



Soup Brings Warmth And Custom Bowls

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Training for Condo & Community Associations: Governance and Open Meetings. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. At Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington. The City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and Alexandria-based law firm Mercer Trigiani are sponsoring the following workshops related to condominium and community associations. The workshop focuses on helping communities understand state law related to open meetings and governance. A light breakfast will be provided. At Arlington County contact Maureen Markham at mmarkham@arlingtonva.us or register on-line at <https://housing.arlingtonva.us/events>.

Arlington Seeks Poet Laureate Applications
Arlington is seeking its official Poet Laureate for the 2020-2022 term. With the final application deadline of March 24, 2020 by 5 p.m., the selected poet laureate's two-year term will begin July 1, 2020. The poet selected Arlington's poet laureate will serve as an advocate for poetry and the literary arts and will advance Arlingtonians' consciousness and appreciation of poetry in its written and spoken forms. Interviews will be conducted in mid-April. The selected poet's contract will begin July 1, 2020 to coincide with the beginning of Arlington County's fiscal year. Applications are only accepted

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 4



19/20
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Empty Bowls Empty No More

AFAC raises funds for families in need.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

A line snakes out the door at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church for the 12:45 p.m. seating of the Empty Bowls Arlington Food Assistance Center fundraiser on Sunday, February 2. Charles Meng, CEO and executive director of Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), said the tickets sold out within 2-3 days.

Over 150 attendees at each of two seatings linger over the choice of an original pottery bowl designed by local potters and donated for the event. Scott Kaye has brought his pottery wheel and is demonstrating how he creates a pottery bowl from a lump of clay. He says he created a couple of dozen bowls for the event. Kaye says he started as a potter in his 20's, then took a 37-1/2 year diversion and came back to pottery a year and a half ago.

The next decision is which soup should fill the newly-acquired bowl from the five choices donated by local restaurants including beef chili from the Cowboy Cafe, tomato bisque from the Carlyle, a vegetarian lentil from Lebanese Taverna, tomato bisque from Cheesetique and chicken noodle from The Renegade.

The sounds of Simon's Junction bluegrass band mingle with conversation and the clinking of spoons. Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) has made a surprise appearance and is greeting the crowd waiting to begin enjoying their soup.

Meng says this is the eighth year for the event which raises funds for AFAC programs. AFAC is a non-profit organization that supplies supplemental groceries to Arlington families in need. It was established over 30 years ago by a small group of citizens and six congregations to feed 59 families who were facing life's struggles. Today the program is serving 2,400 families



Scott Kaye demonstrates the art of turning a lump of clay into a lovely pot. He has created a couple of dozen bowls for the AFAC fundraiser at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ARLINGTON CONNECTION



A line of people is waiting to choose an original pottery bowl to fill with soup at AFAC's fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 2.

weekly who receive fresh fruits and vegetables, chicken, milk, eggs, canned items and bread.



Simon's Junction entertains the crowd at Empty Bowls with some toe-tapping bluegrass.



Senator Mark Warner makes a surprise appearance to chat with people attending the Arlington Food Assistance Center fundraiser Sunday.

Searching for a Superintendent for Arlington

Public asked to contribute views: what do you want in a new superintendent?

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Parents showed up at 7 p.m. on a Friday night and 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning to weigh in on a personnel decision. They were there to weigh in on what the replacement for recently retired superintendent of schools, Dr. Patrick Murphy, should look like. They were critical of Murphy's tenure, and if there was one message they conveyed, it was that the new superintendent should be different. A series of outreach activities was held last week, with two consultants from BWP Associates, to solicit views from parents.

"We are tired of being a stepping stone," said one parent, who did not want to be identified by name. "We don't want someone who is just checking a box on the way to a bigger job."

Dr. Murphy announced his intention to retire last summer, a week after APS reached an agreement with the Department of Justice to settle a complaint filed during the 2015-2016 school year alleging one of its schools failed to provide adequate support for English learners. He and his assistant superintendent, Dr. Tara Natrass, left APS at the same time.

BWP search consultants were hired to find a replacement for Murphy - a new superintendent who meets the criteria set out by parents and the school board. BWP associate Kevin Castner said BWP has done more than 90 successful superintendent searches, and he personally has done 20 in the state of Virginia. He recently found the Superintendent of Schools in Falls Church. He said his firm has a good track record of success (superintendents who are doing well) because they have a good process. That process depends on input from many different sources, including parents and students.

"We will evaluate the applicants on their track record," said Dr. Wayne Harris, who along with Kevin Castner, forms the team that will look at candidates for the school superintendent job. "Kevin and I have 93 years in education," he said, "We do a thorough background check on applicants. We check references they didn't provide, not just the ones they listed. We want to know what their level of sincerity is about this job, versus furthering their career."

Parents on Friday night told Harris one important quality they wanted to see in the new superintendent was recognizing diver-



Dr. Wayne Harris, part of the two-member search team looking for a new superintendent of schools, talks to a focus group of parents who are active in Advisory Councils on Instruction at Syphax, on Friday night, January 24th.

sity. Another big "must" is accountability. "There isn't any, across the board, in APS," said one parent who is active on the Arlington's Advisory Councils on Instruction. "Knowing how to effect change, making evidence-based decisions, and putting the focus on students, not awards and recognition. That's what we want."

Another major concern cited by parents was "reaching out better to bilingual families, particularly the English-learner families. They don't know how to convey their views to the school administration. It's the squeaky wheel that gets what they want but the English learners aren't squeaky. Many African-Americans aren't either."

It was clear parents were looking for a communicator: someone who likes to talk to people and then prioritize what needs to be done. Members of the ACI, said they felt it was important to listen to people who aren't on the ACI. "One size doesn't fit all in Arlington," said one parent. "Some immigrant families in the south are just able to make rent, but in North Arlington, the house selling for only 1.5 million dollars is the cheapest house on the block."

Trust was an important issue. "A candidate who can heal; there is a lot of damage done by the previous superintendent and assistant superintendent," said another parent. "So building trust again is important."

BWP associate Harris made it clear their hope is to solicit views on what the person should look like, but they can't drill down on specific job description-like skills that

Arlington residents might want, like: "must value foreign language study." That said, Harris offered, "a public report will come out, listing the characteristics you have listed. If you disagree with what we write, or want to add to that, you can weigh in." Once the search team narrows down the pool of applicants to those who meet the criteria - normally about four applicants but sometimes more - the school board will choose from those identified.

At the Friday evening focus group of ACI members, one parent said, "We want to know: what have they done to show they are the right candidate. We want accountability: the problem with accountability is big, even at the central office level."

The Saturday morning meeting of parents at Dorothy Hamm Middle School was equally clear about moving beyond the old administration. As an example of the kind of change one parent wanted to see, a Yorktown parent said he was concerned that acting superintendent Cintia Johnson had appointed a new principal at Yorktown without engaging the parents. "They never surveyed the parents about what they wanted." In general, he said, the school system should be willing to at least do a survey before making a decision.

Other parents chimed in, however, noting that surveys are not necessarily the answer. Parents said they had the impression the schools just wanted the surveys to validate where they were already headed. Surveys aren't really taken seriously, several

said. "If you say what they don't want to hear, they don't listen. It's an echo chamber." There were multiple nods around the room. "Arlington schools administrators just want to talk about what's good; but when there are things that aren't good those need to be addressed."

None of the parents who spoke at the meeting wanted to be identified. "I still have kids in APS," said one Yorktown parent, "And I don't want my kids to have to take the hit because I was vocal. When I raise a problem, I become the problem," he continued. "I just want to make it better, but the school doesn't see it that way."

The suggestion boxes put out by the new principal at the Dorothy Hamm Middle School were mentioned as a more effective way to solicit input.

Parents asked that the new superintendent look at achievement differently. Parents complained about the lack of leadership in instruction. "It's a great school system but it has been riding on the coattails of its national ranking for a while," said another parent. Differences in instruction, often as a result of overcrowding in the classrooms were also raised as an issue. "The challenges for our schools are just going to get harder going forward. Good management skills will be paramount."

One of the refrains heard at both meetings was the need for good interpersonal skills and a good relationship with teachers. Many had complaints about the previous team's failure to relate to teachers. "Teachers said he didn't understand their job," said one parent familiar with teachers in APS. "He never asked what he could do for them to make their job easier, he didn't seem to view his job that way, and he had only limited experience teaching at the beginning of his career, so his views of what was happening in the classroom were not up to date. And teachers were wary of being fired or reassigned if they were too vocal." The survey allowing parents and students to provide their views on what the next superintendent should look like will close on February 2. To fill it out, see: <https://www.apsva.us/engage/search-for-new-aps-superintendent/> and at the bottom of the survey, there is an opportunity to weigh in in more detail, directly, to BWP consultant Dr. Kevin Castner at kccastner@yahoo.com or to the following address:

BWP & Associates - Arlington
872 S. Milwaukee Ave. #221
Libertyville, IL 60048

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2
through www.arlington.slideroom.com.

INCREASE SPEEDING FINES

The Arlington County Board voted to establish a \$200 additional speeding fine zone for residential neighborhoods that meet certain criteria. The move came in response to complaints from residents about speeding and pedestrian safety. The

Board voted unanimously to approve the ordinance change, adopting Virginia State Code 46.2-878.2. To read the staff report, visit the County website. Scroll to Item No. 29 on the agenda for the Jan. 28, 2020 Recessed County Board Meeting. The Chair noted that speeding fines are just one of many methods the County uses to make streets across Arlington safe for all who use them, including protected bike lanes; signage; traffic

signals; enforcement campaigns, and the Vision Zero traffic safety strategy, adopted by the Board in July 2019.

DONATIONS

The **Arlington Food Assistance Center** seeks local gardeners and farmers willing to grow and donate fresh produce to the AFAC food pantry for local families in need as part of the Plot Against Hunger

program. Each week, approximately 2,400 client families visit AFAC to pick up supplemental groceries and fresh fruits and vegetables are in high demand. AFAC will provide free vegetable seeds to those who pledge to donate produce from community or personal gardens. Visit <https://afac.org/plot-against-hunger> or contact puwen.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 Saturdays 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

Local Painter Ending Successful Show at Northside Social

Sue Grace's colors and shapes are hitting their stride.

By EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Sue Grace is a contemporary painter who lives, works and has raised her family in Arlington. Her show at Northside Social coffee house will end February 6th. When she was asked to exhibit at Northside Social, she created work that captured its energy and variety using inspiration ranging from the nearby mountains of West Virginia to domestic table scenes.

Her use of color seems to work well with the coffee house vibe. "This year I started using more color in my paintings," she said. "I have always felt that a well-built painting is one with a lively composition and strong value contrasts. When my painting is where I want it, I told myself, I will allow myself more color. But time is passing - Hey, what am I waiting for?"

It's not just color: Grace's paintings are not wallpaper: they are thoughtful, somewhat representational, somewhat abstract bursts of emotion, color, design, image and contour, almost buzzing with mystery. A

local customer told Grace one day: "Your paintings really 'go' with the walls here. It's become a thing for me, where I sit close to the paintings so that as I'm drinking my coffee or hanging out with friends, I can visit with the painting and let it process, once again.

I never get tired of looking at it, but I'm also never quite sure what it is going to mean to me on a given day. I've gotten so used to seeing "Data Rumpus" at Northside, I will really miss it if it's not there." Although Grace often paints a little like Matisse, or like the Russian artist, Nalatia Goncharova, she never imitates. She "owns it" as an artist.

This style has come through many years of diligent studio work. Grace holds a BA from the University of Chicago and a certificate of completion from the National Academy of Design in New York City. Grace's exhibitions include the Hillyer Art Space in Washington, DC, Mclean Project for the Arts, the Workhouse Arts Center, Target Gallery, Crossroads Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College Library and the Florence Trust in London, England.

Her website is: www.suegracefineart.com
Northside Social is located at: 3211 Wilson Blvd Arlington, VA 22201
Exhibition runs through February 6, 2020
703-465-0145
<http://www.northsidearlington.com>

Sue Grace, an Arlington painter, is just finishing up a one-woman show at the Northside Social coffee house.



PHOTOS BY
EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Sue Grace's use of color came through at Northside.



CALENDAR

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Teaching History Meaningfully In Arlington....is an Art

Good teaching is colorful and timeless.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

A group of volunteers found themselves in the Abingdon Elementary School library on the Sunday before Martin Luther King Day. Looking down on them were portraits: one of them was clearly Martin Luther King himself. But who were the others? Some of them looked familiar...

The portraits, it turned out, have been there for a while. "They were a project spearheaded by Erin Sonn, a former Arlington Public Schools teacher," said Lauren Muscatella, the current art teacher.

In 2009, Sonn got a mini-grant through the Department of Instruction at APS, which was supposed to engage students in a greater awareness of famous people.

Sonn collaborated with a gifted artist who was on the staff, Sergio Sierra, and they began a project called "Famous Faces". "It was at that point," Sonn said, "that I realized there was a disconnect between the people in history the children were supposed to know - like President Washington and President Lincoln - and the ones that, while lesser known nation-



The students' placards became separated from the paintings when the building was renovated, but a selection of them reveals interesting choices of famous people. The portrait painter teaching them also stressed that even white people aren't really just white, but have many skin tones; the portraits show the students put his teaching point to work.

ally, had made a huge impact on civil rights or had made a major impact on Virginia history. As a teacher, Sonn wanted the students to see history as having local ties,

and famous people as relevant to them, so she asked the students to pick different kinds of people, and to truly understand who they were and what impact they had on the

lives of Americans or Virginians. Sierra was a gifted portraitist and helped the students learn how to paint a portrait.

As a result the project included people like Doug Wilder, Arthur Ashe, the first black female head of a bank, Maggie Walker, as well as early explorers, presidents, and famous civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. It included people like James Lafayette, a little known hero of the Revolutionary War, an formerly enslaved man born in Virginia who served under the Marquis de Lafayette and took his name to honor him. The result was a collection of portraits that remains - ten years later - a centerpiece of Abingdon Elementary School library and a reminder to all students that famous people of all shades are part of our local history.

Sonn said she left the Arlington school system two years ago. "After teaching many years, my last stint was as a testing coordinator - and it was then when I realized how inane the testing standards were and how administrators were so fixated on scores, and how the school system would look nationally if the students performed badly, that they were stressing out teachers about meeting benchmarks," Sonn said.

Sonn now specializes in yoga for educators, and teaches yoga and mindfulness to APS teachers, as well as running workshops for staff on stress reduction.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Signature Stages "Gun and Powder"

Inspiring story of notorious outlaws who ruled the Wild West.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Signature Theatre is staging the world premiere musical, "Gun and Powder," from now through Feb. 23 at its Max Theater. Inspired by a true story, make way for the Clarke sisters in a dynamic, moving and inspiring story of notorious outlaws who ruled the Wild West.

To help their mother settle a sharecropper debt, Mary and Martha Clarke—African American twins—pass themselves as White to seize the funds by any means necessary. However, their bond of sisterhood is tested when they fall

in love with two very different men, one black, the other white.

Award-winning director Robert O'Hara (Broadway's "Slave Play") makes his Signature debut in this soaring musical that examines race, family and identity with two electrifying women who went from farm girls to legends with gun and powder. The musical direction is by Darryl Ivey and the choreography is by Byron Easley.

The show's writers, Angelica Chéri and Ross Baum, met in the Graduate Musical Theatre Program at New York University. "I (Angelica) had been carrying

SEE GUN AND POWDER, PAGE 9



The cast of "Gun & Powder" in rehearsal at Signature Theatre.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER MUELLER/THE CONNECTION

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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Singing Valentines. Now thru Feb. 14. Send your Sweetheart a Singing Valentine from The Arlingtones. The package includes a quartet going to your selected location to sing two love songs, a red rose and a small box of chocolates. Contact SingingValentines@arlingtones.com to hire an Arlingtones Quartet or for additional information. The Arlingtones is a Close-Harmony Chorus chartered in 1957 as the Arlington chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Arlingtones are supported in part by the Arlington, VA Cultural Affairs Division of the Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts.

New Landscapes Exhibit. Feb. 3-29. At Focus Gallery, Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Opening Reception and Meet the Artists: Friday, Feb. 7, 5-7 p.m. Our lives are defined by the space in which we live and travel. Surrounded by imposing monuments, one can't help feel intimidated when strolling down the Mall. Standing at the foot of greatness tends to make one feel both inconsequential and reverent. One has an entirely different experience when surrounded by the lush greenery and cozy cottages of the Cotswolds. What we see, what we pass through, affects us. It changes us, often without notice. Visit www.galleryunderground.org

"Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson." Feb. 1-15. 8 p.m. At Gunston Theatre Two, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington. Dominion Stage presents "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson," by Michael Friedman and Alex Timbers. Directed by Danielle Guy, the play is an exhilarating and raucous look at one of our nation's founding rock stars, reinventing the life of our seventh president.

Forty+ Dance Project. Now thru March 10. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Forty+ celebrates the collective creativity of people past the age of 40. Each project features a different choreographer and results in a unique tapestry of collaboration. Forty+ is frequently seen in concerts presented by Jane Franklin Dance and for organizations serving older adults. This project culminates with a performance at Theatre on the Run on April 25, 2020. The project is open to people of all physical facilities. No previous performance experience is necessary. Cost is \$160. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus>

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 5

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 Glencarlyn 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. Free. #622940-C

Coffee & Conversation. 10-11 a.m. At Langston Brown Community Center, 2121 North Culpeper Street, Arlington. Rosa Parks' personal reflections as a Civil Rights activist are shared by Susan Reyburn, Senior Writer-Editor at the Library of

Congress. Part of Coffee & Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Village. To learn more about the benefits of becoming a member of Arlington Neighborhood Village, call the ANV office at 703-509-8057 or visit www.arlnv.org.

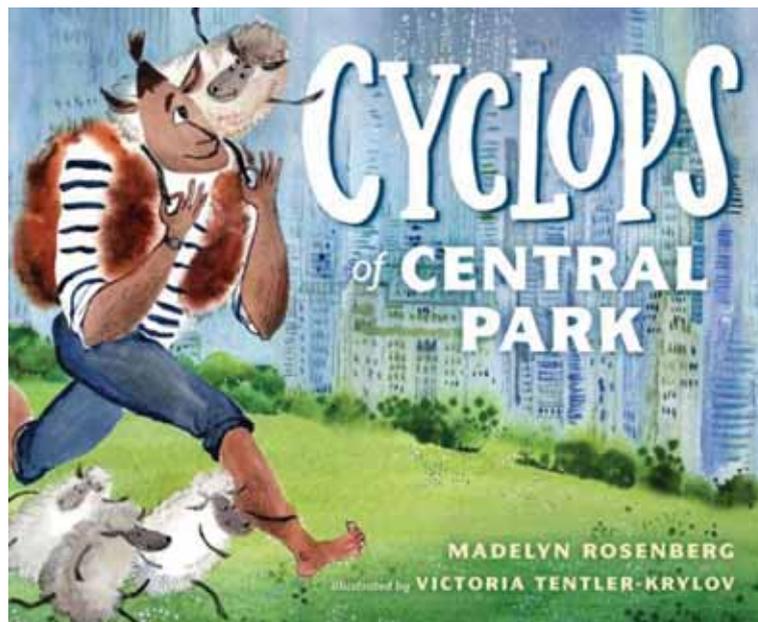
Urban Beekeeping. 7-9 p.m. At Arlington Mill Community Center, Room 525, 909 S. Dinwiddie St., Arlington. Urban beekeeping is a unique way of protecting pollinators and growing a honey harvest in limited urban spaces. Learn about an accessible alternatives to the traditional type of Langstroth hive box with experienced, Slovenian-AZ style beekeepers. Learn about local laws, bee health, sustainability, urban agriculture and more. Free. Register by calling 703-228-6414 or email: mgarlalex@gmail.com to reserve a space. For a schedule of VCE Master Gardener public education programs, go to www.mgnv.org

FEB. 6, 7 AND 8

"Monkeysee, Monkeydo." 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Gunston Middle School, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington. This one-act bilingual opera was created for family audiences and is both a stirring musical and a visual treat. Based on the universal tale of The Hat Seller and the Monkeys. School-day performances; 10 a.m. on Feb. 4, 6, and 7. Public performance: Saturday, Feb. 8 at 11 a.m. Cost is \$5-\$10. Visit the website www.operanova.net.

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

Full Moon Hike. 6-7 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Fort C.F. Smith Park & Historic Site, 2411 N. 24th Street, Arlington. Families ages 5 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Discover our trails in a whole new way! Under the glow of the full moon come out to hike with us and enjoy the winter forest. When we get back indoors we'll enjoy hot chocolate. Call 703-228-3403. Cost is \$5. #622850-L



Author Madelyn Rosenberg's new book, Cyclops of Central Park

Cyclops of Central Park

Wednesday/Feb. 12, **Author Madelyn Rosenberg.** 7-8 p.m. At One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland Street, Arlington. Arlington's own, Madelyn Rosenberg, will release of her beautiful new picture book, *Cyclops of Central Park*, at One More Page! Featuring a most unusual protagonist, the book dares readers to be brave and explore the world because, really, you never know what you might find. Free.

Catholic Charities Ball. 7 p.m. At the Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. The event is the largest annual fundraiser for Catholic Charities, providing a significant portion of the resources needed to support 21 programs serving those in need throughout the 21 counties and seven cities of the Diocese. This year's theme is "With Love and Charity." Tickets for both events can be purchased at www.ccca.net.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

R.I.P. - Remove Invasive Plants. 9:30-11:30 a.m. At Gulf Branch

Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road, Arlington. Adults, teens and families ages 8 and up. Want to restore habitat and increase species diversity right here in Arlington? Work parties are held every month. We are making a real difference, with the return of ferns and wildflowers, and the animals that depend on them, in areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. No registration required. Free.

Tree ID Hike. 10-11:15 a.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Adults. We can identify trees with more than just leaves; we'll learn to identify the

trees of Arlington parks by their bark and shape. Dress for the weather, we will be outside the whole time. Teens ages 14 and up are welcome to attend but must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-228-6535. Cost is \$5. #622940-E

Turtle Home Decorations. 2-3 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Ages 6 to 10. Come decorate our turtles' homes with your artwork! We'll start off with a short nature walk to learn about box turtle habitats, then we'll head back to the classroom to draw pictures for the tanks of our resident turtles. Stumpy the box turtle will also be there. Call 703-228-6353. Cost is \$5. #622920-C

The Big Meow. 4-5:15 p.m. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Little Cat is an ever-hopeful fluff ball who desperately wants to belong to the band of neighborhood cats. The Big Meow is a story of a Little Cat's hope, disappointment, courage and need for belonging. These simple themes are part of every neighborhood, but in this wonderful tale told through the experiences of Little Cat, a potential weakness is a unique strength. The performance incorporates spoken word, movement, music, and an interactive participatory introduction for young children. Cost is \$15 Adults/\$10 Children under age 10; \$45 Family of 4. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/meow>

Flying Squirrel Lore & More. 6-7 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Adults. Flying squirrels are found throughout the wooded neighborhoods of Arlington but are seldom seen. Join us to learn about these engaging nocturnal acrobats. After an indoor presentation, we'll tiptoe outside to see these little pixies glide in for an evening meal. These creatures are truly one of the natural wonders of the Arlington. Call 703-228-6535. Cost is \$5. #622950-D

Jane Franklin Dance Presents Border. 7:30 p.m. At Theatre on the Run 3700 Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Tickets are \$22. The heart of the piece lies in movement inspired by a series of interviews with people in the DC area speaking from real-life experiences: a woman working in a male dominated career, an HIV positive male, a black woman negotiating cultural assumptions, a Latino delayed by police, disability and employment, and the lengthy process of legal immigration. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/border> or call 703-933-1111.

Darwin Trivia & MST3K Movie Night. 7:30 p.m. At Arlington Mill Community Center, Room 418, 909 S. Dinwiddie St., Arlington. To commemorate Darwin Day, Friends of the David M. Brown Planetarium will be hosting a Darwin-themed Trivia Night. Following the 30-minute trivia session, a 1950s B-movie, "The Giant Gila Monster," presented by the cult classic Mystery Science Theater 3000 (MST3K) will be shown. Cost is \$5 per person. Visit www.friendsoftheplanetarium.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

Notable Nature. 3 - 4 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Families ages 5 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Join us for lessons in nature journaling and sketching. We'll construct our own nature journals, hone our writing and drawing skills and talk about the season while hiking. Call 703-228-6535. Free. #622950-H



The Benny Goodman tribute will be held Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Gunston Arts Center.

Salute to Benny Goodman

Saturday/Feb. 15, **Salute to Benny Goodman.** 7:30 p.m. At Gunston Arts Center, Theatre 1, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington. The National Chamber Ensemble presents a Valentine's Concert to Benny Goodman with clarinetist Julian Milkis. The only student and protege of jazz great Benny Goodman, Milkis joins NCE to perform a concert in tribute to his teacher and mentor. The concert is presented with the Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia. The concert will be presented in an intimate quartet setting fitting the special occasion. Cost is \$36/Adults; \$18/Students. Visit the website: <https://www.thej.org/artsculture/performing-arts-series/>

Arlington Author Debuts First Novel—Dead Body Anyone?

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE
soon as they were done. I thought, that's good practice but I knew I could rewrite and rewrite but they would never be what I wanted." She adds, "every writer has a novel in the drawer."

Katharine Schellman, author of "The Body in the Garden"

The body was a young man, the one with the pretty accent and a stain on the breast of his white shirt. Whether to swoon or get hysterical? Why was she in the garden at all? And why the unexpected cover up by a long-time friend?

How did Katharine Schellman, who grew up in Arlington, decide on 1815 London for her first book, "The Body in the Garden"?

She says, "It was an era I am pretty familiar with. I had a decent amount of experience in this time period from a lot of reading."

And she did a lot of research. "For this book I did research the whole time. I need to check this out. Who would have been working at the magistrate court at that time"? In her book she points out, "Writing historical fiction is a tricky combination of searching out the facts and creating the world that serves the story you're telling, no matter what the historical record says. I've done my best to balance both sides of the equation."

Schellman said she started writing this book in 2015. "I don't write fiction full time so I squeezed it in when I could." She continues, "I had to learn how to write. I wrote several books and tucked them away as

together. After the first draft it didn't, "but I knew I wanted to keep working on it." She says she wrote "The Body in the Garden" "by the seat of my pants." She said she started with the main characters, Lily and Ofelia. "I knew they were living characters. I thought what would bring them together."

The first draft took close to two years. I didn't have a plan or an outline." She thought she would just write and see what came out "but it is much easier with an outline." Then there were four other drafts, a couple of rounds with the agent, another with the editor. She did lots of revisions.

She describes the book as a feminist historical story centering on Lily, the main

character, whose life turned out differently than she thought would happen. Lily had recently lost her husband, Freddy, who she met in the middle of a cotillion when she was nineteen. Though familiar with the upper crust world in London, life felt empty but she still had to find something to do with it. Schellman says, "it's a universal feeling. I had a plan. That plan is gone now. What do I do?"

Schellman had her own similar moment when she changed jobs. She had graduated in theatre and history and worked as an actor for a few years in the D.C. area. "There are two parts to a job, the job itself and the life that it creates. I loved the job itself but not the life it created— everything always up in the air— no vacations because you might get called for an audition. Now with writing I love both."

Schellman has just finished the draft of a second unrelated novel set in New York in the 1920's. "I wanted to write a book set in the U.S., and this is a fun time period." She said she started this novel last summer but has gotten more systematic. "This time I have an outline."

She is also putting together a proposal for a sequel to "The Body in the Garden." She explains she writes 30-50 pages for the proposal. "I don't want to write more than that until it sells."

Schellman says one of the most interest-

ing things so far has been how many people have contacted her when they find out she has written a book. They say, "I have an idea for a book. This annoys a lot of writers but I think it is wonderful. There aren't enough books. I tell them it is probably more doable than you give yourself credit for." She points out that if you write one page for a year, you have a book.

But it isn't easy because there is the rest of the process with the drafts and finding an agent and getting published. She says she once asked her agent for numbers and found that out of 1,500 submissions a year her agent accepts about five or fewer. The best part is that people get so excited for you. "I read your book; is there a sequel"? She says she has a great group of friends and relatives. "It is a new and sometimes stressful world, very competitive." But it is also "a lot of fun and exciting." Schellman remembers telling her parents when she was six years old she wanted to write a book. "Of course they said, 'yes, dear.' Imagine when I told them I had sold my first book." Schellman now lives and writes in the mountains of Virginia where she splits her time between freelance writing for small businesses, raising her three-year-old son and planning and writing her next novel.

"The Body in the Garden" is scheduled to be released on April 7 with a book signing at "One More Page Books" on May 2 at 4 p.m.

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Help Donate Breakfast For Arlington Homeless

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Just a box of cereal to you but breakfast for a homeless person in Arlington. A-SPAN is organizing a cereal drive to replace breakfast supplies that are running low.

Gabrielle Goodson, Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator, says A-SPAN offers breakfast 365 days a year at the Homeless Services Center. At this time of the year they have a larger than usual breakfast crowd, especially when the Hypothermia Center is open.

The numbers run 25-35 for breakfast or higher when it is cold. Offering breakfast gives homeless an opportunity to get a hot cup of coffee in a warm environment.

A-SPAN is requesting that boxes of cereal be dropped off at the Homeless Services Center on 2020 A 14th Street N to supplement the coffee, fruit, hard boiled eggs and sometimes donated pastries offered at breakfast. They also encourage neighborhood, faith communities, schools or business groups to make this into a fun activity by organizing a cereal drive.

She said they once had kids build a ce-



Homeless client enters Homeless Services Center for a hot cup of coffee and bowl of cereal.

real house with walls made out of cereal boxes. "We always need cereal."

Cereal may be dropped off between the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Awa Sal Secka (Flo) and Yvette Monique Clark (Sissy) in rehearsal for "Gun and Powder" at Signature Theatre.

PHOTO BY
CHRISTOPHER MUELLER
THE CONNECTION



Signature Stages "Gun and Powder"

FROM PAGE 6

around the myth of my great-great aunts, Mary and Martha Clarke, for many years and had thought it would make an interesting story for the stage. When it came time to partner up and write our thesis projects, I presented the legend to Ross. He was instantly hooked. The idea of two women of color, riding through the West, taking matters into their own hands screamed 'musical folktale' to him. So, we dove in," she said.

"We started writing 'Gun & Powder' right around the time Mike Brown was shot and killed by the police in Ferguson, MO, and at that time, we were so eager to finish developing the show and share it with the world because of how relevant it was to the time," she said.

She continued: "Seven years later, in

arguably the most polarizing moment our nation has ever seen, it is even more relevant. Truthfully, it has been relevant for over 100 years and will continue to be relevant because of the foundational societal constructs on which this nation was built: race and color. We hope that our show would lift the veil on the superficiality of these constructs and help people to recognize how trivial the lines we've drawn to define ourselves. In actuality, we're much more similar than we are different. Because we're all just people."

As far as audience takeaways, she added: "The lasting idea that we'd love to leave in everyone's minds as they leave the theater is just how similar the social climate of 1893 is to 2020. Not much has changed."

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Bartaco Ballston, LLC trading as bartaco, 4238 Wilson Blvd., Suite 120, Arlington, Virginia, 22204. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On-Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. William S. Bratton, Treasurer. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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WELLBEING

Preventing the Flu

Simple steps to help you stay healthy during the flu season.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Washing your hands with soap and water is one of the way to avoid catching the flu.

Heralded by body aches, chills and fever, flu season is in full-swing. At a minimum it can be an inconvenience and at its worst it can be deadly. Influenza activity is considered to be widespread by in the Washington region, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

Influenza B/Victoria is the most common form of the virus that is circulating in our area, says Barbara Downes, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Manager with Fairfax County Health Department.

"Unlike a typical flu season when we tend to see influenza B in the spring at the end of the flu season, we are seeing influenza B predominantly circulating now," she said. "Even though it can cause milder illness in adults and those who are otherwise healthy, it can be more severe in children."

Knowing the causes and practicing preventative habits are keys to keeping the flu at bay. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the flu virus spreads from one person to another primarily by touching or inhaling viral droplets that are made when a person with the flu coughs, sneezes or talks.

"One of the things that happens is that someone coughs or sneezes into their hand and then touches a door knob and then someone comes behind them and touches the same door knob," said Mary Anderson of the Montgomery Department of Health and Human Services. "That's a really common way for a virus to spread. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or elbow and make sure your nose and mouth are covered."

Getting a flu shot is one of the best ways to pre-

vent the flu, advises Kurt Larrick, Assistant Director of the Arlington County Department of Human Services. "It's still not too late," he said. "Peak flu season runs through February, and outbreaks can happen through late May."

Practicing good hygiene is a simple and effective, but often overlooked preventative measure "Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands," said Anderson "Wash your hands with plain old soap and water for 20 seconds. The soap doesn't have to be fancy. If you don't have access to soap and water, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer."

"Every day communicable disease prevention tips are really important this time of year," added Downes. "Disposing of your tissues properly...and staying home when you are sick."

While Coronavirus is a concern, Anderson says that the flu is a much greater threat to those in the Washington region. "It's important to learn about the virus from China, but we're not at high risk of it unless you've

traveled to that part of China," said Anderson. "The flu is much more of a threat. Each year the flu kills thousands and thousands of people. It's very important to pay attention to it and do simple things to prevent it."

"Each year the flu kills thousands and thousands of people. It's very important to pay attention to it and do simple things to prevent it."

— Mary Anderson,
Montgomery Department of Health
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PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 17.6' street light pole with a new 20' street light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 26' at 2820 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA (20192121). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

For Sale

For Sale: Conference room table w/6 chairs, executive desks, executive chairs, bookcases, file cabinets, white boards, end tables, wood kitchen table w/6 chairs, map cabinet, and more. Contact Bill, 703-836-0100, to view all items.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

Falls Road, Sundays 9 a.m.-noon only. (Look for the donation bin on the Rock Spring Drive side of the church).

Pet Food Bank. AWLA is establishing a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4tPw2.

GET MORE WITH SNAP

Arlington and Alexandria Farmers' Markets accept SNAP/EBT (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) cards for purchases. SNAP/EBT customers can purchase farm fresh produce at local area farmers' markets and get matching bonus tokens to add to their purchases. Virginia Cooperative will be on-site at several local farmers' markets of Alexandria and Arlington to provide more information on SNAP and offer food tastings, prizes and more at the Arlington Farmers' Market, N. 14th and Courthouse Road (second Saturday of the month) and Columbia Pike Farmers' Market, 2820 Columbia Pike (third Sunday of the month).

ONGOING

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit salary.aauw.org.

Create a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners in restoring their home's natural habitat by providing information on sustainable gardening practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit audubon-at-home-1/ for more.

Naloxone (Narcan) can save the life of someone who is overdosing, if given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need is protected from liability by the Good Samaritan Law. Naloxone (Narcan) is available without a prescription for a fee at all pharmacies. Obtain it for free by attending a REVIVE! training. Contact Emily Siqveland at 703-228-0913 or esiqveland@arlingtonva.us or visit health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/ for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone for details.

Monthly Memory Café. 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6, Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, will be held on the first Friday of every month. Registration is free and highly recommended to reserve spots, which are open on a first come first served basis. To reserve a spot, please call 571-210-5551 or email bdesai@seniorhelpers.com. Visit www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe or www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va for more.

Walk-Fit. Ongoing Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Fashion Center at Pentagon City, Arlington. Participants walk at their own pace in a safe and friendly environment. Group stretch and cool down led by Virginia Hospital Center staff at 9:15 a.m. Meet on the first level by Nordstrom. Call 703-558-6859.

Arlington County, in partnership with the Human Rights Commission's Equality Task Force, has launched a web page with resources for the LGBTQ community. The new webpage compiles LGBTQ resources on a variety of topics, including homelessness and housing, domestic violence and sexual assault, and health. There are also topics specifically for teens and youth — such as scholarship opportunities and school clubs — as well as ones targeted at seniors and older adults, such as SAGE. Visit topics.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources.

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Off Topic, Way Off



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

From cancer to toilet paper. Is that 'off' enough? My reason for writing this column might be because I need a diversion (see last week's column), and because, as is so happened recently, I needed to replenish our toilet paper supply. (It had nothing to do with a winter advisory in the forecast.) As the consumer in the house, I am keen and motivated to spend our money wisely. I look for sales, I use paper coupons, I use digital coupons and of course, I peruse the advertising circulars, in print and online (if necessary) regularly. In addition, I have a number of plastic bonus cards hanging on my keychain. In short, I am prepared and ready for any retail or wholesale opportunity that might present itself.

With respect to toilet paper, I believe us regular users have been victimized by the toilet paper manufacturers. I refer specifically to the increase in the size of the actual roll itself; from single to double to triple to jumbo to mega and now super mega. Since the manufacturers can't exactly increase demand, they've devised a strategy to increase supply - in our homes. And though using myself as an example is hardly empirical evidence, I will nonetheless continue to do so in an effort to justify my accusation.

If you're like me, you probably like to have an ample supply of toilet paper in the house, just in case (it happened once in college; not good). And to that end, the toilet paper manufacturers have offered up multipacks equivalent to as high as 96 rolls, if I'm not mistaken, to address this potential shortage. However, my beef is not with the number of rolls in these multipacks, my beef, as I've said, is with the size of the rolls. In these cases, size does matter.

For years, we've been buying 4-, 6-, 9-, 12-, 24-, 36- and even 48-roll multipacks, some single and some double to stock the bathroom linen closets, so we're used to having a specific number of rolls on hand/in inventory. Now the rolls are double or even triple the size we had grown accustomed to having as back-ups. But we're still, in spite of the gargantuan size of the newer mega/super mega rolls, wanting to have the same number of rolls in the closet as we've always had (I do, anyway). Sort of a comfort level, you might say. The problem is that having the same number of super mega rolls in inventory as previously one had as single or double rolls gives one way more toilet paper in the house than you ever had. In effect, we have over-purchased. The toilet paper manufacturers have used our predispositions against us in order to take a greater share of our household budget previously allocated for toilet paper.

I don't need six super mega rolls in our bathroom. But I do want to see at least six rolls in reserve (aid and comfort you might say). If the six rolls in reserve were single or doubles, their size would be irrelevant. The number of rolls was more important - in my head. And now, because of the toilet paper manufacturer's insistence that size matters, I am forced to buy these spare-tire, donut-sized rolls that I can't possibly use no matter what "snowmageddon" might hit us. But I can't stock my shelves with reasonably-sized rolls because their unit cost is prohibitive compared to the big roll multipacks. As the consumer I am, I am loathe to overpay for such household necessities. So I buy in bulk, stuff my shelves with ply and go about my business. I just wish I had more than a hand in their decision-making.

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

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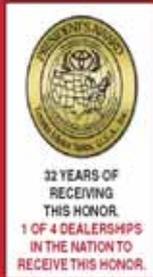
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SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 6:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 7:00am to 5:00pm

**YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!**

ToyotaCare Customers

Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000

NOW AVAILABLE Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
\$69⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES**
**BUY 1
GET 1 FREE**
Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/29/20.

**FREE
BATTERY CHECK-UP**
Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

BRAKE SPECIAL
\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads; inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.
MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE
10% OFF YOUR FIRST SERVICE
15% OFF YOUR SECOND SERVICE
Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

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TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

SPECIAL OFFER **\$129⁹⁵**
INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION
Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement, 24 month free roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

NEW HOURS SPECIAL!
**DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM
WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE
12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.**

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/29/20.

Jack Taylor's

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**