

'Their Names Matter'

Wreath laying ceremony held for fallen officers.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Police Department paid tribute to its fallen officers during a wreath laying ceremony May 7 at the Fallen Officers Memorial at APD Headquarters.

The annual ceremony is part of National Police Week, which took place May 11-17.

"The loss of lives in the line of duty is very quick, tragic and unexpected," said Alexandria Police Chief Tarrick McGuire. "When you bury that individual you make a promise to their family. You make a promise that their names will forever be etched in the memory of the community and our depart-

"Our commitment is to remember those who have served our community."

— Alexandria Police Chief
Tarrick McGuire

ment."

Rev. Dr. Taft Quincey Heatley of Shiloh Baptist Church opened the ceremony followed by the presentation of colors and the singing of the National Anthem by Alexandria City High School senior Grace Legere.

The Fallen Officers Memorial, located at APD Headquarters, honors the 18 Alexandria Police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Survivors and family members gathered for the ceremony, including family members of Deputy Inspector James Baber, who was killed Oct. 19, 1962, and Private Eugene Yoakum, who died



A bell is rung as part of the End of Watch roll call at the Fallen Officers Memorial wreath laying May 7 at APD headquarters.



Former APD employee Detective Charlene Lane, accompanied by Officer Diana Coddington, places a rose in memory of her friend and fallen officer Conrad Birney May 7 at APD headquarters.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Officer Andrea O'Leary salutes after placing a rose at the Fallen Officers Memorial May 7 at APD headquarters.



Alexandria police officers carry a wreath to place at the Fallen Officers Memorial in honor of slain Alexandria officers May 7 at APD headquarters.

SUMMER 2025

Taste of Del Ray
JUNE 1

Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair
JUNE 7

ALX Jazz Fest
JUNE 14

Friday Market & Drag Show
at Port City Brewing Company
JUNE 14

Juneteenth Events Including:
Juneteenth Celebration at The Athenaeum
JUNE 19

Alexandria Pride Fair
JUNE 28

Alexandria and USA
Birthday Celebration
JULY 12

Beats, Bites and Brews
at John Carlyle Square
JULY 26

Celebrate
Pride during
WorldPride
and beyond
MAY 17
- JUNE 30

Alexandria Sidewalk Sale
AUGUST 9

Del Ray Bands and Brews
Summer Bar Crawl
AUGUST 16

Alexandria Restaurant Week
AUGUST 22-31

Around the World
Cultural Food Festival
AUGUST 23

For even more events
& things to do, check out:

Visit[Alexandria.com/Summer](https://alexandria.com/Summer)

alexandria



NEWS



PHOTO BY SHAKAYLA FARMER

Sheriff Sean Casey smiles and attendees applaud after the sign for the newly-named Second Chance Unit is unveiled April 29 at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center.

‘A Chance and a Choice’

Sheriff's office celebrates Second Chance Unit.

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office, in connection with April's designation as Second Chance Month, held a ceremony April 29 to formally rename the men's program housing unit at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center as the Second Chance Unit.

Sheriff Sean Casey and members of the Inmate Services team addressed audience members including more than two dozen inmates and representatives from reentry partners Offender Aid and Restoration, Department of Community and Human Services, Alexandria Health Department, Shiloh Baptist Church CARES, Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs in D.C., Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and Northern Virginia Community College.

Director LaTanya Ervin welcomed guests and Reentry Counselor Mustafa Saboor pro-

vided opening remarks. Two participants in reentry programming, Zachary Bell and Kevin Rodriguez, then addressed Sheriff Casey, staff, invited guests and other program

participants. Both expressed appreciation for the opportunities they have received to improve their futures.

Education Coordinator Krista Sofonia, ESL Instructor Dianara Saget and Chaplain Myron Contee all shared remarks and congratulated the program participants on their hard work.

Sheriff Casey and Director Ervin then unveiled the new sign reading: "Second Chance Unit — Every day we are given two things, a chance and a choice."

Sheriff Casey closed the ceremony by thanking the Inmate Services team and guests, as well as the program participants, saying that he appreciated their diligence and their big investment in themselves and that without their sincere commitment, there would be no Second Chance Unit.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](https://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event. Or email to calendar@connectionnewspapers.com

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.volunteeralexandria.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.volunteeralexandria.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 SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 6



Students at Alexandria City High School have offered a proposal they are calling 'Voices Unbound' that aims to protect their First Amendment rights rather than allowing administrators to censor them.



Theogony co-editor James Libresco, left, holds a sign while Theogony co-editor Casey Donahue testifies before members of the Alexandria School Board, who have declined multiple requests to be interviewed for this story.

Communication Breakdown

School Board and superintendent remain silent on secretive plan to censor students.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Laughter filled the School Board chamber when Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt suggested that she was “committed to transparency.” For student journalists who packed the room, the punchline landed because of the communications lockdown at Alexandria City Public Schools, where elected officials and school administrators routinely deny media requests for interviews. Their secretive plan to adopt a policy that would allow school administrators to pull the plug on investigative reporting may be at a standstill for now, but it could reemerge at any time to silence the voices of students at Alexandria City High School.

“It shows the pressure the community has put on the School Board is starting to kick in,” said Theogony co-editor James Libresco in an interview. “They’re realizing this isn’t such a good idea.”

Last week, the School Board Governance Committee put the process on “pause,” and vowed to circle back around to it at an unspecified time in the future. School Board Chairwoman Michelle Rief declined multiple requests to be interviewed for this story. And, through a spokeswoman, the superintendent also declined several requests to be interviewed for this story. None of the nine elected members of the School Board were willing to speak on the record about a policy discussion that nobody seems to want to talk about.

“We believe that the dais is the appropriate and best place for the board’s deliberation to take place in a public and transparent way,” wrote Rief in part of a written statement.

THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY at Alexandria City Public Schools is not new. For years, the school division has denied requests for interviews and tried to communicate through written statements from the School Board chairwoman. That applied to everything from demographic trends to transgender policy. Now that the school system is considering a policy that could deny students their First Amendment rights, the culture of secrecy among the nine elected School Board members shows no signs of breaking anytime soon.

“They owe it to the community to tell us where they stand and what they think and what they want to see happen,” said Councilman Abdel-Rahma Elnoubi, who was a member of the School Board before being elected to City Council last year. “I’ve always witnessed peer pressure against talking to the media, and the superintendent would often frame it as not supportive to her and staff’s work when board members say anything publicly about controversial issues like this.”

The hushed nature of the policy debate presents obstacles for School Board members who are not directly involved in the deliberations of the Governance Committee. A few weeks ago, they circulated a document that outlined a process for prior restraint of investigative journalism at Theogony. That document also threatened to punish students by revoking their “journalistic privileges” if they published in legacy newspapers or new media startups. Now that the committee has hit the “pause” button on the discussion, School Board members will not say where they stand on the First Amendment rights of student journalists.

“When you refuse to talk to the media or the public or when you insist on talking

in just one voice — and it’s just the good things — people don’t trust that,” said Megan Rhyne, executive director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, in an interview. “So when things go sideways, the public doesn’t have anything to grasp onto to give you the benefit of the doubt. They are going to be skeptical, and it’s going to cause resentment.”

THE DEBATE OVER CENSORING students started after Theogony ran a series of investigative reports about the “high-school project,” an ambitious yet flawed plan to spread out the city’s massive high school population across four campus locations. The series detailed how demoralized public-school employees were forced to reapply for their jobs as part of a reorganization. It also revealed that school buses ran so late that students would often walk between campus locations. The superintendent also declined multiple requests to be interviewed by the student journalists at Theogony.

“Student journalists should be allowed to investigate stories, run with stories as they see fit and participate in the full journalistic process without interference from the school.”

— Ian Kalish,

University of Virginia First Amendment Clinic

“I think it’s part of our responsibility to prepare them to deal responsibly with sensitive issues like this,” said Valerie Kibler, president of the Journalism Education Association, in an interview. “If they are interviewing all of the sides and doing it the right way, the School Board shouldn’t have any problem with that. They should see that

as an awesome experience to offer to their students, not one that should be stifled.”

The current policy on student publications is outdated and due for a revision based on a timeline set out by school officials. Although the existing policy allows the school principal to deny publication of stories in Theogony, the recent history of how this policy has been implemented is prior review rather than prior restraint.

During a public hearing earlier this month, former Theogony faculty advisor Mark Eaton explained how he worked out an agreement that he would let school officials know in advance about potentially controversial reporting. During his 13 years as faculty advisor, he says, none of the principals he worked with ever asked him to stop the presses.

“If students journalists enjoy a pattern and practice of figuring out the content they want to publish, and that has gone untouched and undisturbed for a while, the

students have a reasonable expectation that they should continue to be able to make those judgments as to content calls regardless of whether there is a board policy on the books,” said Jonathan Gaston-Falk, an education law attorney with the Student Press Law Center.

THE POLICY QUESTION before School Board members is who should have the final say over pulling the plug on stories before they are published. During meetings of the Governance Committee, School Board member Tim Beaty has expressed a preference for the principal being able to spike stories. On the other side of the issue is School Board member Abdulahi Abdalla says he would prefer the faculty advisor to the one with the final say. In the middle is School Board member Ashley Simpson Baird, who is chairwoman of the committee.

See CENSORSHIP PAUSED, PAGE 4

Gerry Connolly Dead at 75

Longtime congressman succumbs to esophageal cancer.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Congressman Gerry Connolly, the longtime Virginia politician and influential Democratic statesman on Capitol Hill, died early Wednesday, May 21. He was 75.

"It is with immense sadness that we share that our devoted and loving father, husband, brother, friend, and public servant, Congressman Gerald E. Connolly, passed away peacefully at his home this morning, surrounded by family," announced his family.

Connolly had been battling esophageal cancer, first diagnosed in November of 2024, and had begun chemotherapy and immunotherapy treatments. He revealed last month that the cancer had returned.

In a note to constituents on April 28, Connolly wrote, "The sun is setting on my time in public service, and this will be my last term. ... I move into this final chapter full of pride in what we've accomplished together over 30 years."

A dedicated public servant, Connolly focused efforts on climate change and clean energy to immigration, foreign policy and gun violence. While on the Board of Supervisors, Connolly was instrumental in the successful campaign for the rail line to Dulles.

Connolly sponsored and supported legislative initiatives on behalf of active-duty service members, military families, and veterans, including measures to protect them from predatory service fees, enhance Veterans Administration services to veterans, provide more funding to treat brain injuries incurred on the battlefield, and assist military families when they must move to a new duty station.

In one of his final press releases, posted May 8, Connolly joined colleagues in demanding the immediate resumption of humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

Connolly's career included 14 years on the Board of Supervisors in Fairfax County, including five years as chairman; Ranking Member of the House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform; senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; and 10 years as a staff member on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was elected president of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly.

Connolly co-chaired the Korea Caucus, Georgia Caucus, Morocco Caucus, Taiwan Caucus, and the Congressional Caucus on U.S.-Turkey Relations and Turkish Americans. He also served as a member of the House Democracy Partnership, which supports the development of democratic legislative bodies in partner countries. He also served on the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa and the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. He was a leading voice on foreign assistance, war powers, embassy security, and democracy promotion abroad.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK CONGRESSMAN GERRY CONNOLLY
Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11).

Connolly co-authored the bipartisan Is-sa-Connolly Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, which was signed into law in 2014 and represented the first significant overhaul of the federal laws governing IT management since the enactment of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996.

Born Gerald Edward Connolly on March 30, 1950, Connolly received an M.A. in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1979. He received a B.A. in Literature from Maryknoll College in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Connolly also worked in the nonprofit and private sectors, including for companies involved in global trade, technology, and government contracting.

Connolly is survived by his wife, Cathy "Smitty" Smith, and daughter Caitlin Rose.

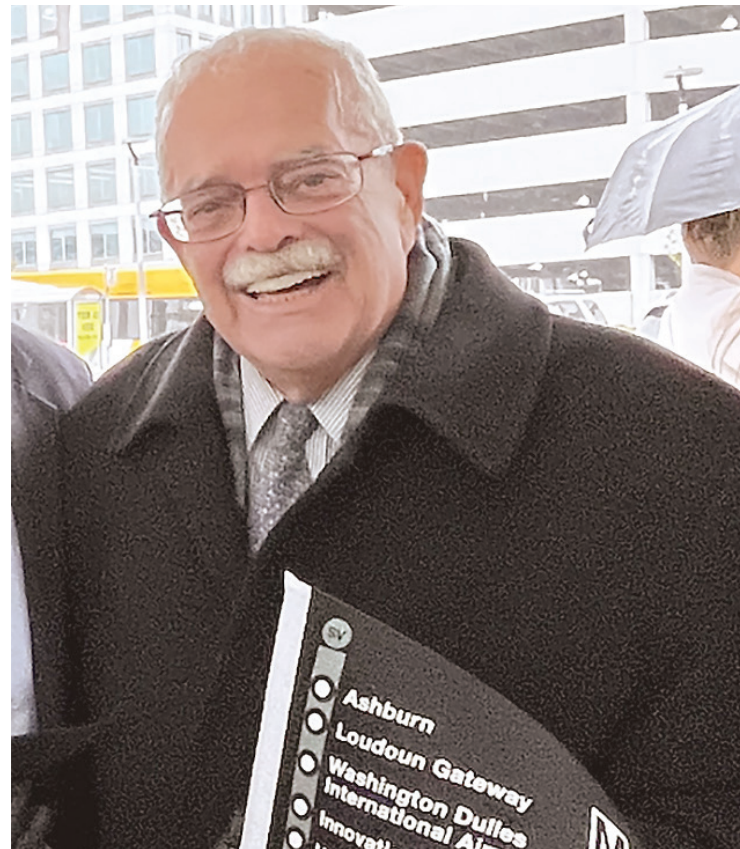
Local tributes to Connolly include comments by U.S. Senator Mark Warner and Congressman Don Beyer, both longtime Alexandria residents.

❖ U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner: I am heartbroken over the loss of my dear friend Gerry Connolly ... Gerry was a fighter. His sharp mind, boundless energy, and deep commitment to the people of Northern Virginia made him a force to be reckoned with, whether on the Fairfax Board of Supervisors or in Congress. He met every challenge with tenacity and purpose, including his final battle with cancer, which he faced with courage, grace, and quiet dignity.

❖ Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA): Everyone who runs for office says they want to get stuff done, but comparatively few actually succeed. Gerry got stuff done for years in Fairfax, where he advocated successfully for projects including the Silver Line and the Cross County Trail, which now bears his name. Then he brought the same attitude and outlook to Congress, where he wrote and passed a major postal reform, led efforts to create the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission, and was one of the most tireless and active advocates for the federal workforce ever to serve in Congress. Gerry was especially proud to have been named the House's 'most effective legislator,' and to have earned the trust of his colleagues to

Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11) at the ribbon cutting for Silver Line Metro at Innovation Center (Nov. 15, 2022). Connolly died Wednesday morning, May 21, 2025, at the age of 75.

PHOTO BY
MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION



lead our Caucus on oversight and government reform, topics he knew more about than almost anyone. Everyone who worked with him knew Gerry as a pugnacious fighter for his constituents, for good government, and for a range of causes around the world.

He was also warm, witty, and loyal, and he loved acting in community theater as a company member of the Providence Players of Fairfax. Above all, Gerry was beloved by his family, friends, and staff.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Student Censorship Paused

FROM PAGE 3

"I just want people to talk to each other," said Baird during the Governance Committee meeting last week. "I'm trying to think about ways we could soften it a little bit where there still is adult oversight and adults are facilitators of educational experiences but don't have this sort of heavy hand where students feel like they lose agency."

Advocates for press freedom say they are encouraged that the School Board put the censorship policy on hold. But they say they are also worried that an even worse policy might emerge in the coming months as elected officials dig in and continue to deny interview requests. For School Board members, the question is whether they want to recognize the First Amendment rights of students — a policy decision that could have political consequences when they are up for reelection.

"Just because the school might constitutionally be able to intrude on student journalism and create certain regimes without running afoul of the First Amendment, that doesn't mean they should," said Ian Kalish, instructor at the University of Virginia First Amendment

Clinic, in an interview. "Student journalists should be allowed to investigate stories, run with stories as they see fit and participate in the full journalistic process without interference from the school."

WHILE ADMINISTRATORS and School Board members have been shielding themselves from questions, the students have put together their own policy proposal.

The suggestion, dubbed "Voices Unbound," has already received support from the Student Press Law Center, the National Scholastic Press Association and the Journalism Education Association. Instead of giving administrators the power to censor, which is the current policy, the Voices Unbound proposal would explicitly protect the First Amendment rights of students.

"We've already done all the work for the School Board by creating a policy with the experts that has the backing of thousands of people in our community," said Libresco. "But we have had zero commitments from any School Board members that they will implement the Voices Unbound framework."



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Celebrating Nurses

Mayor Alyia Gaskins, center, presents a proclamation to the nurses at Woodbine Health and Rehabilitation Center May 15 in recognition of National Nurses Week, which ran from May 6-12.

SENIOR LAW DAY 2025

Legal Perspectives On Cost of Aging

BY ELIZABETH CREGO, ESQ.

Join Senior Services of Alexandria and the Alexandria Bar Association for our annual Senior Law Day. This year, plan to hear from estate planners, financial experts and senior resource specialists as they share insights on caregiving challenges, healthcare and housing costs, and the essential legal documents everyone should have.

The presentations will include a panel on how to provide caregiving in ways that support and protect the dignity of aging friends and family. Chris Leighton of Hughes & Leighton PLLC will moderate and Heidi Travis and Ashley Wembley from ElderTree Care Management will provide their expert insights on compassionate and effective caregiving.

Another presentation will address financial needs for older adults and how to navigate them. The panel will be moderated by Seth Royster of Shannon & Wright LLP. Andrew White from Atlantic Union Financial Consultants will provide his professional perspective on the monetary needs of people as they age. Sally Hurme, an attorney who used her expertise in elder law to write "Wise Moves," a book on this topic, will give insight from her professional and personal experience.

Finally, we will have a presentation from two attorneys specializing in estate planning and document preparation: Gretchyn Meinken of Friedman Grimes Meinken & Leishner, PLLC, and Elizabeth Crego of Legal Services of Northern Virginia.

There will additionally be resources and information available from a variety of local attorneys, health care companies, and city

"The Cost of Aging: Mental, Physical, Financial, and Legal Perspectives"

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 – 9 A.M. – 12 NOON
(REGISTRATION AT 8:30)

First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street,
Alexandria, VA

organizations assisting in the care and planning for older adults.

Senior Law Day is free and open to the public. Please register by emailing seniorservicesalex.org or call SSA's Office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110. Looking forward to seeing you at Senior Law Day!



Tips for Talking to Teens About Alcohol:

Five Conversation Goals

Research shows that parents are the **number one reason** young people decide not to drink alcohol.

Talk to your children early and often. Even if it doesn't seem like it, **they really do hear you.**

- 1 Show you disapprove of underage drinking.
- 2 Show you care about your child's happiness and well-being.
- 3 Show you're a good source of information about alcohol.
- 4 Show you're paying attention and you'll notice if your child drinks alcohol.
- 5 Build your child's skills and strategies for avoiding underage drinking.

Learn more at PreventItAlexandria.org



Your future.
Your care.
Our focus.



Introducing our onsite Hemodialysis Unit, in partnership with Nova Dialysis, providing advanced care and personalized services to meet all of your dialysis needs.

Clinical Capabilities

IV Antibiotics
Vent and Trach Dialysis
Short-Term Dialysis Management



Comprehensive Services Include

- Consultative Visits by On-Staff Nephrologists
- On-Site Cardiology & Pulmonary Rounding
- Health Coaching & Dietary Education
- Routine Medical Management of Co-Morbidities
- RenalX Monthly Support Group
- Dialysis Wing
- Dedicated Transport Aides
- Full Case Management Services
- 24/7 Guest Service



2729 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302
WoodbineRehab.com / 703.836.8838

10,000 Steps and Counting

How one Alexandria challenge is moving a neighborhood.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Most mornings in the quiet cul-de-sacs of Alexandria's Beverly Hills neighborhood, you'll find neighbors out walking, some with coffee mugs, others with dogs or earbuds, all weaving through tree-lined streets at their own pace. It's not a fitness class or a formal group. It's the 10,000 Steps Neighborhood Challenge: a casual,

"I didn't know anyone when I moved here Now I bump into people I actually recognize. I feel like I belong."

—Maria Ortiz, neighbor

self-started tradition that's turned into an unexpected catalyst for community.

"It really began as a lighthearted thing," says Debbie Tran, 42, who co-manages a neighborhood email list. "A few of us got curious about how much we were moving and decided to compare step counts. Then more people joined in—and now it's a whole thing."

Since last spring, more than 50 residents have started tracking their daily steps using



PHOTO COURTESY OF EDDIE NOVAK

Eddie Novak, Winifred Novak and Debbie Tran walk along Crestwood Drive during one of the neighborhood's daily step loops, a route that started as a game and grew into a morning ritual.

pedometers, fitness watches, or old-school click counters. People post updates in a shared Google Sheet, exchange walking tips on group texts, and leave handwritten notes of encouragement on porches and mailboxes. No one's keeping score; the point is movement, and connection.

For Eddie Novak, 67, a retired history

teacher, it's become more than just a way to stay active. "I walk the same loop every Tuesday and Thursday at sunrise," he says. "At first it was for my health. But then I started looking forward to waving at the same people each week. It gives the day some rhythm."

The challenge, which has grown mostly

"It really began as a lighthearted thing."

— Debbie Tran, neighbor

through word of mouth, draws neighbors of all ages, from middle schoolers training for track to grandparents recovering from knee surgery. It's inspired sidewalk chalk art, group walks before dinner, and even a monthly "loop and latte" meetup at a local café.

Maria Ortiz, who moved to the neighborhood last summer, says joining in helped her settle in. "I didn't know anyone when I got here," she says. "But walking gave me a reason to explore, and now I bump into people I actually recognize. I feel like I belong."

Some neighbors personalize their experience: one family plays mellow playlists from a portable speaker, another keeps a small chalkboard outside their fence with changing trivia questions. Someone even mapped out a "quiet route" with minimal traffic and good shade, which now hangs laminated outside Tran's front gate.

There's no expectation to reach 10,000 steps a day; it's more of a suggestion than a benchmark. Some people aim for half that, others go far beyond. One walker tracks flower blooms on her phone; another writes short notes each night about what stood out, a friendly face, the sound of wind in the trees, or the scent of garlic drifting from a window.

"It's funny how something as simple as walking has made this neighborhood feel more alive," says Tran. "You're not just passing people anymore. You're part of something shared."

As for who's in the lead? No one really talks about that. The real win seems to be the conversations, the sense of momentum, and the realization that sometimes the simplest rituals leave the biggest mark.



NOTED BBC PRODUCER and documentarian David C. Taylor was the special guest at a Rotary Club of Alexandria luncheon at Belle Haven Country Club. Taylor, an Emmy and Peabody award recipient, spoke about his documentary "The Spy in the Hanoi Hilton," which revealed a secret communications link connecting prisoners inside the Hanoi Hilton with the CIA and Naval Intelligence. Alexandria resident and POW survivor Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel is featured in the documentary, which received the 2017 "Studies in Intelligence" award presented by the CIA director John Brennan.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsOfAMHC@gmail.com.

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/volunteer.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@volunteer-alive.org.
SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 10



Police Chief Tarrick McGuire, center, with family members of fallen officers Deputy Inspector James Baber and Private Eugene Yoakum May 7 at the Fallen Officers Memorial wreath laying.

‘Their Names Matter’

FROM PAGE 1

Sept. 27, 1964. Yoakum was 34 years old when he was killed and Yoakum Parkway is named in his memory.

Also in attendance was Skip Arnold, great grandson of Private Julian Arnold, who brought his own grandsons with him to the ceremony. Julian Arnold was killed in the line of duty May 15, 1887. He was a military veteran who had served 14 years in the APD.

“I am very grateful to the city and the Alexandria Police department for doing this every year,” Arnold said. “My whole family appreciates it.”

The Fallen Officers memorial was dedicated in 2015, donated to the city by the Alexandria Police Foundation who spearheaded the fundraising and building of the project.

“This year we are marking the 10-year anniversary of this memorial,” said APF board chair Charlotte Hall. “We also want to acknowledge the Alexandria Police Suicide Memorial. This memorial is a reminder and a remembrance to those in uniform that there is light amidst darkness.”

Mayor Alyia Gaskins, who read the official Police Week poem, “A



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Skip Arnold, great grandson of Julian Arnold, at the Fallen Officer Memorial May 7 at APD headquarters. Julian Arnold was killed in the line of duty May 15, 1887.

THE
CHAMBER
ALX

Looking for
networking events,
business updates,
and advocacy
support in 2024?
Join The Chamber
ALX now at
thechamberalx.com

www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising

THE
CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

Mount Vernon Gazette

Potomac
ALMANAC

Turn to the Connection Newspapers
digital and print advertising options to
reach customers in your community!

- EMAIL BLASTS
- DIGITAL BILLBOARDS
- FRONT PAGE SHOUTOUT
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SPONSORED CONTENT

Target the right audience.



For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or
Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com



PHOTO BY ABDUL RAHMAN RAHMANI

Taiba Rahmani, who has started Her Craft, a business selling products hand made by girls in Afghanistan

A World Away Just Down the Street

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Step into Ten Thousand Villages on King Street, and you have stepped into another world. The store is filled with jewelry from India and Guatemala, baskets from Uganda and Rwanda, evil eye earrings and bracelets from India to ward off negativity and Happy Elephant eyeglass holders from Peru, kitchen essentials from Egypt, turtle earrings from Colombia.

Ten Thousand Villages in Alexandria is an independent non-profit shop founded in 1994 by a group of people who wanted to support fair trade and the artisans who supplied the goods. The original shop was at the corner of King and Alfred and moved in 2008 to its present location at 915 King Street.

The first Ten Thousand Villages was founded in 1946 by Mennonite Edna Ruth Byler in Pennsylvania who began selling goods made by women from her travels in Colombia for which she had paid a fair price. She began selling their handmade products out of the trunk of her car "by a woman to help women."

Kate McMahon, the manager of the Alexandria shop, says they have well over 1,500 products and calls it "retail with a cause." She explains she only buys from sources certified as fair trade, protecting the environment with the workers living in safe conditions and making a fair wage.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Kate McMahon, manager of Ten Thousand Villages on King Street with elephant eyeglass holder, one of 1,500 unique handmade fair trade products in the shop



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Village Hardware

Alexandria Rotary Club president Jim Carmalt, second from right, makes a donation to the nonprofit Cornerstone Craftsman on behalf of Village Hardware. Located in the Hollin Hall shopping center, Village Hardware, in collaboration with Rotary, donated tools and equipment in support of the launch of the program that teaches construction skills to disadvantaged and marginalized youth ages 12-17. At left is Cornerstone founder and executive director Roberto Gomez.

McMahon says the way it works is that she pays for the product before receiving it in the US so the artisans get paid for the product before she receives it. "I buy from them and they ship to us."

Today McMahon has offered space for a one day pop-up shop to Taiba Rahmani, a 14-year-old girl from Afghanistan who now lives in Arlington and has started a business selling goods made by girls in Afghanistan. The scarves, shoes, tablecloths and dresses are shipped to Taiba who sells them here and then sends the money back to the girls to help support their struggling families in Afghanistan. She has sold a lot of the hand embroidered tablecloths so far as well as a pair of pants, beaded shoes and a cashmere scarf.

McMahon explains a lot of people seek out the store because it is filled with things that are unique, a lot of things you've never seen before. She points out the paper made from elephant poop. "Feel it; it's really nice paper." And she points to a wall with the col-

orful orange skirt, brightly patterned dresses and pants. "These are produced with sustainably made cloth. Fast fashion is terrible, harmful to both the women who make it and the environment."

She says you can use the baskets to hide things, decorate the house, as a centerpiece on the table, and there are a lot of different things to hang on the wall. "There are adorable cat salt and pepper shakers that you can't find anywhere else."

McMahon said, "In this day and age where you spend your dollars makes a difference so why not support artisans to provide subsistence living for a purpose with no forced labor. It's also better because it's creative. Nothing here is mass produced."

"Why do I do this? Because it means a lot to me. It makes sense all trade should be fair. These people are living on \$1 a day. I want to live a life of dignity; so do they. Anything you purchase on a day to day basis can make a difference in how you direct your dollars."

‘Their Names Matter’

FROM PAGE 7

Full Measure of Emotion” by Dan Marcou as part of her remarks, praised the dedication of the city’s officers.

“Every single day the men and women of the APD continue to make sacrifices, whether that is time away from their families or continuing to run into dangerous situations that plague our community,” Gaskins said. “Every time they walk into this building and they look at this memorial, they are reminded of the risks that come with the profession that they chose.”

The ceremony concluded with the solemn bell ringing of the End of Watch roll call as the names of each of the fallen officers was read aloud.

Chief McGuire closed his remarks thanking the families of the fallen officers for their attendance.

“Thank you for allowing us to remember your loved ones and to recognize their names because their names matter.”

For more information on the Fallen Officers Memorial, visit www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org.



Police Chief Tarrick McGuire, right, stands with members of the department at the Fallen Officers Memorial wreath laying May 7 at APD headquarters.



Police Chief Tarrick McGuire, left, listens as Mayor Alyia Gaskins reads a proclamation at the Fallen Officers Memorial May 7 at APD headquarters.



Officer Andrea O’Leary, Captain Mike May and Lt. Tara Delio May at the suicide memorial May 7 at APD headquarters.



Roses await distribution at the Police Suicide Memorial, which was dedicated in 2024.



Retired APD Sergeant Ralph Stanley places his hands on the memorial plaques of his friends Corp. Charles Hill and Officer Andy Chelchowski May 7 at APD headquarters.



Former Police Chief Dave Baker, APF board member Gordon Kromberg, Interim US Attorney Eastern District of Virginia Erik Siebert and City Manager Jim Parajon at the Fallen Officers Memorial wreath laying May 7 at APD headquarters.

PHOTOS BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET

The Echo Project

How local mentors are filling gaps schools leave behind.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

In a sunlit living room in Alexandria, the furniture has been pushed aside to make room for a semi-circle of folding chairs. Teenagers sip from mismatched mugs, notebooks in their laps, while a low table is covered in printed speeches, paperback novels, and bold-font headlines clipped from recent news.

At the center of it all is a con-

“We’re not just talking about the past. We’re preparing these kids to be the ones who shape the future.”

— Maya Henderson

versation — part literature discussion, part life talk — that’s both urgent and electric.

This is The Echo Project, a grassroots mentorship initiative launched earlier this year by a group of young Black professionals from Alexandria and Arlington. In response to recent shifts in educational policy that threaten the inclusion of African American narratives in school curricula, these volunteers created a program to fill in the gaps and uplift the voices often left out of the classroom.

“The goal is to make sure Black students see themselves in the stories they read — not just during Black History Month, but in every chapter of history,” says Maya Henderson, a co-founder and mentor.

The Echo Project pairs high school students with mentors who meet weekly in homes like this one

to explore literature, history, and current events that shape their cultural identity. Each session revolves around a theme, like *Voices Erased*, which focuses on banned or marginalized texts, *Power in Protest*, which explores movements from the Civil Rights era to the present, and *Building Legacy*, which encourages students to imagine and shape their own futures.

These sessions go far beyond book discussions. Students and mentors analyze primary sources, study oral histories, and talk openly about how it feels to grow up in a world where representation is often an afterthought — or actively suppressed.

“Some of the kids told us they’d never read anything by Toni Morrison in school,” says David Alston, a mentor who grew up in Alexandria. “They didn’t know about Angela Davis. They’d never heard of Fred Hampton. That’s not an accident, it’s policy. And we’re here to push back.”

The project is also a direct response to the rollbacks in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies sweeping across the country, policies that have left many educators hesitant to discuss race, culture or identity for fear of backlash. In that silence, The Echo Project offers not just information, but community.

“I used to think history was just dates and wars,” says 16-year-old

mentee Nia Bell. “Now I know history includes my family, my neighborhood, the books they don’t teach us in school. That changes everything.”

Sessions often result in creative student work — poetry, spoken word pieces, podcast segments, or even mock public hearings. And beyond academic enrichment, the program emphasizes civic education, teaching students how local school board decisions connect to national debates, and how to make their voices heard.

“I’ve never had a space like this before,” says Amir, a junior from

Arlington. “We talk about what’s happening in the world and in school, and the mentors actually listen. It makes me want to show up and speak out.”

Mentors guide students in writing letters to school officials, preparing public comments, and attending board meetings. They see this as essential because curriculum is not just about facts, but about which voices are amplified and which are erased.

“We’re not just talking about the past,” says Maya. “We’re preparing these kids to be the ones who shape the future.”

Though still new, The Echo Project has already mentored over two dozen students, with plans to expand into neighboring school districts.

It’s powered by community donations, borrowed living rooms, and a deep belief that young Black students deserve more than token representation; they deserve truth, depth, and inspiration.

“The Echo Project is about reclaiming space,” Maya says. “It’s about showing Black students that their stories aren’t side notes, they’re center stage. And they always have been.”



Mentors and students in The Echo Project gather in a living room for one of their weekly sessions, where conversations about literature, history, and identity foster connection and cultural empowerment.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

teerfairfax.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 preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for “Space of Her Own,” and “Space of His Own,” serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit

www.spaceofherown.org 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.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held

the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov. **FACE Center Support Groups** provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and

triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children’s learning.

❖ **Support Group in English**, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.

❖ **Support Group in Spanish**, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.



Preparing books for Pre-K students

Great Summer Reading

Recently, twenty members of the Assistance League of Northern Virginia gathered to pack books for summer reading as part of its Literacy for Kids Program. The nonprofit aims to foster a love of reading and help students develop strong literacy skills. Eight schools -- Cora Kelly, Dogwood, Garfield, Loch Lomond, Lynbrook, Pine Spring, Sudley, and Yorkshire -- will receive a total of 1,890 books to stock their Little Libraries with age-appropriate titles for their students in Kindergarten through 6th grade.

The selection includes classics such as "The Trumpet of the Swan" and "The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs.

Basil E. Frankweiler," as well as popular series like "Wings of Fire" and "Puppy Place." Also included was a selection of short biographies featuring American artists and musicians, and historic and sports figures.

To promote good reading habits among the youngest students, Assistance League also provided books for those enrolled in the schools' Head Start, PreK, and Special Education/VSI programs. Members assembled 386 packages each containing three books for these students.

With so many good books to choose from, students will be able to maintain their reading skills over the summer!



Members assemble books for each school

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
GRAYSON	8733	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	CABIN CREEK	4/23/2025
LUNENBURG	11654	661	GALLION TOWN ROAD	TRIB OF REEDY CREEK	4/11/2025
GRAYSON	8915	741	HOMESTEAD ROAD	BIG FOX CREEK	4/10/2025
BEDFORD	2679	604	RIVERSIDE INN CIRCLE	HUNTING CREEK	4/8/2025

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 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 or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota at 804-786-4064.

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 or corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov.

**Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!**

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates 703-999-2929

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

SENIOR LIVING



Pianist Harvey Jacobson performs for his fellow residents at Brightview.



Jazz Artist Entertains Many At Senior Center

Former Mount Vernon resident now mans the piano at Brightview assisted living.

BY MIKE SALMON
<2B>THE GAZETTE

In the lobby at the Brightview assisted living center, the sounds of Fats Waller, Cole Porter or Scott Joplin that resonate in the lobby is not the background sound system, it's lifetime musician Harvey Jacobson, 88, hammering out the classics on the grand piano over on the side. It's a sound that's appreciated by the residents and reminds people of the role jazz played in the United States.

"Mostly what I play is show music," Harvey said, "it speaks to the consciousness, it's uplifting," he added. "They love my playing," he added of his fellow residents. He used to live in Hybla Valley and gave piano lessons at Fort Belvoir at that time.

Everyone enjoys the music at Brightview Woodburn, said Vibrant Living Director Lisa Semonick. "Harvey flourishes when his peers enjoy his performances. It's amazing

seeing his smile just light up when he finishes and everyone loves it," she said.

These moments in the lobby might be a moment in time for some, but for Harvey, it's the culmination of years at the piano in places as far as Carnegie Hall, Gloucester, England and John Hopkins University.

Piano was not only Jacobson's livelihood, but music was his life passion as well. When COVID hit in 2020, everything came to a halt when the concerts and venues closed, leaving Jacobson without work. He found himself in a living situation with no access to a piano, separating him from his music. This was devastating for Jacobson. Music wasn't just his career, it was his way of connecting with the world around him.

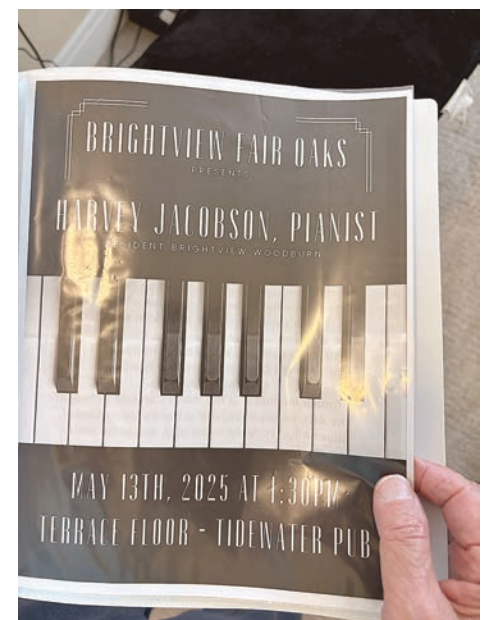
Jacobson moved into Brightview in early March, and since then, he has found a new community in both his fellow residents and staff.

As he was enveloped in all this musical



Harvey Jacobson

experience, his immediate gravitation to the piano came naturally to Harvey. When he arrived, he immediately sat down for a song or two, or three. He rediscovered his love



Pianist Harvey Jacobson has been around the world jazzing it up on the piano.

for piano and plays for staff, residents and visitors every day.

Jacobson doesn't just play the piano, he brings joy to everyone around him.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU JUNE 1

Enduring Roots by David Myers. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Studio 312, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. Featuring a visual meditation by David Myers on resilience, time, and the relationship between people and the land they tend. Alongside the collection of more than 30 photographs in the exhibition, Myers' book *Wandering Among Them* offers further depth, featuring 13 images, some of which are exclusive to the book and not part of the gallery display. The limited edition book will be available for viewing and purchase at the gallery throughout the exhibition.

NOW THRU MAY 24

The Alexandria City High School Titan Student Art Exhibition. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Join for the Opening Reception on Friday, May 2, from 7-9 p.m., and enjoy ACHS Performing Arts students' live chamber music performances and the ACHS Visual Arts Award Ceremony. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed May 25). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

THURSDAY/MAY 22

Spring Garden Tour & Tea. 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adult) Take a tour of the beautiful demonstration gardens with an Extension Master Gardener docent. Find inspiration in our horticulturists' plant choices and garden bed designs. Hear about our 18th century origins and our mission today, then step inside for afternoon tea. Garden tours run rain or shine. \$42 (lecture + tea).

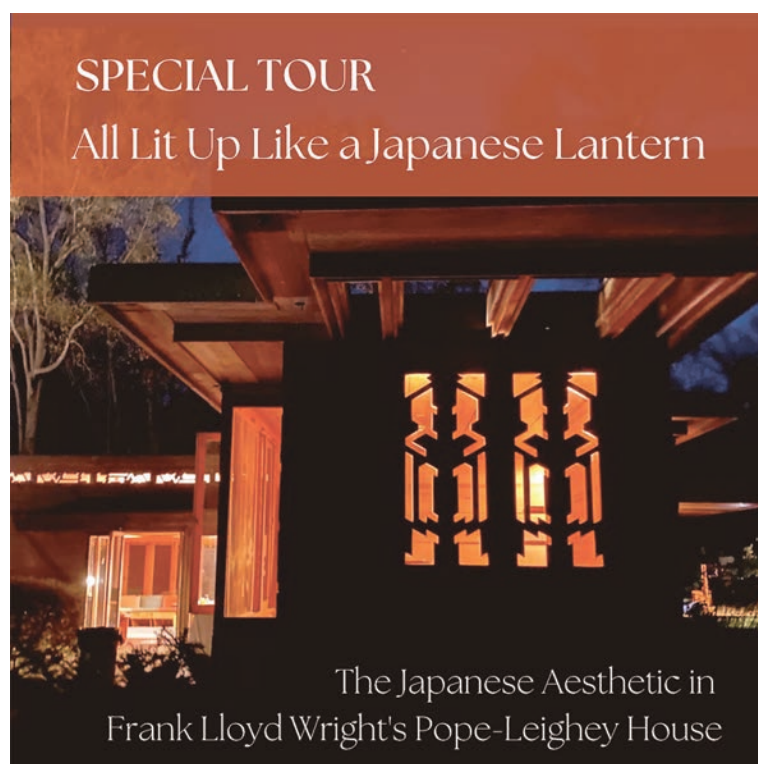
SATURDAY/MAY 24

Drawing Workshop – Trees and Leaves. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Use your basic drawing skills to accurately render realistic drawings of trees and their leaves. Artist and instructor Caroline Hottenstein shows you how to use the media of your choice - a micron pen, watercolor, graphite, or colored pencils to capture and highlight details. Previous drawing experience encouraged. A supply list will be emailed before class. Bring a lunch. \$107 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code T2H.4J73

SATURDAY/MAY 24

Inalienable Rights. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn welcomes Joe McGill and the Slave Dwelling

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Like a Japanese Lantern takes place on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

Project for a day of free programming with living historians and storytellers sharing the lives and history of people enslaved in Virginia. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents>

SUNDAY/MAY 25

I Like Coffee, I Like Tea. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adult) Tea and coffee are the most popular beverages in the world, and both have legendary pasts. Learn about the history, provenance and health benefits of these flavorful, and competing, brews as we compare and contrast them. Regardless of your preference, you may change sides in the battle of the cup. \$42 (lecture + tea); \$18 (lecture only).

THURSDAY/MAY 29

Jane Franklin Dance. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance and Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association at the Athenaeum Present Farewell Athenaeum. Tickets: \$23 thru May 27 (a ticket purchase supports JFD & NVFAA); \$25 starting May 28, \$28 at the door. Visit www.janefranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.

MAY 30 TO JUNE 29

"Sing Me a Sea Shanty" Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit explores enchanting artworks inspired by the nautical spirit. Exhibit reception on Friday, June 6, 7-9 p.m. to meet the curators and artists. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at

DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

SATURDAY/MAY 31

Watercolor Workshop - Using Grids Creatively. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) In this class you will use a grid to turn your drawings and/or photographs into a creative composition with the direction of artist and instructor Marni Maree. Then you will use watercolor to paint it! A supply list will be emailed before class. Bring a lunch. \$107 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code Ø1X.L4GY

SATURDAY/MAY 31

Architecture of Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey. 12-1:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House provide a unique opportunity to put two American styles of architecture – separated by over a century – in conversation with one another. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents>

MAY 31 TO JUNE 1

Armed Forces Cycling Classic. The weekend kicks off on Saturday, May 31, with the Amazon Armed Forces Cycling Classic's Challenge Ride. The Challenge Ride offers a 21km closed course that welcomes cycling enthusiasts of all skill levels, and will now start and finish in our Nation's Capital. Participants will enjoy the opportunity to ride against the backdrop of Washington, DC, and Arlington's most iconic landmarks. Participants can aim



Grab a Slice of History on Friday, June 20, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

for gold, silver, or bronze medals, awarded based on the number of laps completed during the three-hour event. The weekend's activities also include two days of races, featuring the nation's top Pro/Am men's and women's cycling teams. Saturday's race will be held on a short, spectator friendly course in DC, utilizing the same start/finishing area as the Challenge Ride. On day two, the racing moves to Arlington, VA, for the 27th edition of the Clarendon Cup Pro/Am bike races. cyclingclassic.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

First Saturday Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. 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> for information on other days and times for the library's ongoing book sale.

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 Prince Street on the Potomac River. Presented by Volunteer Alexandria, the fair features local and regional artisans who showcase their pieces across various mediums including pottery, stationery, fabrics, paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Over 90+ vendors joined us last year, including food and drink to purchase. For more information, visit Volun-

teer Alexandria | Arts and Crafts Festival

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

First Annual Summer Palooza. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Summer Palooza promises a day of fun in the sun for everyone — families, dog lovers, environmental enthusiasts and more. Highlights include live music from a favorite local band, Riptide, free food at the Taste of Mount Vernon, a petting zoo with animals from Frying Pan Park, a kids zone and touch-a-truck experiences. Attendees (21+) can also enjoy a beer garden hosted by Bunnyman Brewing.

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

60 Years of Preservation. 5:30-8:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. They're throwing a party to commemorate the historic move of the Pope-Leighey House from Falls Church, VA, to its current home at Woodlawn—a move that saved this Frank Lloyd Wright-designed gem, thanks to the dedication of Marjorie Leighey and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Now it's time to party in true 1960s style! Slip into your best 60s-inspired attire—think mod dresses, bell bottoms, bold prints, and vintage vibes—and get ready for a night of great food, drinks, and live entertainment that will transport you back to the era of peace, love, and preservation! Whether you're a history buff, an architecture fan, or just looking for a groovy time, this is one event you won't want to miss.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

ERIEHOME™ Trust the Nation's #1 Roofing Contractor
Award-Winning Roofing and Customer Service
Erie Roofing Since 1976

LIMITED TIME OFFER
50% OFF
Installation

FREE ESTIMATE
SCHEDULE TODAY!
Call 1.844.902.4611

CALL TODAY! 1.844.902.4611

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at erielicense.com

Be prepared before the next power outage.



**It's not just a generator.
It's a power move.™**

Receive a free 5-year warranty
with qualifying purchase*
- valued at \$535.

**Call 844-947-1479
to schedule your free quote!**

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

**The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted
IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY**



\$1000 OFF* OR **\$1500 OFF** when financing with remodelingloans.com™ OR **0% Interest** For 18 Months™

OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/2025
Military & Senior Discounts Available


CALL NOW!
(844) 945-1631

BATH CONCEPTS INC

*Includes labor and product; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 6/30/2025. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify/Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2025 BCI.

CLASSIFIED
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Obituary



Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Clint Dillon, 89, of Keswick, Virginia and Stuart, Florida, passed away peacefully on April 22, 2025, at the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home in Port St. Lucie, Florida. A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he was the beloved husband of Martha Dillon; loving father of Molly Anne Koert (Jesse) of Gaithersburg, Maryland and Stephen Douglas Dillon (Selah) of Phoenix, Arizona; adoring grandfather of Gerald Meibo Hayward, II (Morgan), Julianna Rose Koert, and James Douglas Dillon; nieces Alyce Gilbert and Ellen Bermann. Doug was preceded in death by his first wife, Shirley Anne Dillon, the mother of his children. A proud veteran, Doug served 22 years in the U.S. Air Force, traveling the world with his family and honoring his country with dedication. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 14th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia. A private burial will take place on Friday, August 15, 2025, at Arlington National Cemetery. The family welcomes floral contributions or kindly requests that memorial donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

**SAVE \$350 when you transform
your patio into an outdoor oasis.**



SunSetter
America's #1 Awning

- Instant shade—at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

**Call 1-844-746-2332 now to
SAVE \$350 TODAY!**

America's #1 Awning!

Past issues of

**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

**back to 2008
are available at**

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

**Alexandria
Gazette Packet**

www.AlexandriaGazette.com
Twitter @AlexGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.
Published by
Local Media Connection LLC
1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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
michaelleepope@gmail.com
@michaelleepope

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

A Connection Newspaper

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

**Virginia
PRESS
Association**
*Award Winning
Newspaper*



Sunset Concert at River Farm featuring Soulfire

Get ready for a soulful evening to remember as the captivating band Soulfire performs at River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society (AHS), on Thursday, May 29, 6-8 p.m. This outdoor family-friendly concert promises an unforgettable evening of music, nature, and stunning views overlooking the Potomac River. Entry is free. Parking fee is \$20. For more information and to purchase parking in advance, visit www.ahsgardening.org/sunset-concert.

Guests are invited to bring a blanket or folding chair and a picnic basket filled with their favorite foods and beverages for open seating on River Farm's scenic lawn. As the sun sets, Soulfire will set the atmosphere ablaze with an electrifying performance featuring a diverse repertoire of over a thousand songs, both classic and contemporary.

The event is made possible by River Farm sponsors and friends: Katherine Ward, Soul-



fire, and the Potomac Riverkeeper Network.

River Farm is located at 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, Virginia 22308. It is open to the public and free to visit Monday through

Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (excluding special events). For more information, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 114 or visit www.ahsgardening.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Senior Law Day 2025. From 9 a.m. to 12 noon. At First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. Featuring "The Cost of Aging: Mental, Physical, Financial, and Legal Perspectives." Join Senior Services of Alexandria and the Alexandria Bar Association for the annual Senior Law Day! This year, plan to hear from estate planners, financial experts, and senior resource specialists as they share insights on caregiving challenges, healthcare and housing costs, and the essential legal documents everyone should have. The presentations will include a panel on how to provide caregiving in ways that support and protect the dignity of aging friends and family. Chris Leighton of Hughes & Leighton PLLC will moderate and Heidi Travis and Ashley Wembley from ElderTree Care Management will provide their expert insights on compassionate and effective caregiving. Register by emailing events@seniorservicesalex.org or call www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SSA's Office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Like a Japanese Lantern. 12-1 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Discover how Frank Lloyd Wright incorporated his love of Japanese art, architecture, and philosophy into Usonian homes, and how this East Asian influence shines in Wright's Pope-Leighey House. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpope-leighey.org/upcomingevents>

FRIDAY/JUNE 20

Slice of History. 5:30-8 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Celebrate #Civics-Season with (free!) pizza and history! Take a self-guided tour of Woodlawn and learn about the site's profound legacy of transformation.

JULY 14-18 OR JULY 21-25

Art Camp 2025. Del Ray Artisans invites youth ages 8-12 to Art Camp 2025 for a week

of professional art instruction! Campers will have an immersive creative journey: painting, sculpting, journaling and more. During nice weather, campers will have outdoor time to get fresh air, unwind, and replenish their creative energy. All art supplies are provided. Choose July 14-18 or July 21-25 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily). \$350/child; scholarship support available. Registration at delrayartisans.org/art-camp-2025

THE BIRCHMERE

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

MAY

Fri. 23: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston \$69.50

Sat. 24: Chrisette Michele \$69.50

Sun. 25: Corinne Bailey Rae \$69.50. SOLD OUT!

Fri. 30: Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood (From TV's 'Whose Line Is It Anyway?') \$69.50

Sat. 31: Walter Beasley \$55.00
JUNE

Tue. 3: Steve Earle: Solo & Acoustic 50 Years of Songs & Stories w/ Zandi Holup \$69.50

Wed. 4: Scott Thompson is "Buddy Cole" in The Last Glory Hole \$39.50

Sat. 7: The Smithereens with guest vocalist John Cowsill \$45.00

Sun. 8: Happy Together Tour 2025 Featuring The Turtles, Jay & The Americans, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & Union Gap, The Vogues, and The Cowsills \$109.50. SOLD OUT!

Tue. 10: Happy Together Tour 2025 Featuring The Turtles, Jay & The Americans, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & Union Gap, The Vogues, and The Cowsills \$109.50

Thu. 12: Robert Glasper \$79.50. SOLD OUT!

Fri. 13: TWEET \$49.50

Sat. 14: Tarsha Fitzgerald Presents VOICES OF MOTOWN Father's Day Anniversary Show! \$45.00

Mon. 16: The Musical Box performs Genesis Live \$59.50

Label Me Incredulous



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I never thought I'd say this - or live long enough to say it, but I'm practically out of those return-address labels that we all were inundated with a decade or so ago (much less so nowadays). Like many people, I suppose, I kept the return-address labels - that were offered up as an inducement/shame/guilt/awareness even, of certain charitable pursuits and have used them regularly ever since. The labels were a quid pro quo/presumptive "thank you" of sorts (as were light bulbs, notepads, appointment books as well as miscellaneous pins/medallions/keepsakes and too many others to list - or remember; fireman, disabled, police officers, et cetera, I just remembered) to us to encourage us to mail a check to their organization. As a result of their unsolicited outreach, I had sheets of return-address labels that I placed in my desk drawer. Now, unbelievably so, that drawer is nearly empty of labels.

When I first started receiving these return-address labels, I was, give or take, in a diagnostic process which ultimately led to me being "prognosed" with a "13 month to two years" life expectancy: non-small cell lung cancer stage IV. Which made Kenny a very dull boy and one without too many years to live. At age 54 and a half, no less. But amazingly life has gone on. I have balanced (or tried to) the present with the maybe-having-a future. Rather than shut it down/woe is me, I decided to live like I was living (not 'live like I was dying'), that is, living with a future: a future with bills to pay and return addresses to provide. The onslaught of these return-address labels was, as my late mother used to say: "Too much for anybody's nerves." I exaggerate when I characterize their in-home penetration as overwhelming, but the frequency with which these labels/solicitations arrived in our mailbox - and requests for a contribution, was almost comical. They became, to me anyway, a kind of white-whale-type noise. After a while, I ignored the message and took the labels, only occasionally making a contribution.

Now I am down to my last sheet, actually, my last two return-address labels. Based on my diagnosis and "terminal" prognosis, I had no statistical reason to think I'd outlive my accumulation of these return-address labels. Nor did I ever think I'd live to see the completion of the ICC, but I have. Now I wonder if I'll ever see the completion of the Metro's new Purple Line. Having said/written that, I now have to say something that I've never had to say before: I need some return-address labels.

Here again, as I sit and stare at my computer waiting for results of today's every four-week lab work, I am still struggling/juggling my thoughts about life and death, the past, present and the future and where I fit. But this is nothing new. I've been through it going on 16 and half years. And though I'm very experienced at dealing with this sort of emotion, believe it or not, it doesn't get any easier. Familiar, sure. And it's never more familiar than when I use my return-address labels. When I affix a label, it takes me back to late February 2009 when I first received that "terminal" diagnosis. It's where I am now. Still, I can't help wondering if it's where I'll be later.

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

corcoran

MCENEARNEY



Old Town

509½ S Fairfax Street

\$1,850,000 | One of Old Town's celebrated Painted Ladies, this 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom Victorian townhome with a spacious floorplan is a rare opportunity to own a piece of Alexandria's rich history, so make it yours!

Jillian Hogan Homes : 703.951.7655
JillianHoganHomes.com



OPEN SUN 5/25, 1PM-3PM

Eddington Terrace

2929 Eddington Terrace

\$1,799,000 | Stunning & sophisticated, impeccably maintained, 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath brick Colonial nestled in an exclusive enclave off King Street. 2-car garage, 3 gas fireplaces, hardwood flooring, & sprawling primary suite.

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com



Belle Haven

6100 Vernon Terrace

\$1,795,000 | Manor House meets Pent House. 2 bedroom suites, 1 half bath on a stunning flat lot in prime Belle Haven! One of the most beautiful gardens around! Perfect for entertaining and downsizing while living in grandeur!

Janet Caterson Price : 703.622.5984
JanetPriceHomes.com



Overlook

5252 Winter View Drive

\$1,250,000 | This 5-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom, end-unit home has a coveted 1st floor owner's suite and over 4,600 sq ft of elegant living space filled with timeless finishes and modern comforts throughout.

Shagufta Hasan : 703.286.1207
ShaguftaHasan.com



OPEN 5/24 & 5/25, 2PM-4PM

Old Town/Fords Landing

15 Franklin Street

\$1,195,000 | Pied et Terre! This charming townhome with 2 bedroom suites and a half bath features a garage and carport. Low HOA and walkable convenience to all that Old Town offers. Handsome, move-in condition!

Janet Caterson Price : 703.622.5984
JanetPriceHomes.com



OPEN SUN 5/25, 2PM-4PM

North Old Town

810 N Fayette Street

\$880,000 | This light-filled 2-bed, 2½-bath townhouse is in the perfect location near Braddock Road Metro! Updates include new appliances, fresh paint, and new carpet on bedroom level.

Mason Bavin : 703.338.6007
MasonBavin.com



Nethergate

802 Bashford Lane

\$849,000 | Beautifully updated 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome with new appliances, marble bath, private top-level suite, fenced patio, fireplace, and fresh paint. Move-in ready with thoughtful upgrades throughout.

Frances Backus : 703.395.1971
Suzanne Backus : 703.338.3594



OPEN SAT 5/24, 2PM-4PM

Riverside Estates

8400 Cherry Valley Lane

\$837,000 | Set on 1/4 acre of original Mount Vernon farmland, this beautiful, tastefully updated home has 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths. The backyard with large deck is an oasis for relaxing and entertaining.

Ann McClure : 301.367.5098
AnnMcClure.com



Old Town Village

1411 Roundhouse Lane

\$766,900 | Beautifully updated 2-bedroom 2.5-bath townhome with hardwood floors, gas fireplace, patio, balcony off primary bedroom and stylish kitchen. Condo amenities include parking, outdoor saltwater pool & gym.

Rochelle Gray : 703.328.1686
Susan Anthony : 703.795.9536



Kingstowne

7232 Cherwell Lane

\$649,000 | Well-maintained brick-front townhome with new appliances, hardwood floors, updated baths, fresh paint, walk-out basement, fenced yard, backs to woods, parking, and access to top community amenities.

Peter Crouch : 703.244.4024
Katie Crouch : 703.447.1345



Del Ray

409 E Raymond Avenue #8

\$389,900 | Charming urban retreat! 1-bed, 1-bath condo with den/office and serene balcony! Beautifully updated. Excellent location, close to Del Ray and Potomac Yard Metro. Off street parking and extra storage!

Lisa Smith : 703.201.3102
LisaLSmith.com



Belle View Condos

6624 Boulevard View C-1

\$345,000 | Renovated top-floor, two-bedroom unit is ideally situated set back from the main road, within a lush courtyard setting. Newer HVAC, windows, LVP flooring, and ample parking. Laundry & storage in same entry!

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com

live who you are

Corcoran McEneaney | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292 | corcoranmce.com

©2025 Corcoran Group LLC. All rights reserved. Corcoran® and the Corcoran Logo are registered service marks owned by Corcoran Group LLC. Corcoran Group LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each franchise is independently owned and operated.

ACM ATLANTIC COAST
MORTGAGE