

Renovations Complete at ALIVE! House

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

HomeAid gives new life to transitional housing.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

ALIVE! celebrated the completion of renovations at its ALIVE! House transitional housing property with a ribbon cutting ceremony July 25 in Old Town.

Renovations on the 1,200 square foot property on South Payne Street were led by HomeAid National Capital Region, a non-profit that works to provide safe housing facilities to other nonprofits.

"This is a pretty great example of expanding capacity of a smaller space," said Kristen Burr, CEO of HomeAid National Capital Region. "We renovated and brought it up to date so that it is a dignified and safe space. A transition like this gives hope and all those things that clients needing a hand up deserve."

Together with 21 different trade partners, HomeAid and Richmond American renovated the shared housing facility to create private units to accommodate three Alexandria families for up to two years.

Owned by ALIVE! the space provides up to 24 months of transitional housing and support for women and their families.

"So many people know ALIVE! for food but we have had the shelter since the '70s," said ALIVE! executive director Jennifer Ayers. "The last renovation was in 1993. Now, what was an institutional space has been transformed into a dignified and beautiful space that people can call home."

The first floor of the property was reconfigured to include a residential apartment as well as staff office space, a resident common area, a half bath for staff, and additional storage space under the stairwell. The second and third floors were also renovated into two separate residential units.

Richmond American volunteered as HomeAid's Builder Captain and recruited various trade partners to assist in donating time and materials needed for the project, managed the scope of work and construction progress, and helped provide leadership and direction to complete the project.

Trade partners on the project include: Anandale Millwork and Allied Systems Corporation; Aristokraft, Inc.; Atlantic Building Supply, Inc.; Avantti Construction, Inc.; Coloworld Painting & Drywall Services, Inc.; Commonwealth Lighting of Virginia, Inc.; Crigger Contracting Inc.; Franklin Electric Co, Inc.; GE Appliances; Gerber Plumbing



ALIVE! executive director Jennifer Ayers, center, cuts the ribbon to the ALIVE! House July 25 after renovations were completed on the transitional housing facility in Old Town.



Kristen Burr, executive director and CEO of HomeAid National Capital Region, left, presents a commemoration of completion plaque to Jennifer Ayers, executive director of ALIVE! July 25 at the ALIVE! House in Old Town.

"A transition like this gives hope and all those things that clients needing a hand up deserve."

— Kristen Burr, CEO, HomeAid National Capital Region



A new kitchen is part of the completed renovations led by HomeAid National Capital Region at the ALIVE! House in Old Town.



ALIVE! executive director Jennifer Ayers, left, with Kristen Burr, CEO of HomeAid National Capital Region at the July 25 ribbon cutting ceremony at ALIVE! House in Old Town.

Fixtures, LLC; Interior Logic Group (ILG); John Darvish Construction Co.; Kichler Lighting, LLC; Metro Stone Works; Moen Incorporated; Mohawk Flooring; Northern Virginia Plumbing & Mechanical, Inc.; Pro Bond Construction, Inc.; The Sherwin-Williams Company; Virginia Cleaning & Punchout, Inc. (VCP); and William H. Metcalfe & Sons, Inc.

"It does take a village," Burr said. "A lot of people were involved, with each of the amazing trade partners coming in here and doing their thing."

The retail value for the donated services was \$108,000. They did it well and did it right."

Added Ayers, "Our goal is to move people from a place where they are in risk and

hurting to a place that in two years they can leave and hopefully never have to go back to being homeless again. Thanks to HomeAid we now have a dignified and homey space, especially for the children who live here. We could not do it without partners who continue to support people in our community who need a lift up."

www.alive-inc.org

Increasing Access to African American Collections

Alexandria Black History Museum receives Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant.

The Alexandria Black History Museum, part of Historic Alexandria, is thrilled to announce its second prestigious Museum Grant for African American History and Culture from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This \$99,772 grant will support an exciting project, running from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, that will further enable visitors to explore the Museum's valuable collections beyond the confines of the museum walls.

The museum's first grant, awarded in 2021, enabled the cataloging, digitizing, and public sharing of four significant archival collections. These collections spotlight documents, photographs and artifacts from notable figures like Alexandrian activists

Ferdinand T. Day and Annie B. Rose, Washingtonian opera singer Ben Holt, and public relations trailblazer Moss H. Kendrix. This project culminated in the new exhibition, Moss H. Kendrix: Reframing the Black Image, which opened in June 2024 and provides a powerful exploration of Kendrix's transformative impact on public perceptions of African Americans through strategic public relations.

Building on this success, the new grant will digitize the museum's entire object collection, making it available online. This includes materials from William "Bill" Euille, Alexandria's first African American mayor, 1980s photographs of the Parker-Gray neighborhood, images from local African

American church services, rare issues of The Home News newspaper from 1902-1903, artifacts from African American businesses in Alexandria, and memorabilia from Earl Lloyd, the first African American to play in the NBA.

Additionally, a celebrated fund-raising cookbook, A Kind Heart and a Light Hand, and other significant items will be digitized to showcase Alexandria's rich and diverse history.

An additional component of the grant is to make accessible online catalog records of approximately 4,000 volumes from the non-circulating Watson Reading Room library. This will include updating existing records and creating 1,000 new ones, all accessible online.

This initiative is part of Alexandria Black History Museum's ongoing commitment to making history accessible. Previous digitizing efforts led to the launch of Historic Alexandria Collections Online (HACO) in 2020, featuring items from the Funn Collection, the Parker-Gray Photographic Collection, and the Black Lives Remembered Collection, which documents activism in Alexandria post-George Floyd's death.

The digital content created by this project will support the invaluable work and ongoing mission of Historic Alexandria and the Alexandria Black History Museum to tell stories of the underrepresented and marginalized, highlighting their central role in the American narrative, both locally and nationally.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant

to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeralx.org
ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to

their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralx.org/ALIVE>
Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and

books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



THE CHAMBER ALX

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TAX FREE WEEKEND

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all weekend long

AUGUST 2ND - 4TH

OLDTOWNBUSINESS.ORG

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goldworks 1400 King Street 2. Pippin Toy Co. 1310 King Street 3. Pacers Running 1301 King Street 4. American in Paris 1225 King Street 5. Boxwood 1205 King Street 6. Penny Post 1201 King Street 7. Ms. Moxie's Moon Shop 102 N Fayette Street 8. Salon DeZen 118 N Fayette Street 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Red Barn Mercantile 1117 King Street 10. Today's Cargo 1102 King Street 11. Bellacara 1000 King Street 12. Ten Thousand Villages 915 King Street 13. Creme de la Creme 907 King Street 14. Bishop Boutique 815B King Street 15. Patina Polished Living 111 S Columbus Street 16. Vintage Mirage 117 S Columbus Street 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Bloomers 706 King Street 18. Little Birdies 103 S St Asaph Street 19. 529 Kids Consign + Mint Condition 122A S Royal Street 20. Sara Campbell 320 Prince Street 21. The Shoe Hive 127 S Fairfax Street 22. Mystique Jewelers 123 S Fairfax Street 23. Encore Consignment 119 S Fairfax Street 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24. ERA 109 N Fairfax Street 25. The Hive 315 Cameron Street 26. Vida Style Shop 210 N Lee Street 27. Monday's Child Classics 218 N Lee Street 28. She's Unique 205 King Street 29. Principle Gallery 208 King Street 30. CalmConnectWell Self-Care Gifts & The Pink Reef 101 N Union Street/Old Town Pop-Up
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PHOTO/OTBA

Old Town retailers will participate in Tax Free Weekend by covering the sales tax on all purchases made from Aug. 2-4.

Tax Free Weekend Old Town retailers add to sales tax holiday.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

As Virginia's annual tax-free weekend approaches Aug. 2-4, more than 30 retailers in Old Town will participate by covering the sales tax on all purchases including those items not usually part of the sales tax holiday.

During the statewide sales tax holiday, in-person and online purchases of qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear, hurricane and emergency preparedness items, and Energy Star and WaterSense products will not incur a sales tax.

In Old Town, retailers are sweetening the shopping experience by covering sales tax on all purchases, even those that fall outside the

state tax-free guidelines, beginning Friday, Aug. 2 through Sunday, Aug. 4.

Participating stores include: ERA; Mint Condition; CalmConnectWell Self-Care Gifts; Bishop Boutique; Little Birdies; Pacers Running; Vida Style Shop; The Pink Reef; Mystique Jewelers; She's Unique; Red Barn Mercantile; Ten Thousand Villages; The Hive; The Shoe Hive; Gold Works USA; Monday's Child; Vintage Mirage; Salon DeZen; Creme de la Crème; Bloomers; Ms. Moxie's Moon Shop; Boxwood; 529 Kids Consign; Encore Consignment Boutique; Bellacara; Patina Polished Living; American In Paris; Sara Campbell; Penny Post; Pippin Toy Co.; and Principle Gallery.

In addition to all purchases made

at the participating retailers, eligible items included in the statewide tax-free weekend include: qualified school supplies - \$20 or less per item; qualified clothing and footwear - \$100 or less per item; hurricane and emergency preparedness products; portable generators - \$1,000 or less per item; gas-powered chainsaws - \$350 or less per item; chainsaw accessories - \$60 or less per item; other specified hurricane preparedness items - \$60 or less per item; and Energy Star and WaterSense products purchased for noncommercial home or personal use - \$2,500 or less per item.

The Tax Free Weekend will be followed by Alexandria's annual Sidewalk Sale on Saturday, Aug. 10.

For more information visit www.oldtownbusiness.org



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

More than 30 Old Town retailers will offer tax-free shopping Aug. 2-4.
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ AUGUST 1-7, 2024 ♦ 3

SENIOR LIVING



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – Norma Safren, seated at right, celebrated her 94th birthday July 26 at The View in Alexandria. She was joined by fellow resident Cynthia Bordner, seated at left, and Safren’s son Richie Safren and granddaughter Susan Medina. Asked for her secret to her long and healthy life, Safren replied, “I have three beautiful children and nine beautiful grandchildren and the family is still increasing.”



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

HAPPY 98TH BIRTHDAY - Margaret Johnson, seated, celebrates her 98th birthday July 12 surrounded by friends and neighbors in the Vauxcluse section of Alexandria. A resident of Alexandria since she was just 13 days old, Johnson served with the TWIG (the junior auxiliary of Alexandria Hospital) and with the Alexandria Hospital Board of Directors.

Beyer Introduces Legislation to Support Older Workers

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) today introduced the Older Workers’ Bureau Act, legislation that would establish an Older Workers’ Bureau within the Department of Labor tasked with identifying challenges facing workers aged 55 and older and developing policies to improve employment conditions and opportunities for older workers.

“As more Americans work into their later years and workplace conditions evolve, a larger share of our workforce is facing challenges such as age discrimination and work-limiting health conditions,” said Beyer. “The establishment of an Older Workers’ Bureau would provide a central office dedicated to supporting our older workers and ensuring they have the resources they need to be successful.”

“Similar to during the Great Recession, older workers have lost jobs in massive numbers during the pandemic economic downturn, and they struggle with long-term unemployment at rates greater than their younger counterparts,” said Ramsey Alwin, President and CEO of the National Council on Aging. Others have given up looking for work, and are facing financial risks in extended retirement, Alwin said.

Alwin praised Beyer for his leadership on

the Older Workers’ Bureau Act to bring federal attention to the challenges and opportunities of an aging workforce, and he urged Congress to incorporate these proposals in upcoming workforce development policy-making.

Specifically, the Older Workers’ Bureau Act would authorize \$10M per year to support the welfare of older workers by:

- Establishing a data hub and coordinating research related to challenges facing older workers;

- Developing potential policy solutions to improve employment conditions and opportunities;

- Providing outreach and education to institutions supporting older workers; and

- Administering grant programs to expand research into older workers and to combat structural ageism in the workplace.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that between 1995 and 2021, the share of older workers more than doubled to nearly 24 percent from 12 percent and is expected to continue to rise. The Older Workers’ Bureau Act is endorsed by the National Council on Aging and sponsored by Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Sylvia Garcia (D-TX).

Text of the Older Workers’ Bureau Act is available here



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

And the Winner Is

Alexandria Celebrates Women founder and president Pat Miller, left, is presented the Community Partner Award by Russell Wyland on behalf of The Little Theatre of Alexandria prior to the July 24 performance of the musical Memphis. The award recognizes the support of community theater and the arts in Alexandria. The performance served as a fundraiser for the Alexandria Police Foundation and ACW, which was raising funds for the city’s Domestic Violence Shelter.

Creative Vision

Van Landingham celebrated for Torpedo Factory transformation.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Marian Van Landingham, a former Virginia State Delegate and champion of the arts, was celebrated at her home in Old Town July 13 as the driving force behind transforming the Torpedo Factory into a nationally recognized art center 50 years ago.

Van Landingham, an accomplished artist, first proposed that the “leaky, drafty, pigeon infested” former military factory be transformed into an artist studio space and art center in 1973.

“This was always intended to be a city project but they were not sure about it from the beginning,” Van Landingham said from her home as she was surrounded by friends. “It was originally proposed as a three-year experiment. We started with about 70 artists and the center was filled from the beginning. We knew it would help improve the waterfront.”

Van Landingham’s vision also included providing regional artists an affordable option to the overpriced studio spaces of the area.

“I think it’s proven itself as a major attraction for the city and at the same time given a lot of artists an opportunity to display and sell their work,” Van Landingham said. “It has absolutely gotten attention nationally as an arts destination.”

An accomplished painter, Van Landingham kept a studio at the Torpedo Factory until this year, when she recently released her space to new artists.

The city has implemented a system where artists need to apply through a juried process in order to secure space at the center.

“With the artists now juried, previous artists need to reapply,” Van Landingham said. “Some were able to stay and some needed to move their studios. It is an awkward situation and has left artists feeling not good about the city. But the artists are keeping it going the best way they can.”

Van Landingham served as the volunteer president for Alexandria’s Art League and succeeded in convincing the city to fund the \$140,000 needed for the renovation. Artists volunteered and cleaned out the building and created the studio spaces.

The Torpedo Factory Art Center opened in 1974 with 140 artists, which helped trigger the revitalization of the city’s waterfront. By 2017, the Art Center had become the top tourist attraction in the city.

In addition to leaving her mark on the city through the Torpedo Factory, Van Landingham served in the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 45th District for 24 years, first running for office in 1982.

“I think young politicians need to be really involved in the city prior to running for elected office,” Van Landingham said. “That means more than just belonging to the Democratic Committee. But Alexandria is a fun place and there are a lot of things to get people interested. Since there is never a guarantee of success, choose something that you like. That is what I did and I like to think I made a difference.”



Marian Van Landingham, seated center, is surrounded by friends to celebrate 50 years of the founding of the Torpedo Factory as an art center July 13 at her home in Old Town.



Marian Van Landingham first ran for elected office in 1982 and served as a Virginia state delegate for 24 years.



Marian Van Landingham celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Torpedo Factory Art Center July 13 at her home in Old Town. Van Landingham was instrumental in transforming the facility into a landmark art center.

BIRD ALLIANCE



PHOTO BY MUSA MURAWIH.

Northern Virginia Bird Alliance Board Member Musa Murawih led members of the Black Women Hike group in a bird walk at the Carderock Recreation Area, Potomac, MD.



PHOTO BY LIBBY LYONS

Members of NoVa Bird Alliance worked with local residents to improve the habitat at Monticello Park in Alexandria as part of the organization's Stretch Our Parks initiative. The group spread wood chips to reduce erosion on the trails and planted trees in the park. The park is a hot spot for migratory birds, and particularly warblers, in the spring.



PHOTO BY JERRY TOUVALL

NoVa Bird Alliance held a work day at the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge to remove invasive species, and in particular Mile-a-Minute. Invasive plant species can out-compete native species and destroy local ecosystems



PHOTO BY JERRY TOUVALL.

NVBA's Vice President Jerry Touvall teamed up with the US Fish and Wildlife staff from the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge to do a presentation for the combined 3rd and 5th grade classes at Rockledge Elementary School in Woodbridge. Students learned about birds they can see at the Refuge and in their own backyards and neighborhoods.

Local Audubon Chapter Drops 'Audubon' from Name

Now the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance, still a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, a 5,000-member chapter of the National Audubon Society, voted overwhelmingly to change the chapter's name to the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance (NoVa Bird Alliance), effective Aug. 1. The group's new motto is "Conserving and Enjoying Nature."

Elizabeth Lyons, president of the organization, explained, "We are excited about our new name for two primary reasons. First, 'Bird Alliance' better describes what we do. Second, protecting nature is so urgent that we need everyone's help yet we found that John James Audubon's history was keeping people, especially those in younger and more diverse groups, from joining our cause. Our new, more welcoming name will enable us to conserve nature for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people because it will help us engage and serve all of Northern Virginia's communities."

One reason that at least 20 chapters dropped the Audubon name is that John James Audubon, a naturalist and painter, supported his work by buying and selling enslaved people. Board member Tom Blackburn elaborated, "The National Audubon Society decided not to change its name. Our organization is not attempting to erase John James Audubon, but we felt it was time to change our name so our focus on birds and the environment is more easily recognizable and so our name is more welcoming to all the people in the area we serve." The organization will continue as a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

The NoVa Bird Alliance's member territory encompasses all of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford Counties; portions of Fauquier, Loudoun, Rappahannock



PHOTO BY JUDY GALLAGHER

Green Herons are small herons that are found at the edges of ponds, lakes and wetlands throughout northern Virginia. They wait patiently for a fish to swim near, then capture it with their dagger-like bill.

and Spotsylvania Counties; and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park.

MANY BIRDS IN DECLINE

For over 40 years, the group has surveyed birds, butterflies, dragonflies and bloom dates of plants in southeastern Fairfax County and Prince William County. The bloom dates project is one of the longest-duration such surveys in the country.

One study of North American birds showed that three billion birds – 25 percent of the total bird population – have been lost in the last 50 years, because of spreading agriculture and urbanization, and the pollution and loss of habitat that comes with that.

Nearly 500 species of birds spend part or all of the year in Virginia.

"Bird population trends in Virginia are consistent with the rest of North America," noted Blackburn. "Preliminary data from the state's Second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas indicate that many bird species are in steep decline in Virginia.



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

The Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge near Lorton was the first refuge in the United States established to protect nesting Bald Eagles. Bald Eagles were nearly eliminated from the lower 48 states in the 1960s, but populations have rebounded strongly thanks to protection under the Endangered Species Act, banning the chemical DDT, and protection of their habitats.

"Our new, more welcoming name will enable us to conserve nature for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people because it will help us engage and serve all of Northern Virginia's communities."
— Elizabeth Lyons, president, NoVa Bird Alliance

"Some birds, such as gadwalls and blue-winged teals, no longer breed in Virginia. Climate change has resulted in southern birds, such as Mississippi kites and anhingas, starting to breed in Virginia. Many bird species are nesting two to five weeks earlier than they were 35 years ago, when the first

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas was compiled," he said.

Greg Butcher observed, "Northern Virginia remains one of the most rapidly developing regions in the world. A major downside to this development is that we are losing natural areas that support birds and wildlife. In



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

Wood Ducks are the most spectacular duck in Northern Virginia. They nest high in trees in wooded swamps. The ducklings jump out of the nest just a day after hatching then join their parents on a trek to the nearest water.



PHOTO CREDIT TONI GENBERG

NVBA's Wildlife Sanctuary program offers trained naturalists who provide advice on habitat improvements to homeowners, churches, HOAs and small businesses. Those who take the Healthy Yard Pledge and succeed in attracting key species to their property receive certification as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

the last few decades, we have lost the bobwhite quail as a breeding bird in northern Virginia and we no longer hear its namesake whistle in our neighborhoods.

"Similarly, the wood thrush used to provide a familiar and lovely song that is increasingly rare to hear anywhere near Washington, D.C., where it is the official bird." Butcher is



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

The Prothonotary Warbler nests in swampy woodlands, including in nearby Huntley Meadows Park. Its numbers are declining due to the loss of forested wetlands in the United States and in the mangroves of its wintering grounds in Central and South America.

the retired Migratory Species Coordinator for U.S. Forest Service International Programs and former Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society.

He continued, "Our parks provide our best chance to maintain healthy bird populations. We need to add more parks, increase their sizes and promote their natural values.

"Both grassland birds and forest-interior birds require large patches of habitat to survive and breed. These large habitat patches are the first to disappear during urbanization. Species like bobwhite quail and wood thrush are at risk when these large habitat patches disappear."

WHY CARE ABOUT BIRDS?

"Many studies have shown that exposure to nature contributes to human health and happiness," Butcher said. "Birds are especially important because they provide both visual and aural beauty.

"In addition, birds are easy-to-measure indicators of the health of the environment. Birds need many of the same natural elements that humans need, so when bird populations decline, it's a warning that human wellbeing is also at risk."

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

With a 44-year history, the organization, newly renamed Northern Virginia Bird Alliance, offers educational programs on birds, conservation and natural history and leads walks. Their Stretch Our Parks initiative



PHOTO BY TOMICAH TILLEMANN

These young birders, from left, Nero Disparte, Lincoln Tillemann and Ryan Weber, at Huntley Meadows Park are participating in a Birdathon, NVBA's annual fundraising campaign. Teams compete to see how many bird species they can find in one day in northern Virginia and how much money they can raise for the organization. This year's winning team found 124 species in one day.



PHOTO BY TANIA ROMERO GONZALEZ

NVBA volunteers prepare to tackle invasive plants at the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Left to right: Judy Gallagher, NVBA Board; Isaiah, OBNWR staff member; Jerry Touvall, Vice President, NVBA; Gail Youngken, OBNWR Visitor Services Specialist; Libby Lyons, President, NVBA; Andreas Seiter, NVBA Board.

works with people to expand the ecological impacts of parks beyond their borders and into surrounding neighborhoods. The Wildlife Sanctuary Program offers trained ambassadors to help property owners restore natural habitat, including free on-site visits.

The Advocacy Committee works with

elects and other officials and "sister" organizations on local, state and federal policies to preserve and restore wildlife, habitats and ecosystems.

For more information and to join, visit www.nvbirdalliance.org or email president@nvba.org. Annual dues are \$20.

Friendship Firehouse Festival

Historic fire company celebrates 250 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

A celebration of the 250th anniversary of Alexandria's Friendship Fire Company will be on full display at the upcoming Friendship Firehouse Festival Aug. 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 100 block of South Alfred Street.

The festival features the opportunity to learn about fire safety today, and yesterday, and see Alexandria Fire Department equipment up close. Booths will be set up by the Alexandria Police Department and Sheriff's Office along with music performances, face painting, displays by community organizations, local vendors, and food and beverage sales.

Water play and hands-on artifact activities will be featured and children will receive free toy Friendship firefighting helmets.

Festival participants will be able to tour the Friendship Firehouse Museum, originally built as a firehouse in 1855.

The family event is sponsored by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association and the Office of Historic Alexandria. Admission is free.

For more information, visit Alexandriava.gov/Historic.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The annual Friendship Firehouse Festival will take place Aug. 3 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on South Alfred Street.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Photographer May Pang, second from left, with Rotary Club president Jim Carmalt, and Rotarians Debbie Sheridan and Robin Arnold at a reception July 19 at Nepenthe Gallery. The gallery hosted local Rotarians as part of a special exhibit featuring Pang's photographs of John Lennon.

'The Lost Weekend' Local gallery hosts Lennon exhibit.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria Rotary Club were special guests July 19 at the Nepenthe Gallery for an exhibit by photographer May Pang, who showcased her candid photographs of John Lennon.

Pang, the former companion and lover of Lennon during what is known as "The Lost Weekend," a time in Lennon's life profiled in the documentary of the same name, was on hand during the exhibit reception.

Pang worked for Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono before becoming the constant companion and lover of the music icon from 1973-1975.

"May Pang was a delight and what an interesting history," said Alexandria Rotary Club president Jim Carmalt. "This was a wonderful evening and a fascinating exhibit."

www.nepenthegallery.com



Candid photographs by May Pang of John Lennon were featured at a recent exhibit at Nepenthe Gallery.



Photographer May Pang, left, with Debbie Sheridan Jul 19 at Nepenthe Gallery.

ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

34TH SEASON OF THE LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) announces the 34th season of its Lyceum Chamber Series, under the guidance of Music Director Laureate Ulysses James. Hosted at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, located at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria, this series promises to offer an array of exceptional weekly performances throughout the summer. All concerts are at 3 p.m.; no tickets required. Suggested donation \$25.

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Featuring Anna Binneweg, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
Ulysses James, Music Director Laureate, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
Alberto Rodriguez, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra
Martin Garfield-Levine, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra
Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director

MUSIC SCHEDULE

August 4: Alexandria Baroque
Michael De Sapio, Baroque Violin
John Armato, Lute, Baroque Guitar
August 11: Tapestry Cello Ensemble
August 18: Quodlibet, Flute/Clarinet/Bassoon
August 25: Samuel Runolfson, Cello
September 1: Michael De Sapio, Violin
September 8: Hai Jin, Piano
September 15: John Sutherland Earle: Piano & Friends

NOW THRU AUG. 4

Curators' Selects - Artomatic 2024.

At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Everyone applying to exhibit in Artomatic is accepted. Artomatic 2024, held this Spring in Washington, DC featured over 800 artists. In this Athenaeum show, three representatives of the Gallery selected several artists they had not been familiar with prior to visiting Artomatic. This exhibition features these artists and explains why the curators felt they merited wider recognition.

Curators: Elizabeth Brown, Athenaeum Gallery Associate
Twig Murray, Athenaeum Gallery Director
Veronica Szalus, Athenaeum Executive Director

Their Selected Artists: Camron Anderson, Eric Celarier, Ellen Cornett, Louis Del Valle, Kim Dyer, Rita El-sner, Lewis Frances, Dennis Goris, A.D. Herzel, Martha Holmes, Jenny Kanzler, Phyllis Mayes, Bryan Sieling, Candice Tavares, Christian Tribastone



The Ska and Reggae band Eastern Standard Time will perform at Grist Mill Park in Alexandria on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024.

JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in drawing, stone carving, jewelry, resin, mosaics, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria) unless noted. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer

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.

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/American)

AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

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

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)

AUG. 2-31

"The Science of Our Surroundings" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features art that draws inspiration from science and math, with a focus on diagrams, cutaways or cycles that the artist or creator may find particularly fascinating. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, August



Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale takes place Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024 throughout Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray.

2, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed September 1). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

AUG. 2-4

Sales Tax Holiday at Home Depot.

With Virginia's Sales Tax Holiday coming up from August 2-4, The Home Depot is ready to help community members prepare their homes and families for any emergency situation. During this tax-free weekend, your readers can stock up on essential disaster preparedness supplies that every home and business needs. Our team has compiled some top recommendations from The Home Depot to help build effective emergency safety kits:

On-Hand Basics – Basics that you always want to have in case of any emergency include an assortment of batteries, flashlights or lanterns for every member of the family. Other basics include a first-aid kit, duct tape, weather radio and bottled water.

Secure Outdoor Items – Ratchet tie-

downs are great for securing outdoor items so they don't fly away with increased wind force.

Back-Up Power Source – Following some storms, people can go without power for days or weeks. A generator is a great resource to maintain power until it's restored. Have extension cords handy to provide power from generators to important items.

Damage Control – Durable tarps with weather-resistant polyethylene coating are good for covering roof damage after a storm to prevent further destruction.

On The Road – If you need to drive after a storm, there is a higher likelihood of experiencing a flat tire due to debris in the road. An aerosol tire inflator is the easiest and quickest way to repair a flat tire in an emergency.

AUG. 2-16

ALX Bark Bingo. Come and celebrate Alexandria during the first two weeks of August with a free and fun game of bingo! ALX Bark Bingo is simple to play: 1) Fetch a bingo card from participating stores that

feature a bright yellow box on the storefront; 2) Scan the QR code on the storefront's yellow box to reveal a dog, and 3) Have a match on your bingo card? Pop into the store and get your card stamped! Win with one horizontal/vertical/diagonal bingo and email a photo of your winning card to barkbingo@alxdogwalk.com. Winning cards will be entered into a drawing on 8/19, and four winners will receive a bag of \$300 worth of gift certificates from participating stores! ALX Bark Bingo participating stores include: Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Bad Ass Coffee of Hawaii, Beeliner Diner, Bellies & Babies, Benny Diferza's Pizza, Boxwood, Cameron Café, District Biscuit Company, The Dog Park, ERA Clothing & Accessories, fibre space, Fiscus Glassworks, Frizzles Hair Salon, Kungfu Kitchen, Lost Boy Cider, Magpie Reclamations, Ms. Moxie's Moon Shop, Pippin Toy Co., Taqueria Picoso, Ten Thousand Villages, Today's Cargo, Top it Off Accessories, Whiskey & Oyster, and Zuki Moon. Visit www.alxdogwalk.com

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

BBC Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Free health screenings, i.e., blood pressure, Afib, HIV testing, etc. Information on wellness, health promotion and prevention, mental and physical health education, healthcare access resources and more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Back to School Community Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Lorton Community Center, 9520 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. Enjoy a day of family-friendly fun with free giveaways of back to school supplies, food, music, games, hearing, vision and dental screenings, vaccines, the Fairfax County Park Authority Wonder Wagon, exhibitors, touch-a-truck and more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

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>.

SATURDAY/AUG. 10

Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale.

Throughout Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray. One of the longest-running seasonal summer shopping events—Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale—returns to the D.C. region's "Shop Small" destination on Saturday, August 10, 2024, throughout Old Town and Del Ray. The event features dozens of Alexandria boutiques stepping out of their storefronts and offering deeply discounted summer merchandise. Learn more at VisitAlexandria.com/SidewalkSale. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/SidewalkSale

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

AUG. 16-25

Alexandria Restaurant Week. Throughout neighborhoods in Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End. For 10 days and two weekends, dozens of restaurants in Alexandria, Virginia, will offer a \$27.50, \$40 or \$50 in-person dinner for one during Alexandria Restaurant Week, August 16-25, 2024. The special \$27.50 offer is a playful nod to Alexandria's 275th anniversary. Find additional special offers and discounts at fast casual restaurants throughout Alexandria during Alexandria Restaurant Week. Alexandria Restaurant Week showcases the inventiveness of local chefs and international cuisine in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower and the West End. In early August, guests will find a digital flip-book of menus at participating restaurants on AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.



Alexandria Restaurant Week takes place Aug. 16-25, 2024 throughout Old Town Alexandria, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End.

SATURDAY/AUGUST 17

Del Ray Bands & Brews Bar Crawl.

12:30- 6 p.m. At Del Ray Business Association, 2308 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Join the fun and vibrant Del Ray community for a special summer event, featuring live music in outdoor restaurant venues along the Avenue! Bands & Brews. This event is being brought to you by the Del Ray Business Association and will benefit a local non-profit. The first 250 registrants will get a swag bag with a 16 oz souvenir collectors cup! Advance tickets are \$15 (\$25 at the door), and include specials on cocktails, beer, and food at each of the 20+ participating restaurants, live music at every venue, trolley transportation, 50/50 raffles, a photo booth, and many more fun giveaways. You must be 21+ to participate in the crawl, but children and families are welcome at family friendly establishments and at the main stage at Pat Miller Square. Visit visitdelray.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 23

Summer Concert Series. The U.S. Air Force Band returns to the Air Force Memorial in Arlington. Free and open to the public. Friday, Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. - Airmen of Note Friday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Air Force Birthday Concert.

SATURDAY/AUG. 24

Around the World Cultural Food Festival. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, downtown Old Town Alexandria. Come and enjoy delicious foods from around the world while watching a diverse folk show with singers and dancers from different countries, then take a break and go shopping from the ethnic artisans and crafters participating in the festival.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

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.fairfax-county.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

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.

AUGUST

Fri. 2: Michael Franks \$65.00
Sat. 3: Michael Franks \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
Sun. 4: Michael Franks \$65.00
Tue. 6: Robert Earl Keen \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
Wed. 7: Robert Earl Keen \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
Thu. 8: Robert Earl Keen \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
Fri. 9: White Ford Bronco \$35.00
Sat. 10: 1964: The Tribute \$45.00
Sun. 11: Trevor Hall: An Evening in a Blue Sky Mind \$65.00
Thu. 15: Keke Wyatt \$65.00
Fri. 16: JON B. \$69.50
Sat. 17: JON B. \$69.50
Sun. 18: The Secret Sisters w/ Jon Muq \$35.00
Fri. 23: Marcus Miller \$69.50
Sat. 24: Kim Waters \$35.00
Sun. 25: Sandi Patty \$59.50
Thu. 29: Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore with The Guilty Ones w/ Jon Langford & The Bright Shiners \$45.00
Fri. 30: Raheem DeVaughn \$85.00
Sat. 31: Raheem DeVaughn \$85.00

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

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

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volun-

teer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

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

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's pre-teens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and

guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

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

Another Why Me ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... but not what you think. Once again, this 'why me' has nothing to do with cancer. It has to do with emails that I am receiving almost daily, including weekends. The email is addressed to me; 'Dear Kenneth' is how they begin. This recurring appearance in my inbox is being sent by alerts@neighborhoodalerts.com. What they are emailing to me are police-type reports, if not copies of the actual documents, of "non-violent crimes" in our community: thefts, car break-ins, robberies in homes, in addition to rather helpful advisories: flood watch, excessive heat warnings, properties for sale, permits applied for, and any buildings/new construction proposed. In summary, I am receiving unsolicited news of our community's goings on, the good, the bad, and the ugly, with apologies to Clint Eastwood and director Sergio Leone.

On the face of it, "Not horrible," which is exactly how a neighbor, Robert, described to us over the phone, the damage caused by a large tree that crashed into our house while we were away on vacation. But what bothers me most about this almost daily news feed, is the overwhelming percentage of these communiques have to do with crime. And from the consistency of the reporting of break-ins, car thefts, and all manner of relatively non-violent behaviors, I can't help feeling victimized even though I have not been, nor witnessed, or heard firsthand of any of these kinds of activities. Moreover, I just can't believe there's this much crime in my little corner of Montgomery County. And yet, every morning, or nearly so, I am the recipient of this drumbeat of low crimes and misdemeanors occurring practically under my nose. It's as if I'm part of an email group that includes the police commissioner, captain at of my nearby police station along with his chief of detectives, the desk Sergeant and so on who should receive and/or are on a need-to-know basis, whereas I'm neither part of the police and/or really don't need-to-know, this much. I've asked many of my neighbors if anybody else is receiving the daily updates that I am. No one is receiving these emails. Ergo, 'why me?'

This must be an error, right? I'm of two minds on the matter (I am married to a Gemini, after all); either there's this much crime occurring - for which I see or hear no evidence, and I'm lucky to even be hearing about it or, I'm unlucky to be hearing about it because what I wouldn't have known couldn't hurt me. But now, I know. Or do I?

It just seems that if crime was as rampant as this 'service' infers that it is, I would have heard about elsewhere, like from a person first, not a 'service.' But to quote the great Sergeant Schultz from "Hogan's Heroes:" "I see nothing." Perhaps, I'm playing the innocent here because I've never heard of nor requested (signed up) for this so-called service. Yet here I sit, computer in hand (on desk, actually) and there the email arrives - from alerts. More unpleasant activities that's fit to email.

What am I to make of this outreach? Why am I the one being informed? If this is a phishing expedition, where's the bait? I've not been asked for money, but maybe simply clicking on this email is somehow causing me problems even though I've never responded. I sure hope my curiosity isn't going to get the best of my bank account.

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

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SOLD | \$795,000*



17434 AVENLEIGH DRIVE
SOLD | \$1,100,000*



9254 CARDINAL FOREST LANE #201
SOLD | \$372,000*



2046 DERBY RIDGE LANE #3-9
SOLD | \$595,000*



105 COFFEE TREE COURT
SOLD | \$625,000*



10314 HICKORY CREEK COURT
RENTED | \$6,750/mo.



801 S PITT STREET #325
RENTED | \$2,300/mo.*



810 FAIR WINDS WAY
RENTED | \$4,850/mo.



162 WESMOND DRIVE
RENTED | \$3,300/mo.*

* Represented Buyer/Tenant

Information gathered from Bright MLS and is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



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