

Fire Station 8 Update & History

PAGE 3

Order a Burger at your BBQ place? Fredi Hernandez grinds 20 pounds of brisket on Saturday, July 22 at Sloppy Mama's BBQ. Sloppy Mama's burgers were recently rated number 3 in the metro area. Hernandez tops the burger with happy sprinkles before grilling.

Freaky Friday

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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 or call 703-228-4747.

Registration for 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, is open, online only at www.nvso.us. Registration fee \$20 for unlimited events. For more information, email, nvso1982@gmail.com.

Woodcarvers meet to enjoy camaraderie, share carving techniques, Thursday, July 27, 1-4 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Some tools available; members of the group can provide instruction. Drop-in.

Movie night to see "Downton Abbey: A New Era" (2022) (PG), Thursday, July 27, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-13.

Arlington Mill 55+ Center's walking group to meet Thursday, July 27, 9 a.m. for a walk along the W&OD and Four Mile Run trails. Drop-in.

Friday matinee, "Women Talking" (2022) (PG-13), July 28, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-03.

Online 55+ registration tips taught by members of the Langston-Brown 55+ Center Advisory Committee, Friday, July 28, 11 a.m. Registration # 914400-01.

Aurora Hills 55+ Center book club will discuss "The Reading List" by Sara Nisha Adams, Monday, July 31, 11:30 a.m. Drop-in.

Absolute beginner's pickleball in a judgment-free zone, Monday, July 31, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Limited paddles and balls available. Drop-in.

Learn the signs of a stroke, when to call 911 and other life-savings information, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by Northern Virginia EMS Council's Stroke Smart Coordinator Margaret Probst. Registration # 914500-04.

Rummikub, original rummy tile-based game combining elements of gin rummy and Mah Jongg, Monday, Aug. 1, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Ar-

lington Mill 55+ Center. Practice for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in September.

Croquet outdoors at Walter Reed 55+ Center, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 4, 2 p.m. Practice for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in September.

Introduction to ukulele, no experience required, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 4 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center, registration # 914304-05. Taught by Sandy O'Shea.

Pick-up game of basketball, full court press, all skill levels welcome, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 12 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Canasta, easy to learn card game, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Practice for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in September.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "Iphigenie en Tauride" by C.W. Gluck, with professional commentary by George Cecchetti Wednesday, Aug. 2, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914300-05.

Scrabble games, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center, drop-in; Friday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in. Practice for competition in Northern Virginia Senior Olympics.

Trivia buffs meet for games, Thursday, Aug. 3, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 914600-22.

55+ Travel group will travel to Annapolis for an Anchors Aweigh Music Tour at the U.S. Naval Academy, Thursday, Aug. 3. Guided tour plus a summer recital by the U.S. Navy Academy Band. Must have a valid unexpired photo ID card or passport. Cost \$22, Arlington resident; \$25, non-resident. Registration # 902308-01.

Continuum of care presentation on home care, assisted living, skilled nursing and more including services and costs, presented by a panel of professionals, Thursday, Aug. 3, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 914500-05.

Summer piano lounge featuring a live performance by renowned classical pianist Thomas Pandolfi, Friday, Aug. 4, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914301-07.

Smart home overview of home automation devices such as Amazon's Alexa and Google Home, Thursday, Aug. 3, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration # 914403-13.

Police Investigate Sexual Assault in Crystal City

Arlington County Police Department is investigating a sexual assault and robbery which occurred in the 1900 block of S. Bell Street on the evening of July 22.

At approximately 8:24 p.m., police were dispatched to the report of an assault with a weapon. The preliminary investigation indicates the female victim was walking in the Crystal City Shops when the male suspect approached, produced a box cutter, demanded money and stole her cell phone. The suspect then took the victim to a secluded area where he sexually assaulted her and struck her with the box cutter, resulting in a laceration. The victim was able to exit the area and seek assistance from individuals in the 1900 block of Richmond Highway who contacted emergency services. The victim

was transported to an area hospital for treatment of physical injuries considered non-life threatening.

Responding officers established a perimeter and canvassed the area for the suspect which concluded with negative results. The suspect is described as a male in his mid-20s with dark hair and a beard. He was wearing a gray t-shirt, black shorts with gray leggings underneath and carrying a green duffel bag.


This remains an active criminal investigation. Anyone with information that may assist the investigation is asked to contact Detective Maldonado at 703-228-4194 or mmaldonado@arlingtonva.us. Information may also be provided anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477)



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Fire Station Number 8 Moving Forward

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

A community informational meeting on July 19 provided an update on the construction of Fire Station Number 8 on 4945 Langston Blvd. The meeting shared photos and highlights from the construction which began in the summer of 2022 and is expected to be completed in early 2024.

The original fire station was one of the first African American volunteer fire departments south of the Mason Dixon line. It was Arlington's first Black-operated fire station and was organized by Black residents of Hall's Hill in 1925. The history of the fire station was rocky as Arlington County provided some equipment but refused to pay salaries and pensions provided to other firefighters in the County until 1950 when the fire department was allocated 3 paid positions. This telling history will be captured in a small-scale historical exhibit which will be displayed in the lobby.

Planning for this new fire station has been decades in the making as the building aged and a lengthy public planning process. Now this new facility will be state of the art with an energy efficient building, a green vegetated roof and solar panels. In addition to its four bays, it will include 12 gender neutral sleeping suites, living and administrative spaces, a fitness training room as well as industry leading decontamination sites.



Progress on July 22, 2023 of fire station number 8. The contractor is currently installing brick facade, interior drywall and stairwell guards and laying the gas, water and sewer lines from the building to the street.

PHOTOS BY
SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION



Construction began in June 2022 and in August the workers were digging the building's footings, setting reinforcing bar and pouring the footings.



Demolition of fire station number 8 began in April 2022.

Doorways Accredited

On July 12 Doorways received notification they had received state accreditation from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, Division of programs and Services, Victims Services for domestic and sexual violence programs. Diana Ortiz, President and CEO of Doorways, says it took 18 months from the application to complete their assessment. "It was quite a process."

Ortiz says Doorways becomes one of only 12 dually accredited domestic and violence agencies in Virginia. "This was the highest level any agency could have in the state — it took 100 percent, not 95 percent." She explains it means, www.connectionnewspapers.com

"We provide all comprehensive services for survivors 24/7 including hospital accompaniment, shelter to all without discussion of race, gender, socio-economic status."

She adds Doorways also provides a hotline not only for victims of violence but also sexual abuse. In addition, she says, "Some of our agencies are struggling with providing all of these services. We also provide a court advocate to help navigate the system."

Doorways runs with the assistance of 100-120 volunteers "almost two to one." Volunteers participate in a training component of 40-50 hours before meeting with their first survivor; then 20 hours every year for staff and 10 for vol-

unteers. Volunteers need to know the appropriate way to engage survivors, including a number of survivors who aren't comfortable coming to Doorways, Ortiz explains. "There are new practices, protocols; it is very specific. There is the intersection with race and gender."

In addition, Doorways sometimes needs to address the language barrier. "We have 5-6 on staff who speak five languages and then we have access to any language so we can explain to our clients how we operate and the services we offer."

Ortiz says Doorways is currently seeing a record number of survivors. "and the ones we see are

coming with more need — maybe because the Covid relief funds are gone, Medicaid and SNAP have reverted to the lower pre-Covid levels; they might have rental debt."

Over the last six years Doorways has seen a 120 percent increase in the number of survivors and their families sheltered in their safehousing to escape imminent danger."

Currently Doorways houses 50 households with 20 more in the shelter. But she says they have an overflow of survivors and no funds remaining to house them in hotels. "We have a considerable deficit from last year's need. We know more people are needing help and are hoping that our generous com-

munity will continue to assist."

In addition to monetary assistance Doorways often sends appeals for household supplies including pots and pans, cleaning supplies, towels and sometimes pet food for the families living in the residence. "Also we have a backpack drive going now. Over 50 percent of our residents are children. And they outgrow their clothes."

"I think this new accreditation not only reflects well on Doorways but really speaks to the level of services in the community."

For more information: <https://www.doorwaysva.org>

Supporting Del. Patrick Hope

Do you want to be represented by someone who will crack down on puppy mills? Who will stop animal testing? Who votes for animal protections?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Del. Patrick Hope is all of the above – which is why he is a representative we can trust with the well-being of our animals. Rather

than ignore cruelty in politics, Patrick Hope works to stop it at the source and has consistently supported humane legislation to end cycles of animal abuse. Last year, he sponsored a bill classifying sexual abuse of animals as a felony with prohibitions in place to prevent those convicted from possessing animals thereafter. Within the same session, Hope sponsored a

bill to prohibit wildlife killing contests involving coyotes and other fur-bearing animals. He has shown where his priorities are – with the wildlife and companion animals who cannot speak for themselves – earning him the endorsement of the Humane Society Legislative Fund.

Virginia's 1st District in the House of Delegates deserves some-

one who understands animals deserve protection. Support a legislator who knows the power they have over the welfare of our animals and vote for Patrick Hope this November.

With Hope in office, there is hope for animals.

Diane Pedulla
Arlington

Mobile Outreach Support Launches July 31

The Mobile Outreach Support Team (MOST) is the latest addition to Arlington County's expanding network of care for people experiencing mental health and substance use issues.

The Mobile Outreach Support Team program is coordinated by the Department of Human Services in partnership with the Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Fire Department, and the Emergency Communications Center, which operates the County's 9-1-1 call center.

MOST launches July 31, 2023, and will operate Monday through Friday, between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The goals of MOST include increasing access to mental health and substance use treatment and decreasing the role of non-clinical first responders in addressing mental health needs. The program also aims to provide alternatives to incarceration for those engaged in "nuisance crimes/behaviors," and decrease emergency department and psychiatric hospital admissions.

"MOST is an important expansion of our efforts to ensure that people in crisis can get the right help when and where they need it,"



The Mobile Outreach Support Team has a specially equipped van to provide services in the community.

said DHS Director Anita Friedman. "MOST team members are specialists who will be out in the community. That includes responding to 9-1-1 calls that have a behavioral health need, conducting outreach to people who are homeless, and working closely with our partners in Police and Fire to support them in the field when needed."

About MOST

The National Guidelines for

Crisis Care from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) emphasize the importance of offering mobile, community-based intervention to individuals in need wherever they are, including at home, work, or anywhere else in the community where the person is experiencing a crisis.

The MOST team – which includes a licensed behavioral health clinician, a certified peer recovery

specialist, and an outreach worker – will provide a range of essential functions that include: Triage and screening, including explicit screening for suicidality; assessment; de-escalation/resolution; peer support; coordination with medical and behavioral health services; crisis planning and follow-up

Arlington's MOST will also be able to distribute harm reduction tools such as Narcan and fentanyl test strips, connect people who are homeless to shelters and other services, and transport people from the scene to providers where they can receive assistance.

Mobile Unit

The MOST has a specially equipped van (a County fleet vehicle modified using federal grant funds) to provide services in the community. The van is connected to the County's computer-aided dispatch system and an on-board computer allows MOST clinicians to use DHS's electronic health record system. The vehicle includes supplies for harm reduction, non-perishable food, water, a defibrillator, clothing and hygiene items.

NVSO Registration Is Open Over 70 Events Offered

Registration for the 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics has opened online at www.nvso.us.

Over 70 events from track and field to croquet and bocce, to swimming and pickleball are on the two week schedule beginning Saturday, Sept. 9 and closing Sunday, Sept. 24. "There are also more than 10 indoor events such as 10 pin bowling, canasta, crossword puzzles, Mexican train dominoes and more," said Herb Levitan, NVSO chair.

Adults 50 years of age and older who live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions (cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William) are encouraged to see the full list of events on the website, www.nvso.us,

After each event, gold, silver and bronze medals

are awarded. Most events are played in five or ten year age groups and by gender. The registration fee is \$20 for unlimited events. There are five events that require an additional fee: ten pin bowling; disc golf; cycling; 9 hole, 3 par golf; and orienteering. Members of the general public are welcome to observe those participating. For more information, email, nvso1982@gmail.com.

NVSO is sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William. To date, 2023 Gold Patrons are Advanced Hearing Services; Aetna; Elancé Luxury Living; Facial Plastic Surgery Center; Goodwin Living; Greenspring Village; Hunters Woods at Trails Edge; The Jefferson; Retirement Unlimited; Sentara Health Plans; and Falcons Landing.



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

The bocce competitor's bracket ranges up to the over 90-years-old category. Register now for the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics at <https://nvso.us/>

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NEWS

Arlington Community Foundation Board Of Trustees

Arlington Community Foundation will have three new trustees to the Board for fiscal year 2024: Dana Laidhold, Nancy Eileen McEldowney and Carmen C. Oviedo. These new board members bring highly distinguished and diverse perspectives in business, finance, and community impact to the work of the Community Foundation at an exciting time in its evolution. The Foundation is embarking on a strategic planning process to serve as a roadmap for deeper and broader engagement in meeting the needs of the community.

Dana Laidhold serves as Senior Vice President and Treasurer at Nasdaq. With more than 25 years of experience in capital markets, foreign exchange, investing, cash management, insurance and treasury technologies, she leads a global team of treasury and tax professionals. In 2020, her Treasury team was a finalist for the Pinnacle Award for excellence in treasury and finance. In 2015, Laidhold received the Highly Commendable distinction as Woman of the Year at the Adam Smith Awards. She is also on the board of the Nasdaq Foundation.

Nancy Eileen McEldowney is an academic and diplomat who served as the national security advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris during 2021 and 2022. She previously served as United States ambassador to Bulgaria, Interim President and Senior Vice President of the National Defense University, and Director of the Foreign Service Institute, among other foreign affairs distinctions. She has been granted the State Department's Superior Honor Award on five occasions. She is also the recipient of the Sinclair Linguistic Award and of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Joint Distinguished Ci-

vilian Service Award.

Carmen C. Oviedo is Founding Partner of Stanton Blackwell. Before founding Stanton Blackwell, Carmen was Senior Vice President and Executive Committee member of Delta Career Education Corporation. She held multiple positions at Fannie Mae serving as Chief of Staff to the CEO and leading regulatory affairs. Carmen began her career in business development at the Corporate Executive Board after spending several years on Capitol Hill. With a passion for community development, Carmen served as a Board President for Doorways for Women and Families in Arlington and is a former board member of Dress for Success in Washington, DC.

The Foundation would also like to thank John Andelin, who is retiring from the Board of Trustees, for his many years of dedicated service and leadership. He will continue to serve on the Foundation's scholarship committee. Tanja Castro will serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Together, current and new Trustees alike are poised to elevate the Foundation's initiatives and services to new heights, fostering an even stronger and more vibrant Arlington for all.

Arlington Community Foundation was established in 1991 to serve as a permanent community endowment built by the gifts and charitable legacies of individuals, families, and businesses for the betterment of Arlington County. As a grantmaker, convener, and sponsor of special initiatives, the Community Foundation strives to strengthen local nonprofits, encourage better understanding of the needs of Arlingtonians, and address the most critical issues of our time to ensure that our community provides opportunity for everyone. Visit www.arlcf.org or call 703-243-4785.

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 INVITE COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
The Arlington County Police

Department (ACPD) invites Arlington neighborhoods and organizations to gather for National Night Out (NNO) events on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. NNO is a national program held annually on the first Tuesday of August and, in 2023, is celebrating 40 years of community-building
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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Legals

ABC LICENSE

PhoWheels, LLC trading as Pho Wheels, 1731 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Arlington County, VA 22202-0000. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Huy Nguyen & Tuan Vo / Owners. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Surreal LLC trading as Surreal, 2117 Crystal Dr. Arlington, VA 22202-3706. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed beverage restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ezequiel Vázquez, owner/ The Veritas Law Firm. Date notice posted at establishment: 7/17/2023. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Employment

BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST
 Cyberbahn Federal Solutions, LLC. (Arlington, VA) needs: Business Systems Analyst: Work collaboratively with the business stakeholders from Finance, IT, HR and marketing teams. Must have 2 yrs exp using Oracle, HANA, SAP, SQL Queries. Certifications Required: Microsoft Azure Cloud Administration Associate & Security Compliance & Identity Fundamentals. Travel/relocation required as jobs will be performed at various unanticipated locations throughout the US. Mail resumes to Cyberbahn - 1100 N. Glebe Road, Suite 1010, Arlington, VA 22201.

CALENDAR

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CALENDAR

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

NOW THRU AUG. 13
"Cyrano De Bergerac." At Synetic Theater, Arlington. Cyrano has a larger-than-life personality... and a nose to match. He's a man who has it all—except for the confidence to win the heart of his beloved Roxanne. This timeless tale features mistaken identities, breath-taking sword fights, unrequited love and acts of heroism – all expressed through Synetic's signature wordless style, with a commedia dell'arte twist, in a production that earned an astounding nine Helen Hayes nominations. Check www.synetictheater.org for dates and showtimes.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26
Preserve Your Harvest. 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Enjoy your garden riches year-round with canning and freezing. Learn the best, safest ways to preserve the flavor and nutrition.

FRIDAY/JULY 28
Managing the Vegetable Garden's Overabundance. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. As we move into summertime, do you have more vegetables from your garden than you know what to do with? Come hear Virginia Cooperative Extension's own Aisha Salazar, Associate Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences in Arlington and Alexandria, provide practical tips on how to make the best use of your garden's yield. Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, AND 29
Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, Tuesdays @ 10, 10-11:30 a.m., Simpson Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe Ave. Alexandria. Join Extension Master Gardeners in the Simpson Demonstration Gardens to learn their techniques and strategies for discouraging pests of all kinds while protecting beneficial insects and animals and the quality of the soil and water. Free.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 9, 16, 23, AND 30
Central Library Wednesday Talks. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Arlington Central Library, 1015 N Quincy St., Arlington. Join Friends of Urban Agriculture, Arlington/Alexandria Extension Master Gardeners and other expert speakers as they provide information on a variety of garden topics each month. Topics in August include Vegetables for Fall and Winter Harvest on Aug 2, Cover Crops for Healthy Soil on Aug 9, Extend Your Growing Season on Aug 16, Foraging for Wild Edibles Aug 23, and Garden Tool Care on Aug 30. Free. No registration required. For more information call 703-228-5940.

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Let's be human-traffic heroes! Help stop abuse in Virginia by calling #77 as soon as you see it.

HVA

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 6

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 2

Vegetables for Fall & Winter Harvest. 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Vegetables for Fall & Winter Harvest – You can grow vegetables nearly year-round. Learn what to plant to enjoy this fall; and even through to the spring.

FRIDAY/AUG. 4

Fall & Winter Vegetable Garden Planning. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. Now is the time to think about what to plant when the weather starts to cool. Join Extension Master Gardener Dona Lee for this popular session on fall gardening what to plant when and simple tips for success. Think healthful greens like kale, collards, bok choy, and a wealth of lettuces. Fall is a delightful time to garden, with cool autumn days and waning pest populations. Learn inexpensive techniques to extend your harvest and even how you can enjoy some of your crops in the dead of winter! Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

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 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.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

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! The headliner for August's show is the hilarious Winston Hodges. Visit capitalcityshowcase.com

FRIDAY/AUG. 11

The Hospitable Gardener: Welcoming Fireflies and Other Creatures to Your Yard. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. Are you charmed on summer evenings by the tiny bobbing lights of amorous fireflies? Many non-human creatures share the property we call our own, and we can improve the quality of their lives and support the environment by the way we garden. This talk by Extension

Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Alyssa Ford Morel looks at fireflies, hummingbirds, lady bugs, and other creatures with whom we share our yards, and suggests practices to welcome and support them. You will learn ways to start addressing the biodiversity crisis at home. Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

LATE NIGHT AT THE MILL

Saturdays, 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.

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 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.

Fridays at Arlington Mill, 909 South Dinwiddie St, Arlington, VA

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 29: A Man Called Otto
Aug. 5: Till
Aug. 12: Top Gun: Maverick
Aug. 19: The Woman King
Aug. 26: Jurassic World Dominion

NOW THRU JULY 28

Veteran Art Show. At Gallery Underground, Arlington. Arlington Artists Alliance's Gallery Underground announces a new partnership with the nonprofit organization Uniting US. The mission of Uniting US is to empower veterans, military, and their families to inspire communities to heal, find wellness, and unite through art. The partnership begins in July with the installation of the art show Connecting Communities. The show features 20 artists with works in oils, acrylic, water color, fiber, wood, metal, ceramics, and mixed media. Artwork from the show will also be available for sale on the Alliance website.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. During NNO, outdoor events such as cook-outs, block parties and ice cream socials are held simultaneously around Arlington County and nationwide to strengthen open lines of communication between law enforcement and the community which is vital to public safety. NNO is also an opportunity to promote and practice crime prevention strategies. ACPD encourages participants to lock their doors, turn their porch lights on and secure their property using the methods contained in the 9 PM. Routine before spending the

evening with neighbors, law enforcement, firefighters and County employees.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4tPw2.

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Alexandria Gazette Packet
Publishing Since 1784

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THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online

Mount Vernon Gazette
ALMANAC 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.

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 omicron 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.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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An Inadvertent Friend-Type Request



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This column has nothing to do with Facebook, though the title is a bit of a tease, to encourage you to read further. And what you're reading about is not exactly a surprise that it happened, it's more a flashing, neon-type sign that shopping online has matured from a transactional one between a buyer and a seller to something so much more. Not so much more as to make it sinister, but enough to make it more personal. Personal in that your online/website searches/inquiries are in essence, the beginning of a friendship. A friendship whereby the company (the seller) is becoming more like a friend in its willingness (algorithm) to offer opinions, dare I say encouragement to you (the buyer) to spend money on merchandise you've recently clicked on as sort of a starting point. But it's interpreted by the computer/website host (AI, I suppose) to be one which – with some electronic prodding, views this interaction as a potential final sale with only a credit card required to consummate this new/budding relationship.

The problem/reality is, I wasn't necessarily looking to buy and/or consummate this retail partnership/purchase just yet. This initial process when I'm searching, clicking, perusing, calculating, perhaps even actually contemplating, is my time, honestly. It's not the company/seller's time. Just because I'm looking, doesn't mean I'm ready to be leaping. To my way of thinking, this initial search is simply a consideration, not a calculation per se. Granted, I'm likely doing some math while I'm reading and then writing. But I don't need the website host hounding/gently nudging (depending on your perspective) me any more than I want to be accosted/offered assistance (again, depending on your perspective) when entering a retail establishment where merchandise can actually be touched and examined while up close so the purchase becomes personal, not merely professional.

What precipitated this most recent rant are the almost daily reminders I receive in my inbox from sites I visited previously. Their intent being to try and consummate our computer relationship by getting me to enter my credit card information/cozying up to me in an increasingly familiar manner, as if we were friends, and that by researching and clicking on their website I have somehow brought us closer together than merely a buyer and a seller, but rather more like friends in the pursuit of wholesale/retail justice.

I guess if I were to be naïve and gullible, I would interpret these electronic reminders as I would indeed respect and appreciate a friend's suggestion/recommendation about whether I should be making a particular purchase. But that's not how I'm reacting to these many missives. I'm reacting to them as attempts at hostile take-overs – of my money. Moreover, I feel their reach is intrusive and presumptive. Certainly, when I read their heading in the subject box I can press delete and completely ignore their communication. At that point however, the psychological damage has already been done. By simply reading their headline and understanding its lineage, I have already been hooked, so to speak. I know why the email is there. It's not to ask how I'm adjusting to my late brother's semi unexpected death or asking if I think the Red Sox will be buyers or sellers at the trade deadline. Oh no. They're asking for money/commitment. They want to know how and when, not why and where I'll be otherwise spending my money – or not at all. They're not understanding. They're manipulating. And once they're through with me, they'll move on to the next site-clicker. I'll merely be a blip in their artificial computer code. Code that reacts to my computer research in their products/services as an inevitable buy and sell opportunity. It views my soliciting their help/information as a buying signal and the more help they offer/email, the more inevitable the sale becomes as it believes more is more rather than less is more.

But I object to this presumption of facts not yet agreed to. And I further object to presuming a familiarity which absolutely does not exist. I don't know this caller from Adam. Like my disdain for cold-callers – for whatever solicitation – whether for business, charity or community when the caller addresses me by my first name. That's a no-no, never a yes-yes. It's an automatic click. As for these computer emails that remind me of a previous interest/inquiry on their site/for their product or service, we are not in any kind of relationship. If anything, we might be in the middle/the beginning of a transaction. If this 'relationship' is about anything, it's about business, not pleasure.

Transact this!

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

Local Burger One of Best in D.C. Area

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Who knew your favorite neighborhood barbecue place had burgers? Now everyone knows the secret since Washington Post's food critic Tim Carman rated 45 local burgers, rating the hamburger at Sloppy Mama's BBQ number three in the D.C. metro area. Carman said the burger blew him away which "probably boils down to animal fat and lots of it."

Joe "Hogsmoker" Neuman, owner of Sloppy Mama's BBQ says the frequent customer response has been, "I never noticed you had burgers; I always came for the barbecue." The first weekend after the article appeared Neuman says, "Things went bonkers." Neuman says on a normal Saturday they would sell 300 burgers but after the article came out they sold 600. "There was a line down the sidewalk."

"I was on a pig roast in West Virginia, and three of our regular employees were at the Columbia Pike Blues Fest that Saturday. I had brought in former employees but we couldn't keep up. We couldn't grind meat fast enough. The staff thought she had enough to get through lunch but it was gone in 20 minutes."

Neuman says he put the burger on the menu in the summer of 2020. But it just sat there. Now burger sales have zipped to second place behind the brisket. "A lot of people come two times a week, once for barbecue and a second time for their burger fix. Or they may order a platter of barbecue and throw on a couple of burgers to share."

Neuman says the meat for the burger is a byproduct of an aggressive brisket trim in order to make the briskets a uniform shape for cooking. So the burger is made of prime brisket trimmings which are ground in house daily, and each

burger is made to order. "We don't put on a lot of toppings. We are anti-lettuce and tomato to cover up bad meat." He says they add salt and pepper and happy sprinkles.

Neuman says they smash up the patty and press in chopped onion. "Then we top it with American cheese (the people's cheese), our house made hot sweet pickles and add on our special sauce," which he confides is a mixture of ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise and happy sprinkles. He explains happy sprinkles are his creation of about 30 or so spices including paprika, cumin, coriander, mustard seed, thyme, chili powder and ... all the rest. The burger is put on a potato bun with one side of the bun grilled with tallow.

Now the burger craze has resulted in ordering new kitchen equipment which is expected to arrive Aug. 2 "so we can make more burgers. Currently our workspace is 2'x2' and we can only make ten patties at a time."

When he is not making burgers and barbecue, Neuman is inventing

special menus for various holidays. "We had smoked corn beef and cabbage for our St. Patrick's Day special. We blend something traditional with what we do. We had fun with it. For Cinco de Mayo, we had smoked al pastor, something

inventive but not in a weird way."

He says Thanksgiving is sold out every year with 140 orders on Thanksgiving alone and 120 cold pick ups on Wednesday. "We had to get a refrigerated truck. We did massive business."

Currently Sloppy Mama's BBQ is in the middle of the voting for NoVA Burger Wars 2023, competing with 32 other restaurants. They just won phase two voting. Phase three voting ends Wednesday, July 26 at 11:59 p.m.



Customers lined up for burgers at Sloppy Mama's Saturday.



Fredi Hernandez grinds 20 pounds of brisket on Saturday, July 22 for the Sloppy Mama's burgers, recently rated number 3 in the metro area. He says, "a lot—people really like it."



Grand finale Sloppy Mama's number 3 burger.



Hernandez tops the burger with happy sprinkles before grilling.



Hernandez makes each burger to order beginning with 4 ounces of twice ground brisket.



Onions top burger and cook for about a minute.



After flipping over and another minute or two, a slice of American cheese melts on the burger.



Burger smashed flat on 420 degree grill.



Burger topped with special sauce, hot sweet pickles and placed on a potato roll.