



Snow Maiden Comes to Life

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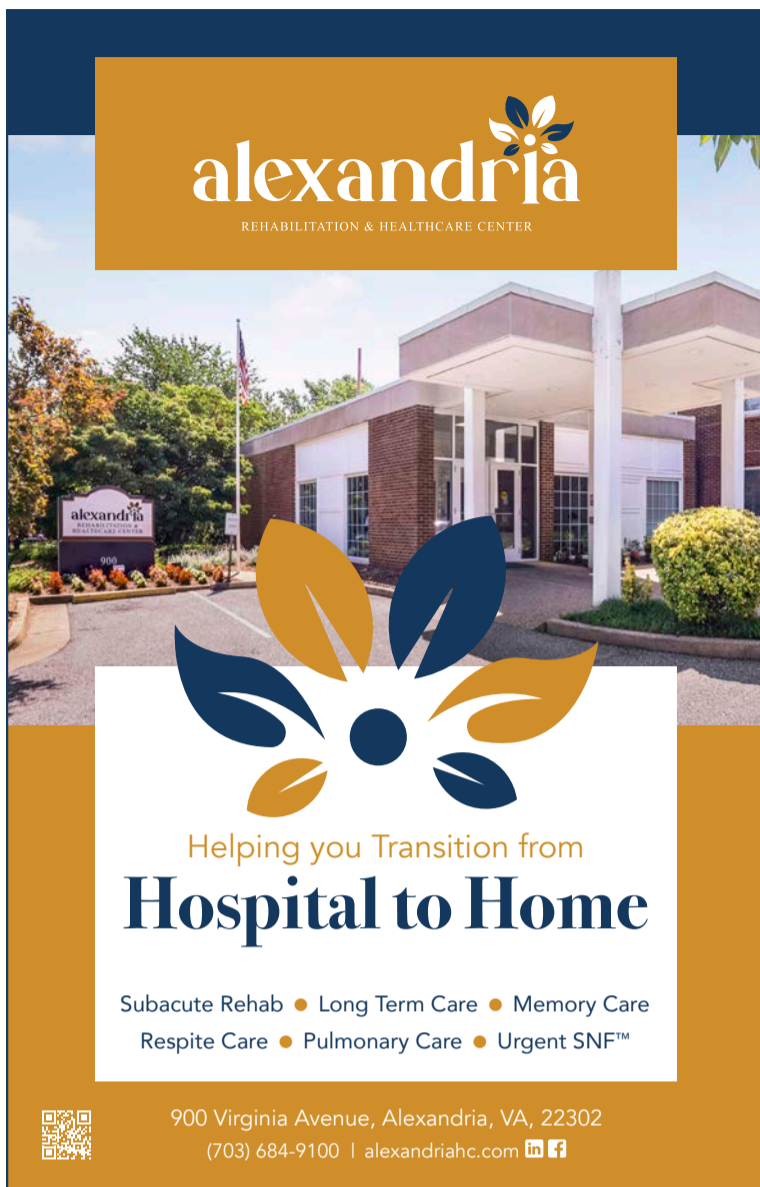
Roy Campaign Launches

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Beyer Meets with Small Businesses

PAGE 4

“Snow Maiden” Dec.
9 to Jan. 6, 2023 at
Synetic Theatre in
Arlington.



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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.

Intro to basic Spanish, six-part series of classes begin Thursday, Dec. 14, 12:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, virtual. 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez Figueredo will teach basic vocabulary, grammar and phrases. Registration # 912650-01.

55+ Travel group heads to Winterthur, DE to view the Getting Dressed with Ann Lowe exhibit featuring the stunning collection of her 40 iconic gowns, Thursday, Dec. 14. Cost \$48, Arlington resident; \$55, non-resident. Registration # 902312-08.

Karaoke for the holidays, sing along in many languages and share traditions, Thursday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 912890-05.

Arlington Food Assistance Center representative will discuss the organization's service to over 2000 families per week, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m., virtual. Registration # 912400-06.

Explore the art of Alma Thomas, famous 20th century artist known for her bold abstract paintings, Thursday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m., virtual. Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen will present an introduction to Thomas' life and work. Registration # 912302-03.

Demonstration on how to use a mobile phone and apps like Google Maps to navigate, Friday, Dec. 15, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Presented by 55+ Center Director Jennifer Weber. Registration # 912403-02.

Behind the scenes of three artists, their history and techniques, Friday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m., virtual. Presented by Community Arts Programmer Jim Halloran. Registration # 912302-04.

Advanced gyrokinesis fitness classes begin Friday, Dec. 15, 8 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Movements in-

crease in intensity, rhythm and flow. Cost \$45, 9 sessions. Registration # 912100-04. Please bring a mat.

Aurora Hills 55+ Center is collecting gently used coats and jackets, Friday, Dec. 15, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. to be distributed to the Salvation Army after cleaning by Crest Advanced Dry Cleaners. Registration # 912890-06. Additional information, 703-228-5722.

55+ Travel will join Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen for a tour of "Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas" at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Saturday, Dec. 16. Cost \$11, Arlington resident; \$13, non-resident. Registration # 902312-09.

Short story reading and discussion of "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote, Monday, Dec. 18, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, registration # 912402-22 or virtual, registration # 912402-23.

Aurora Hills 55+ Center book club to discuss "Kristin Lavansdatter" by Sigrid Undset, Monday, Dec. 18, 11:30 a.m. Drop-in.

Secrets revealed of famous artists and their distinctive techniques presented by Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen, Monday, Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Registration # 912302-07.

Genealogy 101, share research information and tools with fellow genealogy enthusiasts, Tuesday, Dec. 19, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Led by experienced genealogist Eileen Bogdanoff. Registration # 912402-01.

Acoustic Café, enjoy the vibe of a 1960s coffee house with live music by Mood Indigo and Crooked Sparrow, Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 912301-01.

Holiday cookie recipe swap, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 912890-08.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "Luisa Fernanda" by Federico Torroba, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 912300-03.

Piano lounge and sing-along with holiday music performed by pianist Valerie Welsh, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Lyrics provided. Registration # 912304-15.

Vinyl records and root beer floats, Thursday, Dec. 21, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Bring a record or just enjoy listening. Registration # 912801-01.

Matinee movie, "A Man Called Otto" (2022) (PG-13), Thursday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 912804-08.

Learn about Arlington's community outreach services including citizen workshops, English classes, job training and more, presented Thursday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m. in English, virtual, registration # 912400-03 or 2 p.m., in Spanish, virtual, registration # 912400-04. Presented by Connie Freeman, Dept. of Human Services.

Bilingual Trivia in English and Spanish, Thursday, Dec. 21, 3 p.m., virtual. Basic knowledge of Spanish required. Beginners welcome. Registration # 912600-17.

Get Moving with Dance Bingo, Friday, Dec. 22, 11:15 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Combines cardio dancing and luck of the draw Bingo. Registration # 912600-04.

Matinee movie, "Meet Me in St. Louis" (1945) (PG), Friday, Dec. 22, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 912804-04.

Seeking samba players for this intricate variation of Canasta using six decks of cards, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 29, 1:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Bridge practice with volunteer instructors Linda and Steve Robinson, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2 - 4 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Play games and get questions answered. Drop-in.

Partner dance practice, bring your own music and device, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2:15 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Need a partner? E-mail 55+ Center Director Jennifer Weber at jweber1@arlingtonva.us. Drop-in.

Yarn Creations, casual group who like to crochet and knit, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Bring your own supplies. Drop-in.

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Natalie Roy Launches Campaign For Arlington County Board

The 32-year resident and 'bicycle realtor' wants a seat at the table.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Natalie Roy was ebullient: "I'm back, and with a bionic knee no less!" The "bicycle realtor," small business owner, former high school tennis coach at Yorktown High School, president of her neighborhood's civic association, PTA president, and community activist launched her second campaign for a seat on Arlington's county board. She told a crowd of about 80 at the Black Heritage Museum on Sunday night she is passionate about Arlington, her home of 32-plus years, and she has decided to run again because

that's how dedicated to shaping Arlington's future she is. "I believe the County Board needs a voice like mine advocating for transparency and community responsiveness. I will bring that voice. With me, what you see is what you get," said Roy. She added, "The County Board's mantra should be, 'What can we do for you?' Not, 'this is what we think is best for you.'"

Roy didn't just speak about Roy, she invited those who encouraged her to run again for county board to come up and talk. Roy had actually netted 6,708 votes to Susan Cunningham's 6,952 votes in the county board primary, i.e. second most votes, causing many supporters to hang onto her yard signs and urge her to run again. It was reflective of the high spirits and enthusiastic support that several residents got up to speak about her role in the community, her energy, and her understanding of what people want from county representatives.

Celina Penovi said people were tired of hearing the same old non-responses from the County Board. She knew Natalie would get

back to people with real answers.

Roy outlined some of her priorities:

1. Housing: Advocating for an intentional, community-supported, planning-oriented approach to address the urgent need for ADA accessible-affordable housing and diversity. Roy opposes the current densification trend and aims to preserve Arlington's history.

2. Environment & Energy: Drawing on her environmental advocacy background, Roy commits to increasing greenspace, reinstating glass recycling, protecting the tree canopy, expanding bike lanes, and transitioning the county fleets from gas to electric.

3. Fiscal Responsibility: Acknowledging the high commercial vacancy rate impact on the County budget, Roy pledges to conduct a comprehensive assessment and explore creative solutions to convert old buildings for housing or community purposes.

4. Schools: Roy emphasizes closer collaboration between the County Board, the School Board, and Arlington Public Schools in



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

Natalie Roy launched her campaign from the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington. She chose the museum, she said, "because it's a museum that needs and deserves robust County support." She urged attendees to take a look at the exhibits and consider donating to the museum.

addressing challenges, particularly those exacerbated by the pandemic, to ensure student well-being.

5. Public Safety: Committed to working closely with firefighters, police, dispatchers, and emergency personnel to obtain the necessary tools, resources, and community support needed to ensure we all have a safe place to live.

6. The Arts: Recognizing the positive impact of arts on the community, Roy, a passionate arts advocate, vows to support arts or-

ganizations, artists, and cultural professionals, ensuring their continued vibrancy in Arlington.

Roy's energetic 90 year old father came up at the end of the speeches and got a big round of applause for his support to Roy as he urged those in attendance to "make support for Natalie go viral." Energy must run in the family.

For more information, see: <https://natalieforarlington.com/>.

For more on the Black Heritage Museum, see: <https://arlington-blackheritage.org>

Federal Jury Convicts Arlington Doctor of Illegal Opioid Distribution

A federal jury today convicted an Arlington woman of illegally prescribing and distributing oxycodone pills, a controlled substance.

According to court records and evidence presented at trial, Kirsten Van Steenberg Ball, 69, issued prescriptions for over one million oxycodone pills. Ball was a primary care physician who operated a medical practice out of her home in Arlington. She conspired with her office manager, Candy Marie Calix, 41, of Front Royal, to shield from law enforcement and regulatory authorities the fact that she was dispensing vast quantities of oxycodone to her patients — contrary to ordinary standards of medical care.

"Dr. Kirsten Ball's actions, as detailed by the evidence presented at trial and accepted by the jury, are a perversion of the role of medical practitioners in prescribing opioids," said Jessica D. Aber, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. "Medication meant to be carefully provided to people in severe pain was instead prescribed excessively — with no regard for patients' safety or where the pills would end up."

The Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP) investigated Ball in 2014 and 2015, then again in 2021 for excessive and improper prescribing of oxycodone. Evidence and testimony presented at trial showed that Ball falsified records that she submitted to DHP to cover up the fact that she was prescribing oxycodone to patients for no legitimate medical purpose and outside the usual course of professional practice.

Court records showed that Calix was herself a patient of Ball. Ball prescribed Calix approximately 50,000 oxycodone pills over a period of approximately 10 years. Following the first DHP investigation, Ball directed Calix to use a false name in her capacity as office manager to hide the fact that Calix was receiving oxycodone from Ball.

Additionally, evidence presented at trial revealed that Ball directed Calix to recruit other individuals — including several of Calix's immediate family members — to become pain patients of Dr. Ball's so that she could prescribe similarly large quantities of oxycodone to them. Calix, in turn, then sold the tens of thousands of oxycodone pills

that Ball prescribed to them.

Evidence and testimony presented at trial showed that Ball prescribed oxycodone to drug traffickers and drug addicts in exchange for hundreds of dollars. In addition, several patients became addicted while receiving oxycodone. Ball generally did not accept new patients unless an established patient vouched for them. This was because, as Ball told Calix, she feared that an unvetted new patient could be an undercover law enforcement officer.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was able to introduce an undercover individual purporting to be the nephew of an existing patient. In recorded conversations, the undercover told Ball that he was sharing pills with his family members. In response, Ball told the undercover that was "a felony," that she would simply not write it down in his patient file, and not to tell anybody else. She continued to prescribe escalating quantities of oxycodone to the undercover.

Additional evidence presented at trial from Ball's own medical files revealed
SEE DOCTOR CONVICTED, PAGE 4

Man Dies After Being Found Unresponsive In Arlington Detention Facility

David Gerhard, 55, died on Dec. 12, 2023, after he was found

unresponsive in his cell within the medical unit at the Arlington County Detention Facility.

Arlington County Sheriff's Office deputies and medical staff began immediate resuscitation efforts until the arrival of Arlington County Fire & Rescue units. He was transported to Virginia Hospital Center where he was pronounced deceased.

Gerhard was being held in the Arlington County Detention Facility since Nov. 20, 2023, on Failure to Comply with Support Obligations and Contempt of Court. Gerhard's family was notified of his passing.

An autopsy will be conducted to determine cause of death by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Following standard procedure, the death is being investigated by the Arlington County Police Department. Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to contact the Police Department's Tip Line at 703-228-4180 or ACPDTipLine@arlingtonva.us. To

report information anonymously, contact the Arlington County Crime Solvers at 1.866.411.TIPS (8477).

Rep. Don Beyer Meets with Small Business Owners

Small Business Saturday reminders to shop small year round.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In the spirit of Small Business Saturday, Rep. Don Beyer (VA-08) sponsored a round-table discussion with local business owners to discuss challenges that face these small business owners across the Northern Virginia area. Topics they covered included the economy, credit card fees, labor challenges and tax complexities.

Beyer picked now for the event because the holiday season is busy and counted on by some as the make or break time.

For Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hanukkah, pies are a big part of the meals and Heather Sheire from "Livin' the Pie Life," of Arlington was in on the discussion. This year, chocolate is big for the pie menu, said Sheire, pie master there. "This is our busy season," she said, "Congressman Beyer is always willing to listen," she added.

The chocolate mousse pie is a big seller, followed by the apple and pecan. For the pie store, people are always whipping out the plastic when it comes time to pay and this has a fee for the business which hurts when the profit margin is smaller. "Three



Rep Beyer and the small business owners.

percent of our gross goes to credit card fees," Sheire said.

Credit card fees were something on

her radar but there were other concerns also.

According to the U.S. Chamber of



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The apple crumple is a big seller at "Livin' the Pie Life," of Arlington this time of year.

Commerce, Small Business Saturday is recognized in all 50 states as a way to encourage consumers to support local businesses by "shopping small." Shopping small does equate to about \$184 billion spent that day, the chamber said. It started in 2011 to encourage shoppers to shop locally and to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses and the impact of locally owned small businesses on the economy of the United States.

New Police Officers Graduate

New Arlington police officers graduated from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy on Dec. 11, 2023. Three men and two women hail from five different states. Family, friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate their achievements and watch as the new officers took their solemn oath to serve and protect the Arlington community and safeguard the Constitutional rights of all. Graduation from the Academy is part of the new officers' journey to becoming solo police officers in Arlington County, a process that spans approximately one year. As part of their ongoing training cycle, the newly graduated officers will now complete the Department's local and field training programs.

"Their graduation from the Academy represents months of hard work and rigorous training to develop the foundational skills and knowledge necessary to be successful patrol officers," said Chief Andy Penn.

The Arlington County Police Department is committed to recruiting individuals from all backgrounds who possess the necessary qualifications to serve Ar-

lington's diverse and inclusive community. All five officers hold higher education degrees, including two with advanced degrees. Three officers are military veterans.

The new officers were recognized with the following achievements at graduation:

Officer E. Patel was awarded Academic Excellence – 3rd Place

Officer M. Monzingo was awarded Excellence in Physical Fitness, 1st Place – Males

Following an initial four-way tie for 1st place in Excellence in Firearms among the graduates, the Academy held a marksmanship tiebreaker resulting in the following awards:

Officer M. Mozingo was awarded Excellence in Firearms, 2nd Place

Officer M. Landicho was awarded Excellence in Firearms, 3rd Place

In addition to the officers who graduated on Dec. 11, Session 149 also includes two lateral officers who completed an accelerated academy class for lateral transfers. The lateral officers hail from Pennsylvania and Florida, both hold higher education degrees and one served in the military.

Doctor Convicted

FROM PAGE 3

that, even after the Virginia Board of Medicine sanctioned Ball in 2015 for her prescribing practices, Ball continued to prescribe oxycodone to patients showing blatant signs of drug dependence, abuse, diversion, and addiction. For example, she continued to prescribe to multiple patients who submitted urine tests that were positive for illegal drugs, writing that the failed drug tests were caused by eating poppy seeds and using hand lotion containing cocaine. Ball also continued to prescribe to multiple patients that had been arrested and convicted for selling illegal drugs as well as for selling the oxycodone that she prescribed. Further, Ball continued to prescribe to multiple patients who asked for early refills of oxycodone based on unsubstantiated claims of lost or stolen pills. She prescribed multiple patients as many as 360 oxycodone 30-mg tablets per month, and prescribed similarly high quantities of oxycodone to multiple members of families, spouses,

and close friends.

Ball was also shown to have paid patients to perform manual labor on her home and vehicles, sometimes while concurrently prescribing the patients oxycodone, ostensibly for long-term pain. She had three of her patients providing unpaid cleaning services at her home bi-weekly for a number of years during the conspiracy.

Ball was convicted on 20 counts and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison as to each count of conviction when sentenced on Febr. 27, 2024. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after taking into account the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Calix was sentenced to seven years in prison on September 28, 2022, for conspiring to distribute oxycodone.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

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.

Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South 19th St., is seeking to replenish its food pantry. Particularly needed are rice (large bags appreciated, the pantry will rebag), dry beans, canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org for more.

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ENTERTAINMENT



"Snow Maiden" can be seen Dec. 9 to Jan. 6, 2023 at Synetic Theatre in Arlington.

DEC. 9 TO JAN. 6, 2024

"Snow Maiden." At Synetic Theatre, 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. In a frozen silver forest high in the mountains, a lonely boy builds a girl from snow. When she mysteriously comes to life, mischief, laughter, and enchantment abound. But what will happen when the ice begins to melt? Visit www.synetictheater.org.

NOV. 27 TO DEC. 29

December at Gallery Underground: Color | Up Close & Personal. Marcia Katz, Judy Landry, and Sally Slifkin have been painting together for several years. All three artists have been active members of the Arlington Artists Alliance for many years as well. Though they have found that their artistic styles are distinctly different, each has always been very interested in color. Their interests range from how certain colors work next to each other, to unique color choices representing light and shadow, to articulating how a painting comes alive using color.

LIGHT THE WORLD GIVING MACHINES

For the second year in a row, Ballston Quarter in Arlington is one of 61 locations around the world getting a unique chance to support local and global charities with the Light The World Giving Machines. The Giving Machines are just like regular vending machines but with a twist. Instead of swiping your card and receiving a treat for yourself, the Light the World Giving Machines allow individuals to swipe their card and donate products and services to charities in the DMV and around the world. The Giving Machines will be located at Ballston Quarter, 4238 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington.

DEC. 15-17

Del Ray Artisans 28th Annual Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Free admission. First three weekends in December (Dec. 1-3, Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17), plus bonus market days Dec. 22 & 23. Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Hours for Friday, Dec. 22 are 3-9 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

FRIDAY/DEC. 15

Alexandria and Arlington Virginia
www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

Holiday Favorites with the National Chamber Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. Join the National Chamber Ensemble (NCE) as they celebrate holiday cheer with renowned violinist Dylana Jenson, an evening of classical and popular favorites the entire family will enjoy. The program, filled with holiday favorites, opens with Leroy Anderson's popular Sleighride. Violinist Dylana Jenson, the first American woman, and the youngest ever to win at the prestigious Tchaikovsky Competition will be the featured guest artist. Other artists for the evening include Natasha Dukan (pianist), Dietrich Paredes (violin), Uri Wassertzug (viola), and Vasily Popov (cello).

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

Holiday Makers Market. 3-5 p.m. At The Commentary Social House, 801 North Glebe Road, Arlington. Ticket holders will be welcomed with a festive holiday cocktail and are invited to indulge in delectable lite bites curated by the culinary expertise of Chef Fran. While guests sip and savor, they can explore an array of offerings from talented local artists and vendors, each showcasing their unique creations and holiday gifts & treats. Vendors participating in the event include 85Artistry, Aesthetic Appeal, Amodeo Studio, Amorosoart, Ana Just Made It, Cruzcreated, Eight2Eight, Jewels by Woo, Jo Offduty, Joys Treasures Jewelry and Keepsakes, Love-tuujii, Milan, Mimi Crochet Apparel LLC, Motivate4evr, Nita Versatile, Poised Essentials, Sherri's Wellspring, Soulful Expressions, and Twin Cat by Deb Sivigny.

SUNDAY/DEC. 17

Opera NOVA Annual Brunch and Concert. 12 noon. At Army Navy Country Club, Memorial Drive, Arlington. Opera NOVA invites you to the 2023 Annual Brunch and Concert with performers: Jose Sacin, Baritone; Israel Lozano, Tenor; Evelyn Tsen, Soprano; Daarcy Monsalve, Soprano; and Tatiana Loisha, Pianist. General Admission \$100; Early Bird \$75.



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
CARROLL	4780	881	CROSS CREEK RD/ RTE 881	LITTLE REED ISLAND CR #2	11/14/2023
MONTGOMERY	28886	314	DUCK PON DR/ RTE 314	STROUBLES CREEK	11/9/2023
PATRICK	13342	677	WILLIS GAP RD/ RTE 677	EAST FORK JOHNSON CREEK	10/27/2023

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

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

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

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

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Legals

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A map of the proposed entertainment district in Potomac Yard.

Let the Games Begin

Monumental move: Caps, Wizards heading to Potomac Yard.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin was joined by officials from the City of Alexandria, Monumental Sports & Entertainment, and JBG SMITH as he announced the framework of an agreement for a public-private partnership to create a \$2 billion Entertainment District in Potomac Yard that will include new homes for the NHL's Washington Capitals and the Washington Wizards of the NBA.

"Alexandria's ability to attract this ambitious project is a direct result of the success of previous investments made in Potomac Yard and across our city," said Mayor Justin Wilson. "Our City Manager Jim Parajon led a talented team, working hand-in-hand with the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, to bring us this opportunity. A project this special will help the City realize our collective strategy and the vibrant vision for this neighborhood and for our city as a whole."

In addition to a new arena for the Capitals and Wizards, the new district will be home to the business headquarters of Monumental Sports & Entertainment, an expanded esports facility, a performing arts venue and new retail, restaurant and conference spaces. Assuming the proposal receives the necessary approvals, ground could break on construction in 2025 and the teams would move to Virginia in 2028.

According to the city's press release, the project is expected to catalyze economic growth, generating 30,000 jobs and an economic impact of \$12 billion over the next several decades. This includes millions of dollars over the project term to create affordable housing, offer rental and homeownership assistance, and to invest in transportation improvements and education.

"This exciting new project is the result of decades of thoughtful long-term strategic planning and a clear vision for growth across Alexandria," said Alexandria Economic Development Partnership President



A rendering of the planned entertainment district in Potomac Yard.

and CEO Stephanie Landrum. "From the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus to the new Potomac Yard-VT Metro Station, Alexandria has created the ideal environment and location for this exciting project."

The project will be adjacent to the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in the Alexandria portion of National Landing. It will expand Monumental's presence in Northern Virginia, where the company already has its Capitals' practice facility in Arlington, and support more than 650 jobs, 221 events a year, and 180 global partners and sponsors.

"The proposed Monumental Campus represents a transformative step forward for our fans, our company, and the entire DMV region," said Monumental Sports & Entertainment CEO Ted Leonsis. "I have always believed there is a higher calling in sports — to unify our community, build a lasting legacy over multiple generations, and lift all our neighbors towards a shared sense of prosperity. Today, we deepen that commitment as we enter a phase of rapid expansion in service to our fans, employees, and partners."

The \$2 billion investment will be supported through bonds issued by the proposed Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority, as well as contributions from MSE. The bonds will be repaid through annual rent paid by MSE, incremental taxes generated by the facility, parking fees, and district naming rights. Monumental and the City of Alexandria will also contribute \$56 million

each toward the construction of the performing arts venue. No existing taxes will be used to support the project, and there are no proposed tax increases for local residents.

The development would total approximately 9 million square feet with the arena to be constructed on a currently unoccupied 12-acre site between the Metro entrance and the first phase of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus.

The site is owned by JBG SMITH and its joint venture partner and will be sold to a proposed Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority.

JBG SMITH serves as the master developer of approximately 55 acres surrounding the project with a total potential development of approximately 8.1 million square feet, of which JBG SMITH owns approximately 1.5 million square feet.

In 2018, Amazon selected National Landing for its second headquarters after conducting an extensive North American search. In June of this year, Amazon unveiled its 2.1 million square foot headquarters and has hired more than 8,000 employees to date in the region.

Alexandria will begin a community engagement process, including a series of community meetings and workshops, which will kick off in early 2024. Additional project information will be shared over the coming weeks, and interested residents can visit MonumentalALX.com to sign up to receive updates.

Ho Hum



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The totally wrong attitude to have, if even for a second. What I am specifically referring to is my reaction the result of my PET scan from Nov. 27, that I wrote about a few columns ago. The column entitled "Uncertainty" was "much ado about something" since it was written before the results of a potentially life-changing scan was known. Well, the results came electronically as they always do. Initially, the patient receives the actual report from the radiologist (written in medical jargon) that is also sent to the doctor. Typically, I'll receive the report before my oncologist has even had a chance to read and review it meaning I'm left to my own non-medical devices to try and interpret its meaning. Subsequently, I will receive an email from my oncologist deciphering the report and breaking it down into language I can understand. That language, fortunately said the following: "Scan looked good." And with that three-word summary, I can once again breathe normally and return my seat to its upright position and live a semi normal life, that is until the next medical hurdle which in the cancer world comes around regularly. Nevertheless, I never look gift oncologist in the stethoscope so I will rejoice until that next hurdle. But to the extent, one takes amazingly good news like I received today with a grain of salt - because I've received mostly good news over these last nearly 15 years since I was diagnosed, is a colossal error in judgment. No doubt you're familiar with the expression "any port in a storm?" Cancer is not just 'a storm,' it's category five hurricane with tornadoes on the side.

Still, after so many years of treatment/scans, et cetera based on my original stage IV non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis, with its "13 month to two years" prognosis - given in late Feb. 2009 at the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist, I have learned to take nothing for granted and to cherish each and any bit of good health news with a shaker full of salt. However, in an attempt to minimize any anxiety waiting for results and furthermore to try and think positively and powerfully to affect those results, one can hope/anticipate even, that the results will be the kind the patient can live with, pun intended. But until one reads those few words or hears those words over the phone or receives them in person from your oncologist, it's impossible to go about your business as per usual. It's sort of a mental road block. Oh sure, you can compartmentalize that anxiety, but such life-affecting news can only be delayed for so long. Eventually, and much sooner than later - if you know what's good for you, you have to face your demons and access your email/call your doctor. Ignoring your cancer-related news/lab work/scan result only buys you so much time. There is no future pretending that the results don't matter somehow. They matter. Your life's at stake. You can take your time, but not too much of it.

This column's title has more to do with the patient's reaction after the fact, the fact being that your "scan looked good." Thankfully. Because cancer is one of the scariest words. It means trouble with a capital "T." Just because one has had a reasonably - and unexpectedly good run, as I have doesn't mean for a second that health circumstances can't change (I didn't say won't. I'm no fool). One can never lose sight of their medical roots, so to speak. I received a "terminal" diagnosis at age 54 and a half - not three months after my widowed mother died had at age 86, that I would probably not live to age 57. Not having thought about my own death too much, instead having been focused on my parent's deteriorating health, I kind of thought I'd live to at least the ages that they did, 87 and 86, respectively. Hearing my prognosis was disappointing to say the least. To say the most it was surreal, which is a word/description often associated with incredible/unbelievable/out-of-the-blue news like being told you're going to die in the next two years. Then, when you don't die in those two years, and lo and behold, you're still being cancer-treated/scanned nearly 15 years later, it occasionally becomes easy (certainly wishful thinking) to begin to take it all in stride, as if its normal/no big deal. This column is meant to remind me that the absolute last thing my recurring scans are is normal/no big deal. Every day I'm alive, especially given my medical history is a 'big deal.' And the biggest deals are the days when I receive encouraging/stable scan results which enable me to extend my warranty (euphemistically speaking) and remain in the game a little bit longer. And when I go through this identical experience next June (awaiting the results from my next scheduled PET scan) or next week when I have my first renal ultrasound, I must be mindful of how lucky I've been and how grateful I should be, always. Taking any of it for granted is the last thing I should be taking.

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

Minimalist Holiday Décor, a la Frank Lloyd Wright

The Pope-Leighey House.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

A three-car, Lionel model electric train with a red caboose buzzes around a 28-inch-diameter track under the six-foot Christmas tree decorated with gleaming vintage glass ornaments. Bing Crosby croons “Silver Bells” from a 33, long-playing record spinning on a turquoise, 1950s replica record player.

For the first time ever, the Pope-Leighey House at Woodlawn, a house designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is featuring mid-20th-century holiday decorations like those of the historic home’s former owners.

In keeping with the house’s style, the holiday décor is uncluttered and simple, by many standards, today’s and Victorian era, for example. No plastic Santas or glittery snowflakes. No bulging mistletoe balls with shiny trailing ribbons. The tree in the living room, standing where former residents, the Leigheys, put it has about 30 glass ornaments, most of them round, tennis-ball size. The children’s bedroom is brightened with colorful, handmade construction paper chains stretched out just below the ceiling. Outside, period lights line the carport and overhang.

In the office, from a 1950s-1960s, sparkly silver tinsel tree, topped with a red bow, dangle more glass ornaments.

“It is a Space Age tree,” explains Shawn Halifax, Woodlawn’s Executive Director, and some celebrants in its day put a color wheel under it to reflect the glass ornaments.

The minimal decorations are consistent with Wright’s design, a practical, minimalist house. Wright thought that “Americans had too much clutter,” said Amanda Roper, Senior Manager of Public Programs and Interpretation. The house has little storage space so the owners could not store large accumulations.

Roper explained that because curators had few records and no photographs of the former residents’ decorations, the staff researched popular trends of the 1950s and 1960s. She gleaned some facts from the residents’ descendants. The second owners were Robert and Marjorie Leighey. A grandson of Marjorie’s niece remembered the Lionel train under the tree. Another descendant identified the tree’s location.

The original owners of the

To Visit

Visit <http://www.woodlawn-popeleighey.org>. Holiday tours, Fridays and Saturday evenings, until December 16. Reservations recommended.

house, Lauren and Charlotte Pope, decorated with greenery, probably pine and holly branches from their Falls Church, 1.3-acre, woodsy lot, the house’s original location. They lived there between 1942 and 1949 and bought their son a train.

“It feels like a home,” said Roper. “Many people can relate to it. People can explore the time period and its aesthetic.” Comparing it to other historic sites or traditional house museums that are often heavily decorated for the holidays, “It can be nostalgic for some people,” she said. “It’s something different.”

The House’s History

The Pope-Leighey house is one of the famed architect’s Usonian houses, designed to be affordable, middle-class housing. Lauren Pope could not afford a typical Wright home, going then for around \$650,000 in today’s dollars. Pope, a journalist, asked Wright to design a house for \$5,500, equivalent to \$86,000 today. It ended up costing \$7,000, including the furniture and Wright’s fee.

The house, at 1,200 square feet, has two bedrooms and one bath on one floor. It’s made of bricks, wood, concrete and glass with no drywall, paint or plaster. “The entire house is a study in horizontality, with its flat, cantilevered roof, horizontal board-and-batten walls and built-in bookcases with no vertical support beams,” wrote Lauren Walsler in a 2017 Preservation Magazine article.

Much of the interior is made of natural, honey-colored, cypress wooden planks. Wright did not want the interior to be a series of boxy rectangles. The central living-dining area is an open-floor plan, a combined library and living room with a table for meals or games. Clearstory windows make rooms feel bigger. The kitchen is intended for use by one person.

Wright integrated furniture into the home’s design, to make it blend in and not dominate a space. He designed the beds to be low and without box springs. The doorknobs are unusually high, a



A vintage tree ornament.



The silver tinsel tree in the study.



A 1950s telephone.

form of childproofing, again, the practical touch.

Wright sought to “build with nature rather than against it,” he said, so he included floor-to-ceiling windows leading to an outdoor patio connecting the inside to nature. To enhance affordability, Wright’s design has no gutters, basement, garage or attic.

Robert and Marjorie Leighey lived in the house from 1947 to 1983. The living room was smack in the path of a planned expansion of Interstate 66, so Mrs. Leighey gave the property to the National Trust for Historic Preservation to save it. The Trust moved it to Woodlawn in 1964 and granted her life-time tenancy. She lived there until her death in 1983. Because of the unstable clay soil, Woodlawn’s managers moved it 30 feet uphill in 1995-1996.

“Every home should be as unique as the people living in it,” Wright maintained.



Shawn Halifax, Amanda Roper and Elizabeth Reese, Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey staffers.



The children’s bedroom has construction paper chains.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH