

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 2 ❖ FLOURISHING AFTER 55, PAGE 7 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7

Kathie Panfil (left) and Claudia Scott are working with a team of six residents at Crystal Gateway Condominiums to write the history of the 40-year-old building — the people, events, the building.

# The Arlington Connection

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# Defend Reproductive Rights in Virginia

By DEL. PATRICK HOPE (D-47)

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade*, leaving the decision to protect abortions up to the states, strips pregnant people of one of the most basic human rights: the right to bodily autonomy. Not only does this ruling fly

in the face of popular opinion and sow chaos in legal systems by removing a longstanding precedent, it contravenes what the justices themselves said during their nomination hearings. This betrayal of trust is egregious and will result in harmful consequences for tens of thousands of people and add further erosion to the legitimacy of

the Court.

In anticipation of the ruling, many states enacted "trigger laws," legislation which automatically goes into effect in the days and weeks after the *Roe* decision. The nature and extent of these trigger laws depends on the state: restrictions in Missouri, Kentucky and others have come into effect,

but Connecticut and New York will not only allow abortions to remain legal but will assist those who seek abortions from out of state.

Meanwhile, the future of abortion rights in Virginia is uncertain. While abortion remains legal through the second trimester, and afterwards if the patient's mental or physical health is threatened by the pregnancy, the door is now wide open for anti-choice Republicans to enact restrictions on abortion rights. Currently, Republicans control the governorship and the House of Delegates, while Democrats hold a slim 21-19 majority in the state Senate. With another anti-choice vote in the state Senate, a 20-20 tie would be broken by Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears, a Republican.

As for Governor Glenn Youngkin, he has made his position clear: he has repeatedly stated that he's "a pro-life governor," and has already put forward a proposal to ban abortions after 15 weeks. This kind of extremism should come as no surprise to Virginians. The last time Republicans controlled the governor's mansion, they proposed legislation requiring patients seeking an abortion to undergo a transvaginal ultrasound, a highly invasive and completely unnecessary procedure. Thanks to public pressure, that legislation was eventually watered down to require a transabdominal ultrasound, still an unnecessary procedure.

But Republicans didn't just stop there. They methodically passed

laws limiting access to abortion services like mandating patients undergo a 24-hour waiting period; requiring clinics meet onerous hurdles aimed at forcing women's health centers to close; and requiring doctors to show patients specifically-biased material under the guise of informational pamphlets.

In 2020, the last time Democrats controlled the House, we passed the Reproductive Health Protection Act, eliminating all those medically unnecessary abortion restrictions. On the House floor, I spoke personally on the subject about my hopes that my three children will be free to make reproductive health decisions on their own – not politicians doing it for them.

For now, we must play defense and prevent any effort to roll back reproductive rights in Virginia. But in 2023, we go on the offense by regaining control of the Virginia House and make gains in the Senate to serve as a check-and-balance on Governor Youngkin's extremism.

That includes taking action to amend Virginia's Constitution to include abortion rights. Let's let the voters decide.

If the Supreme Court's decision taught us anything it's that our most basic fundamental rights are fragile and must never be taken for granted. They can be here one day and gone the next. In Virginia, that means the right to determine your own medical decisions and your own future are on the ballot this year and every year.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

### FRIDAY/AUG. 12

Wildlife Management in the Urban Home Landscape. 10 – 11:30 a.m. Online. Learn how to manage and control garden critters affecting your vegetables, fruits, ornamentals, and lawn with Kirsten Conrad, the Agricultural Natural Resource Extension Agent for Arlington County and City of Alexandria. This will be an informative and entertaining look at some of the science-based advice offered in the 2022 Pest Management Guide: Home Grounds and Animals published by the Virginia Cooperative Extension (download for free at <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018.html>). Free. RSVP <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive link to participate.

### ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND AMAZON CELEBRATE OPENING OF AWS THINK BIG SPACE

Arlington Public Schools, in collaboration with Amazon Web Services, Inc., hosted the grand opening of a new educational lab at Wakefield High School in Arlington. The AWS Think Big Space is a unique collaboration between Amazon, Arlington Public Schools, and private community sponsors to provide a dedicated space for students, educators, and communities to explore innovative and imaginative ideas through interactive hands-on technical education and cloud computing training. Wakefield is the first public high school in the nation to receive an AWS Think Big Space. The new space serves as an "educational incubator," utilizing cloud computing and various AWS and Amazon technologies. The AWS Think Big Space was named after one of Amazon's 16 Leadership Principles which states, "Thinking small is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Leaders create and communicate a bold direction that inspires results. They think differently and look around corners for ways to serve customers."



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
PITTSYLVANIA	13538	612	WYATT FARM RD	SANDY RIVER	7/29/2022
NEW KENT	12711	600	HOLLY FORK RD	GODDINS MILL POND	7/27/2022
TAZEWELL	18482	67	ROUTE 67	SPRING BRANCH	7/26/2022
TAZEWELL	27977	643	ROUTE 643	MUD FORK	7/26/2022
TAZEWELL	18483	67	ROUTE 67	BIG CREEK	7/26/2022
TAZEWELL	18651	680	ROUTE 680	SPRING BRANCH	7/26/2022
BUCHANAN	3815	460	RIVERSIDE DR	LYNN CAMP CREEK	7/25/2022
TAZEWELL	18429	19	GOV G.C. PEERY HWY	BLUESTONE RIVER	7/25/2022
TAZEWELL	18479	67	ROUTE 67	BIG CREEK	7/25/2022
TAZEWELL	18444	19	ROUTE 19 NBL/460 WBL	SPRING BRANCH	7/25/2022
BUCHANAN	3812	460	ROUTE 460	SIX & TWENTY MILE BRANCH	7/22/2022
TAZEWELL	18389	16	ROUTE 16	JOHNSON BRANCH	7/22/2022
TAZEWELL	18390	16	ROUTE 16	JOHNSON BRANCH	7/22/2022
BUCHANAN	3777	80	HELEN HENDERSON HWY	RUSSELL FORK RIVER	7/21/2022
GRAYSON	8690	58	WILSON HWY	BIG WILSON CREEK	7/14/2022
CUMBERLAND	5736	615	GAME FARM RD	BIGGER CREEK	7/8/2022
WISE	23462	686	DERBY RD	PREACHER CREEK	7/7/2022
RUSSELL	16478	658	BIG CEDAR CREEK RD	MOUNTAIN BRANCH	7/6/2022
TAZEWELL	27010	660	LOOP RD	MUD FORK CREEK	7/5/2022
WYTHE	19715	653	GREASY CREEK RD	STUFFLE RUN	7/1/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.



# Man on the Street in Arlington

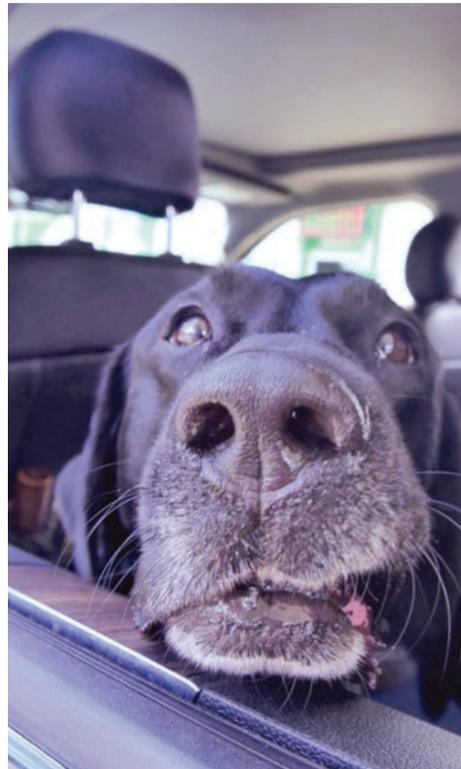
## How have gas prices affected your life?

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**G**as prices have been slowly decreasing in recent weeks after escalating to an almost all time high. Sunday, Aug. 7 the price is \$3.74 for regular at this station on Langston Boulevard, identified by the manager and an internet list as the cheapest price in Arlington. The average price in Arlington is \$3.553 compared to \$3.669 a week ago, \$4.415 a month ago and \$2.820 a year ago.

The current cheapest price in Virginia is listed as \$3.03 at a GB station in Altavista,

Arlington prices compare to \$3.15 at a Sheetz in Ohio; \$3.02 at a Circle K in Alamogordo, NM; \$4.19 at a Maverick station in Price, Utah; \$3.08 at a Walmart in Alabama; and \$4.14 at a Citco in White River Junction, VT.



**Bob McCarthy's Labrador.**

**Bob McCarthy** from Arlington stopping to buy gas with his Labrador says, "It hasn't made much difference to me. I don't want a picture but my dog is happy to have a picture taken."



**Allam Alami**

**Allam Alami.** I'm from Fairfax but I drive to Arlington because it is cheaper, a lot cheaper. You just have to make some changes. It's getting more reasonable but this year we skipped our yearly summer trip to New York."

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



**Sandra Hale**

**Sandra Hale** from Arlington. "I appreciate that the gas prices are beginning to come down, and I feel fortunate to live in Arlington where I don't have far to drive. But I'm cutting shorter 6-hour trips that I would have taken."



**Clyde Smith**

**Clyde Smith** from McLean. "I work for DoorDash and for Kohinoor Dhaba in Crystal City. I have to pay my own gas but my boss at the restaurant gave me a big raise to compensate for gas prices. I mean a big raise. So it has been good and bad but good for me. And a lot more people tip better since the price of gas went up. I have seen gas as high as \$7.00 by GW Parkway but a couple of stations on Washington Boulevard where they are doing construction are really low."

# Condo Team Brings History of Building Alive

**Fascinating tales shared by longtime residents.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

It all started during COVID as a way to build community at Crystal Gateway Condominiums. Kathie Panfil, manager of the project says, “What began as a cookbook idea morphed into a history of our 40-year-old condominium as we began to hear the stories.”

She says that COVID was just starting to let up and “We had a break. We felt better and were starting to cook for each other.” But when they went to round up the recipes, they realized they had many different interesting people living in the building and “were so entranced by their stories we thought it would be a real community builder to share.”

Claudia Scott, a member of the team and the primary writer for the book says, “I wrote 30 vignettes of 300-350 words each about people, events, history.” She says they started with people they knew about. “The 1982 plane crash at National was a really good one. There was nothing around Crystal City then; they could see the helicopters and the flashing lights. And, of course, 911; Crystal Gateway is right by the Pentagon.”

Panfil adds another memorable event was when John McCain ran for President. “And we understand the library where we are sitting right now is the room where the Secret Service was headquartered. The park across the street was filled with people with signs because he lived here. We have a picture in the book of his big campaign bus parked out front.”

One of Panfil’s favorite stories is about a couple of their neighbors who could see fledgling eagles perched on the roof of a nearby building. “The eagles were being attacked by several crows so a couple of units had people in them rooting for the fledglings.”

Panfil says, “Some of the stories are very dramatic but some are about life.” Scott says that one story led to another as people referred other people. “You’ve got to talk to ...”

“There are a lot of military people who live here because of the proximity to the Pentagon, three retired generals or admirals.” Scott adds that another member of the team went door to door looking for stories. “Billie Ruth lives on the Penthouse floor and she is blind but she knows everyone who lives around her and was an amazing resource.”

And one vignette is called “Falling in Love” because a small boy came with his father and fell in love with the underground shops. Three of the residents run businesses underground and can walk to work. “At one point it was so extraordinary and alive,” Panfil comments. “It was hard for businesses to get a place down there.” She says it had been trendy but they lost a couple of anchor stores and now businesses want to be street accessible from the outside.

There is a vignette about all the different things that happen at the pool — the swim team, little kids, “my exercise class,” a group of families who come every week and a line in the morning at 6 a.m. of swimmers who stop in before work.

Today Gateway’s residents are a great cross section with a lot of professionals and government people due in part from proximity to the Metro, families with kids, retirees and with an international flair, some residents born in another country and others widely traveled.

Scott says things have changed some over time. “We know in the beginning people relished the brochure about Crystal Gateway with the gold embossed replica of the building on the front, accompanied by the explanation of the

**Three of the residents run businesses underground and can walk to work.**

virtues of luxury, the unparalleled quality of the lifestyle here. I don’t think people think of it that way now so much anymore.” At social events in the building men wore suits and women were very elegant but times have moved on.

This library itself is a wonderful story. It began as a card room. Then around 2010 things changed when a resident purchased a number of twenty-five cent books from a special Arlington library shelf and brought them back to set up a shelf at Crystal Gateway. Now they have 2,000 books. Panfil says, “It’s like I do. I take one book and donate back five.”



Kathie Panfil (left) and Claudia Scott are working with a team of six residents at Crystal Gateway Condominiums to write a history of the 40-year-old building — the people, events, the building.

Another story is the community garden that evolved after a construction project. Two women who had farm experience planted basil, tomatoes and other seeds in a space near the outdoor pool. “When the plants are ready to harvest, they send around an email alert. ‘Come on down; we have eggplant, tomatoes.’ They are proud of it.” Later that afternoon an email arrives advertising basil, radishes, green beans, Swiss chard, mild yellow peppers, flowers and tomatoes for pick up that evening.

During COVID Panfil says they had their own condo resource, a doctor who had worked in public health in developing countries and who would have a weekly conference call to answer the same questions residents asked over and over about COVID. Another resident volunteered to work in clinics for testing and vaccines. “He worked 12-hour days, and the County hired him.” On a less serious note, the 9th floor residents donned their masks and stood outside their doors every Friday in COVID happy hour. The shared information and eventually shared champagne as well.

In addition to Panfil and Scott, the group of six working on the project includes Jim Cassatt, a professional photographer; Chitranjan Khandpour, IT and product team; Aditi Banerjee, product lead; and Billie Ruth Schank, facilitator. Scott says It just happened



Crystal Gateway Condominiums at 1300 Crystal Drive.

that they ended up with a group of people with different skills that fit together to make this happen.

As they approach final deadlines Panfil says they are working pretty hard right now in communication with each other, “some-

times hourly,” Scott interjects.

Panfil says they are hoping to have the 100-page draft finished by the end of August and send it to the graphic designer in early fall. We’re planning to have it available before Christmas.”

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

# "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers, unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate (starting at a \$20 annual fee). To join or register, go to [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747.

Registration open for 2022 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept. 10-24. Register online at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us), \$20 for unlimited events. Go to website for events, rules, eligibility, photos, past results. For information, email [nvso1982@gmail.com](mailto:nvso1982@gmail.com).

"Love, Sex and Marriage in the Civil War," author Chuck Mills will discuss the mores of the time, Thursday, Aug. 11, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. View presenter on screen at the center, registration # 914400-16 or Zoom at home, registration # 914400-17.

Movie enthusiasts to discuss, "Munich: The Edge of War" (2021), Thursday, Aug. 11, 3 p.m. Virtual. Watch movie on Netflix or Tubi prior to meeting. Registration # 914402-06.

Introduction to line dancing, basic steps, Friday, Aug. 12, 10:15 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in

Ice Cream Social in the Park, live music, visit with 55+ friends, Friday, Aug. 12, 1 p.m., Virginia Highlands Park, 1600 S. Hayes Street. Bring a chair or blanket. Registration # 914899-02.

55+ Travel group going to Tanger Outlets at National Harbor, MD, Monday, Aug. 15. Cost \$10, Arlington resident; \$13 non-resident. Registration # 902208-04.

Short story reading of "Leinigen Versus the Ants" by Carl Stephenson, Monday, Aug. 15, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, registration # 914300-09 and virtual, registration # 914300-10.

Current events discussion about local and world news, informal, volunteer led, Monday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914402-16.

55+ Live! Talk show, new episode, Tuesday, Aug. 16. Visit [youtube.com/virtualprograms](http://youtube.com/virtualprograms).

Rock music legends and songs of summer, presented by musician Carl Gold, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 1:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, registration # 914400-28 or virtual, registration # 914400-29.

Genealogy 101, share information, research tips and tools, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Led by experi-

enced genealogist Eileen Bogdanoff. Registration # 914402-09.

Metalpoint drawings using silver, copper and aluminum wires to produce a fine lined image, Wednesday, Aug. 17, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Taught by artist George Ziobro. Registration # 914310-03.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections of Gaetano Donizetti's "L'Elisir D'Amore" (The Elixir of Love), Wednesday, Aug. 17, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914300-06.

Wednesday morning meet-up, casual conversation, BYOC (bring your own coffee), Aug. 17, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Health and happiness in a fit home, exercise demonstration by Mike Sison, fitness guru and virtual personal trainer, Wednesday, Aug. 17, 5 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 914500-23.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteer demonstrates summer squash recipe, Wednesday, Aug 17, 11 a.m., Aurora Hills 55 + Center. Registration # 914501-06.

Afternoon movie showing of "Dune" (2021) (PG-13), Oscar winning sci-fi film, Thursday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-02.

Movies & Critics group to review "Free Guy" (2021) (PG-13), Thursday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-06.

Tasty tomato recipes demonstrated by a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteer, Thursday, Aug. 18, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 914501-07.

Credit scores and reports, discussion by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Financial Education Volunteers, Thursday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914400-25.

Acoustic Hour in the Park with musicians Ed Girovasi and Phil Rosen, Friday, Aug. 19, 1 p.m., Virginia Highlands Park, 1600 S. Hayes Street. Registration # 914301-05.

Social ballroom dance, including the tango, waltz, foxtrot and swing, spacious dance floor, Friday, Aug. 19, 1:45 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. No instruction provided. Drop-in.

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**Senior Living**, fourth week of every month.

### Questions?

E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

The Pet Connection will publish on August 31st and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 25.

**THE CONNECTION**  
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# Arlington Officer Arrested After Assault



**William Hahn**

**A**rlington County Police Department has arrested and charged an off-duty Arlington officer following an assault

investigation. William Hahn, 34, of Arlington, Va. was arrested and charged with Malicious Wounding and Destruction of Property. He was held without bond.

At approximately 5:08 a.m. on Aug. 5, police were dispatched to the 2300 block of Columbia Pike for the report of an assault with injury. Upon arrival, officers located the female victim outside a residential building suffering from injuries considered serious but non-life threatening. She was transported to an area hospital for treatment and subsequently released. The suspect was located inside a residence in the building and taken into custody.

The investigation indicated the suspect and victim, who are known to each other, left a nightlife establishment and drove to the 800 block of S. Scott Street where they became involved in a verbal dispute. During the dispute, both parties exited the vehicle and the suspect allegedly took the victim's phone and broke it. The suspect then threw the victim to the ground and physically assaulted her. Following the assault, the parties reentered the suspect's vehicle and drove to the 2300 block of Columbia Pike. While inside the residential building's parking garage, a second verbal dispute occurred, during which the suspect struck the victim in the face. The suspect and victim then exited the vehicle and were waiting for the building's elevator when they encountered the reporting party who contacted the Emergency Communications Center after observing the victim's injuries.

"I want to assure the community these serious criminal allegations reflect behavior that is unacceptable by any member of our agency and these actions are in direct contradiction to our role as professional law enforcement officers," said Chief Andy Penn. "We are committed to holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards while remaining transparent to ensure the public's trust and will complete a comprehensive criminal and internal administrative investigation

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If we work together to report abuse, we can help every single victim in Virginia. Be a human-traffic hero by calling #77.

**HVA**



The Arlington County Fair will be held Aug. 17-21 in Arlington.

## Arlington County Fair

At Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second Street South, Arlington. Featuring a Beer Garden, big trucks, axe throwing and Escape Room, Night Market, Movement Gym, Food Truck Alley, Bingo, Pie Eating Contest, Goat Yoga, and more. Visit [arlingtoncountyfair.us](http://arlingtoncountyfair.us)

### 2022 NORTHERN VIRGINIA SENIOR OLYMPICS

Sept. 10-24. Register online at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us), \$20 for unlimited events. Go to the website for events, rules, eligibility, photos, past results. For information, email [nvso1982@gmail.com](mailto:nvso1982@gmail.com).

### CHECK OUT THESE PLANT CLINICS

The Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic is open from 6:00-7:45 p.m. every Wednesday through September 28 and is located in the East Lobby of the Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. The Arlington Farmers Market Plant Clinic, open Saturday mornings from 7:45-11:15 a.m., operating through September 24, is located at N. 14th St. and N. Courthouse Rd. The Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 203 E. Oxford Ave, Alexandria is open on Saturdays from 8:30-11:15 a.m., and will operate through September 24. The Alexandria Old Town Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 301 King St., Alexandria, operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m., through September 24. The Small Space Garden Plant Clinic, located at the back of the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, is open on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., coinciding with the Fairlington Farmers Market.

### NOW THRU SEPTEMBER

Witness the Changing of the Guard. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington. From April-September, the ceremony occurs every 30 minutes, on the hour and half-hour. For more information, visit: <https://arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Changing-of-the-Guard>

### FRIDAY/AUG. 19

LESSON ZERO. 9:30-12:30 p.m. The Celtic House presents the music of Oasis recording artist LESSON ZERO for a free show at 2500

## Arlington Officer Arrested After Assault

FROM PAGE 6  
into this incident."

Hahn was hired by the Arlington County Police Department in June 2020. He has been placed on administrative leave without pay pending the outcome of the criminal and internal administrative investigations.

This remains an active criminal investiga-

Columbia Pike, Arlington. For additional information, see: [www.youtube.com/lessonzero](http://www.youtube.com/lessonzero) and [www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero](http://www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero)

### SATURDAY/AUG. 27

The Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. The Capital City Showcase, the variety show that features the DMV's best performing artists and hosted by Christian Hunt, returns with its new one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment: The Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle!

### SATURDAY/AUG. 27

Public Safety Block Party. 12-5 p.m. At Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. First responders from the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD), Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD), Arlington County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management (PSCM) invite community members to join them at the 2022 Arlington County Public Safety Block Party.

### Attraction Highlights

Opening Ceremony at 12:30 p.m. - Presentation of Colors by the Combine Public Safety Honor Guard

Behind the Badge - Back by popular demand, the 'Behind the Badge' experience allows participants to step into the role of a first responder as they engage in a simulated roll call and experience real-life scenarios handled by officers, deputies and dispatchers. Registration is required upon arrival.

Police K9 and Motorcycle Demonstrations - Get an inside look at what it takes to be a K9 handler or the riding skills needed to be a motorcycle officer.

tion and anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact the Arlington County Police Department's Homicide/Robbery Unit at 703-228-4180 or ACPD-Tipline@arlingtonva.us. Information may also be provided anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

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The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning of 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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## Out of the Woods ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... but still very much in the bushes, and I fear without the 'round-the-clock, extremely attentive ICU staff on his case, there may be some predictable out-of-sight/out-of-mind-type problems. Beginning with: the nurses are not responsible for only one patient. They may be responsible for upwards of four or five others. What that mean is the immediate response to whatever problem the patient is experiencing gets back-burnered/deferred to the more pressing demands of some other patient the nurse is responsible for. Unfortunately, unlike Superman (although there are many superwomen too), they can't split themselves in two, as Clark Kent did in one television episode. We understand and appreciate the never-ending demands placed on today's nurses. That being said, if the hospital powers-that-be deem a transfer from the ICU to a regular floor, it's unlikely us powers who can't be have any appeal-type powers to affect that. The previous three weeks have spoiled us, no doubt.

In addition, I'm afraid the reality is for visitors of non-ICU patients, the visiting hours posted on the walls are more restrictive and there will be less time for us to visit and encourage the patient through his excruciatingly long and difficult recovery. Granted, there's likely to be a phone in a regular room and a cell phone as well would similarly be available, but right now this patient doesn't have the strength or capacity to pick up a phone or manipulate its keys. Moreover, as long as he's a breathing through a trach tube (until he can't breathe consistently on his own, which so far efforts to wean him off the ventilator have been unsuccessful; septic shock causes multiple problems), he cannot physically even talk. For us then, the situation summarizes as follows: if he can't talk, and he can't pick up the phone/text (at present he doesn't have the dexterity to do either) and is likewise unable to grab/press the nurse's call button, and moreover, during this time, will likely be unattended and unable to express his needs/requirements (which are too numerous to mention) in any way available, and perhaps you can appreciate the challenging and stressful path forward for him, and to a lesser degree, us.

This transition from 24-hour, many hands-on 'round the clock care in ICU has, (which together with this patient's will to survive, has enabled him to progress to this point), seems not particularly patient friendly; not knowing admittedly, the rules and regulations, policy and procedures that a hospital must adhere to (or else chaos would ensue, I imagine) isn't totally lost on us. However, common sense must prevail occasionally, doesn't it? I mean, a relatively, helpless patient can't be left to fend for himself, or expect to improve if his medical quality-of-life is not being met because his nurse has four other patients with varying needs to tend to, none of which, selfishly speaking, contribute to the health and well-being of this recently transferred patient. But the hospital serves the community, not one patient and it's their responsibility to serve multiple patients. As Spock has said many times on Star Trek: "The good of the many outweigh the good of the few." I get it. But in this case, if logic plays any part in the decisions/process, well; let's just say I don't agree since they're "to do no harm." I understand, one single, solitary patient can't stand (lay, occasionally sit) in the way of progress, such as it is. However, it would be a damn shame if while trying to move forward, we end up going backwards. But what do I know? (As has been made clear many times before in this space: not much.)

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

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