

# Alexandria Times

Originally Established in 1797 as The Alexandria Times & Advertiser

[WHO WE ARE](#)   [HOW TO ADVERTISE](#)   [HOW TO SUBSCRIBE](#)   [CONTACT US](#)

www.alextimes.com



VOL 3 ... NO.45

November 8-15,2007

[PRINT ARTICLE](#)



[EMAIL TO FRIEND](#)



## Local arts retailer gets award A Show of Hands in Del Ray recognized for ?artsy feel?

By [Mike Salmon](#)

November 8, 2007

Growing up in a small town, Pat Miller, co-owner of A Show of Hands, in Alexandria, noticed the small town atmosphere in Del Ray and worked on promoting that feel while making her store a focal point in the local art scene. Others noticed that community spirit, and the Virginia Retail Merchants Association recently awarded A Show of Hands the Retailer of the Year award for 2007.



Times Staff Photo/Regan Kireilis

Maria Wasowski and Pat Miller, owners of A Show of Hands, have been named Virginia Retailers of the Year. They are shown here in their shop with their award.

A Show of Hands specializes in local art, highlighting local artists while adding to the ?artsy feel? of Del Ray, turning it into a destination for shoppers, which is an indirect goal of Miller?s and co-owner Maria Wasowski?s efforts.

?I believe very strongly in giving back to the community that?s given so much to me,? said Miller.

Del Ray events that Miller has been involved with include the Farmer?s Market, Arts on the Avenue, First Thursday, and the Halloween Parade. By promoting local events, Miller?s efforts trickle down to every business in Del Ray. She also was indirectly responsible for a feature story in the Hemisphere Magazine at United Airlines, increasing Del Ray?s exposure. ?I?m event oriented,? Miller said.

Miller is also on the board of the Potomac West Business Association so she?s in touch with other aspects of the business community besides the artist, and created the Retail Committee in the association.

Miller and Wasowski were nominated by Rep. Adam Ebbin (D-49) because they ?provide an excellent example of how retailers can network to grow their businesses,? as stated on the nomination write up. Ebbin noted the synergy created by the store to ?spur economic development with art in particular,? he said. Laurie Peterson Aldrich, the VRMA president, said that A Show of Hands is ?an excellent example of how retailers can network to grow their businesses.?

[News Home](#)

[City Limits](#)

[Editorial Opinion](#)

[Opinion & Perspective](#)

[Sports](#)

[Police & Courts](#)

[Movie Reviews](#)

[Homes](#)

[Community News](#)

[Up Close](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Vino Vixen](#)

[Community Links](#)

[Times Community](#)

[Out of The Attic](#)

[Arts Scene](#)

[About Town](#)

[Best of Alexandria](#)

[Slide Shows](#)

[Summer Movie Guide](#)

[Search](#)



[Advanced Search](#)

Wasowski has the same attitude. "That's really our mission; we're about promoting the artists," she added, crediting Miller for inspiration. "We call her our Energizer Bunny," Wasowski said.

Inside A Show of Hands, the shelves are filled with art consisting of earrings, bracelets, paintings, sculpture and accessories. To homeowners in Del Ray, an original artwork by a local artist is unique. "There's a nice synergy there," said Wasowski. The earrings are a big seller, added Miller. "We've got such unusual kinds, they're all handmade," she said.

The word has gotten out about Miller's success with community events and she's been asked to help out with the T.C. Titans Expo and the West End Farmer's Market.

Currently, Miller is working on the Holiday Illumination on Dec. 1, to kick off the shopping season.

Reader Comments

[Send your comments!](#)

---

