

The Arlington Connection

Jim Sheats One Man Band entertains the crowd at Doorways fundraiser May 7.

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

100 Years
in Motion

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BBQ for
Doorways

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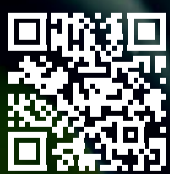
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**VINSON
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Doorways Celebrates 20 Years with Pig & Oyster Roast



Diana Ortiz, Executive Director, and President, Doorways.



Evelyn Esebana mans the Right Proper beer and wine table.



Kent Hamaker buys a fistful of raffle tickets and hopes for the best.

Fundraiser and outreach for nonprofit creating pathways out of homelessness, domestic violence and sexual assault.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Diana Ortiz, Executive Director and President of Doorways, stands by the entrance to the outdoor patio at Rocklands on May 7 greeting people as they arrive for the 20th annual Doorways Pig & Oyster Roast and fundraiser. The weather has turned from the cool morning's clouds to bright and sunny. Ortiz says, "We've always been lucky that way."

She remembers, "This started 20 years ago as a neighborhood get together and over

the years has grown into this pig & oyster event. There's always a good group of people who have never been here before, and that's how they learn what we do. I always love to see the new families who come. But we also have the people who come back to support us year after year."

The strains of Jim Sheats One Man Band playing the Eagles "I can't tell you why" welcome visitors who are headed to the huge pig on the grill and spread of oysters located in the back. Robin Baz is grilling 600 Mary-

SEE DOORWAYS CELEBRATES, PAGE 11



Jim Sheats One Man Band entertains the crowd at Doorways fundraiser May 7.

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A crowd fills the picnic tables with plates piled high at Rocklands for Doorways pig & oyster roast.

Project PEACE Remembers, Looks Forward



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Arlington PEACE Project celebrates their 20th anniversary.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

A ceremony on April 28 marked the 20th anniversary of Arlington County's Project PEACE which had been launched to address domestic and sexual violence. It grew from a project with narrow decisions made by the system to a coordinated response focusing on intimate partner violence.

LaToya Young, Project PEACE coordinator, says it was co-initiated by State Senator Barbara Favola in 2006.

"Today is a time for celebration and reflection to honor our leaders but also the survivors and partners. And to reflect on what comes next."

She explained, "At the time we were operating as a crisis response. In early 2006 a survivor would have had to go from organization to organization to figure out what to do, and there was no follow through. There was little coordination between agencies. Now it is more seamless."

She explained a survivor didn't know what programs were available to help them, and they were already in a crisis. "We wanted not just to respond but to prevent and address."

"We developed a brochure to respond to

the needs of the survivor where we outlined what programs are available —housing, shelter, legal services.

"Now we have developed a system of warm hand off. So, for instance, if a survivor is eligible to enter Doorways, we will connect them. Doorways is a community-based nonprofit providing services, shelter and supportive housing for survivors of violence and sexual assault and their families.

"We will connect them; we will also link the survivor to the police department or legal services. And we will follow up. We don't just support them on paper or phone. We actively connect with the person and stay with them. It helps reduce their stress, too.

"But over time we have learned that survivors have complex needs, and the system needs more equity and access. There are huge barriers for people of color and the immigration culture. Culture plays a major role. Do they feel safe asking for help?"

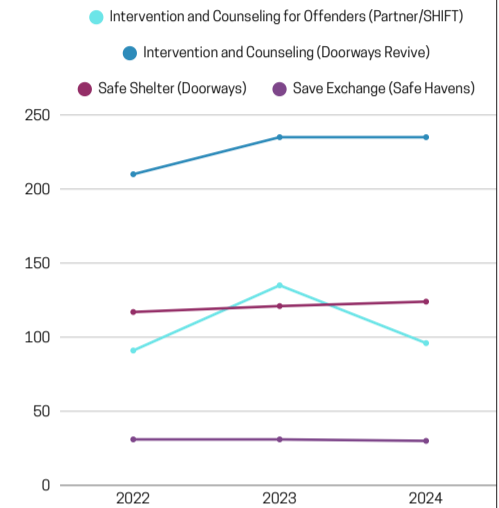
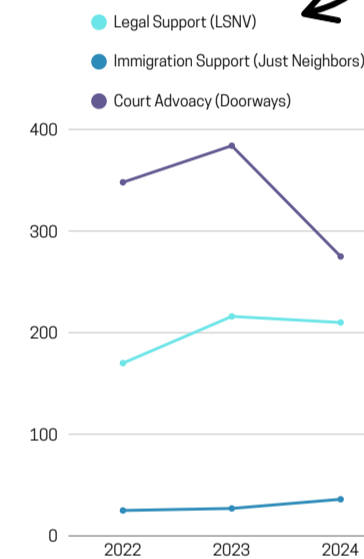
She continues, "We also need to be sure we address system fatigue with too many entry points into the system. And we need to reduce the barriers to access—how many times they have to ask for help and make sure no one falls through the cracks."

In 2024, representatives from each partner agency met monthly in goal groups to

SUPPORTS TOWARDS ONGOING SAFETY- DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Supports towards ongoing safety are services offered to those experiencing and impacted by intimate partner, domestic and sexual violence that increase safety and encourage healing. Follow the links for more information about each service.

- **Legal Support- Legal Services of Northern Virginia:** the total number of Arlington residents provided domestic or sexual violence legal services.
- **Immigration Support- Just Neighbors:** the total number of Arlington residents provided UVisa/TVisa Support.
- **Court Advocacy-Doorways:** total number of clients supported seeking protective orders in Arlington.



- **Intervention and Counseling for Survivors-Doorways:** Number of Arlington Adults and Children Served at Doorways' Counseling Program Revive.
- **Intervention and Counseling for Offenders- DHS Partner/SHIFT:** Number of Arlington residents who received court ordered domestic violence intervention services.
- **Safe Shelter- Doorways:** Number of Arlington adults and children receiving safe shelter.
- **Court Advocacy-Doorways:** total number of clients supported seeking protective orders in Arlington.



Annual report outlines services offered by community partners in collaborative effort.

address immediate community needs while also identifying and reducing barriers to survivor-centered, trauma-informed support.

"Today we are here to honor the victims we've lost, to make sure the survivors' experiences can be shared and have a moment to honor them. It is a reflection that we still need to grow and to listen more deeply and a moment of renewed commitment."

Attendees included representatives from the Arlington County Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Magistrate's Office, and longtime community partners. The ceremony featured remarks by PEACE co-founder State Senator Barbara Favola. Arlington County Board Member Maureen Coffey, DHS Leadership and Project PEACE Coordinator LaToya Young.

Gov. Spanberger Vetos Collective Bargaining Bill

Unions say the veto violated campaign promises

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A legislative push for labor rights in Virginia ended Thursday, May 14, when Gov. Abigail Spanberger

(D) vetoed collective bargaining bill HB 1263, which aimed "to establish a system for public sector collective bargaining." Unions said the veto violated campaign promises.

HB 1263, sponsored by Del. Kathy Tran (D-Fairfax) with an identical bill, SB 378, by Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell (D-Fairfax), would have extended bargaining rights to over 500,000 Virginia public employees — including firefighters, teachers and state and local workers — seeking wages, benefits, and working conditions by

overturning bans on collective bargaining.

In April, Spanberger proposed a Governor's Substitute to delay collective bargaining for local employees without an agreement until 2030. The General Assembly rejected the delay on April 22, returning the version unaltered.

In her veto statement, Spanberger said: "While preserving the enrolled bill's focus on allowing public employees to achieve collective bargaining, my amendments would have also provided flexibility for pub-

lic employers. ... However, the General Assembly rejected these amendments."

Labor leaders pointed to her April 8, 2025, messaging that she would "look forward to working with members of our General Assembly to make sure more Virginians can negotiate for the benefits and fair treatment that they earn."

Union heads said that the promise was broken. "Collective bargaining is not

SEE UNIONS SAY, PAGE 10

Sun Season Is Here and So Is Melanoma

Melanoma Monday was May 4 followed by National Safe Sun Week starting Monday, May 18.

BY MIKE SALMON
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Each spring when May rolls around, everyone is ready to stretch out on the lounge chair by the pool but that has its drawbacks in the form of sun cancer, so early in the month is “Melanoma Monday” to raise awareness.

Melanoma is the most invasive skin cancer and can be fatal. It can start as an innocent looking mole or just normal skin with little signs that can become life threatening in just six weeks.

To kick off the sunny season, MedStar Health is actively spreading the word about Melanoma Monday, and recommends seeing a dermatologist every year for a skin check.

Sunscreen, hats and shirts are the best protection they said.

The whole month of May has been dubbed “skin cancer awareness month,” and

the American Academy of Dermatology Association notes that every day, about 9,500 people in the United States are diagnosed with skin cancer. But there are precautions to take, and that includes protecting skin from the sun and avoiding tanning beds. When using sun screen lotion, go for 30 SPF or higher, they said.

Melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer but if caught early, melanoma is highly treatable, AAD said.

They point out the ABCDE’s of skin cancer which hones down the self-examinations to pinpoint causes and places that skin cancer might be. “Early detection is the key,” said Darrell Rigel, MD. The doctor who invented the ABCDE’s of melanoma:

A for “asymmetry,” meaning one half of the spot is unlike the other half.

B is for “border,” where the spot has an irregular border.

C is for “color,” the spot has varying colors.

D is for “diameter” of the spot which is usually greater than six mm, or the size of a pencil eraser.

E is for “evolving,” and this is when the spot changes in size, shape or color.

Treating Melanoma starts with a self-exam, and this includes a full-length mirror and hand mirror to check all the spots. Following it up with a dermatologist visit is always a good idea.

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Nevra Ledwon's honey bee hives.



Kathleen helps scrape the protective wax off the honey bee frames.



Nevra Ledwon inserts the frames into the honey extractor that will spin the honey off the frames.

Neighborhood Bees Produce First Honey of the Season

McLean beehives produce gold.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Nevra Ledwon is harvesting the first honey of the season from the bee hives in her backyard in McLean. She has invited friends and neighbors who are interested in the process. They can just watch or they can get messy and help if they want to give it a try.

Ledwon has brought in 12 honeycomb frames which sit in a box

on her kitchen floor. "I made the bees pretty angry out there just now in the backyard by taking away their honeycombs and then aggressively shaking them off."

She picks up a honeycomb frame with nearly all the tiny holes filled with honey. "When the bees get the moisture level to 17 percent, I don't know how they know, they begin to cover the honey with a wax secretion. Our job today is to scrape off the wax so we can harvest the honey."

Kathleen and Denis have come ready to work. "It would take me all afternoon to do it by myself," Ledwon says although she says her son Hendrix often helps. Kathleen picks up a Nevra Ledwon's yellow scraper and begins to work down the frame. It is a little slow going at

first but then she gets the hang of it. The wax, which is still encrusted with some remnants of Nevra Ledwon's honey, falls into a large bowl. Ledwon tells her helpers, "If you like, you can chew a bit of it, enjoy the honey and spit out the wax or swallow it."

Once the honeycombs are free of the wax, they are placed in a large extractor, three at a time, where the honeycombs spin around for several minutes. The honey flies off and drips into the vat. Ledwon slowly turns the spigot at the bottom of the extractor, and the honey slowly oozes into a large bucket through a filter which removes impurities.

Ledwon explains the honey from each batch is different because the bees have made it from the flow-

ers that are blooming at the time. "Some people love the late spring honey the best. It is mostly from the neighboring Black Locust trees that produce a super light taste."

Ledwon says this all started during Covid. "I was driving down the street one day, and I saw bee hives in a neighbor's yard. I stopped and asked a lot of questions, and now here I am."

But she says when she jumped into it she had no idea how complicated or time consuming this would be "or how expensive."

Ledwon has two hives in her backyard and usually extracts two batches of honey a year. She harvests until sometime in July because that's when the bees get treated with the lifesaving Formic-Pro against an endemic mite, and

she doesn't want to eat honey containing it. Also Ledwon wants to make sure the bees have enough honey stored to feed themselves through the winter.

"They get anxious in the fall about whether they have enough food stores for themselves, and this is the time beekeepers complain about the bees' bad attitude."

Ledwon sells her plastic jars of honey to friends and neighbors to help finance the beekeeping. "It turns out to be really expensive but so gratifying to produce an organic food." She has hired Armando who manages the hives for her but she says there is still plenty of work keeping the bees healthy and happy. There's always something buzzing.



Nevra and two helpers, Michael and Kathleen, hold down the juggling extractor.



Honey drips from the extractor through a filter into a bucket.



Nevra Ledwon bottles her honey fresh from the hives.

Original Rockers in a Town Full of Tribute Bands

In fact, it's a real "drag" says one of Bitter Luck's songs.

BY MIKE SALMON
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

While the life on the rock and roll world was moving along for Mojo Aces singer Ean Eschenburg and the drummer Eric Levy, they wanted more like other rockers along the path to stardom, so they formed a new band called Bitter Luck, and turned up the volume. It took a little bit of luck as they released their new single "Drag" that rants and raves about the drags in the rock world, particularly the drag it is to play the same cover tunes over and over like many local bands do.

With all the tribute bands and others that play covers of the big-name rock groups, making it with a sound that's unique to one band is part of Bitter Luck's goal as a rock band with roots in Arlington, Burke and surrounding communities.

In mid-May, they released their first song called "Drag," because things out in the real world were getting to be a drag. Meeting new love interests, expectations that don't come through and just general apathy can all be a real drag, according to singer and

lyricist Ean Eschenburg. Even the name Bitter Luck may have some of these connotations.

"Show Your Hand," is another hit they wrote, and this one has poker connotations. "Tell me, what's it gonna be?" Eschenburg sings.

Eschenburg and drummer Eric Levy were in Mojo Aces that was called the Summer of George, before that, and they hooked up with guitarist Andrei Wells and Bass player Will Gies to form Bitter Luck. Wells was ready to hit it big out in California but the wildfires out west delayed his trip, and the rest of the band talked him into staying. During the week, Eschenburg has a job as the Community Television Coordinator at Greenspring Village in Springfield, and the others have daytime jobs too.

Being a tribute band or strictly playing cover tunes makes sense for this area since people know those songs, said Eschenburg "but definitely makes it tougher for acts like us and many others to have venues take a chance on original rock n' roll music." At the same time, the guitarist has the Jimmy Page look going on with red scarf and white, snakeskin boots and long, black hair and folks on social media pointed out the look they'd all seen before.

Next Show:

Friday, May 22, 7 p.m, Bitter Luck is playing at Songbyrd Music House, 540 Penn St NE, Washington, DC 20002, with Chay, ViciousVelvet, and Divide.

<https://bitterluck.com/>



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Singer Ean Eschenburg with guitarist Andrei Wells, Bass player Will Gies and drummer Eric Levy.



Bitter Luck's original songs are a big part of the show.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Have some extra time to drive a neighbor to a doctor's appointment? You pick the days, times, and places that are convenient for you. There is NO MINIMUM driving requirement. Not only do you help older adults in need, you also get to meet wonderful folks, often with very interesting backgrounds and stories to tell. The Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church (SCMAFC), is an all-volunteer, non-sectarian, non-profit organization. Its mission is providing free transportation to seniors for medical and dental appointments or run errands to grocery stores and pharmacies. To sign up, visit the website at <https://scmafc.org/volunteer>, or email contact@scmafc.org with questions.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal is to

keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4tPw2.

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

ONGOING

Create a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners in restoring their home's natural habitat by providing information on sustainable gardening practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit audubon-at-home-1/ for more. Naloxone (Narcan) can save the life of someone who is overdosing, if given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 13



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
CUMBERLAND	5734	613	SPORTS LAKE ROAD	RANDOLPH CREEK	4/30/2026
CHARLOTTE	4963	693	TERRELL ROAD	BRANCH OF TURNIP CREEK	4/28/2026
PRINCE EDWARD	13995	666N	DOUGLAS CHURCH ROAD	BUFFALO CREEK	4/28/2026
WYTHE	19731	663N	BISHOP THOMAS LANE	PINE RUN	4/23/2026
APPOMATTOX	1582	602	MT. PLEASANT ROAD	CABIN BRANCH	4/15/2026
AMHERST	1441	622E	STAPLETON ROAD	CHRISTIAN MILL CREEK	4/11/2026
CARROLL	4609	100	SYLVATUS HGWY/101	ROCK CREEK	4/3/2026

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 Travel and traffic/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.

ENTERTAINMENT

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 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.

FRESHFARM OPEN YEAR-ROUND

FRESHFARM Ballston Market will now operate year-round, providing residents and visitors with continued access to locally grown produce and goods even through the winter months. Located at Welburn Square (901 N Taylor St., Arlington) just steps from the Ballston Metro, the market operates Thurs-



The Columbia Pike Blues Festival will be held Saturday, June 13, 2026 in Arlington.

days from 3-6 p.m. The market features a lineup of 20 regular and rotating farmers and producers, and shoppers can enjoy nearly everything needed for a complete grocery shop, from hearty winter squash and leafy greens to eggs, meats, pantry staples, and prepared foods, while supporting regional farmers and producers year-round. Visit freshfarm.org/markets/ballston.

MAY 9-23

"Ghost Limb." At Gunston Arts Center, Theatre Two, Long Branch Creek, Arlington. Ghost Limb is a timely and haunting examination of authoritarianism set during Argentina's Dirty War that draws poetic inspiration from the Persephone and Demeter myth. When Consuelo's son is "disappeared" by the military, she discovers a psychic link between her injured arm and her tortured child - and races to find him before it's too late.

MAY 9-24

"The Secret Garden." At Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, Arlington Heights, Arlington. The Arlington Players presents a musical version of a timeless classic. A young girl unlocks a hidden world and brings new life to those around her in this timeless tale of healing and hope. With its rich score and emotional depth, it's a moving tribute to our capacity to find growth.

SATURDAY/MAY 23

Water Safety Day! At Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, Arlington. Water Safety Day, a free event focused on helping all ages stay safe and confident in and around the water. Enjoy age-specific sessions that teach key swimming and water-safety skills, including Aqua Tots Together, Aqua Preschoolers Together, Hydro Heroes for kids, and Aqua Awareness for teens and adults. To maximize participation, each person may register for one session only.

SATURDAY/MAY 23

Argentine Festival USA. 3:30-10:30 p.m. At Kenmore Auditorium, 200 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. This long-running festival (founded in 1987) is heading toward its 40th anniversary and continues to grow as

a grassroots cultural event in the region. Why it stands out: 39+ performers from Argentina and the U.S. Live folklore, tango, and rock/pop in one program. Authentic Argentine food (asado, empanadas, sweets). Indoor venue (rain or shine). Free family soccer kickoff earlier in the day ("Día del Patadura"). Curated exhibitor marketplace and community gathering.

FRIDAY/MAY 29

Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration. 4:30-6:30 p.m. At First Baptist Church of Clarendon, 1306 N. Highland Street, Arlington. First Baptist Church of Clarendon Child Development Center invites neighbors to an Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration. Featuring cuisine samples from local businesses, cultural performances, children's crafts, and a chance to win a gift card to Nam-Viet Restaurant. RSVP is appreciated by calling the Center Cell at (703) 217-2543.

SATURDAY/MAY 30

Floral Arranging Workshop. 1 to 3 p.m. At Astro Beer Hall, in Village at Shirlington, 4001 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Astro Beer Hall is teaming up with Casa Rosario Studio for a special floral arranging workshop. On May 30th, the founder of the locally and woman-owned floral studio will host a hands-on floral workshop at the cosmic-themed beer hall located in the Village at Shirlington. Throughout the workshop, guests are invited to order brunch bites and libations from the restaurant's menu. Participants will create their own arrangement using premium stems with materials and hands-on guidance provided for \$70 (plus tax) per person. Brunch highlights such as the Breakfast Burrito and the decadent Chicken and Waffles will be available for purchase throughout the event.

SATURDAY/JUNE 6

National Chamber Ensemble Concert. 7:30 p.m. At Gunston Arts Center, Theater 1, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington. The Na-

tional Chamber Ensemble closes the season with "Mozart and Bruch: The Great Concertos." Blending grandeur with intimacy, this season finale presents two iconic concertos in a rare chamber setting that reveals their emotional depth and structural brilliance with striking clarity. Internationally acclaimed pianist Carlos César Rodríguez joins NCE for a luminous performance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's beloved Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, "Elvira Madigan," celebrated for its elegance, lyricism, and timeless appeal. Artistic Director and violinist Leo Sushansky takes center stage in Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, a cornerstone of the violin repertoire, offering a deeply personal and passionate interpretation of its sweeping romantic lines.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

State of the County & Public Safety Awards. 7:30 to 10 a.m. At Army Navy Country Club, Arlington. Join the Arlington Chamber of Commerce for the annual State of the County & Public Safety Awards. This community-focused event celebrates Arlington's achievements, our community's future, and those who make Arlington a great place to live and work. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the County's economic and developmental status from the Arlington County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti. This event also pays tribute to our public safety personnel and first responders from Arlington County's Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Safety Communications & Emergency Management, and Office of the Sheriff, who have exemplified extraordinary heroic actions and exceptional performance of their duties.

SATURDAY/JUNE 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 amazing experience features comedy from the DC area's finest comics. Our headliner for June's show is the hilarious Randy Syphax! Visit capitalcityshowcase.com



A monarch butterfly on a swamp milkweed plant.



A monarch butterfly caterpillar.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Keeping Nature's Puzzle Pieces Together



Pinesap



Indian Pipes



American Cancer-root (Squawroot)



Beechdrops



Autumn Coralroot

Mycro-heterotrophs Mycorrhizal Cheaters

PHOTOS BY ALONSO ABUGATTAS

These plants do not produce chlorophyll but rather survive by stealing food from the specific mycorrhizal fungi and the specific host plant it needs.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

Nature is like a puzzle, with all the pieces interconnected, Alfonso Abugattas told an 80-member audience on May 13 in a Zoom program sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh. "We are part of the puzzle too and what we do has consequences," he said. Abugattas is the Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County Parks and founder of the Capital Naturalist blog.

He quoted environmental advocate John Muir who said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

Nature's Interdependence

Abugattas began by describing how cer-
www.connectionnewspapers.com

tain plants require fungi to survive. Yellow lady slippers, a type of orchid, have a relationship with mycorrhizal fungi. The root tissues of the fungi and plant have a symbiotic association and grow together. "They rely on each other," he said.

Host plants are also examples of co-dependence in nature. A host plant is a specific plant that an insect or its larvae eat, live on or lay eggs on, a plant with which the insect evolved. Monarch butterflies are one of the most familiar examples, Abugattas said. The monarch's caterpillars feed on milkweed as do the caterpillars of 12 other insects, like the milkweed tussock moth.

Mistletoe is a hemiparasite, he said. It does not depend totally on a host plant but needs some interaction with its host plant.

SEE KEEPING NATURE'S, PAGE 10



Lichen is an organism made up of two other species, algae and fungi.



A Yellow lady slipper orchid requires certain mycorrhizal fungi to be present or they cannot survive.

Spanberger Signs 25-Bill Package

Fairfax lawmakers drive key reforms on data center costs, gun safety, and healthcare caps.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Gov. Abigail Spanberger signed 25 bills into law on May 13. While the broader package includes legislation from across the commonwealth, members of the Fairfax County legislative delegation heavily influenced the outcome. Local representatives spearheaded six landmark bills in the package, advancing measures to adjust regional public safety policies, utility infrastructure costs, health insurance coverage standards and more.

Three 'Kitchen-Table' Bills

These laws alter regulations governing household expenses, healthcare cost structures and insurance standards for families across Northern Virginia.

The \$35 Insulin Cap (HB 1214), patroned by Del. Karrie Delaney, D-Chantilly, concerns health insurance cost-sharing payments for insulin and diabetes equipment and supplies. "As the mother of a T1D child, I am all too familiar with just how costly equipment like CGMs or insulin pumps can be. I'm proud of this legislation, passed unanimously, that will bring real change to Virginians' lives," Delaney said.

"We are taking action to bring down healthcare costs," Spanberger said.

❖ Data Center Cost Protection (HB 1191), patroned by Del. Irene Shin, D-Herndon, requires high-energy-use facilities to undergo local reviews to protect residential utility



PHOTO SCREENSHOT VIA FACEBOOK

Del. Karrie Delaney, third from left, applauds as Gov. Abigail Spanberger signs HB 1214 to lower healthcare costs by capping the price of insulin, supplies and equipment used to manage diabetes at \$35 a month, May 13, 2026. Delaney is the chief patron.

customers from infrastructure cost shifts.

❖ Essential Health Benefits Expansion (HB 328), patroned by Del. Rip Sullivan, D-McLean, directs the state's Bureau of Insurance to select a new benchmark plan, expanding required baseline coverage to include treatments such as hearing aids, infertility treatments and doula care. "HB 328 will ensure those who need health coverage for things

like fertility treatment, doula care, hearing aids, donor breast milk, and more will have it," Sullivan said. "It's a major step in ensuring health care in the Commonwealth covers what Virginians need affordably."

Three 'Public Safety and Justice' Bills

These state statutes outline adjustments

to Virginia's criminal code and firearm regulations led by Fairfax County representatives.

❖ The Assault Weapons and Magazine Ban (HB 217 and SB 749), patroned by Del. Dan Helmer, D-Clifton and Sen. Saddam Azlan Salim, D-Vienna, prohibits the future sale, manufacture, importation or transfer of defined semi-automatic assault firearms and restricts ammunition magazines holding more than 15 rounds. Salim said, "When I ran for State Senate against an incumbent who voted against prior versions of an assault weapons ban, the people who believed in this vision stood with me to make the impossible possible."

❖ Weapons Ban in Healthcare Facilities (HB 229), co-sponsored by Del. Laura Jane Cohen, D-Springfield, and Del. Holly Seibold, D-Vienna, restricts firearms in hospitals and psychiatric facilities to reduce workplace security incidents.

❖ Marijuana Conviction Resentencing (HB 26 and SB 62), co-sponsored by Shin and Salim, establishes a court hearing process to review sentences for marijuana offenses legalized or decriminalized under the 2021 updates.

Gov. Spanberger said, "For decades, marijuana enforcement disproportionately impacted minority communities and communities of color, contributing to inequities in the criminal justice system that Virginia must no longer ignore."

The full list of signed bills is available here: <https://lis.virginia.gov/>

Keeping Nature's Puzzle Pieces Together

FROM PAGE 9

"Mistletoe anchors on a tree, takes what it needs from the tree and is still green so it can photosynthesize," he said.

Carolina chickadee nestlings are very dependent on caterpillars for food. "They have to have protein. They cannot survive on bird feeders," he said. He cited the work of entomologists Dr. Doug Tallamy and Desiree Narango which confirmed that a clutch of chickadee young eats about 350 to 570 cat-

terpillars per day, depending on the number of chicks. If 70 percent of native biomass is non-native, they won't survive, they'll lay fewer eggs, fewer young will fledge and they will weigh less, he said.

In the mid-Atlantic, 18 species of bats eat insects as their main food source. "Their favorite is moths, so they too need caterpillars," he said.

Abugattas sang the praises of "the mighty oak." He explained, "If it went extinct, over 600 species would disappear because they rely

solely on oak trees," including over 40 mammals, 60 birds and 557 caterpillars.

Continuing the theme of interconnectedness, he said that 75 percent of flowering plants rely on animal pollinators to move pollen, including 70 percent of agricultural crops. "Bees are built for being pollinators," he said, and they need their host plants.

Asters host 112 Lepidoptera species, butterflies and moths, like the pearl checkerspot, and eight bee

species. Goldenrods host 115 Lepidoptera species.

People may think negatively of galls, but they are "edible homes," he said. Galls, like the "witch hat" galls created by aphids on witch hazel leaves, host critters like mites.

How to Garden Better

Typical Northern Virginia gardens are dominated by non-native plants like bamboo, forsythia, nandina and zelkova trees which few caterpillars feed on. "Gingkos sup-

port zip," he said. "Nothing."

Native plants are key, he emphasized, and people do not need a large space to support natives, like goldenrods.

Returning to nature's puzzle, he said, "We don't want to lose the pieces," reminding attendees of conservationist Aldo Leopold's admonition, "To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering. ... We are part of the puzzle too. What we do has consequences," Abugattas challenged.

Unions Say the Veto Violated Campaign Promises

FROM PAGE 4

a privilege – it is a right," leaders from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) said in a statement. "Governor Spanberger met with our members, stated her support, and made a promise. Today, she broke it."

IAFF General President Edward Kelly stated: "This veto is a step

against every worker who put their faith in Abigail Spanberger to deliver," Kelly said. "Firefighters keep their word every day on the job. The Governor did not do the same." (Read the statement via the IAFF News Portal).

Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien added: "Gov. Spanberger's actions in Virginia

are a reminder that unions must demand more of elected officials," O'Brien said. (Read the press release at the Teamsters Official Website.)

At a May 6 Fairfax rally, LaNoral Thomas, president of SEIU Virginia 512, said: "Making Virginia affordable means making sure the public servants who keep this state run-

ning can [afford to] live here."

Fairfax County Supervisor Dalia Palchick (D-Providence) said: "We know that when unions are active, our economy is stable." She said that without labor protections, workers are vulnerable.

Thomas noted the bans were rooted in the 1970s: "When collective bargaining was banned in

Virginia over 45 years ago, it was banned because a group of Black women at UVA stated that they wanted the right to collectively bargain," Thomas said.

With the veto, the 2021 law remains the status quo, leaving collective bargaining optional for individual municipalities to adopt via local ordinance.

Doorways Celebrates 20 Years with Pig & Oyster Roast

FROM PAGE 3

land oysters that are disappearing fast. “Five minutes each dipped in melted butter with tarragon, red onions and vinaigrette.”

Raffle tickets are going for \$5 each with a beach package and a BBQ set as some of the most popular items. Kent Hamaker stands with tickets in his hand contemplating the prizes. “You can’t go wrong with a BBQ set although I never win a raffle. Some people are just lucky but I’m not one of those.”

Right Proper, a local D.C. brewery is offering an IPA, a lager and a variety of wines. Evlyn Esebana says the rose has been the most popular choice this afternoon.

A line of hungry folks with their purple wrist bands waits along the wall to fill their plates with Rocklands mac & cheese, baked beans, coleslaw and salad and then head to pick up their pig and oyster entrée and head to a picnic table.

Doorways is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating pathways out of homelessness, domestic violence and sexual as-



small visitor fills his plate with barbecue sliced right off the hog on the grill.

sault. They operate Arlington’s only emergency shelter for survivors and their families. In addition, Doorways provides in-person support and counseling, court advocacy and safety planning. Doorways operates a 24-hour-domestic abuse and survivor hotline. For more information: doorwaysva.org

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE THE CONNECTION

The menu features grilled Maryland oysters dipped in butter, vinaigrette, tarragon and purple onion.



Campaigns Suspended After U.S. Supreme Court Order

Local former 7th district contenders re-evaluate next steps.

BY MERCIA HOBSON THE CONNECTION

Following the 18-word U.S. Supreme Court’s May 15 order denying an emergency request to stay in *Scott v. McDougle*, Virginia’s congressional boundaries reverted to 2021 Virginia court-ordered maps.

The U.S. Supreme Court gave no explanation, nor did justices dissent, and the docket did not disclose the vote. The order left in place a Virginia state supreme court ruling that reversed a lower circuit court decision and invalidated a temporary congressional redistricting map approved by 51.69% of voters in the April 21 special election, upending as many as 12 campaigns in the invalidated “new” 7th Congressional District.

There was outrage at both supreme courts invalidating an election.

Gov. Abigail Spanberger posted, “What do we do with our outrage? We WIN in November. Volunteer, donate, vote, WIN.”

Virginia Senate Republican Leader Ryan McDougle said, “The Supreme Court of the United States has affirmed what we always knew: you cannot violate the

Constitution to change the Constitution.”

Whether it’s a stunning betrayal or procedural sanctity depends entirely on which side of the 2021 map one is standing on.

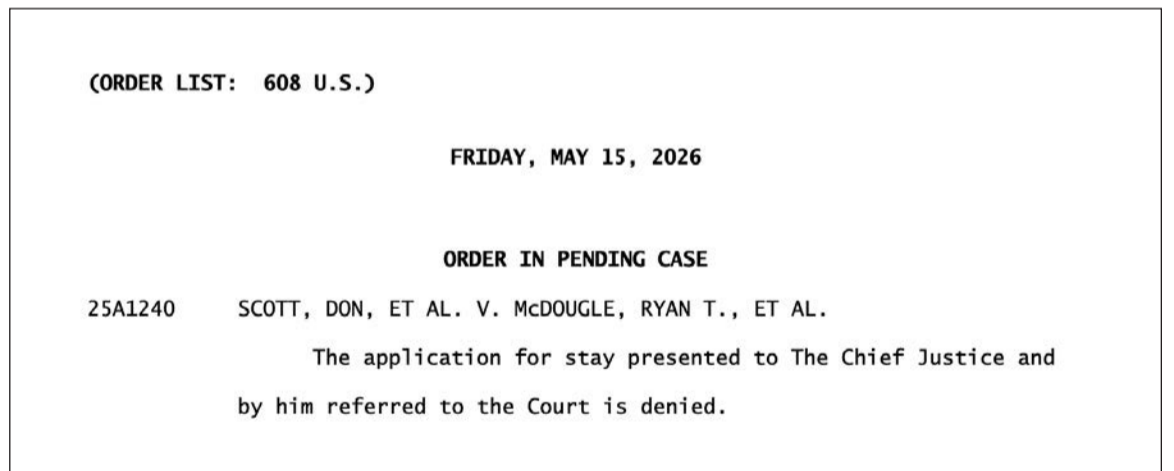
If Virginia wants to change its maps or its court, it will have to win the 2027 state elections and restart the amendment clock.

But it will be too late to counter out-of-turn redistricting in GOP states trying to stem possible GOP losses in November’s election for U.S. House.

Northern Virginia candidates quickly shifted focus to their home districts. U.S. Rep. Suhas Subramanyam, continuing his reelection campaign in western Fairfax County, stated the court “decided to let the partisan Virginia Supreme Court overturn the will of millions of Virginia voters.”

Del. Dan Helmer returned to his 2027 state delegate campaign in Centreville, noting that while the decision ended his congressional bid, “one court ruling won’t change that.”

State Sen. Saddam Azlan Salim remains in office through 2027, representing Fairfax and Falls Church, posting, “The movement



SCREENSHOT SUPREMECOURT.GOV

The U.S. Supreme Court order issued Friday, May 15, denies an emergency request by Virginia Democrats to use a new, Democratic-leaning congressional map for the 2026 elections. The 18-word order denies an emergency application for a stay in the case *Scott, Don, et al. v. McDougle, Ryan T., et al.* (Docket 25A1240). The application, filed by House Speaker Don Scott, Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell, Senate President Pro Tempore Louise Lucas, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, requested the high court to pause lower court proceedings.

we built does not end here.”

Other regional Democratic contenders suspended their campaigns with online statements. Former Virginia first lady Dorothy McAuliffe stated she would “keep working for my neighbors.”

Del. Adele McClure called the moment “beyond disappointing. ... it is dangerous,” urging supporters

to protect democracy.

Former federal prosecutor J.P. Cooney noted, “While my congressional campaign is ending, our movement to take on corruption and lawlessness is just beginning.” Alexandria national security expert Olivia Troye affirmed her commitment to “standing up to Trump’s and MAGA extremism.”

Conversely, the map reversal altered the race for four Republican contenders running outside Northern Virginia: State Sen. Tara Durant, John Gray, Douglas Ollivant, and Waverly Washington, all also ended their campaigns.

Fairfax County GOP posted, “Democrats tried to change the rules illegally. Spent millions.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARVIN HURLEY

Surrounded by family, Marvin and Maria Hurley built a legacy that extends through children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren.



Newly married in Rome on March 2, 1957, following their wedding at the Basilica of Saint John at the Latin Gate.

A Century in Motion

At 100, Marvin Hurley still listens for the beat of the world — late into the night.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Long after midnight, when the building around him has settled into silence, Marvin Hurley is still awake. He leans back in his chair, the glow from his iPad lights his face as sports scores refresh, old films flicker, and music drifts softly through the room. He taps his foot almost imperceptibly — responding to the rhythm, an old habit, a quiet pulse that has carried him through a century.

It would have surprised the boy he once was in Indianapolis, where eyesight problems made ordinary childhood play difficult and set him slightly apart from other children his age.

No one could have predicted that he would one day cross oceans, learn multiple languages, work for the U.S. government abroad, or live long enough to welcome a great-grandchild into the world.

And yet here he is.

At 100, he does not describe slowing down. He describes continuing, just in a quieter room.

He lives alone in a condominium that has been in his family for decades. There is no staff, no structured programming, only neighbors who help when needed and a routine he has shaped himself.

Most days unfold slowly, filled with small rituals and the familiar comfort of his favorite chair, iPad still in hand.

"I watch sports. I follow the

news. I listen to music. That keeps me going."

Music has threaded through every stage of his life. It began in Indianapolis in the late 1930s, when he heard big bands perform live. One concert with his mother changed everything: Benny Goodman, Gene Krupa, and the sound of drums.

"That was it for me."

From then on, music became both compass and destination.

In the restless years of the WWII era, he and four of his college bud-

dies piled into a mechanically risky Model A Ford at the start of a summer break one year. They rolled out of Indiana heading to California, traveling along Route 66.

But miles into their trip, their car sputtered out, throwing their plans off course.

Two of the boys hitchhiked onward, while Hurley and two others pieced together the rest of the journey by whatever means they could find, most memorably, hop-

SEE A CENTURY. PAGE 13



During later years, Marvin Hurley and his wife, Maria, continued the shared love of travel that shaped much of their life together, exploring historic sites in Turkey.



At 100, Marvin Hurley remains independent, reflective, and grateful, still guided by faith, music, family and the rhythm that has carried him through a century.



Marvin Hurley's children. From left: Michelle Davis, Robert Hurley, Paul Hurley and Maureen Simpson.

Arlington Honors Noreen Hannigan with Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award

On Tuesday, May 19, Arlington County Government recognized Noreen Hannigan as the recipient of the 2025 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award. Hannigan was honored for her outstanding commitment to environmental stewardship, volunteer leadership, and community education across Arlington's natural resources programs.

"Noreen exemplifies the spirit of this award through her deep dedication to both protecting our natural spaces and inspiring others to do the same," said Matt de Ferranti, Chair of the Arlington County Board. "Her work strengthens not only our parks and tree canopy, but also the community of volunteers who support them."

Hannigan first became involved in local environmental programs after completing the Arlington Re-

gional Master Naturalist (ARMN) training in 2015 and Tree Steward Training in 2020. Since then, she has contributed approximately 2,800 volunteer hours and completed nearly 600 additional volunteer hours for the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria. Hannigan has played an active role in a wide range of initiatives that support the County's ecological health and community engagement.

Over the years, Hannigan has contributed extensively through her leadership and hands-on volunteer work. She served on the Master Naturalist Training Committee for more than four years, helping shape educational programming hosted at Arlington's nature centers as well as 3 years on the Tree Stewards Training Committee. Currently, she serves as an ARMN Park Steward, where she co-leads a project to plant and tend to 100

trees and shrubs, restoring and improving habitat along a stretch of Four Mile Run. As a Tree Steward, she regularly participates in native tree plantings, invasive plant control and training efforts that expand the County's urban canopy.

A defining aspect of Hannigan's volunteer work is her passion for education. She finds meaning in training opportunities, where she enjoys helping others develop a deeper appreciation for nature and the ecosystem. Her enthusiasm for lifelong learning and knowledge-sharing has made her a valued mentor and resource within the volunteer community.

Hannigan cites the camaraderie of fellow volunteers and the support of County staff as key sources of inspiration. "Knowing how much others care about our natural resources keeps me going," she said. She also expressed deep

appreciation for the recognition, calling the award "an unexpected honor" that she hopes to live up to through continued service.

Looking ahead, Hannigan plans to remain actively involved in volunteer efforts, with a focus on increasing native plantings, invasive plant removal and restoring tree canopy in her neighborhood park. She is particularly passionate about raising awareness around tree canopy loss and helping build a more resilient, shaded environment for future generations. She also intends to continue supporting fellow Master Naturalists and Tree Stewards in their ongoing projects.

Hannigan encourages Arlington residents to explore volunteer opportunities, <https://volunteearlington.org/> noting the personal and community benefits they offer. "There is so much to learn by working in the community," she said. "It

gets us outdoors and provides lifelong learning, not only about the natural world, but also about the important work happening behind the scenes to protect it."

Her dedication, leadership, and impact across Arlington's parks and natural resources programs make her a deserving recipient of the 2025 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award.

About the Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award

The Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteer Award was established to pay tribute to lifelong parks volunteer Bill Thomas and encourage residents who demonstrate a passionate dedication and support for Arlington's natural resources, dynamic programs, and public open spaces. Visit the Arlington County website for more information about the award and past winners.

A Century in Motion

FROM PAGE 12

ping a steam locomotive that was heading west. The destination was Los Angeles, but for Hurley, the deeper pursuit was always music.

The boys spent nights sleeping wherever shelter could be found. Hurley worked at Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica to support himself during this trip.

"I would get off work and go listen to the big bands ... I was just into the music."

Hurley describes it as one of the greatest adventures of his life.

At the end of that magical summer, he returned to the midwest to complete his education including bachelor's degree from Butler University and master's from Indiana University.

He served in the U.S. Army before beginning a career that took him first into high-school Spanish classrooms, and later into international education, overseeing foreign student admissions at Indiana

University.

His path widened again when he went to Madrid, where he enrolled in a Spanish-for-foreign-students program at the University of Madrid. There he met Maria Sandiford, a young woman from Rome who was also in the program. They fell in love, and before long he left the coursework to take a job. He needed to earn money, he says simply, because he wanted to marry her.

They were wed in Rome on March 2, 1957, at the Basilica of Saint John at the Latin Gate, beginning a partnership that spanned more than six decades.

Through the Agency for International Development (USAID), he later served tours in Peru and Egypt, along with time in Syria, building a life defined not only

by music and movement, but by language, service, and a widening view of the world.

Maria, the more gregarious of the two, died in September 2020

"I've always believed I'm one of the luckiest guys on the face of the earth. I've been very blessed by the Good Lord."

— Marvin Hurley

after more than sixty years of marriage. After her death, something shifted.

"My wife was always the outgoing one ... After she passed, I had to learn to do it myself."

He began greeting neighbors, thanking service workers, and speaking with the people he encountered on daily walks — in-

cluding the garbage collectors he passes regularly. A small adjustment, but one that reflects a larger truth: adaptation has always been part of his survival.

When asked what explains his longevity, he does not offer a philosophy or platitudes. Instead, he returns to habits that sound almost ordinary. He never smoked. He did not drink heavily. He stayed in motion.

"I always walked a lot. ... I never really stopped moving."

He remains connected to St. Agnes Catholic Church, attending Sunday Mass.

He and Maria had five children, though one died in infancy. Today, he has eight grandchildren and a newly arrived great-grandchild — born the same year he turned 100.

He mentions it with quiet pride, as if acknowledging the generosity of time.

The stories from his life — cross-country journeys on Route 66, being in Los Angeles during the announcement of Japan's surrender in World War II, and decades of travel and work across continents — sound almost too improbable to belong to one life. But he does not describe them as exceptional. He presents them as lived experiences.

What remains most visible now is not the scale of his past, but the simplicity of his present: music in the room, sports on the screen, news unfolding in real time, and a man still tapping his foot to a beat that has followed him across 100 years.

"I've always believed I'm one of the luckiest guys on the face of the earth," he says, borrowing Lou Gehrig's famous words. "I've been very blessed by the Good Lord."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

is protected from liability by the Good Samaritan Law. Naloxone (Narcan) is available without a prescription for a fee at all pharmacies. Obtain it for free by attending a REVIVE! training. Contact Emily Sigveland at 703-228-0913 or esigveland@arlingtonva.us or visit health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/ for available training sessions. The Chris

Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone for details.

Monthly Memory Café. 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6, Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, virtually. Registration is free and highly recommended to reserve spots, which are open on a first come first served basis. To reserve a spot,

please call 571-210-5551 or email bdesai@seniorhelpers.com. Visit www.dementiacare-connections.com/memory-cafe or www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va for more.

Aging Matters. 2-3 p.m. Tuesdays on WERA 96.7 LP FM on Arlington's community radio station. Each week host Cheryl Beversdorf interviews individuals with expertise about a broad array of aging related topics affecting

the lives of older adults and their loved ones. Visit www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera to listen to programs. <https://www.mixcloud.com/AgingMatters/VolunteerBikeRepairNight>. First Tuesday of the month, 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 15

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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Legals

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM AT JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL, ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH) hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Strategic Engagement Platform at Fort Myer. The Proposed Action involves the demolition of the current Patton Hall (Building 214), except for the original guard house, which will remain in place. The Proposed Action also involves the construction and operation of the Strategic Engagement Platform facility within the Limits of Work (LOW). In addition, there may be several related actions that occur within the LOW, including the realignment of Custer Road; grading and resurfacing of Buffalo Soldier Avenue and Johnson Lane; replacement of the sidewalk in front of the current Patton Hall; utility tie-in work; and stormwater management as required by applicable law.

The existing Patton Hall facility is in a state of deterioration after years of continuous use, and is experiencing failing systems, mold, pest infestations, water damage, and structural issues. The new Strategic Engagement Platform facility would provide a newly constructed, safe, modern, and appropriately sized conference center that meets the needs of the military community in the National Capital Region while maintaining the unique historical character of this location. The EA has been prepared to identify, evaluate, and consider the environmental consequences of the proposed partial demolition of the existing Patton Hall facility, the construction of the new Strategic Engagement Platform facility, and the related actions within the LOW.

The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S. Code (U.S.C) 4321 et seq., DoD NEPA Implementing Procedures (30 June 2025), and Army Regulation 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement.

The Draft EA is available to view in printed form at the Arlington Central Public Library and the D.C. Southwest Neighborhood Library. It can be viewed/downloaded electronically at <https://home.army.mil/jbmhh/teamJBMHH/about/Base/environmental-management-division> website. Comments or questions on the Draft EA/FNSI may be directed in writing to: Directorate of Public Works - Environmental Division, 111 Stewart Road, Building 321, Fort Myer, VA 22211 or by email to: JBMHH_NEPA@usace.army.mil. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA.

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Office of 55+ Programs
Department of Parks and Recreation
300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203
703-228-4721

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.

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) looking for volunteers to assist event directors at a variety of events, Sept. 9 – Oct. 4 plus a person to write press releases and contact potential Patrons. Experienced volunteer Webmaster also needed. Email Judy Massabny for further details at jmassa@arlingtonva.us.

The dates for 2026 are Sept. 9 – Oct. 4. The official opening is Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington.

The registration fee remains the same at \$20 which covers an unlimited number of events. Registration is online only at www.nvso.org.

55+ Ice Skating, Mondays at the MedStar Capitals Iceplex in Ballston Quarter, parking (\$1) on roof level 8, Fee (\$1) includes skate rental, 8:40-9:50 a.m. Pre-registration required at <https://www.medstarcapitaliceplex.com>, register for Senior Public Skate.

55+ (senior adults) weight room hours, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Langston-Brown Community Center, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Madison Community Center. For more information, call 703-228-4771. A 55+ Gold Pass is required.

Line dance practice led by volunteers, open to intermediate level dancers, Mondays, 10 a.m. and Thursdays, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Walk Fit, a free, weekly walking program hosted by VHC Health offers a 45-minute walk on the indoor track at Lubber Run 55+ Center plus a 15-minute guided stretch, Thursdays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Open to all ages; no 55+ Pass required. Drop-in.

Open art studio accommodates artists who work at their own pace in a collaborative space, Wednesday, May 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and Friday, May 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., both at Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Artists must bring their own materials; no instruction provided. Drop-in.

Ticket to Ride, cross country train adventure board game. Thursday, May 21, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Taught by 55+ Center Director Jennifer Weber. Registration # 913600-12.

Memory Café for people with dementia and their family caregivers, meaningful dementia-friendly activities, Thursday, May 21, 1:30

p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. For more information and to register, call Adult Services Librarian Zoe Mann at 703-228-5193 or email zmann@arlingtonva.us. Open to all ages; no 55+ Pass required.

Tea and a movie matinee, “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” (2018) (NR), Friday, May 22, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913804-09.

Just say “no” to scams, join Aisha Salazar, Virginia Cooperative Extension, to learn about financial scams and how to protect yourself, Friday, May 22, 11 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913400-06.

Generative AI for healthy eating using it to plan balanced meals and support healthy habits, presented by 55+ Volunteer Barbara Phillip, Friday, May 22, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Learn how to use tools like ChatGPT to create recipes, grocery lists and menus. Registration # 913403-13.

Women artists of the 20th Century, learn about American Impressionist Helen Turner, African American Artist Lois Mailou Jones and Scottish Colorist Anne Redpath, Monday, June 1, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Presented by art historian Joan Hart. Registration # 914302-01.

Creative Commons for artists to explore their creative projects while fostering collaborations and free exchange of ideas, Monday, June 1, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Artists are encouraged work at their own pace. No supplies or instruction provided. Registration # 914303-01.

Chinese Mah Jongg class and games in the evening, all levels of experience welcome, Tuesday, June 2, 5:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914600-30.

BBQ Fundraiser at Rockland’s Barbeque, 3471 Washington Blvd., Tuesday, June 2, 11 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. 15% of proceeds benefit the Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs (AASP). Outdoor and indoor seating, carry-out orders count, vegetarian options available. For more information, www.friendsofthealliance.org.

Musician of the Month honors the talent and influence of iconic performers across generations, Tuesday, June 2, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. June’s selection is Duke Ellington. Registration # 914410-35.

Langston-Brown 55+ Center book club will discuss “The Spy and the Traitor” by Ben Macintyre, Tuesday, June 2, 1 p.m. Drop-in.

Learn to ride a bike, class designed for beginners, taught by certified league cycling instructors with the League of American Bicyclists, Tuesday, June 2, 8 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Bicycles and helmets provided. Registration # 914206-07.

Opera appreciation group will hear and discuss

part one of “The First Emperor” by Tan Dun, Wednesday, June 3, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by volunteer George Cecchetti. Registration # 914300-01.

Third Act Dance Ensemble, meet weekly to learn an original piece of choreography then rehearse and showcase for the community, Wednesday, June 3-Aug. 26, 1:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Cost \$99, 11 sessions. All experience levels welcome. Registration # 914802-01.

Building safer spaces, interactive virtual session led by DHS Program Assistant Ashley Blowe, Thursday, June 4, 9:15 a.m. Explore concepts of sexuality, gender and LGBTQIA+ identities. Registration # 914400-16.

Memory Café for people with dementia and their family caregivers, Thursday, June 4, 1:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Meaningful dementia-friendly activities led by Arlington Adult Day and Library staff. For more information and to register, contact Adult Services Librarian Zoe Mann at 703-228-5193 or email, zmann@arlingtonva.us. Open to all ages; no 55+ Pass required. Drop-in.

Acoustic Hour in the Park, relax and enjoy live music on the Plaza at Virginia Highlands Park, Friday,

June 5, 1 p.m. Music by PhEd-Up with Phriends, Phil Rosen, Ed Girovasi, Judy McVerry and Cameron Fletcher. Bring a blanket or chair. In case of inclement weather, program will be held at Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914301-01.

Segregated Soldiers, presented by former U.S. Ambassador to Albania John Withers, Friday, June 5, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Learn about the role that the segregated U.S. military played in liberating Nazi concentration camps. Registration # 914400-19.

Arlington Spellbinders, folks who love to tell folk tales, fables and legends, to intergenerational audiences. Learn more about this group and how to join, Friday, June 5, 9 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Brains and Brawn, challenge your mind and body, walk on indoor track, answer a trivia question after each lap, answer correctly and move on to next lap, miss it and complete short bonus exercise, first and third Fridays beginning Friday, June 5, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914106-25.

First Friday Social features a Garden Party theme, seasonal treats and a Guess the Scent activity with herbs, Friday, June 5, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 914801-01.

Dementia awareness and resource fair, Friday, June 5, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Co-hosted by VHC Senior Health and Insight Memory Care Center. Interactive activities, information booth, memory screenings and caregiving support resources. Open to all ages; no 55+ Pass required. Drop-in.

Having a Ball, Almost Literally



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A few weekends ago, I had the opportunity of a lifetime (I exaggerate), when my wife Dina went away for the for a few days and I was left unsupervised. Not that I can’t fend for myself, it’s more so with Dina away, that’s all, other the dog and four cats, I had to tend for. (If we had a fenced-in yard, I wouldn’t have had to fend for the dog, but as of now, that’s wishful thinking. As it happens now daily, I’m up early and out late - with three additional outings/“walkings” in-between making for four total, between me getting up and me going down.

Though I am referring to the weekend, it’s primarily Saturday during the day/early evening that I’ll be writing about. Since the Red Sox were not televised where I could watch, the Bruins had been eliminated from the Stanley Cup playoffs the night before, and the Celtics weren’t on television until 8 pm, I had some time to fill you might say. So, with remote in hand and my rear end on the couch - and no one’s preference to consider, I turned on the television and began “flipping the cable” as my late brother Richard used to call it and see if I could find anything worth watching. Boy did I! And not the usual fare either. As it was found, most of it was programming reminiscent of my formative years growing up in Newton Centre, Ma and sport if you could call it that, that I had never seen on television. The first bit of familiarity was of a dodge ball match/tournament. It wasn’t exactly six grade, as adults were competing, but it could have been. There were sides, mostly men but each side included a woman, a line in the center of the gym keeping them apart and balls flying from side to side, some caught and others wayward while still others hitting their opponents with boinks heard all over leading to immediate disqualification. I loved playing dodgeball, but until this afternoon, I had never seen it on television. Watching it brought back memories of my occasional misspent youth.

Soon I became bored watching the competition and “flipped the cable.” I couldn’t believe what sport I came upon next: kickball. Just like I played on the playground at Bowen Elementary School in the mid 1960s. Men, women on a baseball diamond with a pitcher rolling the ball to the opponent in the former “batter’s box” which I now call the “kicker’s” box. Other than the swerve the pitcher put on the ball as he rolled toward the kicker, it was just like I used to play 60 odd years ago. But I never saw adults playing kickball on television before. Just like I had never seen dodgeball on television before. After watching the kickball game for a few minutes, I likewise grew bored and “flipped the cable.”

I couldn’t believe what I happened onto next. Yet another sport, if you even call it, that I spent countless hours playing, mostly in my backyard against Freddie Klashman, our downstairs neighbor, and son of the family who owned the two-family house I grew up in on Athelstane Road.

Whiffle Ball: Can you believe it? In succession. It’s as if the television was programming me down memory lane. Taking advantage of my eyes/feelings being the only ones to consider. None of this would have interested Dina, well, certainly not back-to-back-back like I had just “happened.” It was surreal almost. One memory after another, and all are great memories - for me anyway.

The next few “flips” were not as productive. I saw more conventional sports: women’s college softball, women’s beach volleyball, some men’s and women’s professional basketball, some PGA golf, (no LPGA women’s golf however), a bit of Ping Pong, some NHL playoffs but no bowling.

After watching all these sports, I still had not had my fill as I was waiting to watch the Celtics later that night. Unfortunately, the Celtics lost and were eliminated from the NBA playoffs, a totally non-fitting end to what otherwise had been an amazing day.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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Volunteers gather to refurbish bikes, sort parts or help with essential tasks. No experience necessary.

Public Financial Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline. Arlington County public hotline that offers a confidential and secure way to report suspected incidents of financial fraud, waste and abuse. Anyone can submit a complaint to the hotline at 1-866-565-9206 or at arlingtonva.ethicaladvocate.com. The hotline website is available in English and Spanish. Phone calls can be taken in many languages.

Created by the Arlington Initiative to Re-

think Energy (AIRE) in partnership with the Arlington Public Library, the nation’s First Energy Lending Library made its debut on Earth Day. Meant to resolve energy issues in the Arlington community, efficiency tools can be borrowed, such thermal imaging cameras, energy meters and books play a vital role in achieving a “greener” home. Open Sun-Sat 10 a.m.-9 p.m. 1015 N. Quincy St. Visit library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library or call 703-228-5990.

Arlington Rotary Club Lunches. Thursdays, 12 - 1:30 p.m. Club meetings are at 12:15 to 1:15 on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. On the 2nd Thursday we meet

at a restaurant in Arlington (currently Texas Jacks BBQ). On the 4th Thursday we meet via Zoom (click [HERE](#) to join). Newcomers are welcome to join the Zoom meeting. Organization comes together for humanitarian services. Listen to guest speakers on various topics of interest. Visit <https://arlingtonrotaryclub.org/>

Job Seeking Help. 5-9 p.m at Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Receive job-related help from the staff and volunteers with applications. Free, but requires registration. Visit www.arlingtonva.libcal.com.

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