



## Excellence in Aging City honors work with older adults.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Alexandria Commission on Aging presented the 2024 Excellence in Aging Awards at a May 14 ceremony in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall.

The Commission, which advocates for the needs of older residents in Alexandria, created the awards to honor individuals,

“These awards recognize the exemplary work of individuals and an organization that are leaders in the aging community.”

— Commission on Aging chair Michael Schuster

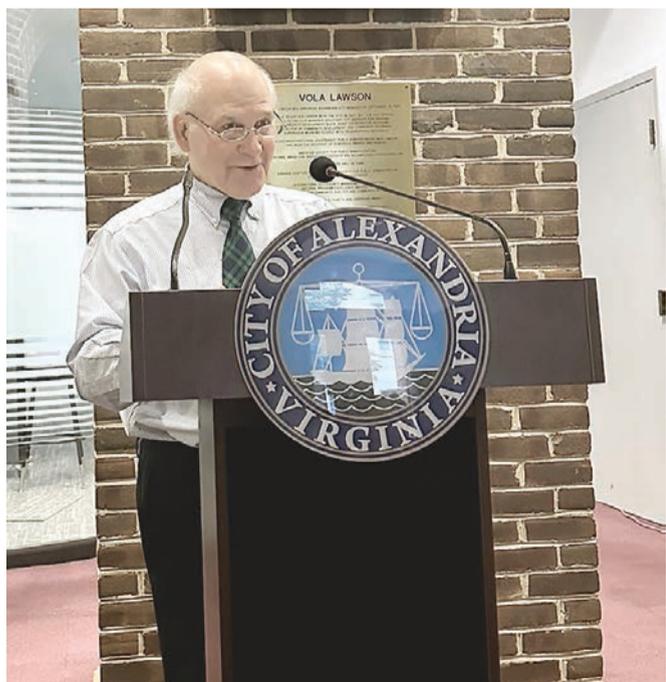
regardless of age, and organizations that provide services to older Alexandrians or demonstrate superior contributions in advancing issues and projects that affect older residents.

“Since 1990, the Commission on Aging has honored those that have enhanced the lives of older Alexandrians,” said Commis-

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Mayor Justin Wilson, left, poses with the Excellence in Aging award recipients May 14 at City Hall. Awardees include: Lilliana Rodriguez and Emmalyne Head of Southern Belle Cleaners, W. Thomas Reeder, Bennie Blackley, and Barbara Ravenell. With them are City manager Jim Parajon, Commission on Aging chair Michael Schuster and City Councilman Canek Aguirre.



Michael Schuster, chair of the Commission on Aging, introduces the Excellence in Aging Awardees May 14 at City Hall.



Recipient Bennie Blackley, left with Bobby Blackley, Carolyn Poole, Brad Cooper and Kaydence Cooper (in front) at the Excellence in Aging Awards May 14 at City Hall.



Southern Belle staff Velda Arrington, Emmalyne Head, Lilliana Rodriguez and Jakia Muhammad at the Excellence in Aging Awards May 14 at City Hall.

## SENIOR LIVING



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

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Residents of Woodbine Rehabilitation and Health Center celebrate the nurses of Woodbine and Silverado Memory Care Center May 6 during National Nurses Week May 6-12.



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Mayor Justin Wilson presents the Excellence in Aging award for an organization to Emmalyne Head, owner of Southern Belle Cleaners as Lilliana Rodriguez looks on.



Excellence in Aging Award recipient Barbara Ravenell, second from left, with family members Leslie Osbourne, April Osbourne, Bobby Ravenell and Mark Ravenell May 14 at City Hall.

## City Honors Work with Older Adults

FROM PAGE 1

sion chair Michael Schuster. “These awards recognize the exemplary work of individuals and an organization that are leaders in the aging community.”

Mayor Justin Wilson introduced the honorees and presented the awards noting that May is Older Americans Month.

“This is always a great honor to recognize folks and organizations who are committed to going above and beyond for our older Alexandrians,” Wilson said. “We believe it is absolutely critical that Alexandrians be able to thrive in this city from the cradle to the twilight of their lives.”

The Excellence in Aging Award honorees include: Bennie Blackley, honored with the Annie B. Rose Lifetime Achievement Award – presented to an individual who has served seniors for at least 10 years; W. Thomas Reeder, honored with the Lois Van Valkenburgh Excellence in Aging Award – presented to an individual citizen with at

least one year of service to seniors; Southern Belle Cleaners, honored with the Excellence in Aging Award for an Organization – presented to an organization that has made an outstanding contribution to Alexandria seniors; and Barbara Ravenell, honored with the Public Service Award – presented to a city employee who has advanced, improved or otherwise contributed to making Alexandria a more livable community for all ages during the course of their job.

Reeder, who has provided volunteer tax and health care services to older adults for 19 years, was humbled by the recognition.

“I am extremely flattered to have my name associated with this lady,” said Reeder of the award named for Lois Van Valkenburgh, a prominent lobbyist, legislative aide and volunteer for many issues affecting Alexandrians. “I just appreciate the ability to provide direct services to residents and enjoy working with people who may want my expertise.”



Emmalyne Head, left, is congratulated by Philip Caldwell of the Department of Human Services at the Excellence in Aging Awards May 14 at City Hall.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Participate in Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 17

Join National Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 17 in the City of Alexandria. The free, annual event encourages the public to consider bicycle commuting as an affordable, fun and environmentally friendly way to get to work.

Alexandria residents will be among the thousands of area commuters who celebrate Bike to Work Day by cycling to pit stops on their way to work (or back home, if applicable) and participating in special events around the City and throughout the region.

Participants can register at [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org) for activities at one of six Alexandria “pit stops,” including:

- ❖ City Hall - Market Square (301 King St.) from 7 to

- 10 a.m. (City-sponsored pit stop)

- ❖ John Carlyle Square Park (300 John Carlyle St.) from 6 to 9 a.m.

- ❖ Del Ray/Colasanto Park (2704 Mt. Vernon Ave. -- intersection of Mt. Vernon Ave. and Commonwealth Ave.) from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.

- ❖ Fairlington Centre (1711 Centre Plaza, in front of Great Harvest Bread between the CVS and Baskin Robbins ) from 6:30 to 9 a.m.

- ❖ Mark Center North Parking Garage (outdoor bicycle parking area across from 4825 Mark Center Drive) from 7 to 9 a.m.

- ❖ Eisenhower Square (2827 Telek Place) from 7 to 9 a.m.

- ❖ National Landing (3030 Potomac Ave.) from 3 to 6 p.m.

The City-sponsored pit stop at City Hall will have grab-and-go refreshments, free swag, 360 photo booth, DJ and more.

Bike to Work Day is free and open to all commuters; however, registration is required. Register before the day of the event and pick up your free commemorative t-shirt at your selected pit stop while supplies last. Bike to Work Day is part of the City’s observance of National Bike Month.

#### 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

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 11

# StarKist Presents \$10k to Miracle League

**Charlie the Tuna on hand for MLA game.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**ainy skies didn't dampen the spirits of the Miracle League of Alexandria as Charlie the Tuna and representatives of the StarKist Corporation presented a check for \$10,000 to MLA board president Mac Slover May 4 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

"We are very proud to be part of this community," said Michelle Faist, head of corporate affairs for StarKist, which is headquartered in Reston. "We are committed to being a socially responsible company and have been really fortunate to connect with some amazing local organizations like the Miracle League."

StarKist relocated its corporate headquarters from Pittsburgh to Reston in 2022.

"We worked with the Miracle League in Pittsburgh and know what a special and incredible opportunity the organization provides to connect with those with special needs," Faist said. "When we came to Reston we immediately looked for opportunities to connect in this region and the Miracle of Alexandria is outstanding and has such an amazing presence. Mac has been such an advocate in helping us create this partnership."

Charlie the Tuna missed throwing out the

first pitch but he didn't hold back in handing out StarKist products to those who had gathered for the game, which was moved indoors.

"It is very important that we support the Miracle League and hope the money goes to continuing all the wonderful work they do," Faist said. "The game and the camaraderie that is fostered through the league provides more access to even more people. It is an honor and privilege to donate this money and it also gives us a chance to connect with the community here."

The Miracle League is one of several local charities that StarKist supports, including Korean War veterans and Cornerstone Craftsmen, whose founder Roberto Gomez was recently named a 40 Under 40 honoree by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

"It's nice to add the Miracle League as part of our overall footprint of corporate giving and showing our commitment to giving back," Faist added.

Laura Fries, vice president of the Miracle of Alexandria board, said the money will be put to good use.

"We are hoping to get communication boards in the dugouts and front of the field," Fries said. "We have a lot of non-verbal players and this would allow them to communicate with our volunteer Angels in the Outfield. It's a bridge to help everyone work together. We really want the Miracle League to be a haven for parents and kids and adults with special needs. It is just amazing that StarKist found us."

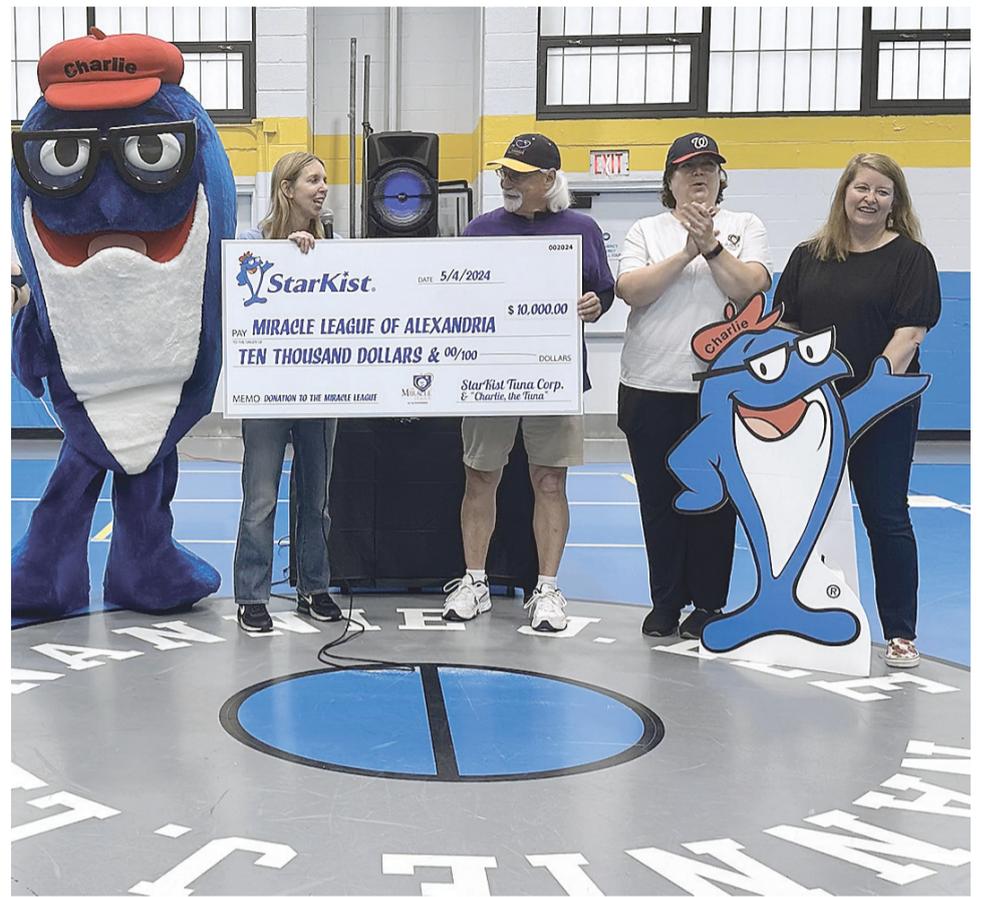


PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

StarKist's Charlie the Tuna helps Michelle Faist, head of Corporate Affairs for StarKist, present a check for \$10,000 to Mac Slover, chair of the Miracle League of Alexandria, May 4 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center. Also pictured are Laura Fries, VP of the Miracle League, and Allison McMahon, Assistive Technology and Specialized Instructional Specialist of the ACPS Office of Specialized Instruction.

# He's Back

**Ralph Davis and son open Mystic BBQ and Grill.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**alph Davis, a longtime favorite restaurateur in Alexandria, has teamed up with his son Matt to come out of retirement to open Mystic BBQ and Grill. A ribbon cutting to officially open the restaurant was held May 10 at 220 North Lee Street.

Davis, known for popular restaurants such as R.T.'s in Arlandria, and The Wharf and The Warehouse on King Street in Old Town, decided to get back into the restaurant business and partner with his son after selling his other restaurants in recent years.

"R.T.'s was the last restaurant for me to sell," Davis said. "My wife passed away 4 1/2 years ago and selling R.T.'s was sort of a knee jerk reaction after her death. But I realize that when you retire you need to have a plan and I did not have a plan. So when Matt came to me with an interest in opening a restaurant, it was the right decision for me."

The cuisine at Mystic BBQ and Grill features a mix of southern favorites and BBQ selections.

"The name is misleading since we are not just a BBQ restaurant," Davis said. "We have varied menu dishes that includes some BBQ."

The name and interior honor Davis's late wife Kristen, who died in January of 2020.

"My wife's favorite song was Into the Mystic by Van Morrison, so that is how we came up with the name," Davis said. "And Kris loved making playlists so the music and name are a connection to my wife."

**"The restaurant business has been my calling."**

— Ralph Davis of Mystic BBQ and Grill

Davis grew up in Alexandria and graduated from Hammond High School in 1967. After getting a degree in political science from Old Dominion University, he took a job as a bartender at The Wharf with the intention of staying for a year before starting graduate school.

"I first started in 1973 as a bartender at the Wharf and never left," Davis said. "I am a foodie and the restaurant business has been my calling."



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Ralph Davis, right, looks on as his son Matt cuts the ribbon to officially open Mystic BBQ and Grill May 10 on N. Lee Street. With them are Councilman Kirk McPike and Vice Mayor Amy Jackson.

Many of the popular dishes at his previous restaurants have been the work of Davis himself and the menu at Mystic again features some of his creations. There is a full bar menu with a mix of beers, wines and specialty cocktails.

Davis is excited to open Mystic in partnership with his son Matt and hopes for the suc-

cess of his previous endeavors.

"I have had a great run in this business but this is just the beginning for Matt," Davis said. "I want this to be a success as he carries on providing great service and cuisine in our hometown."

Mystic BBQ & Grill, 220 N. Lee Street, 703-565-9808, [www.mysticbbqandgrill.com](http://www.mysticbbqandgrill.com)

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# GAZETTE PACKET EN FRANCE

## Bon Anniversaire

Mitch Opalski, seated at right, takes a break from celebrating his 60th birthday at Chateau du Pray in Amboise, France, with his brother Nick Opalski and Alexandrians Jean and Dave Connors as they enjoy the latest copy of the Gazette Packet.



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# HISTORY

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



The Woodlawn mansion today



The Alexandria Friends Quaker Meeting at Woodlawn today

## Woodlawn's Diverse History

### Beyond the Gentry.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
GAZETTE PACKET

“Hanson’s mode of making chicken broth, the best in the world,” wrote Nelly Lewis in her housekeeping book at Woodlawn between 1828 and 1830. “If you wish it very nourishing – break the bones with a rolling pin before you put it into the pot.”

Hanson was Nelly and Lawrence Lewis’s cook, a man Nelly inherited in 1802. This chicken broth recipe is just one revealing gem in Woodlawn’s new exhibit that unravels several centuries of history and unveils the diverse people who lived and toiled there over the years, stories previously untold or obscured. Guides at historic homes and southern plantations have traditionally focused on the white, wealthy owners. Think George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Woodlawn’s curators are now telling the complex, intertwined stories of the many people associated with this land and buildings over time.

#### The Doegs

The exhibit starts with “Offerings for Tauxenent: Acknowledging Indigenous Place,” highlighting the Doeg people and their displacement. Tauxenent was a village of the Doeg or Dogue people near the mouth of the Occoquan River that English Captain John Smith encountered in 1608. The Doeg people lived in what is now Northern Virginia as far back as the 14th century. Some Doeg descendants today are members of the Rappahannock and Piscataway tribes.

For this exhibit, George Mason University history students, led by Dr. Gabrielle Tayac, a member of the Piscataway Tribe, connected with contemporary local Indigenous eastern hemisphere communities, whose objects on display are offerings honoring the Doeg people. For example, there’s a colorful woven bag by Diego Velasco Perez, a Maya Ixil, and a woven alpaca hat by Ozcollo Espinoza, a member of the Andean community in Northern Virginia.

Also exhibited is a grindstone and stone



Bricks made by enslaved people for Woodlawn’s front portico columns

#### The Exhibits at Woodlawn

##### OFFERINGS FOR TAUXENENT:

- ◆ Acknowledging Indigenous Place, until Aug. 30, 2024
  - ◆ Woodlawn: People and Perspectives, until Dec. 31, 2024
- <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighy.org/>

scraper from the Gray family, descendants of the Doegs. Schirra Gray loaned a pine needle turtle basket.

#### African-Americans and Quakers

A second exhibit, “Woodlawn: People and Perspectives,” explores others who shaped Woodlawn over time, including the around 100 people of African descent that the Lewises enslaved. Visitors can study four triangular bricks with one rounded edge made by enslaved people for the original columns on the front portico. “The stories of the enslaved people who built Woodlawn brick by brick are inseparable from the story of this home,” notes the display.

In 1846, a group of Quakers bought Woodlawn and lived and worshipped in the mansion until they built farmhouses and a meeting house. They created a “free labor colony” to demonstrate that farming could be successful without slavery, an alternative to Virginia’s plantation culture.

In the two decades before the Civil War, free Black families such as the Hollands pur-



Woodlawn’s second floor bedroom as in the Lewis family era, typical of the traditional focus of interpretation at historic sites.



Mayan bag made, by Diego Velasco Perez

chased land and built communities alongside Quaker families like the Troths. Visitors learn that William Holland, freed in 1799, bought land in 1851 when the Quakers divided the land into family farms and sold it to free blacks like him. Some of the enslaved Parkers were sold by Alexandria’s Franklin and Armfield who had a slave pen at 1315 Duke Street and shipped slaves to Louisiana plantations.

#### Belvoir's Takeover

Another rarely-told story is that of Fort Belvoir, formerly Camp Humphreys, which in World War I began to take over Woodlawn’s farmland. Renamed Fort Belvoir, to expand the installation, the federal government in the 1940s condemned some of Woodlawn’s land and demolished farms, homes, a church, school and lodges of Woodlawn’s Black community. Many Black people living



Andean woven alpaca hat, made by Ozcollo Espinoza

there relocated to Gum Springs, founded in 1833, and today Gum Springs is the oldest surviving Black community in Fairfax County. The federal government left the Quaker Meeting House intact. It is still in use today.

Woodlawn’s exhibits trace other owners of the property too, up to 1957 when the National Trust for Historic Preservation bought it and it became the first historic Trust site open to the public.

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# Local Volunteers Boost Bluebirds, Monitor Nestboxes

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A** little one-ounce blue, orange and white bird is a good news environmental story, for a change. Amid what seems like never-ending doom-and-gloom reports about climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation and species declines and extinctions, the eastern bluebird is a comeback story and some Northern Virginians are helping tell the story.

In the early 20th century, eastern bluebird populations fell in North America, but since 1966, they have been rising, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Experts credit human-installed nest boxes as a major factor in the birds' rebound.

Eastern bluebirds are cavity nesters. Females typically build nests in natural cavities like old woodpecker tree holes. Pairs raise two to three broods in the spring and early summer.

## Local Volunteers

Since 1982, volunteers have maintained and monitored around 25 bluebird boxes at Huntley Meadows Park. The park's most recent nestbox data show that in 2022 the bluebirds there laid 42 eggs and the success rate was 79 percent, meaning 79 percent of the young birds born fledged, grew up to leave the nest. This year, ten volunteers check the boxes weekly.

"The bluebirds are not having a problem around here. It's certainly working well at Huntley Meadows," said Brooks Long, the park's Natural Resources Assistant.

## AHS's New Bluebird Trail

The American Horticultural Society (AHS) this year created its first bluebird trail at its Mount Vernon headquarters with eight boxes. Nestbox volunteers were encouraged when on April 9 in one nest box they found five bluebird



Donna Stauffer recorded their observations.



Jerry Nissley and Donna Stauffer stuffed some of the box openings with a cloth plug to keep house sparrows out. They will remove the plugs when bluebirds are ready to lay eggs again.



PHOTOS BY LARRY MEADE



PHOTOS BY LARRY MEADE



PHOTOS BY LARRY MEADE

eggs and the next week, three eggs and two young. On May 3, Donna Stauffer and Jerry Nissley with the Fairfax County Master Naturalists, in doing their weekly check, found one side of that box unscrewed and open and nothing inside. "It looks like a human predator," said a dejected Nissley.

No one is certain what happened or when. On May 11, volunteers found four bluebird eggs in one box and are hopeful the bluebird will lay a fifth in this nest.

AHS and volunteers are trying to prevent non-native house sparrows and European starlings from using the boxes so before nest-building begins again, they are stuffing a cloth plug in the boxes' openings. The house sparrow was introduced to New York, in 1850, according to the Sibley Guide to Birds. People brought the European starling in 1890. Both

have spread all over North America, sometimes displacing native cavity nesting birds like bluebirds.

Raccoons, snakes and opossums are also threats if they can get into or reach inside the boxes. Metal stovepipe and skirt baffles can block access by many animal predators. A wire mesh device around the box entrance called a "noel guard" also stops some predators from reaching inside.

"We are trying to restore native plants and wildlife, to help key species lost from our area recover," said Stauffer. "This helps the whole ecosystem." For her, helping bluebirds is an extension of Care for Creation, a program of Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

## Regrouping

Since this is AHS's first year managing bluebird boxes, some

trial and error is inevitable, says Nissley. Virginia Bluebird Society (VBS) experts have helped volunteers reposition some of the boxes. Cornell University's NestWatch website says that boxes should face east toward open habitat, be four to six feet high and 300 feet apart. Virginia Bluebird Society donated the boxes to AHS and staff installed them over the winter.

"Environmental stewardship stands as one of the American Horticultural Society's four pillars" explained Katie Tukey, AHS Director of Development and Engagement. "The thriving wildlife at River Farm serves as a testament to our commitment to responsibly care for the land."

## Bluebird Facts

Eastern bluebirds like open fields with scattered trees and

sparse ground cover, like pastures, agricultural fields, suburban parks and golf courses. They often perch on wires and fence posts.

Female bluebirds build the nests and lay two to seven blue eggs. The incubation period is 11 to 19 days and the young usually fledge within 21 days.

Bluebirds eat insects and in fall and in winter eat fruit, including the berries of mistletoe, black cherry, dogwoods, pokeweed, juniper and other plants.

North America also has two other species of bluebird, a western and a mountain bluebird.

## More Information

Bluebird Conservation, <https://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/>

Bluebird nestbox basics, <https://nestwatch.org/> and <https://www.audubon.org/news/how-build-bluebird-nest-box>



PHOTO BY RACHEL ROLL

Five bluebird eggs observed in a nest at AHS on April 5.



PHOTO BY DONNA STAUFFER

Three eggs and two bluebird chicks in a nest at AHS seen on April 26.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Jerry Nissley securing the disturbed bluebird nestbox at AHS.

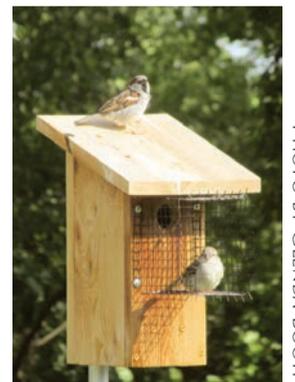


PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Non-native house sparrows are tough competitors for bluebird nestboxes, like these at AHS on May 3.

# ENTERTAINMENT



The Mount Vernon Wine Festival takes place May 17-19, 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.

## 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 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)

## 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.



The Thirteen: Beautiful as the Sky will be performed on Friday, May 17, 2024 at Washington Street UMC in Alexandria.

## 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.

## MAY 17, 19

**Mount Vernon Wine Festival.** At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Bring a blanket to relax on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River while sampling wines from Virginia vineyards and enjoying the live music of Bruce Ewan and the Solid Senders. Note that May 18th already is sold out.

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**Annual Spring Garden Day and Plant Sale.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green

Spring Road, Alexandria. A vibrant showcase of diverse plant varieties offered by numerous vendors, ranging from beloved classics to rare and exotic specimens. Whether you're eager to embrace native flora or add a pop of color with fruiting plants, the Spring Garden Day has something for every garden vision. In addition to the plant extravaganza, attendees can gain valuable insights and tips from knowledgeable Master Gardeners.

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**Write Like a Woman Networking Workshop.** 1-3 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Enjoy an afternoon of engaging conversation and writing! Facilitated by poet, author, and Athenaeum Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta, this workshop welcomes amateur to professional

## SUNDAY/MAY 19

**U.S. Navy Band Chamber Recital.** 2 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join them for a special performance by the U.S. Navy Band chamber ensembles. The recital will feature a diverse array of traditional and contemporary music.

## 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 20

**Civil War Books, Relics & Memorabilia Show.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, Rt. 50, Fairfax. Admission, \$5 Per Person. Vendors Welcome. Call 703-389-1505 / 703-785-5294.

## TUESDAY/MAY 21

**Is He Dead?** Benefit Performance. 8 p.m. Benefit performance at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, Mark Twain's droll comedy Is He Dead? Penniless artist fakes his death to increase the value of his work, but

# ENTERTAINMENT

doesn't anticipate the consequences.

The evening's proceeds benefit the Board of Lady Managers of Inova Alexandria Hospital in their support of technological advances in the hospital's state-of-the-art medical treatment. Tickets \$45, \$65, \$125. Call 703-548-9485 or go to [www.boardofladymanagers.org/donations/](http://www.boardofladymanagers.org/donations/).

## TUESDAY/MAY 21

### Garden Sounds: Cicadian Serenade.

5:45 to 8 p.m. A fundraising concert benefiting the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. In the Garden of the Redmon Residence. The program will feature Dvorak's Wind Serenade and Mozart's Adagio from Gran Partita, conducted by Maestro Jim Ross. Guests will enjoy catered appetizer and wine in a beautiful backyard setting. Individual tickets are \$125 each.

## THURSDAY/MAY 23

**Book Talk.** At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Hear from historian Talmage Boston on his new book, *How the Best Did It: Leadership Lessons from our Top Presidents*, on May 23rd. This book offers an insightful explanation of how the most important leadership traits from America's eight greatest presidents can be implemented by today's leaders.

## 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).

## 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 accompanied 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>.

## 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!

## 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.

## 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](http://Ticketmaster.com). Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

## MAY

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



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
SCOTT	23591	600	FAIRVIEW ROAD	NORTH FORK OF CLINCH RIVER	4/30/2024
TAZEWELL	18530	601	FREESTONE VALLEY ROAD	LITTLE TUMBLING CREEK	4/30/2024
PATRICK	13252	610	HELMS ROAD/RTE 610	BRANCH DAN RIVER	4/23/2024
FLOYD	7631	785	BURKS FORK ROAD/RTE 785	BURKS FORK	4/18/2024
FRANKLIN	7936	731	DUGWELL ROAD/RTE 731	BUCK RUN	4/11/2024

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

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit [vdot.virginia.gov](http://vdot.virginia.gov) and navigate to Traffic and Travel/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

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

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

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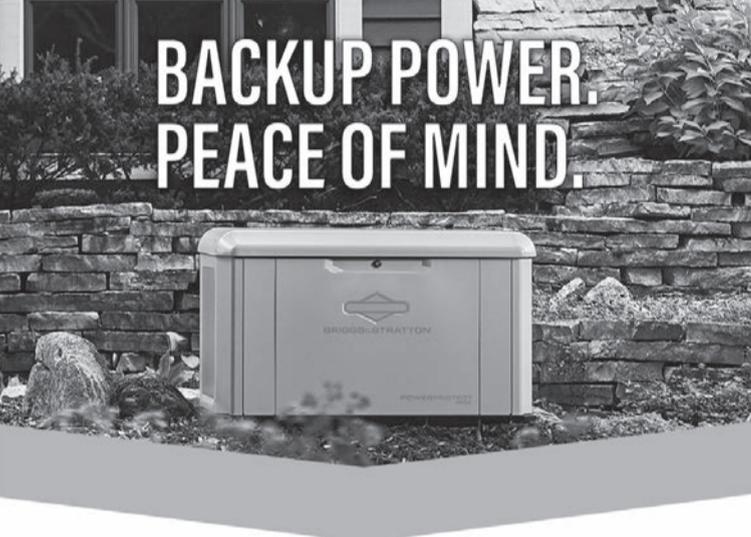


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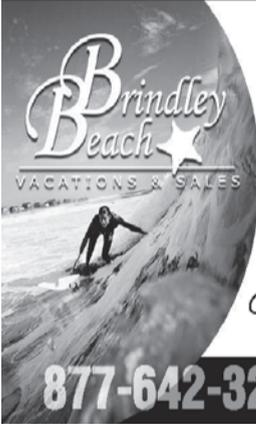
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to members of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Association for Clinical Oncology that their Annual Business Meetings will be held in Chicago, IL, in room S103 of the McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK)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

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

**Jeanne Theismann**  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com  
@TheismannMedia

**Janet Barnett, John Bordner, Mark Mogle**  
Contributing Photographers  
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

**Shirley Ruhe**  
Contributing Photographer and Writer  
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

**Eden Brown, Bridgette Adu-Wadier, Glenda Booth**  
Contributing Writers  
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

**Hope Nelson**  
Food Writer  
hope@kitchenrecessionista.com  
@kitchenrecess

**Michael Pope**  
Senior Reporter  
michaelelope@gmail.com  
@michaelelope

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
sales@connectionnewspapers.com  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Disply Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Publisher**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Editor Emeritus:**  
Mary Anne Weber

**CIRCULATION**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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# Scott Celebrated Community liaison retires after 25 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Senior Community Liaison Elaine Scott was celebrated earlier this year as she retired after working 25 years for the City of Alexandria.

"It's bittersweet," said Scott at a farewell event held Jan. 29. "When I first started I didn't know how long I would be here. But the city offered an opportunity for growth, of encouragement and an opportunity to learn."

**"I am grateful for the growth opportunities that the city afforded me."**

— Elaine Scott on her retirement

Since 2009, Scott has run the Alexandria City Academy, a nine-week program that teaches attendees the ins and outs of city government, including a look at city departments and internal operations. The program is open to any Alexandria resident.

City Manager Jim Parajon praised Scott for her contributions to the city.

"We work with lots of people here but with Elaine, it is the kindness, the passion, the commitment – just the ability to get along with other people that I will remember most about her

amazing career," Parajon said.

Scott was presented with a ceremonial street sign bearing her name by Deputy City Manager Yon Lambert.

"I am thankful for the growth opportunities that the city afforded me," Scott said. "Yes there have been challenges but at the end of the day it's been a wonderful experience here. I am humbled, overwhelmed and forever grateful."



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET  
Deputy City Manager Yon Lambert, left, presents Elaine Scott with a ceremonial street sign celebrating her retirement as Senior Community Liaison Jan. 29.

## NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 3

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 web-

page.

❖ 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.

## Commonwealth, Ashby, and Glebe Flood Mitigation Project

City of Alexandria invites residents to a community open house on May 22, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center to learn more about the Commonwealth, Ashby, and Glebe Flood Mitigation Project. The open house will provide residents an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide feedback as staff plan for further design and future construction. A questionnaire will also be available on the project website following the meeting.

The Commonwealth, Ashby, and Glebe Flood Mitigation Project will increase storm sewer capacity and reduce flooding near the intersections of Commonwealth Avenue and Glebe Road, and Ashby Street and Glebe Road.

Currently in the design phase, the project includes installing new parallel relief storm sewers to increase the capacity of the storm sewer system. The project also includes the installation of a new outfall to discharge stormwater flows to Four Mile Run, and green infrastructure to improve water quality in the watershed.

Construction will affect multiple areas near and along the project site.

More information about the project is available at [alexandriava.gov/go/4139](http://alexandriava.gov/go/4139)

## Creature Comforts



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Off hand, I don't know/can't recall the names of the pharmaceutical companies who are advertising extremely regularly (I wish I was so regular) products for toe fungus and psoriasis. What I can recall is that there are numerous products on the market these days to offer sufferers relief never thought possible. The pitches are nearly identical in tone, if not in actual word and deed. If one is to believe what is said and shown on these television advertisements, these two chronic, previously-hard-to-get-rid-of conditions are likely a thing of the past. And the present is patches, pills, creams, et cetera, and presto, you're very nearly at the promised (although not literally) land. No more itching. No more scratching. No more hiding your toes and/or arms and legs as the scales of injustice persist. (My mother had psoriasis, and though it wasn't a pretty sight, she managed to live her life. Quite unintentionally my mother's life-long struggles to find some relief from her psoriasis were realized when she stopped smoking her four packs of Chesterfield King cigarettes per day. There was no other answer. Over the ensuing months of non-smoking "cold turkey," the scales gradually disappeared, and my mother lived psoriasis-free for the rest of her life. Nevertheless, I have distinct memories of the difficulties my mother had day-to-day dealing with her condition. Fortunately, she had no similar toe condition. As an aside, I can still hear my late father admonishing my brother and I if we ever referred to my mother as 'she.'

As for the toe issue, I never saw any toes that looked affected on the order of what my mother's arms and legs looked like when she had a psoriasis outbreak. And we usually belonged to pool clubs in the summer where toes would be on full display. I should have seen something. Maybe I've blocked the memory. Toes can become nasty, I imagine. And finding a product that allows you to reintroduce your toes to the public and make peace with your sandals is likewise a solution years in the making. I will admit to being feet-and -toe-centric growing up but it was not due to any toe issue. It was athlete's foot. (Although both feet were affected.) The topical applications didn't really work. What did work was the relief my father offered. Picture this: I'm lying on the couch at a 90-degree angle to where my father is sitting on the single chair against the wall with my feet on his lap. Then he would take his index, middle fingers, and slide those two fingers back and forth along the inside of any two toes showing the signs. I got to tell you; that was heaven on earth for me. The relief and pleasure I felt from his fatherly act stays with me to this day. My father was one in a million. As the card I got him for his 65th birthday said: "When you were born, they broke the mold." (Open the card.) "You should see what they did to the mold maker." Unfortunately, there wasn't anything he could do for my mother's psoriasis. But if there were, my father would have made the effort. In later years when my mother had irreparable hearing loss and tinnitus, my parents – at my father's insistence, took regular plane flights to New Jersey from Boston to visit a doctor there who offered my mother some potential relief. (There are even products/procedures nowadays that offer tinnitus suffers some hope. I'd like to think my mother would have benefited. Getting her some relief in arrears.)

As simple and apparently effective as these two advertising campaigns to defeat (pun intended) toe fungus and cream (another pun) psoriasis seem to be, I wish, in an odd way to be so affected so that I might benefit from the new solution. It reminds of the late coach of the early 70s Redskins and mid-60s Rams, George Allen, whose mantra-type refrain was "The future is now" supporting his preference for older players. If I was a psoriasis or toe fungus sufferer, I would also feel, that after years of discomfort and perhaps even some embarrassment from these two chronic, nuisance-type conditions, the future is not only now, but also available, and not a moment too soon. Living with chronic pain and/or discomfort from psoriasis, as was the case with my late mother, or toe fungus (which I certainly can relate to due to my athlete's feet), and finally learning of a product or two – or three that could solve lifelong problems, the future is indeed now, finally. However, the frequency of these two product-specific advertisements on television is starting to get to me a bit. As I say, I can appreciate the relief these product/solutions potentially offer, I just wish the message were out there already. As with the gambling sights that are non-stop-advertised, especially during football season – and the semi related non-stop promotions for men's erectile dysfunction, to quote my late mother: "It's enough already."

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

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OPEN SUN 5/19, 2-4

### Old Town | \$1,955,000

Historic 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome offers original floors, 11-foot ceilings, and a chef's kitchen with Bertazzoni range & island seating. Luxurious primary suite with a spa-like bath includes a soaking tub and steam shower. Private patio garden. 523 Duke Street  
**Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421**  
[www.OldTownAlexandriaLiving.com](http://www.OldTownAlexandriaLiving.com)



OPEN 5/16, 5-7, 5/18 & 5/19, 1-4

### New Alexandria | \$1,187,000

Comfortably elegant 4-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home just steps from the river. Redesigned in 2021, enjoy a gourmet kitchen, spacious family room overlooking a beautiful fenced yard, and a luxurious primary suite. 6403 Potomac Avenue  
**Lisa Groover 703.919.4426**  
[www.LisaGroover.com](http://www.LisaGroover.com)



OPEN SAT 5/18 & SUN 5/19, 2-4

### Mount Vernon | \$1,175,000

Elegant brick colonial with high ceilings, abundant natural light, and open concept main level. Features 5+ bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2-car garage, 2 indoor gas fireplaces, 1 outdoor wood-burning fireplace, and over 4500 sq ft of living space! 4116 Ferry Landing Road  
**Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009**  
[www.RealtorHeidiB.com](http://www.RealtorHeidiB.com)



OPEN SAT 5/18 & SUN 5/19, 2-4

### Mount Vernon | \$975,000

Welcome home to this spacious 5-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom colonial featuring hardwood floors throughout, new roof, new dual HVAC, new hot water heater, new recessed lighting and a huge flat backyard. 9219 Volunteer Drive  
**Miriam Miller 703.598.6619**  
[www.MM-RealEstate.com](http://www.MM-RealEstate.com)



OPEN SUN 5/19, 2-4

### Old Town | \$815,000

Beautiful 2-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom brick townhouse in North Old Town with wide-plank wood floors, recessed lighting, a private terrace, updated kitchen, two en-suite baths, and underground parking. Close to shops, restaurants, parks, and Metro. 1052 N. Royal Street  
**Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802**  
[www.WendySantantonio.com](http://www.WendySantantonio.com)



OPEN 5/17, 4-6, 5/18 & 5/19, 1-4

### New Alexandria | \$749,000

Welcome to this charming 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom Cape Cod retreat. Includes a modern kitchen, renovated bathrooms, off-street parking, fenced yard with a fire pit, and a screened-in porch. This blend of character and convenience won't last long! 6416 13th Street  
**Kristen Jones 703.952.0441**  
[www.KristenJones.com](http://www.KristenJones.com)



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