

The Arlington Connection

Members of Yorktown state championship lacrosse team (from left) Alex Wilson, Connor Kaetzel, Han Miller, Mateo Romero.

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION FLOURISHING AFTER 55. PAGE 2 ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 5-7 CLASSIFIEDS. PAGE 6

Lacrosse Champions, Despite COVID

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NEWS

A-SPAN New Name: PathForward

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

PathForward

New name and brand identity for A-SPAN.

A-SPAN announced on July 7 the name will change to PathForward. This reflects the Board of Directors and team engagement and discussion last year about their mission, vision and values and their commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging. Betsy Frantz, President and CEO, says the new mission statement reflects the commitment to an inclusive and equitable community.

A-SPAN has deep roots in the community growing out of the efforts of a local Arlingtonian to feed bagged meals to her homeless neighbors. It was founded in 1992 with a small team who focused on

street outreach.

Twenty-nine years later the vision has expanded to include a permanent Homeless Services Center at 2020-A 14th Street N.

It offers a full service operation with shelter and three meals a day, laundry and showers as well as a full continuum of care including access to medical care, job training, and counseling. The organization has grown to 36 full-time, 32 part-time and 22 seasonal staff with a volunteer base of over 1,000 people.

As the services expanded, the

commitment has grown to move people towards a path to stability. Betsy Frantz explains it is centered around the idea that every person can find their own path to stability, whatever that means to them, and PathForward is here to support it.

"I love the new logo which is the symbol of a house. But it can be anywhere where a person feels warm, safe, stable and can find their own path forward. ...

"We remain true to our mission of transforming lives by empowering people from streets to stability."

FLOURISHING AFTER 55

55+ Programs are virtual and outdoors. A 55+ Membership is required to participate (\$20 annual fee). To join or register, go to registration.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

Virtual & Outdoor Programs

- ❖ Understanding Medicare enrollment, presented by Marge Steinlage, Steinlage Insurance

Agency, Thursday, July 15, 1 p.m. Registration # 914500-11.

- ❖ African American genealogy research, Thursday, July 15, 3 p.m. Registration # 914400-05.

- ❖ Poetry group members share ideas, Thursday, July 15, 11 a.m. Registration # 914300-02.

- ❖ Basic drawing class for beginners, presented by art instructor Ruth Kling, Friday, July 16, 1:30 p.m.

Registration # 914301-05.

- ❖ Aurora Hills fast paced walking group, Friday, July 16, 8:30 a.m., two to three mile loop, some hills. Registration # 914201-03.

- ❖ Favorite soups, salads, dressings, Friday, July 16, 3 p.m. Registration # 914501-03.

- ❖ Garden and landscaping issues answered by Virginia Cooperative SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 3

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Zarina Ram (middle) with her mother, sister Vandana Allman (left), and nephews.

Doorways Opens Little Library To Empower Survivors and Children

'Dream Bigger Than They Could've Ever Imagined'

Doorways opened a little library to ensure families have a variety of books at home, even while they are living in a shelter. Research shows many positive impacts of growing up with books at home and being read to as a child, including a million-word boost in vocabulary by kindergarten.

The library is part of Doorways' ongoing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives. Its curated collection features diverse characters, perspectives, and experiences to empower children to see themselves in stories, as well as those who are different, to help them build confidence, empathy, and understanding. Current titles

include *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson, *Skin Like Mine* by LaTashia M. Perry, and *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo, plus more.

"Our multilingual collection of books was carefully selected to share characters and stories from all over the world. These books are a representation of our community and our deepest desire for all of our clients and neighbors to feel welcome and belonging," said Doorways' President and CEO Diana Ortiz.

Doorways celebrated the library's official opening with a small gathering of supporters, including its founding sponsor Zarina Ram, architect Jim MacGregor, and artist Alina Sagatov.

"The power of language and

words give us the ability to inspire, to create, to connect," said Ram. "My wish is that this little library will give women and children who have survived oppression a chance to experience empathy by walking in another's shoes through the books they read; an escape to a world beyond that which they know, which will inspire them to dream bigger than they could've ever imagined."

Doorways is a community-based nonprofit providing shelter, supportive housing, and services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as youth and families experiencing homelessness. Learn more and get involved at www.doorwaysva.org/donate

FLOURISHING AFTER 55

FROM PAGE 2

Extension Master Gardeners, Monday, July 19, 1 p.m. Send questions and photos ahead of time to mgarlalex@gmail.com. Registration #914400-30.

❖ How to decide what family heirlooms to keep, Monday, July 19, 1 p.m. Presented by Matthew Quinn, Quinn's Auction Galleries. Registration # 914401-01.

❖ Monday morning meet-up with fellow 55+ members, July 19, 10 a.m., casual conversation. Registration # 914801-06.

❖ Outdoor needlecraft with fellow 55+ members, Monday, July 19, 10 a.m., Virginia Highlands Park, 1600 S. Hayes Street. Registration # 914703-25

❖ Tai Chi practices with experienced volunteers, Monday, July 19, 10 a.m., Virginia Highlands Plaza, 1600 S. Hayes St., registration # 914105-18; Tuesday, July 20, 10 a.m., Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 2501 S. 2nd St., registration # 914105-06.

❖ 55+ Live! Talk Show, preview of upcoming demonstrations, programs for adults 55+, Tuesday, July 20, noon. Registration # 914801-16.

❖ Peace Corps celebrates 60th anniversary, Tuesday, July 20, 1:30 p.m. Program presented by Barry Hillenbrand, former TIME magazine correspondent. Registration # 914400-17.

❖ Acoustic hour online, music from the 50s to the present, performed

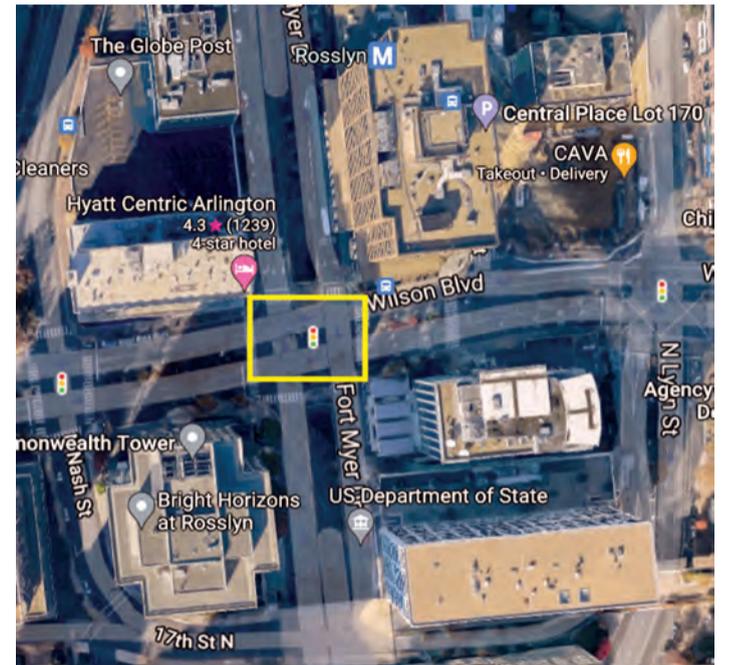
live by Ed Girovasi, Wednesday, July 21, 1 p.m. Registration # 914400-06.

❖ Why advanced health directives are necessary, Wednesday, July 21, 11 a.m. Presented by Elder Law Attorney Ed Zetlin. Registration # 914400-26.

❖ Genealogy group discusses challenges in researching family histories, Wednesday, July 21, 3 p.m. Registration # 914402-27.

❖ Sudoku games, Thursday, July 22, 2 p.m., registration # 914601-05. All levels welcome.

❖ Genealogy research, learn how to use WWI and WWII draft registration cards for information, Thursday, July 22, 3 p.m. Registration # 914400-06.



Bridge Work on Wilson Blvd at Fort Myer Drive Starts Next Week

A County contractor is beginning a project this month to repair the Wilson Boulevard bridge over Fort Myer Drive.

We previously announced the start of this project last month, but it was delayed due to equipment availability. The work is now scheduled to begin next week - the week of July 19 - and is expected to be complete in about 3 months, weather permitting.

The bridge is experiencing deterioration and concrete spalling, creating a safety issue for the underpass. This project will address the deteriorated concrete and perform repairs to

reduce further deterioration.

What to expect during construction: Work hours will be 7 am to 7 pm from Monday through Saturday, with work on Sundays and at night also possible during the project; There will be lane closures on Wilson Boulevard and Fort Myer Drive; Portions of this work will require a complete closure of the Fort Myer Drive lanes beneath Wilson Boulevard, but the side lanes on Fort Myer Drive will remain open; One bridge sidewalk will remain open at all times; Work will be performed in accordance with the County Noise Ordinance.

Police Investigate Fatal Crash on Arlington Boulevard

The Arlington County Police Department is investigating a fatal crash that occurred on the evening of Friday, July 9.

At approximately 5:13 p.m., police were dispatched to the report of a two-vehicle crash with injuries at Arlington Boulevard and N. Manchester Street.

The vehicles were each occupied two times. Upon arrival, medics extricated a passenger from one of the involved vehicles and transported her to an area hospital in critical condition. She later succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced deceased.

The driver of that vehicle was transported with non-life-threatening injuries and the passenger of the other vehicle was transported in critical but stable condition.

The deceased has been identified as Marilou Jocson, 63, of Arlington, Va.

This crash remains under investigation.

Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact Detective S. Lafley at Slafley@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-4052. Information may also be reported anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

From COVID to State Lacrosse Champions

Yorktown lacrosse team remembers the journey.

Connor Kaetzel, attackman on the Yorktown High School lacrosse team, remembers when they got notice in March 2020 that school would be closed for two weeks due to COVID.

"It didn't seem real at the time; we were happy we got two weeks off school." Then it happened, no more sports. The players agree they were super depressed. For several months everything was in a lockdown. But although school activities were halted, they were able to play in a Virginia high school league during the summer months. Kaetzel says the former Yorktown lacrosse players would come back to see what they had built. "If we had a bad game, they would tell us to keep our head down and play our best."

Alex Wilson, attackman, says they were able to play through the fall and winter in the unofficial league and without their high school coach. But even though they had the same players, it never seemed the same. "To be honest Connor adds, "I was a little worried that this year everything would come together."

Then in January the school team slowly came back together. Wilson says it started with just exercise. Matteo Romero, midfielder, remembers they had just one practice a week with masks under their helmets and staying six feet apart. "We were glad to be out again," Kaetzel says.

Wilson remembers Westfield in May as a key game. Wilson can recount every play as though it was yesterday. "Ramsey, who is a mid that doesn't play a lot, scored a key goal and everyone went crazy." It showed them they were all one team.

Romero says, "kids who didn't get to play a lot would score."

Kaetzel says, "There was so much chemistry. We all hung out on and off the field." He thinks COVID actually helped pull the team together.

Romero explains, "After that we crushed them. We didn't lose a game. We just kept getting better and better."

One test followed another as the team won game after game and



Alex Wilson, Yorktown High School lacrosse attackman.



Han Miller, Yorktown High School lacrosse midfielder.



Connor Kaetzel, Yorktown High School lacrosse attackman.



Mateo Romero, Yorktown High School lacrosse midfielder.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

headed to the two district championship games in June. Wilson says they had won district 4 times out of 20 years in the past, and winning district again was their goal. They weren't quite sure yet how far they could go. But they won both district games and were headed for the regional in the middle of June, first time ever.

Yorktown roundly defeated South Lakes and then faced Madison who had been the champions last time.

Miller says, "This was our first real test. We had heard about them. We dominated them the whole time. We surprised them and ourselves."

Romero says, "That's when we realized how good we were." Then they faced Langley for the third time after playing them in the district contest.

Han Miller, midfielder, says it's tough to beat a team three times, and Langley scored right off.

But at the critical minute with 12 seconds left, Han got a beautiful pass and ran all the way down the field to send it to Kaetzel who scored the winning goal.

Then on to face Robinson, the super powerhouse from Fairfax.

"We had never been to regionals before and," Romero says, "we had never come close to beating Robinson."

Miller adds, "they had sent us home so many times."

It was 6-4 going into the 4th. But Kaetzel scored to make it 6-5. With three minutes left Wilson followed to tie the game. The first overtime no one scored but "they didn't have any shots." Then in double overtime with 30 seconds left Miller got



Members of Yorktown state championship lacrosse team (from left) Alex Wilson, Connor Kaetzel, Han Miller, Mateo Romero.

a shot to win the game.

They reflected that in a way the state championship in Haymar-

ket was almost an afterthought. Mateo says no one had ever won outside of Fairfax, and Battlefield High School had no name recogni-

tion. "We felt pretty good about our chances." The stands were packed with family supporters but graduation had just happened and a lot of the students had already taken off. Battlefield had the home advantage, and their crowd was going wild. But the Yorktown parents were there, and they were loud.

The championship game started out slow. Miller reflects, "There were a lot of nerves coming off the high of beating Robinson. I never got my adrenaline until the end — still recovering from the double overtime a couple of days earlier."

The game ping ponged back and forth. Battlefield was up at half-time and scored again in the third quarter where they controlled the ball most of the time. But Yorktown made two quick goals in the fourth to tie what was otherwise a slow quarter.

Then suddenly, 24 seconds into overtime, Wilson scored to win the game for Yorktown 9-8.

Romero says, "We accomplished what we needed to do."

Kaetzel says, "I still don't believe it."

The players all agreed their season's success had been heavily dependent on their goalie Gabe Margosis who got 22 saves in one game. "Nobody has ever heard of anything like it."

Wilson says, "If any one single person was responsible for us winning, it would be Gabe. He was so essential and he cared so much about everyone."

Miller adds with a smile, "I was a little disappointed to get a ribbon instead of the championship ring." But not to worry, the rings had been sized and are on their way.

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Yorktown lacrosse team wins state championship against Battlefield High School on June 25 in Haymarket.



Yorktown High friends and family make a lot of noise at the lacrosse state championship game June 25 at Haymarket.

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The 9th Street Chamber Music community launch party will be held on Friday, July 16 from 5-8 p.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington..

CALENDAR

NOW THRU AUG. 28

We Can't Predict Tomorrow Exhibit. At the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd, Arlington. We Can't Predict Tomorrow is a hopeful glimpse into the unexpected ways nine artists approached the relentless tumult of the COVID-19 global pandemic. In sculpture, photography, installation, drawing, and painting, the works reveal themes that have taken on a heightened urgency under the duress of the prolonged quarantine and isolation in the U.S.:

site: <https://www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-live>
Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:30 p.m. Broadway;
Thursday, July 22, 2021 6:30 p.m. '90s Music;
Thursday, July 29, 2021 6:30 p.m. Drag.

FRIDAY/JULY 16

9SCM Launch Party. 5-8 p.m. At St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland Street, Arlington. The 9th Street Chamber Music LLC hosts a family-friendly community event that will include live music, food and drink for purchase, a raffle drawing and more. Website: 9thstreet-chambermusic.com

THURSDAY/JULY 15

Rosslyn LIVE from Gateway Park. 6:30 p.m. Located at Gateway Park - 1300 Lee Hwy, Arlington. Beginning on July 15, you're invited to grab a drink and experience three themed nights of interactive dance performances, sing-a-long moments, and Instagrammable installations throughout Gateway Park. Web-

FRIDAY/JULY 16

Lubber Run Summer Concert Series. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 11 a.m. At North Columbus Street and 2nd SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7



Saturday/July 24

Bands & Brews on the Boulevard. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Wilson Boulevard in Ballston, from N. Stuart to N. Randolph Streets. Concert-goers can mix, mingle, dance and enjoy live music from various local acts. Bobby McKeys Dueling Pianos will close out the event at 7:00 p.m. and the community is encouraged to request songs for by visiting Ballston BID's Instagram page and submitting your requests in the week leading up to the event. A 200-foot, open-air Street Pub will be serving beer, wine and cocktails.

Main Stage on Wilson Boulevard

DJ Touch Basis - all day
11:00 a.m. Andrew Savoia & Fordson Labs
12:30 p.m. Turtle Recall
2:00 p.m. JunkFood
3:45 p.m. Popstar Drive
5:45 p.m. Aztec Sun
7:00 p.m. Bobby McKeys Dueling Pianos

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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Hearings to solicit public comments on the drawing of state and congressional legislative districts in Virginia.

A total of eight public hearings will be held in July and August. Hearings are scheduled regionally both in person and virtually. Hearings will be livestreamed and archived online

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NEWS

Opera NOVA Innovates Opera Training for Young Vocalists

Opera NOVA will offer its Summer Institute for young vocalists between 13-18 years of age July 28-Aug. 8, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Classes will be offered at the Arlington Woman's Club on 700

S. Buchanan with appropriate COVID restrictions in place.

PREVIEW These classes focus on singing technique, opera history, diction, ear training, music theory, stage presence and individual voice lessons. Many of the students use this experience as preparation for their future college studies. A student performance will be held at the end of the classes. For more information: operanovaoffice@gmail.com.

— SHIRLEY RUHE



Opera NOVA offers instruction to teenage students.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

Street North (two blocks north of Rt. 50), Arlington. The Lubber Run Summer Concert series features free performances from a variety of genres including big band, blues, soul and orchestral music as well as cabaret to the Lubber Run Amphitheater.

Schedule

Avant Bard – Fri, July 16
 JoGo Project – Sat, July 17
 Levine School of Music (Family Performance) – Sun, July 18
 Akua Allrich – Fri, July 23
 King Soul – Sat, July 24
 Encore Stage & Studio (Family Performance) – Sun, July 25

ONGOING

The National Park Service has reopened Arlington

House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, following a complete rehabilitation of the site and transformation of the visitor experience. New exhibits and research allow the NPS to interpret the history of the Custis and Lee families alongside that of the more than 100 enslaved people who labored on the plantation. Together, their stories reveal a more complete picture of life at Arlington House and of the people and events that changed our nation. The rehabilitation, which began in 2018, was made possible through a \$12.35 million donation by philanthropist David M. Rubenstein to the National Park Foundation. Arlington House is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To enter the plantation house, visitors need to obtain a timed-ticket through recreation.gov. No tickets are required to visit the museum, north and south slave quarters, grounds and gardens.



Jane Franklin leads her Forty+ Dancers along with new movements in the creative process.

July 6-Aug. 28

Forty+ Summer 2021. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Jane Franklin Dance, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Forty+ Projects celebrate the collective creativity of people past the age of 40 resulting in unique collaboration. Projects explore movement and performance technique within a creative premise. Cost is \$120. Dates: Tuesday, weekly, July 6 - Aug 24; 12:30-1:30 p.m. and Sat. Aug 28 at 7 p.m. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus>

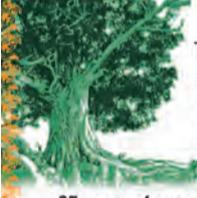
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Time to Kill



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

(Again, not a cancer column. Given the title, it would be a pretty gruesome reference to my life in the cancer world if it were.)

No. Not even close to a cancer column. But I am writing about a similar mind-numbing experience. However, this experience has nothing to do with disease/dying. Instead, it has to do with the effort, patience and excruciating lack of success in attempting to contact, meaning speaking to an actual person, at the Internal Revenue Service and/or at the Social Security Administration. The phone numbers you're "googled" to call are the opposite of hot lines. They are frigid. Almost too cold to tolerate, but since your financial life expectancy may be at risk, somehow you have to hold on for dear life. Or else pay, or rather be unable to pay, the consequences.

So I'm on hold for 14 minutes and counting, sort of. More like listening to some unrecognizable instrumental between looped messages that say (A) You're still on hold and (B) They haven't forgotten you and your call will be answered in the order in which it was received. (Actually, you're hoping they remember you.) Unfortunately, you have no choice but to hold on. The answers you seek are only found at these places/numbers and unless you go to the source, you'll be barking up the wrong tree and/or not squeaking the right wheel. I'm fairly certain that if you don't call them, they're unlikely to call - back, or forward, especially if the reason for my two calls is to secure money coming to me instead of negotiating how I'm planning to pay them. So sit tight and be brave - and be near a bathroom to make sure nature's call doesn't interrupt your interminable wait on hold and/or be sure there are enough bars on your phone so a draining battery doesn't end your pursuit.

However, presuming the time it will take to speak to someone to be hours, not minutes, it can be an opportunity to while away your wait by multi-tasking and have the music offered up for your listening pleasure to serve as a kind of white noise as you go about some other personal business. In short, you can get things done rather than become increasingly frustrated that you're stuck by the phone accomplishing nothing. But you have to prepare and anticipate. This wait is not going to be a pleasurable experience. It's a means to an end, hopefully a rewarding one, but hardly one that's guaranteed.

If you can only talk yourself into realizing how good you'll feel once this phone task is completed. Roloids has nothing on the relief you'll feel when you're finished with this day's work (almost literally). Moreover, knowing you don't have to call them back tomorrow is nearly motivation enough. Crossing this task off your to-do list free's up not only time but mental space, as well. It's almost as if you've given your life back, at least for a few hours, anyway.

As I sit and continue to write this column, it is 38 minutes since I began this exercise in time utilization. And it's just now happened, a representative from the Social Security Administration has just interrupted the music loop and offered their assistance. Let me get my bearings and organize my thoughts so I'm clear in what I'm saying. I don't want to have to make this call again. I already have once before. I have called previously and after telling my tale, was put on hold while the operator researched my claim only to be disconnected when the operator returned to address my question. But this time, there was no disconnect. I received my answer in a reasonably timely manner and off I now go into the rest of my day. Next up: the IRS. Do I dare test my limits and call them on the same day as I called Social Security or do I reward myself and take a well-deserved break? Either way, it's one down and one to go. I think I'll call tomorrow. I don't feel like testing my patience yet again, and besides, I'm finished with this real-time column.

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

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