Families Get a Look Inside the Firehouse

Joint Aircraft Noise Study with Montgomery County, Md.

Bluemont Park On Drawing Board
On the False Report of Ballston Quarter Shooter

The Arlington County Police Department has completed a weeks-long investigation into the September 14, 2019, false report of a possible shooter at the Ballston Quarter movie theater. A review of the facts and circumstances by the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office determined that there was no evidence that any crime was committed, nor did anyone enter the theater with the intent to cause public harm or concern. As a result, no charges will be filed.

To summarize this incident, at approximately 8:38 p.m. on Sept. 14, police were dispatched to multiple emergency calls reporting a possible shooter inside the movie theater at the Ballston Quarter located at 4238 Wilson Boulevard. Upon police arrival, the theater was placed under shelter in place status while a systematic search of the entire Ballston Quarter was conducted. The search concluded with negative results and no evidence of a shooting or any victims of a shooting were located.

Following the incident, detectives conducted a thorough investigation which included the review of surveillance images, witness interviews and the identification of the involved parties. The evidence determined that during the playing of the movie IT Chapter Two, a juvenile within a group shouted a video game reference to the effect of “Pennywise has sharp-shooter activated.” This statement was misinterpreted as a possible active incident, however, the investigation revealed that at no time were references to an active shooter made inside the theater. “A thorough and complete investigation revealed no evidence to support that any crime was committed,” said Theo Stamos, Commonwealth’s Attorney. “In today’s climate of heightened awareness around active violence incidents in public places, this incident serves as a reminder about the unintended impacts otherwise investigative efforts might have.”

“While we’re fortunate this incident was a false alarm and no significant injuries were reported, responding officers acted quickly and diligently to ensure the safety of the public and mall personnel,” said M. Jay Farr, Chief of Police. “I am proud of the actions of our responding officers and the detailed investigative work conducted to bring this incident to its final disposition.”

Police Investigate Shooting in Alcova Heights

The Arlington County Police Department’s Homicide/Robbery Unit is investigating a shooting that took place in the early morning hours of Oct. 10, 2019 in the Alcova Heights neighborhood. At approximately 12:54 a.m., police were dispatched to the 3500 block of 6th Street S. for the report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers located an adult male victim in the roadway suffering from a gunshot wound and immediately began rendering aid. The victim was transported by medics to an area hospital with injuries that are considered non-life-threatening. The suspect fled the scene in a dark colored SUV prior to police arrival. Currently there is no suspect description.

The preliminary investigation indicates this to be an isolated incident and there is no evidence of any ongoing threat to the community. Detectives continue their investigation and are speaking with witnesses and processing evidence as the search for the suspect proceeds.

Anyone with information and/or home surveillance that may assist the investigation is asked to contact Detective S. King of the Homicide/Robbery Unit at 703-228-4254 or seeking@arlingtonva.us. Information may also be provided anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

DROPOFF SITES FOR GLASS

Arlington residents have three more drop-off sites for recycling used glass jars and bottles. Curbside and purple-and-green bins now stand ready at:

- Aurora Hills Community Center/ Branch Library, 735 18th St. S. (simple: glass on the curb. Set items out for pickup. This information is free and does not expire.)
- Cherrydale Branch Library, 2190 N. Military Rd. / Lee Community Center, 5722 Lee Highway
- Lee Community Center, 5722 Lee Highway

Residents are now formally asked to keep glass out of single-stream “blue cart” recycling collected weekly at the curb. (Other troublesome items to keep out of the blue carts: plastic bags, shredded paper, wire hangers and garden hoses. Try the County’s Where Does It Go? database for a different cart “recycling collected weekly at the curb.”

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

The Future of AI. THURSDAY/OCT. 17

At Carlin Springs Elementary School, 5995 5th Road, Arlington. Features chefs from Jose Andres’ ThinkFoodGroup, as well as award-winning local chefs David Guas and Cathal Armstrong. Their message is simple: healthy food keeps kids fueled up and ready to learn. Attendees will participate in a group assembly of the CareFirst Big Salad by acclaimed chef and TV personality David Guas, a healthy breakfast with renowned Chef Cathal Armstrong, sampling of plant-based “faux joes” made by ThinkFoodGroup chefs, a vegetable relay race with Kate Garsson of ThinkFoodGroup chefs, a vegetable relay race with Kate Garsson of ThinkFoodGroup.

For more information, visit the website for Food Day 2019.
The Arlington County Police Department is warning the public about a telephone scam targeting area residents.

Residents have reported receiving unsolicited phone calls from individuals fraudulently claiming to be technicians with Dominion Energy. These individuals accuse the victims of having overdue bills which must immediately be paid, or their power will be disconnected. The caller then provides a fraudulent claim number and phone number where the funds may be paid and often requests payment using a prepaid debit or gift card.

In some cases, scammers have deliberately falsified the information transmitted to the victim’s caller ID display to disguise their identity.

Residents should not rely on their caller ID to verify the credibility of the call. Verify what you’re being told about your account by calling Dominion Energy directly at 866-366-4357. Dominion Energy does not call, text or email customers asking for their personal information. For additional fraud prevention tips, visit the Dominion Energy website at www.dominionenergy.com.

Ways to Protect Yourself from Scams

Reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a scam by following these crime prevention tips:

❖ Always be suspicious of unsolicited phone calls.
❖ Be alert for any caller who requests payment over the phone through a pre-paid debit card or gift card – it’s a telltale sign of a potential scam.
❖ Never provide money or personal information to someone with whom you don’t have ties and did not initiate contact.
❖ Don’t use a phone number provided to you from the caller to verify their credibility.
❖ Trust your instincts – if an unknown caller makes you uncomfortable or says things that don’t sound right, hang up.
❖ Report Scams: If you find that you were a target or victim of a scam in Arlington County, file an online police report or call the Emergency Communications Center at 703-558-2222.

Not Every Hero Wears a Cape

Arlington fire station open house focuses on safety.

By Shirley Ruhe

Tiny feet scramble, pulling grandparents by the hand up the stairs at Fire Station #8 on Lee Highway Saturday, Oct. 12. It is Fire Prevention Week Open House in Arlington with Arlington stations open from Fire Station #1 at Glebe Road to Fire Station #10 at Rosslyn.

A tour of Fire Station #8 begins with a peek inside the small bedroom space of a firefighter. Hands quickly clamp over children’s ears as a test alarm is set off to illustrate what would happen if a real fire bell went off. The firefighter would be up and dressed and ready to go in a matter of minutes.

Three-year-old Ryan Pavelich takes a break by sitting at the large kitchen table beside Captain Lightfoot. A father urges his son to ask questions about the fire truck or the daily routine. “Who is the best cook?” Outside the kitchen window is a patio with a grill. “We use the grill more than the stove.”

The tour group walks into the meeting room where firefighters catch up on techniques and new information and then checks out the gym equipment nearby. And onto the lounge with the nine over-sized padded chairs and TV with wall speakers. “Mostly people don’t come in here until after 8:30 p.m. after the last watch when the kitchen clean up is finished. Rookies are not allowed in here.”

The firehouse is open for exploration so children head for a pretend drive in the seat of a fire truck. “What are all these buttons? Where is the key?” A 750-gallon engine sits next to a rescue engine with specialty halligan bars for getting into a house. “What’s in this metal box on the front of the engine?” Chains for towing disabled vehicles.

Specialty devices are tucked into spaces in every spare corner of the engines. A table offers pink or black plastic firefighter helmets, junior firefighter tattoos, safety tip coloring books, and tiny brightly frosted cupcakes. Leaflets offer tips on smoke alarms and home escape plans.

The theme for this year’s open house is “Not Every Hero Wears A Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape.”

Dominion Energy Phone Scam Targets Arlington County Residents

The Arlington County Police Department is warning the public about a telephone scam targeting area residents.

Residents have reported receiving unsolicited phone calls from individuals fraudulently claiming to be technicians with Dominion Energy. These individuals accuse the victims of having overdue bills which must immediately be paid, or their power will be disconnected. The caller then provides a fraudulent claim number and phone number where the funds may be paid and often requests payment using a prepaid debit or gift card.

In some cases, scammers have deliberately falsified the information transmitted to the victim’s caller ID display to disguise their identity.

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Arlington Chamber Hosts Joint Networking Event

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce played host to members of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce at a joint networking breakfast Oct. 10 at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn.

The organization’s monthly Breakfast Connection allowed Arlington business owners to network with businesses from Northern Virginia through a roundtable format that provides attendees the chance to exchange business cards, develop prospects and share a 60-second pitch with each table.

The Arlington Chamber sponsors several regional joint networking events each year.

— JEANNE THEISMAN
Photos by Janet Barnett/The Connection

Washington International Horse Show

Oct. 22-27, 2019, Capital One Arena, Washington, DC

Established in 1958, the Washington International Horse Show is one of the most prestigious and entertaining equestrian events in North America. More than 26,000 spectators attend the six-day show, which includes Olympic-level competition along with community and charity events. More than 500 top horses and riders come to D.C. from all over the globe to jump for more than a half a million dollars in prize money. Highlights include the $136,300 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington, for the President’s Cup presented by Events DC, the $25,000 Puissance high jump on Military Night, the Lindsay Maxwell Charitable Fund WIHS Equitation Finals, and Kids’ Day, a free, fun and educational community event.

WIHS Kids’ Day 2019 will take place Saturday, Oct. 26, from 10 am - 2 pm, in front of the Hotel Monaco at 700 F Street NW (the street will be closed for the event) and face painting and other events will be held on the Capital One Arena concourse. One adult per child is permitted entry into the arena, free of charge.

Get Involved: Upper Bluemont Park Project

Join the first community meeting for the Upper Bluemont Park Conceptual Design at https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/upper-bluemont-project/ project on Tues., Oct. 29 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Ashlawn Elementary 5950 8th Rd N, Arlington, VA 22205 in the multi-purpose room.

This Parks Maintenance Capital project will address the tennis courts, tennis court lighting, restroom/storage, shelter, parking lot, adjoining section of Four Mile Run Trail, site furnishings, walkways, ADA improvements, drainage, and landscaping. Funding to construct the project will come from an upcoming Capital Improvement Plan.

In June 2019, the county started reaching out to the community to see how residents use the courts, parking, shelter, etc. at Bluemont Park. We connected with people in our parks, online via the project page, and at the 2019 Arlington County Fair. Here is what they learned. https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2019/09/Bluemont-Questionnaire-9-3-19-WITHOUT-Names.pdf

For example: Regarding your experience in visiting Bluemont Park, what is most important to you? The top answer was walking and hiking, followed by nature, paths and trees.

The Oct. 29 meeting will outline the project’s scope of work and schedule, present an analysis of the existing site conditions, and conduct a break-out session in which residents will be able to ask questions and share ideas with the project team. The feedback gathered will be used for the conceptual design phase.

Can’t make the meeting? A corresponding online feedback opportunity will be launched after the meeting for those who cannot join us in person.
On Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Sheriff’s Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 18th opportunity in nine years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. This disposal service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

National Drug Take Back Drop-Off Locations

The Arlington County Police Department and Sheriff’s Office will collect prescription drugs at the following sites:

- **Fire Station #1** (500 S. Glebe Road)
  Arlington, VA 22204
- **Fire Station #2** (4805 Wilson Boulevard)
  Arlington, VA 22203
- **Fire Station #9** (1900 S. Walter Reed Drive)
  Arlington, VA 22204

Please note: The DEA cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps. Only pills or patches will be accepted. To safely dispose of sharps, Arlington County recommends placing the item in a hard-plastic container, such as a detergent bottle, securing the container and placing it in your trash cart. Do not put this container in your recycling. If you need more information, contact your local pharmacist.

For additional collection sites across the region, visit their site locator.

Additional Resources

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, there are numerous treatment resources available in Arlington County health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/treatment-resources/ and through the Department of Human Services. Assistance is also available through Operation Safe Station, a designated safe environment where individuals wishing to seek help with their drug use can self-report and receive services, without fear of prosecution and incarceration.
From princesses to superheroes, within the next two weeks, as Halloween approaches, many children will be choosing a costume. As children express their creativity with the help of wigs and light sabers, public safety advocates are encouraging caution both in costume selection and mapping-out a Halloween night route.

“There are several components to safety, first make certain the costumes are well-fitted so they aren’t a tripping hazard,” said Tammy Franks, senior program manager for Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council. “Instead of masks that could obstruct their view try using non-toxic face paint.”

It’s possible to use face paint that is free of toxins, but doesn’t sacrifice a creative disguise, says Aieda Turner of costume supply store Total Fright in Arlington. “Mehron face paint is completely safe and it’s made of aloe vera and cucumber and doesn’t have any alcohol which can irritate a child’s skin,” she said. “Almost all children’s costumes made now, even elaborate costumes, are fire resistant.”

When children are trick-or-treating without a parent, says Franks, drivers should be able to see children, especially if they are wearing a dark costume. Adding glow-in-the-dark or reflective tape can help. “Children should carry a flashlight or glow stick so that they can see and be seen,” she said. “Parents should make sure that costume is flame resistant and they should add a reflective component.”

“The costume itself shouldn’t have accessories that pose hazards,” says Franks. “For example, if your costume includes a sword or knife, make it out of foam or cardboard or something flexible,” she said. “Parents should make a plan with their child about the route they’ll take so they’ll know where to find them in an emergency situation. They should also agree on the time when a child should be back at home.”

Children should carry a cell phone so that parents can contact them if necessary, says Franks. “Parents should definitely be able to reach their children on Halloween,” she said. “As hard as it might be these days, parents should stress to their children the danger of texting and keeping their head buried in their phones while trick-or-treating.”

Staying in well-lit areas and trick-or-treating with a group of friends can help make Halloween activities safer. “The same basic rules of pedestrian safety also apply on Halloween. Cross the street in crosswalks, stay on the sidewalk… and walk instead of running when crossing the street so that you don’t trip.”

—Tammy Franks, Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council
Arlington Adds More Glass Recycling Bins

Arlington residents have three more drop-off sites for recycling used glass jars and bottles.

Customized purple-and-green bins now stand ready at:
- Aurora Hills Community Center/Branch Library, 735 18th St. S.
- Cherrydale Branch Library, 2190 N. Military Rd.
- Lee Community Center, 5722 Lee Highway.

The County debuted its first glass-only collection bins in April at Quincy Park (Washington Boulevard and North Quincy Street) and the Trades Center (2700 S. Taylor St.) after an official County Board response to the plunge in the number of processing operations and global markets for used glass.

WATCH: Solid Waste Bureau Chief Erik Grabowsky answers questions about the shift in glass, construction and landscaping.

Residents are now formally asked to keep glass out of single-stream “blue cart” recycling collected weekly at the curb.

Other troublesome items to keep out of the blue carts: plastic bags, shredded paper, wire hangers and garden hoses. Try the County’s Where Does It Go? Database at recycling.arlingtonva.us.

Glass placed in Arlington drop-off bins is transported to Fairfax County, where crushing machinery servicing multiple jurisdictions turns bottles and jars into sand and gravel used in area paving, construction and landscaping.

Arlington residents have placed some 200 tons of glass in the Quincy and Trades recycling bins since their debut.

Fun fact: The holes in the sides of the collection bins are sized to allow for bottles and jars while keeping out larger items that could contaminate the loads and force sorting at the crushing site. The relatively small hole also provides protection as glass falls inside the bin.

Most Arlington residents are now less than 2.5 miles from a glass recycling drop-off. Glass drop-off combined with other errands is encouraged along with neighbors teaming up to reduce trips.

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COMPLIMENTARY TICKET PROGRAM

For members of select community, service, and other organizations*

See Bulletin, Page 11

*Visit WBMS.org/freeTickets for program details and updates. Subject to terms and availability.
All That Jazz.

At OCT. 17 AND 20

ONGOING

Basketball Shooting Clinics

❖ Art scenes. An opening reception is scheduled to feature work by young and emerging artists to tell diverse stories about habitats and the plants, animals and humans that call them home. The program is free; an optional lunch is $5. Visit the website at www.rockspringgardenclub.com.

Rosslyn Cider Fest. 4-8 p.m. At Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Hwy., Arlington. Admission is free, but you can purchase tickets in advance (recommended to avoid lines) or at the door to taste 10 cider samples from cideries that will be attending. Meanwhile, you’ll have free s’mores and a bonfire. And you can join in on the pie-eating contest. You’ll be rocked to sleep by DJ’s live music. The winner will receive a free basket of Roxley goodies. Visit www.rockspringcider.com or www.rockspringgardenclub.com.

Art Hope Love. 7-9:30 p.m. At Faith Lutheran Church, 3313 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. Art Hope Love: An Artful Evening is an art show and sale benefitting children’s health care research. The evening includes an art show with 25 artists, wine and cheese, and live music. Tickets are $30 at the door. To view art and buy your ticket, go to www.BluffFoundation.org.

Fridays at the Fountain. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Downtown Cultural Arts Center, 401 North Howard Street, Baltimore. Cost is $25-$30. Originally created for Capital Fringe Festival 2018 and now presented at Charm City Fringe Festival in Baltimore, Beauty and the Beat is sure to kick up recollections of neighborhoods, roommates, lunches or lane-changing experiences of you for a parking space. Email: janefranklin.com or visit the website https://www.janefranklin.com/beauty-and-the-beat.

Marymount University Alumni Exhibition At Marymount University’s Barry Gallery, 1101 North Glebe Road, Arlington. Curated by J.S. Herbert, the show features paintings, photographs, mixed media and sculpture works by Marymount University alumni. Opening Reception: Friday, Oct. 18, from 6-8 p.m. There were many strong submissions from various majors. This exhibition is open to all Marymount students, regardless of major, and highlights the many continued artistic talents of the Marymount community.

Marymount.edu/barrygallery.

SATURDAY/ OCT. 19

Beer and Oyster Fest. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Copperwood Tavern in Shirlington Village, 2756 S. Arlington Mill Drive, Arlington. Featuring 40-plus craft beers, food and oyster tents as well as local vendors. Family and pet-friendly event. Tickets $15. Visit the website: www.shirrtoolivervillage.com.

Fall Hermitage Celebration. 1-3 p.m. At Columbia Gardens Cemetery, 3411 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. Special activities for adults and children. Turn on the lights to see the cemetery at night. App; visit the bee hives, paint a pumpkin, meet rose experts, enjoy Pooers, enjoy refreshments. Free. Visit the website: columbiagardencemetery.com.

Fall Heritage Festival. 1-5 p.m. At Gulf Branch Nature Center, Arlington. Families. Gather around to enjoy the Waller Family’s collection of minerals and rocks and their national heritage: Try your hand at some old-time games and crafts, make a wooden doll, try on a coonskin cap, or work the cider press. Write with a quill pen, churn butter, and enjoy other-time music. Drop in anytime between 1-5 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: $728-2200-3400. No registration required.

Halloween Animals Campfire. 6-7 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington. The whole family is invited to join in our campfires, for lots of old fashioned fun. You’ll hear campfire stories, may meet some animal guests, play games, sing songs, and, of course, enjoy S’mores! Each campfire has a nature theme and promises to entertain. Visit parkslansingcva.com/campfires.

National Chamber Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. At Gunston Arts Center (Theater One), 2700 South Lang St., Arlington. The National Chamber Ensemble opens its 2019-2020 Season with A Mozart Celebration. Piano virtuoso Carlos Cesar Rodriguez performs one of Mozart’s greatest piano concertos in a quintet setting to experience Mozart’s masterpieces in a new way. This is the same work Mr. Rodriguez made his debut with at the tender age of 18! The Overture to the Marriage of Figaro and Symphony No. 40, some of Mozart’s most famous and popular works complete the program. Don’t miss the chance to hear this magical music presented in a unique way.

SUNDAY/ OCT. 20

R.I.P. - Remove Invasive Plants. 2-4 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington. Adults, teens and families ages 8 and up. Want to reduce habitat and increase native species diversity right here in Arlington? Work parties are held every month and are making a difference with the return of ferns, wildflowers and the animals that depend on them to areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. Help us take action every month. Free: 703-228-6635. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. No pre-registration required.


Notable Nature. 3-4 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington. Families ages 5 and up. Want to learn about the flora and fauna in your neighborhood? Join us for lessons in nature journaling and sketching. They’ll construct nature journals, hone your writing and drawing skills, and talk about the season while hiking. Call 703-228-6635. Free. 703-412-9430 or visit www.crystalcity.org/do/

MONDAY, OCT. 21

Litter Critics. 2-3 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington. Any age to 10. They’ll hunt in thefallen leaves for crickets, centipedes, millipedes and other litter critics to learn how they enrich our local ecosystems, the reasons to care and how to help support those who have endured domestic violence and are homeless. Register now. Free. Visit the website: http://arlingtonrose.org/

Nature Photography Hike. 3:30-5 p.m. Meet at the parking lot of the Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center, 4500 12th St. NW. Arlington. Families ages 7 and up. Register by calling Sen. Mark Warner. Call 703-745-0650 or visit the website: https://www.mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email Olivia McKay at 703-525-2400 or chamber@arlingtonchamber.org.

TUESDAY, OCT. 22

Preparing Your Garden for Winter. 7-8 p.m. At Gunston Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street, Arlington. Fall is the ideal time to prepare your garden for winter. Learn about the right plants and lawn care for the season while hiking. Call 703-228-6535. Cost is $5. 703-412-9430 or visit www.encorestage.org or by calling the box office.

OCT. 17

Joint Aircraft Noise Study

Arlington County and Montgomery County, Maryland, have jointly released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consulting services in support of a study of aircraft noise proximate to Reagan National Airport.

The two jurisdictions will jointly hire a consultant for a study of aircraft noise, and recommendations for improvement.

Arlington has allocated $125,000 for the work described in the Scope of Services, matched by an equal allocation by Montgomery, for a total budget of $250,000.

From the RFP:
The purpose is to: analyze existing aircraft noise and operations data to enable understanding by the public; inform efforts by policymakers to reduce noise impacts; and to identify, evaluate and propose mitigations to reduce impacts on residents of Arlington County, Montgomery County, and other communities north of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).

The contractor will provide Arlington and Montgomery elected officials, staff, and representatives on the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) DCA Community Working Group (CWG) with technical resources to better understand the nature of airspace management and possible alternatives and assist with coordination and broader community outreach among surrounding jurisdictions, MWAA, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The Aircraft Noise Abatement and Mitigation Study is to be completed within 12 months from the date of the execution of the contract and ongoing support services from the date of the execution of the Contract for a period of up to two years following completion of the Study. The selected Contractor will be entering into an agreement with Arlington County, Virginia. The requested services have been agreed to by Arlington and Montgomery through a Public Entity Contract.

Since October 2015, Arlington has participated in the DCA Community Working Group as the venue for a regional discussion on aircraft noise impacts and solutions. The Community Working Group has a North of Airport committee composed of members from Arlington, Montgomery, and the District of Columbia. The DCA Community Working Group activities mirror those supported by the FAA and being undertaken across the country in other metropolitan areas seeking to address community impacts. Despite the creation of this group, and the deliberations it has hosted, there remains a lack of data-driven understanding of what has caused the increased noise impacts and what can be done to address them.

Many jurisdictions around the region have grown frustrated with the pace and process of the Community Working Group and the perceived lack of responsiveness from MWAA and the FAA.

Participation in the Community Working Group remains robust as no other regional venue exists to address aircraft noise issues. A group of residents in Northwest Washington unsuccessfully sued the FAA over the new DCA flight procedures, and the State Joint Aircraft Noise Study

See Noise Study, Page 11

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In addition to hitting the books this fall, more Virginia college students may hit the polls next month, according to the Virginia Department of Elections.

Virginia Department of Elections data show that 10,923 students in Virginia have applied for absentee ballots this year. That’s more than double the number of absentee ballot applications (4,878) received in 2015, the last year all 140 seats were up for reelection in the General Assembly, according to Christopher Piper, commissioner of the department.

Residents (including students) have requested 66,219 applications for absentee voting, according to state election data. Records show that 62,605 absentee ballots were filed four years ago. As of today, the state has filed 24,766 absentee ballots; it remains to be seen how many more are returned.

Piper said absentee ballots have increased in popularity. Last year, voters submitted 287,763 absentee ballots, the highest number of votes in the state during a non-presidential election based on the data available since 1976. The 2008 presidential election had the highest rate of absentee voting recorded in Virginia, with 506,672 absentee votes submitted.

"Using absentee voting is a good indicator of potential turnout, and if you look at previous elections and compare it to today there has been an increase in this election and overall," Piper said.

Traditionally, voter turnout is highest during presidential elections and drops during state elections. For instance, 72% of registered voters participated in the 2016 presidential election, but turnout for the 2017 gubernatorial election fell to 48%. That same year, the second highest number of absentee votes, 496,452, were filed.

Perhaps this election is predicted to spur higher voter turnout in part because it includes over 30 competitive races. Further, redistricting maps gave an advantage to some House Democrats, who hope to wrest back the slim majority Republicans hold — in both chambers.

As of Sept. 30, Virginia had 5,612,769 registered voters. In the 2015 election, nearly 5.2 million residents registered to vote and a little over 1.5 million, or 29%, actually voted.

Erin Burke Brown, the voter registration and turn-out chair for VCU Votes, which promotes voter engagement at Virginia Commonwealth University, said it remains to be seen whether young voters will show up to the polls.

"It depends on whether young people are fired up to want things to change and have their voices heard," Brown said.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 15. Applications for absentee ballots can be found online or by visiting the local registrar’s office. The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is Oct. 29. The deadline to vote in-person absentee is Nov. 2.
Joint Aircraft Noise Study

From Page 9

of Maryland has an active lawsuit against the FAA. Arlington and Montgomery, with their common interests north of the airport, have elected to fund and initiate their own joint analysis and related tasks through this RFP.

The Counties aim through this RFP to take a holistic approach to procedure design, reducing aircraft noise where possible, and equitably sharing the impacts where necessary.

Bulletin Board

From Page 7

November 1-4

Arlington Memorial Bridge will close to drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists from 10 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1 until 5 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 4. During the closure, workers will prepare the southside of the bridge to accommodate traffic. When the bridge reopens, drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists will use the newly rehabilitated southside. After the temporary closure ends, the lane configuration will be the same as it is now:

- One lane will be open eastbound (into D.C.).
- One lane will be open westbound (toward Va.).
- One lane will be reversible to accommodate rush hour traffic.

The schedule for lane shifts will also stay the same. Monday through Friday, the reversible lane will run eastbound (into D.C.) from 4 a.m. to noon and westbound (toward Va.) from noon through the overnight hours until 4 a.m. On Saturdays, Sundays and federal government holidays, two lanes will always run eastbound and one lane will always run westbound. Drivers should watch the overhead signals on the bridge to know which lanes are open for travel in their direction. Check online for updates at go.nps.gov/MemorialBridge.

Wednesday/December 4

Narcan Training Sessions.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

Rock Springs UCC Church, 5010 Little Falls Road, Arlington, offers Narcan Training Sessions. A 60-minute training will prepare participants to help someone experiencing an opioid overdose. Certification is not required but it is recommended. Visit health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness for available training sessions. Registration is not required but it is recommended. Visit www.christianfoodfoundation.org/narcan to register.

DONATIONS

The Arlington Food Assistance Center seeks local gardeners and farmers willing to grow and provide free vegetable seeds to those who pledge to donate produce from community or personal gardens. Visit https://afac.org/plots-against-hunger or contact powen.lee@afac.org or 703-845-8486. Seeds are available now at AFAC, 2708 S. Nelson St., during regular business hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Produce can also be donated at AFAC at the hours listed above or at:

- Arlington Courthouse Farmer's Market, Saturdays 8 a.m.-noon (look for the AFAC cooler near the Master Gardener information table).
- Rock Springs UCC Church, 5010 Little Falls Road, Sundays 9 a.m.-noon only (Look for the donation bin on the Rock Spring Drive side of the church).


By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This is a punchline to a joke I heard 50 plus years ago during my adolescence. I never knew what the actual joke was, but somehow it was thought to be funny. And so too was funny the other day when preparing to take a shower at home, I noticed that the bar of soap waiting for me in the shower was covered in yellow scum and the Patrick McClean coefficient for the task at hand. I then opened the bathroom vanity where I knew I had back up and saw there was only one bar containing, it was the last hold-out of an eight pack I had bought many months ago. As Maurice Chevalier sang in the movie “Gigi,” “Ah, French women will talk it over.”

And remember it well as I remember other similar bulk-type purchases. Sometimes, being demonstrative, being positive about the negative and interferences in the most unusual way. When I buy things or make arrangements to solve a problem in the future, I’ll often wonder if I’ll still be alive to actually derive the benefit from this day’s commitment. As involves the soap; that day in the supermarket aisle, I was really looking for a two- or a three-pack, not an eight-pack, hesitating to overbuy when I may under-use. I suppose if I had plenty of money and fewer financial concerns than I do now, I wouldn’t have given this soap purchase area that at or over, not somebody else.

And sometimes, I don’t want to be me. I’d rather be somebody else. Somebody else who throws a bit more caution to the wind. Somebody who doesn’t think twice about marrying the woman or man I love. I accept the reality seeps into every decision I make, and with stage IV lung cancer, with no bucket list or urgency about anything; and to assimilate having children, my diagnosis certain, the future while being mindful of the present and the past. And likewise as I always have. My diagnosis certain, the future while being mindful of the present and the past. And likewise as I always have. In addition, to invoke the same popular culture references and impressions, without punchlines, do the same impressions, it: amazingly lucky.

Nutropia in my feet).

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

Still I have to take things in stride - or else. Moreover, I make the same jokes, with or without punchlines, do the same impressions, invoke the same popular culture references and make decisions as I always have. In addition, I allocate the coinage funds and planning for the future while being mindful of the present likewise as I always have. My diagnosis certainly defines me, but I try not to let it control me. Still, its reality seeps into every decision I make, from soap to shoes and the metaphor turtles into the conversation. Nevertheless, at the end of the day (at the beginning, too), I may not be Sammy Davis Jr., but I’ll be me.

And “me” is someone who doesn’t throw caution anywhere, has never sworn at a tornado and loves turtles, especially when they beat hares. My approach to this excruciating cancer ordeal is to keep my glass half full, compartmentalize, be positive about the negative and not “Live Like You Were Dying,” as sung by Tim McGraw, but to live like I was living. Which to me has meant to live normally as if I didn’t have stage IV lung cancer, with no bucket list or urgency about anything; and to assimilate having cancer, my life as just another variable, like the weather or the Red Sox bullpen.

Unfortunately, and it might just be me (Oh, really?) finding out life, death, and other matters doesn’t change the fact that I am, like many of you, a victim of cancer. That is, the day I was diagnosed with a “terminal” form of cancer in the movie “Gigi:” “Ah. I remember it well.”

The last hold-out of an eight pack I had bought years ago during my adolescence. I never knew what the actual joke was, but somehow it was thought to be funny. And so too was funny the other day when preparing to take a shower at home, I noticed that the bar of soap waiting for me in the shower was covered in yellow scum and the Patrick McClean coefficient for the task at hand. I then opened the bathroom vanity where I knew I had back up and saw there was only one bar containing, it was the last hold-out of an eight pack I had bought many months ago. As Maurice Chevalier sang in the movie “Gigi,” “Ah, French women will talk it over.”

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