, sister Mary Zinsner (Chuck), and brother Bob Hohman (Erika). She was the proud aunt of nieces and nephews Addie, Teddy, PJ, Sally, RJ, and Max. She was particularly close to many of her cousins on the Peter side of the family, fondly known as the California Petes.

A graduate of Michigan State University's School of Hospitality Business, Anne spent the early years of her career in catering and association management, where she held multiple management roles. In her late 30's, Anne changed course, becoming a schoolteacher. She joined Queen of Apostles Catholic School in Alexandria as an elementary schoolteacher, and later commenced a lengthy career with the Alexandria City Public Schools. While with ACPS, Anne taught everything from fifth grade math to geometry. Middle school math became her vocation, and Anne's bright spirit touched the lives of many students and families at Alexandria's Francis C. Hammond Middle School. As a teacher, Anne found her passion. She loved the ACPS and Hammond community, and administrators, fellow teachers, and students loved her.

Anne was equally passionate about family, particularly her nieces and nephews, who considered her a second mother. Anne happily handled family car-pool duties and never missed a school or sporting event. Everyone, and we mean everyone, knew "Aunt Anne." Anne lovingly took care of her parents as they aged, taking them to their grandchildren's school and sporting events, as well as managing doctor appointments, grocery shopping, and financial affairs.

When diagnosed with stage IV cancer in late November 2022, Anne made clear she wanted to fight, and fight she did. Anne went to every chemotherapy appointment with a smile, asking nurses for tips and impressing doctors with her resiliency, willingness to try experimental treatments, and unwavering commitment to beating cancer.

A funeral mass will be held on June 8, 2024, at 10:30 am at The Basilica of Saint Mary, 310 South Royal Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. A celebration of life and birthday party for Anne will immediately follow, with location information to be provided at the mass. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Anne's honor to The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria at <https://alexscholarshipfund.networkforgood.com/projects/111885-donate-now-button>.

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**Floyd Eldo O'Quinn**, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and cousin, died in his sleep at home, surrounded by his family, on May 20th, 2024. He lived to be 88.

Floyd was born in Georgia on April 5, 1936 and graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Agriculture. After pursuing further training in mathematics and statistics, he entered work in the U.S. Census Bureau, later working for the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as Metrica Inc. His career as a mathematical statistician took him and his family around the world. His rural upbringing and his worldly experiences colored his life with stories he loved to retell, especially to his grandchildren.

Floyd is survived by his wife, Traudy O'Quinn, with whom he was married for 65 years, and their four children: George O'Quinn (and wife Pamela); Catharina O'Quinn (and husband Sean Austin); Karin O'Quinn; Patrick O'Quinn (and wife Anu). His legacy is carried on by his 8 grandchildren: Michael Gress (and Jordan Vogt); Robert Kyle Gress; Annelise Bronson (and Jayme Bronson); Haily Norvell, Mikael O'Quinn, Margrette Gress, Amanda Norvell, and Jon O'Quinn. Floyd loved all of his great-grandchildren: Loretta Megs (daughter of Michael Gress and Jordan Vogt) Liam and Scarlett (children of R. Kyle Gress); Mariana and Henry (children of Annelise and Jayme Bronson) and he was excited to meet Baby Bronson who is due in July. He is deeply missed and forever cherished.

A memorial service to celebrate Floyd's life will be held in June, date TBD. Please view his obituary and funeral arrangements at [www.everlywheatley.com/tributes/Floyd-OQuinn](http://www.everlywheatley.com/tributes/Floyd-OQuinn)

In lieu of flowers please donate to University of Florida College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni and Friends Scholarship Program [www.ufl.edu/cals/](http://www.ufl.edu/cals/)

## Legals

## Employment

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Association for Clinical Oncology that their Annual Business Meetings will be held in Chicago, IL, in room S103 of the McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Drive, Chicago, IL, on Monday, June 3, 2024 at 12:00PM U.S. Central Time. Members with questions can email [ascogovernance@asco.org](mailto:ascogovernance@asco.org).

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR - CONSERVATION** (Alexandria, VA): ID & evlte nw strtgc opps to frthr the Fndtns cnsvrtn gls. Bach deg in mngmnt or rlted pls 3 yrs exp in rle rlted in rlted pstn in lieu of 1 yr bach deg study). Exp dvlpng, scrng & mngng int prtfllo of cnsvrtn prjcts & grnts. Exp cpcty bldng & mngng a tm to dlvr sltns. Dmstc & Int trvl 25-35%/yr. \$180k/yr. Resumes: K Van Horn, Paul M Angell Family Foundation, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 100., Chicago, IL 60631.

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**Legals**

**NOTICE TO RELOCATE A BRANCH**

Notice is hereby given that TD Bank, N.A., 2035 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808, has applied to the Office of Comptroller of the Currency on or about 05/22/2024 as specified in 12 C.F.R. §5 for permission to relocate a branch from **119 S. Washington St., Alexandria VA, Alexandria County, 22314** to a new TD Bank branch to be located at **515 King St., Alexandria VA, Alexandria County, 22314**. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 7 Times Square, Large Bank Licensing, 10th Floor Mailroom, New York, New York 10036 within 15 days after the date of this publication. Written requests for a copy of the public portion of the application should be sent to the Director for District Licensing.

**Legals**



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
FIRST HALF 2024 REAL ESTATE TAX,  
REFUSE FEE AND STORMWATER UTILITY FEE  
ARE DUE JUNE 17, 2024**

**Income Limits Increased for Tax Relief Program**

The first half 2024 real estate tax, refuse fee and stormwater utility fee must be paid by Monday, June 17, 2024, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

Pay online by credit card or eCheck at [alexandriava.gov/Payments](http://alexandriava.gov/Payments). Real estate tax payments can also be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750.

Pay in person at the Treasury Division, City Hall, Room 1510, or at the West End Finance Office, 4850 Mark Center Drive, Second Floor, between 8AM and 5PM, Monday through Friday. A drop box on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on June 17, 2024, to be considered on time.

General real estate tax information is available on the City's website at [alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax](http://alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax). Detailed assessment, tax balance and payment information is available at [realestate.alexandriava.gov](http://realestate.alexandriava.gov).

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, or email [payments@alexandriava.gov](mailto:payments@alexandriava.gov). For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email [realestate@alexandriava.gov](mailto:realestate@alexandriava.gov). For questions on refuse fees or stormwater utility fees, please call Alex311 at 703.746.4311 or submit questions online at [alexandriava.gov/Alex311](http://alexandriava.gov/Alex311).

The Alexandria City Council has increased the allowable income limits for the Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief program starting in calendar year 2024. For more information, visit [alexandriava.gov/TaxRelief](http://alexandriava.gov/TaxRelief), or contact the Revenue Division, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 1700, Alexandria, VA 22314, by email [taxrelief@alexandriava.gov](mailto:taxrelief@alexandriava.gov) or by phone 703.746.4800. The City also provides tax relief to certified permanent and totally disabled veterans or to their surviving spouses.

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## Seventh Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Fair

The City of Alexandria will kick off the Seventh Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month on June 1 with a Pride fair at City Hall and Market Square (301 King Street) from 3 to 6 p.m.

Dance to live music and a DJ, express yourself at the dance workshop, grab a bite to eat from the food trucks, enjoy the mobile art lab, and pose for Pride pictures. Visit tables of more than 50 Pride-celebrating programs in Alexandria and collect swag.

At 3:30, head inside City Hall for the popular Drag Story Hour.

Free and confidential health services will be available, and Mayor Wilson will present the 2024 Pride Month Proclamation. Don't leave without checking out DASH's Pride-wrapped bus and crossing the newly revealed rainbow crosswalks, located at Royal and King Streets.

For more information about the City's LGBTQ+ Task Force and resources, visit alexandriava.gov/LGBTQ. For books and information related to LGBTQ+ Pride Month, visit the Alexandria Library's LGBTQ Pride webpage.

## Share Your Experiences With Extreme Heat

The City of Alexandria is collaborating with George Mason University on a study of extreme heat and public health in Alexandria.

To help us learn more about community members' experiences, please consider completing this 30-question survey, which will help Mason's Virginia Climate Center study the way extreme heat episodes affect Alexandrians. This anonymous survey is open to any adult aged 18 or older who lives in Alexandria and should take around 15 minutes to complete. Your input is greatly appreciated!

For more information, contact the principal investigator for this project, Dr. MB Mitcham at mmitcha2@gmu.edu.

If you prefer communication in another language, free interpretation and translation services are available. Please email LanguageAccess@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.3960.

## Small Business Resiliency Grants Available

2024 Small Business Resiliency Grant program is available to provide vital assistance to Alexandria's small businesses. Eligible businesses can receive up to \$7,000 in grant assistance through the program.

Administered by the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), the program aims to assist businesses in overcoming challenges in accessing essential resources. The City's contribution underscores its commitment to empowering entrepreneurs and nurturing a thriving business environment.

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Applications will be accepted through the LEDC website from Tuesday, May 28, through Tuesday, June 18. That is also where you can learn about the SBR Grant program, eligibility, and selection criteria.

The City will be providing space for LEDC to host two engagement opportunities — one virtual and one in person — for interested parties to learn more about the program, ask questions, and receive assistance:

- ❖ SBR Grant Webinar, Hosted by LEDC Thursday, May 23, 4-5 p.m. Register to attend
- ❖ SBR Grant Application Assistance, Hosted by LEDC Monday, June 3, 10-11 a.m. Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe St.)

A recording of the webinar will be available on the LEDC website for those who are interested but unable to attend.

For more information about the Small Business Resiliency Grant, questions about eligibility, or help accessing grant resources, contact LEDC at AlexandriaSBR@ledcmetro.org or call 202-540-7400.

## Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week and Clean the Bay Day

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, taking place from June 1 through June 9, 2024, is an opportunity to continue to protect the Chesapeake Bay. As part of this commemoration, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will coordinate its annual Clean the Bay Day.

In celebration of Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, the City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services invites the community to participate in a stream cleanup event on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at Oronoco Bay Park, (100 Madison St.) The cleanup event will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

For those participating in the Clean the Bay Day event at Oronoco Bay, City staff will provide gloves, trash grabbers and bags, and first aid kits. Participants are encouraged to bring sunscreen, snacks, water, and wear appropriate clothing, including long pants and closed-toe shoes.

Additional actions to protect the Bay include:

- ❖ Keep pet waste out of the City's storm drains, which causes bacteria contamination. Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste in a trash can.
- ❖ Keep the City litter-free, as waste dropped on streets, sidewalks, or parks ends up in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.
- ❖ Reduce or eliminate fertilizer use on home lawns. Excess fertilizer causes poor water quality. Consider applying for a ten-percent Stormwater Utility Fee credit for the no-fertilizer pledge.

## Early Voting for June 18 Dual Primary

Early voting is underway 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. You can vote in person: Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 132 N. Royal St., Suite 100

- ❖ Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. through June 14
- ❖ Closed Monday, May 27, 2024
- Additional and Extended Hours:
- ❖ Saturday, June 8, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- ❖ 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 postmarked 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.

## Did You Hear That Other Shoe Drop?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Neither did I. But I sure felt it. The pain that I felt in my left side was somewhat reminiscent of the pain I felt 15 1/2 years ago — in my left side, when my cancer symptoms first presented. After a few days of left side pain, something unexpected happened: The pain migrated from my left side/ribcage to my right side/ribcage. By the weekend, more symptoms. I remember sitting on the couch at home watching television and not being able to bend over to stand up. Then when I couldn't expand my lungs to take a breath, I knew something was wrong. My symptoms weren't moderating, they were getting worse. Never a good sign. And so, we went to the Emergency Room on Jan. 1st no less. The rest, as you regular readers know, ad nauseum, is that yours truly became "Kenny with cancer."

Recently, that pain returned. A couple of days later, with the pain not subsiding, I realized, given my cancer history, that I should see my primary care physician and have him assess my symptoms. Which I did. He directed me to have an X-Ray. The results of which were inconclusive. And so, the next step in the diagnostic ladder was ordered: a CT scan. (As a cancer patient, my orders are always "Stat," meaning immediately, if not sooner.) The next day I received the CT results from the previous afternoon's scan and sure enough, unfortunately, the cancer had spread. Where it spread, and how much it spread were not really addressed by the radiologists. On these reports, released automatically, often before even my doctor sees the results, are replete with medical jargon describing what the scan shows. It certainly tells a story. However, it's not the whole story. (Certainly not one I understand, anyway). The whole story and/or a more detailed explanation of the scan comes when the oncologist follows up and summarizes the results. Six days later, including a weekend and I'm still waiting for that call, a call that the oncologist emailed me would be coming Thurs. or Fri. of last week. It's now Tues. Still no call. Certainly I realize I'm not his only patient, and I have been down this road for over 15 years, nevertheless; as much I compartmentalize these kinds of delays, and try to roll with the punches, the truth is, returning to the original scene of the crime, so to speak, has given me cause for concern. Not that I've ever been in remission, but neither have I been "spreading" cancer though my original characterization of stage IV which meant the cancer was inoperable and it had metastasized (meaning spread). Yet, here I am, a cancer survivor going on year 16. The papillary thyroid cancer, stage IV, had spread from my thyroid into my lungs at the beginning of this journey when the pain first manifested (see paragraph one). Which time has clarified as a slow-moving thyroid cancer, rather than the non-small cell lung stage IV, originally diagnosed. Given the results and language of the radiologist's report — that I can understand, it appears that the party (relative calm and control of my initial cancer diagnosis) is over. However, it's only speculation since I've not received a call back from my oncologist. Granted, I have some experience in this cancer department, but I learned a long time ago to wait until I've spoken to the oncologist and not overreact to facts not yet in evidence. And so here I sit waiting, semi patiently. Don't get me wrong, I'm not in a hurry to hear bad news. But I would like to hear something so I can move forward already. Because for the moment, I feel stuck. And 'stuck' is the wrong place for a cancer patient to be.

However, to be honest, I've been waiting/anticipating this day ever since I was first diagnosed back in Feb., '09. It was early March of that same year when I received my first of many infusions (I've estimated that I've been infused over 100 times). And after every quarterly assessment of my disease (in coordination with a CT scan), I always took good news in stride, never getting too high or too low because subconsciously I was preparing for this day. And this day is when the cancer begins to spread. Never a promising sign. (Neither is not hearing back from your oncologist in a timely manner.) It's easy to speculate — in the wrong direction when you've not received the actual details. But that's what cancer does. In addition to the physical damage, there's emotional damage. It's been my experience that cancer changes you emotionally, in ways that you never anticipated. Things matter — or they don't, it's difficult to know how you'll feel one day to the next. But I always felt there was a next day so the stress of it was manageable, sort of. Now, however, it's been 15+ years since I was first diagnosed "prognosed" and I can't help wondering if I've finally overstayed my welcome, if you know what I mean? Cancer is very often a killer. Who am I to beat the odds? I've always thought that the longer I live with cancer, the closer I'll be to not living with it. And I don't mean a cure, I mean its resurgence. And "spread" is very much 'resurgence.' It's a bad sign for sure. I just hope it's not a fatal one.

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

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## Braddock Heights | \$3,450,000

This country estate in the city features 6 bedrooms and 5½ bathrooms on a half-acre lot. The luxurious gardens have a koi pond, and inviting seating areas while the front porch beckons. Inside there are high ceilings, vintage pine floors, and glass doorknobs adding 1920's charm to modern comfort. Built in 1990's this home has a 30-foot art gallery foyer and five fireplaces on four levels. A circular driveway can accommodate a dozen cars, and the property is securely fenced and has remotely-operated gates, perfect for kids and pets! 509 Lloyd's Lane

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## Mount Ida | \$2,425,000

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OPEN SUN 6/2, 2-4

## Del Ray | \$1,899,900

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## Waynewood | \$1,675,000

This sparkling home on just under 1/2 acre on a pretty cul-de-sac offers 5 spacious bedrooms, 3 full, 2 half bathrooms, lovely private lot with screen porch and brick patio, brand new gorgeous kitchen, and updated baths. 8709 Eaglebrook Court

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OPEN SAT 6/1 & SUN 6/2, 12-2

## Mount Vernon | \$1,149,000

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