



Puwen Lee just after helping to glean 1,396 pounds of turnips and collard greens.

Puwen Lee Retiring After Plotting Against Hunger

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PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of 55+ Programs 11/25-30/19
Arlington County 55+ Centers will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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

55+ Travel Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, NY, Monday, Nov. 25, \$83; Thanksgiving Dinner at Dutch's Daughter, Frederick, MD, \$75. *Call*

Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. *Registration required.*

NEW PROGRAMS:

Overview of Phillips Collection,

D.C., featuring French artists, Monday, Nov. 25, 1:30 p.m., \$6. Register, 703-228-5722.

Ballroom Dance instruction,

Monday, Nov. 25, 6:30 p.m., \$49/7 sessions, Walter Reed. Register early, 703-228-0955.

Country musicians and singers

needed first and third Mondays, 11:15 a.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Line dancing, absolute beginners,

Mondays, 10:30 a.m., TJ Community Center. Details, 703-228-4771.

Senior ice skating, MedStar Capitals

Iceplex, Ballston Quarter, Mondays, 8:10-9:20 a.m.; Wednesdays, 8:25-

9:25 a.m. Details, 703-228-4771.

55+ Biking Group seeking rotating leaders for trips on bike paths/trails in Arlington. Details, 703-228-4771.

Genealogy 101, basic research tips, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 11:30 a.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Let's keep on smiling, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.

Is soy good for you? Tuesday, Nov. 26, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

Arlington Walking Club members will travel to Oxon Hill Farm, MD, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 9:30 a.m., \$4. Register, 703-228-4771.

Programs 12/8-14/19

55+ Centers: Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.;

Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Arlington Mill, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.; Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.

55+ Travel American Holiday Festival, DAR, D.C., Army Band, Sunday, Dec. 8, \$5; Festival of Lights, Upper Marlboro, MD, Tuesday, Dec. 10, \$12; Riverside Christmas Spectacular, Fredericksburg, Wednesday, Dec. 11, \$59 (includes lunch); National Museum of African American History and Culture, D.C., Friday, Dec. 13, \$6; National Theatre, D.C., "Fiddler on the Roof," Saturday, Dec. 14, \$110. *Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.*

Arlington Changes Bonus Density Rules to Spur Affordable Housing

The Arlington County Board on Saturday, Nov. 16, moved to spur the creation of more affordable housing and meet public infrastructure and facility needs by revising bonus density maximums for site plan projects that would provide those public benefits. The Board also approved a redefinition of "low or moderate income" to allow the Board the flexibility to consider a higher affordability income range.

"In keeping with the goals of our Affordable Housing Master Plan and our Housing Arlington Initiative, the Board's action today gives us flexibility to approve additional density above the 25 percent maximum we now allow," Arlington County Board Chair Christian Dorsey said. "Bonus density has allowed us to build hundreds of units of affordable housing across Arlington, and particularly in the transit-rich Metro corridors, without relying on County funding. We believe this new flexibility will encourage developers to add more affordable homes in their projects."

Bonuses are a land use tool that allow for additional density and height above the level indicated on the General Land Use Plan and applicable zoning district standards when the Board makes certain findings about the proposed development. The Board voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Ordinance to remove the current maximum combined bonus of 25 percent above that allowed in the respective zoning district for residential projects, or an additional 0.25 FAR for office projects in return for providing affordable housing and community facilities.

The Board voted instead to give itself the flexibility to consider more density, within the heights specified for each zoning district, for residential, commercial or hotel developments that propose to contribute affordable housing or community facilities. The Board also approved changes to the General Land Use Plan.

The Board's actions followed a staff zoning study on bonus provisions for special exception site plans. The changes will allow the County to consider what bonus density is appropriate for a special exception site plan development

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 5

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Puwen Gleans Vegetables and Friendships at AFAC

Retiring after 13 years building the Plot Against Hunger Program.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Puwen Lee walks into her office at the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) on Nelson Street, a little dusty from four hours of gleaning turnips, mustard greens and collards at USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Station. She says, “We couldn’t see the end of the field of turnips.” Today she and eight volunteers had spent the morning gleaning 1,396 pounds of turnips and collard greens.

Lee says a native of Arlington is an entomologist at the Agricultural Research Station who does research on bugs and has given AFAC access to the fields of vegetables. “Every time we go, we get a biology lesson.”

AFAC is an independent, community-based non-profit food pantry that provides dignified access to nutritious supplemental groceries to over 2,400 families each week. With limited incomes, they often choose less expensive and less nutritious options than fresh produce.

Lee is currently retiring as Volunteer Manager and as Associate Director of Programs and Plot Against Hunger at AFAC. This program relies on partnerships with local and regional farms, Arlington urban gardeners, grocery stores, congregations, schools and government agencies to increase the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables for families in need.

Lee remembers when she started as a volunteer 13 years ago and the staff was much smaller at six paid positions where it has now grown to 20. A year or so after she volunteered, AFAC had a part time opening for a staff member, and Lee took off running. Charles Meng, CEO of AFAC says, “Puwen has the distinction of being the longest tenured employee of AFAC.”

Lee remembers in the beginning, “I noticed there was no produce when people came to pick up, only frozen. Every once in



Puwen Lee just returned from helping to glean 1,396 pounds of turnips and collard greens.

a while we were able to give people one apple, one grapefruit. It was hit or miss. I said ‘can we ask gardeners if they will share their produce.’”

Lee started working at AFAC at the beginning of the recession so she says they realized they had to tighten their belts. Instead of buying cans of black beans, they started buying large quantities of black beans wholesale. “People weren’t taking the cans but when we started giving bags of black beans they liked it because they could season them the way they liked, and we were saving money.”



AFAC truck loaded and ready for delivery to one of their 13 sites.

Lee says Charlie did a large reorganization of the system. “Things regularized, so helpful.”

Then one day she came in and found a big box on her desk. It was full of seed packets. “They told me, ‘you’re the gardener; you figure out what to do.’” She said she was lucky she had a boss in the volunteer department who gave her the flexibility to go beyond. “I started talking to the community, to farmers and had a board member who was very interested.”

Lee says she very quickly identified two major strengths, the Farmer’s Market and

the gleaning concept. They had one school and one farmer’s market the first year, and Rock Spring UCC was the first church to participate a short while later.

In the beginning it was only the farmers market at Courthouse and now there are eight or nine farmers markets that donate their produce. “Farmers are happy to do that and sometimes it is easier for them because by the time they get the produce back home from the market, it isn’t good anymore, except maybe for the hogs.” She said they can get maybe 15,000 pounds over the summer

SEE PUWEN GLEANS, PAGE 10

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Local Residents Gobble Up Free Thanksgiving Dinner

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Let me take water out of the fridge and we’ll be ready.” The mashed potatoes come out first. Mona Farah checks the potatoes with a thermometer to be sure they are at least 140 degrees.

Farah has been in the kitchen with Anne Peret at Lee Community Center heating up the traditional Thanksgiving dinner donated once again by Harris Teeter. Soon the mashed potatoes are joined by cornbread dressing, green bean casserole, turkey and steaming gravy.

Myrna Manolis says she has been working on these dinners for 20 years since she first went to Harris Teeter with the idea. Usually they have about 80 people for the free lunch.



Lucky table 4 is the first to eat at the annual Thanksgiving lunch.

“The manager told me to write down a letter of what we wanted. I decided to ask

for it all so I included cokes, rolls, cranberry sauce. And he said ‘fine.’ So now I just

double check about two weeks ahead of time.” She said they have thank you cards for everyone to sign for Harris Teeter on each table that were designed by their own stampers at Lee.

Chattering fills the room as old time attendees catch up and new ones find a spot at a table. A glass bowl with numbers sits by the paper plates at the beginning of the line. “We’ll be calling the tables up by numbers.” Lucky number 4 is the first to load up their plates. “We always have plenty of food.” Some of the people are already looking forward to their second helping. Everyone has a favorite. “White meat only for me please.” “Extra mashed potatoes.” “I never eat cranberry sauce.”

The lunch is sponsored each year by the Lee Advisory Committee and the Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Before and after tree demolition in Chain Bridge Forest.

If a Tree Falls in the Forest and Everyone Is There to Hear It

Chain Bridge Forest loses over 200 trees to developers.

One day in early fall, heavy equipment came and “just started pulling out the trees on a large wooded lot in Chain Bridge Forest.” Russ Pommer says, “We always knew the property owned by one guy since 1987 would be developed.”

Then it went up for sale in early 2018. Carol Lynn MacCurdy who lives at 3853 N. River Street remembers her husband wrote to County Manager Mark Schwartz on Sept. 8, 2018 highlighting his concern with the need to protect diminishing forest and the County’s lack of innovative and flexible approach to development. She says he received no response.

Pommer says, “One day in mid-summer a nice developer came by and said he was going to do a high end development, wanted it to look nice, would keep the trees to the extent he could.” Pommer says there was never a red alert.

Then one day Pommer noticed a County Land Disturbing Activity permit on the property posted on June 28. Soon after heavy equipment came and in a few days had pulled out everything including 10-12 trees that were 100 years old near their house.

MacCurdy who lives next door to Pommer and has been leading the neighborhood efforts drafted a petition Sept. 15 and sent it to the County Board members.

Pommer says, “We didn’t know what to do. “All our trees were down.”

Sept. 19 Phillip French, another neighbor, followed with a letter.

They received a detailed response on Oct. 15 outlining the County’s complex and challenging review and approval process with



Chain Bridge Forest residents (from left) Russ Pommer, Carol Lynn MacCurdy, Jerry Feinberg, Sunita DMonte and Russ Travers.

background and timeline on this project. Greg Emanuel, Director of the Department of Environmental Services, and Claude Williamson, Director of the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, signed it. It concluded, “We are balancing those concerns with our obligation to enforce the relevant ordinances that govern the situation.”

The neighbors thought these setbacks seemed out of compliance with the Arlington Zoning Code, which Pommer says requires a 25-foot setback in rear. “I thought they would have to apply for a variance and we would have a chance to object. But I learned that wasn’t the case after the fact because people who approve it have a very

liberal view of setback.” He said he was told there is a lot of creativity allowed.

MacCurdy says, “There are setbacks of only 8 feet from our houses. No trees or privacy for anyone.” She continues, “Our neighborhood is ruined forever by complete outsiders have no ties to Arlington. They took down over 200 trees to build four McMansions. Their principal investor grew up in Argentina but lives in Bethesda. The two developers are from Romania — one of whom has a financial services firm tied to investors in Transylvania, Romania. The irony is not lost on us.”

French appeared before the County Board on Oct. 19 representing the residents. According to Pommer, Dorsey said, “Sorry, this

is a Zoning Board problem; there is nothing we can do.” So Pommer wrote to the Zoning Board but says he doesn’t expect a response.

In early November MacCurdy followed up with a series of questions to the Arlington County Manager’s office about legal rights against developers who killed two large trees on her property, refusal to protect trees on neighboring property and responsibility for dead trees or property damage. The County responded on Nov. 7, “The County cannot provide you with legal advice and any impact to trees between private properties should be resolved between owners. We recommend getting an estimate from a private arborist.”

Kit Norland, a core member of the Arlington Tree Action Group, points out that the County has given free rein to developers on the same day the Eco-Action hosts a talk on biophilia (the premise that humans possess an innate connection to the natural world)—with the Board planning a resolution on becoming a biophilic city by the end of the year. “Pretty rich juxtaposition.”

County Board member Libby Garvey visited Chain Bridge Forest on Nov. 9 at the neighbor’s request to view the devastation. County Board Member Matt De Ferranti has also visited the site.

After her visit, Garvey sent out the picture of Chain Bridge Forest residents with the following comment, “Saw by-right development that clear cut large lot and is harming trees near site. Need to examine regs that can discourage such projects.”

Pommer concludes, “My biggest disappointment is that I have lived in Arlington a long time, paid taxes and been satisfied with the schools, services. I was surprised that this whole process is skewed. It is designed to help developers build more houses.”

Arlington to Regulate Scooters Largely Like Bicycles

The Arlington County Board adopted regulations for e-scooters and other shared micro-mobility devices that will allow their use on sidewalks (with limitations), trails, and bike lanes, unless specifically signed or marked otherwise. The devices will be treated largely like bicycles.

Devices will be required to have speedometers. Motorized scooters and skateboards will be restricted to a top speed of 15 miles per hour, and e-bicycles will have a top speed of 20 miles per hour on streets and trails. When operating on public sidewalks, the top speed of all the devices is restricted to six miles per hour. The devices will not be allowed to operate on sidewalks where a protected bicycle lane is available and may be prohibited from other sidewalks at the Manager's discretion.

"Arlington is all about transportation options," Arlington County Board Chair Christian Dorsey said. "Based on the evidence gathered during our pilot program, scooters and other micro-mobility devices are a viable transportation alternative for many. They will add another layer to the County's

multi-layered transportation network, in keeping with our goal of encouraging those who live and work in Arlington to choose an alternative to driving alone in a car." The Board voted unanimously to approve the regulations and permitting process.

The Board also approved a permit system to regulate the private companies renting the devices in the County. The Board's actions came after staff collected extensive data on how, where and by whom the devices are being used in Arlington, and analyzed hundreds of comments from residents through a pilot program the County launched in October 2018.

Recent state legislation requires localities that want to prohibit motorized skateboards or scooters on sidewalks to adopt an ordinance by January 1, 2020. Localities do not have the legal authority in Virginia to ban micro-mobility devices. The County's adopted ordinance goes into effect on Dec. 31, 2019.

Arlington will open the permit program to vendors and evaluate those applications. Another initial step will be to determine, based

on pilot feedback and evaluation data, which sidewalks should be excluded from sidewalk riding and to prepare for the installation of any necessary sidewalk signage and markings. The Rosslyn-Ballston corridor will be one of the first areas considered for sidewalk-riding prohibition.

The regulations prohibit parking the devices on sidewalks other than in a rack, against the curb, or against street signs or light posts or at the curb at the back edge of the sidewalk, where they will not obstruct pedestrians. They cannot be parked on streets, other than against a curb or in a corral. Neither can they obstruct curb ramps, pedestrian access within bus stops or fire access, or on private property without the owner's permission, among other restrictions.

A violation of these newly established restrictions on parking will be subject to a \$50 civil penalty if the company fails to remedy within two hours of it being reported.

To facilitate enforcement, scooters are required to be marked with unique identifying numbers, owner contact information, and

contact information in Braille.

Staff is identifying areas to install corrals and will continue to encourage riders and companies to deploy and park the devices in corrals in the street wherever possible, rather than on the sidewalk.

The program gives the County Manager discretion to determine allowable fleet sizes, fleet cap, scoping education and equity expectations, penalties and enforcement. Fees collected through the program may be used to administer and evaluate the program, as well as build corrals, install bicycle racks and make other infrastruc-

ture improvements to support the program.

The ordinance also establishes equity expectations for providers, requiring that at least 15 percent of each permit holder's vehicles in service must be deployed each morning outside the Rosslyn-Ballston and Richmond Highway Metro corridors.

The program offers an incentive to include accessible vehicles for persons with differing physical abilities, and a requirement that permit-holders provide discounts to encourage use by lower-income community members.

Spur Affordable Housing

FROM PAGE 2

on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with existing sector plans, area plans, other policies, and zoning regulations.

More flexibility in defining what is low-to-moderate income

The County currently defines low-or-moderate-income as at or below 60 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) for rental housing and at or below 80 percent AMI

for home ownership housing. Under the changes approved by the Board, the County would also be able to allow "other income levels as determined by the County Board upon consideration of the Affordable Housing Master Plan," giving the Board flexibility to consider higher income levels when it considers approving additional density, or in limited circumstances, additional height.

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Cooking with Children this Thanksgiving

Holiday meal prep can help create life-long memories.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Mashing sweet potatoes for a soufflé and drizzling spoonfuls of olive oil over carrots for roasting are Sarah Pardo's earliest memories of cooking with her mother and younger sister during the holidays.

"Some of the things I made then became a family tradition," said Pardo, who is now a nutritionist in Falls Church. "I still make sweet potato soufflé every Thanksgiving."

From establishing tradition and making memories to building confidence and expanding one's palate, the holidays are a perfect time to include children in holiday meal preparation, says Pardo and other culinary aficionados. Bringing children into the kitchen using kid-friendly tools and recipes gets little ones excited about the feast, creates a sense of independence and offers an opportunity to learn about nutrition.

"Thanksgiving is all about tradition and family," said culinary instructor Terri Carr of Terri's Table in Potomac. "I started cooking with my son Nick when he was four or five. I bought him a Cookie Monster apron and we would bake and decorate cookies and give them to friends. We created a lot of special memories."

Allowing children to help with meal planning helps them to feel invested, especially if their favorite fare is included. Enticing children into trying new dishes that they claim to dislike might be made easier if they had a hand in the preparation. "You can also encourage them to try something new or introduce the food groups that make up a balanced meal," said Pardo. "Take them shopping with you and let them help you find the ingredients."

Advanced planning might be necessary for parents who tend to find preparing for a holiday meal stressful. "When you're in a frenzy to get the meal cooked before guests arrive, it might seem easier to do it yourself than have your kids



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI'S TABLE

Baking holiday cookies with her son when he was four, became a family tradition that continues today.

trying to help," said Jessica Bernard, a personal chef in Alexandria. "You can include them in the prep work, even the day before. They can wash vegetables or measure ingredients

"Kids particularly would love making mashed potatoes," added Carr. "When parents do the prep work, kids can put the dish together."

Cooking is not the only task involved in a holiday meal. Creating a centerpiece or the table or choosing decorative items to display will help them to feel included in the festivities. "Kids can set the table so that they realize that it's a special day," said Carr. "Get

them involved in decorating. You can set the table a day or two in advance and kids can make crafts to incorporate in the table setting. Decorating the house ahead of time gets everyone in the mood for the holiday."

"I started cooking with my son Nick when he was four or five. I bought him a Cookie Monster apron and we would bake and decorate cookies ... we created a lot of special memories."

—Terri Carr, Terri's Table

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Mixed-Use Redevelopment Approved for N. Glebe Rd. Harris Teeter Site

A mixed-use redevelopment approved by Arlington County Board will replace the Harris Teeter and the American Service Center on N. Glebe Rd. with apartments, a new grocery store, other ground floor retail and a new public open space.

“In addition to hundreds of new homes, this project will keep and expand Harris Teeter in Ballston, while adding other retail and a more than half-acre open space,” Arlington County Board Chair Christian Dorsey said. “It will transform an auto-oriented commercial area into a more walkable mixed-use neighborhood with a better balance of uses. In addition to the public open space, community benefits will include a \$4.1 million contribution to affordable housing; new public street connections; improvements to the traffic signals at Randolph Street and Glebe Road, and the replacement of a large water main under Glebe Road.”

The Board voted unanimously to approve amendments to the General Land Use Plan and existing site plans, a rezoning and other actions related to the redevelopment.

The approved plan will replace a single-story Harris Teeter, the American Service Center/Pre-Owned Mercedes Benz of Arlington at 600 N. Glebe Rd., and an adjacent single-family home at 525 N. Thomas Street, with two nine-story buildings and one seven-story building. The project in-



A rendering of the Harris-Teeter redevelopment.

cludes 732 apartments, 77,575 square feet of retail space and 942 parking spaces. The developer will build extensions of North Tazewell Street and North Randolph Street into the block.

One building, fronting on N. Glebe Road, North Randolph Street and North Tazewell Street, will feature apartments built above a new Harris Teeter, a central private courtyard and a green roof. The Board added a requirement that the developer expand the planned square footage of green roof by 10,000 square feet. The second building, fronting on North Tazewell Street, will be

entirely residential and include a private dog run and two private courtyards. The third building, with apartments built above ground floor retail, will front on North Glebe Road, North Randolph Street and North Tazewell Street.

The project will be built in three phases, with the existing Harris Teeter remaining open during the first phase, while the first building and the new Harris Teeter is built. The public open space will be built in the second phase.

The developer has agreed to build and maintain an approximately 0.63-acre pub-

lic open space on the site. The space’s design, guided by the Public Spaces Master Plan and the North Quincy Street Plan Addendum, will balance casual use spaces featuring biophilic design elements, urban and native plantings, including pollinator-friendly plants, a 2,000 square foot enclosed dog run, new trees; educational environmental nodes, accessible circulation, seating, bike racks, lighting and more. County Parks staff has completed the public engagement process on the design for the space that began in the summer of 2019.

The project will underground all overhead utilities and the utility service to the site and will contribute \$345,000 to the County’s underground utility fund. The developer also will install an in-building wireless first responders network.

The site plan, filed in November 2018, evolved through the public review process. The Planning Commission’s Site Plan Review Committee reviewed the site plan at three meetings, beginning in April 2019. During that process, the developer significantly altered the design and layout of the project: expanding public open space, improving building form, adding tapering of building heights, reducing ground-level parking, and making the design more pedestrian oriented. The proposed project also was reviewed by the County’s Parks and Recreation, Transportation and Planning Commissions.

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ONGOING

Arlington Mill Farmer's Market. Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. The market features produce, meats, and dairy products from our region's top local vendors. Visit columbiapike.org/fm-arlington-mill.

Visions 2019, Student Art Exhibition Grades 9-12. Now through Dec. 7. At Cody Gallery, 1000 North Glebe Road, 2nd Floor, Arlington. Sponsored by Marymount University Department of Fine Arts and School of Design, Arts, and Humanities. The Cody Gallery presents the juried high school student exhibition "Visions 2019." The show highlights high school talent from the City of Alexandria, and Arlington and Fairfax counties. cgallery@marymount.edu or call 703-908-7782.

Musical Theatre & Movement. Through Dec. 14, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Arlington County Cultural Affairs Building, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Musical Theatre and Movement is a youth dance class open to ages 6-11. In this class, students will work with music from popular musicals. The group will develop characters and a simple storyline. Tuition: \$105 for 6 class session. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/classes>

Re/Seen Photography Exhibit. Through Dec. 21, 12-5 p.m. At Fred Schnider Gallery of Art, 888 N. Quincy Street, Suite 102, Arlington. Re/Seen: Photographs by Jason Horowitz presents a "then and now" collection of work representative of how the artists' interests in abstraction and representation have

continued throughout his career as the technology he uses to create the work has evolved.

www.fredschnidergalleryofart.com
Art Exhibit: Borrowed from Dust. Through Dec. 22, Wednesday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. (or by appointment) at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Arlington Arts Center presents Borrowed from Dust, a solo exhibition of new work by AAC resident artist Marissa Long. Borrowed from Dust is a meditation on memory, loss, and impermanence. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6800.

Regional Biennial: Assembly 2019. Through Dec. 22, Wednesday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. (or by appointment) at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Arlington Arts Center is pleased to announce Assembly 2019, AAC's inaugural regional biennial. This new exhibition program will explore current material and conceptual trends among artists in the region, and will feature work by young and emerging artists alongside new work by artists with longstanding connections to the Mid-Atlantic region and its art scenes. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6800.

A Chorus Line. Through Jan. 5, 2020. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Winner of nine Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize, overflowing with sensational ballet, tap and jazz dance numbers. With one of the largest casts in Signature history www.sigtheatre.org.

Forty+ Dance Project. Through Jan. 14, 2020, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Cost is \$160. Forty+ Project is an eight week series. No previous performance experience is necessary. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus>



The National Chamber Ensemble (NCE) Holiday Concert will be held Dec. 14 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington.

NCE Holiday Concert

Saturday/Dec. 14, 7:30-10 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. The National Chamber Ensemble's (NCE) Holiday Concert will bring classical masterpieces and holiday favorites together for the whole family. The Outstanding Young Artist - piano competition winners perform. The concert concludes with a Carols Sing-Along to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Cost: \$36 for adults, \$18 for students. Visit the website: <https://www.nationalchamberensemble.org/>

Holidays and Christmas

NOV. 23-24

Breakfast with Santa. 9-10:30 a.m. At Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 S Orme Street, Arlington. Delight in the magic of the holidays and start your day the merry way, sharing Breakfast with Santa. Enjoy a hot breakfast buffet that also includes

seasonal fruits, freshly baked morning breads, assorted breakfast cereals, tea, coffee and cocoa. Note that each ticket is valid for one seat (ex: four seats require four tickets). Children under 18 months of age do not require a ticket but must sit on a lap. Sponsored by the Junior League of Northern Virginia. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Includes a general admission ticket. Cost is \$38/children; \$40/adults. Visit the website www.jlrv.org/TEF

The Enchanted Forest. Saturday 9

a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 S Orme Street, Arlington. The Enchanted Forest presented by the Junior League of Northern Virginia is a weekend-long holiday festival offering a wide variety of affordable events for the entire family. Attendees can stroll through a beautiful 'forest' of theme-decorated holiday trees for silent auction, enjoy live entertainment, visit with Santa, make holiday crafts and much more.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9



Meeting Santa at HGTV's Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center.

HGTV's Santa HQ in Tysons Corner Center

Now thru Dec. 24. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Kids can explore the wonder of Santa in the digital age with HGTV's Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center! This holiday, check out the interactive Elf Academy at Santa HQ. You can try on the latest elf looks with Santa's Magic Mirror, create your very own Elf-ID Card and scan yourself on the Naughty or Nice O'Meter. Plus, new this year, spend less time in line and more time on holiday fun with a Fast Pass. Prices and times vary. Visit the website: www.tysonscornercenter.com/SantaHQ



The Boat Parade of Lights will be held Saturday, Dec. 7 in Old Town Alexandria.

Boat Parade of Lights

Saturday/Dec. 7. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)

- Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
 - Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
 - Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
 - Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
 - Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
 - Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
- Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

Additional events include Breakfast with Santa, Gingerbread Workshops, Cocoa and Cupcakes with Santa, a Holiday Tea, and the Holly Jolly Holiday Party, an evening event for adults. General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$15 for children and are valid the entire weekend. All event tickets can be purchased at www.jlnv.org.

SATURDAY/NOV 23

Gingerbread House Workshops. 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 S. Orme Street, Arlington. Follow the gumdrops to The Enchanted Forest for a family-friendly, gingerbread house crafting palooza. There are three sessions: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 1-2:30 p.m.; and 3-4:30 p.m. Event benefits the Junior League of Northern Virginia's community program. Cost is \$35. Visit the website: <https://www.jlnv.org/tef/>

Cocoa with Santa. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 S. Orme Street, Arlington. Sip on delightful hot cocoa, enjoy delicious cupcakes and get a picture with the Santa. With a special appearance by the Sugar Plum Fairy. Cost is \$25/children; \$15/adults. Event benefits the Junior League of Northern Virginia's community programs. Visit the website: <https://www.jlnv.org/tef/>

SUNDAY/NOV 24

Twinkling Tea Party. 1-3 p.m. At Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 Orme Street, Arlington. Come join in an Afternoon Tea. They will be serving a variety of fresh brewed specialty teas, an assortment of tea sandwiches, and assorted scones. Cost is \$40. Sponsored by the Junior League of Northern Virginia. Visit the website: <https://www.jlnv.org/tef/>

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Christmas with the Washington Men's Camerata. 8-9:30 p.m. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. A Washington-area tradition for over 35 years, WMC presents Christmas with the Camerata. Enjoy perennial holiday classics, along with new and inventive arrangements of some of your favorite songs of the season. These concerts are perfect for the whole family, so join us to get your December off to a beautiful and festive start. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: www.camerata.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

GRUMP Holiday Market. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Crystal City Shops, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. GRUMP is back for its 9th year. At GRUMP you can shop local from 50 artists and makers, stop for a photo op with one of our many Yetis, and participate in our full day of creative workshops. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.crystalcity.org/do/grump>

Holiday Cheer Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. NCE's Holiday Concert will bring classical masterpieces and holiday favorites together for the whole family. The Outstanding Young Artist - piano competition winners perform. The concert concludes with a Carols Sing-Along to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Cost: \$36 for adults, \$18 for students. Visit the website: <https://www.nationalchamberensemble.org/>

EVENTS IN ALEXANDRIA

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-7

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna

Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. Through support of the events of The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, Campagna Center programs serve more than 2,000 children, teens, and adults throughout the year. Visit the website: www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Boat Parade of Lights.

Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade

Schedule in Old Town

- ❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
- ❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
- ❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
- ❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
- ❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
- ❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
- ❖ Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Carnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Carnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit firsnightalexandria.org.

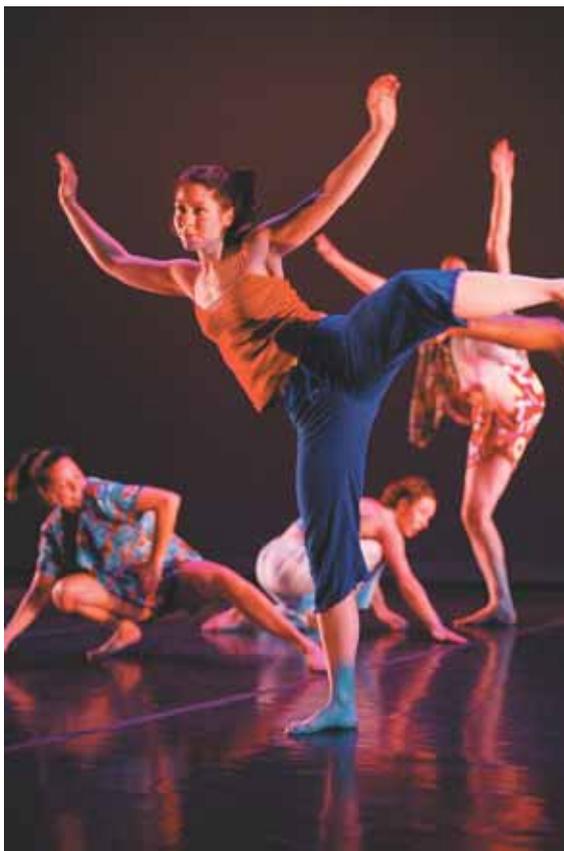


PHOTO BY RAY CINEWEEK

Jane Franklin Dance's Splatter will be presented on Saturday, Nov. 16 at Theatre on the Run in Arlington.

Splatter - Jane Franklin Dance

Saturday/Nov. 23, 4-5 p.m. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Is a splatter an unlikely accident or a careless gesture that ruins the day? An upset spills everywhere and becomes the reason to examine feelings. Whose fault is it anyway? Angry, happy, sad, calm and mixed up emotions are sorted in this colorful story about an incidental accident. Splatter is certain to take you on a vibrant journey with spoken word, movement, and music; inspired by the book "The Color Monster" by Anna Llenas. Cost: \$10-15. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/splatter>

Calendar

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 20

Nature Apps 101. 8-9 p.m. At Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington. Do you spend a lot of time outdoors, watching or photographing plants and animals? We'll Explore Bug Guide, eBird, iNaturalist, and more to find out how your outdoor photography can contribute to a much bigger scientific snapshot of the natural world. We'll also share species information and ID tips. Call 703-228-3403.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Holiday Design Event. 6:30-9 p.m. At National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Cost is \$30. Rock Spring Garden Club features Ami Wilber, the floral and event décor designer at Hillwood at their eighth Holiday Design Event. At Hillwood, Wilber creates spectacular floral arrangements for galas, the mansion and special events along with holding workshops. In addition to the design demonstration, there will be door prizes, a silent auction, refreshments, holiday pumpkin floral arrangements, holiday gifts as well as Tools of the Trade to help create your own designs at home. Tickets are \$30. Email Rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com. Or visit the web site at www.rockspringgardenclub.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 22

Blacksmithing Campfire. 5-6 p.m. At Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington. The whole

family is invited to join us at the Gulf Branch fire ring for lots of old-fashioned fun. This engaging program will be filled with entertaining activities that may include stories, special animal guests, games, songs and of course, S'mores. Call 703-228-3403.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Fort C.F. Smith Park Walking Tour. 9-10 a.m. At Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th Street, N, Arlington. Fort C.F. Smith was one of the last Union forts built to protect Washington during the Civil War. We'll learn about the park's history, the role of the fort and the soldiers stationed there in the Civil War. Dress for the weather. Terrain will be uneven and possibly muddy. Free. Call 703-228-4775.

Candle Making. 2-3 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Ages 6 to 12. You'll light up with this craft by making your own candles. We'll try our hands at some new and old ways to make these luminaries, then take home your creations. Cost is \$5. Call 703-228-6535.

Vulture Campfire. 5-6 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. The whole family is invited to join us at the Long Branch amphitheater for lots of old-fashioned fun. Stories, special animal guests, games, songs and of course, S'mores. Call 703-228-6535.

Family Skate Nights. 6:30-9 p.m. At Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 2nd Street, S, Arlington. With a live DJ, moon bounces and snack bar, this is a great night for the entire family. Skate rental is \$3, skating is \$2, and moon bounce and concessions extra. Cash only. To save time, bring your own skates and have exact change.

Jane Franklin Dance. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Mix It Up, a concert series at Theatre on the Run in Arlington features dance, music and movement by distinctive Washington, D.C., area artists. Each week look for a different up-close performance. Mix It Up takes place with performances by Jane Franklin Dance, Forty+ by Kelsey Rohr, Light Switch Dance Theatre and choreography by Emily Crews and Rachel Luebbert. Cost is \$22. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/mix-it-up>.

Holly Jolly Holiday Party. 8-11 p.m. At the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 S. Orme St., Arlington. Join in this merry cocktail party with music, savory hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and a silent auction to benefit the Junior League of Northern Virginia's community programs. Cost is \$80. Visit the website: <https://www.jlnv.org/tef/>

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

From Baikal to Brazil. 3 p.m. At Kenmore Theater, 202 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. The Washington Balalaika Society, a Russian folk orchestra of 60 bakmusicians performing on balalaikas and domras, will present a musical program spanning an amazing geographical area. Concert repertoire will include 'A Tale of Lake Baikal' capturing the mysterious sounds of the frozen waters of Russia's Lake Baikal to the rousing, bustling and rumba sound of

'Brasileira' from Milhaud's Scaramouche Suite. Visit <https://www.instantseats.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.venue&venueid=399>

Refugees' First Thanksgiving

Dinner. 4-8 p.m. At ECDC, 903 S. Highland Street, Arlington. The Refugees' First Thanksgiving Dinner is an annual event where community members, staff, volunteers, and clients celebrate this American tradition. Cost is \$30. Visit the website: www.acc-dc.org

NOV. 25 TO JAN. 15, 2020

Mah Jongg Cards. At Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church. 2020 Mah Jongg cards for sale. Cards will be mailed to the address on the order in late March or early April. Cost: \$8 standard card; \$9 large card. Visit the website: <http://bit.ly/mahjonggcards2020>. Contact Iva Gresko, iva.gresko@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

Arlington Turkey Trot. 8 a.m. At Christ Church, 3020 N. Pershing Drive, Arlington. A-SPAN is proud to be a beneficiary of the #1 rated local community race in the DMV. The Turkey Trot is a 5K unlike all others with colorful costumes and fun for the entire family. Canine friends are welcome as well as baby trotters and their strollers. Visit arlingtonvaturkeytrot.org to register, volunteer or sponsor the Trot.

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Shopping Passport Event. A group of Arlington and Falls Church businesses will participate in a shopping "Passport" program designed to help area shoppers discover unique shops, find deals, keep their shopping dollars local and be eligible to win prizes. Led by One More Page Books, the Passport enables shoppers who are looking to participate in the national #shoplocal effort to easily discover small businesses near them. By visiting at least five of the businesses on the list, shoppers are eligible to win one of three Grand Prize baskets of goods and gift certificates and to collect a free Advanced Reading copy of a book from One More Page. For a list of participating businesses, visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

DEC. 3, 10, 17

Mah Jongg Lessons. 1-4 p.m. At Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church. Three-session classes for beginners. Register now. Send checks made out to WoTRS: Temple Rodef Shalom, ATTN: Iva Gresko, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, VA 22043. Include email and telephone numbers. Cost of \$98 includes three sessions (nine hours) of lessons. Includes needed card and needed handouts. Contact Iva Gresko: iva.gresko@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk. 8:30 - 11 a.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for informal walks through Glencarlynn Park in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcomed. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Call 703-228-6535.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Outer Space Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Ages 2 and up. Register child only, but caregivers must attend. Blast off with stories that are out of this world. Call 703-228-6535.

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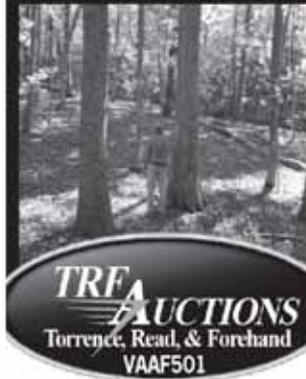
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NEWS

Puwen Gleans Vegetables and Friendships

FROM PAGE 3

from the markets.

The second is the gleaning concept. "Go to orchards and pick your own, or you can have from this section. Then there is the spin off gleaning at USDA."

There are challenges. One year they had about 5,000 pounds of winter squash that wasn't moving. So Charlie (Meng) told her "a friend of mine said they don't have squash in Latin America." Part of the solution was to give out taste samples. Things evolved.

AFAC currently supplies 19 locations around Arlington with food for low-income people. Some sites appreciate certain produce more than others so they funnel the beets to the Russian community at Claridge House or the greens to the Vietnamese community at Woodland Hill. "We are able to fine tune so we can serve our clients best." The produce comes from over 55 plot gardens around the community as well as farms from the Shenandoah Valley to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Station in Maryland. She says, "We keep this garden going because of the community and the many different groups that we are able to work with. They say it takes a village and it really does."

Another early issue was the sudden influx of vegetables. "We had not had so much produce before so processing once things came back to AFAC was a new challenge. We found it was really hot and the produce would cook in the trucks. So we learned to have bagging teams who could bag it immediately when it arrived at the warehouse into family size

portions for Monday. Now we do it every day of the week. The volunteer department is so good at the mechanics."

She says one of the biggest challenges is education at all stages. "We try to teach people, for instance, if collards get limp that you can just put them in water and plump them back up. Or," she says, "if an apple has a bruise, they would put it into the compost pile, but it could be used for applesauce. We try to eliminate waste."

To further the goal of education, Arlington Central Library offers gardening talks on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on a variety of topics from gardening in the shade to vegetable diseases, composting and mushroom growing. These talks span from March to early October. And nutrition is always at the top of her list. "Ramen noodles may be cheap but it's not healthy." She says over time the menu has become much better. "I hope it will continue to improve." She changed the meat offering from hot dogs. "I thought maybe we can get some chicken. I went to the Florida Avenue Market and got 250 pounds a week; now we get 4,000 pounds a week."

Her basic belief is that good food is everyone's right.

So why did she go this route instead of the position she was offered as Adjunct Professor at Georgetown? "Well one thing I'm a gardener, another I'm a cook. Gardening people in Arlington know each other. I do think on one level that gardeners are generous by nature. I have gotten to know so many people that have enriched my life. Beyond that, I know I have found a place where I know I can do some good, by helping make sure that nutritious food is available to people who need it."

Legals

FAMILY COURT FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE
NOTICE OF FAMILY COURT ACTION

TO: Osmin Marcia Respondent(s)
(Fill out the Respondent's full name as it appears on the petition)

Petitioner, Brandy Lloyd has filed a visitation modification
(Fill in your name as it appears on the petition) (Fill in the type of petition you filed)

petition against you in the Family Court of the State of Delaware for Sussex County
(County where you filed petition)

on July 19th 2019 . If you do not file an answer with the Family Court within 20 days
(Fill in the date you filed the petition)

after publication of this notice, exclusive of the date of publication, as required by statute, this action will be heard in Family Court without further notice. Petition# 19-202-48

Nov 12th 2019 Date [Signature] Your Signature

Note: If the respondent is a minor, the Notice of Family Court Action should read:
TO: The parent or guardian of _____ respondent

Announcements

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BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

NOW THRU NOV. 25

Drop-Off Sites for Christmas Project. At Chinese Christian & Missionary Church, 6901 Williamsburg Blvd., Arlington. Sites in the area will be among 5,000 U.S. drop-off locations collecting shoebox gifts for children overseas during Operation Christmas Child's National Collection Week, Nov. 18-25. Families, churches and groups are transforming empty shoeboxes into fun gifts filled with toys, school supplies and hygiene items. The Samaritan's Purse project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children affected by war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine. For many of these children, it will be the first gift they have ever received.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Help make the holidays bright for Arlington County children in need by donating to the Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive. The Arlington Police Department is asking community members to donate new, unwrapped toys to bring holiday cheer to children ages newborn - 17. Donations will be distributed throughout the month of December. Officers will collect toys at the following locations:

- Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church - 830 23rd Street S.
- Thursday, Nov. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. Lee Harrison Shopping Center - 2425 N. Harrison Street
- Friday, Nov. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City - 1100 S. Hayes Street

A cruiser will be located in the food court next to the Christmas tree. Those wishing to donate toys, but unable to attend the Fill the Cruiser events can drop off donations at Police Headquarters, located at 1425 N. Courthouse Road, until Friday, Dec. 13, 2019 at the 2nd Floor Administrative Support Unit Front Counter.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Juvenile Detention Center Meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. At Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington. The City of Alexandria, City of Falls Church, and Arlington County will host community meetings to obtain public input for a study examining the future of the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center. The facility, located in Alexandria, is operated by the three jurisdictions through a regional Juvenile Detention Commission. An independent criminal justice consulting firm, The Moss Group (TMG), is conducting the study. TMG is evaluating what changes, if any, could be made to the center to make it more efficient while still meeting the needs of the juvenile population and communities at large; or whether the center should be closed due to underutilization, and youth detained in another center in Northern Virginia.

NOV. 21 AND 23

Jennie Dean Park Renovation Project. Come see the final design for the Jennie Dean Park renovation project and provide any last thoughts about the project. This design is based on community input and feedback. Check out the project page to see how the design has evolved. See the final design on Thursday, Nov. 21 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Charles Drew Community Center or Saturday, Nov. 23 from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Campbell Room at the Shirlington Branch Library. The final design will be posted on the project page with space for your comments.

TUESDAY/NOV. 26

Fall Street Smart Campaign. 4:30-5:30 p.m. At Columbia Pike Corridor. The arrival of Fall in the region means cooler temperatures and less daylight during commuting hours. To promote safe use of our roadways, law enforcement throughout the region will participate in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Fall Street Smart campaign. The Street Smart campaign leverages education and enforcement efforts to identify and change unsafe behavior patterns among pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists and scooter operators, with the goal of reducing the number of traffic related crashes and injuries on our roadways.

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An Idiot Servant No More



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Given the extremely sad experience I shared with you all in last week's column: "Chino Lourie, Rest in Peace," this column will be an attempt to bounce back to my usual and customary reality, one oddly enough that has nothing to do with cancer (well, much, anyway). Instead it has to do with unexpected joy.

The joy to which I refer has to do with a subject which typically provides me little joy: I refer to our two automobiles, a 2000 Honda Accord and a 2018 Audi A4. The former inherited from my parents, payment-free but rarely hassle-free, the latter not free of payments, unfortunately, but free of hassle since its maintenance is covered by the warranty.

Nevertheless, for the past few years, off and mostly on, both cars have had an indication that all was not right. Each had illuminated dashboard warning lights (aka "idiot lights") constantly reminding the driver that attention to some detail was required. For the Honda, it was twofold, a "Main't Req" light and a "Brake" light "were dashing." For the Audi, it was "onefold," an icon which looks like an upside down horseshoe, sort of, which I learned, after thumbing through the owner's manual, meant low tire pressure, appeared directly under the speedometer. Since I felt no give or take with the Honda and saw no evidence of low tire anything with the Audi, I learned to take their reminders in stride and figured I'd wait until their respective next service calls to respond to them.

Those service calls have now occurred. And I am extremely glad - and relieved to say, that their necessary/underlying repairs have been made. Glad/relieved not so much because the repairs/obvious safety issues have been addressed. Rather, glad/relieved that in making those repairs, the dashboard warning lights are no longer illuminating their disdain with the idiot behind the wheel: me, neglecting them.

No more, after starting either car, will my initial focus be on the dashboard to see if miraculously the warning lights have disappeared and finally stopped their incessant, non-verbal badgering. No more will I be forced to ignore their illumination and attempt to compartmentalize their visual reminders that all is not well under the hood (so to speak). And finally, no more will I have to worry that one day - or night, the other mechanical shoe will drop and I or my wife, will be left stranded on the road somewhere waiting for a tow truck to drag us to our car-repair maker.

And though this dashboard-warning-light-turn-off is really a turn-on, I am still able to keep its effect in perspective. It's not a cure for cancer and neither is it a cure for my "stable" issue as written about multiple times recently ("Please Relief Me" and "Apparently, Not a Stable Genius"). However, as we say in sales: "I'll take a yes;" as they say on the high seas: "Any port in a storm;" and has been said for the last century: "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." For the official record, I am not horsing around in the least when I say how thrilled I am now that everytime I start our cars, I see no lights reminding me what an idiot I've been. As a cancer patient I don't need that kind (or any other kind, quite frankly) of negativity in my life, or in my car either. Eliminating it from my activities of daily living adds a bounce to my step and a joie to my vivre.

I realize I may be over stating the significance of this momentous occasion, but when cancer takes over your life, it does so emotionally before it does so physically. As such, finding relief is HUGE. Moreover, solving a problem however insignificant in the scheme of things it appears to be, provides the building blocks of success that, as a cancer patient, help strengthen your foundation as you navigate your daily routine. A routine which is already filled with enough challenges. So yes, I am going to make a mountain out of a molehill. And I am going to fill myself up with as much positivity, nonsensical or otherwise, as possible.

I need to be pulled forward, not dragged backward.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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