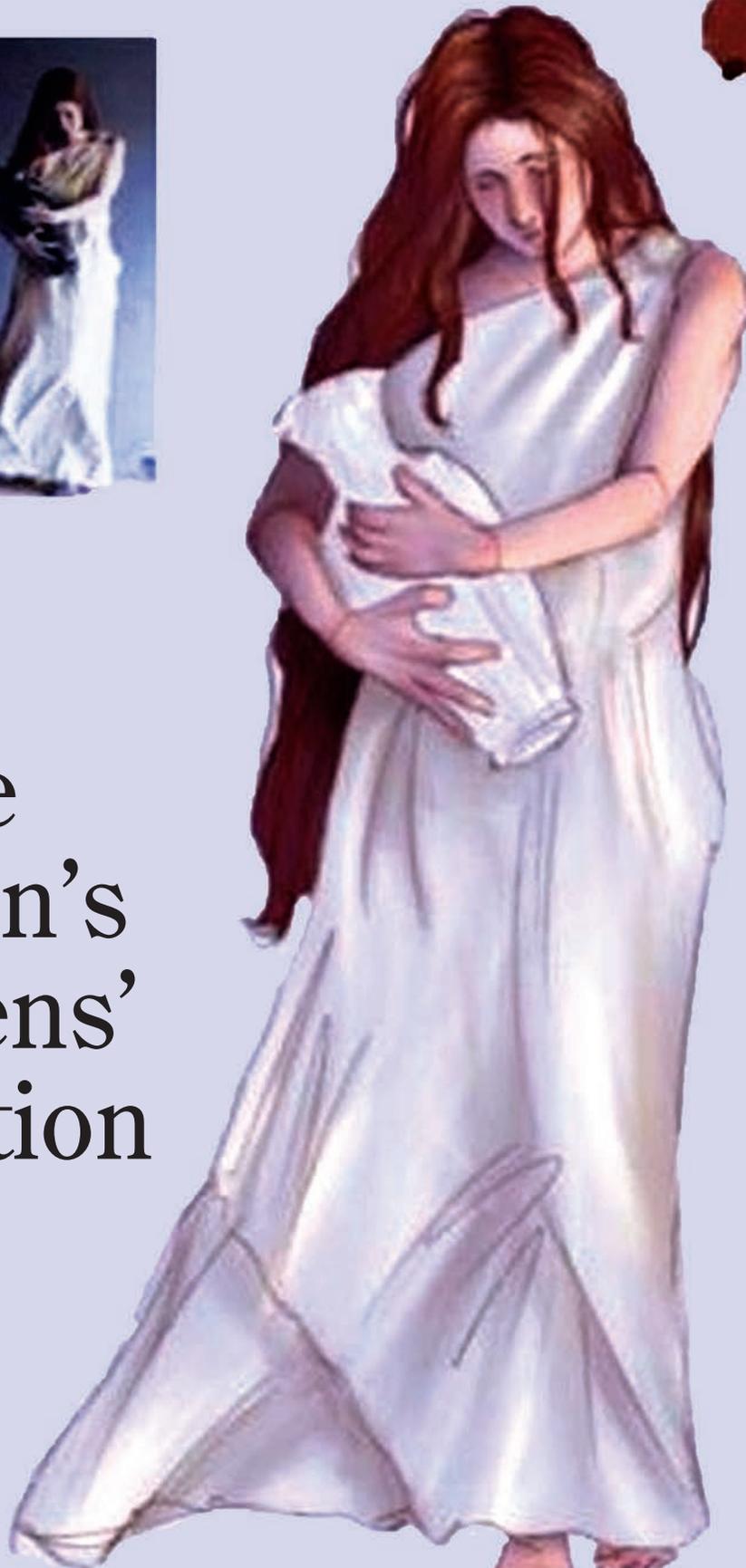


The Arlington Connection



Willa Heibin,
13, 8th Grade,
Swanson Middle School

More Children's and Teens' Connection

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What Will 2022 Real Estate Market Bring?

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2022 Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Forecast

Single-family homes in Arlington are still the hottest real estate ticket in town.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors recently spotlighted predictions for Fairfax County, Arlington County and City of Alexandria. The association collaborated on the consensus housing forecast with the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government to answer one question: Where is the market headed?

"In 2022, we expect the market to be a little slower but still fast-paced in terms of sales. Homes are going to move quickly. We're still going to see a lot of opportunities to buy, but you have to be ready for it," said NVAR CEO Ryan McLaughlin. He also predicted that inventory would be scarce and that home prices would rise, but more slowly.

Derrick Swaak, 2021 president of NVAR and partner/managing broker at TTR Sotheby's International Realty McLean, said they convened a panel of key experts from different industry sectors. They reviewed the preliminary forecasts GMU economists developed based upon statistical patterns and trends and augmented them with data-driven results.

McLaughlin predicted some moderation could be in store for the 2022 market. "[It] will be a bit cooler, but it will still be a very good year for residential real estate. We do expect a slower pace in home sales as mortgage rates increase and housing options remain scarce. Although home prices will continue to rise, they will still be at a more moderate pace than in the past year," he said.

According to McLaughlin, since the spring of 2020, Realtors witnessed a residential real estate market that defied expectations amid a pandemic that brought the economy to a near standstill. The housing market, McLaughlin said, did more than just survive; it thrived. He attributed this to the region's built-in competitive economic advantages, including a strong technology sector and employment boosted by federal government jobs. "The influx of new jobs provided and still to come by Amazon has created a ripple effect that benefits the region," McLaughlin said.

Terry L. Clower, professor of Public Policy at George Mason University and director of GMU's Center for Regional Analysis, was guest speaker.

In fact, Arlington will be a very intense real estate market in 2022 for two reasons, Amazon and because it is close-in and urban.

"Single-family homes in Arlington are still the hottest real estate ticket in town," Clower said.



Terry L. Clower, Ph.D., GMU Center for Regional Analysis

"There's going to be heavy competition for most houses ... If you want to buy a home, you're going to have to compete for it. If you want to sell a home, you'll get everything you're asking for, particularly for a single-family."

— Terry L. Clower, Ph.D., GMU's Center for Regional Analysis

Townhouses in Arlington saw notable increases in inventories in the past year and a half, but will see a drop in inventories down an average of 10% for 2021, Clower predicted.

Overall prices will be more stable with increases of about 3.1%, he said.

But Condos

Condos will be a more complicated market.

"The impacts of units coming onto market as part of National Landing developments — tied to Amazon — may soften the market for existing [condo] units," said Clower.

Older condo buildings across the region, not just in Arlington, will face some challenges. Those older buildings "will still need to have excellent documentation to alleviate concerns about the financial sustainability of condo associations and the physical condition of their properties," Clower said.

Still more than 1,700 condo units could sell over the course of the year and with some price appreciation.

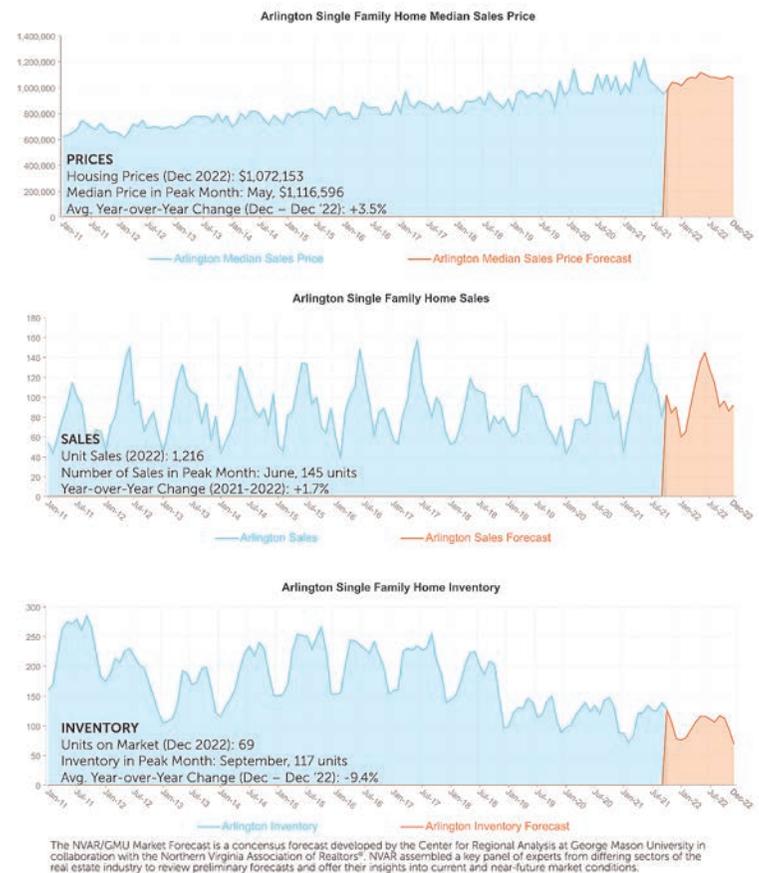
A Big Year

NVAR data through November 2021 showed that real estate agents in Northern

Arlington County Single Family 2022



KEY MARKET STATISTICS



NVAR.COM



Derrick Swaak, NVAR



Ryan McLaughlin, NVAR

Virginia closed transactions totaling more than \$17.4 billion, up 25 percent from November 2020. In November 2021, the total number of homes sold year-to-date was nearly 25,000, outpacing the year-end figures for 2020 and 2019.

Clower said median prices would rise about 5.7 percent at the national level, but they expect a drop by about 1.7 percent in the number of home sales.

"What we're expecting in this region is a little bit slower price increase, and that's somewhat because our prices are already pretty high," Clower said. "We are at the top of our market," he said, particularly for entry-level purchases.

Clower talked about the region's economy, which is one of the strongest in the country, and Federal Reserve policymakers' actions that could affect the housing market fore-

cast in 2022. Clower predicted an increase of 87,000 jobs in the overall metropolitan region. The regional economy continued to perform well, bolstered by the technology sector and new rounds of federal spending as Congress enacted key portions of the administration's economic plan.

Drop in Inventory

Clower predicted a 23 percent drop in inventory in Fairfax County. What that means, Clower said, is that in "an average month through 2022, we're expecting there to be fewer than 500 homes on the market."

"That's a significant new number. ... We're not going to see that big of a drop in sales, about 0.8 percent, and we expect to see a rise in price ... in Fairfax County, 3.2 percent," Clower said. He said he expects to see an increase in the inventory of townhomes. "Now, when we say they're increasing, though that's [only] ... about 300."

Clower said many believe inventory in Northern Virginia cannot fall any further, but it does and it will. There might be some variation in the submarkets, but there would not be a lot of choices overall.

"There's going to be heavy competition for most houses ... If you want to buy a home, you're going to have to compete for it. If you want to sell a home, you'll get everything you're asking for, particularly for a single-family," said Clower.

VIEW THE 2022 NVAR REGION FORECAST BRIEFING AT [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=YMQIWQ5TVD8&T=3S](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMQiwQ5tVD8&t=3s)

A Puppet Here, A Puppet There, A Puppet Everywhere



Odoulamy is a painter, like his father pictured in Benin, West Africa when Odoulamy was five-years-old.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

They'd never heard of Elmo in Benin, West Africa. Alban Odoulamy, owner of Puppet Heaven tucked in a corner of Crystal Square Arcade says, "All of the little kids who walk by my window-display of puppets yell to their mother, 'There's Elmo!' They don't see Big Bird or anyone else; it's just Elmo."

Odoulamy has hopped around, occupying several spaces in the underground shopping arcade, since he opened up his first puppet shop in April 15, 1996. "The first space was very small, affordable at the time." His first shop was called La Marionette since his native language is French and he had been trained as a marionetter in his country. "There have been many changes in 25 years."

Odoulamy said he never would have gone in this direction except in 1983 he was employed by the only Benin government TV station. "They had a new program for children on tv so they trained three of us to be marionetters." He adds sometimes they used the children's puppets to work in a political message.

In the beginning Odoulamy sold his own homemade wooden marionettes. But he found the children who came to his first store asked to see puppet animals and everything they saw on TV.

He always listens to what people say and he gradually expanded his shop to add a wide variety of choices. Now you see puppets from floor to ceiling, wedged in corners, hanging from hooks. A shelf high inside the door features Howdy Doody, Groucho Marx and Bozo the Clown lined up in a row. A two-foot high wizard puppet greets visitors alongside a white clad princess. A box of finger puppets sits wedged among cartoon characters and ventriloquist dolls.

Odoulamy is also a painter so he

combined his next store with a studio where he could paint puppets but also work on his own oil paintings. Odoulamy says his first trip to the United States in 1990 was not about puppets. "I was asked by the Ambassador of Benin to exhibit my paintings in the Pepco Center." He points to a sketch on the back wall of his shop. "This is my father painting in Benin, and that's me at five years old and my brother on the floor."

Odoulamy has a few of his paintings scattered around the store amid the puppets. "See this oil I painted in 1990 is not just somebody on a bike. You see he is carrying a lot of baggage and the bike is traveling up and down, like our life. But the pink shows he is still happy."

Odoulamy plucks a rod puppet out of a box of choices. He pushes a 6-inch stick upward through a purple cone with a jolt. Up pops a green frog. Odoulamy wiggles the stick and the puppet bows to the right. Odoulamy's animated face begins a conversation with an imaginary child. "The little ones always love peek-a-boo." Odoulamy explains he used to do shows for birthday parties and other events and hopes to do that again when he has more free time.

All kinds of people buy puppets from the tiniest children to churches and schools for performances to lovers who buy Lamb Chop as a sign of affection for Valentine's Day. One woman came in and bought 20 of the more expensive ones. "I asked her if she planned to sell them and she told me she is a collector." Odoulamy said some people buy puppets online but most people like to see them and touch them in person. "A child may think they have seen a large puppet but find it is small when they see it in person."

Puppet Heaven is open from 1-7 p.m. Monday- Saturday at 1625-A Crystal Square Arcade. For more information: 703-414-7855.



Every spot from floor to ceiling is crammed with puppets of all varieties at Puppet Heaven.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Alban Odoulamy has a conversation with one of his rod puppets at Puppet Heaven in Crystal Square Arcade.



Vintage characters like Howdy Doody and Groucho Marx sit on a shelf high in Puppet Heaven.

Take a Hike (On New Year's Day)

Enjoy the great outdoors on New Year's Day with a first day hike at any of the 41 Virginia State Parks.

All state parks offer free parking on Jan. 1, 2022 and visitors to each park will receive a commemorative water bottle sticker (while supplies last).

For a list of scheduled hikes and programs, www.virginiastateparks.gov/firstdayhikes

Mason Neck in Lorton is included. <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/mason-neck>

Leesylvania in Woodbridge <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/leesylvania> and Sky Meadows <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/sky-meadows> are in easy driving distance also.

Virginia State Parks has many hikes and opportunities to choose from, or visit a park and create your

own special First Day Hike. Here are a few ideas:

Sky Meadows State Park will open at 5:30 a.m. on New Year's Day to support the sunrise celebration of various cultures. At 10 a.m., join a ranger at the Backcountry Trailhead for a guided hike.

Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield offers a special New Year's Eve night hike to celebrate the countdown. The park also offers a variety

of special hikes for different ages and capabilities throughout New Year's Day.

Guided hikes are available every hour from 9 a.m. – noon at Natural Bridge State Park. The approximately 45-minute hike will lead you to great views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Join a ranger at Smith Mountain Lake State Park on a mile hike that is rated as easy. The hike includes a scavenger hunt to discover winter's

hidden secrets in nature.

At Clinch River State Park, a ranger will lead you on a 4-mile hike along the Clinch and to ruins of a failed French settlement.

The 41 award-winning Virginia State Parks are managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. For more information, or to buy an annual pass or gift certificate, visit www.virginiastateparks.gov

Covid Cases Surge; Only 30% Boosted in Arlington

Arlington County is seeing a significant surge in COVID-19 cases, with 268 new cases reported on Saturday, the highest single-day number ever recorded for Arlington during the pandemic.

As the transmission increases, public health leaders in Northern Virginia are encouraging residents to maintain their vigilance in curbing the spread of COVID-19 to minimize hospitalizations and deaths during this winter surge.

Help out.

❖ **Answer the Call.** If you test positive for COVID-19, please answer the phone call from Arlington Public Health to receive fur-

ther guidance. If we don't reach you, we will leave a message. In the meantime, please call your known close contacts to let them know they may have been exposed and encourage them to get tested, regardless of their vaccination status.

❖ **Use Many Strategies to Slow the Spread.** We ask everyone to use multiple, overlapping strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Arlington Public Health wants to highlight some key strategies:

❖ **Vaccination:** Vaccination is the single best way to lower the risk for hospitalization and death from severe COVID-19 illness. Everyone 5 years and older is eligible for the

free COVID-19 vaccine. Find a location at vaccines.gov.

❖ **Get Boosted:** Everyone 16 years and older should get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to strengthen protection against Omicron and other variants. While 85% of adults in Arlington have received at least one dose, only 30% have their booster dose -- the CDC now recommends that everyone ages 16 and older receive a COVID-19 booster shot.

❖ **Masking Indoors:** Masking is the best way to reduce spreading germs when around others outside your home. Everyone 2 years and older should wear a mask when indoors

in public, regardless of vaccination status.

❖ **Testing After COVID Exposure or When You Have Symptoms:** Testing helps detect infection earlier and slow the spread of the virus. Learn when you should get tested if you have close contact with someone who is sick. And find testing options near you using VDH's COVID-19 Testing Sites map.

Seek the advice of your healthcare provider if you have questions about your health situation. You may qualify for treatments authorized by the FDA for emergency use that can reduce your risk of hospitalization or death following close contact to or illness with COVID-19

BULLETIN BOARD

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

EVENTS WITH ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD VILLAGE

❖ "Coffee and Conversation" speaker series. Everyone is invited to join the conversation via Zoom. Bring your own coffee, learn interesting things about the community and hear from the speakers listed below. Visit www.arlnvil.org.

Wednesdays, Dec. 22nd and 29th at 10-11 a.m. Zoom Link below (except for the in-person event on 12/29, see below).

Dec. 22, 2021: Community leader and activist, Tannia Talento, will give an overview of the community efforts and partnerships offered to the Hispanic and Latino community in Arlington. Tannia is a former chair of the Arlington Public Schools board and is a co-founder of Arlington Schools Hispanic Parents Association, helping families with issues beyond the classroom.

Dec. 29, 2021: Let's celebrate New Year's 2022 a little early! ANV members and volunteers who are vaccinated are welcome to get together in person for treats and fun. Virginia Square Condominium Community Room. Registration required through the ANV office (703-509-8057). Zoom link for Coffee and Conver-

sation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948577106?pwd=eW0rN1RT-TU5ITmJ5NnF2QXZINmdUQT09>

TUESDAY/JAN. 4

Citizen Presentation to Members of General Assembly. 8-9 p.m. At the Ellen Bozman Government Center Boardroom, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington. Citizens and citizen groups may address the members of the General Assembly representing Arlington at an in-person event sponsored by the Arlington County Board and the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria. Anyone who wishes to address the members should arrive no later than 6:45 p.m. Each speaker will have about 90

seconds to tell them what you would like to see important to you during this General Assembly Session. Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/citizen-presentation-to-members-of-general-assembly--tickets-212662046907>

THURSDAY/JAN. 6

Getting to Carbon Neutrality. 7-8:30 p.m. Online. Industry experts will discuss how to transform our built environments to meet the goal of carbon neutrality. For details and registration visit <https://www.eco-actionarlington.org/get-involved/events/>.

FRIDAY/JAN. 7

Pests and Diseases in the Garden: Organic Prevention. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. The depth of winter is a

great time to review last year's garden performance, especially the pests and diseases that vexed your garden last year. What can you do to prevent them from being so bad in 2022? Join Kirsten Conrad, Extension Agent for Arlington County and City of Alexandria, to review garden planning and planting, species selection and planting times, pest life cycles, and tactics to limit disease and insect problems. You'll come away with a better understanding of your most pressing pest management problems. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/events/> to receive a link to participate.

ARLINGTON PARKS ACCREDITED

Arlington County joins the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

As part of the accreditation process Arlington Parks & Recreation had to demonstrate compliance with 154 recognized standards and

document all policies and procedures. Often the process helps identify efficiencies and heighten areas of accountability, all of which translate into higher quality service and operation to benefit the community.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established 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.

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.

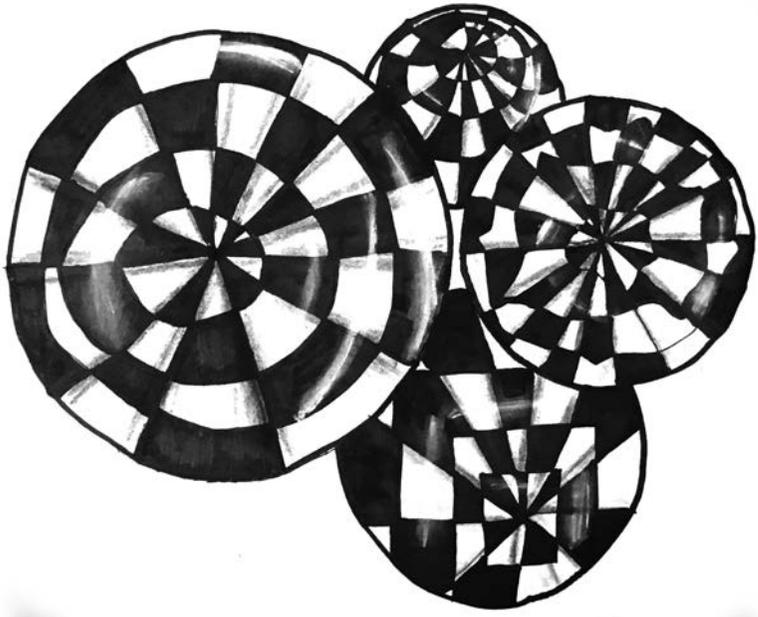
Create a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners in restoring their home's natural habitat by providing information on sustainable garden-

ing 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 audubonva.org/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 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, virtually. 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.dementiacare-connections.com/memory-cafe or www.seniorhelpers.com/

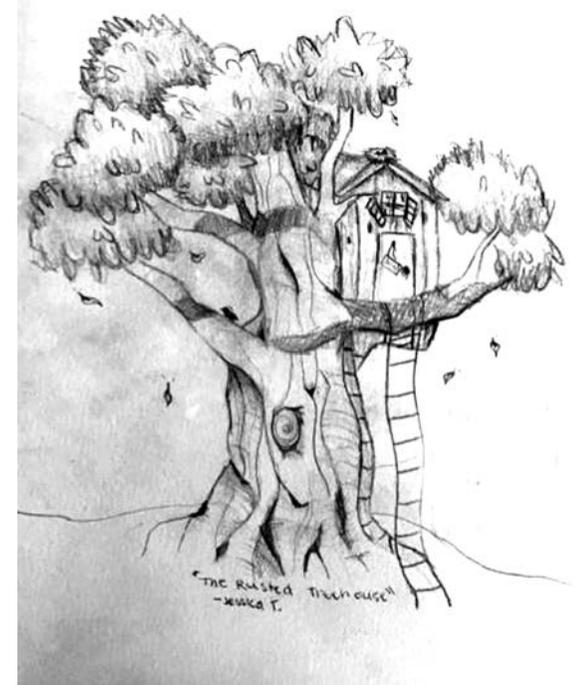
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Arzu Yavuz, 13, 8th Grade



Sam Donahue, 14, 8th Grade



Jessica Talotta, 14, 8th Grade



Emily Williams, 13, 8th Grade

Daniel Huddleston, 13, 8th Grade



Declan Neckel, 12, 7th Grade



Willa Heibin, 13, 8th Grade



Quinn Fleming, 13, 7th Grade



Jhojara Guzman, 12, 7th Grade



Cameron Cassidy, 14, 8th Grade

RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Delmy Solis Foronda, Age: 11, Grade: 5, Ms. Fleenor



Nayeli Sorto, Age: 10, Grade 5, Mr. McDaniel



Themina Ould Di, Age: 11, Grade: 5, Mr. McDaniel



Calliope Willis, Age: 9, Grade: 4th, Teacher: Mr. Rogers



Chetou Di, Age: 9, Grade: 4th, Teacher: Ms. Elcan



Esther Vigil Nerio, Age: 6, Grade: 1st, Teacher: Ms. Fullwood



Mehrun Nesa, Age:7, Grade: 2nd, Teacher: Ms. Henson



Tatiana Alvarado, Age: 6, Grade: 1st, Teacher: Ms. Fullwood



Tahra Di, Age: 6, Grade: 1st, Teacher: Ms. Fullwood



David Vasquez Rubio, Age:7, Grade: 2nd, Teacher: Ms. Henson



Jeffrey Andrade Argueta, Age:7, Grade: 2nd, Teacher: Ms. Henson



Mohsina Fairuj, Age:8, Grade: 2nd, Teacher: Ms. Henson

RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“About My Moroccan Culture”

RAYAN LMIR, 4TH GRADE, AGE 10

The groups of people in Morocco 🇲🇦

Arabs make up 44% of our population



Berbers make up 45% of our population



also my dad is Arab and my mom is Berber

Food 🍽️ of Morocco 🇲🇦

Couscous



Tagine



Moroccan soup



Pastila



languages In Morocco 🇲🇦 🙈

I speak Moroccan dahragi both mom and dad speak that too

My mom also speaks the Berber language

Activities in Morocco 🇲🇦 ⚽ 🏀 🏈 🏹

We mostly like to play soccer 📖 ⚽



All special things about my culture rayan



Our paracties

I'm my contury about 99% of the population is Muslim 🕌

We pray 🕌 5 times a day 🕌

We go to the mosque 🕌 mostly on Fridays



Our holidays 🇲🇦 🌟

🕌 we celebrate 🕌 eid in the small eid we go have fun give gifts 📦 to out friends and family and in big eid we go gather with family and go slaughter sheep 🍖 🐑.

Independence Day of Morocco 🇲🇦 we go out and celebrate by waving flags and saying the anthem





PHOTO COURTESY OF ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS

Adults 55 and older with a passion for performing live and in person can do beginning in Januar.

Encore Creativity Resumes In-Person Song

Those over 55 with a passion for music can now practice and perform in person, with precautions.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Betsy Kutscher and Judy Termini sang in their high school choral group, but building their careers and raising their families became a priority and their musical performances became a thing of the past.

“I missed singing, but between teaching and raising a family I never got around to looking for a choral group to join,” said Kutscher, of Arlington. “I was also intimidated by the idea of auditioning.”

Kutscher, Termini and other music aficionados who are 55 and older, can fulfill their passion for performing in-person concerts when Encore Creativity for Older Adults, a choral organization for over 55 that does not require auditions, returns to local performance centers including the Lubber Run Community Center in Arlington and Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria.

“We are requiring masks and vaccinations and employing three-foot distancing for the singers,” said Joshua Vickery, CEO, Encore Creativity for Older Adults. “We have been following the guidance of Chorus America’s best practices and protocols for choral singing and we have been very diligent about it.”

With safety precautions in place, some seniors believe that the benefits of practicing and performing in person outweigh risks.

“I grew tired of virtual rehearsals, and I was excited to get back to singing with my groups,” said Judy Termini of Alexandria. “We got through our fall semester with no COVID cases, and it was just wonderful to be singing together again.”

Social connections and emotional support are other needs that in-person choral singing could fulfill. “When I had an aunt with dementia and eventually on the path to her death, ENCORE singing and fellowship once a week was my mental therapy and my escape from being a caregiver,” said Betsy Kutscher. “It always lifted my spirits when we were singing together and learning new music.”

For those who prefer to sing virtually, Encore is also offering Encore University, a comprehensive online program of singing plus enrichment courses in music history, music theory, dance and movement classes.

Singers can combine both in-person singing with online classes for a full musical experience.

This season begins in mid-January. For more information, visit www.encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

“We are requiring masks and vaccinations and employing three-foot distancing for the singers.”

— Joshua Vickery,
CEO, Encore Creativity for Older Adults.

Marymount University To Require Booster Shot

Marymount University shared the enhanced COVID-19 vaccination policy that will require a booster shot for all students, faculty and staff who will be physically present on campus during the upcoming semester, a precautionary measure designed to ensure the best possible protection against the virus.

The institution is requiring proof of a booster shot by Jan. 18, 2022, or within two weeks of booster eligibility. The Pfizer booster shot, which is recommended following initial shots of Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson, will be available by appointment for all Marymount students and employees at the

on-campus Student Health Center. Community members also have the option to receive the booster shot off campus in locations such as doctor’s offices, clinics and pharmacies.

Prior to the University returning to a fully in-person learning and living model for the Fall 2021 semester, it required COVID-19 vaccination for all community members and offered on-campus vaccine clinics to provide efficient access.

This policy resulted in an eventual 98 percent vaccination rate across the institution – and over the course of the semester, only 40 positive COVID-19 cases were reported on campus overall.

Shot Fired in Buckingham Neighborhood

The Arlington County Police Department’s Homicide/Robbery Unit is investigating a shot fired incident which occurred in the Buckingham neighborhood on the afternoon of Dec. 19, 2021.

At approximately 3:04 p.m., police were dispatched to the report of shots heard in the 4200 block of 2nd Road N. Upon arrival, it was determined that the male victim exited an apartment, encountered the two suspects in the hallway and confronted them. A physical altercation ensued, and one suspect produced a firearm. During the struggle, a shot was fired, causing damage to the door of an apartment. The suspects

then fled the scene. Responding officers recovered the firearm.

The suspects are described as males, one wearing a black jacket and one wearing a red jacket. They fled the scene in a blue sedan.

This remains an active investigation. Anyone with information or home surveillance that may assist with the investigation is asked to contact the Arlington County Police Department’s Homicide/Robbery Unit at 703-228-4180 or ACPDTipline@arlingtonva.us.

Information may also be reported anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477)

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

arlington-alexandria-va for more. 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. Aging Matters. 2-3 p.m. Tuesdays on WERA 96.7 LP FM on Arlington’s community radio station. Each

week host Cheryl Beversdorf interviews individuals with expertise about a broad array of aging related topics affecting the lives of older adults and their loved ones. Visit www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera to listen to programs.

Volunteer Bike Repair Night. First Tuesday of the month, 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Volunteers gather to refurbish bikes, sort parts or help with essential tasks. No experience necessary.

Job Seeking Help. 5-9 p.m. at Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Receive job-related help from the staff and volunteers with applications. Free, but requires registration. Visit www.arlingtonva.libcal.com.

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CALENDAR

NOW THRU DEC. 26

"Cinderella." At Synetic Theater, 1800 South Bell Street, Arlington. World premiere production of Maria Simpkins' "Cinderella," with choreography by Janine Baumgardner* and compositions by Konstantine Lortkipanidze. A creative team of all women brings the magical tale of a striking clock, a glass slipper, and a brave young woman who dares to pursue her wildest dreams. A modern re-telling of the classic story of family feuds, class rifts, and finding the courage to discover who you truly are. Special Event: Princess Tea Party on Saturday,

Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$30 and are available at https://synetictheater.org/event_pages/cinderella/.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Small Works of Great Importance. At Gallery Underground's Focus Gallery, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. An all-member show of little pieces that pack a powerful punch. Members were asked to create works measuring no larger than 8 x 10 inches; smaller in size but proving that good things come in small packages. The exhibition features works by a variety of artists working in a range of mediums including both 2-d and 3-d works. Visit: <https://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org/gallery-underground>

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

NOW THRU DEC. 31

National Landing Winter Lodges. National Landing, 2121 Crystal Drive Courtyard, Arlington. Cozy up in a winter lodge and snap an Instagram or two. The National Landing BID is transforming local-favorite Summer Houses into festive holiday themed lodges for the winter season. Winter lodges will be open to the public daily starting in December.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

NOW THRU JAN. 2

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Open nightly 5 to 10 p.m.; January 8 to February 27, 2022 (ice skating only), open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring an ice rink, multiple new holiday light displays perfect for Instagramming, a retail area, food, music and more. Admission: \$9 for general admission to Village; \$22 for village admission and skating; beginning January 8, \$14 for ice skating; free ages 2 and under. Visit novaparks.com/events/ice-lights

FRIDAY/DEC. 24

Waterskiing Santa. 1 p.m. At Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Alexandria City Marina

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 11



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The Waterskiing Santa event will be held Friday, Dec. 24, 2021 in Alexandria.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

(0 Cameron St.), Founders Park (351 N. Union St.) and Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.) Gather along historic Alexandria's Potomac River waterfront for a spectacular show by Waterskiing Santa and his merry crew. Come early to see the pre-show (on jet skis). Visit waterskiingsanta.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 31

Olde Year's Day at Torpedo Factory Art Center. 1 to 5 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. The whole family can celebrate the close of 2021 at Torpedo Factory Art Center. Find hands-on activities, meet artists working in their

studios, and get inspired for 2022. Visit the website: torpedofactory.org

FRIDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 12 p.m. to midnight. At various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Experience the region's signature New Year's Eve festival of music and more. Enjoy live performances throughout the day and into the evening for kids, teens, adults and seniors. New events include a kick-off at Market Square and a "Battle of the Buskers," leading up to the midnight countdown and fireworks finale over the Potomac River. Visit the event website for a full schedule of events. Visit the website: firstnightalexandria.org

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

DEC. 20-22; DEC. 28-30

Winter Break Camps. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Jane Franklin Dance, 3700 S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. In-person day camps explore movement and art, words and imagination. You may enroll for all three days of each camp week or select a daily enrollment option. Learn and have fun with hip hop and dance from freestyle improvised routines to fundamental steps and creative movements. Increase physical skills through a practice that explores cooperative interaction. Cost: \$225/3 day camp / Daily enrollment option: \$85/day. Visit www.janefranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.

JAN. 4 TO FEB. 22

Jane Franklin Dance Presents Forty+ Project. 12:30-1:30 p.m. At 3700 S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Forty+ is starting a new project with choreographer Andie deVaulx. Designed for movers who enjoy participating with others, the upcoming

Forty+ Project is a rewarding experience. The weekly sessions help dancers to hone physical skills and dance technique while engaging in the creative process. This project culminates with performances at Arlington's Theatre on the Run, February 26 at 7:30 pm and February 27 at 5 pm. The project is open to people of all physical facilities. No previous performance experience is necessary. Visit www.janefranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.

JAN. 15-30

"A Midsummer Night's Dream." At Thomas Jefferson Community Theater, Arlington. Presented by The Arlington Players. Adapted by Erin Branigan and Katie Rey Bogdan. A Midsummer Night's Dream takes you into the Athenian woods, full of magic and fairies, to celebrate the wedding of Duke Theseus of Athens and the Amazon queen, Hippolyta. However, a feud between the king and queen of the fairies has caused the natural world to become unbalanced. Visit www.thearlingtonplayers.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

EVENTS WITH ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD VILLAGE

- ❖ "Coffee and Conversation" speaker series. Everyone is invited to join the conversation via Zoom. Bring your own coffee, learn interesting things about the community and hear from the speakers listed below. Visit www.arlnvill.org.
- Wednesdays, Dec. 22nd and 29th at 10-11 a.m. Zoom Link below (except for the in-person event on 12/29, see below).
- Dec. 22, 2021: Community leader and activist, Tannia Talento, will give an overview of the community efforts and partnerships offered to the Hispanic and Latino community in Arlington. Tannia is a former chair of the Arlington Public Schools board and is a co-founder of Arlington Schools Hispanic Parents Association, helping families with issues beyond the classroom.
- Dec. 29, 2021: Let's celebrate New Year's 2022 a little early! ANV members and volunteers who are vaccinated are welcome to get together in person for treats and fun. Virginia Square Condominium Community Room. Registration required through the ANV office (703-509-8057).
- Zoom link for Coffee and Conversation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948577106?pwd=eW0rN1RTTU5ITmJ5NnF2QXZINmduQT09>

TUESDAY/JAN. 4

Citizen Presentation to Members of General Assembly. 8-9 p.m. At the Ellen Bozman Government Center Boardroom, 2100 Clarendon

Bldv., Arlington. Citizens and citizen groups may address the members of the General Assembly representing Arlington at an in-person event sponsored by the Arlington County Board and the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria. Anyone who wishes to address the members should arrive no later than 6:45 p.m. Each speaker will have about 90 seconds to tell them what you would issues are important to you during this General Assembly Session. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/citizen-presentation-to-members-of-general-assembly-tickets-212662046907>

THURSDAY/JAN. 6

Getting to Carbon Neutrality. 7-8:30 p.m. Online. Industry experts will discuss how to transform our built environments to meet the goal of carbon neutrality. For details and registration visit <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/events/>.

FRIDAY/JAN. 7

Pests and Diseases in the Garden: Organic Prevention. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. The depth of winter is a great time to review last year's garden performance, especially the pests and diseases that vexed your garden last year. What can you do to prevent them from being so bad in 2022? Join Kirsten Conrad, Extension Agent for Arlington County and City of Alexandria, to review garden planning and planting, species selection and planting times, pest life cycles, and tactics to limit disease and insect problems. You'll come away with a better understanding of your most pressing pest management problems. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/events/> to receive a link to participate.

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Oh, Deer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I didn't see you coming and from the look of you, neither did you see/understand/anticipate where I was going. Otherwise, you would have side-stepped the traffic, hesitated a bit and perhaps not landed on my windshield. Fortunately, I wasn't hurt. However, I'm guessing you were. I couldn't see where you landed as my windshield was smashed into a thousand cracks. As a result, I could barely see two feet in front of my face. Besides, the shock of it all, especially the impact of the deer hitting my windshield flush in its face left me a bit shaken.

Since I was not far from home, I decided, after getting out of my car and examining the damage - and getting my bearings, that the car was drivable; it was however very difficult to see through the windshield. Moreover, given the lowered position of the rearview mirror caused by the impact buckling the windshield/roof from the accident, I could barely see behind me either. Nevertheless, two miles or so from home, I decided I wanted to base my accident-related operations from home, rather than on the street/in a parking lot.

At first glance at my windshield, without thoroughly reviewing the entirety of the damage/impact, I thought the repair was simply a windshield replacement as covered by the Comprehensive coverage of my car insurance policy. No fuss, really. I even booked an appointment online for the next afternoon. But later that night, looking out from a second-floor window in my house which overlooks the driveway where my car was parked, I noticed a little something glistening in the night and decided I needed a closer look in the morning/daylight. That next morning, I discovered the real extent of the damage. The windshield damage was significant for sure, but the roof had buckled as well, and it was sagging toward the dashboard. A major complication. Immediately I went back inside and canceled my windshield replacement appointment and called my car insurance company instead.

After hearing my tale of woe, the insurance company representative made rental-car arrangements for me and called a tow company to come to my house to collect the car. Which, a few hours later, it did. When the tow truck driver saw the damage, he predicted, given the damage to the roof as well as to the windshield, that this impact was likely to result in a "total" loss. Sure enough, a few days later, the insurance adjuster called to deliver the bad news. Though the settlement was more than fair, it still meant that my 13 years of car-payment-free driving was likely over.

Since the accident occurred, I've driven by the scene a few times and saw no sign of the deer. Perhaps he bounced off my windshield and somehow got the better of our collision and simply wandered into the woods nearby. I can hope, can't I? Remembering what I saw of the deer at our impact, it did not appear to have any doe. Otherwise, in addition to my cost for a replacement car, the deer might have been out a couple of bucks as well.

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

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