

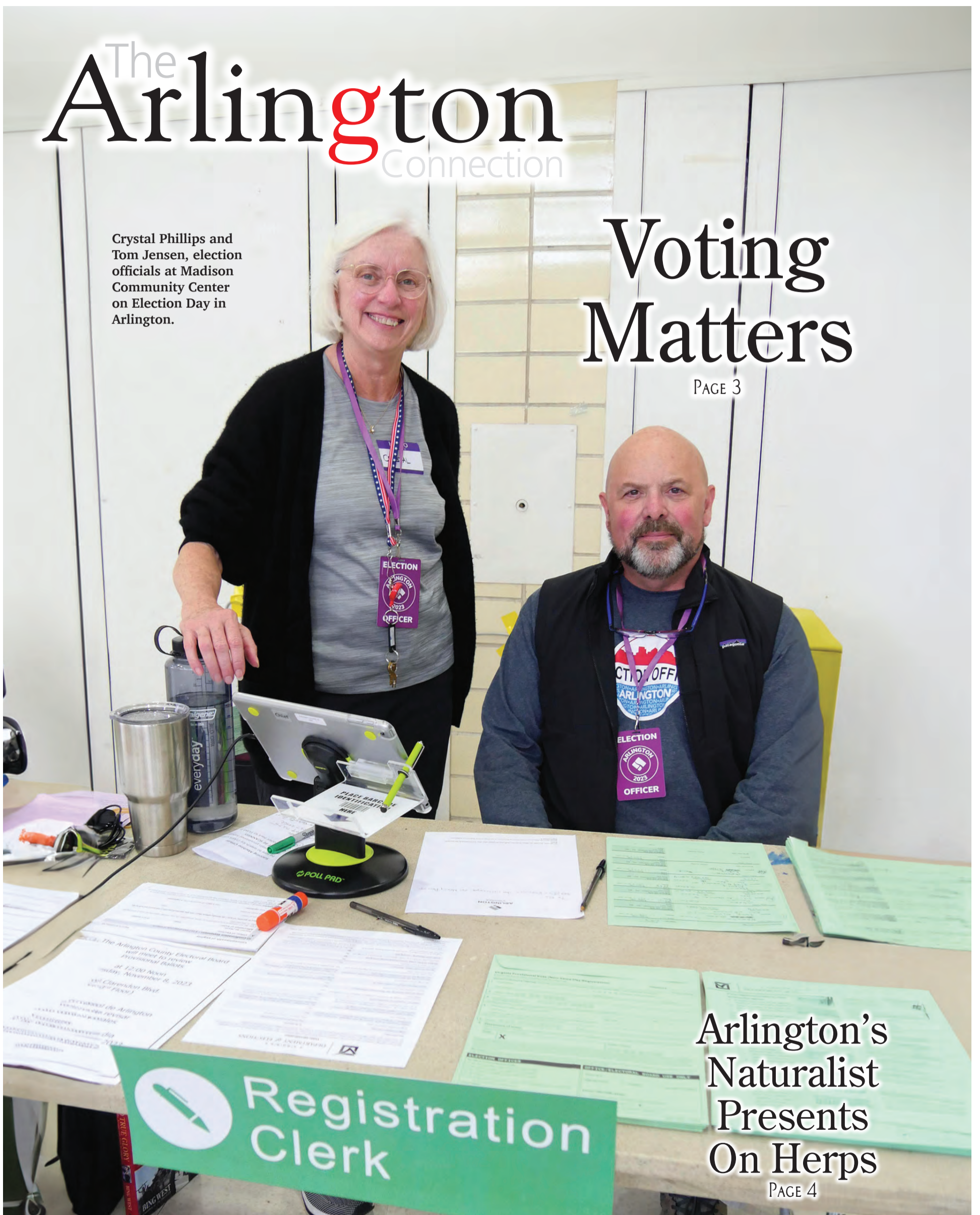
Crystal Phillips and Tom Jensen, election officials at Madison Community Center on Election Day in Arlington.

Voting Matters

PAGE 3

CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE / THE CONNECTION



Arlington's Naturalist Presents On Herps

PAGE 4

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Department of Parks and Recreation
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Registration # 911402-12.

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.

Beginner quilling, learn to create delicate raised images from coils of paper strips, Thursday, Nov. 9, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Cost \$18. Registration # 911310-06.

55+ Travel group will visit the "Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas" exhibit at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, D.C., Thursday, Nov. 9. Cost \$8, Arlington resident; \$10, non-resident. Registration # 902311-03.

55+ Travel group to shop at the Northern Virginia Christmas Market featuring more than 250 fine artisans from across the country. Sun., Nov. 12. Cost \$9, Arlington County resident; \$11, out-of-county resident. \$8 entrance fee at the door. Register #902311-04.

Spanish discussion group, minimum intermediate level, discuss variety of topics including food, travel, current events, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Led by 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration # 911650-03.

Wake and Make, early morning painting and drawing activity led by Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen, Mon., Nov. 13, 9 a.m., virtual. Register #911303-18.

Vinyl records and root beer floats, Thursday, Nov. 9, 6-7 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Bring your favorite records or just enjoy listening. Registration # 911801-03.

Step-by-step painting demonstration with Community Arts Programmer Jim Halloran, Mon., Nov. 13, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Register #911303-16.

Movie and munchies, "Empire of Light" (2022) (R), Thursday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911804-14.

Taking care of house plants, presented by Lynn Pelkey, master gardener with Virginia Cooperative Extension. Tues., Nov. 14, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Register: #911401-04.

Dwight Rodgers from Encore Learning leads a discussion about the cultural, economics, artistic and political history of various countries, Thursday, Nov. 9, 1 p.m., virtual.

Mood Disorders and Physical Health, Dr. Emma Stapp from the Institute of Brain Health and Dementia will discuss how mental and physical health are related, Tues., Nov. 14, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Register #911500-11.

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 5

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ELECTION DAY

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Marx Sterne (left) and David Tate hand out Democratic sample ballots at Madison Community Center on Election Day. There were no Republican poll greeters at this location.



Crystal Phillips and Tom Jensen, election officials at Madison Community Center on Election Day.

Good Turnout Despite Few Contested Races

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

At 11:45 a.m. the 417th voter cast her ballot at Madison Community Center on Election Day. David Tate, poll greeter standing on the sidewalk outside the building, said there had been a very good flow of voters so far this morning. He says that voters have been commenting to him that it seems like a heavy vote for an off year.

Four students from Yorktown High School sit outside Madison Community Center polling place manning a table on the sidewalk filled with glazed donuts, cupcakes, homemade oatmeal raisin cookies and pumpkin bread to raise funds for the mock Model General Assembly next spring in Richmond. They estimate the club at Yorktown has about 30 students and is getting more popular. Lia Sylvester, member of the club, says they spend the year writing bills, understanding the legislative system and preparing for debate with the other model assemblies in Virginia.

Olivia Plimpton says she wrote a bill to protect adoption rights for same sex couples. "Unfortunately it didn't pass." Virginia Lewis says they also had a bill on composting to monitor how much big companies are composting.

Denise Daniel, who just moved here from D.C., is walking her dog Pepper past the polling site with her daughter Alma. "We just moved here from D.C. and I'll be voting in this precinct for the first time. I plan to explain to Alma what I'll be doing today and come back later to vote." She says when she was growing up she did the mock vote with her parents.

Daniel says the biggest issue for her is the location of the schools in Arlington and



Yorktown High School students sit outside the polling place at Madison Community Center selling baked goods to raise funds for their Model General Assembly in Richmond to be held in the spring. Back left to right: Allison Larmee, Virginia Lewis. Front left to right: Olivia Plimpton, Lia Sylvester.

how the programs are distributed. "Alma is in an immersion program but the school is not full; there is plenty of capacity available. They put the program in schools almost to capacity without considering geographical distribution." In addition, she says education in general is one of the most important things for her. "The critical race theory and all of the online conspiracy are an issue; I think parents should have more input."

On a broader scale, she says she hasn't been paying too much attention to the larger issues this last year but she does have an opinion on the much-discussed abortion issue — that women have the right to control their own bodies.

Tate says that this year there aren't many contested races on the ballot in Arlington in the general election. Patrick Hope is uncon-

tested for 1st District House of Delegates, and other uncontested races include Clerk of Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer. Barbara Favola is running against David Henshaw for State Senate 40th District, and four candidates are running to claim the two open seats on the County Board. But Tate speculates there may be less enthusiasm for this year's race since the major missing middle housing issue has been decided by the Board so that generates less interest in the outcome. This year the contested races took place in the June primary.

Crystal Phillips, an election official says she has also noticed a steady stream of voters although it was slow with only 30 voting the first hour. She speculates that with people not going to offices now due to Covid,



Signs lead the way to the polling place at Madison Community Center.

they don't have to rush in before work like they used to do and feel free to vote whenever it is convenient later in the day.

Learning to Love Amphibians and Reptiles

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

They may not be cuddly, charismatic or cute to many humans, but amphibians and reptiles are fascinating and important. That was the message on Oct. 25 when Alonso Abugattas gave a tutorial to 85 people on herpetofauna. Abugattas is Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County Parks.

Amphibians and reptiles are two related but different groups. "Herps" are vertebrates and ectothermic or cold blooded, meaning they cannot regulate their body temperature and rely on their environment such as sunlight or a warm surface. Most undergo a dormant state in winter called brumation.

To see these animals, you have to go to the right habitat at the right time of year, Abugattas advised.

Amphibians

Amphibians live in and on both water and land. They produce eggs in the water and have an aquatic, gill-breathing, larval stage, typically followed by a terrestrial lung-breathing adult stage. They go through metamorphosis, for example, from a tadpole to a frog.

Virginia's amphibia include 28 frog species, 59 salamander species, nine lizard species and 34 species and subspecies of snakes.

The green frog is the area's most common frog. Abugattas cautioned that color is not a reliable way to identify a frog. A tip: if the eardrum is larger than the eye, it is a male; if it's the same size as the eye, female.

The American bullfrog is North America's largest frog, up to eight inches in size. "These are the boys that make all the noise," he quipped, but some females also call. "The bullfrog is a mighty predator. It eats everything including other frogs. In a small pond, he's the king," he commented.

Salamanders can regrow their tails, limbs and organ parts and they eat each other. They do not move very far, so if people destroy their habitat, it could take years for them to return. The Eastern red-backed salamander, with a reddish stripe on its back, is Northern Virginia's most common salamander, normally found under woodland logs and debris.

Reptiles

Virginia has 71 reptile species,
4 ♦ ARLINGTON CONNECTION ♦ NOVEMBER 8-14, 2023

Information

❖ The presentation, www.fodm.org

❖ "The Reptiles and Amphibians of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area," by Alonso Abugattas, www.nature-forward.square.site/shop/books, \$25.00

❖ Capital Naturalist, <http://capitalnaturalist.blogspot.com>
Award winning naturalist, storyteller, and environmental educator Alonso Abugattas, the Capital Naturalist, shares his insights on the natural world. Some of the wonders of the natural world found right around the Washington, DC Metropolitan area will be shared using his own photography and his life-long experiences. Search "Capital Naturalist" on Facebook.

including 25 species and subspecies of turtles. Reptiles can have claws, scaly skin on part of all of their bodies or shields. Young reptiles are miniatures of their parents.

The woodland box turtle, our only land turtle, has a domed carapace or shell and can close itself inside its shell. This turtle can eat almost anything, including poisonous mushrooms.

Eastern painted turtles have two yellow spots behind their eyes, long front claws and red marks on the bottom of their carapace.

Abugattas dubbed the 11-inch-long red-eared slider the "pet store turtle." Originally from the Midwest, they are now the most common turtle worldwide. They typically have a red splotch behind their eyes which gets darker as they age. They compete with native turtles for the same food and nesting and basking sites.

The snapping turtle is the largest freshwater turtle here, around 18 inches long with a long neck that cannot fit inside its shell. These turtles can weigh 75 pounds. Abugattas noted that the snapping turtle can lay 100 eggs.

Some advice: If you have to pick

up a turtle, grasp its back. Grabbing its tail can damage the turtle's spine.

Most snakes are harmless and help control rodents. Snakes won't attack you if you don't bother them, Abugattas explained, adding that most people who've been bitten by a venomous snake were trying to kill or capture it. Leave them alone, he urged.

Northern Virginia's most common snake is the Dekay's brown-snake, a tiny gray to brown snake with paired spots along the back. In the fall, it seeks places to hibernate.

The Eastern ratsnake, the area's largest, has a checkerboard belly, climbs trees and eats anything. The cold-tolerant, Eastern gartersnake, our state reptile, is out year-round.

The copperhead is the only venomous snake here. "No one in Virginia has ever died from a copperhead's bite," he said.

Abugattas, a naturalist and environmental educator, founded the Capital Naturalist.

The program on amphibians and reptiles was sponsored by four "friends" groups: Friends of Dyke Marsh, Huntley Meadows Park, Mason Neck State Park and Little Hunting Creek.



American toad.



Bullfrog and painted turtle.



Habitat: Bullfrog, painted turtles, watersnakes and cardinal flower.

PHOTOS BY
ALONSO ABUGATTAS



Eastern ratsnake, also beneficial, at Huntley Meadows.



Beneficial Eastern gartersnake.



Green Frog.



Common snapping turtle.



Redbacked salamander.



Spotted salamander.



Spotted salamander.



A pair of Eastern Red-backed salamanders.

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

FROM PAGE 2

Google Drive 101, learn how to use this free personal cloud storage service with volunteer Benjamin Childers, Tues., Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m., virtual. Register #911403-05.

Opera Appreciation group to hear musical selections from "Of Mice and Men" by Carlisle Floyd with commentary from volunteer George Cecchetti. Wed., Nov. 15, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Register #911300-06.

Paint & Sip, paint along with Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen and recreate artworks on display at local museums, Thurs., Nov. 16, 10 a.m., virtual. Register #911303-14.

The historical significance of Hiawatha, chief of the Onondaga Nation and subject of Longfellow's poem "The Song of Hiawatha." Presented by Professor Mary McCutcheon of George Mason University. Thurs., Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m., virtual. Register #911400-27.

Movie Matinee, "The Adam Project" (2022) (PG-13), Thurs., Nov. 16, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration #911804-11.

Discussion group focused on economic, cultural and political history, led by Dwight Rodgers of Encore Learning. Thurs., Nov. 16, 1 p.m., virtual. Register #911402-13.

Walk Your Way to Brain Health, presented by award-winning author Martha Murphy. Walking can improve health, creativity, mood and lower your risk of cognitive decline. Thurs., Nov. 16, 1:30 p.m., virtual. Register #911500-13.

How to Navigate Social Media, discussion of different social media platforms and how to use them with 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez. Thurs., Nov. 16, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Register #911403-06.

Beneath the surface and behind the scenes of three artists' techniques, context and history, presented by Community Arts Programmer Jim Halloran. Fri., Nov. 17, 10 a.m., virtual. Register #911302-06.

Play Bunco, a fun dice game of luck, no experience needed. Fri., Nov. 17, 1:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Register #911600-09.

55+ Travel group will enjoy a guided tour of the "Art and Ideals: President John F. Kennedy" Exhibit at the Kennedy Center, Fri., Nov. 17. Cost \$9, Arlington County resident; \$11, out-of-county resident. Register #902311-05.

Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social, shop for unique gifts and support the 55+ Program, Sat., Nov. 18, 2 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Cost: \$3, paid online or at the door. Register #911899-04.

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OPINION

Zachary Taylor Missed the Point

But then, he DOES work for the plastics industry (response to the response to '10 Things You Can Do')

BY EDEN BROWN

Zachary Taylor's Letter to the Editor, in which he notes the recent article, "10 Things You Can Do to Sustain Arlington" correctly points out that proper recycling is an excellent way to keep the community clean, but "misses a key detail regarding the plastic retail bags shoppers rely on every day to get their groceries home." That would be correct, and I almost, ALMOST, included that part about recycling plastic bags: "while not generally accepted in the curbside recycling program, plastic film shopping bags continue to be easily recycled through the industry-pioneered store takeback program."

But I didn't, because using plastic bags isn't sustainable, period. Either Taylor missed the point, or I should have made it more clear:

NO BAG, other than the reusable one you already have with you, is sustainable. But, I think Mr. Taylor, who is a lobbyist for the plastics industry, was just doing his job, trying to make plastics production sound like a good idea, plastic bags something we "rely" on, and recycling an easy option.

I did learn a few things in my effort to give Taylor a fair hearing. Bag for bag, plastic bags are better for the environment than paper and even some reusable bags, because producing them takes less of a toll on the environment. It is what you do with the plastic bag after you use it which makes it the less sustainable choice. If consumers did reuse their plastic bags, and did recycle them correctly afterwards, Taylor might be correct. The problem is, they don't use them repeatedly and they don't recycle them correctly. They throw them in the trash, or the wrong bin, or use them for dog poop, or take them to the park, where they blow away and end

up in waterways. Sea animals mistake them for food, they break down into microplastics, they end up in trees, desolate kites that flap in the wind nearly forever.

Fewer than one percent of plastic bags are recycled, which means there are billions hanging out in oceans and landfills.

The third meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (Plastic Pollution INC-3), will take place this month at UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. On their website, they note, "plastics and the manufacture of them are not safe for human beings and other animals. New research shows that people are inhaling microplastics through the air, consuming them through food and water and even absorbing them through the skin. Microplastics have even been found within our lungs, livers, spleens, and kidneys, and one study recently found microplastics in the placentas of newborn babies."

Back to my original point: if you can only do ten things to reduce, reuse, refill or refuse in Arlington, trade in that plastic bag for A) no bag B) your reusable bag C) your knapsack D) a box. If you have paid the surcharge for a plastic bag, make sure you keep it and reuse it many times and THEN, only then, take it to the local supermarket bin for recycling plastic bags.

And don't buy the argument that we are providing thousands of Virginians with jobs by recycling these bags. There are plenty of new jobs being created that offer a more sustainable product than plastic bag production. Of course, that would put Mr. Taylor out of a job, but sustainable industries need lobbyists too.

Former FBI Contractor Uses Popular Video Game Platform to Solicit Preteens

A former FBI contractor pleaded guilty today to production and receipt of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

According to court documents, beginning in February, Brett Janes, 26, of Arlington, groomed a 13-year-old minor (MV1) to transition from playing Valorant with him, a popular first-person shooter game, to engaging in "strip" games on a video chat function in Discord. Although MV1 did not want to play this game, Janes employed threats of suicide, various money payments through CashApp, and flattery, until MV1 produced CSAM for him.

In addition, a search warrant revealed Janes was communicating with at least a dozen other minors. Of those minors, he convinced one 12-year-old boy to produce CSAM and attempted to entice another

14-year-old boy to produce CSAM. Janes manipulated these minors by befriending, flattering, and outright begging them for content. A review of his devices revealed he purchased hundreds of videos and images of CSAM from the internet, including graphic disturbing videos.

Janes pleaded guilty to one count of sexual exploitation of children and one count of receipt of child pornography. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 27, 2024, and faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Significant assistance was provided by the Arlington County Police Department and the Galloway Township Police Department in New Jersey.

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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.

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 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.

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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Bucket List-less



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As you regular readers have no doubt read in a previous column (or 500) I have cancer. I was first diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV in late February 2009. When I didn't die within my "13 month to two years" prognosis, my oncologist was surprised; nevertheless, he didn't pursue any medical explanation. He just characterized me as his "third miracle" and my treatment continued relatively unabated. It wasn't for another seven years or so that my diagnosis changed to papillary thyroid cancer. Whether my oncologist made an error in my original diagnosis or was slow to change/update my diagnosis, we'll never know as my original tissue sample/slide has been lost (I won't say conveniently). Moreover, the statute of limitations has expired so any incentive to research/investigate was lost in the figurative rubble. No real worries though. I have learned to live with it (live being the operative word) and besides, my life would have changed little since the damage was long since done, and likely would have stressed me out more.

But I must confess, living with incurable cancer is all it's cracked up to be. Meaning it's not exactly a picnic. If you've read any of my last umpteen columns on the matter, cancer does more than just invade your body, it affects you emotionally, almost subconsciously, as it re-wires your brain, sort of. And there's not a thing you can do about it. What you value, what you can tolerate, what motivates you; anything you want to say or do is filtered through this imaginary prism called cancer. And what goes in doesn't always come out as you expected, or have heard yourself saying, or seen yourself doing, or had expressed an interest in saying or doing like you had for the entirety of your previous life. This the new you, like it or not.

It is in this context that us cancer (or any other terminal-type situation) survivors are regularly asked what we want to do with the rest of our lives - or a reasonable facsimile thereof. Specifically, this awkward conversation inevitably veers into whether we have a "bucket list:" a list of sorts of the things you want to do before you die, places you want to visit, people you want to see, et cetera; and maybe even the songs you want to hear: "Live Like You're Dying" by Tim McGraw comes to mind.

When the opportunity (more like misfortune) presents itself at your ground-zero-type meeting with an oncologist when you hear the words "You have cancer" for the first time, you are changed forever, and not just physically, but every which way - and some you never imagined as well. Invariably, what is asked and/or what you think about your new reality as a "terminal" cancer patient, your answer is the framework of the all-too-familiar bucket list: the things/choices/places you want to do/say/go; presuming/understanding that you no longer have as much time as you thought you did - before this appointment. There's no future "woeing" is me, there's only the present and accepting/assimilating your new circumstances into your routine. Fighting it is one thing, but embracing it is quite another. Unfortunately, the odds/statistics are against you, but so what? Cancer may be the big dog, but if I want to get on the porch, I'm going to do so. Because even though cancer and all its insidious ways likely has other plans for you, plans you probably need to agree and proceed to, as we say in the sales world, standing pat ain't gonna cut it anymore. And cancer is as big a hurdle as there is. All you can do is learn to roll with the punches and put one foot in front of the other. And more often than not, my bucket-list answer surprises.

I want to live life like I'm living, not live like I'm anticipating dying. I don't want to fill up this hypothetical bucket, I want to empty it. Furthermore, I'd rather enjoy and appreciate what I have - and had, not think about what I don't have/didn't do.

After hearing what I heard - out of the blue no less, at that initial meeting with the oncologist, about my abbreviated life expectancy; to say it knocks you for a loop is to minimize loops everywhere. This 'loop' is more like the roller coaster from hell. Up and down and all-around is just the beginning. And one ride is more than enough. But you're going to be on this ride for the rest of your life so hunker down and buckle up. Eventually, at least I did, you get it sorted in some way which enables you to live life forward. I felt that if I was doing something on my so-called "bucket list," the reason for doing that thing was because I was dying and I wanted to do it before I died. To me, that would be reinforcing a negative. That's not how I want to decide that whatever it is I'm doing. I want to decide based on the merits/intrinsic value of the thing. To me, the 'bucket list' concept is too negative. I want to do things because I want to do them, not because I have too not because of some theoretical list of do-or-die experiences/accomplishments. Reinforcing a negative didn't/doesn't feel like a very positive thing to do. And here I am, nearly 15 years post-diagnosis.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

CHECK OUT THE PLANT CLINICS!

The Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic at 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington operates on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N 14th and N Courthouse Roads operates on Saturdays from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. The Del Ray Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S Stafford St, Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

NOW THRU NOV. 24

Movement & Textures. At Gallery Underground, Crystal City, Arlington. Nataliya Gurshman presents her solo show "Movement & Textures", featuring works in oil that originate from her experiences of winter growing up in Leningrad. These formative years became rooted in her soul and are expressed in her lush and textural pieces. Opening Reception: November 3, 2023, 5-7 p.m.

FRIDAY/NOV. 10

Free Chamber Music Concert. At noon. At St. George's Church, 915 N. Oakland Street, Arlington. The Friday Morning Music Club will continue its noon chamber music concerts the first and second Fridays of the month at St. George's Church. The program for November 10 will feature Weber, Faure, Bloch and Shostakovich. Free, no ticket required. Visit <https://fmmc.org>.

FRIDAY/NOV. 10

Case Studies in Stormwater Management. 10 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. Tired of parts of your yard flooding when it rains? Have you ever wondered what you can do to control stormwater on your property? Maybe you experience property damage from excessive water runoff, live in a community that floods frequently, or care about the health of local streams. Join Extension Master Gardeners Cindy Robertson, Bev Johnston, and Kathryn Kellam, who will share helpful advice and lessons learned in managing and capturing stormwater in their Northern Virginia yards. Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

Proving Ground: The Untold Story of the Six Women Who Programmed the World's First Modern Computer. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. Presented by Arlington AAUW. Speaker is Mark Massey, Chair, ENIAC Programmers Project.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Balalaika's Musical Magic. 3 p.m. At Kenmore Auditorium, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. The Washington Balalaika Society continues to celebrate its 35th year with a wonderful concert, Musical Magic!, featuring new repertoire and old favorites. This exciting new program was created by Conductor and Artistic Director, Svetlana Nikonova. Adults \$30; Seniors/Military \$25; Students \$15; Children 12 & under \$5. Visit www.balalaika.org.

POLICE HOST FILL THE CRUISER TOY DRIVE

This holiday season, consider adding an Arlington child in need to your shopping list. Beginning in November, the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) will

be hosting the ninth annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive benefiting children in need in the Arlington community. Bring joy to someone's holiday by donating new, unwrapped toys at one of our collection events or stationary drop box locations.

Collection Events

Officers will collect new, unwrapped toys for children ages newborn to 17 at the following locations:

Saturday, November 18

Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Lee Harrison Shopping Center, 2425 N. Harrison Street, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 25

Arlington Assembly of God, 4501 N. Pershing Drive, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 830 23rd Street S., from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street S., from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Stationary Drop Box Locations

If you are unable to attend one of our

donation collection events, stationary drop boxes will be available at the following locations from November 1 to December 7.

Lost Dog Cafe, 5876 Washington Boulevard

Cathedral of St. Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane

Arlington Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Administrative Support Unit, 1425 N. Courthouse Road

Ireland's Four Courts, 2051 Wilson Boulevard

Celtic House Irish Pub, 2500 Columbia Pike

Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Avenue

Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, 333 Long Bridge Drive

Freddie's Beach Bar, 555 23rd Street S. Toy Distribution

Toys will be distributed by the Police Department throughout the Arlington community during the month of December.

FRIDAY/DEC. 15

Alexandria and Arlington Virginia Cooperative Extension Annual Showcase. 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street Arlington. Virginia Cooperative Extension -- Virginia tech and Virginia State University.

Arlington Leaf Collection: The Plan for Fall

Arlington collects about 50,000 cubic yards of leaves every year. Months ahead, staff analyzes historic data, tree types and density, weather forecasts, state forestry forecasts and resident feedback to develop the leaf collection schedule. Source: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Recycling-and-Trash/Residential/Organics-Waste/Leaf-Collection>

Did You Know? You can compost leaves in your yard, creating nutrient-rich mulch for spring flower beds and trees. <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Recycling-and-Trash/Residential/Organics-Waste/Composting>

Leaves collected by the County are turned into mulch available for free pick-up or delivery at a nominal cost.

Fall 2023 Leaf Vacuum Schedule

Routes run Monday - Saturday including holidays except Thanksgiving.

Two passes per civic association. (Arlington civic associations map)

View the in-season leaf vacuum collection status map

Schedule Information

Sign up for leaf schedule Listserv email updates.

Look for neighborhood signs posted three to seven days before each pass by civic association. The first pass is in November (bright yellow); the second pass is in December (orange). Note: The date on the sign marks the beginning of the leaf collection window. Leaves may not actually be collected on that date, but should be left at the curb from that date until they are collected.

Missed a collection? Bag leaves for the next weekly collection or wait for the second vacuum pass.

How to Prepare for Vacuuming

Rake leaves to curb the weekend before the posted start of zone collection (residents with contract lawn services should plan ahead).

Don't block roadways with leaves more than

seven days in advance of a scheduled vacuum leaf collection as it can interfere with traction, blocks traffic, limits street parking and is a potential fire hazard.

Pile leaves away from storm drains, water meter covers, low wires and parked cars.

Remove stones, litter, branches and other debris from leaves to prevent equipment damage and worker injuries.

Don't place leaves in plastic bags or trash carts.

Never park your car on leaf piles — it's a fire hazard.

Drive slowly around leaf trucks, especially when passing.

Always look out for children playing in and around curbside leaf piles.

Biodegradable Bag / Green Cart Collection

Leaf bags are collected year-round on your regular weekly curbside collection day. Leaves can, naturally, also go in the green yard waste cart.

How to Prepare for Collection

Place paper leaf bags/green cart at the curb no earlier than 5 p.m. the day before your regular collection day and no later than 6 a.m. on collection day.

Remove any stones, litter and other debris from your leaves.

Close bags by folding them top down.

Never use plastic bags for yard waste — they can't be composted and won't be collected

Biodegradable paper leaf bags are available at most hardware stores. Or you can use any bags left over from the spring.

Free paper yard waste bags are available from Arlington County during posted spring and fall seasonal dates.

Missed or Partial Pickup

Report a missed or partial pick-up after 5 p.m. on collection day online by using the "Residential Curbside Collections" missed collections form or by calling 703-228-5000 Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Arlington View, Arlington Ridge Transportation Projects Open House

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Join DES Transportation project staff for an upcoming transportation projects open house highlighting projects affecting the Arlington View and Arlington Ridge communities. Here, you can learn more and share your input on these projects with project managers and staff. The projects are:

ANCC Trail Connector - 15% Design update

Army Navy Drive PBL Missing Link - 90% Design update

Columbia Pike Multimodal, Segment C - Construction Update

Vision Zero School Slow Zone Tactical Speed Humps Pilot - Installation Update

Staff from each of these project teams will be on hand to answer your questions and gather your input.

Carver Community Center, 1415 S Queen St, Arlington, VA, 22204

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.

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE STORMWATER UTILITY Q&A SESSIONS

The stormwater utility team invites you to join them for a Stormwater Utility Q&A Session on Dec. 6, and Jan. 10, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. These virtual sessions will allow Arlington property owners to ask questions about the stormwater utility fee and the credit program. Email stormwaterutility@arlingtonva.us to RSVP (RSVP not required.)

From now through Jan. 15, 2024, all property owners in Arlington can apply for voluntary credits offsetting up to 35% of their Stormwater Utility bill. Qualifying credit opportunities will be calculated based on the type of property and actions taken, such as tree planting, volunteer activities, and installing some pervious surfaces. Actions taken during 2023 will be eligible for credit on the first bill in May 2024,

so start getting ready today. For more information, view the credit manual: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/projects/documents/stormwater-credit-manual-april-2023.pdf>

MONDAY/NOV. 20

Leckey Forum: Community Land Trusts: A Pathway to Affordable Housing and Community Empowerment. 3:30-5:30 p.m. At 241 18th Street South, Arlington. Featuring speaker Jenee Gaynor, Director, Shared Equity Housing for NeighborWorks America. The Leckey Forum has been at the forefront of addressing the critical issue of affordable housing by sharing knowledge, insights, and innovative approaches for the past two decades. This year, we'll look into Community Land Trusts (CLTs) as a possible effective strategy to maintain Arlington's residents' affordability and stability.