



Name Request in Memory of Nancy Dunning

Nancy Dunning was the Queen of Del Ray. At the time of her death, she was working on a wonderful idea to display luminarias all up and down Mt. Vernon Avenue for the holidays. Those luminarias on the first Saturday in December have come to symbolize how Nancy lit up Del Ray.

Dunning, a well known Del Ray real estate agent and wife of then Sheriff Jim Dunning, was tragically murdered on December 5, 2003.

Since that time, the community has looked to try to find the most appropriate way to remember Nancy and keep her memory alive. Even after more than 10 years since her death, friends and family still hear new stories of acts of kindness that Nancy performed before her death. She had a heart of gold and always went out of her way to help someone in need.

More than 25 years ago when "The Avenue" was boarded up buildings with very few shops, residents had little reason to walk around. Nancy saw a different Avenue and dedicated her life to see it blossom and thrive. She worked tirelessly to lay the groundwork for Del Ray to become what it is today.

One of the most precious gifts that she left behind, were countless volunteers to carry on the work she started. One of Nancy's most powerful traits was empowering others to step up and have the courage to take on a task.

While the community has moved forward, there are friends and neighbors who remember and often speak about the important role that Nancy played in Del Ray's transformation. And those friends feel it is important that the community not forget Nancy and that those newcomers to the now popular neighborhood, learn about who helped make it possible.

For all the reasons mentioned above, at the suggestion of Nancy's family, the Del Ray Business Association is proud to recommend that one of the entrances to the heart of the Del Ray business district be named after Nancy. We would like to request that the City of Alexandria name the very end of the parcel of land at the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue be named the Nancy Dunning Gardens.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Del Ray Business Association