

# The Arlington Connection

## Nonprofit Bike Coop Opens in Arlington

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### How Was Your Vote Counted?

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### Klaus the Conure Finds His Way Home

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### Don't Feed the Bears

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Neighbors and bike enthusiasts drank coffee and heard about the coop on Saturday, June 17 at Velocity's Arlington Grand Opening.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

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## "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

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- 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://arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747.
- Poetry night will feature reading and discussion of poems by Gary Shulman, poet and author of "Reflections From a Soul in the Winter of Life," Thursday, June 29, 5 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Participants are also invited to share their poems. Registration # 914300-07.
- Introduction to basic Spanish, Thursday, June 29, 11:30 a.m., virtual. Taught by Lubber Run 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez Figueredo. No previous Spanish experience required. Registration # 914650-02.
- Fun mocktail recipes demonstrated by Arlington Mill 55+ Center Director, Shettima Abdulmalik, Friday, June 30, 2:30 p.m. Registration # 914501-02.
- Movie matinee, "What About Bob" (1991) (PG), Friday, June 30, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-02.
- 55+ Travel group will tour the Mt. Cuba Center, a beautiful botanic garden in Hockessin, DE, Saturday, July 1. Learn about sustainable gardening practices and enjoy a two hour walk over rolling terrain and mulched paths. Cost \$56, Arlington resident; \$64, non-resident. Includes lunch. Registration # 902307-01.
- Memoir writing class begin Monday, July 3, 10:15 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Facilitated by memoir writer Mims Placke. Registration # 914400-30.
- Reading Buddies, seniors pair up with preschoolers and read stories from books provided by preschool teacher, Monday, July 3, 10 a.m., Lubber 55+ Center. Registration # 914301-10.
- Jeopardy, play America's favorite quiz game, Monday, July 3, 2 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914600-23.
- Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "I Vespri Siciliani" (Sicilian Vespers) by Giuseppe Verdi, Wednesday, July 5, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 914300-03.
- Registration opens for 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Thursday, July 6, online only at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us). Registration fee \$20 for unlimited events. For more information, email, [nvso1982@gmail.com](mailto:nvso1982@gmail.com).
- Social ballroom dance, spacious dance floor, tango, waltz, foxtrot and swing, Thursday, July 6, 2:15 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. No instruction provided. Drop-in.
- Current events discussion in Spanish, Thursday, July 6, 11:30 a.m., virtual. Must have intermediate knowledge of Spanish. Led by Lubber Run 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez Figueredo. Registration # 914402-11.
- Explore Thomas Jefferson's connection to Virginia with Laura Macaluso, author of "A Guide to Thomas Jefferson's Virginia," Thursday, July 6, 1:30 p.m., virtual. Registration # 914400-18.
- Introduction to online payment Apps with Lubber Run 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez, Thursday, July 6, 6 p.m. Learn ins and outs of Venmo, CashApp and PayPal. Registration # 914403-09.
- Summer piano lounge, enjoy light refreshments and music by pianist Valerie Welsh, Friday, July 7, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914301-06.
- Cornhole on the outdoor Arlington Mill Plaza, Friday, July 7, 11 a.m. - 1p.m. Registration # 914206-08.
- Intergenerational storytime, seniors share their love of reading and music with children, Friday, July 7, 11:30 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. To volunteer to read a story, call Center Director Lila Paig, 703-228-5722.

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

#### ACPD PRESENTS PRIDE WITH THE POLICE EVENT

The Arlington County Police Department, including members of the LGBTQ+ Liaison Team and the Arlington Restaurant Initiative (ARI), are proud to announce the 3rd annual Pride with the Police event to celebrate the significant contributions of the LGBTQ+ communities in Arlington. Pride with the Police is an informal opportunity for community members to ask questions, discuss public safety concerns and get to know the police and other County

personnel who serve them. ACPD is committed to providing professional law enforcement services to Arlington's diverse and inclusive community. Through the development of strong community partnerships, officers work to reduce incidence of crime and improve the overall quality of life in Arlington by making it a place where all people can live safely and without fear. Engagement events such as Pride with the Police provide a unique opportunity to strengthen these partnerships and hear directly from community members. The 3rd annual Pride with the Police event will take place on: Thursday, June 29, 2023 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Freddie's Beach Bar and Restaurant, located at 555 23rd Street S.

# Who Did I Vote For Anyway?

## Cunningham, Coffey declared winners.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**A**rlington County held a test run on a new system of ranked choice voting for the two open County Board seats in the Democratic primary June 20. This system was not used in the other races on the ballot for sheriff, Commonwealth Attorney, state senate or house of delegates.

Ranked choice voting is a method in which voters rank candidates in order of preference and as of April 2023, 63 jurisdictions around the United States have ranked choice voting in place. This includes two states, three counties and 58 cities. In 2020 the Virginia General Assembly passed HB1103 giving cities and counties the option to adopt ranked choice voting for local governing bodies. Arlington is the first jurisdiction in Virginia to use ranked choice voting. In this election voters were allowed to rank three of the six candidates for the two open County Board seats.

Systems in different localities around the United States can differ based on their voting equipment and state laws. Section 24.2-673.1 of the Code of Virginia defines ranked choice voting and sets out the process for adoption by a majority of the board of supervisors or city council that the office being elected serves.

Explanatory materials accompanying the law declare: “The capacity of your vendor is going to determine how many rankings you will ultimately be able to administer in the RCV election.... Note that the ranking limit does not impact the number of candidates allowed on the ballot. It only impacts how many of those candidates on the ballot a voter can rank.” Thus in the case of Arlington’s race for county board seats, the election accommodated counting of only three candidates but there were six on the ballot. This is called a single transferable vote.

The way it works is when a candidate receives the least number of votes, he/she drops out of the next round of tabulation and that candidate’s second and third place choices are distributed to those candidates. This process continues with the next candidate with the lowest number of votes dropping out with their second and third place votes distributed and on it goes until a candidate has reached the required 33.33 percent of the total votes needed to win the seat.

On Tuesday evening, Election Day June 20, the tally of the first round of votes was released with Susan Cunningham at 25 percent with 6,952 votes and Natalie Roy at 24



**Susan Cunningham, Democratic candidate for Arlington County Board.**



**Maureen Coffey, Democratic candidate for County Board Virginia Election site.**

structuring of the demographic makeup” She says those that vote in the primary tend to be older people and whiter.

Cunningham points out that with Maureen Coffey, a supporter of the missing middle proposal, there is a good balance. “It could make for a better community.”

Julius (J.D.) Spain, who received 20 percent (5,363 votes) in the first round and who supported the missing middle housing proposal, says he thinks there wasn’t enough education about ranked choice voting and that a system should have been put

in Cambridge, Massachusetts. But I think if Arlington chooses to move ahead they really need to have the equipment to rank the entire slate.” In this case it would have been all six candidates instead of the current limitation of three.

She continues, “I don’t have sour grapes but I do think the county didn’t do a good job of dispersing information around the county. They did the training for an inside group. They talked to each other.” She adds, “there was a lot of confusion. There were a lot of people who couldn’t understand what happened. I had someone who came up to me today who said, ‘you won didn’t you?’”

One of the major reasons Arlington decided to try ranked choice voting is the idea that it gives voters more opportunity to have an input in the election. If their first choice doesn’t win, their second or third choice could play a part in the eventual winner. Voter reaction has been mixed. At Williamsburg Middle School the voters received a short tutorial on how to vote using the RCV method. “They seemed to understand what to do.”

But at the other end of the room at the exit by the machine processing the votes, the volunteer observed “a lot of ballots were turned back due to improper marking.” The good news is that the machine spit them out, and

Member County Board (Arlington County)							
(Vote for not more than two)							
Ranked Choice Contest							
Candidate	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7
Maureen E. Coffey Winner	23% 6,313 votes	24% 6,677 votes +364	25% 7,089 votes +412	40% 10,786 votes +3,697			
Susan R. Cunningham Winner	25% 6,952 votes	25% 7,082 votes +130	27% 7,468 votes +386	31% 8,572 votes +1,104	34% 8,881 votes +309	60% 14,208 votes +5,327	
Natalie U. Roy	24% 6,708 votes	24% 6,848 votes +140	25% 7,112 votes +264	29% 7,911 votes +799	31% 8,132 votes +221	x Eliminated	
Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr.	20% 5,562 votes	21% 5,937 votes +375	23% 6,326 votes +389	x Eliminated			
G. O. "Tony" Weaver	5% 1,436 votes	6% 1,557 votes +121	x Eliminated				
Jonathan Dromgoole	4% 1,086 votes	x Eliminated					

County Board Democratic primary by rounds of voting.

percent with 6,708 votes with Maureen Coffey and Julius Spain not far behind. Some hypothesized this was a voter statement on the County’s missing middle housing zoning proposal (anti-density) which Cunningham and Roy had opposed and the other four candidates had supported.

But the candidates that had received the most votes but were not at the magic 33.33 percent needed to win are not necessarily guaranteed victory when the musical chairs has ended.

And that’s exactly what happened in Arlington after six rounds of elimination voting. Since no candidate had received the required 33.33 percent in the first round of votes, the elimination rounds would take place. Jonathan Dromgoole at 4 percent with 1,030 votes was eliminated and his second and third place votes distributed to those candidates.

And on it went until the preliminary results were announced at a small public gathering late Friday afternoon with the preliminary results for Maureen Coffey at 40 percent on the fourth round and Susan Cunningham at 60 percent on the sixth round. The final results were confirmed on Saturday after checking the 130 provisional ballots.

Cunningham says, “The vote reflects the community pretty well. It’s partially a re-

placement to support the new system by allowing ranking of all six candidates. “There was a staff recommendation to put \$50,000 in the County budget for education on the new system but it didn’t make it into the budget. You get a lot of different stories about why. I’ve heard replacement would cost over \$2 million but you need to ask the Election officials.”

Tania Griffin, communications and outreach coordinator for Arlington’s Office of Voter Registration & Elections says she doesn’t know why there was no funding in the budget for educating the public on ranked choice voting but she says the State had a public relations firm which was used for this purpose so she thinks they decided that was enough. Griffin says the current Arlington County voting equipment would need to be changed in order to accommodate more than three candidates under ranked choice voting. She indicates she doesn’t know how much this would cost.

Griffin says the election went really well. “We worked hard to be sure it worked correctly. It was pretty simple.” She adds the Election Board held a lot of events with the League of Women Voters, Civic Associations and created tool kits on the website. “We were everywhere.”

Natalie Roy says ranked choice voting can work really well. “I know from living

it was easy to fill out a new ballot the correct way. A man taking a poll of voters leaving the Madison Community Center observed that voters indicated they didn’t have any difficulty filling out the ballot but they didn’t really understand why there was a new system or how the ballots would be counted.

But Spain says he does believe that ranked choice voting did cause candidates to be more careful on how they campaigned which was one of the key arguments for trying out the new system. You knew that a voter who put someone else first could list you as number two or three so it encouraged not alienating those potential voters. Cunningham agrees it made for more civilized campaigning.

Roy agrees, “It made campaigning more civilized on the surface although she said Sen. Barbara Favola campaigned against her. And she said people made up things about her son. “A lie can work.”

The County is conducting a poll which will help determine whether to use ranked choice voting in the fall election.

You can access this poll at the website. According to David Barrera, Acting Communications and Policy Manager for the Arlington County Board, the Board plans to take up this issue at its July 15 regular board meeting. The decision to proceed will take a vote by the Board.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Klaus, a green-cheeked conure, was missing for 49 days and found 57 miles from home.

# Klaus Comes Home

Where was this green-cheeked conure for 49 days while it was making its way 57 miles to the AWLA in Arlington?

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

About four years ago, Overlea, Maryland couple Kat Potts and Robert Mas walked into a local pet store to casually mingle with the birds for sale. The intention was not to commit to a new pet – only to explore. While Potts had always wanted a bird, Mas wasn't so sure.

Less than an hour later, they walked out with Klaus – a six-month-old green-cheeked conure (or parakeet).

"Once we went and saw Klaus, I was hooked," Mas said. "I have zero friends with birds, so it was all very new to me. But, I loved it from the beginning because it's a lot of personality in a small body [less than a pound, to be exact]. Conures are really emotional and have their own personalities. Klaus is really smart – like a three-year-old. He can talk a little bit and understands commands. He knows some tricks, too."

Mas and Potts have enjoyed Klaus so much over the last few years that they have since added three more birds to their flock – two other green-cheeked conures and a cockatiel.

"We love them all, and they are all very bonded to us," Mas said. "Still, Klaus is our friendliest one. He wants to be friends with everyone."

Mas and Potts have not clipped any of their birds' wings, which means that there are no limits to how far they can fly. And up until recently, this never posed any problems. If the birds were ever out of their cages, Mas and Potts

always made sure the doors and windows were closed. Also, all of their birds – including the spunky Klaus – have had a tendency to stay close to their humans.

However, on April 23, amid some simple miscommunication between Mas and Potts, Klaus took advantage of a small window of opportunity and flew into the great outdoors (no pun intended).

"I was doing some yard work outside and Kat had let Klaus out of his cage," Mas recounted. "She had her headphones on so couldn't hear when I opened the door. I saw Klaus flying toward me and assumed he would stop there, but the wind carried him out and he flew up into a tree. He took off. It was the first time he had ever escaped."

Klaus flew so far up that tree that Mas's 30-foot extension ladder was of no use. Mas and Potts could see and hear Klaus for hours, but they couldn't access him in any way.

"I didn't know what to do," Mas said. "He was at least fifty feet up in the tree, so we couldn't get to him. We were so worried about other birds attacking him."

After conducting a lot of frantic online research, Mas and Potts learned that the best thing to do once the sun set would be to leave him in the tree and then try to lure him back when the sun came up again.

"Panic is the word," Potts said. "It was very difficult. Everything we read said that instinct would keep him in the tree overnight. It was so hard because all I wanted to do was fly up there. But, we stopped trying to call for him once the sun set. Then, after that first night, we went out in the morn-

ing and didn't see or hear him. We even ended up getting binoculars – but, nothing."

The two did everything to find him that day, and in the following days and weeks.

"We had neighbors let us in their backyard," Potts said. "Everyone was keeping an eye out. We would take turns sitting on the back deck where we kept his cage while the other one would take loops around the neighborhood. Those first two weeks, we were really out and about, putting up posters. We got to know all our neighbors. We were constantly listening for a bird that didn't sound like it was native to Maryland. We got a couple leads from people who thought they had heard them, but we never got to him in time if he really had been in those places."

They also leveraged every corner of the Internet – scouring every relevant site and posting to different social media pages. They even posted about Klaus on a site they discovered called 911parrotalert.com, a domain designed to "reunite lost parrots and birds with their families."

Around six weeks after Klaus flew out of his home, on June 7, Mas was browsing the Internet on his cell phone – doing his nightly check of all the online platforms where information about Klaus just might appear.

"It was nuts," Mas said. "It was around 11 at night, and by this point we had posted about Klaus on every single lost animals-related Facebook group in the area. We saw a post from the Arlington Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) that was posted to the 911 Parrot Alert site that featured a picture of



Klaus, the green-cheeked conure, with Kat Potts and Robert Mas.

what looked like Klaus. I turned to Kat and said, 'is this Klaus?'"

The AWLA was 57 miles away from their Maryland home, so it would have been a significant distance for Klaus to cover.

Still, as Potts took in the photo, zooming in on the image to clearly see the bird's markings and other features, her stomach flipped and her heart fluttered. The bird in the photo looked just like Klaus.

Mas immediately sent a message to the AWLA and, the very next day, two were en route to Arlington to see the bird they confirmed to be Klaus.

"When I walked into the room where he was staying, I could immediately tell it was Klaus, and he was so happy to see me," Potts said. "When birds are happy, they puff up their feathers, and he puffed his up right away. I walked up and put my hand into the cage and he stepped right onto my fingers. He seemed both happy and angry, like he was thinking, 'what took you so long?'"

If only Klaus could have known what the previous 49 days had been like for his relentless, eternally hopeful owners.

"We are so happy to have him back," Potts said. "I am still in a little shock, but the house finally feels complete again. The other birds were so excited to have him back, too – they definitely recognized him."

Also, if only Mas and Potts could know the ins and outs of Klaus's 49-day, 57-mile journey.

"He's back to being his normal needy, social self, but he does a really funny dance now that he

must have learned along the way," Mas said. "He also has a larger vocal range now, often sounding like he's mimicking sounds from wild animals. He also makes a sound that sounds like a security alarm that's running out of battery."

Mas added that he wished Klaus had been carrying a go pro with him so they could have gotten a glimpse into his travels.

It is not lost on Mas and Potts how lucky they all are that Klaus survived.

"This time of year was a big factor in getting him back alive," Mas said. "He technically flew through two cities [Baltimore and Washington D.C.], so he probably had a taste of some junk food – french fries and who knows what else. He had to be pretty quick and resourceful, though, because within a few days, birds of his size run the risk of their organs shutting down if they don't get food and water."

## Reuniting lost birds and owners at the AWLA

There are a lot of ways Klaus's story could have gone, and Mas and Potts are grateful that the AWLA was part of it.

"My heart was so full that, when we walked into the room where he was staying at the AWLA, he was hanging out with people and everyone seemed to love him," Potts said. "He was clearly in great hands and we were so glad they recognized that he was clearly a loved, well-taken-care-of bird and were so committed to finding his owners."

Klaus made his way to the AWLA  
SEE KLAUS, PAGE 5



## There Once Was a Bear

A young black bear spent several days in Arlington recently and now appears to have moved on without mishap. “Our bear friend has been making his way through Arlington over the past few days with dozens of reported sightings called into our Animal Control team,” reported Animal Welfare League of Arlington. “He continues to look healthy and is staying away from people and other animals.”

“However, we need to strongly remind our community to NOT GO OUT LOOKING FOR THE BEAR. This kind of behavior can put yourself and the bear in potentially dangerous situations. If you spot him in your neighborhood or on your property, please stay inside. We also recommend keeping pets inside unless supervised, taking down your bird feeders and securing trash or bringing it indoors.”



# Historic Contract for Arlington Firefighters

The Arlington Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association, Local 2800 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, and Arlington County have signed their first collective bargaining agreement since 1975, the culmination of a multi-year effort that began with the repeal of the statewide ban on local government collective bargaining in 2020. The three-year agreement effective July 1, includes: improved benefits for firefighters disabled or killed in the line of duty and their families; implementation of a step and grade pay scale; health and safety improvements, a committee structure to enhance labor-management collaboration; the introduction of neutral mediators and arbitrators to resolve grievances and disputes.

“This a great step forward not just for

firefighters, but for the whole community. When those on the front lines have a seat at the table everyone benefits,” said President Brian Lynch. “We want to thank the County Board and our management partners for coming together with us for the common good. We are excited to continue this partnership to further enhance the protection we provide Arlington families and businesses.”

In an economy characterized by a tight labor market and persistent inflation, both the Union and the County have pledged to work collaboratively to improve firefighter salaries over the next three years. In its most recent budget guidance, the County Board directed the manager to work with the County’s police and fire unions on pay enhancements to address recruitment and retention problems in public safety.



Brian Lynch, president of Arlington Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association, Local 2800 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, and County Manager Mark Schwartz sign the collective bargaining agreement.

## Klaus Comes Home

FROM PAGE 4

by way of a Good Samaritan – an Arlington resident whose shoulder Klaus landed on 43 days into his adventure.

“Apparently the person tried to swat Klaus away and then realized he wasn’t a wild bird,” Potts said.

Thankfully, she added, Klaus stuck around long enough for that Arlington resident to apprehend him securely and bring him into AWLA offices.

Chelsea Jones, Senior Communications Specialist for the AWLA, said birds often come to the AWLA under similar circumstances.

“We get quite a few stray parakeets every year,” Jones said. “A good number of our birds are strays. I think that’s because people don’t clip their wings and then they leave a

window open, a door ajar – like the situation we saw with Klaus. It is not uncommon for people to call us and say, ‘I found this parakeet or parrot.’ Parrots and parakeets are domesticated, but they are not a naturally trusting species of animals. So then our officers will go out and get them safely with a net or other equipment.”

Jones said that as common as it is for the AWLA to take in domestic birds – with parakeets, cockatiels, conures, finches, pigeons, and quaker parrots being the most common – the circumstances surrounding Klaus’s intake and family reunion were definitely more on the extraordinary side.

“With Klaus covering 57 miles, this was the largest distance reunification of pet and owner that we have seen,” Jones said, noting that this statistic does not reflect situa-

tions where dogs and cats have been transported at some point in a vehicle.

Also, Klaus himself is not your ordinary bird.

“He came in and was surprisingly social and pretty trusting of people,” Jones said. “He was certainly feisty – but very social.”

While reuniting any kind of pet with its family is a worthy story to tell, lost birds are not the subject of these stories as often as their furry, four-legged counterparts are.

“It’s not super common to unite birds and families,” Jones said. “We would not have united [Mas and Potts] with Klaus without the help of the community. People were sharing the post a lot. It really shows you the power of community and how beneficial social media can be. It wouldn’t have crossed our minds that Klaus’s owners lived all the

way in the Baltimore area.”

Back in their Maryland home, Mas and Potts aren’t taking any chances. Klaus was one lucky bird, and even though he might have enjoyed his adventure, it won’t be happening again – not for him or for any of his feathered siblings.

“We are already working more with Klaus on his recall,” Mas said. “We are also in the process of establishing a household alerting system to ensure that no one ever opens a door to outside when any of the birds are out of their cages.”

They are also happy to report that Klaus’s vet has given him a clean bill of health – despite how many close calls or junk food he may have had during his travels.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

**YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973 IS HOLDING ITS 50TH REUNION Scheduled for Oct. 6-8, 2023**, at Westin Arlington Gateway. Contact: John Murphy, fhogmurph@gmail.com

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28**  
**Arlington Library Garden Talks.** 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St, Arlington. Join Arlington/Alexandria Extension Master Gardeners and other expert speakers as they provide information on a variety of garden topics each month. June topics are: 6/21-Good Bugs/Bad Bugs; 6/28 Fresh Produce for the Table. Free. Programs will continue on Wednesdays through September.

**LATE NIGHT AT THE MILL**  
**Saturdays, July 8, July 22, Aug. 5, and Aug. 12. From 8-11 p.m.** At Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St., Arlington. Middle and high school teens, join in on the fun at Arlington Mill Community Center for six great nights of dance, sports, art activities, snacks and more! The center will reopen after hours from 8-11 p.m. for you to hang out with friends, meet new ones and have some fun. The last night, August 12, will be a pool party at Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center.

**WEDNESDAY/JUNE 28**  
**Preventing Vegetable Diseases.** 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Our area's hot, humid summers make vegetables vulnerable to diseases. Learn how to recognize and control their occurrence and spread.

**SATURDAY/JULY 1**  
**Arlington Civitans Open Air Flea Market.** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 4001 15th Street North, Arlington. The Civitans 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 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.

**COLUMBIA PIKE PARTNERSHIP**  
**2023 MOVIE NIGHTS**  
**The Columbia Pike Partnership** is pleased to announce the full list of movies for its popular Summer Movie Nights series returning to Arlington Mill Community Center Outdoor Plaza and Penrose Square Outdoor Plaza in July and August. Enjoy free movies this summer on Friday and Saturday nights with a selection of 16 family-friendly films from animation, adventure, comedy, musicals, and more. All movies start at sunset (between 8 and 8:30 p.m.) and are shown in English with Spanish subtitles. The series will kick off on July 7th at the Arlington Mill Community Center and at Penrose Square on July 8th.

**Fridays at Arlington Mill,**  
**909 South Dinwiddie St, Arlington, VA**  
 July 7: Spirit Untamed  
 July 14: Puss in Boots: The Last Wish  
 July 21: Dog  
 July 28: Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank  
 Aug. 4: Lady and the Tramp  
 Aug. 11: Raiders of the Lost Ark  
 Aug. 18: Lightyear  
 Aug. 25: The Goonies

**Saturdays at Penrose Square,**  
**2200 S 6th St, Arlington, VA**  
 July 8: Cave Rescue  
 July 15: Star Wars - Episode IV: A New Hope  
 July 22: Back to the Future  
 July 29: A Man Called Otto  
 Aug. 5: Till  
 Aug. 12: Top Gun: Maverick  
 Aug. 19: The Woman King  
 Aug. 26: Jurassic World Dominion

**WEDNESDAYS - JULY 5, 12, 19, AND 26**  
**Arlington Central Library Wednesday Garden Talks.** 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Arlington Central Library, 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington. Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners and other speakers participate in presenting classes on topics that fit the season: Gardener Safely on 7/5, Creating Habitat in Your Yards and Gardens on 7/12, Growing Food in a Hot Climate on 7/19, and Preserve Your Harvest on 7/26. Free. No registration necessary.

**WEDNESDAY/JULY 5**  
**Garden Safety.** 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Gardening can bring aches and pains – but it doesn't have to. Learn proper movement, stretches and exercises to keep your gardening body happy and functional.

**Saturday/July 8**  
 The City of Alexandria celebrates its 274th birthday on Saturday, July 8, starting at 6 p.m., with a performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and a grand finale fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Enjoy the big birthday experience including cupcakes, local vendors and live music. Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St.  
 6 p.m. - Opening Music; 7:30 p.m. – Welcome by NPR's Suraya Mohamed. Announcement by Town Crier, Remarks by Mayor Justin Wilson, Poetry by Alexandria Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam; 8 p.m. - Distribution of birthday cupcakes by members of City Council; 8:30 p.m. - Performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra; 9:30 p.m. - Grand finale fireworks display with Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performing 1812  
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Birthday>

**SATURDAY/JULY 8**  
**Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. The Capital City Showcase, which produces some of the best events in the DC area, returns with its new one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment. 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 DC area's finest comics. The headliner for July's show is the hilarious Demi Chang. Visit [capitalcityshowcase.com](http://capitalcityshowcase.com).

**July 21-23 South Asian Music Festival**  
 The DC South Asian Arts Council Inc, a non-profit arts organization, unveils the 1st ever DC South Asian Music Festival from July 21-23. From the soul-stirring classical vocal and instrumental masterpieces to the mesmerizing Sufi, Ghazal, and Evergreen Bollywood, it promises to be an unforgettable musical journey. Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, open the festival with their enchanting classical traditions on Friday, July 21. Saturday, July 22 starts with a Singing Competition, a showcase of exceptional local South Asian talent, taking the stage. On Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23, the exceptional performances continue.  
 Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20906  
 For full schedule, passes and tickets, visit <https://www.dcsaaci.org>

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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.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper-local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

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 ominous clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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## Within the Next Month



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of the most persistent and enduring thoughts I have is very much a product of my survival. When you're told by your oncologist – and by association, your pulmonologist, your thoracic surgeon, a pathologist, and by your long-time internal medicine, primary care provider, that you have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer and have a "13 months to two years" prognosis, your life is turned completely upside down and inside out. To say your life will never be the same is the understatement of the year. To characterize it any differently would be naïve/delusional.

As such, your sense of time – and appreciation of time, changes. How do you live in the present when you've been told by several physicians that in effect, you have no future? Your perspective and orientation go to an emotional place you've likely never been to before. And oh, by the way, you pretty much cede control of your life to this most unwanted intruder: cancer, as well.

And then, low and behold, to all your doctors' surprise, you don't succumb to your disease. In fact, you live a relatively normal life, from outward appearances, going on 14 and half years. So far, that's 13 years-ish past the do-or-die prognosis you received. Eventually, since you're still living, you sort of work in, or perhaps even plan for a future. A future which has been tenuous and hardly guaranteed. Yet, in this conundrum of living after being told you were likely going to die, suddenly, sort of, the future is upon you.

But it's a future that's coated in the past. How can one look forward when previously you were constantly being pulled backward to a pre-existing grim reaper if there ever was one: "terminal" cancer. Then you don't die. Years pass and your sense and expectation of time is thrown completely out of whack. Living forward, how do you live and try to ignore all the indicators and professional opinions that say you were going to die much sooner than you or they anticipated? Somehow, you must bury the lead, as they say.

So, you put these thoughts in the vault, per a Jerry Seinfeld episode, and try to live as if you're not dying. But as simple as that may sound, if you compartmentalize, the fact and truth of the matter is there's always a nagging subconscious Ying and yang that hides in plain sight. And so, you think, what happens if and when the results of lab work diagnostic scans (PET, MRI, CT and Bone) change – for the dramatically, dare I say, inevitably worse? This is the definition of unproductive thought. But that's the battle that rages in your brain – the conscious and the subconscious.

And when this internal emotional struggle manifests for me, it's typically when my next quarterly scans are around the next quarter. As it so happens, and it serves as good fodder for this column, it is "now," as made famous by legendary football coach, George Allen, pronouncing that "The future is now." – as is mine right now. Certainly, after 14 years, I'm experienced dealing with this reality. Nevertheless, the future is now, and I can't deny that the longer I live the more intense my fear that change is coming. Moreover, neither can I deny that this process is getting more difficult to endure. I can't help thinking that one of these days, the figurative hammer is going to come crashing down on my computer when my most recent lab and/or scan results are emailed to me.

When I received notification in my email that these quarterly results have been emailed, I take a deep breath, exhale, pray to God for good news and then I click on the link (I'm physically shaking, by the way, during this process) and wait for the nearly instantaneous download. I read with trepidation and fear and hope to find enough familiar positive-sounding conclusions/assessments from the doctors. At this juncture, I am usually on my own. Dina is often working at a local barn caring for a damaged horse and my doctors are not exactly waiting on hold for my reaction, ready to answer any questions. When I am lucky enough – to have my warranty extended, so to speak, after receiving the results with which I can live, I am reminded of "Mad Magazine" and Alfred E. Newman: "What me worry?" So much to do about nothing. "What a waste of worry," I say to myself. Let me assure you, waiting for cancer-related results is hardly nothing. In fact, it is the subject for which worry was invented. I wish there was another way to get through this quarterly ordeal, but I'm afraid, on many levels, there isn't.

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

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# Arlington Has a New Cooperative Bike Shop

Nonprofit helps get bikes to those in need, offers fix-it locale.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION



Velocity's cool black shirt is on sale at the shop.

The NEW old bike shop at 2657 Pershing Drive was buzzing on Saturday, June 17. Vélocity, a community nonprofit bike shop, hosted a grand opening for its new second location. The Vélocity Bicycle Cooperative, nonprofit cycling organization run by volunteers, focuses on education and repair, including do-it-yourself open shop hours. Since 2010, the volunteers have empowered all ages and levels of cyclists in building, maintaining, and embracing the fun of bicycles.

John Patterson and Christian Myers co-founded Vélocity Bicycle Cooperative as a spin-off to the non-profit viaVélo bicycle delivery and pedicab service started in 2009.

Per Steve Walz: "John Patterson started with the idea to provide pedicab and bike messenger ser-

vices in Alexandria. Christian Myers had been a bike messenger in DC, and had run bike shops. The pedicab service did not pan out so John and Christian decided to pivot to the bike cooperative model. Their goal was to encourage people to ride bikes to better the community, teach people how to fix and maintain safe, affordable bikes, and grow the bicycle community. They envisioned a mix of professional bike mechanics working with volunteers to build the idea into reality — which turns out to have worked well. We now have five paid staff, and a group of about 30 core and rotating (DC can be transient!) volunteers."

Walz continued: "They started in Old Town Alexandria until redevelopment took over (now the spaces are a boutique hotel and capital investment company).



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The ribbon cutting, from left: Christian Myers, Alexandria shop manager and one of the founders of Velocity; Steve Walz (volunteer); Jack Camino, lead mechanic at the Arlington shop; Joe Davison (partially hidden) Velocity Board Chair (volunteer); Mike Pattisall, now Business Manager for Velocity, after serving as a volunteer since the shop started in Old Town Alexandria; Kathleen McSweeney, Lyon Park Citizens Association President; Marty Devine, Velocity board member and volunteer who leads "Scholarship Bike" work with community service agencies to get bikes to those who need them for work, school, or children of families.

They moved to Del Ray which turned into a neighborly location that people could get to from Arlington, Del Ray, and across Alexandria and South Arlington, not to mention DC, Maryland, Fairfax, Falls Church etc."

Along with a committed group of "Vélotees" that are the lifeblood of the organization, Vélocity Bicycle Cooperative has received strong support from the DC cycling community.

The success of the Del Ray shop has resulted in the opening of the Arlington location. Walz, one of those "Vélotees" who has been

involved in the coop for about nine years, said he and his wife moved to Alexandria a dozen years ago and ran across Vélocity. "I had long ago worked part time as a bike mechanic and had kept up my family's bikes. I liked the concept behind Velocity — to help others for empowerment, health, combat climate change, reduce waste, plus more — and figured I had skills to help. I worked with the Virginia Department of Energy and as Director of Environmental Programs at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and have been on other nonprofit boards so I

joined the Vélocity Board."

Regular operating hours are Tuesday-Friday 12-6 p.m., Saturday 10-5 p.m., and Sunday 12-5 p.m. People can donate bikes and parts at both Vélocity locations during these hours at the original spot at 2111 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, or at the new space at 2647 N Pershing Drive, Arlington.

For more information about Vélocity, including how to volunteer, donate a bike, or donate to help keep the shop in parts, call 703-549-1108 or see the website, velocitycoop.org. They are also on Instagram and Twitter @velocitycoop



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

The familiar bike shop is now Vélocity, and has a new community focus.



Neighbors and bike enthusiasts drank coffee and heard about the coop on Saturday.