

ONE LAST LURAY

GUEST HOUSE

## Comfort Food Delivered to Guest House

Katie Shapiro, Guest House Volunteer & Development Coordinator, helps Sharon Simkin of Arlington carry a midsummer special lunch into the Guest House residence at 1 E. Luray Street.

PAGE 4

### Summerdance Q&A

PAGE 3

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 5 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 6 ❖ OPINION, PAGE 7

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION





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## SENIOR LIVING

### “Flourishing After 55”

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

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate starting at a \$20 annual fee. To join or register, go to [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747.

Registration is open for 2024 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics to be held Sept. 14-29.

Register online at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us). Cost \$20 for multiple events. For more information, email [nvso1982@gmail.com](mailto:nvso1982@gmail.com).

Read and discuss current articles in popular magazines, Wednesday, July 24, 11 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Facilitated by librarian Vicky McCaffrey. Articles available at the center. Registration # 914402-07.

Open rehearsal of rock-n-roll band called Off Our Rockers, Wednesday, July 24, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Madison Community Center. Music from the 50s through 70s. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will attend the 2024 Twilight Tattoo showcasing soldiers from the U.S. Army Military District of Washington ceremonial units, Wednesday, July 24. Cost \$9, Arlington resident; \$10, non-resident. Registration # 902407-10.

Woodcarvers enjoy camaraderie while working on carving projects, Thursday, July 25, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Newcomers welcome. Drop-in.

Spanish 101, learn essential vocabulary, basic grammar and conversational phrases, Thursday, July 25, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Taught by Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration # 914650-07.

Movie matinee, “The Duke” (2020) (R), Friday, July 26, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-05.

Olympic trivia, Friday, July 26, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Learn some fun facts prior to games in Paris. Registration # 914600-13.

Afternoon meetup, connect with 55+ friends for casual conversation, Friday, July 26, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Cen-

ter. Drop-in.

Monthly book club meets at Aurora Hills 55+ Center, to discuss, “The Old Man and the Sea” by Ernest Hemingway, Monday, July 29, 11:30 a.m. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will visit the “Samurai Armor” exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Monday, July 29, registration # 902407-12. Cost \$30, Arlington resident; \$35, non-resident, registration # 902407-12; or Saturday, Aug. 3, registration # 902408-02, same cost.

American vagabond Tom Curtis will share his adventures hitchhiking around Central and South America, Tuesday, July 30, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914400-35.

Drumming Circle, opportunity for self-expression through playing music together, Tuesday, July 30, 2 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Weather permitting program will be outdoors, Drop-in.

LinkedIn after retirement, versatile platform for job searching, networking, knowledge sharing and more, Tuesday, July 30, 6:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Presented by 55+ volunteer Ben Childers.

Registration # 914403-03.

55+ Travel group will attend a limited engagement of “Love Letters” performed at the Riverside Center, Fredericksburg, Wednesday, July 31. Cost \$105, Arlington Resident; \$121, non-resident. Registration # 902407-13. Meal included.

Canasta, easy-to-learn card game, Wednesday, July 31, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Practice for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics or just enjoy a game. Drop-in.

Summer tomato tasting, bring your tomatoes whole and we'll slice and serve with balsamic glaze, Wednesday, July 31, 6 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Bring enough to share. Registration # 914501-01.

The Great American Songbook tunes will be performed by Ken Schellenberg and the Neighbors, Thursday, Aug. 1, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914301-04.

Bunco Bunch, fun dice game of luck, practice for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, or just enjoy a game, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 914600-08.

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Scene from previous film "Imposter" shot on a bus

## Summerdance to Preview Seven New Indie Films

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

This is the first in a series focusing on the independent films to be featured at Summerdance 2024 film festival on Sept. 8 to be held at the historic Regent Theatre in Arlington. This inaugural event will feature seven short premiere films to celebrate the collective talent of New England filmmakers in one event. The event will take place from 2-6 p.m. with the red carpet cocktail and networking beginning at 2 p.m. followed by films and Q&A at 3 p.m.

Gabrielle Rosson, the organizer of the event, says Summerdance is a curated event with filmmakers selected based on the scope of their work and whether the film has been previously screened. "By creating these guidelines we give audiences, including talent scouts, film financiers/producers and industry professionals a first look at some of the premiere work being made in our community."

The films range from heartfelt and historic dramas to side-splitting comedies and daring experimental pieces.

Interview with filmmaker Chris Esper (Foxboro, MA)—Distant Memories, a 10-minute drama

### Q. Do you write and produce films full time?

A. I'm lucky I do have a day job at A+E Factual Studios which develops and produces documentary films. I'm a lead assistant editor on reality TV and I've done a few comedy specials. But I spend the rest of my time doing what I love writing and producing films.

### Q. What is your film background?

A. For a short while I thought I wanted to be an actor but discovered being behind the camera was what I liked. So I attended New

England Tech in Rhode Island. I have made 10 or so short films in the almost 15 years I have been producing films. Every film I grew more and more.

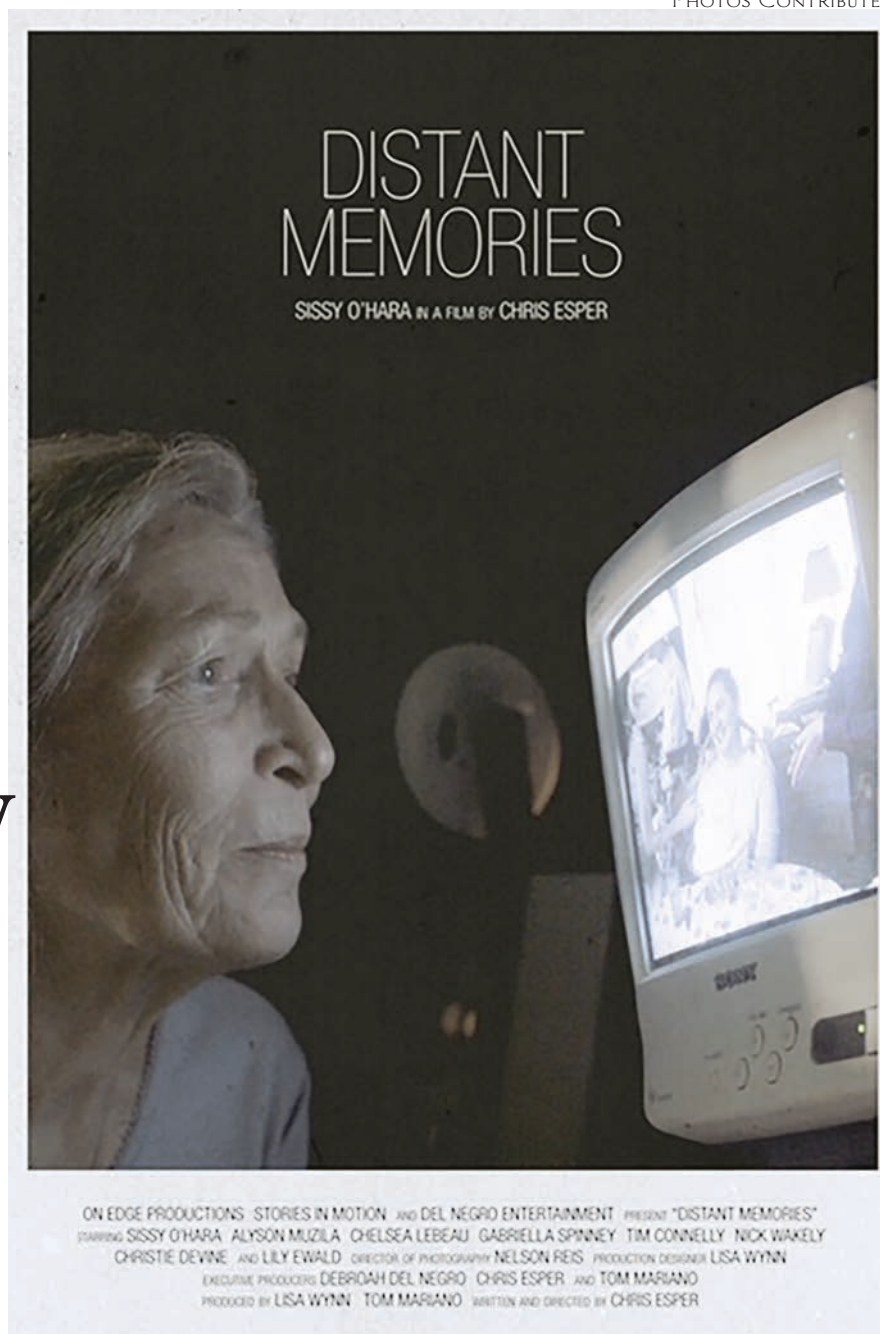
### Q. Describe Distant Memories. Where did you get the idea?

A. My film explores Alzheimer's within the mind of the character. I don't use the word dementia; when I was writing I wanted the action to show what was happening in a black box room. Anna is trapped inside her head with her memories dissipating. I show her experiences through home movie flashbacks—a little girl playing hopscotch, family life, memories so important to her and losing them.

I had firsthand experience with two grandparents, one on each side who had Alzheimer's. I may have been a little too young to understand when my paternal grandmother passed away but I have vivid memories of her not remembering my name. There were brief glimpses of when she would come back to us. My mother would say "remember when Chris was five" and my grandmother would be briefly lucid. I wondered what it would be like to be on the inside of that.

### Q. What has been the most difficult thing about preparing this film?

A. The hardest part honestly is directing the actors. It's delicate acting, how you portray this. There is a scene where the main character is attempting to cook, can't remember the recipe and can't find it anywhere. Her daughter tries to calm her. I have known



"Distant Memories" to premier at Summerdance film festival September 8



Chris Esper, filmmaker and producer

the lead actress for 14 years. I met her at another film festival when I was 20 years old. We were fresh out of school just starting out working on local independent films, whatever you could get your hands on. We became friends, and I remembered her. She was incredible in the role of Anna.

### Q. Do you have a style?

A. Yes like in the two films prior. In "Imposter" I explored what it feels like to be a fraud, to feel foolish when you present your work, like you're not good enough. This is a silent film with the main character having another self representing anxiety tapping on his shoulder. Everyone has anxieties, and no one else knows about this other self.

### Q. Take me back. When did you first get interested in film?

A. I've been a film lover, and I guess a movie buff, since I was probably at least 5 or so. I used to watch film all the time. My parents would take me to a video store close to our

house in New Jersey where I grew up. For entertainment my parents would put on a show. Then the internet world arrived, and it allowed me to research actors and directors. Then I went out and got more films.

### Q. Is this a difficult business?

A. There are different levels in this business from the students learning, and they all have hopes and dreams, maybe to go to LA. Then there is the level where a lot of my friends are in the fall showcase. We're not known but we have passionate artistry and we work hard. It is a difficult business. Sometimes things just don't come together—the lighting or the sound; you keep learning but it can be hard. You usually have to pay for the film yourself unless you can get \$100 or \$1,000 to help finance it. Sometimes you have a vision but you just can't afford the camera to move around to capture what you have in mind. You are the costume designer, find the location, the financier, find the actors. The last person to see any gain is yourself.

### Q. What are your hopes/plans for the future?

A. I would love to make feature films to express myself on a larger scale, to say more. But I just have something I want to say. I love to tell a story.





Sharon Simkin and Claudia Scott deliver a homemade lunch for Guest House residents July 17.



Katie Shapiro, Guest House Volunteer & Development Coordinator, helps Sharon Simkin carry a midsummer special lunch into the Guest House residence at 1 E. Luray Street.



Rhonda Bilal, a Lead RSS & Program Assistant at Guest House, comes out to help carry the marinated cucumber salad.

# Guest House Women Enjoy Surprise Treat

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

**C**laudia Scott and Sharon Simkin, both longtime Arlington residents, along with another friend ventured to Alexandria with a homemade lunch they had spent the morning preparing for 30 women at Guest House on Wednesday, July 17. Both women are Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers and trace their cooking adventures together back to their food coop 51 years ago.

In fact, Scott points out the lasagna roll recipe that they used today was from 1987 when she and a friend and their daughters made 200 lasagna rolls for the fall church auction function.

It was a 103-degree day, and they could have baked the lasagna rolls in the car during the half hour trip but as Simkin explained, “We wanted to do something to make the women’s recovery journey easier, and good food is always a sure fire winner.”

Katie Shapiro, Volunteer & Development Coordinator for Guest House said most days women just make a lunch for themselves to

take to their jobs so this homemade lunch prepared by supporters was a real treat. “They are going to love this dessert platter with lemon bars, frosted brownies and coconut cake, and these spinach-ricotta lasagna rolls look delicious.”

Guest House provides a residential program for non-violent women offenders who are reentering the community. Shapiro explains the community here is really supportive in so many ways. Guest House recently asked for towels and washcloths for the Guest House residents and had a supply in a few days.

This spring supporters provided welcome kits full of toiletries and basic undergarments for the new arrivals at Guest House who often arrive with only basic essentials. “When our washing machine broke down several months ago, we got the funds to replace it in 24 hours.”

And several times a month churches and other groups provide a dinner or lunch for the women.

“Anyone who wants to provide a meal for 30 of our women should contact me at [katherine@friendsofguesthouse.org](mailto:katherine@friendsofguesthouse.org). The women will love it.”

## Shirlington Circle South Rotary Bridge over I-395

**T**he Shirlington Circle south rotary bridge over I-395 closed 10 p.m. Sunday, July 21, and will reopen 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 28 for work related to the bridge rehabilitation project, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The bridge connects the southbound I-395 collector-distributor lanes and southbound Shirlington Road to North Quaker Lane at the I-395 Exit 6 interchange.

Drivers are being detoured via the following routes:

Southbound I-395 general purpose lanes: Ramp to Seminary Road (Exit 4), eastbound Seminary Road, ramp to northbound I-395/Washington, northbound I-395 general purpose lanes and the Exit 6/Shirlington ramp back to Quaker Lane

Shirlington Road/Campbell Avenue: Ramp to southbound I-395/Richmond, southbound I-395 general purpose lanes, ramp to Seminary Road (Exit 4), eastbound Seminary Road, ramp to northbound I-395/Washington, northbound I-395 general purpose lanes and the Exit 6/Shirlington ramp back to Quaker Lane

The work is part of the project to rehabilitate the Shirlington Circle south rotary bridge over I-395. The project, which will improve safety for drivers and extend the overall life of the bridge, is scheduled for completion in mid-2025.

Drivers are reminded to use caution when traveling in active work zones. Be alert to new traffic patterns and limit distractions.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### PHOTO RED-LIGHT PROGRAM TO EXPAND

Installation of additional red-light safety cameras has begun at Arlington County intersections as an additional tool to increase transportation safety and in support of the County’s ongoing Vision Zero safety program efforts. In total, 11 additional cameras at six intersections will be installed in phases throughout 2024.

PhotoRED program cameras will be installed in July at the following locations:  
EB and WB Columbia Pike at Washington Boulevard  
WB Langston Boulevard at N. Spout Run Parkway and SB N. Spout Run Parkway at Langston Boulevard  
EB and WB 10th Street N. at N. Barton Street  
WB Langston Boulevard at N. Lynn Street

The estimated completion dates of these camera installations are subject to change due to weather, construction, and other unforeseen circumstances.

There will be a month-long warning period designed to help raise public awareness about the new camera locations and encourage compliance. The warning period of these new cameras will be August 1-31, 2024, and tickets for violations at these locations will be issued beginning September 1, 2024. At the conclusion of the warning period, red-light violators will be issued a \$50 ticket (civil fine) per infraction.

#### POLICE HOST SUMMER 2024 ENGAGEMENT SERIES

The Arlington County Police Department’s (ACPD) Community Engagement Division is announcing a Summer 2024 Engagement Series! As part of our commitment to being actively engaged in the Arlington community, we’re hosting opportunities to build police-community relations while enjoying interactive games and events.

Trivia Night. Tuesday, August 13  
Ireland’s Four Courts, 2051 Wilson

Boulevard  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
ACPD is taking over Ireland’s Four Courts’ weekly Pub Quiz! Compete for prizes and test your knowledge on a wide variety of policing topics including, but not limited to, alcohol safety, transportation safety, criminology and more! All attendees must be 21 years or older.

Police Playoffs: Game Day, The Sequel. Thursday, August 15  
Lacey Woods Park, 1200 N. George Mason Drive  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Police Playoffs: Game Day. Friday, August 23  
Virginia Highlands Park, 1600 S. Hayes Street  
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Kids of all ages are invited to challenge Arlington’s finest to a game of their choosing-whether it’s basketball, soccer, football or even a board game! Balls and table games will be provided, or you can bring your own along with water, sunscreen and any other items you may need for the afternoon.



# ENTERTAINMENT



The seventh Arlington Visual Art Studio Tour takes place Sept. 21-22, 2024 at 59 art studios in Arlington.

## CENTERS FOR OPPORTUNITY ARLINGTON

The Centers for Opportunity Arlington is a safe, stigma-free place to spend time for those recovering from homelessness, substance use, and mental illness. It has a donation closet that needs adult clothing and shoes. Some participants at the Center are looking for jobs and need the proper attire. Located at 3219 Columbia Pike, Suite 101, Arlington. Contact Greg, Program Coordinator at 703-567-1346.

## ARLINGTON ARTISTS ALLIANCE OPENS BOUTIQUE GALLERY

The nonprofit organization Arlington Artists Alliance (AAA) announces a new boutique gallery space opened on July 18. The Alliance Gallery is located at 2700 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 330, in the Crossing Clarendon in the breezeway between SoulCycle and Chip City. The gallery is open from Thursday-Sunday from 12 p.m.-6 p.m., with free entry.

The inaugural Alliance Gallery show runs from July 18- Aug. 18. Entitled Ad Astra Per Aspera, this group show features Eleftheria Easley, Justyne Fischer, Pedro Ledesma III, Anna Nazaretz Radjou, and Nicole Tobin. Curated by Christina Papanicolaou, the show embodies themes of empowerment through textile art, collage, print, and photography. The works confront a range of social and personal challenges, such as gender and racial inequality, the fight for self-empowerment, and the struggle to connect in the digital age.

An opening reception for the Alliance Gallery will be held on Thursday, Aug. 1 from 5-7 p.m. The reception includes complimentary food and beverages, and live music. The reception is free and open to the public.

From Aug. 29 through Oct. 6, a juried show for AAA artists is planned,

[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

with local visual artist Yigit Cakar serving as jurist. This fall, from October 17-November 24th, another juried exhibition open to artists from across the region will be juried by Rosemary Feit Covey.

## THURSDAYS THRU NOV. 21

**Ballston Farmers Market, Thursdays from 3-7 p.m.** At Welburn Square, near Ballston Metro, Arlington. More than 20 vendors in Ballston – both fan-favorites and newcomers. This year also sees the return of the Mega Markets – sponsored this season by VIDA Fitness. Mega Markets feature the addition of live music from local musicians and a Beer and Wine Garden.

## THRU AUG. 23

**Fridays at the Fountain.** At the Water Park, National Landing, Arlington. Step into the rhythm of summer every Friday thru Aug. 23 at Water Park. This free concert series features a range of musical talent from all around the region. Feast on food and drink at one of the area's best new outdoor food halls as you groove to soul, salsa, and more!

## ROSSLYN LIVE THIS JULY

Tickets are on sale now for the annual summer performance series, **Rosslyn LIVE!** To be held Thursdays at Gateway Park and featuring music from local groups, plus drinks, food trucks, and more show-themed fun.

## SCHEDULE:

July 25 | 90s & 00s Hits with Uncle Jesse

Oh snap! Relive your favorite hits from the 90s and 00s with a nostalgic performance by cover band Uncle Jesse. Whether you're a spice girl, NSYNC fan, or a sk8er boi, all are welcome to raise the roof. Check out the Full House package for BOGO free tickets.

Admission is \$5 per person, and chil-

dren under 10 are free. Costumes and themed apparel are highly encouraged! Stay tuned on social @RosslynVA for additional details (and some exclusive surprises) leading up to the events.

## JULY 19-28

**Encore Stage & Studio: The Sound of Music.** At Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre | Arlington Heights, Arlington. The beloved story tells the tale of young postulant Maria Rainer, whose free spirit has trouble fitting into the rules of Nonnberg Abbey. She is commissioned by the Mother Abbess to serve as the governess of seven children. She transforms the Von Trapp home from a place of rules and regulations to one filled with joy, laughter, and music. Over time, Maria wins over the love of the children and the children's father, Captain Von Trapp.

## FRIDAY/JULY 26

**Insect Heroes.** 10 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. Learn about the Insect Heroes in your garden, who work tirelessly throughout their lives to create the serene beauty of the garden you enjoy every day. All you have to do is invite the "right" kinds of insects to your garden and most insect problems will be solved. Extension Master Gardener Beth Buffington will help you find the best ways to encourage these beneficial insects that will control many of the perennial pests in our gardens without the use of pesticide. Really it is that easy! Free. RSVP at <http://mgvnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

## SATURDAY/JULY 27

**Wine Tasting Benefit.** 2-4 p.m. At Pirouette Restaurant & Wine Shop, 4000 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite C, Arlington. To benefit PathForward; Pirouette will donate 15% of wine and ticket sales. \$25 ticket



Catch 90s & 00s Hits with cover band Uncle Jesse on July 25, 2024 at Rosslyn LIVE.

to a wine tasting, which includes tasting of 9 different wines, one 5 oz. glass of wine from the tasting. All wines from the tasting will be available to purchase by the bottle or glass (5 oz.) Food may be purchased from the happy hour menu

## THURSDAY/AUG. 1

**Dark Star Park Day.** At 9:32 a.m. At 1655 N. Fort Myer Drive (at the convergence of N. Fort Myer Drive and N. Lynn Street, Arlington). An Arlington tradition for four decades, the public is invited to the 40th annual Dark Star Park Day to watch the shadow alignment that the sculpture was designed to capture. In honor of the year-long celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Arlington's internationally acclaimed collection of contemporary public art, this year's event will be augmented by an official County proclamation and the debut of a new poem by Courtney LeBlanc, the third Poet Laureate of Arlington County, commissioned to honor Dark Star Park and the work of artist Nancy Holt. Every Aug. 1, at approximately 9:32 a.m., Nancy Holt's Dark Star Park (1979-84) performs a special effect. Shadows cast by the spheres and poles of this outdoor sculpture align with their permanent forms on the ground, marking the moment of Rosslyn's founding.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 10

**Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Sponsored by the Capital City Showcase. 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 musical comedy duo B.U.S.S.I.!

## THRU AUG. 23

**Mason Exhibitions Presents A Closer Look: Conflicted Art from Ukraine.** At Mason Exhibitions Arlington, 3601 Fairfax Drive, Arlington. Curated by Sophie Bae with Conflicted Art's Yevgen Nemchenko, the exhibition offers a nuanced exploration of the impact of war through the lens of contemporary Ukrainian artists. It is easy to feel overwhelmed and detached from the deeper questions surrounding the persistence of war in the 21st

century. A Closer Look: Conflicted Art from Ukraine seeks to bridge that gap by showcasing the work of 13 Ukrainian artists who confront head-on the experiences of direct conflict. Through photography, video, painting, sculpture, literature, and installation, these artists offer a multifaceted perspective from the fringes of this conflict. Their works invite viewers to engage in dialogue beyond statistics and headlines and to examine core issues of existence distorted by violence and uncertainty.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

**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 D.C. area, returns with its new one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle. Hosted by Christian Hunt, this experience features comedy from the DC area's finest comics. The headliner for September's show is the hilarious Jenny Questell.

## SEPT. 21-22

**STUDIO TOUR, 59 Arlington Art Studios to Open to Public.** This year will mark the seventh Arlington Visual Art Studio Tour, which is a joint effort of independent artists and volunteers, supported by contributors including Schneider Investment Group and Dominion Lighting, and in cooperation with Arlington's visual art organizations. The Tour is a community-building event that allows visitors to discover the artists who are also their neighbors. The Tour will publish names, locations and opening hours of participating artists, so that anyone can create their own itinerary to meet the artists in their maker spaces and see their work. Studios in South Arlington will open Saturday Sept. 21, and those in North Arlington, on Sunday Sept. 22. This year, the assortment of artwork includes painting, assemblage, collage, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, weaving and fiber, drawing, papercutting, glass, metalwork, calligraphy and jewelry. Visit <https://www.arlingtonartstudiotour.org>.



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**COMMUNITY**

**Come  
Gleaning with  
Plot Against  
Hunger in 2024**

In 2023, volunteers gleaned over 45,322 pounds of produce for Arlington area food programs.

Each Tuesday through October, head out to local farms to pick produce and deliver it back to Arlington area feeding programs. Mornings usually begin by 8 a.m. at a designated farm, which can change based on the crop. Each location will be within an hour of Arlington. We have a limited number of volunteer spaces available on each trip. These mornings are always a fun way to connect with the land and do good. We can also help arrange a limited number of carpools.

To join, sign in to the volunteer system and click on "schedule." <https://arlingtonurbanag.org/volunteer-login/>

Why glean? This ancient practice has many modern benefits. Back in the day, farmers would leave the corners of their fields unpicked so that others could take food if they needed. Today, if commercial farmers aren't able to pick all of the produce on their fields due to weather, harvest or labor schedules, or other environmental concerns, volunteers step in. Unpicked produce represents wasted time, money, and labor, and has the potential to attract pests or even spread disease. Instead of having a field go to waste, gleaners are invited to pick healthy produce for donation. Everyone wins with this arrangement; neighbors in need receive delicious fresh locally grown produce, volunteers have a fun and meaningful day, and farmers have their fields cleaned and make a great contribution to the community.

If you have additional questions, please email [volunteer@arlingtonurbanag.org](mailto:volunteer@arlingtonurbanag.org).

**CALENDAR**

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

**Let us know  
about an  
upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)



# Beyer on Biden; Supports Harris

**C**ongressman Don Beyer issued the following statement Sunday, July 21: President Joe Biden is a great American. Today he made a hard decision few others could have made, showed his character, and put his country first. I am proud of my support for Joe Biden, and proud of his patriotism.

Joe Biden took office amid the deadliest pandemic in a century, the worst economic decline since the Great Depression, and one of the worst attacks on our democracy in American history. He guided our nation back to normalcy and health, presided over the strongest and fastest economic recovery in history, and achieved bipartisan legislative victories many dismissed as 'impossible' in our divided society.

President Biden's historic record of job creation and low unemployment, the revitalization of our manufacturing sector, the passage of the American Rescue Plan, the Inflation Reduction Act, the Chips and Science Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Respect For Marriage Act, and so many other accomplishments will create

an incredible and enduring legacy upon which the eyes of history will look with favor. During President Biden's remaining months in office I will continue to do all I can to help build on his extraordinary record of achievements for the country.

The past few weeks have been very difficult, but I am proud to be a member of a party that tolerates dissent. We are not a cult of personality where any disagreement results in threats or purges. Democrats are not afraid to allow hard conversations and tough choices, and we are stronger for it.

"In that spirit, I look forward to a fair and open nomination process to choose the next Democratic nominee. As that process unfolds, I will support Vice President Kamala Harris, who already brings strength, compassion, and vision to the office and the ticket. Vice President Harris' leadership and experience make her uniquely qualified to serve as President, and I am proud to endorse her to be President Biden's successor. I look forward to doing all I can in the months ahead to defeat Donald Trump and elect Kamala Harris as President of the United States.

## \$150M for Virginia for Climate Pollution Reduction

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will receive approximately \$150 million through two Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to implement community-driven solutions that tackle the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice, and accelerate America's clean energy transition, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Virginia DEQ's selected application, submitted as a coalition with Virginia Energy, will receive more than \$99 million through a competitive grant program for projects that will capture and convert or reuse methane emissions from coal mines and landfills. The project will also establish a partnership with other state agencies to fund a competitive grant program for food rescue and composting programs at agencies, colleges and university campuses across Virginia.

Additionally, the Virginia DEQ will also serve as a coalition member in another selected application led by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The coalition is set to receive more than \$420 million, with approximately \$50 million allocated for Virginia DEQ to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration projects on natural and working lands, including coastal wetlands, peatlands, and forests.

Inclusion of a proposed project that will reduce methane emissions at coal mines and landfills was of particular note to U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA).

"Reducing methane emissions is critical to ensuring clean air and protecting our

communities from the effects of climate change," said U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA). "I'm glad this federal funding is headed to Virginia."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (VA-11) said: "Today's announcement of \$150 million for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is just the latest in a long line of investments this Administration has made to help communities like ours respond to and prepare for the threat of climate change."

"I am pleased that Virginia will be taking advantage of EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program – one of the successful climate initiatives to come out of the Biden-Harris Administration and the Inflation Reduction Act, which I strongly supported in Congress," said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (VA-8).

EPA made its selections through a rigorous grants competition that was designed to be fair and impartial. The Agency reviewed nearly 300 applications that were submitted by entities from across the country and requested a total of nearly \$33 billion in funding.

### Submit a Letter to the Editor

To submit a letter to the editor, email [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com) or via the following form <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Ideally, letters will be original, about local issues and less than 300 words. Please submit letters by noon Friday before publication week, although letters received on Mondays can

be considered. Letters must include your first and last name, home address and a phone number. Letters are routinely edited for libel, length, grammar, good taste and accuracy.

Your name and town will be published with your letter, other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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## "Excuse Me, Sir"



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

I'm guess I'm invoking Robert De Niro from the movie, "Taxi Driver," when I ask, rhetorically: are you talking to me? But it's not my television that I'm talking to, nor do I have a loaded gun in my hand. If I have anything in my hand, it's the television remote so no one, including anyone appearing on my television set is in danger. If I had an anger management problem - which I don't, I might get angry at all these people; young, old, and in between who insist on addressing me respectfully as 'sir.' 'Sir' is my father. 'Sir' is someone older than me. It can't possibly be me. I mean, I know cancer can take a few years off your appearance at the very least (and a few years off your life expectancy at the most), but I can't be 'sir' to anybody, can I? Certainly, I realize that I'm older now than I've ever been, but 'sir?' Really?

And though I readily admit to having been addressed in this manner previously, after all I am almost 70 and a 70-year-old person should be treated respectfully - as in respect your elders, and I do realize I am an 'elder,' nevertheless, the recent barrage would be an exaggeration, let's call it an uptick, of 'sirs' spoken in my direction has been a bit off-putting. Enough to think it grist for a "Kenny Column," as it's referred to at the Connection, and so here it is in all its self-indulgence - which I try, very hard by the way, to avoid.

As I've written previously about my column: it's not important that I'm writing it, it's important that it's being written about. And to summarize succinctly what exactly I'm writing about this week, I am writing about a figurative Rubicon that has been crossed: the line/time when I am the one being called 'sir,' rather than the one who is doing the calling. Don't get me wrong, I am not unhappy being called 'sir.' It's more that it's jarring in a way. Jarring in that, in my self-assessment, if there are people older than me, it doesn't feel proper to be called 'sir.' Those people and I can't be addressed similarly. If we are, then I must be, at least to a very large segment of the population that person, and/or older than I want to believe I am. In my head, I don't feel as if I'm almost 70 (in fairness what does age 70 feel like in a 70-year-old's head). I feel like I've always felt. Granted I am ever-more convinced of my age every time I must bend over and tie my sneakers. I swear I don't know what happened. Suddenly, I can't do a million things I took for granted doing with ease. The other day I picked up a baseball to throw it to a neighborhood kid who was playing catch. I barely got it to him in the air. My whole life, that's never been a problem. Now, it's not just a problem, it's a near impossibility.

As "Dirty Harry" made famous: "A man has to know his limitations." And a man of a certain age, begins to have limitations. Limitations which don't exactly enhance one's quality of living. And not that I haven't experienced some of these limitations before, it seems that being called 'sir' as frequently as I have been of late, is bringing some of these age-realities home to roost. Maybe I've been cooped up in the house too much lately? Maybe I need to get out and stop being chicken about going places? It's not as if someone is going to call me for a foul. If anything, they're likely to call me 'sir.' Now, after writing this column and fleshing out more of my feelings, being called 'sir' is not so bad. Being called "terminal" is worse. I ought to know.

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





Rising Hope's Kitchen Associate, Art Markel works with long time Rising Hope member and volunteer Susan Cline, to prepare plates for guests as they come in for a day lunch.



Guests and Volunteers join together for a meal in the fellowship hall following a recent worship service. This is one of 6 lunches offered throughout the week.

## Refuge from the Searing Heat: Rising Hope Mission Church

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Last week, as people baked in a suffocating heat wave, Kameron Wilds found a shirtless gentleman in his 60s, keeled over with his head almost touching the scorching blacktop and going in and out of alertness. He had adhesive patches on his chest where hospital monitors had been attached.

Wilds, pastor at Rising Hope Mission Church just off U.S. 1, invited the man to get in the bus that Wilds drives every Sunday to take churchgoers home. Wilds asked, "Do you still have shelter?" "A few more days," the man answered.

"This heat will kill you. You can't stay out here," Wilds told him.

In an interview, Wilds said, "We see that all the time. This is what happens when you run out of options."



Rev. Kameron Wilds in the church's greenhouse.



Former, now retired, Rising Hope pastor Rev. Keary Kincannon and current pastor, Rev. Kameron Wilds in the fellowship hall. They minister to the least, lost, lonely and left out, they say.

### NEW COOLING CENTER

On July 15, Rising Hope opened a new, year-round, drop-in center at the church at 8220 Russell Road. From 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday people can go there to escape the weather and generally hang out, sit in a chair, take a nap, interact with staff and volunteers, get snacks and play board games.

When Fairfax County announces an emergency heat day, the county typically offers public buildings to people, places like libraries and schools, Wilds explained. These measures are helpful, but the facilities are not staffed to provide support services.

"They are not welcoming," Wilds said. "Someone who's been sweating outside for three days likely has poor hygiene. When they arrive at a government building with all their belongings, they worry about how they will be perceived," he says. "Rising Hope has created a space of dignity. We say, 'This space is for you.'"



The sign at Rising Hope Mission Church.

### To Help

Rising Hope welcomes donations and volunteers to interact with their congregants, help them find services and other tasks. Visit [www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org).

Except for the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter at 9155 Richmond Highway, the church's drop-in will be the only drop-in place avail-

**"This heat will kill you.  
You can't stay out here."  
— Rev. Kameron Wilds**

able during the week in southeastern Fairfax County.

Wilds elaborates, "While they are here, we can offer them dignity, community and access to resources. It's not just about getting out of the heat. It's about finding community and finding resources to assist them along the way." Wilds expects to see between 40 to 50 folks a day.

Rising Hope helps people experiencing homelessness and poverty, by also serving lunch to around 50 people a day and providing food to more than 300 families a week from their market. Staff and volunteers help people access services, like housing and health care.

A recent grant will also enable Rising Hope to help nearly 100 families stay in

their homes through rent and utility relief and support a new staffer to handle emergency services, particularly focusing on the continuum of care post-emergency.

Wilds recently wrote, "This and many other byproducts of homelessness need not and should not be in a country like ours and yet, as a recent SCOTUS decision has demonstrated, the realities only seem to be getting harder." He was referencing the June 28 U.S. Supreme Court decision that decided it is constitutional to arrest or fine homeless people for sleeping in public spaces when no shelter space is available.

"The solution to homelessness isn't criminalization for being without shelter," Wilds wrote to supporters last week. "It's options of affordable housing coupled with robust touch points along the continuum of care. The poor are not problems. The poor are people experiencing the problems of a society whose main objective is always increasing the bottom line."