



# Annual Report 2024

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## Note From Our President . . .

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Supporters:

You're driving west on Little River Turnpike, cresting the hill at Watson Road, and the world transforms. The Bull Run Mountains loom and the Blue Ridge beckons from the horizon. The roundabouts slow your pace as you pass historic Mount Zion Church and its Civil War cemetery, circle Gilberts Corner, and soon you enjoy the historic charm of Aldie Village. On to Middleburg, Upperville, past Civil War battlefields, and perhaps to points beyond. You are driving the same roads and seeing many of the same homes, shops and pastures that earlier travelers saw in the 1700s and 1800s. Your life is richer because, for many decades, our communities have worked hard to preserve that heritage.

But our heritage faces many threats. Many of you will recall the proposal to build a large new firehouse in the middle of Aldie Village—a structure that would have overshadowed the 216-year old Aldie Mill. AHA led community opposition to that proposal, presented arguments in public hearings that delayed the project, and then worked with the County to find a much better site just east of the Village. Then AHA succeeded in preventing the County's earlier and superseded firehouse site from development proposals incompatible with Aldie's historic character. A different sort of threat was the crumbling of Aldie Village's historic brick walls. AHA launched a campaign to raise money and rehabilitate the walls. I could give you many other examples.

As you will see in the Annual Report, AHA is mobilizing against new threats, including:

- VDOT's proposed changes to Little River Turnpike would largely destroy the "traffic calming" roundabout system east of Gilberts Corner, would broaden Little River Turnpike in many places, and would carve a parallel "multi-use" trail through Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville. We're fighting the bad features of that plan.
- The County's new "Small Area Planning" process aims to re-zone Aldie and other villages. We're on top of that: we hosted a public meeting in December to explain the process to the community, and we're making sure that there's ample citizen input and protection of our village's character.
- Historic Aldie churches are financially stressed or have already shut. We're leading efforts to prevent closed churches from becoming a blight (as they have elsewhere in the county) by finding other uses for them as homes, community centers and shops.
- The proposed Oak Hill State Park would draw thousands more visitors to our beautiful community every year. We're keeping abreast of the proposals and have already had meetings with the sponsors to discuss ways of dealing with the impacts on Aldie.

We need your help—your membership, your active participation in our work, and your tax-deductible contributions. As a village, Aldie does not have a local government, as towns like Middleburg do. Much of what we do would be done by local government in other places, so your contribution is really a kind of voluntary tax to protect the heritage of the Aldie area. PLEASE JOIN US!

Gene Gulland, President  
Aldie Heritage Association

## What's Ahead in 2025

**The Aldie Assemblage:** After almost a decade of work and advocacy by AHA, the PEC bought the Aldie Assemblage property (site of the historic Aldie Tavern) from the County in 2024. In 2025, PEC's plans for the Aldie Assemblage include (1) removing dilapidated structures lacking historic significance; (2) submitting applications necessary for placing the property on the National Register of Historic Structures; and (3) completing the structural study of the tavern building. AHA and PEC expect to hold a community meeting to discuss future uses of the Assemblage properties later this year.

**Route 50:** AHA is closely following VDOT's Route 50 Corridor Safety and Operational Study, which aims to propose changes to Rt 50 for the entire 19- mile segment between Northstar Boulevard and the Fauquier County line near Upperville. Our members are attending the public meetings, and we will advocate for protection of the historic and scenic roadway and make sure the community is aware of all important developments.

**Small Area Plan and Rural Zoning:** Working with Loudoun's other historic villages through the Loudoun Historic Village Alliance, AHA members are working with County staff to ensure that zoning and planning changes promote small-scale retail and commercial development consistent with the Village's character. AHA expects to hold another public community meeting on the planning process later in 2025.

**The Aldie Wall:** In 2025, AHA's project to repair and renovate Aldie's historic brick wall will be complete. Over the past six years, AHA members raised funds, secured grants, and even carried bricks to make this project happen.

**Oak Hill State Park:** Planning for the proposed Oak Hill State Park is underway. AHA has been monitoring the proposals, is in contact with all the responsible parties, and will continue to advocate measures to address the impacts of a 1000-acre public park that will lie on the Village's northern boundary.

## Report from NOVA Parks: Aldie Mill and Mount Zion Church

In 2024, Aldie Mill Historic Park hosted free weekend tours from April through October, welcoming hundreds of visitors each month. The merchant mill also saw the installation of a new stone crane on the western side of the grinding deck.

Aldie Mill Historic Park will reopen for the 2025 season on the weekend of April 5. Free tours of the historic mill will be available every Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM through October. Mt. Zion Church will also reopen, offering free tours on the fourth Sunday of each month, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, between April and October.

For more information about programs and events at Aldie Mill Historic Park, please visit our website at [novaparks.com/parks/aldie-mill-historic-park](https://novaparks.com/parks/aldie-mill-historic-park). –Corwyn Garman, NOVA Parks

### 2024 Aldie Heritage Association Board of Directors

Gene Gulland (President), Guy Gerachis (Vice President), Matt Kukis (Treasurer),  
Bill Carney, Malcolm Collum, Cheryl Hutchison, Jeanine Manley,  
Dave Senty and Cliff Sweatte

# TREASURER'S REPORT 2024

## Category

### INFLOWS

<b>Membership / Donation</b>	<b>\$775.00</b>
Checks	\$150.00
Give-Choose	\$525.00
PayPal Received	\$100.00
Aldie Ruritan Giving Partnership	\$1,200.00
<b>Interest Earned</b>	<b>\$5.05</b>
<b>PayPal Withdrawal to Checking</b>	<b>\$86.73</b>
Refunds / Adjustments	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$1,966.78</b>

### OUTFLOWS

<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	
AHA D&O Insurance	\$725.00
PO Box	\$266.33
Office / Postage	\$15.11
Virginia Registration	\$25.00
Paypal Fees	\$13.27
Dropbox	\$119.88
Website Domain & Hosting	\$354.68
<b>TOTAL Administrative</b>	<b>\$1,506.00</b>

<b>Annual Meeting</b>	
Refreshments	\$254.32
<b>TOTAL AHA Annual Meeting</b>	<b>\$254.32</b>

<b>Projects &amp; Initiatives</b>	
<b>Sponsorships &amp; Donations</b>	
	\$250.00
	\$1,200.00
Aldie Good Citizen	\$150.00
	<b>\$1,600.00</b>

<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$3,360.32</b>
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<b>Starting Balance (01 JAN 2024)</b>	<b>\$51,421.17</b>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$1,966.78</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$3,360.32</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>-\$1,393.54</b>
<b>Ending Balance (31 DEC 2024)</b>	<b>\$50,027.63</b>
<i>CASH ON HAND</i>	<i>\$569.00</i>

	Inflow	Outflow
<i>Received</i>	\$100.00	\$0.00
<i>Fees Paid</i>	\$0.00	\$13.27
<i>Refunds</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Refunded Fees</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Withdrawals</i>	\$0.00	\$86.73
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Starting Balance (01 JAN 2024)</b>		
<b>Ending Balance (31 DEC 2024)</b>		

# Aldie Heritage Association is Proud to Participate in the Following Organizations . . .

## Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition

AHA participates in virtual monthly meetings of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition. LCPCC is a consortium of 55 nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations dedicated to the preservation and protection of the historic and environmental resources of Loudoun County. LCPCC members were instrumental in helping AHA work with Loudoun County representatives to preserve the County-owned properties in the Village. The LCPCC is also working on zoning for the rural policy area following adoption of Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan.

<https://loudouncoalition.org/>

## BIZZBUZZ

Aldie Heritage Association members also participate in the Middleburg Professional Business Association's monthly virtual BizBuzz meetings. The networking events give us a chance to get to know what's happening in Middleburg and discuss issues and concerns that affect Middleburg and Aldie.

<https://visitmiddleburgva.com/category/biz-buzz/>

## Loudoun Historic Village Alliance

Aldie Heritage Association is a member organization of the Loudoun Historic Village Alliance, and participates in monthly meetings to discuss the latest news, learn about issues and community efforts, share ideas and experiences, and support other Loudoun villages. The Loudoun Historic Village Alliance was formed in 2019 to address the joint and individual challenges of Loudoun County's unincorporated villages.

<https://loudounvillages.org/>

## Become a Supporter!

The Aldie Heritage Association is 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization founded to promote the history, character and heritage of historic Aldie Village and the surrounding area. AHA's Directors are local residents and property owners. Some of us have deep and longstanding ties to our village. Others are relative newcomers. We all share the goal of preserving for future generations the historic and scenic community we have inherited.

Join us this year. Pitch in during our annual clean-up days in the Village and at Mount Zion Cemetery. Help tell the history of Aldie to students in our local schools and learn about the citizenship awards they can earn. Make AHA stronger and amplify our voice as we stand against irresponsible development proposals that take no account of the exceptionally beautiful natural and man-made features of our community.

And please make a tax-deductible contribution to support our work. To donate, go to our website: [aldieheritage.com/join](http://aldieheritage.com/join). And be sure check out our Facebook page for opportunities to get involved:

[facebook.com/aldieheritageassociation](https://facebook.com/aldieheritageassociation).

## MEMBERSHIP

Your membership gift helps support the Association's mission to promote the history, character and heritage of Aldie, VA and the surrounding area. AHA is a 501(c)(3) organization: contributions are tax-deductible. Please indicate your level of support:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$200    \_\_\_\_\_ Other

For more information, please contact us at [aldieheritage@gmail.com](mailto:aldieheritage@gmail.com).