

COSTCO WHOLESAL ATRIUM

The Encore Stage and Theatre cast of "Frozen" performs in the lobby of Children's Hospital Tuesday, Oct. 21.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY CINDY KANE PHOTOGRAPHY

Have Your Say

PAGE 5

Giving Back

PAGE 4

IMAGINE MORE

Take the lead on your retirement at Vinson Hall



Life expands when you choose **Vinson Hall Retirement Community**. Our residents are active thinkers, doers, explorers and creators who value staying socially engaged. Whether it's dinner and dancing, an afternoon painting class or an evening performance at The Kennedy Center, you'll always have choices to live life well.

At our Life Plan Community — where government or military association is no longer required — you'll feel confident knowing you have a secure plan for your future. Get to know this one-of-a-kind community designed for your one-of-a-kind life. Call **703-935-1438** or visit **vinsonhall.org** today to get started!

The Pedestrians Who Never Saw Their Tomorrows

Survivor Leads Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets during International World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Twenty-four chalked body outlines, each representing a fatality in a road traffic crash last year in Northern Virginia, greeted family members who lost a loved one to road violence, crash survivors, concerned citizens, and members of Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets (NoVA FSS) as they walked into Gateway Park in Arlington on Nov. 16. The solemn procession set the tone for the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims event, held annually on the third Sunday of November.

"Each tragedy, each crash, each fatality, is a story of a family member who was lost, or, in other cases, serious injuries," said Michael Doyle, executive director and founder of NoVA FSS. "All of these situations could be avoided and that's what we're trying to do today, is to raise awareness."

Doyle opened the two-phase event by detailing the regional crisis, noting there were 133 serious injuries and 24 fatalities last year. He added that year-to-date, there have been 13 fatalities.

Doyle introduced the first speaker, "a brave lady who is a crash survivor, Helen Harris."

Harris gave a powerful and deeply personal speech as a survivor of traffic violence. Harris recounted the tragic event seven years ago, when a truck made a left turn and struck her as she crossed the street with her four-month-old daughter in a stroller at the intersection of Fort Myer Drive and Langston Blvd — the very location of the remembrance event.

Harris suffered catastrophic injuries, including an above-the-knee amputation. Her infant daughter was uninjured because Harris pushed her toward safety as the truck bore down on her.

Harris described the immense physical and emotional challenges of adapting to life after her injury, but recognized her survival as a form of luck: "I am one of the lucky ones. Unfortunately, there are those who did not make it through to share their stories themselves." She urged the community to support data-driven solutions, highlighting the passage of SB 1416, which holds drivers more accountable for injuring vulnerable road users.

Arlington County Board Chair

Takis Karantonis said the ceremony was a "symbolic funeral" for lives lost in situations that were, above all, "avoidable."

"Avoidable is the critical word that we need to work to avoid an accident. Avoidable accident is a kind of a contradiction in terms. Okay, I am a big believer that accidents are actually not accidents, as long as they are avoidable," Karantonis said.

Karantonis continued that the county's Vision Zero commitment centers on rebuilding the city to make the "avoidable avoided by design" as he spoke about roadway safety and urban planning.

The policy progress Karantonis referenced was detailed by Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-39), who highlighted the successful passage of SB 1417, the vulnerable road users bill, which aims to implement protective measures such as encouraging local governments to create safer infrastructure.

Del. Patrick Hope described new technology like Intelligent Speed Assistance that Virginia became the first state in the country to adopt for repeat reckless offenders. He described it as a device that can be installed in cars that physically prevents the driver from exceeding the posted speed limit by more than five or seven miles per hour. "And those are for reckless drivers, repeat offenders that we can target to make sure that these tragedies don't happen again," Hope said.

Chief Tarrick McGuire of the Alexandria Police Department committed to putting action behind his department's words. "We want people to be safe," McGuire said, emphasizing the need for regional collaboration.

The event concluded with a call to action from Ben Allard, president of the Arlington FSS Board, who warned, "The future victims of traffic violence are the people who are still with us today, and so every action that we don't take is imperiling the lives of people who would be victims in the future." He urged specific advocacy actions, including expanded local authority to implement speed safety cameras. "The state shouldn't stop us," he said. Allard also advocated for car-free zones.

Some members of the demonstrators met up with members of other DMV Families for Safe Streets Chapters for a WDoR rally at the Lincoln Memorial at noon.

NoVa FSS urges the community to advocate to protect pedestri-



Michael Doyle, executive director and founder of Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets hosts the 2025 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in Arlington on Nov. 16.



Crash survivor Helen Harris of Arlington is introduced by Michael Doyle, founder of Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets, at the 2025 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in Arlington on Nov. 16.



Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-39) highlights the successful passage of SB 1417, the vulnerable road users bill.



Chief Tarrick McGuire of the Alexandria Police Department: "We want people to be safe."



Del. Patrick Hope (D-1) describes the Intelligent Speed Assistance, device that can be installed in cars so that physically you will not be able to exceed the posted speed limit by more than five or seven MPH.

PHOTOS SOURCE:
VIDEO BY SAN WINTER

ans and other vulnerable road users: "Call attention to the issue of traffic pedestrian and vulnerable road user fatalities and serious injuries; elevate the voices of those who have been most impacted by traffic crashes; advocate for traffic regulations that will promote safer streets on our roads, such as broadening the authority to install Speed Safety Cameras on high-crash network roads and promote the Vision Zero goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries in all three Northern Virginia jurisdictions of Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax."

Visit NOVA Safe Streets at <https://novasafeststreets.org/2025/11/05/nova-fss-hosts-2025-world-day-of-remembrance-event/> to learn more.



Ben Allard, president of the Arlington Families for Safe Streets: "The state shouldn't stop us," Allard says, referencing speed cameras.



Arlington County Board Chair Takis Karantonis- "Accidents are actually not accidents, as long as they are avoidable."

Hearne Gives Back to Children's Hospital with Performance of 'Frozen'



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY CINDY KANE PHOTOGRAPHY

Katie Hearne directs Encore Stage and Theatre production of "Frozen" for patients at Children's Hospital.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

It was around Christmastime in 2023 when Katie Hearne got very sick. "It seemed like the flu but I had other symptoms that wouldn't go away." Trips to her pediatrician and the hospital couldn't determine the cause of the mystery illness "and nobody could tell us what it was. They had never seen it before." She ended up at Children's Hospital where she says they discovered it was a rare and weird reaction to a virus.

"I stayed there four days. It was traumatic, a lot of anxiety at the time." But on the way in she had seen a stage, and that's when she started to wonder if she could bring an Encore Stage and Studio (by kids for kids) play back to the hospital to entertain the patients. She thought being in the hospital, even for four days, can be very, very long and boring.

Hearne, now 15, had been acting in Encore children's theatre productions since she was nine-years-old, and she chose "Frozen," which she remembers as her first play, to bring to the patients. "I also chose 'Frozen' because it is well known and everyone loves it so they could follow along."

"I wondered could I bring it there. I was very excited about the idea and started planning a show with Sara Duke who is the Executive Director of Encore. They have a program at Encore called "Encore Cares."

Duke explains Encore Cares always features a student director and a community service element. She adds they have visited retirement homes and after school programs, but this was the first time they performed at Children's Hospital.

Hearne says she had emailed Children's Hospital with the idea and asked for dates; it took a little



The cast of "Frozen" performs in the lobby of Children's Hospital Tuesday, Oct. 21.



Patients, doctors and family watch the cast from Encore Stage and Studio perform "Frozen" at Children's Hospital.

while to find a date, and they settled on Oct. 21. Then the work began. "We had to choose the cast. I was afraid people wouldn't sign up because it was such short notice,"

but she had plenty of actors for the cast of 17. "Also I was directing a play for the first time. I'm really proud of what I was able to do. Directing was a little intimidating and

bringing it to the hospital as well.

"We started rehearsal a month and a half ahead of the performance. I had to teach the cast the songs."

Arlington Asks Residents to Validate its Transportation Plan

Arlington residents ask for more bus routes.

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

At the Westover Farmer's Market on Sunday, shoppers were approached by safety-vest wearing County employees handing out flyers about Arlington's Transportation Future.

They pointed to a pop-up around the corner to get more information.

There, in addition to iPads for online surveys and free swag, Transportation Department employees talked about creating routes for residents. Erin Potter of the Department of Transportation said they were making sure the input they had been getting over the past year and the tentative plan they had devised was validated by the people who would be using the plan.

Arlington County is revamping its transportation plan for the first time since 2007. Launched in October 2024, Arlington's Transportation Future is a County initiative to develop a refreshed Transportation Plan. Arlington is prioritizing safety, equity, accessibility, ease of use and climate resiliency as it addresses the transportation needs for both current and future residents.

Potter asked individuals who stopped by if they wanted to offer suggestions for routes, either by public transportation or bicycle. If public transportation, which is what most people chose, she noted, then individuals simply stated where they were coming from and headed on public transportation, and she would put a dot on the start and finish, and draw a line on the map to see how a bus or metro might work. If, as was the case for one resident, there was no easy bus service, there was no easy bus service, she noted it for future planning purposes. She was looking for feedback and was interested to hear that a recent bike trip down Glebe Road was rough because of the poor road surface. "That's VDOT", she said with a wry smile, "We aren't in charge of that road surface." That part of Glebe is also not a bike path because a road that runs parallel to it has a bike route.

Potter said the County was reaching out through a series of these pop-ups to get input from

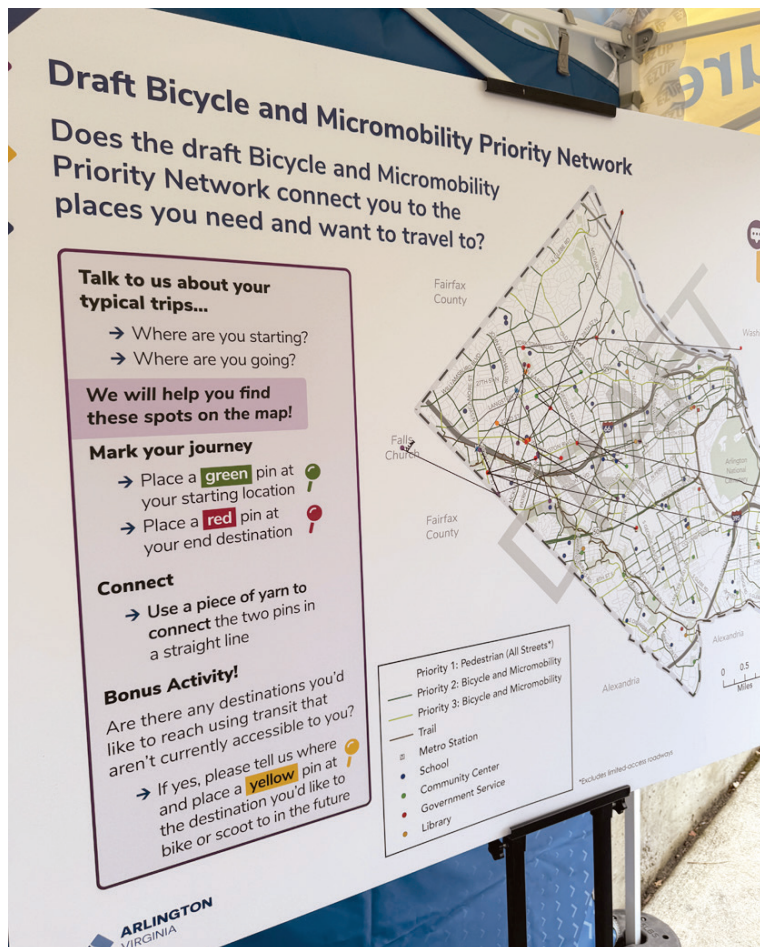


Erin Potter of the Dept of Transportation asked shoppers at the Westover Farmers Market on Sunday to help validate the transportation plan.

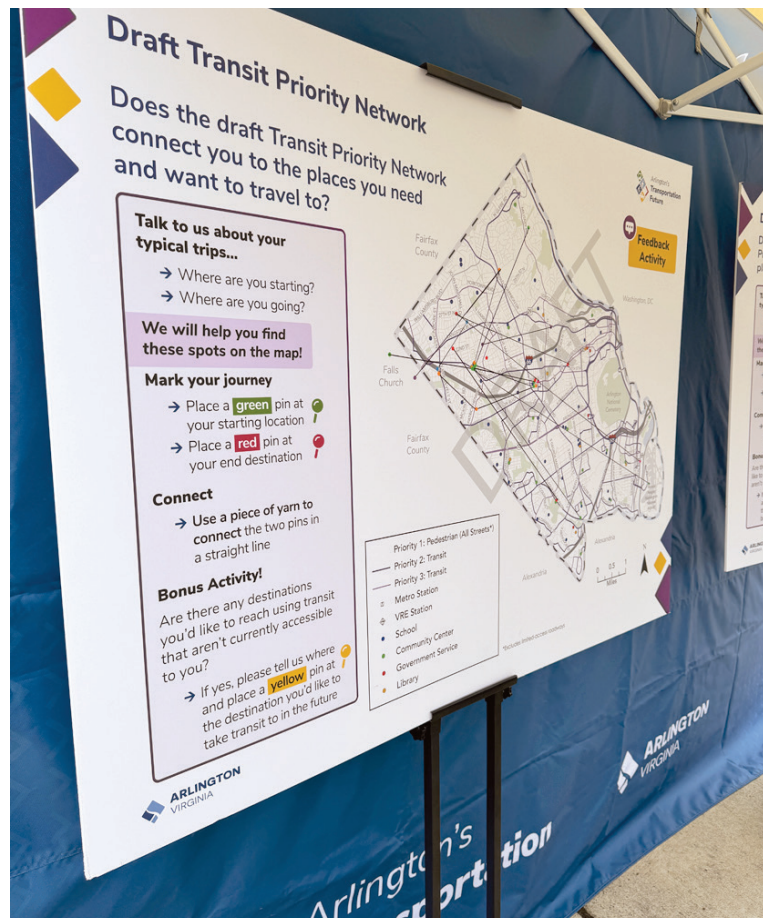
PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION



The pop-up is one of about 20 located all over Arlington so that people who don't respond on-line or go to meetings can have input.



There were two maps up on the board in the pop-up tent – one for bike routes and one for bus routes. More people sought information on buses than on bike routes. This one is for buses.



There were two maps up on the board in the pop-up tent – one for bike routes and one for bus routes. More people sought information on buses than on bike routes or scooters. This one is for bikes and micro transportation like scooters.

people who might not be using on-line feedback. There are about 20 pop-ups all over the county to reach residents. This is great news

considering many underserved residents or less plugged-in residents don't always get a chance to make their views known.

There is one additional open house scheduled for input from residents, on Nov. 22 at Arlington Mill Community Center, from 1:30

to 4:30 pm.

To provide online input by Dec. 7, see: arlingtonva.us/TransportationFuture

ACPD Toy Collection in Full Swing

By Shirley Ruhe
Arlington Connection

Arlington Police Department is holding its 11th annual Fill the Cruiser Toy Drive from Nov. 8-Dec. 6. The toys collected by the police department will be donated to the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots and distributed to local children.

The first collection was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8. A dozen officers from the ACPD Community Engagement Unit with volunteers from the ACPD Teen Academy manned a long table which quickly filled up with a Mega Science Lab, Air Hockey game, Minnie Mouse kit and lots of soccer balls.

Mariah Carey's classic "Jingle Bell Rock" greeted visitors across the parking lot stopping by to drop off their contributions. A group from the ACPD Teen Police Academy was also assisting as part of their community service requirement.

Corporal Cassy Skelton, Director of the ACPD Teen Police Academy, explains the program is a one-week experience in the summer for rising 10th-12th grade students who want to explore a career in law enforcement.

They experience classroom presentations, hands-on learning, scenario training and field trips to help them better understand how the police department operates.

Artyom Czajkowski, a member of the Teen Police Academy says he has been doing a lot of volunteering in the community. "A couple of days ago I was helping some doctors out. The good thing about this program is you



Master Police Officer J.P. Montoya, Corporal Cassy Skelton and Jon Burgess stand ready to greet Arlingtonians dropping off holiday toys at the first toy collection on November 8.



J.P. Montoya and Corporal Cassy Skelton welcome people across the parking lot at Our Lady of St. Lourdes.

get to see how all of the police units operate."

Additional toy collections will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22 at Lee Harrison Shopping Center from 1 p.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 6 at "A Very Village Holiday, The Village at Shirlington" from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. The toys must be new and unwrapped.

Stationary Drop Box Locations

Stationary drop boxes will be available at the following locations through Dec. 8

- ❖ Haute Dogs, 2910 N. Sycamore Street
- ❖ Westover Market Beer Garden, 5863 Washington Boulevard
- ❖ Compass Coffee, 4710 Langston Boulevard
- ❖ Cathedral of St. Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane
- ❖ Office Building, 200 N. Glebe Road
- ❖ Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Ruthie's All-Day, 3411 5th Street S.
- ❖ Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, 333 Long Bridge Drive
- ❖ Freddie's Beach Bar, 555 23rd Street S.
- ❖ Porsche Arlington, 3100 Richmond Highway
- ❖ Courthouse Public Library, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



Artyom Czajkowski is volunteering as part of his Teen Police Academy commitment to help the community.



Corporal Dana Williams, head of the ACPD Teen Police Academy program.



Joan McCartney says she is dropping off three little stuffed animals which are accepted by Arwyn Cegelske, a volunteer with the ACPD Teen Police Academy.

Scouting for Food Breaks Record in Arlington

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Arlington Scout troops joined the national Scouting for Food effort on Saturday, November 8. The food they collected was donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).

Charles Meng, Executive Director of AFAC says, "We received 65,000 pounds or 32 tons which is the largest amount Scouting for Food has ever collected for us. It comes at a time when it is greatly needed for the growing number of families who are coming to us as SNAP benefits remain unpaid." He adds that this Boy Scout drive has been helping AFAC for well over 20 years.

Jolie Smith, AFAC Development Director adds, "This was a historical BSFD. It was unbelievable ...car after car after truck for three hours. Truly a blessing for AFAC especially right now but always. The community definitely stepped up in a big way to support us."



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Scout troop 641 started early Saturday morning and expected to visit 100 homes to collect donated food for AFAC.

AFAC provides supplemental groceries to needy families weekly. They have seen the number grow to over 4,200 families a week and expect this number to continue to climb during the upcoming weeks.

Troop 641 started out early Saturday morning and one of the Scouts reported their goal was to raise a million pounds "but I think we only have about 50 right now."

SEE SCOUTING FOR, PAGE 15

Your future.
Your care.
Our focus.



Introducing our onsite Hemodialysis Unit, in partnership with Nova Dialysis, providing advanced care and personalized services to meet all of your dialysis needs.

Clinical Capabilities

IV Antibiotics
Vent and Trach Dialysis
Short-Term Dialysis Management



Comprehensive Services Include

- Consultative Visits by On-Staff Nephrologists
- On-Site Cardiology & Pulmonary Rounding
- Health Coaching & Dietary Education
- Routine Medical Management of Co-Morbidities
- RenalX Monthly Support Group
- Dialysis Wing
- Dedicated Transport Aides
- Full Case Management Services
- 24/7 Guest Service



2729 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302
WoodbineRehab.com / 703.836.8838

www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

Alexandria
Gazette Packet
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac
ALMANAC

Turn to the Connection Newspapers digital and print advertising options to reach customers in your community!

- EMAIL BLASTS
- DIGITAL BILLBOARDS
- FRONT PAGE SHOUTOUT
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SPONSORED CONTENT

Target the right audience.



For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or
Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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
LEE	10759	70	ROUTE 70	POWELL RIVER	10/27/2025
ALLEGHANY	1206	782	ROGER'S ROAD (ROUTE 782)	TRIB OGLE CREEK	10/24/2025

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 vdot.virginia.gov and navigate to Traffic and Travel/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. 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 or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota at 804-786-4064.

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 or corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov.

SENIOR LIVING

Flourishing After 55

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

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate (starting at a \$30 annual fee). To join or register, go to registration.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

Arlington County 55+ Centers will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Coffee or Tea and Thee, Mondays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m., socialize with other 55+ friends at Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Volleyball, all skill levels welcome, Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center; and Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Both are drop-in.

Introduction to beginners line dancing class with 55+ volunteer Suzie Pratts, Fridays, Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Learn box step, quarter turn and grapevine. Drop-in.

Cribbage, a challenging card game yet easy to learn and play, Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Water walking and lap swimming to strengthen muscles at Long Bridge Aquatics Center, Mondays, 8-10 a.m., Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. No instruction provided. Long Bridge Aquatics Center membership required or pay daily admission fee. Located at 333 Long Bridge Drive. Drop-in.

Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteers, no instruction provided, Mondays, 2-2:45 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center; Tuesdays, 1-2:15 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center; Fridays, 1-2:15 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. All are drop-ins.

55+ Ice Skating, Mondays, 8:40 – 9:40 a.m., MedStar Capitals Iceplex, roof level parking at Ballston Quarter. \$1 skate rental fee. Pre-registration required at www.medstarcapitalsiceplex.com, click on Senior Public Skate.

Memoir Writing group to share and exchange ideas, meets second and fourth Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 10 through Nov. 26, 2-4 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911402-19.

Play pickleball, 55+ Pass required at the fol-

lowing 55+ centers: Walter Reed, Mondays, 8:15 a.m.- 4 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 4 p.m.; Wednesdays, 2:15 – 4 p.m.; and Fridays, 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Arlington Mill, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 – 3 p.m. Drop-ins.

Women’s drop-in basketball, Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m.-8:45 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Just the Fact: Nutrition, learn how to digest nutrition information by reading labels, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers. Registration # 911501-12.

Orchids of the DMV, take a mini tour of a variety of orchids through photos by Arlington Park Naturalist Aide Simon Willig, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m., virtual. Open to all ages; no 55+ Pass required. Registration # 911400-33.

What is a living trust? Find out from Elder Law Attorney Ed Zetlin as he explains the benefits of a trust and the different types, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911404-07.

Opera lovers and learners will discuss Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s “The Marriage of Figaro” Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by volunteer George Cecchetti. Registration # 911300-06.

Bookmaking workshop with artist Sushmita Mazumda, create books about things we’re grateful for, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Supplies provided. Registration # 911310-04.

Teen and senior friendsgiving, come together across generations to share stories, pie, fun games and meaningful conversation, Thursday, Nov. 20, 4:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Bring a side dish to share. Open to all ages; no 55+ Pass required. Registration # 911899-06.

Cooking demonstration, recipes for a Thanksgiving Feast taught by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers, Thursday, Nov. 20, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911501-08.

Acquaintance to friendship, learn how to take the initiative to exchange contact information and suggest ways to get together, Thursday, Nov. 20, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Certified coach Sallie Wiley offers tips and

exercises to be proactive. Registration # 911400-04.

Understanding hospice care, meet Stephen Cone, Chief of Communications and Philanthropy of Capital Caring, Thursday, Nov. 20, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown 55 + Center. Hear an overview and correct some misconceptions. Registration # 911404-08.

11/24-26/2025

Aurora Hills 55+ Center book club to discuss “This Is Happiness” by Niall Williams, Monday, Nov. 24, 11:30 a.m. Drop-in.

Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteers, Monday, Nov. 24, 2 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center; Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Both are drop-in.

Absolute beginner pickleball, volunteers on hand to answer questions, Monday, Nov. 24, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Billiards, casual games with players at all levels, equipment provided, Monday, Nov. 24, Tuesday, Nov. 25, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Scale Down, a weight loss support group, Monday, Nov. 24, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Yarn Crafters of Aurora Hills 55+ Center make hand-knit and crocheted items for Arlington charity organizations, Monday, Nov. 24, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Instruction and supplies avail-

able. Drop-in.

Chess games, players of all levels and newcomers welcome, supplies provided, Monday, Nov. 24, 9:30 a.m., Madison Community Center. Drop-in.

Volleyball, friendly games, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 3:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will enjoy a day of shopping at the Leesburg Premium Outlets, Tuesday, Nov. 25. Cost \$13, Arlington resident; \$15, non-resident. Registration # 902511-11.

Movie matinee, “Instant Family” (2018) (PG 13), Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911804-09.

Yarn Creations, join a casual group of crafty individuals to share ideas, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1-3 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Bring your own supplies. Drop-in.

Canasta, fun and easy to learn card game, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Instruction available. Drop-in.

Give line dancing a try, learn the basics from volunteer Hanni Cordes, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 10:15 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Local history group discusses Arlington’s rich past, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911402-09.

Arlington County 55+ Centers will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Washington-Liberty Annual Holiday Bazaar

Washington-Liberty High School is holding its 65th annual high school Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. It will feature more than 90 vendors including jewelry, ceramics, art prints, candles, books, ornaments, keepsakes and more.

Student tables will also offer baked goods, homemade dishes and hot drinks to raise funds for high school clubs and sports teams. Cash only please.

Washington-Liberty is located at 1301 N. Stafford Street in Arlington. Enter through Door 1 of this school on N. Stafford Way or Door 5 on Generals Way.

Parking is free but due to the crowds Metro is advisable with the Ballston stop just a few blocks away.

— SHIRLEY RUHE

Historic Alexandria Partners with 70 Historic Destinations in Virginia

First-of-its-kind statewide tourism journey in celebration of America’s 250th.

The Virginia 250 Passport will offer prizes and discounts to historic sites and museums, encouraging individuals and families to explore and experience history together.

The City of Alexandria’s Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) and its museums — including Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, the Alexandria History Museum at The

Lyceum, and the Alexandria Black History Museum — are featured as a destination in the newly launched Virginia 250 Passport. This collaborative, statewide initiative — organized by the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC), Colonial Williamsburg, George Washington’s Mount Vernon, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation (JYF) and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello — encourages Virginians and visitors to commemorate America’s 250th by engaging with the Commonwealth’s foremost historic sites and museums. The project is supported by the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) and the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC).

Beginning Nov. 11, 2025, Passports will be available free of charge at signature sites — VMHC, Colonial Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, Monticello and the JYF’s Jamestown

Settlement and American Revolution Museum at Yorktown — as well as at the VA250 Mobile Museum, select VA250 events and all 12 Virginia Welcome Centers, each located at gateways along interstate highways. A total of 250,000 copies will be distributed.

“This statewide partnership between some of the finest history institutions in the nation is an example of how, when we work together, we can create engaging, meaningful experiences for our fellow Virginians,” said Rita McClenny, president and CEO of the Virginia Tourism Corporation. “We encourage you to pick up your passport while supplies last and spend a year with us traveling around our great Commonwealth.”

The Virginia 250 Passport serves as a travel guide, discount book and keepsake. The 64-page commemorative booklet features descriptions of the 70 participating muse-

ums and historic sites across five regions of the Commonwealth: Central Virginia, Northern Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Southwestern Virginia and Tidewater.

Travelers can collect unique stamps while visiting each passport site. Once they have secured a stamp in their passport, they can receive up to a 15% discount at future participating locations that charge admission. Collecting at least five stamps makes them eligible to enter the prize drawing. Prizes will be drawn in December 2026 and include yearlong museum memberships and cash awards up to \$2,500.

“This collaboration is a wonderful example of how, when Virginians work together, we can show the world the best of who we are,” said Gretchen Bulova, SEE HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 15



Vaccine clinics offering free vaccines for pets are one of many ways Animal Welfare League of Arlington helps people keep their pets at home.



AWLA Arlington and Alexandria provide help for people struggling to provide for their pets.



than doubled over the last month,” Shackelford said. “We’ve seen a massive increase in people asking for support just to feed their animals, whether it’s pet food or cat litter.”

These pet pantries are core to both the Animal Welfare Leagues of Arlington and Alexandria. Even in the face of upcoming donation uncertainty, the organizations will keep these pantries a priority.

“Like all non-profits, we are confronting the reality that fundraising may be challenging in the near future,” Schindler said. “Still, we have a very firm commitment to continue offering our essential resources — emergency housing, the free pet food and supplies distribution, and no cost/low cost spay/neuter programs that support sustainable pet ownership. We will absolutely find a way to maintain those services ... it’s top of mind.”

Even as the government shutdown ends, and if everything else settles into a rhythm resembling normalcy, the AWLAs encourage local pet owners to be in touch with them through any scenario that threatens their ability to care for their animals.

“This year has shown that everyone can use help,” Schindler said. “There’s no one type of reason or person or situation that creates these situations. With these animal welfare leagues, we make all these processes as simple as possible, whether it’s taking in surrendered animals or supporting people so that they might not have to make that decision. It’s no questions asked beyond getting information to benefit animals in the next outcome.”

To support the organizations, and to volunteer as a short- or long-term foster, reach out to the organizations directly. Both AWLAs have experienced swells of volunteers at their shelters. Fosters and volunteers of all types, and with varying schedules and capacity, have found meaningful ways to spend stressful days amid furlough.

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria: Alexandria Animals - Animal Welfare League of Alexandria | AWLA / (703) 746-4774

Animal Welfare League of Arlington: Animal Welfare League of Arlington - All in For Animals / (703) 931-9241

To donate to Alexandria’s holiday drive, visit: [Holiday Food Drives - Alexandria Animals](#).

To contribute to Arlington, visit: [Animal Welfare League of Arlington](#) - All in For Animals

Not Ordinary Times

Unprecedented challenges, including government shutdown and record deportations, mean more people need pet support.

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

There is a widespread belief that pet owners who surrender their animals to shelters are selfish, even callous.

This harmful narrative does not hold water, though, especially as unprecedented crises continue to drown Americans.

Amid the longest government shutdown in United States history, the federal reduction of SNAP food assistance, and systemic crack-downs on immigration, animal welfare organizations across Northern Virginia have supported more people this year in making uncomfortable and sometimes painful decisions regarding their animals.

“Since the summer months, and especially over the last month, we’ve seen an increase in requests to help rehome animals,” Erin Shackelford, Senior Manager of Communications and Event Marketing at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, said. “There’s a stigma when there shouldn’t be, so often-times we don’t get the full story behind why an animal is being surrendered. Still, we understand that there are so many situations

beyond anyone’s control right now.”

Local animal welfare organizations don’t typically press owners for surrender details, but frequently cited reasons are “housing concerns,” which do encompass situations driven by financial and legal uncertainty.

In Arlington, animal welfare leaders have noticed a recent trend with unclaimed stray

“A recent example included a woman who was deported and had nine cats in her apartment. She was able to contact a neighbor from a deportation facility who was able to pick the cats up and bring them to us.”

— Erin Shackelford, Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

animals that indicate new financial hardships.

“We have noticed a strain in the community,” Amy Schindler, Chief Operating Officer for the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, said. “This year, with our strays, we’ve noted a shift in unclaimed animals. They have been more small animals that looked very well-taken care of — recently groomed, in many cases. As we’ve seen this, it’s easy to

understand that these are not instances of owners not loving their pets.”

While local rescues can’t pinpoint exact reasons why pet ownership is no longer sustainable for so many, Alexandria can attribute a growing number of surrendered pets to deportation.

“A recent example included a woman who was deported and had nine cats in her apartment,” Shackelford said. “She was able to contact a neighbor from a deportation facility who was able to pick the cats up and bring them to us. It’s important to us to support people, who even in their worst times, are fighting to protect their pets.”

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria — two different non-profit organizations contracted by their counties to provide animal control, shelter, and pet support — have also had an increase in need for help to keep pets in their homes.

In 2025, they’ve offered more resources through pet pantries, which provide free pet food and other supplies for community members in need.

“Normally, we serve 100 to 150 people from the pantry, but that number has more

VETERANS DAY

\$2500 Contribution to Improve Accessibility

Today on Veterans Day, Churchill Downs Incorporated and the Virginia Veterans Foundation announced a charitable contribution of \$2,500 to John Lyon VFW Post 3150 (Arlington) to help improve the accessibility of the Post, particularly for older veterans and veterans with mobility challenges.

This contribution for the Post's upgrades is the second grant from the Colonial Downs VFW Post Home Improvement Grant program, which was created with a \$25,000 charitable contribution made by Churchill Downs Incorporated as part of its Salute to Service during the 2025 Festival of Racing at Colonial Downs Racetrack. The first grant supported VFW Post 776 (Radford-Montgomery County) in its recovery from a recent break-in.

"Churchill Downs is proud to support John Lyon VFW Post 3150 and the Northern Virginia veterans it serves," said Aaron Palmer, Director of Virginia Government Relations for Churchill Downs Incorporated, owner and operator of Colonial Downs Racetrack and Rosie's Gaming Emporiums.

Michael Cantwell, John Lyon VFW Post 3150 commander expressed gratitude for the support. "This grant will allow us to make our Post an even more welcoming and accessible place for veterans of all ages to find support, camaraderie and fellowship."

"As the post closest to Arlington National Cemetery, John Lyon Post 3150 carries a special responsibility and holds a special



place in our Virginia VFW community," said VFW Virginia State Commander Doug Hoffman, thanking the entire Churchill Downs organization.

"VFW Post 3150 is a pillar of the Arlington community, and I'm proud to join them this Veterans Day in honoring our Veterans and recognizing the Post's significant achieve-

ment," said Del. Adele McClure (District 2—Arlington). "This well-deserved grant recognizes Post 3150's enduring impact on our community, and I would like to thank every Veteran, here and across the Commonwealth, for their service to our Country."

The Virginia Veterans Foundation is the official charitable foundation for the Veter-

ans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Virginia. Virginia has 122 VFW posts and 36,000 members, including auxiliaries, in every region of the Commonwealth. All donations are tax deductible in accordance with the law.

Reach us by phone 540-886-8112 or email adj@vfwva.org.

Arlington Police Starting Salary Raised to Highest in Region

Arlington County is raising the starting salary for police officers to \$90,012, plus hiring bonus of up to \$25,000

Arlington County is raising the starting salary for police officers to \$90,012, the highest in the National Capitol Region. The maximum starting salary for lateral officers transferring from other law enforcement agencies will also raise to \$103,330. The new salaries become effective on July 1, 2026, the start of the next fiscal year.

All new officer and lateral hires also receive a competitive hiring bonus of up to \$25,000. Interested applicants are encouraged to start the hiring process now as salaries will automatically increase on July 1, 2026.

The new starting salary is part of hiring and retention incentives within Arlington County Police Department's (ACPD) new collective bargaining agreement. Current officers at the ranks of Officer, Corporal, Sergeant and Lieutenant will receive varying percentage salary increases to improve the pay scale for officers throughout their careers.

"The new starting salary will be very impactful in our ability to make significant progress in refilling our ranks following several years of decreased staffing across

the law enforcement profession," said Chief Andy Penn. The new collective bargaining agreement will help to retain officers and attract highly qualified applicants, Penn said.

A law enforcement career with ACPD comes with many benefits, including investments in quality of life, work-life balance, training and development, and wellness and safety. Highlights include:

- ❖ Patrol officers work the equivalent of a 37.5 hour work week with 4 and 5 days off at a time
- ❖ Academy training paid at full salary
- ❖ An unmatched Wellness Program
- ❖ Opportunities to develop new skills and advance in your career
- ❖ 25-year retirement

ACPD's Virtual Career Expo

Career-seekers are encouraged to join recruiters at an upcoming Virtual Career Expo being held in November. Interested applicants will hear more about a career with ACPD and complete the initial phase of the hiring process which includes the application and qualifying interview. Those progressing to the next phase will receive a complementary voucher to take the Law En-



forcement Written Exam.

The Virtual Career Expo will take place on Thursday, Nov. 20 from 6 – 9 p.m.

Attend on Microsoft Teams: ACPD Virtual Career Expo

Career-seekers are encouraged to visit joinarlingtoncountypd.com to learn more about minimum qualifications, benefits, the

hiring process and to get started on the application.

Arlington County Police Department recruiters can be contacted at 703-228-0988, ACPDRecruiting@arlingtonva.us or by using our online form <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Police-Department/Contact-a-Police-Recruiter>

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

New York's Glowbar Comes to Arlington

'Face Your Skin' concept encourages self-care.

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

For only \$65 – with a membership – you can go into a pristine storefront, lie down in a private room, have a licensed esthetician go over your tired, dull skin and come out with a glow only 30 minutes later. This kind of New York City style “insta-facial” for people in a hurry has now come to Clarendon after first setting up shop in NYC and then Georgetown and Logan Circle.

Rachel Liverman set up her company “Glowbar” in 2019 and despite the pandemic has turned it into a 22-location privately held company with over a million dollars capital investment. It’s easy to see why it has been successful. Liverman comes from a family of skincare pioneers: her grandmother opened the first fully-accredited skin care institute in the country.

Even if you aren’t a “facial” or “spa” kind of person, the beauty of the Glowbar is that you can get low-key pampered, relax, and see immediate results, for a reasonable price. Glowbar’s licensed estheticians give

advice about taking care of skin and avoiding sun damage. This is especially important for their teen clients, for whom sun damage is not a foregone conclusion.

Claudia, who is originally from Bolivia, has lived all over the world, including South Korea, where skincare is practically a religion. She was a physical therapist, taking care of disabled patients, before joining Glowbar. She said the great thing is she can still use her patient-care skills, making people feel better, in much the same way. Her careful explanations of what she is doing as she dermaplanes or puts on a product reflect that professional approach.

Jessie Kennedy, who manages the Clarendon location, said business was off to a good start, despite the unfortunate vandalism that took place just as they were about to open. Someone broke their large storefront windows. “There are great vibes in this neighborhood,” she said. “People have been stopping by and waving and have told us how sorry they were that this happened to us.”

You know the old Alka Seltzer advertising line from the 70s: Try it, you’ll like it. If you sign up for a membership one of the perks is to take a friend to Glowbar on a guest pass. After a thirty minute facial, someone who gets maybe one facial every two years ... signed up.

Glowbar is located at 2930 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201.



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Jade Stewart, left, one of the estheticians, commutes from Dumfries to work at the Glowbar. She likes the working environment, which she said was very good. On the right, Claudia, whose experience as a physical therapist comes through in her work at Glowbar.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Andrew Shlunk from McLean tosses rings while Lauren Berman and her brother Mark try their hand at racing rabbits at Chesterbrook Shopping Center Friday night.

Chesterbrook Shopping Center Celebrates Its 'Reimagining'

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

You could sip and shop at one of the three new women’s stores, play a game of Porkchop Speedway with your friend, get your picture taken in a red 1950s pick up truck, sample spanakopita from Milo’s restaurant across the parking

lot — all while listening to the jazz of the Anthony Pocetti duo. The alpacas and baby goats were on the way but stuck in traffic.

It was Friday, Nov. 14 at the “Friendsgiving” event to celebrate the reopening of the renovated Chesterbrook Shopping Center at 6224 Old Dominion Drive in McLean. Sarah North, Senior Marketing Director at Federal Realty said, “After serving as Chesterbrook’s

third-party leasing and management firm for 19 years, Federal acquired an 80 percent interest in the property in April 2021.”

A year later they announced a comprehensive plan to renovate the shopping center, and Kosmo Nail Bar opened in November 2022 followed by South Block in March 2023 and J. McLaughlin in May 2023.

Now there are a number of new business-

es there including three women’s shops, Sorn Thai restaurant, Call Your Mother neighborhood bagel place, the first home of the McLean Art Gallery, and SkinSpirit. These businesses join a Safeway and Milo’s Grill which have been in the shopping center for many years. Surfside is set to open in the spring with additional merchants to be added in 2026.

ENTERTAINMENT

HOLIDAY EVENTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Fifth Annual St. Nicholas Market (Dec. 7, Alexandria) The Market is held mostly outdoors and will feature 40 local Catholic artists and makers selling their creations for the Christmas season at Saint Rita Catholic Church.

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market (Dec. 5-21; first three weekends in December, Alexandria) The 30th annual market offers unique handmade fine arts and fine crafts from local artists.

McLean Holiday Art & Crafts Festival (Dec. 5-7, McLean): This three-day indoor show at the McLean Community Center features regional artisans selling a variety of handmade items, including pottery, jewelry, and holiday decor.

Old Town Alexandria Christmas Market and Holiday Craft Show (Dec. 13, Alexandria): This large holiday market at John Carlyle Square features local artisans, holiday music, and seasonal food and drinks.

Mosaic Holiday Village (Nov. 22-23; Dec. 13-14, Fairfax): Enjoy shopping at the Holiday Market, which features local artisans, and participate in other festivities in the Mosaic District.

Farmer John's Holiday Market (Dec. 6-7, Leesburg): Get into the spirit at this festive market with Christmas trees, wreaths, handmade crafts, and hot cider.

The largest indoor art festival in the region, the Capital Art & Craft Festival, returns to Northern Virginia Dec. 12-14, 2025, with more than 300 juried artisans at the Dulles Expo Center. www.CACF.art

Holiday Lights & Parades:

54th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade (Dec. 6, Old Town Alexandria): For 54 years, Campagna Center has celebrated Alexandria's Scottish heritage during the holiday season with both the Taste of Scotland and the annual Scottish Christmas Walk parade.

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run (Begins Nov. 15, Alexandria): Ice & Lights provides a fun, outdoor family experience to explore new, dazzling light displays, take family pictures or selfies with a variety of festive scenes, enjoy a hot beverage and snack, and take a spin on the ice rink under the stars.

Bull Run Festival of Lights (Begins Nov. 14, Centreville): Drive through this popular park to see a spectacular festival of lights.

Christmas Illuminations (Dec. 20-21, Mount Vernon): George Washington's Mount Vernon hosts an evening with fireworks over the Potomac, a historic winter encampment, and tours of the illuminated mansion.

Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights (Begins Nov. 7, Vienna): This popular seasonal event features a half-mile walk through decorated gardens.

Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights (Dec. 6, Alexandria): Watch decorated boats light up the waterfront in the 25th annual parade.

Greater Manassas Christmas Parade (Manassas): A long-running tradition held on the first Saturday in December, featuring floats and performers.

Santa Lights Manassas (Dec. 5, Dec. 6 Manassas): On the first Friday of December, join the annual tree lighting ceremony to welcome Santa to Historic Manassas. The 79th annual parade takes place the next day.

39th Annual Santa's Wonderland Parade and Winter Festival (Dec. 6, Colonial Beach): A winter festival kicks off with a parade of decorated floats and vehicles.

More Holiday Events:

Alexandria Jingle Bell Jam (Dec. 7, 8-11 a.m.): A Santa breakfast, DJ and holiday magic show are all part of the fun at the Heritage Ballroom at Hotel Heron! Get your tickets now. Brought to you by Alexandria Living Magazine and Thrivent.

Holidays with a Twist, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (Dec. 20-21, Alexandria): Alexandria's favorite holiday musical tradition returns featuring stirring choruses from Handel's Messiah. Dancers from BalletNova perform the greatest moments from The Nutcracker. Plus carols, classics and other sparkling favorites of the season.

Concerts at Christ Church: Celtic Music for Christmas (Dec. 8, Alexandria): Ensemble Gut, Wind, and Wire presents a holiday pro-



The Bull Run Festival of Lights runs now through Jan. 4, 2026.

gram of Celtic and English early music, 'Drive the Cold Winter Wind Away'.

National Christmas Tree Lighting (Dec. 4, Presidents Park, DC)

A Christmas Carol (Dec. 5-20, Alexandria): at the Little Theatre of Alexandria (tickets go on sale Nov. 6)

Del Ray Holiday Season Kick-Off (Dec. 7, Alexandria): Join the Del Ray community for holiday cheer at the Del Ray Holiday Kick-Off on Sunday, Dec. 7.

The Nutcracker (Nov. 28-Dec. 23, Manassas): The Manassas Ballet presents the classic holiday ballet at the Hylton Performing Arts Center.

Santa Train Rides (Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 18, Alexandria): The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) runs special holiday trains perfect for families, roundtrip from Alexandria to Manassas.

Aladdin the Camel (Nov. 26-Jan. 6, Mount Vernon): Meet the Christmas camel at George Washington's Mount Vernon, a nod to a real event from 1787.

Holidays Through the Ages (Dec. 5-29, Woodbridge): Step back in time at the Rippon Lodge Historic Site to see how holidays were celebrated in different centuries.

Santa Stampede 2025 (Dec. 6, Alexandria): Get some exercise at this fun, festive run held in John Carlyle Square.

HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOWS AT NOVA PARKS
Drive, Walk and Skate into the holidays with three unique holiday light show experiences. Tickets for the 2025 holiday season are now on sale and all 3 NOVA Parks light shows will be open as of November 15.

Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights
Walk a sparkling half-mile garden trail while sipping on a hot beverage for an enchanting evening at Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights in Vienna.

Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights is an elegant garden trail aglow with countless sparkling lights, perfect for a date night or family holiday outing. The half-mile walk through the enchanting Meadowlark Botanical Gardens (Vienna, VA) features lighted nature themes and animated displays along a paved wheelchair and stroller-accessible trail. Stay warm by sipping on a hot beverage (with or without spirits) as you walk and s'mores to finish out the evening. Treat your pup to their favorite walk of the year on specific dates. The Winter Walk of Lights is illuminating the gardens for

its 14th season, bringing joy to more than 100,000 visitors each year.

Open nightly November 7 through January 4. Capacity is limited; reservations are required to ensure access on a specific date. Prices range \$19-24 per person; promo codes available for specific dates. Visit winterwalkoflights.com for details.

Bull Run Festival of Lights

Drive through 2.5 miles of dazzling lights at Northern Virginia's largest drive-through light show at the Bull Run Festival of Lights in Centreville.

Experience the magic of the holidays at the Bull Run Festival of Lights, Northern Virginia's largest drive-through holiday light show! A family favorite for three decades, the Bull Run Festival of Lights dazzles with a 2.5-mile display of holiday and fairytale vignettes. Enjoy time with family while staying warm and cozy as you slowly drive through the animated displays in Bull Run Regional Park. New displays are added every year—drive through the Winter Wonderland where it's always snowing and see the tallest light display yet.

Open November 14 through January 4. \$30 per vehicle online; additional discounts available for specific dates with promo code. Visit bull-runfestivaloflights.com for details.

Ice & Lights – The Winter Village at Cameron Run

Skate and explore a winter village wonderland for a playful outdoor experience at Ice & Lights – The Winter Village at Cameron Run in Alexandria.

Just minutes from Old Town Alexandria, enjoy ice skating amidst a winter wonderland at Cameron Run Regional Park (Alexandria, VA). Ice & Lights offers a fun, unstructured outdoor family experience to explore unique light displays, snap family pictures or selfies with a variety of displays, and take a spin on the outdoor ice rink.

Tickets are available for the Village Only or Village and Ice Skating. The Winter Village opens November 15 and nighttime ice skating begins November 28. Daytime ice skating begins December 6. Prices range \$9-24 per person depending on activity and date. Capacity is limited; reservations are required to ensure access on a specific date. Ice skating reservations are required. Visit cameroniceandlights.com for details.

Visit novaparkslights.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

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.

VOLUNTEER FOR ARLINGTON'S COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Arlington Neighborhood Village, in partnership with Arlington County and Marymount University, has started the Community Ambassador Program (CAP). CAP is a volunteer fueled system that identifies "Ambassadors" connected with civic associations, faith communities, senior centers, apartment buildings, etc. These individuals will be trained to be a reliable source of information about the many opportunities available to older adults in Arlington.

Ambassadors will spread the word about programs and support services, opportunities for social and civic engagement, and educational and enrichment activities for older adults in their own neighborhoods. They are actively recruiting ambassadors to act as a bridge between their community and the Arlington safety net, providing information and soliciting feedback to improve offerings that help older adults remain safe, independent, engaged, and connected to their community. Contact cap@anvarlington.org if this is something you are interested in or want to learn more. Let's work together to create a supported and connected community for all ages!

Receive Support Services: Are you a senior in Arlington? Do you need support services but don't know where to look? Are you looking for fun and enriching activities in Arlington? Email or call 703-509-8057 and they will connect you with an Ambassador.

THE MARJORIE HUGHES FUND FOR CHILDREN

The Marjorie Hughes Fund for Children (MHF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Arlington Public Schools (APS) students, helps underinsured and uninsured students obtain medical and dental services and other

ENTERTAINMENT

necessary medical care. Established in 1992 to honor the work of public health physician Marjorie F. Hughes, who dedicated her career to public school students in Arlington, MHF is made up of Public Health School Nurses, School Health Aides, APS staff, and community stakeholders. In collaboration with pediatric office staff and dental providers, MHF pays for school entry and sports physical exams, dental treatments, assists with the purchase of medications or medical equipment, and provides transportation via UberHealth rides to doctor and dentist appointments. MHF services are supported entirely by generous donations and grants, and they have helped students throughout Arlington schools, from kindergarten to high school, to be happy, healthy, and ready to learn. To learn more about MHF, its mission, its work, and to make a contribution, visit <https://www.marjoriehughesfund.com/>.

YEAR ROUND ON SUNDAYS

Farmer's Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Casa Chirilagua Community Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Experience fresh foods, native plants, artisan crafts, music and community at Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market in the heart of Arlandria outside the Casa Chirilagua Community Center, every Sunday 9-1 p.m.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Washington Balalaika Orchestra. 3 p.m. At Kenmore Middle School, 200 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. The Washington Balalaika Orchestra's fall concert, "The Stars Align!," will feature balalaika virtuoso, Andrei Saveliev, who has been the principal player of the prima balalaika section for over 25 years. To purchase tickets go to www.balalaika.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 27

Arlington Turkey Trot 5K. 8 a.m. At Lyon Park, Arlington. It's a morning filled with joy, gratitude, and community spirit — and it's all for a good cause. PathForward is proud to be

one of this year's beneficiaries, helping adults experiencing homelessness find stability, dignity, and hope right here in Arlington. Join as a volunteer! There are plenty of ways to get involved — from cheering on runners to helping with setup and cleanup.

Wednesday/Dec. 3

Coffee and Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Village. 10-11 a.m. Via Zoom. George Marshall True American Hero. Soldier, statesman, and humanitarian, Marshall spearheaded the Allied Victory in World War II, created the Marshall Plan for the recovery of Europe, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. The George Marshall Foundation is a fully private non-profit that offers a world-class research library, public programs, educational initiatives, and a host of digital offerings documenting George Marshall's visionary ideas and achievements. In this presentation, Melissa Davis, the Marshall Foundation's Director of Library and Archives, will explain how the Foundation is promoting and preserving Marshall's legacy. Zoom link for Coffee and Conversation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948577106?pwd=eW0rN1RTTU5lTmJ5NnF2QXZINmdUQT09>

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Police Escort Santa to "A Very Village Holiday." Santa is on his way to make sure the last 2025 Fill the Cruiser Toy Drive collection on Saturday, December 6 at The Village at Shirlington's "A Very Village Holiday" event is joyful and merry! Led by Rudolph, and with a little help from elves from the Arlington County Police Department and Arlington County Fire Department, Santa's sleigh will be slowly cruising throughout Arlington County to spread holiday cheer before arriving at the event.

Check the below recommended viewing areas and Rudolph's Route map to make sure you catch a glimpse of this extra special escort!

Viewing Areas and Estimated Arrival Times
Lacey Woods Park, 1200 N. George Mason Drive, 2:32 p.m.
Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, 2:38 p.m.
Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, 2:45 p.m.
Rocky Run Park, 1109 N. Barton Street, 2:52 p.m.
Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 2nd Street S., 2:59 p.m.
Fire Station 1, 500 S. Glebe Road, 3:02 p.m.
Penrose Square, 2400 block of Columbia Pike, 3:06 p.m.
Virginia Highlands Park, 15th Street S. and S. Hayes Street, 3:14 p.m.
John Robinson Jr. Town Square, 2406 Shirlington Road, 3:24 p.m.
"A Very Village Holiday", 4280 Campbell Avenue, 3:30 p.m.
The escort begins at 2:00 p.m. All estimated arrival times are approximate and may vary slightly due to traffic and safety conditions.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10

Coffee and Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Village. 10-11 a.m. Via Zoom. World War One Living History Journey of Naval Engineer Michael Bosworth. Mike will highlight his living history journey for the WWI Centennial. He will focus on the U.S. involvement late in the war and the U.S. Marine Corps. 5th Regiment. Mike is a living history volunteer who does historical lectures and reenactments. He founded the very popular Ship's Company Chanteymen sea & tavern music performing troupe. a naval architect and marine engineer with degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy and MIT, Mike spent his career as a U.S. Navy civil service engineer. Zoom link for Coffee and Conversation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948577106?pwd=eW0rN1RTTU5lTmJ5NnF2QXZINmdUQT09>

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30

p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. 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 December's show is the hilarious D.Lo!

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Coffee and Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Village. 10-11 a.m. Via Zoom. Smart Supplement Use for Healthy Aging. Smart Supplement Use for Healthy Aging. Many older adults turn to vitamins, minerals, and herbal supplements to support their health-but not all supplements are safe or effective. Kathy Cameron is a retired Senior Director of Health Promotion at the National Council on Aging. Her presentation explores the role of dietary supplements in promoting health and wellness among older adults, including easy-to-understand guidance on questions to ask doctors and pharmacists, choosing common supplements wisely, avoiding harmful interactions, and recognizing when supplements may or may not be needed. Zoom link for Coffee and Conversation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948577106?pwd=eW0rN1RTTU5lTmJ5NnF2QXZINmdUQT09>

SUNDAY/JAN. 18

Arlington's MLK Tribute 2026. 5-6:30 p.m. At Wakefield High School Auditorium, Arlington. Arlington County Parks and Recreation invites you to come together to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's MLK Tribute will continue the theme "Dreams, Faith, and Justice in Action," carrying forward the spirit and vision of last year's planned tribute. Through powerful performances, reflection, and community voices, the evening will highlight Dr. King's enduring message of hope, equality, and service in action.

Barry Keith's 20th Solo Show Opens Dec. 5

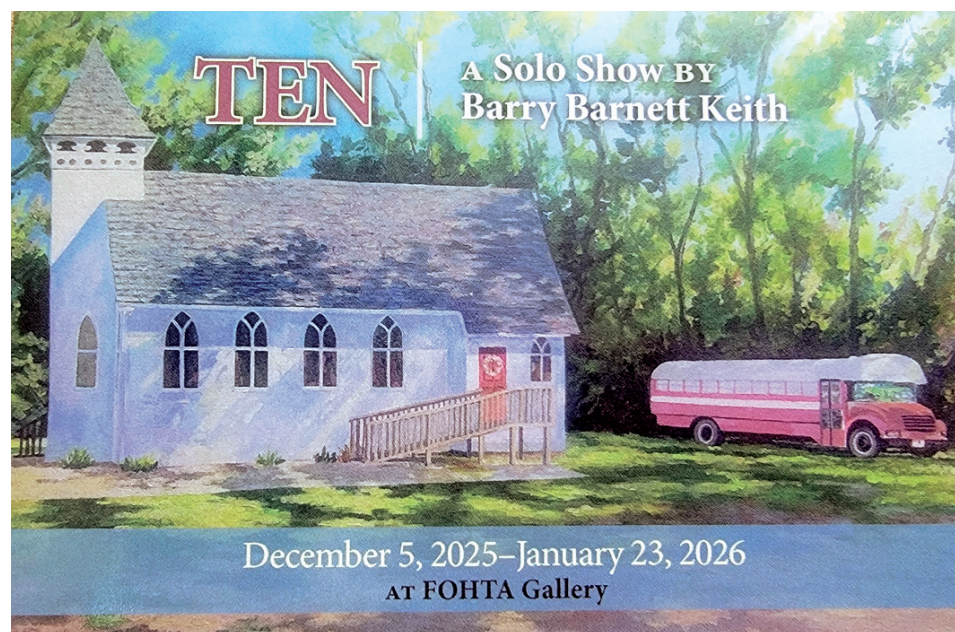
BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Barry Keith's solo show "TEN" opens at FOHTA Gallery in Arlington with an opening night reception on Dec. 5 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Keith said the show represents ten different visual experiences ranging from plein air landscape painting to portrait painting. "The inspiration for this show stems from developing a love of many different [types of] subject matter from comic book art to drawing architecture and portraiture."

One of the portraits in the show is 12-year-old Natalie. "She reminds me so much of myself at that age — she draws and paints a lot and she is a quiet soul. She is one of my many proteges that I encourage." Keith says he chose Natalie because "She has such an introspective face, and I thought she would make a great portrait."

TEN represents Keith's 20th solo painting exhibition. The show runs from Dec. 5-Jan. 23. The Gallery, located at 2206 S. Monroe, is open 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, closed Monday and Tuesday. Saturday by appointment only.

Keith grew up in Alexandria where he attended Cora Kelly Elementary School



Barry Keith's solo show "TEN" opens December 5 with a reception from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the FOHTA Gallery in Arlington.

where his friends and teachers there encouraged him a lot with his art. His teachers put him in a summer program called "The New Horizons" where they allowed him to draw and paint all day and took field trips on Friday. "The impact that program had on me was so profound that today I have an art

club of 100 after school. I have that many because I never want to refuse myself or a kid who might go on to love the arts like I do."

He continued on to Alexandria City High School followed by the University of Delaware Art School.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Natalie, one of Keith's proteges, who he encourages in her love of the arts.

1300 TABLES! BUY! SELL! TRADE! VPN

NATION'S GUN SHOW

NOVEMBER 21, 22 & 23 Last Nation's Gun Show Before Christmas!

LAST SHOW AT THE DULLES EXPO

BRING A FRIEND!

4320 Chantilly Shopping Center
Chantilly, VA 20151

FRI: 1-8 | SAT: 9-5 | SUN: 10-5

VA & Utah CCW Courses
(571) 237-9138

\$1.00 OFF ONE ADULT ADMISSION

TheNationsGunShow.com | ShowmastersGunShows.com

Be prepared before the next power outage.



It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC



DON'T HELP THIEVES WRECK YOUR WHEELS

Make it harder for car thieves to do their job. Protect yourself from auto theft and report suspicious activity for rewards of up to \$25,000 at **HEATreward.com**.

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE
HEAT
HELP ELIMINATE AUTO THEFT

CLASSIFIED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

To ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Stop cleaning-out your gutters this season

EXPIRES: 11/30/2025

15% OFF + 10% OFF

LeafFilter

AN ADDITIONAL Discount For Seniors + Military

Get a FREE full gutter inspection and estimate: **1-877-614-6667** Promo: 285

*See Representative for full warranty details. *Promotional offer includes 15% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. 15 subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 366920923, AZ ROC 344027, CA 1035795, CT HIC 0671520, FL CBC056678, IA C127230, ID RCE-51604, LA 559544, MA 176447, MD MHC111225, MI 262300173, 262300318, 262300328, 262300329, 262300330, 262300331, MN IR731804, MT 226192, ND 47304, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 13VH09953900, NM 408693, NV 86990, NY H-19114, H-52229, OR 218294, PA 179643, 069383, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VA 2705169445, WA LEAFFNW822JL, WV W056912.

Transform Your Bathroom and Change Your Life.

FREE TOILET + \$1,500 OFF*

For your FREE information kit and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free **1-877-591-9950**

safestep

*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH11096000



Sign up for

FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

to any or all of our 15 papers

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE



The **Arlington** Connection

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Twitter @ArlConnection

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe
Contributing Photographer and Writer
slrbc@aol.com

Eden Brown
Contributing Writer
arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Reclaiming Thanksgiving: A Feast with Roots

The holiday table is both a celebration and a history lesson.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

In the Hendersons' Alexandria kitchen, the air is thick with steam and history on Thanksgiving Day. A pot of collard greens simmers on the cooktop beside a roasted turkey, its skin glowing beneath a drizzle of honey and herbs. Savory aromas and time-honored friends fill every room of their home.

"This is what home smells like," said Alicia Henderson, wiping her hands on a linen towel. Her sister Danielle Bolger, who drove in from Fairfax that morning, nodded in agreement as she arranged a platter of roasted root vegetables, each piece glistening under a slathering of olive oil.

This has been the scene for what they call Friendsgiving at the Yard, a combination of the Turkey Day moniker and the spirit of the Yard itself, the central outdoor gathering space on historically Black college campuses where students come together to socialize.

The tradition began when a group of friends, all recent graduates of Spelman College and Morehouse College and members of historically Black fraternities and sororities known as the Divine Nine, couldn't afford to fly home for Thanksgiving. So, instead they had dinner with each other.

That first year's menu was a feast on a budget: boxed mac and cheese, a 49-cent-per-pound frozen turkey, and a pumpkin pie that someone picked up at the Giant supermarket.

Today, more than 25 years later, the tradition continues.

Over time they traded freezer-aisle birds for heritage free-range fowl and studio apartments for 8,000-square-foot homes. Though their lives have changed, the sentiment: friends, family, and heritage, remains the same.

They cook. They move together easily, trading pans and seasoning by feel. Sweet potatoes caramelize under a torch. Danielle pours cranberry sauce she made herself,



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PIERCE FAMILY

The Pierce family joins the Friendsgiving tradition by honoring heritage, lifting up history, and passing down the stories that shape who they are and who their children and grandchildren will become.

laced with orange peel and cinnamon bark. There's laughter, the easy kind that comes from longtime friends who know exactly where the mixing bowls live.

As the couples began to have children, they added a new tradition. Before the feast begins, those gathered take a moment to share what the families call "the context." It started years ago as a joke when someone teased Marcus Henderson for turning every meal into a history lesson.

"Most people talk about the Mayflower this time of year," Marcus says. "But our story starts before that. It began with the Africans who arrived in Virginia in 1619 on the White Lion and built communities long before the Pilgrims showed up."

At Friendsgiving, the holiday isn't about erasing history. It's about reclaiming it and weaving in the facts that tell their story.

"We wanted our kids to know that we've

always been here," Alicia said. "That their roots go deep, deeper than any textbook will tell them."

That sense of legacy doesn't end with the meal.

After dinner one year someone started an impromptu step show, a high-energy tradition in which African American fraternities and sororities use synchronized, percussive movements and chants to express pride in their organizations.

"We can't perform like we did in college. We've got bad knees and might throw out our backs, but we still know how to make the Yard shake," Marcus laughed, referring to the central outdoor gathering spaces on historically Black college campuses where students come together to socialize.

The Friendsgiving feast isn't formal. It isn't even planned. It just happens, the way the best traditions.

Historic Alexandria Partners with 70 Historic Destinations in Virginia

FROM PAGE 8

Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria. "With support from the Virginia Tourism Corporation and VA250, this statewide effort celebrates Virginia's pivotal role in shaping America's past, present, and future—and serves as an inspiring model of collaboration and shared pride."

The Virginia Department of Education will be partnering with superintendents across the Commonwealth to ensure that schools and teachers are aware of the passport, and are sharing it with students and families statewide.

The Virginia 250 Passport program runs from Nov. 11, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2026. More information, including sweepstakes rules, is available at VirginiaHistory.org/250Passport.

SIGNATURE SITES

Virginia Museum of History & Culture

Colonial Williamsburg
George Washington's Mount Vernon
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Museums
Thomas Jefferson's Monticello
VA250 Mobile Museum Experience
The Sovereign Nations and Indian Tribes of Virginia

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Alexandria Black History Museum
Alexandria History Museum at The Lyce-

um
Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center
Fauquier History Museum at the Old Jail
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
George Mason's Gunston Hall
Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum
Manassas Museum
National Museum of the Marine Corps
National Museum of the United States Army
Spotsylvania County Museum
Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House

Scouting for Food Breaks Record in Arlington

FROM PAGE 7

The father accompanying them said they were getting a lot more contributions than last year. "People are leaving 2-3 big bags at the door." One of the Scouts reported they had 100 homes on their list for donations,

Meng reports that this year broke all records in the 20 years they had been partnering with the Scouts. "I must thank all of those who put food out for the scouts to collect; every can and every box will soon be in the grocery bags of our families."

Dewey? And How!



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I know about 101 Dalmatians from the 1961 Disney animated film (I was a kid once), and of course "The Twelve Days of Christmas," versing hens, doves, swans et cetera (we sang it in Elementary school) and again, as a former kid, of course I remember the English nurse rhyme "Three Blind Mice," but until the last weekend in September, I didn't know about 278 golden retrievers on the beach, one of whom was mine: Burton. He was part of a group of canines - and masters, attending the fall gathering (there's also a similar event in May) of the semi-annual Golden Jubilee held in Dewey Beach, De. BYOGR: Bring your own golden retriever.

On Friday night, our first exposure to the madness came on an organized walk/heel; goldens on leashes, through some Rehoboth neighborhoods, ending up at the doggie ice cream shop on Main Street in Rehoboth. Though there was a meeting place of the attendees at Lake Gerar Park, where the canine version of testosterone was on full display: non-stop pulling on leashes, sniffing everything, licking everyone, paws shaking, tails wagging, drinking water, tongues flapping, a bit of growling, some dogs even in costume; on balance, however, the occasion was akin to a Woodstock for goldens: peace, love and harmony; we didn't really appreciate the crowd size, if you will, until the next morning.

At about 10:00 am-ish, Dina, Burton and I left our hotel room and began to walk south along Route 1 for a few blocks until we got to VanDyke St. where we turned left and headed up the one block to the beach. Pretty soon the road became sandy and within minutes we were walking through the dunes. After about 10 yards or so we made it onto the beach and saw chaos, with a capital "K." Golden retrievers of every stripe as far as the eye could see, off leash. They were in short: everywhere. Hundreds. Two-hundred, seventy-eight in fact. We had hesitated and worried about cutting Burton loose (off leash), but after taking in the sight of all his fellow goldens running around, untethered and completely free; some in the water, some digging in the sand, some chasing tennis balls, the collective excitement of all these goldens compelled us to let Burton join the fray. And fray, it was. Though afraid for Burton and his whereabouts, we were not. He regularly returned to check on us, so we never worried. This activity, and I mean activity (especially if you know goldens) went on for hours. If you think a dog doesn't smile, let me assure you they do. For Burton, and perhaps many others, this Saturday morning in Dewey Beach was the experience of a lifetime. And as a dog parent, we were thrilled to have provided Burton this opportunity for unfettered - and more importantly, unsupervised, fun.

It was about four hours later that a few raindrops began to fall, and the canine crowd thinned out preparing to return for the 7pm-bonfire on the beach at this same location. Soon, we gathered up our dog and returned to our hotel. After walking up three flights of stairs to get to our room, we all went inside. After a few moments getting ourselves organized, Burton turned left and walked into the bathroom where he laid down on the tile floor snug against the tub and the toilet, where he remained for hours. He wasn't interested in food or water, though of course, it was offered. He was in a word: exhausted. As the raindrops became rainfall, it was clear the bonfire was less likely to be of interest. Which, from what dog clues we could understand, was perfectly acceptable to Burton.

But what a day it was: here a golden, there a golden, everywhere a golden. Old McDonald's farm it wasn't. Rather it was Dewey Beach's Golden Jubilee. And a day I hope Burton will never forget. I know we won't.

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



Inova Schar Heart and Vascular



Comprehensive heart care in Ballston



Inova Cardiology's Ballston team offers quick access to appointments, comprehensive screenings, and personalized care for every patient—new and returning—right where you live or work. **Book your appointment today.**

571-229-7926

3833 N. Fairfax Dr #100 | Arlington, VA 22203

Inova.org/HeartAC

