Start Thinking Spring Now

Hidden in Plain Sites

Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Story

Andre Manapsal chooses reusable plastic spoon at the Arlington Food Assistance Center Plot Against Hunger’s 2018 Spring Garden Kick-Off on Feb. 10 at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church.
Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Story

Eva Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank, speaks at GMU.

By Jennifer Kaye

More than 1,100 people gathered in The George Mason University Center For The Arts in Fairfax on Wednesday night, Feb. 7, for "A Historic Evening With Eva Schloss." Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor, discussed her wartime experiences, stories of loss, and her hope for future generations and the World. The presentation, put on by the Chabad Lubavitch Centers of Northern Virginia, also included a video presentation and a musical tribute of Ani Maamin by oboist and conductor Eugene Sidorov.

Before the presentation, VIP guests gathered for a reception with guitar music played by Stanley Albert, and also were able to sit down and speak with Schloss one-on-one while getting her book, "Eva's Story," signed. There was a steady flow of people gathering around her the entire time, telling their childhood stories, discussing relatives they lost in the Holocaust, and asking her many questions about her experiences.

Eli Rosenbaum, U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations, led the talk and Schloss started off with a story about her first encounter with anti-Semitism.

She was 9 years old and went to play with her Catholic friend after school. When she arrived at her friend's house, the mother slammed the door in her face and told her that she never wanted to see her there again.

A confused Schloss ran home to her mother hoping she could shed some light on the situation, and her mother replied with "This is how life is going to be now."

She then went on to describe in detail the years her family was in hiding, the separation of her and her mother from her father and brother, and the Dutch nurse who in 1944 pretended to help them hide, but was in the end a Nazi who turned them in to authorities.

With the audience silent and enthralled throughout the presentation, Schloss detailed her nine months spent in Auschwitz-Birkenau and the last moments she saw her father and brother. She ended her talk discussing the importance of education for everyone, and by telling the audience that all need to look after the planet. Schloss said, "It's a wonderful gift from God for us to enjoy."

The closing remarks by Rabbi Leibel Fajnland, director Chabad of Reston-Herndon, echoed these thoughts by saying, "We must become better not bitter."

Schloss stayed quiet about her Holocaust experiences for 40 years, and it was not until 1985 that she decided to devote herself to Holocaust education and world peace. Since then, she has written three books, delivered more than 1,000 speeches and had a play written about her life.

Schloss is currently on a speaking tour around the United States sharing her and her step-sisters stories, hoping to educate and help end the violence and bigotry that she sees in the world today.

Eva Schloss thanks the crowd after the presentation.

Rabbi Sholom Deitsch, director of Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, delivers the opening remarks to the audience.

Eugene Sidorov takes a bow after his musical tribute, Ani Maamin.

"Flourishing After 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for Feb. 26-March 2

Senior centers: Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpepper St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Arlington Mill, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.; Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.

Senior trips: Dover Downs Casino, Del., Monday, Feb. 26, $28; African American War Museum, Tuesday, Feb. 27, $9; Riverside Dinner Theatre, Fredericksburg, “Mama Mia,” Wednesday, Feb. 28, $61; Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa., Terracotta Warriors Exhibit, Saturday, March 3, $68 Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

New Programs:


Karaoke time, Monday, Feb. 26, 1:30 p.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Garden Group to meet Monday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0555.

Free legal assistance for eligible seniors, Tuesday, Feb. 27, 1 p.m., Walter Reed. Call for appointment, 703-778-6800.

Genealogy 101, Tuesday, Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Recycling demonstration, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills. Register, 703-228-5722.

Art swap, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m., Arlington Mill. Details, 703-228-7369.

Arlington Walking Club will walk in LBJ Park Art., Wednesday, Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m., $4, 703-228-4403.

Beginners line dancing, Thursday, March 1, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill. Register, 703-228-7369.

Drop-in badminton games, Thursday, March 1, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.

55+ Book Club, to discuss “White Trash” by Nancy Isenberg, Friday, March 2, 12 p.m., Central Library. Details, 703-228-4403.

Discuss four plays by Shakespeare’s contemporaries, Fridays beginning March 2, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills. Register, 703-228-5722.

Ballroom Dance, Friday, March 2, 1 p.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Lee Walkers will walk in LBJ Park, Arlington, Friday, March 2, 10 a.m., $3, Register, 703-228-0555.
Hidden in Plain Sites

By Vernon Miles
The Connection

Everyone knows the highlights of Arlington’s tourist attractions: The Marine Corps and Air Force Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, etc. But beneath the surface of Arlington County are countless fascinating pieces of local history. No tourist bus will take you to the scene of Arlington’s motorcycle gang shootout. There’s no tourist pamphlets commemorating how Military Highway was built over three days.

At a public lecture in Arlington’s Central Library, local historian and reporter Charlie Clark promoted his new book “Hidden History of Arlington” and talked to a full house about some of his favorite stories stashed away across the county.

“History in Arlington is a little less formal than in Alexandria,” said Clark. “Most of the history here is reading between the lines.”

Clark said the county’s Civil War history is a perfect example. While Alexandria was occupied by Union troops and played a substantial role in the national drama, Arlington was more of a pass through, with a few of its own famous residents and brief skirmishes like the recently memorialized Battle of its own famous residents and brief skirmishes like the recently memorialized Battle of...text cut off

Marymount students decorate AFAC rain barrels.

“Where is my plate” as he spots the breakfast rolls and fruit on the nearby table. Downstairs the speakers moved from “0-50 Starting the Garden from Scratch” to “Irrigation and Best Watering Practices.” The morning concluded with an outdoor session in the orchard on apple tree grafting and pruning. AFAC’s Plot Against Hunger provides 2,200 families with supplemental food each week including fresh produce donated by local gardeners, schools, faith-based organizations and farmer’s markets who grow or gather harvests for the food pantry.

AFAC holds spring garden kick-off.

See Hidden, Page 11
Send in Pet Photos Now

To the Editor:

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you. Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistant dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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— Mary Kimm

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Needless Controversy

To the Editor:

The decision of the Arlington School Board to develop criteria for the renaming of the “new elementary school at the Drew Model School site” is a most curious one. When asked about the rationale for that decision, a School Board member informed the Nauck Civic Association the renaming of Drew was in accordance with board policy for naming new programs. Unlike the new middle school, new Montessori school, and the Wilson site building, there is no new or improved facility proposed for Drew — merely a variation of its decades-long status as a neighborhood school.

More to the point, a review of board documents available online revealed no mention of a requirement/tradition for renaming new programs. What was revealed was the recommendation by the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University to separate processes for renaming and naming upcoming structures: The facilitated meetings revealed a strong desire for continued conversation around these topics with an overwhelming consensus that the process for renaming a school and naming upcoming schools be separate.

The community expressed, both in the surveys and during the facilitated dialogues, combining these two topics is nearly impossible as these issues involved two different ideologies. It would appear the School Board has determined the wise recommendation should be ignored in favor of “doing the impossible.” The dynamics so prevalent in Arlington are acute in Nauck — a neighborhood that is highly desirable to newcomers with far more wealth than its traditional residents. And more often than not, the newer residents are of a different race/culture than traditional residents.

Since its inception Nauck has been a community that welcomes newcomers, regardless of their resources or race. But it is also a community that treasures its precious heritage. When so few Arlington schools are named after African-American heroes, how curious that the School Board would deem it appropriate to rename one of them (especially since that school will simply house a “new” program rather than be a new building). While the nation is revisiting the appropriateness of honoring slave owners, the Arlington School Board is revisiting the appropriateness of honoring black folk. When Arlington integrated its schools, only black kids were bused. Most spent more than two-hours being bused to their new schools, which had a devastating impact on the Nauck community and its children. How ironic that now that Drew is about to regain its status as the heart of the community, a name that has stood since 1952 has been placed on the drawing board. The goal of the School Board should be to ameliorate tensions between old and new residents — not needlessly exacerbate them.

Jacqueline Coachman
Arlington

Controlling Pollution

To the Editor:

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer just introduced a bill that would do two things that we can all cheer: Cut dangerous pollution and put money back in our pockets.

The Healthy Climate and Family Security Act of 2018 would limit emissions from fossil fuels while also making sure that benefits go to U.S. households. The bill would require energy companies to buy a permit for each ton of carbon pollution they emit — with the number of permits shrinking over time. The revenue from auctioning permits would then be divvied up into equal shares and sent to every household in a check each quarter.

Elements of this policy already exist in parts of the United States. For example, California has a system for capping its carbon pollution and auctioning permits. Here in Virginia, Gov. Ralph Northam is moving in a similar direction to cut emissions from power plants. And in Alaska, residents receive an annual payment from the Alaska Permanent Fund, which is funded by oil revenues.

I hope Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner take a close look at the Senate version of Rep. Beyer’s bill and consider supporting it. We can all agree — Virginia families want clean air, a safe climate, and more money in their pockets.

Stephanie Burns
Arlington

Lives Are At Stake

To the Editor:

In Virginia, 2018 started off with the historic swearin in of Virginia’s first openly transgender lawmaker, Danica Roem. This was quickly followed by the approval of two non-discrimination bills by the Virginia Senate. The train of progress and equality was clearly churning for the LGBTQ+ community. However, this has quickly come to a halt, as the Virginia House of Delegates subcommittee voted down an extension of hate crimes protections to include sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or immigration status.

Stephanie Burns
Arlington

2018-19 Decal Design

Schuyler Workmaster, an 11th grader at Bishop Denis J. O’Connell High School, won the 2018-19 Decal Design Competition for her design, “The Arlington Skyline and Potomac River.” Workmaster’s design will appear on more than 160,000 vehicles in Arlington County. In her Decal Competition application, Workmaster noted that her piece, “...fuses both the nature and city aspects of Arlington. The juxtaposition of the serenity of nature and the bustling city behind it shows that Arlington is both beautiful and cosmopolitan. My piece represents how different parts of Arlington come together to form one community.”
**NEWS**

**Phase 2 Begins on Trail Project**

Construction has started on the next phase of the Washington Boulevard Trail project. Phase 2 will construct a 10-foot-wide paved bicycle and pedestrian trail along the west side of Washington Boulevard (Route 27). The new trail section will link with the Phase 1 trail section built between Arlington Boulevard and Walter Reed Drive.

Night and weekend work is expected periodically throughout the project and will take place between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. These hours will occasionally be extended.

Partial lane closures will be in place at night, reducing traffic to one lane in the southbound direction. There will be no impacts to northbound traffic.

For more information, visit [https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/washington-boulevard-trail](https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/washington-boulevard-trail).

**Police Investigate Incident at Yorktown High School**

Officers from the Arlington County Police Department responded to Yorktown High School at approximately 9 a.m. on Feb. 9 for the report of a CPR in progress. Upon arrival, it was determined that a student was found unresponsive in a restroom. Arlington County Fire Department medics transported the student to Virginia Hospital Center in critical condition. This incident is being investigated as self-inflicted.

While this remains an active investigation, police said there is no known threat to the school community. The police requests that anyone with information regarding this incident contact Detective R. Munizza at 703-228-4171 or rmunizza@arlingtonva.us. To report information anonymously, contact the Arlington County Crime Solvers at 866-411-TIPS (8477).

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available through the Crisis Link Hotline at 703-527-4077.

**Firefighter Charged with Narcotics Offenses**

Police responded to Arlington County Fire Station #2, located in the 4800 block of Wilson Boulevard, at approximately 4:25 a.m. on Feb. 11 for the report of a narcotics violation. Upon arrival, it was determined that prescribed medication had been removed from the victim’s personal belongings within the fire station.

During the course of the investigation, a suspect description was developed based on evidence located at the scene and witness interviews. Following an interview with police, Stephanie Desai, 36, of Alexandria, was arrested and charged with possession of Schedule II narcotic, possession of Schedule IV narcotic and petit larceny. She was released on an unsecured bond.

Representatives with the Arlington County Fire Department continue to cooperate with the ongoing police investigation. Firefighter Desai, a two-year veteran of the agency, has been placed on administrative leave without pay pending the outcome of the criminal investigation and an internal investigation conducted by the Fire Department.

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Encore Stage & Studio presents "The Lion King Jr." from Feb. 16-25 at Kenmore Middle School.

By Steve Hibbard
The Connection

Encore Stage & Studio is presenting its production of Disney’s "The Lion King Jr." running Feb. 16-25, at Kenmore Middle School Theatre. In this adaptation of the Disney animated film, 32 cast members bring the story of Simba and his friends to life with the aid of puppets. The young and carefree lion cub faces serious consequences that force him to flee his kingdom, leaving his cruel uncle Scar to rule in his place. With the help of his new friends Timon and Pumbaa, Simba learns the joys of "Hakuna Matata," or "no worries," until his past catches up with him.

"It’s all about the family and the Circle of Life in the first song, so it begins the play and ends the play," said co-director Susan McFadlin who co-directed with Martha Grace Moore. "It’s about growing up, the family, and the responsibilities to the family — learning about responsibility to others. Understanding good and evil." In this 3r'd verse, she said the musical keys get adjusted but the time stays the same.

Keady said the show appeals to audiences ranging in age from 4 to 90. "There’s a certain appeal to everybody to watch the children develop a piece about good and evil, making responsible choices, learning from mistakes," she said. "One parent found a climbing wall that we use for an ‘inconceivable’ Valentine’s Day. She said it was difficult to present herself in a fashion where she was intimidating and caring, and to incorporate that kindly manner where she’s both strong and passionate. "My dad’s in the military, and I looked up to him a lot because he’s able to be strong and authoritative as well as kind and caring," she said.

Hannah Knittig, 14, of Arlington plays the role of Scar. “He is the evil nemesis of Mufasa and brother, and Simba is Mufasa’s son and Scar’s enemy,” she said. “Scar basically wants the throne and will do anything to get that throne include killing his enemy, his nephew and his brother.”

Keady concluded: “We picked challenging pieces for this season, our 50th season, so we wanted to appeal to all the folks who have supported us. We have original parents in the community who started this who still attend our productions and we wanted them to be happy with how we’ve come in 50 years because we started our first show with Theater in the Park at Lubber Run Park in Arlington.”

The cast of Encore Stage & Studio’s production of Disney’s “The Lion King Jr.,” which runs from Feb. 16-25 at Kenmore Middle School.

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The technical director does the same thing — she cruises Craig’s List for props, she said. "One parent found a climbing wall that we use for an ‘inconceivable’ Valentine’s Day. She said it was difficult to present herself in a fashion where she was intimidating and caring, and to incorporate that kindly manner where she’s both strong and passionate. "My dad’s in the military, and I looked up to him a lot because he’s able to be strong and authoritative as well as kind and caring," she said.

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SUNDAY/FEB. 18

Presidents’ Day Celebration.
Friday, 10 p.m.; at Arlington Cinema ‘N’ Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Sarah Colonna from Netflix’s “Unbreakable” Chelsea Lateely and “After Lateely,” $25-30. Visit arcllva.arlingtonva.us.///

SATURDAY/FEB. 17

Winter Babies. 10-11 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 6-10. Discover why some birds lay eggs or have babies in the cold of winter. Whoos are they? Bear with us and find out as we celebrate winter birdness. For information: 703-228-3403. $5. #622884-1. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

Polu Negri Movie Afternoon. 1-3 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Adults. Polu Negri was a famous silent screen siren who took Hollywood by storm. Legend has it she lived at Gulf Branch when it was a private home. Teens ages 14 and up are welcomed, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information: 703-228-3403. $5. #622884-1. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

Learn To Build a Cold Frame. 1-4 p.m. at Walter Reed Community Center, 2903 Belmont Ave. Come learn how to get close to year-round gardening. Participants will be able to make their own Cold Frame and take it home. $65 per person wishing to take home a cold frame that is ready to use. Reserve space by Feb. 9, 2018. Contact the VCRL Hotline at 703-228-6414 or mgiumales@gmail.com.

Animal Costume Theater. 2-3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Ages 3 to 6. Register child only, but caretakers must attend. Be the star of the show while wearing animal costumes. Act out fun and magical stories while wearing animal costumes. Act out fun and magical stories while wearing animal costumes. For information: 703-228-6355. Free. #622917-Y. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

Poetry Reading. 6 p.m. at One More Page Bookstore, 205 W. Washington St. Poets Jodie Hollander and Robert Mezey in conversation. Hollander will read from her debut collection, “My Dark Horses.” Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com/. Winter Challenge Trivia Night. 6-7 p.m. at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 1132 N. Ivanhoe St. Bring friends and form a team to participate in an evening of trivia fun and magical stories while wearing animal costumes. Act out fun and magical stories while wearing animal costumes. For information: 703-228-6355. Free. #622917-Y. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

Flying Squirrel Lore & More. 6-7 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families ages 4 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Mirem an indoor presentation, tiptoe outside to see these little pixies glide in for an evening of fun. For information: 703-228-6355. $7. #622948-D. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

Tunes 4 Tots Music Class. 10-11 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Free. For information: 703-228-6355. Free. #622948-D. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

FEB. 18

Removing Invasive Plants. 2-4 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults, teens, and families ages 8 and up. Monthly work parties are making a real difference, with the return of ferns and wildflowers, and the animals that depend on them, in areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. No registration required. For information: 703-228-6355. Free. #622948-D. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

Pilates with a Purpose. 10 a.m. at Body Dynamics, Inc, 410 S. Maple Ave., Suite 100, Falls Church. Body Dynamics, Inc. presents Pilates with a Purpose to benefit Arlington Free Clinic. In addition to Pilates, enjoy a Kidra Scott trunk show and some morning refreshments. $75. Register at 501auctions.com/afcgala/item/773420.

Vegetable Gardening. 10 a.m. at Westover Branch Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road. Vegetable Gardening Part 2: Planning and Preparation for the beginning gardener. Learn easy-to-implement practices for selecting the best site and evaluating and improving soil, including which plants grow best in your area. Free. Advance registration requested at mgwn.org. Questions, telephone 703-228-6614 or rjemailarles@gmail.com.

FEB. 19

Removal of Invasive Plants. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Kinder Haus Toys is a toy store for children, infants, and families ages 8 and up. Monthly work parties are making a real difference, with the return of ferns and wildflowers, and the animals that depend on them, in areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. No registration required. For information: 703-228-6355. Free. #622948-D. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

Civil War Forts Van Tour. 10-11 a.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Union forts in northern Arlington were built to protect Washington and the bridges across the Potomac River. Begin at Fort C.F. Smith and travel by van to Forts Renssart, Merry and Ethan Allen. Teens ages 12 and up are welcomed, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information: 703-228-7033. $15. #622748-A. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

2018 Feel the Heritage Festival. 1-6 p.m. at Charles Drew Community Center, 3500 23rd St. Celebrate Black History Month with live music and spoken word, dozens of community and artisan vendors, delicious food options, free kids’ activities and more. Cook-Off Competition: Calling all cooks—sign up to enter dish(es) in the first-ever Cook-Off. Appetizers, entrees, side dishes and desserts will be accepted. Complete the online form. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/events feel-the-heritage-festival. Meet Our Animals. 1:30-3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families ages 3 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Meet resident animals up close: turtles, frogs, snakes, birds and even a chipmunk. For information: 703-228-6355. Free. #622958-B. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

Concert: The Arlington Chorale. 7:30 p.m. at Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive. The Arlington Chorale will perform Mozart’s Requiem (Requiem in D minor, K 626), the powerful choral masterpiece composed as Mozart approached his own death. The concert “Mozart Last’s Notes,” features an orchestra and soloists. All TAC concerts are free and open to the public, with donations gratefully accepted. Visit arlingtonchorale.org.

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**View from the Coffin Corner**

By Michael Lee Pope
The Connection

As a freshman delegate in 1978, Ken Plum was assigned a desk in the far corner on the Democratic side of the House of Delegates — seat 17. It wasn’t the best vantage point in the House because about a third of the Republican members were totally out of view. The senior members took the seats at the back of the chamber near the center, sticking Plum in the corner.

“In my very first session on my very first day, Speaker John Warren Cooke said, ‘The speaker recognizes the gentleman from Fairfax, Mr. Plum, for a motion,’” recalled Plum, currently the senior member of the House. “I had no idea what he was doing, but I later learned it was to dispense with the reading of the journal. Everybody laughed their heads off as I was trying to get myself out of it.”

It was a trial-by-fire for the freshman delegate from Reston, who would soon learn that he was occupying a rarified spot on the House floor — Coffin Corner. The term dates to the early 1970s, when a freshman Del. Dickie Cranwell arrived as a freshman Democrat from Roanoke. He created the term to underscore a generational divide in the House of Delegates.

“I would say that we were probably a newer breed of Democrats in Virginia than some of the older guard,” said Cranwell, who later went on to be the Democratic leader before retiring in 2000. “A lot of times there would be close votes and we would carry the day in killing something, and we just decided that we were the corner that was putting a lot of stuff to sleep.”

THE 1970S SAW a massive shift in Virginia politics, not necessarily from one party to the next. But within the Democratic Party as young members like Cranwell and Plum were moving the party to the left, away from the conservative racial politics of massive resistance that was the hallmark of the Byrd Machine that ran Virginia politics for half a century.

“We voted pretty much in block, so if there was a tight issue we would have 25 votes,” said Cranwell. “The rest of that group was like throwing a firecracker in a covey of quail, they’d go everywhere.”

The expression Coffin Corner was not just a reference to the ability of the junior lawmakers who sat there to kill a bill they didn’t like. It was also a reference to Cranwell’s time as a punter at Virginia Tech, when he would kick the ball into the Coffin Corner out of bounds and place the opposing team deep into their own territory. The name stuck and the corner of junior seats took on a cache all its own.

“It was considered prestigious and kind of cool to be in the Coffin Corner,” said former House Democratic Caucus Chairman Brian Moran, who chose to sit in the Coffin Corner even though he had enough seniority to get a better seat. “From the perspective of having a good view of the other side of the aisle, it was not the best seat. But it was seen as a corner where you muddled freshman and more senior members together.”

THOSE DAYS, Coffin Corner is seeing a new generation taking their seats. The current House of Delegates has about a half dozen millennials who sit in the Coffin Corner, eager to make their mark on history and challenge the status quo. When Republicans criticized an attempt to tax streaming video at the same rate as cable TV, the expression “Netflix and chill” created a generational fault line among House members.

“What drove many of us to run and the high levels of support we receive from our peers across the commonwealth was not casual references to Netflix, which has become disturbingly popular on this floor,” said Schuyler Van Valkenburg (D-72). “We ran on jobs, health care access, education and creating a Virginia that was open and welcome to everybody regardless of race, faith, gender, sexual orientation or county or origin.”

Sitting at far end of Coffin Corner, that seat that Plum was assigned 40 years ago, is Del. Marcus Simon (D-53). He’s been in the House long enough that he could take one of the more senior seats at the center of the chamber. But he chooses to sit in Coffin Corner. He says it’s an ideal location for leading the resistance to the Republicans and sometimes even against his fellow Democrats. Last year, for example, he angered members of both parties by making a parliamentary inquiry about whether a Republican member who was facing domestic violence charges should be voting on changes to the code outlining assault and battery. The Republican leadership retaliated by delaying consideration of all Democratic bills that day.

“This is where the troublemakers in the House sit, and it’s a place from which you can throw bombs — to use another sports analogy,” said Simon. “I think it fits my persona here in the body, which is somebody who’s not afraid to ask questions and somebody who’s not afraid to slow things down or disrupt the flow.”

**Too Big To Fail**

By Vernon Miles
The Connection

According to nearby residents, and several members of the Planning Commission, the project at 1031 North Vermont St. has three problems: it’s too big, it’s too high, and it’s too close. At the Feb. 12 Planning Commission meeting, the project was the only item on the docket, but testimony from concerned local residents and proposed alternative solutions from the commission stretched the debate over the project out for hours. But when the dust settled, despite the commission’s concerns, the project was unanimously approved with conditions and passed on to the County Board.

The subject of discussion were three items associated with the property listed as 11th and Vermont. One was an amendment to change the project from low-medium residential to high-medium residential, another changing the zoning from two family dwellings to multiple family dwellings, and a site plan for 72 units of multi-family condominums and townhouses. The new building will be seven stories tall with a 22 foot and eight inch separation from the abutting Westview Condominium Building. For many residents of Westview, as well as the Ballston-Virginia Square Civic Association and Westview Condominium Association, it’s too tall and too close for comfort.

Planning Commission member Nancy Iacomini said she had concerns about the precedent the new building would set for the area. Iacomini filed a motion for the tallest building to the limited to six stories and a motion for at least 30 feet of separation from surrounding neighbors.

“There has always been embedded in this project the fatal flaw of being taller than six stories and the building separation,” said Iacomini. “No amount of improving the surface really gets to that.”

The motion to limit the building height to six stories failed, but the motion for 30 feet of separation passed. Another motion was proposed to direct county staff to provide additional opportunities for neighbors in adjoining properties to continue working with developers on a neighborhood list of issues, including pedestrian circulation and opportunities for open space, but others said this fell outside of the scope of work expected of county staff and the motion failed.

“It had been my intent not to vote for the project,” said Plum. “But after my amendment was accepted, it would be churlish of me not to.”

The project was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission and will go to the County Board for final approval.
Styling a Coffee Table

By Marilyn Campbell

There’s an art to designing a living room coffee table, says local interior designer Susan Tucker. In fact, when she’s helping a client create a living room space, she pays particular attention to creating a stylish and functional table.

“It seems like such a small thing, but when designed the right way, a coffee table can become the focal point of a room and really make it pop,” she said. “I believe that there’s a right way and a wrong way to put together a coffee table, but it’s not hard if you keep certain things in mind.”

Vary the height and scale so that each item can shine on its own. “If everything is the same height, none of them will be noticed,” said Tucker. “Think a pretty vase of flowers behind a small porcelain bowl.”

Work to create balance between small and large items, says Alexandria, Virginia-based designer Steven Gambit. “For example, a smattering of small knick-knacks can look cluttered on a coffee table,” he said. “Along the same lines, too many large items on a table can be overpowering. Instead you keep certain things in mind.”

Choose items with colors that are found in other places in a room’s design. “If you have a painting with bright colors, for example, choose one of the colors and find an item in the same color to add to your coffee table. If you have throw pillows in interesting colors, considering using one of those colors on your coffee table.”

Consider only decorating one section of the coffee table, especially if the table is large. “It’s a good idea to leave some space free, especially if you entertain a lot,” said Gambit. “Your guests will need a place to put a drink. Don’t feel compelled to fill every inch of space.”

Consider placing coffee table items on a tray, like this one from the Nest Egg, says Interior Designer Susan Tucker.

A serving tray can serve two purposes on a coffee table, says Gambit. “An elegant serving tray can make a dramatic statement on a coffee table, and can give a table some structure, especially if it’s holding smaller items,” he said. “If you need to clear the coffee table quickly, like if you’re entertaining, a tray makes it easy.”

Think about what the items on the coffee table will look from different places in the room, suggests Tucker. “Stand over your coffee table and get a sense of what the objects look like gazing down at it,” she said. “Sit across the room from it. Can the items be seen fully or are the most appealing parts of an item obstructed? I generally discourage clients from putting picture frames on a coffee table because you can’t see the main attraction — the photo — from behind.”

Be practical and sentimental. “Because people tend to gather around coffee tables, don’t put a breakable family heirloom or an expensive pieces on them,” said Gambit. “Coffee table books are a good idea because they can be topics of conversation. You can use a coffee table to display things that represent a part of your personality, lifestyle or a hobby.”

Using décor to make a table pop.
The D.C. Design House is no more. The annual style event in which a grand Washington-area home was transformed into a showcase house has closed its doors for the final time.

The board of directors for DC Design House, Inc., the nonprofit that oversees the running of the annual showhouse, voted unanimously to disband. Citing difficulty getting enough volunteer support, DC Design House co-founder Skip Singleton announced the decision last week saying, “We all want to proudly end the DC Design House on a high note for what we collectively achieved. We are grateful for our all-volunteer staff working hard throughout the years to keep costs low in an effort to maximize our annual donation to Children’s.”

After discussing a range of ways to continue, the board decided that it was time to end the annual showhouse.

“It’s always been more than a month-long event; it was a year-long effort for our dedicated board, executive committee and volunteers,” added Singleton. “And we want to thank each and every one of them for making the DC Design House the success it was.”

Over the 10-year period of its existence, the effort attracted more than 90,000 visitors and raised more than $2 million for Children’s National Health System.

— Marilyn Campbell

End of an Era
Hidden

From Page 3

“I was 13 and in junior high school, and we all heard about it,” said Clark. “It was kind of a spooky event.”

Clark said there was a prominent motorcycle gang that controlled the east coast at the time; the Pagans. Many of them lived in the local area. A meat cutter at a Safeway decided to form a temporary rival gang called the Avenger’s. The apostrophe, Clark noted, was grammatical mistake. The same night as Yorktown’s graduation, a group of Pagans went to the upstart rival’s work where the Lee Harris Shopping Center is today. Police had heard about the potential fight and moved in to arrest, but not before over 100 shots were fired. And yet, no one was injured. Clark said this was likely because the Pagans and rival gang were more interested in scaring each other than killing anyone. Clark said the gang shootout, and the presence of the Pagans in general, was a relic of another time in the county’s history, when blue collar work was still prominent.

Clark also spoke briefly about a few of the ghosts rumored to haunt Arlington. It was one of the most commonly requested conversation topics from the audience, and afterwards it was something said they’d like to hear more about.

“I wanted to hear more of the ghost stories,” said Debbie Berry. Berry said stories of the supernatural, true or not, are always fascinating as a mix of local history and compelling dramas, “Whenever I go to historical places, I always go on the ghost tours. They are always interesting.”

Connie Francis, a local resident, said she found the whole discussion about local history fascinating. Of particular note to her was Clark’s note that Arlington Hospital had been segregated for years, meaning any black Arlingtonians born in a hospital had to do so outside of the county lines.

“I found it all really interesting,” said Nancy Alikonis. “I’m a regular reader of his column and this is a very interesting topic.”

“I read this book and the one that came afterwards,” said Bryan Deitch. “When my wife told me about this talk being held here, I had to come.”

Deitch said he and his wife have lived in Arlington for 10 years and are fascinated by some of the county’s buried notorious past, like the prominent local Nazis and KKK groups thatparalleled in Arlington in full force. Deitch says it’s a reminder of how the reality is, there isn’t a damn thing I can do with my bank account in order to get my money out, it’s been taken away a long time ago when the first authorization was signed allowing this kind of access.

Occasionally, financial inducements were offered to entice the consumer to subject his money/accounts to such plundering. But eventually, the process became all the rage. Moreover, consumers couldn’t transact business any other way, and despite any hesitations or objections (anger) to the contrary, it was either debit or die. And though this system didn’t cause a revolution or become a motto on a license plate, it did change how we bank, buy and balance.

Within the last few weeks I’ve added two more automatic monthly debits. Payments which I was given no real reason for other than a request to “sign” a certificate or “consent.” Sometimes I don’t know if I am going to do when I get there? My wallet (unlike George Washington) didn’t cause a revolution or become a motto on a license plate, it did change how we bank, buy and balance.

All of these worst case, possibly everyday scenarios, notwithstanding, what can I do? If I don’t pay in and don’t pay, then I am likely having to fend for myself. I may still have plenty places to go to, but what am I going to do when I get there? My wallet (unlike George Costanza’s) isn’t big enough to hold all the cash I’d need to conclude just a few of my transactions. I don’t like ceding control this way, but the joke may already be on me: I don’t have control. It was taken away a long time ago when the first authorization was signed allowing a second/third party to withdraw my money – automatically, and regularly, from the “signee’s” bank account. From that point on, it was, as we say in New England: “Katie bar the door,” meaning: bad news, not happening, or once a month, automatically from my bank. And not that I felt held up by the process, but I did feel as if the highway eventually, the process became all the rage.

“AutoMadic”

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I realize that given the growth and evolution of the world most of us live in, and how business is transacted, there are two words, a phrase actually, whose very existence is threatened: “Bill me.” “C.O.D.” “Cash on delivery” is likely itself on the precipice of extinction, a dice loss if there ever was one. However, since “Money makes the world go ‘round,” or at least it made the hit musical “Cabaret” go ‘round in our credit, I think the good name can only stretch the dollar so far. Bills have to be paid or else the world doesn’t “go ‘round” so far. Moreover, if the money is missing, there’s less to sing about.

Erge an ideal/system was devised whereby people/entities to whom you owed money would have semi unfettered access to your money – without having to talk to you/ask permission. Once the consumer/owe had signed an authorization granting such access, the game was on and the money withdrawn debited regularly as agreed.

Regardless of how I fear all of these company scenarios, notwithstanding, what can I do! If I don’t play in and don’t pay, then I am likely having to fend for myself. I may still have plenty places to go to, but what am I going to do when I get there? My wallet (unlike George Costanza’s) isn’t big enough to hold all the cash I’d need to conclude just a few of my transactions. I don’t like ceding control this way, but the joke may already be on me: I don’t have control. It was taken away a long time ago when the first authorization was signed allowing a second/third party to withdraw my money – automatically, and regularly, from the “signee’s” bank account. From that point on, it was, as we say in New England: “Katie bar the door,” meaning: bad news, not happening, or once a month, automatically from my bank. And not that I felt held up by the process, but I did feel as if the highway eventually, the process became all the rage.
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