Feeding the Many Hungry During a Year of Covid

Happy St. Patrick’s Day

ArPets: Lady Grantham (of Arlington)

A second grader puts her sack of canned soup and tuna in the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) box at Langston Community Center on Saturday, February 27. AFAC partnered with Arlington Parks and Recreation to help feed neighbors in need by setting up donation boxes outside twelve community centers the weekend of February 27-28.
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tend ($20 annual fee). Learn more
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tration.arlingtonva.us or call 703-
228-4747.

Spring Concert by the Quar-
tantine Music Busters, interactive
ensemble of classical music, live,
Sunday, Mar. 21, 3 p.m. Registra-
tion # 913802-08.

Painting demonstration, step-
by-step with community arts pro-
grammers, Monday, Mar. 22, 10:30
a.m. Registration # 913301-10.

Short story reading and discus-
sion, “The Story of an Hour,” by
Kate Chopin, Monday, Mar. 22, 1
p.m. Registration # 913300-02.

Genealogy 101, led by experi-
enced genealogist, Eileen Bogdan-
off, Tuesday, Mar. 23, 11:30 a.m.
Registration # 913400-19.

Income tax basics, understand-
ing tax forms, documents needed
to prepare tax return and tips to
reduce tax bill, Tuesday, Mar. 23,
1 p.m., Registration # 913404-02.

Paint along with community arts
programmers, copy famous art-
works, Thursday, Mar. 25, 10 a.m.
Registration # 913301-15.

Trailblazing women who lived
in the Ball-Sellers House, now
a museum operated by the Arlington
Historical Society, Thursday, Mar.
25, 1:30 p.m.

Presented by Museum director
Annette Benbow. Registration #
913400-12.

Chat with an artist about tech-
niques, materials, creative expres-
sion, Thursday, Mar. 25, 4 p.m.
Facilitated by Jennifer Droblyen.
Registration # 913301-19.

Sudoku puzzle games for begin-
ners and pros, Thursday, Mar. 25,
2 p.m. Registration # 913601-01.

Line dance in the park, easy
for beginners, Friday, Mar. 26,
10 a.m., Virginia Highlands Park,
1600 S. Hayes Street. Registration
# 913701-02.

Digital escape room, virtual ad-
vventure, series of puzzles to solve,
find clues, Friday, Mar. 26, 1 p.m.
Registration # 913601-08.

Name that Tune game, fun for
all, Friday, Mar. 26, 3 p.m. Regis-
tration # 913601-13.

To view the complete listing of all 55+
programs, visit parks.arlingtonva.us.

For more information:
703-228-4747
www.parks.arlingtonva.us

Arlington 22207
The Center for Local History To Curate New Time Capsule

The Center for Local History at the Arlington Public Library will curate a time capsule, 2020 UnBoxed, which will contain objects and material representing the major events and themes of 2020 in Arlington.

"The time capsule is a snapshot of today as well as a gift for the future, preserving an account of a particular period in time," said Library Director Diane Kresh.

Themes for the collection will include:
- The 2020 Census
- The COVID-19 pandemic
- Racial justice and civic unrest
- Arlington County’s naming centennial
- The 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage

The Center for Local History, whose mission is to preserve and share the history of Arlington County, its citizens, organizations, businesses and social issues, will reach out to community organizations and leaders over the next nine months to obtain items that represent the major events of 2020.

- The time capsule will also draw from items donated to the COVID-19 Archives project. Residents are encouraged to continue to submit donations that illustrate how Arlington life has been affected and altered by the pandemic.
- The time capsule collection will be exhibited online in October, during American Archives Month, which celebrates and raises awareness about the value of archives and archivists.
- The items will then be sealed and deposited in the Arlington Community Archives for preservation and future research.

Learn more about 2020 UnBoxed and how to submit donations to the COVID-19 Archives project.
https://library.arlingtonva.us/2021/02/23/time-capsule/
https://library.arlingtonva.us/center-for-local-history/arlingtons-covid-19-archives-project/

Celebrating St. Patrick’s Day

Step through the pub door and head for the bar in time for the Irish dancers at 2 p.m. on St. Patrick’s Day. “One bangers and mash and a Hell Cat Maggie Irish beer.” Or maybe an Aberlour, one of the 130 whiskeys available in the expanded whiskey bar, followed by the beef and Guinness stew.

O’Sullivans Irish Pub is a family owned and operated business founded in the heart of Clarendon in 2006. In 2013 it doubled in size and added a whiskey bar.
The Year That Was

By Tom Loehfenehmel
Arlington Connection

March 2020 COVID suddenly brought about the closing of schools where children had regularly received nutritious meals from school kitchens. Businesses closed down or closed temporarily across the area, and workers were furloughed for an indefinite period of time.

On March 14, 2020, Arlington County declared a local emergency in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The past year challenged Arlington like never before, with more than 2,000 Arlingtonians dying of Covid, and 13,055 total cases. But 2020 showed the strength and resiliency of the community. Now with vaccines, we might see the light at the end of the tunnel.

But 2020 showed the strength and resiliency of the community. Now with vaccines, we might see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Amazon partners with Freddie’s Beach Bar & Restaurant to provide 10,000 meals in May to employees of Arlington Hospital Center, firemen and neighbors in low-income housing.

But the pain and challenge of Covid is not over. As families struggled for food, Arlingtonians stepped in to provide meals for their neighbors. Beginning March 16, a year ago, Arlington Public Schools began providing grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches outside two elementary schools. This list was later expanded as it became clear schools would not be reopening for in-person classes for the remainder of the school year.

Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) increased 25 percent during Covid. This summer, AFAC partnered with Arlington County Parks and Recreation to help feed neighbors in need by setting up donation boxes outside twelve community centers the weekend of February 27-28. AFAC partnered with Arlington County Police Department to sponsor “Fill the Cruiser” with donations for their supplemental food assistance program serving over 2,800 as the needs grow during the pandemic.

Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) provides 2,500 turkeys to low-income families at Thanksgiving. AFAC truck is a well-recognized symbol of the supplemental food assistance program serving over 2,800 as the needs grow during the pandemic.

Parents with assistance of Kenmore PTA organize a monthly food distribution serving 75 families in April and expecting over 100 in May.

As families struggled for food, Arlingtonians stepped in to provide meals for their neighbors. Beginning March 16, Arlington Public Schools began providing grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches outside two elementary schools. This list was later expanded as it became clear schools would not be reopening for in-person classes for the remainder of the school year.

Lubber Run Farmer’s Market does a brisk business in August but with a new “no touch” policy and new safety measures.

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“Just like a field of flowers, food distribution serving 75 families in April and expecting over 100 in May. But 2020 showed the strength and resiliency of the community. Now with vaccines, we might see the light at the end of the tunnel."
**ABC LICENSE**

Maison Cheryl LLC trading as Maison Cheryl, 2900 Wilson Blvd Ste 104, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia 22201-3851. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On & Off Premises/Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Robert L. Martin, Member authorizing advertisement. 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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**ABC LICENSE**

Nighthawk Restaurant Group LLC trading as Nighthawk Pizza, 1201 S. Joyce St ste C10, Arlington VA 22202-2067. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on and off Premises/Keg Permit/Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Andrew Kelley, Manager. 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.

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**ABC LICENSE**

Nighthawk Restaurant Group trading as Nighthawk Pizza, 1202 S Joyce St Ste C10, Arlington, Virginia 22202-2067. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Brewery (less than 10,000 barrels) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Andrew Kelley, Manager. 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.

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Amazon Gifts to Wakefield

As part of its celebration of Black History Month, Amazon presented Wakefield High School with a $15,000 donation to support the school’s academic programs and initiatives. The funds will be used to enhance the school’s art, music, and technology programs, as well as to support extracurricular activities and student scholarships. This donation is part of Amazon’s ongoing commitment to supporting education and community development initiatives across the country.

Amazon.com is a leading online retailer and e-commerce platform, offering a wide range of products and services to customers around the world. Through its various initiatives, including donations to schools and community organizations, Amazon is helping to build a better future for all.

Meet Lady Grantham (of Arlington)

Wonderful and loyal canine companion.
You and your dog might catch sight of the two enjoying the beautiful Spring weather around Colonial Village. And I hope you do, as I hear Lady is looking for some fun neighborhood playmates. Is there a four-legged Isabel Crawley out there?

ArPets is a weekly feature for highlighting the well-loved pets of Arlington as well as animals who are available for adoption. If you or your dog, cat, iguana, hamster, rat or any other pet, has an interesting pet story to tell, send email to: joan@bradyphotography.com.
Joan is an award-winning Connection Newspapers columnist and local photographer specializing in pets, children and families and contemporary business portraits.

Interested in Adopting?
If you are interested in adding a cat, dog or small animal pet to your household, here are a few local rescue organizations who might be able to help you find your perfect match:

- Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
- Animal Welfare League of Arlington
- Homeward Trails
- Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation
- PetConnect Rescue
- Wolf Trap Animal Rescue

Amazon Gift to Wakefield:

As part of its celebration of Black History Month, Amazon presented Wakefield High School with a $15,000 donation to support Wakefield High School and Reach Education, Inc. This is the latest in Amazon’s ongoing work to support education and racial equality initiatives in communities where its employees live and work.

The donation to Wakefield High School of $15,000 will include the book “Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You,” by Jason Reynolds. The book focuses on anti-racism, cultural awareness and proficiency.

The funds will also allow Wakefield staff to invite guest speakers to speak on the same topic.

As part of Amazon’s celebration of Black History Month, Amazon has announced a $25,000 donation to support Wakefield High School and Reach Education, Inc. This is the latest in Amazon’s ongoing work to support education and racial equality initiatives in communities across the country where its employees live and work. More: www.aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/black-history-month-2021

A Shot in the Arm

By KENNETH H. LOUIE

Literally and figuratively. After a year or so living the pandemic life: staying at home/quartered, wearing a mask, social distancing, washing my hands and watching the death toll from covid-19 top 500,000 - in the United States alone. I recently became one of the lucky ones to have been injected with a vaccine. I have to wait another two weeks to get my second shot. No worries. I have some protection now, but according to Dr. Fauci, the second shot/follow up shot increases one’s protection “tenfold.” It wouldn’t exactly be foolish to throw caution to the wind - and reintegrate back into society depending upon where you live, but it seems premature and irresponsible to risk being stupid when in another two weeks, I could be smart.

My wife, Dina, also recently shot, has been very smart all along, especially as it concerns my health standing in the world. (Moreover, she has no plans to step out until she receives her second shot.) Belonging in the special comorbidity group, presumably, with cancer weakened immune system, I presented a very appealing target for the virus. I mean, my immune system is already compromised, with seasonal breathing problems side-effected by my thyroid cancer medication. I was potentially easy pickings. As such, Dina refused to give me passage out of our house. Victor Laslow had a better chance of leaving Casablanca than I did of leaving Burtonsville.

But soon it appears I will have my other “letters of transit.” However, Dina has already informed me that I won’t be returning to my former end-ravaging ways. She intends to continue ordering food online from the grocery store - and then drive it to pick it up contact-less in their parking lot. Actually, I might be allowed to go that far since I’d be remaining in the car and still wearing a mask while popping the trunk and keeping my distance as the groceries are loaded into the boot. We’ll see; we’re still negotiating. But definitely not until I receive my second shot. Until then, I imagine our lives will change very little. Thanks to the vaccine, there is hope that once again, I’ll be able to interact with people, places and things. But return I shall and relieved I will be.

However, having lung cancer, and/or thyroid cancer which was diagnosed prior to the midst of a pandemic with a virus that often locates in the lungs and creates breathing/pulmonary problems - even with the two shots, I am overweight and risky as it gets, especially if you’re of a certain age as I am. In two weeks, I’ll have received my booster shot, and I’ll have a lot less to worry about, thank fully. And for a cancer patient still undergoing treatment with a less than a “normal” life expectancy anticipated, being fully vaccinated is as good as it gets. And I suppose I can live with that, living the operative word.

Having cancer, irrespective of the type, your diagnosis/prognosis, is pretty damn difficult. It impacts every facet of your life. The thought (your reality) is never far from your conscious mind. And once you become a member of this less than exclusive club (more every day, unfortunately), a club that nobody wants to join, there are more risks to your life than you ever imagined, and many more for which you have absolutely no awareness.

Having an external complication, like a virus, with variants that seem to spread rapidly, which have now infected infected over 30,000,000 Americans, and an infection for which there’s no specific cure, and seems to have its greatest negative impact on people exactly like me (age and disease) is about as foreboding as it could possibly be. And with no place to hide, other than in your own home - with no visitors allowed, a precaution most recommended (to invoke the syntax of Hercule Poirot, “the greatest detective in the world”) has made many of us isolated and perhaps interior. I can, as many healthcare professionals have said, almost see the light. Hopefully, it will be July 4th of this year as the President has suggested and not July 4th of next year.

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