

The Arlington Connection

Susana Ruiz is running the Barajas Produce stand at the Cherrydale Farmers Market with the help of her two-year-old daughter Susana.

Farmers Markets Welcome You

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www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

Office of 55+ Programs, Department of Parks and Recreation, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203, 703-228-4747

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 or call 703-228-4747.

Current events discussion in Spanish, Thursday, May 25, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Intermediate Knowledge of Spanish needed. Led by Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration # 913402-19.

Cornhole on the Plaza, outdoors at Arlington Mill 55+ Center, Friday, May 26, 11:30 a.m. Lots of music, snacks and fun. Registration # 913206-07.

Social ballroom dance, spacious dance floor, music for tango, waltz, foxtrot and swing, Friday, May 26, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Partner not needed. Drop-in.

Movie matinee, "Ticket to Paradise" (2022) (PG-13), Friday, May 26, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913804-03.

Fast Forwards, a fast-paced walking group, walk a 2 to 4 mile loop including some hills, Friday, May 26, 9 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will go shopping at Tanger Outlets at National Harbor, MD, Tuesday, May 30. Cost \$7, Arlington resident; \$8, non-resident. Registration # 902305-09.

Bingo at Aurora Hills 55+ Center, Wednesday, May 31, 1 p.m., prizes and light refreshments. Registration # 913600-02.

55+ Fitness Day and Health Fair, open to all, Wednesday, May 31, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Free vision and hearing screenings, risk of falling assessment, fitness demonstrations, Q&A with dietitians, pharmacists and insurance counselors.

WhatsApp is a free messenger app that uses the internet to send messages. Learn the ins and outs, Wednesday, May 31, 5 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center with Center Director Shettima Abdulmalik. Bring smartphone to class. Registration # 913403-05.

Airbnb, book rentals with ease, hear how to set up an account, the booking process and suggestions for guest etiquette, Thursday, June 1, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration # 914403-04.

Woodcarvers workshop, share carving techniques, some instruction and tools available, Thursday, June 1, 1-4 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Trivia games, Thursday, June 1, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 914600-21.

Introduction to beginner line dance class, Friday, June 2, 10:15 a.m., Au-

rorra Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Intergenerational story time, seniors share love of music and reading with children, Friday, June 2, 11:30 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in. To become a reader, call Center Director Lila Paig at 703-228-5722.

Summer piano lounge, live music performed by pianist Charlotte Lindsay, Friday, June 2, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914301-05.

Arlington Spellbinders are seniors (55+) who love to tell stories at schools, 55+ Centers, nature centers and other venues. Learn more on Friday, June 2, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Newcomers welcome. Drop-in.

Open art studio for artists who work at their own pace with their own materials, Friday, June 2, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Drop-in.

New afternoon social group, weekly meetups at Lubber Run 55+ Center. Knit, crochet, needlepoint followed by a walk around the indoor track, Friday, June 2, 3 p.m. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group to enjoy a wildlife tour and birding adventure at Huntley Meadows Park, Alexandria, Saturday, June 3. Includes 90 minute guided walk with two park naturalists. Bring binoculars, water, lunch and wear comfortable shoes. Cost \$18, Arlington resident; \$21, non-resident. Registration # 902306-01.

Social art swap, bring a piece of artwork or create one onsite to swap, Sunday, June 4, 1:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Some art supplies provided. Registration # 914300-08.

Memoir writing class begins Monday, June 5, 10:15 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Taught by writer Mims Placke. Registration # 914400-29.

Stories from a Canadian train tour shared by 55+ volunteer John Carten, Monday, June 5, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914400-11.

Reading Buddies, seniors pair up with Lubber Run Creative Preschoolers to read stories, Monday, June 5, 10 a.m. Preschool teachers provide books. Registration # 914301-08.

Folk music sing-along, songs by Joan Baez, Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell plus others, Monday, June 5, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

55+ Ice Skating for seniors at MedStar Capitals Iceplex, Ballston Quarter Mall, level eight, Monday, June 5, 8:50 a.m. - 10 a.m. Skate rental, \$1, parking, \$1. Register at www.medstarcapitalsiceplex.com.

Jeopardy, play America's favorite quiz game. Monday, June 5, 2 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914600-23.

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 9
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Arlington Opens Expanded Crisis Intervention Center

The Center provides the highest level of support during a crisis that an outpatient setting can offer.

Arlington County held a grand opening Monday, May 22 for its newly expanded Crisis Intervention Center. The Crisis Intervention Center will provide behavioral health care services in a community-based setting to individuals experiencing a psychiatric crisis.

“A significant step by the County,” Commonwealth’s Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti tweeted. “This will make a difference in us working to treat

and not criminalize people experiencing a mental health crisis. (Also pretty sure this is my first ribbon cutting ceremony. You don’t usually get to do these as a prosecutor.)

“Arlington took a meaningful step today by inaugurating a Crisis Intervention Center, open 24/7, 365 days to all ages. The goal is to provide a resource — a safe place — before individuals get involved in the criminal legal system. We still have a lot of work to do but with this center we are devoting resources to making real what criminal justice reformers have long shown: the more resources

we devote to mental health care the safer we will make our communities.”

The center is open 24 hours per day, seven days a week, to individuals of all ages experiencing a crisis. The CIC provides a warm, comfortable person-centered environment focused on recovery and wellness.

The primary goal of the CIC is to offer comprehensive crisis stabilization services in an outpatient setting such that a client can

be diverted who might otherwise require inpatient psychiatric services. The center offers a safe environment where clients can have the best opportunity to receive an effective crisis plan. The Center provides the highest level of support during a crisis that an outpatient setting can offer.

Referrals are made to the CIC through walk-ins, and self-referrals by the clients, family members, case managers, or other CSB clinicians. The CIC will also help with important coordination including the date and time of follow-up appointments, medication instructions, re-

Crisis Intervention Center Contact

Phone: 703-228-7295
Address: 2120 Washington Blvd., Arlington VA 22204



Ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the newly expanded Crisis Intervention Center.

ferral resources and contact information for Emergency Services.

The center provides aid to individuals in severe distress for up to 23 consecutive hours. Services offered include: Prompt behavioral healthcare assessments; Observation; Stabilization; De-escalation; Peer counseling; Supportive services; Determination of the appropriate care level.

A critical component of the CIC is providing de-escalation to clients under psychological distress or those requiring immediate care associated with substance use or a behavioral healthcare disorder.

The Center has five calming rooms to offer a safe, comforting and warm space for intervention. Each room has couches and reclin-

ers available for a client to rest, as well as to meet with a clinician and provider, as well as peer support specialists, over an extended period.

Security is present 24 hours a day to ensure client safety. “Special Conservators of the Peace” can accept transfers of custody from law enforcement that would otherwise be holding the client for possible hospitalization.

Nursing support is a core component of the intervention, ensuring medical needs are adequately assessed and addressed. A Nurse Practitioner provides psychiatric support to assist in the intervention with medication, allowing a level of psychiatric intervention without requiring a hospitalization.

CR2 Crisis Response 844-627-4747

CR2 provides 24-hour rapid response to children, youth, and adults facing a mental health and/or substance use crisis who may be at risk for hospitalization. Call for mental health concerns that may be a potential risk for hospitalization, such as: Thoughts of suicide; Threatening behaviors; Hallucinations or delusional thinking; Substance use; Property destruction; Extreme social isolation; Loss of coping skills; Dangerous decision making; Aggression or self-harm.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/DHS/Behavioral-Healthcare-Home/Crisis-Intervention-Center>

Marymount Student Honored for Work On Behalf of Undocumented Immigrants

Karla Mercado Dorados receives Campus Compact’s 2023-2024 Newman Civic Fellowship.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When she was two years old, Karla Mercado Dorados and her parents moved to the US from Bolivia in search of a better life, one built on a quality education. They settled in Fairfax County believing that the public schools were among the best in the country.

As a student at Annandale High School, Dorados excelled academically, so exploring higher educa-

tion options during her junior year was a natural progression.

“Like other kids I was looking at colleges,” she said.

One stumbling block that Dorados had not anticipated was that her status as an undocumented immigrant would limit her options for the financial assistance she needed to attend college.

“I never talked about being an undocumented student,” she said.

“There wasn’t much said about undocumented students, but all of a sudden, I had to think about the



Karla Mercado Dorados of Marymount University was honored with the Campus Compact’s 2023-2024 Newman Civic Fellowship because of her work with an immigrant rights advocacy organization.

limitations my undocumented status would present to me.”

Reluctantly, she discussed her plight with officials at her high school. “My teachers and counselors were supportive and engaging, but I felt like I was the only student in that situation and that there was limited support.”

It was through resources at her high school that she discovered TheDreamUS, an organization that provides college scholarships to undocumented immigrants who attend one its partner colleges.

Dorados chose Arlington’s Marymount University and during her first year on campus she became active in the Latinx Student Association and Saints Unafraid, the University’s immigrant rights

SEE MARYMOUNT, PAGE 10

HOW TO VOTE: RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Ballot Name: Arlington's Top Ice Cream Flavors!

	1	2	3
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Vanilla	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pistachio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chocolate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cookies and Cream	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vegan Matcha	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rocky Road	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Candidates ranked on your ballot will appear below, in order.

Not Ranked	Ranked
Vanilla	
Pistachio	
Chocolate	
Cookies and Cream	
Vegan Matcha	
Rocky Road	

Reset Ballot Vote

Ranked Choice Voting Instructions, top ice cream flavors:

- Put your first choice in the left-most column
- Rank up to three candidates
- Voting errors are automatically highlighted in red
- Don't skip a column and then start ranking again
- Don't make two selections in the same row. (It will not help your candidate)
- Don't make two marks in the same column
- Click on a filled-in mark to erase it
- This grid ballot is modeled on most US RCV paper ballots
- The blue boxes are only a double-checking system not used in official RCV

It's Easy—Just Fill in the Bullets

Primary ballots will be using ranked choice voting; here's what that means.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Arlington will be using ranked choice voting for the first time in the June 20 primary election. Tania Griffin, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Office of Voter Registration and Elections, explains this is a voting style in which voters rank candidates in order of preference instead of just voting for one person.

When there are multiple candidates, the voter is allowed to rank as many candidates as the particular jurisdiction allows. For instance, in Arlington this voting method applies to the County Board race this year where six candidates are running for the two open positions.

The voter is allowed to rank three candidates in order of preference. She says there is no magic to the number of three preferences. Some jurisdictions around the country who already use this system allow up to six preferences, but Arlington offers three choices due to a software limitation.

Griffin says Arlington is the first jurisdiction in Virginia to use this new system. As of April 2023, 63 U.S. jurisdictions have ranked choice voting in place. This includes two states, three counties and 58 cities.

The way the system works is that a voter selects the first preference by filling in the oval under the number 1 to the right of the candidate's name. To select a second choice fill in the oval under number 2 to the right of the candidate's name. To select a third choice, fill in the oval under number 3 to the right of the candidate's name.

If your first choice receives the fewest votes, he/she is eliminated and the vote is transferred to the voter's second choice. If the second choice gets the fewest votes, again this candidate is eliminated. This process continues until the two candidates with the most votes are selected.

"This allows more broad-based support for whoever is selected and also the ballot to last longer if you choose three candidates." She adds, "It can also lead to more positive campaigning because a candidate doesn't want to alienate the voters who may support them as number two or three choice on the ballot."

Griffin says a lot of information is available on the website. In addition, there have been a number of candidate forums where the new process has been explained.

"When anyone wants to hold an event, we are happy to come." She says the voters are also informed before they check in on what to expect with the new system, and there are instructions in the voting booth.

Griffin says if the voter makes a mistake "we are happy to issue another ballot." For instance, if the voter chooses multiple candidates under number 1, the machine will indicate there has been an over-vote and the voter can correct it with a new ballot.

"People may be feeling a little intimidated but it is really simple, just filling in a couple of bullets."

Early voting began in Arlington on May 5 and will continue until June 17.

More on ranked choice voting: <https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Ranked-Choice-Voting>

More on voting in Arlington: <https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Home>

Early Voting in Person

Courthouse Plaza
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Ste 320

Now through - June 16
Monday - Friday.....8am - 5pm

(Early Voting will be closed on Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day)

June 10 & June 17
Saturday.....9am - 5pm

Extra Hours - June 13 & June 15
Tuesday, June 13 & Thursday, June 15.....8am - 7pm

June 13 & June 15
Tuesday, June 13 & Thursday, June 15.....2 pm - 7pm

June 10 & June 17
Saturday.....9am - 5pm |

June 13 & June 15
Tuesday, June 13 & Thursday, June 15.....2 pm - 7pm

June 10 & June 17
Saturday.....9am - 5pm

Madison Community Center
3829 N Stafford St

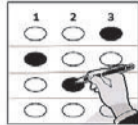
Walter Reed Community Center
2909 16th St S

Early voting times and places. More at <https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Early-Voting>

ELECTION

Ranked Choice Voting Instructions

- Rank up to 3 candidates in the order of your choice.
- Select your 1st choice by filling in the oval under the number 1 to the right of the candidate's name.
- To select a 2nd choice, fill in the oval under the number 2 to the right of the candidate's name.
- To select a 3rd choice, fill in the oval under the number 3 to the right of the candidate's name.
- If you make a mistake or need assistance, ask an election officer.



Member County Board			
Two Candidates will be elected.			
Rank candidates in the order of your choice.			
Mark no more than 1 oval in each column			
	1	2	3
Natalie U. Roy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maureen E. Coffey	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jonathan Dromgoole	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
G. O. "Tony" Weaver	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Susan R. Cunningham	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Authorized by:
Arlington County Electoral Board, 2100 Clarendon
Blvd, Suite 320 Arlington, VA 22201, (703) 228-3456

All Arlington voters participating in the June 20 Democratic primary will see a ballot with six candidates for the two seats of the County Board. Each voter can rank their preferences up to three candidates.

Who and What Is On the Ballot?

Early voting for the June 20 Democratic primary began May 5 and continues until June 17. There are six Democratic candidates running for the two open seats on the County Board.

Arlington Connection reporters Eden Brown and Shirley Ruhe interviewed all six candidates in recent days, and the candidates answered the same set of questions.

You can read these in Q&A format on pages 6, 7 and 8, in alphabetical order.

Tell us what you think, email your letter to the editor to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

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.

POLICE HOST FIRST COFFEE WITH A COP EVENTS OF 2023

The Arlington County Police Department's Business Outreach Unit is proud to announce the 2023 return of Coffee with a Cop. All those who live, work and visit Arlington are encouraged to attend Coffee with a Cop events as they provide a space to develop and maintain important community relationships.

Coffee with a Cop is a national program with no speeches or agendas. It serves as an informal opportunity for members of Arlington's residential and business communities to meet officers, ask questions, discuss public safety concerns and get to know each other. Community Engagement is a key initiative of the police department and

we're committed to strengthening our relationships one cup of coffee at a time.

Coffee with a Cop events will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at the following locations:

La Coop Coffee (4807 1st Street N.) from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Compass Coffee (4710 Langston Boulevard) from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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/s2FuFdaY-WdZm4tPw2.

The
Arlington
Connection

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CANDIDATE Q&A

Maureen Coffey

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Maureen Coffey is a lifelong resident of Northern Virginia. She works as a public policy expert, and has served on the Arlington Civic Federation.

Coffey walked, on short notice, from her Clarendon apartment to Northside Social, claiming a table for the interview, displaying a big smile.



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/
THE CONNECTION
Maureen Coffey

AC: What single thing prompted you to run for County Board?

MC: Affordability and cost of living. Northern Virginia is the only home I have. I don't want to be unable to live here.

AC: What is your position on lot coverage? (Many Arlingtonians have voiced concern about the ratio of building to land in new housing development in Arlington.)

MC: We need to address this. We aren't using our land efficiently; lot coverage has a negative impact on stormwater.

AC: What is one County Board decision you would not have voted for in the past few years?

MC: Let me think about that.

AC: How would you define the Arlington Way and do you think it remains a strong element in the county?

MC: The theory of the Arlington Way is everyone's voice comes to the table, they provide evidence and data, the community gets to provide feedback, and the county incorporates that into a plan. It's broken on both sides. We need more from the county that lays out tradeoffs and information; and as a community we need to engage far more with different types of people. It's not just the people who are easiest to engage. We need to layer forms of communication. The county thinks if they do one thing really well (like a website) then it does the job well enough. Missing Middle (MM) is a good example. The county shouldn't have made a decision on MM without all the inputs. How do we find the people who don't or can't show up? We need focus groups where people are selected rather than letting them self-select. I watched the whole planning process and kept an excel spreadsheet on it. I had a column for people who were either 'not for' or 'against.' During the entire planning process there were two people I could put in that column. Everyone had already reached a conclusion. On MM: we need to rebuild trust. The county can't say "we hear you" and then not follow up. If the county can't do what is asked, they need to respond: "We understand. Here are the barriers. Here is why we can't do it that way." The county had answers they were comfortable with — but they didn't respond why they were moving forward despite the concerns. They should have said, "If the zoning change becomes a problem, we are prepared to fix it."

AC: Rising crime in Arlington: what is one thing you would do to assure

residents Arlington remains a safe place to live and work?

MC: It's a national trend: Arlington is not unique or immune. The county can work on economic stability; we need more community based programs.

AC: Would you like to see the county be more willing to invest in the rescue of historic homes than they have recently with the Fellows-McGrath, Broyhill, and Rouse mansions?

MC: The Rouse property was sold by the family trust to developers. Developers have already figured out what they want, but we as a county are behind the curve. We are going to get 40 townhomes on that land because we were not ahead of it. There has to be a plan to offer the property owner done way in advance.

AC: How familiar are you with the stormwater management issues in the County?

MC: Pretty familiar. I've read the comprehensive strategic plan. The runoff problems are an unfortunate product of fast development; it goes back to lot coverage. We need more enforcement. Impermeable surfaces are still being laid down. Why?

AC: What are some areas where Arlington County could cut costs?

MC: One of the biggest: the consultants we pay. Every project has an outside consultant attached to it. It's not a one-off. We could have trained people on staff to do it. Consultants should be people who are invested in the area, not consultants from Austin or Atlanta.

AC: What is the single best thing about Arlington that attracts people to live here?

MC: The Community. Engaging with neighbors. Spaces people are sharing together. Recognizing people on the street like in a small town.

AC: No matter what the outcome, what will you take away from running for board?

MC: The biggest thing I have taken away is how strong and deep our bubbles are: Metro corridor versus real suburban. When I am talking about 13 percent rent increases, the people who don't rent have no idea. We aren't talking to each other enough. We are too focused on what is happening in our bubble.

AC: What is one question I didn't ask that you wished I had?

MC: What are the non-glamorous County Board responsibilities that I want to take on? Sexual assault response team, working with women and other groups about how we take care of people, zero homelessness, I want to get us across that finish line. People feel alone and need a resource for sexual assault or mental health issues. I want more community discussions to get this done.

More at <https://maureencoffey.com/>

Susan Cunningham

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Small business owner and currently interim director of Thrive. Trained as an engineer, has served in a number of executive roles including the U.S. Treasury Department and interim CEO for affordability provider AHC.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE
Susan Cunningham

Q: If you can pick just one, what is the single thing that prompted you to run for County Board?

A: The Missing Middle process and dialogue around it. It is a complicated issue, and the community dialogue was not as deep or nuanced as it needed to be. It was really about leadership and how the community was engaged. I have spent my time putting people together. We need depth of experience.

Q: What is your position on lot coverage?

A: When the missing middle debate was taking place I went to the County Board about adjusting lot coverage at the same time they were making the rezoning decision. You don't hang something new on something broken. Many don't oppose new units; they just oppose additional coverage. The board said, "I hear you but not now."

Q: What is one County Board decision you would not have voted for in the last few years?

A: Definitely missing middle in its current form. I would not have done a full upscale rezoning with 4 and 6 units allowed everywhere.

Q: How would you define the Arlington Way and do you think it remains a strong element in the county?

A: The ideal of the Arlington Way is stating the problem you are trying to solve, seeking every input before trying to solve it. The recent missing middle process didn't really clearly state the problem so it was difficult to get a good solution.

Q: Rising crime in Arlington: what is the one thing you would do to assure residents Arlington remains a safe place to live and work?

A: I think sharing the data about what crimes are happening where and how it has changed. Facts speaker louder. Also for the police to be more visible in the community

which is difficult because they are way understaffed. They are just delivering basic services. I rode along with a police officer on a Saturday night, and there was no downtime.

Q: Would you like to see the county be more willing to invest in rescue of historic homes than they have recently with the Fellows, Broyhill, and Rouse mansions?

A: Yes, it is environmentally better to reuse a structure than tear down and start over.

Q: How familiar are you with the stormwater management issues in the County?

A: I am very familiar. I am an engineer. Stormwater management ties everything together. Arlington is pretty far behind. Storms are more intense and development has happened very rapidly.

Q: What are some areas where Arlington can cut costs?

A: I think overall you can get more savings by moving quickly to correct a problem when you get something wrong. Engagement processes currently go a long time.

Q: What is the single best thing about Arlington that attracts people to live here?

A: Really it is the package—strong schools, businesses, proximity to the nation's capital, urban and space parks. This is especially important with more people living in multi-units.

Q: No matter what the outcome, what will you take away from running for Board?

A: I love the opportunity to meet so many different people in all parts of the county and learn more deeply about issues I know about.

Q: What is the one question I didn't ask that you wished I had?

A: I am the candidate who has the most experience running large organizations. I have led Arlington through challenging times when people were mad, things were not going well and they needed a reasonable voice. The board will be losing a lot of service and expertise, and it's important to have grounding and balance.

More at <https://susanforarlington.com/>

CANDIDATE Q&A

Jonathan Dromgoole

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Jonathan Dromgoole was unable to meet in person but happy to do a phone interview.

Dromgoole is the Senior Manager for Political Appointments at the LGBTQ Victory Institute, and works on getting LGBTQ people appointed to federal positions. He has lived in Arlington for 7 years.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Jonathan Dromgoole

(Q): What single thing prompted you to run for County Board?

(A): Housing affordability and adding diversity: 30 percent of Arlington are Latino: I want to represent my community: renters, Latino, immigrants, millennials, LGBTQ.

Q: What is your position on lot coverage? (Many Arlingtonians have voiced concern about the ratio of building to land in new housing development in Arlington.)

A: We need to take a look at what current lot coverages are. I am a supporter of affordable housing. I believe where we can increase housing, we should. But I grew up in Austin, Texas which is a place where green space was valued. Sprawl happens: we need to make sure we preserve green space too.

Q: What is one County Board decision you would not have voted for in the past few years?

A: I support Missing Middle (MM) but wish it would include affordable housing, like increase the cap of 58 units, but make ten percent affordable. Arlington is slow to pick up on those kinds of policies.

Q: How would you define the Arlington Way and do you think it remains a strong element in the county?

A: Everyone has their own interpretation of what that is — if we want to continue a strong commitment to engage and have people participate, then it has to bring in those communities who aren't engaged. The Arlington Way 2.0 is the next step: the current way doesn't include enough renters or diverse voices.

Q: Rising crime in Arlington: what is one thing you would do to assure residents Arlington remains a safe place to live and work?

A: We need to take a look at where the crime is happening. Is it Arlington born and bred or is it part of a regional issue? We need more data. It's not just a certain demographic. County staff must look more closely; it's not kids not having enough to do after school.

Q: Should the county be more willing to invest in the rescue of historic homes than they have recently with the Fellows, Broyhill, and Rouse mansions?

A: It's not something I am really aware of - broadly speaking I want to make sure we are doing it for the right reasons. www.connectionnewspapers.com

ing some spaces more public would be a good reason to preserve an area.

Q: How familiar are you with the stormwater management issues in the County?

A: Somewhat familiar. I know we have invested in buying some homes that are affected by this. There are concerns with increased housing covering land - we have technologies and ways to avoid

just covering the whole area in cement. It's one of our more natural concerns that we are facing.

Q: Are there areas where Arlington County could cut costs?

A: If you look at a lot of the positions in county government which have been vacant for a long time. If they are vacant for a long time, what can be done to minimize those. I want to be mindful of how much we are asking of our Arlington staff - we need to be tactical. Do a little less "let's do another study."

Q: What is the single best thing about Arlington that attracts people to live here?

A: The single best thing: props to our public education system. I did the public education system in Texas. We are miles above that here.

Q: No matter the outcome, what will you take away from running for the board?

A: As a first time candidate, this opens your eyes and gives you a perspective of the multiple needs of our county, the need for better representation. I feel by running I am continuously chipping away at the standard representation. Nearly 1 in 5 Arlingtonians are Latino, 2 in 5 are millennials with the average age being 35, 3 in 5 are renters. So where are the Latinos, millennials, or renters on the Board?

So just by running, I am highlighting the lack of broader representation. If I don't get elected, I will still feel like we made progress towards getting more diverse representation down the road. But I will also say, getting to run with such a qualified group of candidates was really great. We have genuinely gotten to know each other and we wish all six of us could just hop on the board together even though we don't always agree.

Q: What is one question I didn't ask that you wished I had?

A: Do we feel renters are adequately represented on the Board? I've lived here for 7 years. I foresee renting for the next 7 years. What is the role of renters overall in civic life? Where do we move to if rents go up? As one of our candidates said, young people are moving to Richmond because we can't live here. How are we going to help normal people in Arlington? How is normal defined?

More at <https://www.jonathandromgoole.com/>

Natalie Roy

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Natalie Roy is a 32-year resident of Lyon Park, CEO of her own small business, active in the Lyon Park civic association. Before starting her own business, she ran national and state organizations, served on various boards, advocated for a clean environment and gun control. She served on PTAs as her children went through Arlington schools.

Roy arrived on her bike (of course), in her signature sunglasses and high-energy smile. She had forty minutes before the next meeting. "Let's get started!"

AC: What single thing prompted you to run for County Board?

R: Missing Middle. I want middle-income housing: this won't do it. When the new Board meets in January 2024, it must evaluate the program, identify any negative and unintended consequences and assess whether it needs to be adjusted or rolled back.

AC: What is your position on lot coverage? (Many Arlingtonians have voiced concern about the ratio of building to land in new housing development in Arlington.)

R: Reform the regulations. Combine it with a tree protection program. Offer incentives, both for home owners to keep trees and developers to plan better. Developers and owners of big mixed-used development projects would be required to put serious money into a tree escrow fund. They get the money back after the County does an inspection 2-3 years later to ensure the trees are still there; for individual homes, an incentive program to protect trees. We need stronger tree protection ordinances across the board.

AC: What is one County Board decision you would not have voted for in the past few years?

R: Aside from Missing Middle, the 3-2 vote on the General Land Use Permit zoning change allowing for the redevelopment of the Lee Shopping Center at the corner of N. Pershing Dr. and Rt. 50 across from Ft. Myer.

AC: How would you define the Arlington Way and do you think it remains a strong element in the county?

R: It is defined as robust public engagement. And then listening to that. It is reaching out to the people who can't get to an 8 a.m. meeting to review a plan. I had the luxury to go meet Ginger Brown, Executive Director, Langston Boulevard Alliance, to get her brief on what they are planning for Langston Boulevard. But not everyone has the ability to do that. We need to go to residents where they live and work.

AC: Rising crime in Arlington: what is one thing you would do to assure residents Arlington remains a safe



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/
CONNECTION

Natalie Roy

place to live and work?

R: An ACPD officer came to my meet and greet the other day and pointed out the rise in gang graffiti in Arlington. We have many police vacancies in the County, a nationwide problem. We need to pay them more and make it more attractive for police officers to live and work here.

AC: Should the county be more willing to invest in the rescue of historic

homes than they have recently with the Fellows, Broyhill, and Rouse mansions?

R: Yes. On Rouse, where was the planning we are known for? This could have been the lower income housing we want. As Eric Gutshall said, "Do it the Arlington way, not the Minneapolis way." Preservation is important to maintain the character of Arlington, which is disappearing fast.

AC: How familiar are you with the stormwater management issues in the County?

R: I'm aware we aren't providing incentives for developers to provide community or environmental benefits. When we give a permit, we should get those included. There are loopholes on R-6 and R-10 lot coverage. We aren't checking to make sure rules are being followed.

AC: Are there areas where Arlington County could cut costs?

R: Rather than taking away things, public-private partnerships would save costs. The county wants to cut an auditor position to save money; we need that auditor. We should use empty office space for things like the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington (BHMA), currently temporarily housed on Columbia Pike.

AC: What is the single best thing about Arlington that attracts people to live here?

R: The way you can move from one area to the next and experience a completely different place with different people, restaurants, houses, and culture.

AC: No matter the outcome, what will you take away from running for the board?

R: The people I've met. I went to Felecia Brice McFail's art gallery in her basement in Green Valley. At her calligraphy gallery ("FOHTA") in her home on S. Monroe Street I met a woman from the Eritrean community who invited me to her community meeting. I met people who want to help make Arlington a better place to live.

AC: What is one question I didn't ask that you wished I had?

R: "Wouldn't you have made more money pushing for Missing Middle?" (Yes, but it's not smart growth.)

More at <https://natalieforarlington.com/>

CANDIDATE Q&A

Julius D “J.D.” Spain Sr.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Past President Arlington NAACP, Marine Corps for 26 years where he received Legion of Merit, four-year diplomatic assignment at NATO



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/
THE CONNECTION
Julius D. “J.D.” Spain Sr.

Q: If you can pick just one, what is the single thing that prompted you to run for the County Board?

A: Lack of productive leadership in the community by the current board. Disconnect between those who serve and the people’s seats. We have to lead with empathy.

Q: What is your position on lot coverage?

A: Without getting into numbers, there needs to be appropriate livable and safe conditions with the right tree canopy. I have planted a number of trees on my property. I support where the county goes but I’m concerned about the density of certain areas. We need to analyze and evaluate.

Q: What is the County Board decision you would not have voted for in the last few years?

A: While I support ranked voting, I would have waited on the decision to start it this year. I don’t think the county put sufficient resources into informing people how this works.

I think some people just wanted to pass it before they left. When I’m knocking on doors, I find people aren’t aware and I have to explain. I’m a bit nervous folks will show up and not know what’s going on.

Q: How would you define the Arlington Way and do you think it remains a strong element in the County?

A: My definition is a way where people of like minds and interests could have their initiatives listened to and enacted upon. If the Arlington Way works, why are so many left behind? Many organizations are not listened to. It may have worked in the past but no one can define it. It was an old form of thinking. It’s group think at the highest level.

Q: Rising crime in Arlington. What is the one thing you would do to assure residents that Arlington is a safe place to live and work?

A: Arlington is a safe place to live. I commend the police department for their tireless effort. But there have been shortfalls in the

budget and the police force is paid inadequately. Many can’t afford to live here and they are invested in their own communities. There are some shortfalls in services but there is a fast response. I want to see cops on the beat in plain clothes with no guns, just sitting on the porch, hanging out at little kids soccer games.

Q: Would you like to see the County be more willing to invest in rescue of historic homes?

A: Yes, we have one right up the street. When I saw a “for sale” sign on the Butler Home I was taken aback. It was on a huge piece of land and Butler was one of the first community activists. He was one of the leaders in Penrose and to see it taken down ...

Q: How familiar are you with the stormwater issues in the county?

A: I am 100 percent behind a proactive flood resilient community.

Q: What are some areas where Arlington could cut costs?

A: The budget needs to reflect the values of the community, not just the Board. We need the Auditor to do an analysis to get the best bang for the buck. I’d like to speak to the staff, the board and not make premature decisions. But they have paved my street four times; that is good but maybe it didn’t need that many times.

Q: What is the single best thing about Arlington that attracts people to live here?

A: Proximity to the nation’s capital. And the schools, rich culture and history and market for jobs.

Q: No matter the outcome, what will you take away from running for County Board?

A: We can’t afford to put a board in place with single issues or who decide not to show up or participate. Arlington is much more nuanced, multi-faceted—business, non-profit, corporate America. With this election we’re in danger of having a Board that goes backward.

Q: What is the one question that I didn’t ask that you wished I had?

A: Everyone needs to get out and vote for their rights that everyone has fought for. We’re talking about the future—innovative, diverse, equity.

More at <https://www.jdforarlington.com/>

Tony Weaver

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Commissioner, Arlington County Fiscal Affairs Committee; President, Arlington Rotary Club; Managing Partner, Olson Weaver Lighting Design & Install LLC.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Tony Weaver

Q: If you can pick just one, what is the single thing that prompted you to run for County Board?

A: I am concerned about the vacancy in commercial office space and the stability of revenues coming into the county. We have a record 23 percent vacancy rate and when that happens the property tax assessments drop. We need to bring in more tech companies and expand the allowable uses in commercial space.

Q: What is your position on lot coverage?

A: We need to clarify the ratio of coverage to land, do some research on the allocation. I’m currently undecided.

Q: What is one county Board decision you would not have voted for in the last few years?

A: The process of allowable use for office space needs to be changed in a more substantive way. Every 6-8 months people lobby the board, and there are new allowable uses rather than a substantive overhaul. We need to identify uses not allowed and let other things happen. Currently we have use-tables on what you can do but the problem is that a business model years ago didn’t anticipate things happening today.

Q: How would you define the Arlington Way and do you think it remains a strong element in the County?

A: The Arlington Way is different for different people. Generally there is input from certain groups that have a disproportionate amount of input. They are very interested and active but don’t represent the entire county. We need more active strategic recruitment for our commissions to make sure we include the underrepresented.

Q: Rising crime in Arlington: what is one thing you would like to assure residents Arlington remains a safe place to live and work?

A: We need to look at the police department and how resources are allocated. We need to shift resources from traffic infractions to violent crime.

Q: Would you like to see the County be more willing to invest in rescue of historic homes than they have recently with the Fellows, Broyhill, and Rouse mansions?

A: It should be on a case by case basis.

Q: How familiar are you with the stormwater management issues in the County?

A: Stormwater management is very expensive; it’s a prominent part of the CIP.

Q: What are some areas where Arlington County could cut costs?

A: The first thing I would look at in the budget is the long vacant positions and eliminate them as well as a hiring freeze. But I would protect the DHS human resources budget, especially after the pandemic. When you look at the budget you see that the police and sheriff’s office combined is the third largest expense. It reflects a certain value in our community we should think about.

Q: What is the single best thing about Arlington that attracts people to live here?

A: The public schools, period. When I talk to people who want to settle down here, that’s what it is all about. We need to be careful or we will fall behind Alexandria and Fairfax in teachers’ salaries. It used to be competitive but has been eroded away.

Q: No matter the outcome, what will you take away from running for board?

A: So many things. It’s about learning with all of the organizations that are part of Arlington. It’s super rewarding. You have a certain level of knowledge but it’s humbling. Nothing prepares you for the people you meet knocking on doors.

Q: What is one question I haven’t asked you that you wished I had?

A: I think it’s important to look at my service background and experience. I am President of the Rotary Club which is an organization that really cares about the community. I had an international internship to Argentina with Rotary in high school where I learned so much about their culture and about my own. Rotary provides resources to schools, and we have changed the scholarships from merit-based to means based. Another area of support is funding water resources to needy countries.

More at <https://www.tony4arlington.com/>

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU MAY 26

Women x Women: A Group Show by Anya Getter and AAA Members. At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Crystal City Shops, Arlington. Opening Reception is Friday, May 5, 5-7 p.m. The Focus Gallery of Gallery Underground will present "Women x Women", an art exhibition showcasing the work of eight female Arlington Artists Alliance members. Women x Women celebrates the diverse perspectives and experiences of women, highlighting the complexities of being a woman, with all the struggles and joys therein. This group show features charcoal drawings, cold and hot wax treatments, embroidery, encaustic, fused glass, mixed media, acrylic and oil paintings. This show is not to be missed by art lovers, feminists, and anyone looking to broaden their perspectives and celebrate the contributions of women to the art world.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 24

Pollinators & Vegetables Go Together. 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Part of Garden Talks 2023. Use native plants to attract local bees, butterflies and other pollinators that boost your veggies production and enhance your garden.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 31

Gardening with Kids – Gardening is Fun. 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Part of Garden Talks 2023. Learn simple growing techniques to engage children in a lifetime of growing their food. Observe and plant a salsa garden in a container or bed.

FRIDAY/JUNE 2

Summer Pruning. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Online. Summer provides a second and sometimes much needed time to prune a variety of spring flowering trees and shrubs and to help perennial flowering plants look their best. Summer pruning helps you to improve the overall structure and size of your woody plants or boost fruit and flower production in fruit trees and shrubs. Extension Master Gardener Maraea Harris will walk you through the how, when, and why to do summer pruning on hedges, multi-stem shrubs, small trees, and perennial ornamentals. With these best practices, your pruning will result in healthier and fuller growth, better flowers and fruit, and more attractive landscaping. Free. RSVP at <http://mgmv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

36th Annual Argentine Festival. 3:30-10:30 p.m. At Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Tickets are \$25 Advance; \$35 at door. The 36th Annual Argentine Festival includes a day-long celebration of Argentine culture, Latin American exhibitors, featuring celebrated musicians from the U.S. and abroad. The 2023 Argentina Festival is an opportunity for the public to experience the traditional Argentine culture. By highlighting Tango and other well-known rhythms such as Milonga, and presenting artisans and vendors of food and crafts, the

Live Argentine Day • Celebration of Tango • Dances • Folklore • Pop • Soccer!

Argentine Festival 2023

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Declared of Cultural Interest by the MINISTRY OF CULTURE of the RA

The 36th Annual Argentine Festival will take place Saturday, June 3, 2023 in Arlington.

festival seeks to broaden public understanding and enjoyment of Argentinean culture. Vendors in Exhibitor Fest will offer jewelry, soccer shirts, and plastic arts – perfect gifts at the beginning of the summer. Visit www.Argentinefestival.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle. Hosted by Christian Hunt, this amazing

experience features comedy from the D.C. area's finest comics. The headliner for June's show is the hilarious Danny Rouhier from 106.7 The Fan! Visit capitalcityshowcase.com

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Arlington Civitans Open Air Flea Market. 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 4001 15th Street North, Arlington. The Civitan Open Air Flea Market, one of Northern Virginia's largest and oldest public flea markets, is located in the I-66 garage in North Arlington adjacent to Washington-Lee high school and the Arlington Planetarium at 15th and North

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

FROM PAGE 2

Learn how to play Mexican Train Dominoes from a 55+ volunteer, Monday, June 5, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914600-27.

It Takes a Village, learn about Arlington Neighborhood Village that helps adults stay in their homes, Tuesday, June 6, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Meet ANV Executive Director Wendy Zenker via Zoom at the Center, registration # 914400-03 or virtual, registration # 914400-04.

"Queer We Are" podcast with host Brad Shreve, Tuesday, June 6, 5 p.m., virtual. Discussion about Shreve's life, why he started a podcast and how to overcome challenges and find inspiration. Registration # 914400-25.

Drag Queen Bingo, hosted by a drag queen, celebrate individuality and promote acceptance, Tuesday, June 6, 6 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center, in partnership with the non-profit Equality NoVA organization. Registration # 914600-08.

Cutting the cord to bills for cable, phone and internet, Tuesday, June 6, 1:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center.



The Armed Forces Cycling Classic will be held June 3-4, 2023 in Arlington.

Quincy Streets, in Arlington. Here you'll find over 150 vendors selling a variety of goods ranging from books, clothes, furniture, garden tools, household goods, jewelry, shoes, toys, records, and so much more. One man's junk is another man's treasure so you are guaranteed to find something to tickle your fancy and save you money at the same time.

sistent finisher over the two days), the Kids Race (9 and under), and concludes with Day 1 of the Men's Pro/Am. The 25th annual Clarendon Cup will take place on Sunday June 4th, and feature the 2nd day of Women's and Men's Pro/AM races, where the talented winners will be declared on the iconic 1km course around the Clarendon Metro. Visit the website: www.cyclingclassic.org.

JUNE 3-4

Armed Forces Cycling Classic. Time: Saturday, 7 a.m. – 2 p.m., Sunday, 7:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The Armed Forces Cycling Classic (AFCC), presented by The Boeing Company, celebrates its 25th Edition as the DMV region's most prestigious cycling event when it returns to Arlington the weekend of June 3rd and 4th 2023, with happenings kicking off in Crystal City / National Landing on Saturday, and concluding in Clarendon on Sunday. The cycling packed weekend kicks off during World Bicycling Day (June 3), which celebrates the joy of cycling. The weekend's action begins early on Saturday, June 3 in Crystal City / National Landing with the Armed Forces Cycling Classic's Challenge Ride. The ride is a closed course open to cycling enthusiasts of all abilities, from casual amateurs to serious competitors as well as Corporate Challenge teams and participants from each branch of the Armed Forces. Saturday will continue with the Women's Pro/AM race, as they begin their hunt for the weekend overall Omnium Prize (most con-

SUNDAY/JUNE 4

Green Community Celebration and Tour. 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. The 20th annual Green Community Tour (formerly the Green Home and Garden Tour) will showcase green homes, green renovations, and watershed-friendly gardens in Arlington. Features include energy efficient technologies, solar energy, water-saving technologies, rain gardens, native plants, wildlife habitat and more. The simultaneous Green Community Celebration at Shirlington Library Plaza will feature electric vehicle, exhibits and family-friendly fun! The celebration and tour are sponsored by Arlington County's Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management, EcoAction Arlington, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Arlington Public Library. Free. For more information and to sign up for tour see: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Events/Green-Community-Tour-Homes-Gardens-More>

Join center director Shettima Abdulmalik for an overview on how to use today's technology to reduce costs. Q&A to follow. Registration # 914403-05.

Introduction to ukulele, no experience required, Tuesday, June 6, 4 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Taught by Sandy O'Shea. Limited ukuleles available. Registration # 914304-01. Intermediate class follows at 4:30 p.m., registration #914304-07.

55+ Travel group to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Wednesday, June 7, matinee performance and lunch at the Riverside Center for the Performing Arts,

Fredericksburg. Cost \$87, Arlington resident; \$100, non-resident. Registration # 902306-02.

Smart grocery shopping, learn ways to manage grocery budget and economical food substitutions, Wednesday, June 7, 10:30 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Registration #914501-01.

Antique writing instruments and accessories, Wednesday, June 7, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Feel free to share stories and bring your own pens. Registration # 914400-34.

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NEWS

Marymount Student

FROM PAGE 3
 advocacy organization. As a result of her work, she was selected to receive Campus Compact's 2023-2024 Newman Civic Fellowship, which is awarded to students who demonstrate a commitment to creating positive change in communities locally and around the world.

"Karla is passionate about social justice and immigrant rights, and works to raise the profile of the issues faced by immigrant students on campus as well as heighten the consciousness of her peers, staff and faculty regarding these issues," said Dr. Irma Becerra, president of Marymount University.

From an early age Karla felt supported by her parents who underscored the value of education.

"I've had high expectations from the beginning just as any parent does for their child, regardless of whether we were here or back in Bolivia or wherever," said Dorados' mother. "Karla has always been a smart kid since she was little, and I knew she would do great things as she got older. Unfortunately, we never expected for her to be in this situation with her legal status."

In Summer 2021, Dorado represented Marymount's undocumented student population at a ceremonial signing event held on campus with former Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam for a bill that made all Virginia students eligible for state financial aid if they are eligible for in-state tuition, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

"I was invited to speak and my mom was there to support me and it was nice having that," said Dorados. "When they saw the work that I was doing they wanted to make sure that I felt empowered and that they saw the important work that I was doing. It was important to me to know they have my back."

Dorados' mother has encouraged her commitment to being a trailblazer.

"It's frustrating to see the constant struggle of the community to obtain very basic rights in life," said her mother. "I'm incredibly proud of her accomplishments, especially because they are really all her own. Karla has been forging her own path and making her own opportunities wherever possible, which is no easy feat given the odds she's faced."

Dorados is on track to major in Biochemistry with a pre-medicine minor.

"I had plans to apply to med school and I still do but I am interested in health care," she said. "I enjoy interactions with patients. I want to do something in healthcare that benefits those who don't have them including Black and brown folks."

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From left, Surekha Cohen, R.N., Director of Clinical Services, Arlington Free Clinic; stands with Candy Fowler, a past president of Arlington Women's Civic Alliance; Donna Alpi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arlington Free Clinic; and Diana Namugenyi, Director Finance, AFC, as the check was handed to AFC.

Arlington Women's Civic Alliance Raises 30K for Free Clinic

Arlington groups benefit from efforts of Alliance since 1993.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

The Arlington Women's Civic Alliance (AWCA) presented a check for \$30,000 to the Arlington Free Clinic on May 17 at the home of Stephanie Carpenter.

The AWCA was founded by Pat Ragan in 1993 to promote friendship among women in Arlington and adjacent communities and to support community projects. The 80 members donate the proceeds of

their annual benefit: this year's was their most successful to date. Since 1993 the Alliance has donated over \$525,000 to local nonprofits. The group maintains a scholarship fund at the Arlington Community Foundation. Other recipients have been: AFC Hearing and Vision Program, AFC Dental Program, Arlington Food Assistance Center, Arlington Neighborhood Village, Latinas Leading Tomorrow, Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, and the Arlington Thrive Youth in Transition Pilot Program.



Outgoing president of the Arlington Women's Civic Alliance, Diane Greenlee, talked with feeling about the satisfaction of working together to do something important for the community. She handed over the job of president of the Alliance to Angie Wilcox at this final meeting of the year.

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CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

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The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 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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Winging It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Without my wingman, my recently deceased brother, Richard, I have no doubt that living forward, there will be many occasions when I would have loved to consult the manual; that manual being my older, wiser, more experienced, and reliable brother. If ever there was an ideal resource to have at the ready, I nominate – in arrears, my brother, Richard. Losing his counsel, compassion and understanding of most things KBL (me) seems almost like a physical loss/handicap because the emotional loss is so massive (to quote the Brits), it feels physical, if that makes any sense?

And unfortunately, losing a foundational piece of your emotional architecture is not easily replaced. Let me be more specific: it's impossible, never to be replaced, always a void, and I feel diminished somehow and less interesting by his death. Though we weren't exactly joined at the hip, we were entangled nonetheless with all manner of likes, dislikes, preferences, motivations, and most of all: familial responsibilities; to one another, our deceased parents (every day one of us visited them for a few hours when they lived in Leisure World), our wives and miscellaneous other extended family (neither one of us had any children).

As close as Richard and I were, that bond was solidified even more during our parent's brief stay in Maryland. When our parents first arrived in Maryland, my mother was unexpectedly in a wheelchair, unable to walk at all. It wasn't physical, but emotional, she didn't have the physical strength. Something happened when she boarded the plane for Washington, D.C. from Florida. After months of pills (to treat her presumptive depression), we took a more aggressive route: E.C.T., electroconvulsive therapy. After only four treatments, my mother regained her form and once again, became the mother she had always been: loving, nurturing and focused on her family.

A few months after my mother's recovery, my father suffered the first of his two strokes. Though he wasn't totally incapacitated, speaking, as often happens, became challenging for him. Given these two conditions, Richard, and I both felt our place, as often as possible was with our parents. We had encouraged their move from Florida with this exact scenario in mind: what if something happened to them? How could we manage their care long distance? We couldn't so they agreed to move north. And without any hesitation, Richard and I happily welcomed their arrival and remained committed to our parents for the rest of their lives.

As a result of this arrangement/commitment, Richard and I spoke at least once a day for a parental update. And as you can imagine, life got way more complicated after my father had his first stroke. Though my mother was back to her old self (affectionately referred to), she had her own challenges: she had suffered hearing loss due to nerve damage years earlier and it had taken a toll. She (I can still hear my father admonishing me: "Don't call your mother 'she'") really couldn't take care of my father any longer so we ended up hiring a live-in caregiver, Maria, who was, as we were fond and sincere in saying: "an angel of mercy." She couldn't have been more kind, loving and dedicated to my parents. She treated them with respect and dignity and enhanced their lives; especially as their health failed. Still, Richard and I didn't convince our parents to move to Maryland to leave them alone with a caregiver, no matter how wonderful she was, so we alternated our days (evenings actually) and did a split-shift on Sundays (Maria's day off) for the rest of our parent's lives to assure them that there would always be family in the house.

When my brother went into septic shock in mid-July, Vanessa (his wife) and I organized a similar daily schedule to what Richard, and I had committed to for our parents. And after six weeks of his being in a coma of sorts, and on a ventilator, a dialysis machine – and so much more, he finally woke up. A month or so later he was transferred to a rehabilitation hospital and a few weeks after that he was discharged. I met Vanessa and Richard at home to help her transport him into their home. He could barely walk. Given his initial prognosis (not good), it was a miracle that he was home. Vanessa didn't need me to come over every day, but I certainly called Richard once a day, at least. And so it remained that way for the next two months or so until he died at age 73. I lost so much more than a brother, I lost part of my universe, too.

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

COMMUNITY



Susana Ruiz is running the Barajas Produce stand with the help of her two-year-old daughter Susana. "It is just for today. I didn't have a babysitter." Cunningham points out Susana is welcome at the market anytime. The market offers a large selection of vegetables along with ripe strawberries, and Cunningham points out the mojito mint perfect for making those summer mojitos.



Belén Bakery, a new stand this year, offers several choices of Bolivian inspired desserts including tréls leche cake, French toast cake and carrot cake. The couple came to America seven years ago to give their children an opportunity for better schools and better living conditions. "We also have a small family shop in Bolivia."



Myles Jackson mans Sweet Pea Farm, the new mushroom stand just inside Cherrydale Farmer's Market. He points out the meaty king oysters which are "super dense. You can slice them across into medallions. They are like a vegan scallop. Or slice them lengthwise and they are like a slice of steak." He adds, "you can shred them and add barbecue sauce and they are like pulled pork."

Farmers Markets in Full Swing

A walk around the Cherrydale Farmer's Market with Stephen Cunningham.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Cherrydale Farmer's Market, along with seven other Arlington Farmers Markets opened April 15 and will remain open until the Saturday before Thanksgiving in November. A walk around the market with Stephen Cunningham, market manager, is a discov-

ery of the old favorites and an introduction to the new variety of vendors.

This year the market has added some new stands selling a variety of wild mushrooms, rich Bolivian desserts and Peruvian rice selections, plus 12-hour Asian pork shoulder with pickled egg. But it still offers the old favorites like Great Valley Farms, Family of Nuts, Barajas Produce, Ana's Twist and Baguette Republic.



The Cherrydale Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 20.



Uncle Ping's street foods sells out each week with their offerings of several kinds of dumplings and the Asian braised pork shoulder with egg, jasmine rice, vegetable of the day and homemade yum yum sauce. "It is my grandmother's recipe. She came over from Taiwan several weeks ago and when she gave me a hug I could see that she was crying. I had to make her recipe just right or she would be yelling at me." He says, "My sister's children call me Uncle Ping after my Taiwanese name Kai Ping so I named the stand Uncle Ping's. My customer last week told me it takes him back to Taiwan."



Terry Maclaga-Bell says Great Valley Farms has added some new products this year to the wide array of pickles, relishes and jams. "We had wonderful Charleston gray melons this year so we made watermelon rind preserves. In addition, I have added succulents this year." She points to a large display of catnip. "We have so much catnip but I can only bring this, and I don't have any cats." Cunningham points out it can make a pleasant kind of tea. "It is a kind of mint."