



# News

**322 Shelter Lane • P.O. Box 614  
Amherst, VA 24521  
434-946-9410**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 10, 2007**

**MORE INFORMATION:  
NANCY DAVIS: 929-4713  
POPIE MARTIN: 277-5510**

## **Humane Society of Amherst County to Break Ground on New Pet Adoption Center Friday, Sept. 28, 2007, 12 noon, at the Humane Society Facility on Shelter Lane**

(Amherst County,VA)—After three years of planning, the Humane Society of Amherst County (HSAC) and Amherst County are ready to break ground on the new HSAC Adoption Center/Amherst County Animal Shelter. A “ground digging” ceremony, featuring a four-legged friend, will be held Friday, Sept. 28, at noon at the HSAC property off Coolwell Road. The media and public are cordially invited to attend. The groundbreaking kicks off the HSAC’s \$1.5 million capital campaign.

During the brief ceremony, Nancy Davis, HSAC Board President; Ellen M. Davis, State Director, USDA, Rural Development; HSAC Board Treasurer Popie Martin and Rodney Taylor, Amherst County Administrator, will make remarks.

Organized in 1974 to provide a temporary home for lost and unwanted pets, the HSAC has grown tremendously in the past few years. Adoption rates have steadily increased. New initiatives, such as the rescue program where volunteers transport dogs to other states for adoption, and a home fostering program, have provided creative solutions to animal population problems.

In 2004, the HSAC asked the County to assume responsibility for administering the animal shelter portion of its services. The HSAC will now lease a portion of its land to the County. Construction costs of the new facility will be shared, with the County occupying 66 percent of the building, and the HSAC occupying the remaining 34 percent. The adoption center and shelter, while sharing one building, will operate independently.

With this partnership with the County, the HSAC may now concentrate efforts on pet adoption, spay and neuter programs and outreach activities to better educate the public regarding animal population issues.

“Groundbreaking for the new joint HSAC Adoption Center/Amherst County Animal Shelter is the culmination of years of planning, and our dream of a new state-of-the-art building is just months away from coming true,” said Nancy Davis, HSAC board president. “With the adoption center and shelter in one building, this truly is a community effort, one that will allow us to offer enhanced services.”

(More)

The new facility features many upgrades, including:

- Interview room for animals and potential owners to meet
- State-of-the art air handling and waste removal
- Greatly expanded outdoor exercise area
- Improved food storage and preparation areas
- Isolation units

C.L. Lewis Construction of Lynchburg presented the winning bid on the building, which will take an estimated nine months to complete. Construction will begin immediately. Land for the project was donated by long-time friend of the HSAC Gert Prior. Designed by architects Blair Smith and Linda Jones of Dominion Seven Architects, the new building will be set back from the road, nestled among tall oaks and pines, and will present a welcoming and attractive façade to all.

The HSAC is governed by a volunteer board. The organization's services are financed through contributions from the citizens of Amherst County. The HSAC is grateful to its many volunteers and donors, and particularly to the local veterinary community, for supporting efforts to assist lost and unwanted animals in Amherst County.

Currently underway, the HSAC capital campaign provides the opportunity for friends to endow important programs, such as fostering, rescue and behavioral testing. Several naming opportunities are still available. To make a donation, call (434) 946-9410, email [HSofAC@cs.com](mailto:HSofAC@cs.com), or mail a check payable to the HSAC to P.O. Box 614, Amherst, VA, 24521.



# NEWS

---

## THE CREATIVE RETREAT AT MT. SAN ANGELO

154 SAN ANGELO DRIVE, AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521 (434)946-7236 FAX (434)946-7239 WWW.VCCA.COM EMAIL VCCA@VCCA.COM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 29, 2004**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**Amy Ruth Allen, (434) 946-7236**  
**aruth@vcca.com**

### **Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Expands with Donation of Property in France** **Central Virginia's VCCA Receives Historic Gift from Denver Foundation**

(AMHERST, VA)— The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA), one of the foremost international working retreats for writers, artists and composers, and the only such facility in Virginia, today announced that the Donnell-Kay Foundation of Denver, Colo., has transferred ownership of an arts facility in southwest France to the VCCA. The donation makes the VCCA one of only a handful of artists' retreats in the world with residency locations in two countries.

The gift of "Le Moulin à Nef," a two-acre property in the village of Auvillar, designated as one of France's 100 most beautiful villages, includes two 17<sup>th</sup>-century buildings that have undergone a nearly \$1-million renovation into artists' studios and administrative spaces. Organized in 1994 to enhance the cultural and artistic life of this village, located on the Garonne River about 60 miles from Toulouse, the facility and its programs were created with the intention of being given away 10 years later to a professional organization whose mission closely followed its vision for the project.

Located in central Virginia three hours south of Washington, D.C., the VCCA is one of about 250 organizations in the world dedicated to facilitating talented writers, composers and visual artists in the actual creation of their work, providing room, board and individual studios where artists may work without distraction or interruption. In 2000, the VCCA was named as one of nine recipients of the prestigious Governor's Award for the Arts, one of only two arts organizations to be so honored. The award has been presented only three times in the history of the Commonwealth.

"We selected the VCCA to be the new owner of the Moulin à Nef for several important reasons," said Tony Lewis, executive director of the Donnell-Kay Foundation. "We were incredibly impressed not only with the caliber of the artists that the VCCA attracts, but also with its leadership, staff and facilities. VCCA is, without a doubt, the leader in providing artists the time and space to pursue creativity. We are excited to have had the opportunity to assist the VCCA in its support of artists and to help the organization continue to expand its already outstanding international offerings."

Since it was founded in 1971, the VCCA has become the unquestioned leader of international exchange programs among artists' communities in the world. Currently, the VCCA

participates in formalized exchanges with artists' retreats in Ireland, Germany, Malta, Austria and France and artists have come to the VCCA from more than 50 foreign countries.

With its focus on internationalism and its success in bringing artists of different cultures together, the VCCA is uniquely qualified to continue the exchange mission of the Moulin à Nef. The property will allow the VCCA to facilitate interactions between American and French artists in the friendly and intimate environment of Auvillar.

"The effect of encounters between artists of different cultures can be extraordinary, often resulting in collaborative projects," said VCCA Executive Director Suny Monk. "In these dark times of war, terrorism and intolerance, exchanges between artists of different cultures are perhaps even more important than in the past, for it is in the arts that humanity finds a common ground. We are so grateful to the Donnell-Kay Foundation for entrusting to us this remarkable place in Auvillar where we can bring cultures and communities together for the common good."

The Donnell-Kay Foundation began the process of finding a new owner for the Moulin à Nef (translated means "floating mill") in 2003, producing and distributing a brochure about the project and the gift of the property.

Upon receiving these materials, VCCA Executive Director Suny Monk and then Board President Linda Wachtmeister flew to Colorado to meet with the foundation director. A relationship and mutual understanding quickly developed. Within a few months, two foundation trustees visited the VCCA and in the fall of 2003, VCCA board and staff members traveled to Auvillar on a fact-finding mission. These exchanges culminated in extensive planning and preparation for two residency programs for VCCA Fellows. In August and October, 12 writers and visual artists each spent a month at the Moulin à Nef, immersed in their work and the daily life of the village and its inhabitants. Each year, the VCCA will provide a similar sanctuary for artists and writers at the Moulin à Nef, accommodating four artists at a time.

At its Mt. San Angelo facility, a 12-acre hilltop in a bucolic, rural setting, the VCCA hosts 300 Fellows each year who come from the world over seeking the time and space to give full concentration to their work. More than 3,500 Fellows have come to the VCCA in the past 33 years. Artists' retreats such as the VCCA provide an estimated \$40-million in direct support to artists each year.

Incorporated in 1965 through a trust by the Kay family, the Denver-based Donnell-Kay Foundation provides operating and program funding to school districts and non-profit organizations statewide—with a focus on urban schools in metro Denver. The board of trustees is led by former Colorado state legislator Allen Dines.

– 30 –

***DVD of "A Day in Auvillar," a short film by VCCA Fellow David Petersen, and high-resolution, color JPGs available from Amy Allen: [aruth@vcca.com](mailto:aruth@vcca.com), 434-946-7236. To interview VCCA Executive Director Suny Monk email [smonk@vcca.com](mailto:smonk@vcca.com) or call 434-946-7236. To interview Donnell-Kay Foundation Director Tony Lewis email [tlewis@dkfoundation.org](mailto:tlewis@dkfoundation.org) or call 720-932-1544.***