

The Arlington Connection

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

School bus number 40, the first of the day, pulls up in front of Nottingham Elementary at 8:40 am.

Missing Ayers

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Women's Equality Day

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Women's Summit

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It's the First Day of School!

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SEPTEMBER 2-15, 2026

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Children's Poetry Remembers 911

**“Smoke at the PENTAGON,”
a book of children's poetry
compositions reflecting
memories from that day.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Jacqueline Jules was a local school teacher and librarian when 911 hit the Pentagon. “Everyone still remembers where they were that day. It was a conversation for days, and every year when the anniversary came up, they talked about it.

yard. They were shocked.”

So after many years of thinking about it, Jules decided in 2019 to put together “Smoke at the PENTAGON,” a book of children's poetry compositions reflecting memories from that day. “It was a composite of stories of friends, children and my own reflections. Each poem is built on real memories, written for emotional trust.”

“I discovered children in Arlington may have known about the Twin Towers in New York but didn't seem to know what happened at the Pentagon, the seat of our military, in their own backyard [on 911].”

— Jacqueline Jules, author

“But I discovered children in Arlington may have known about the Twin Towers in New York but didn't seem to know what happened at the Pentagon, the seat of our military, in their own back-

yard. They were shocked.” So after many years of thinking about it, Jules decided in 2019 to put together “Smoke at the PENTAGON,” a book of children's poetry compositions reflecting memories from that day. “It was a composite of stories of friends, children and my own reflections. Each poem is built on real memories, written for emotional trust.”

The book contains a poem from 14-year-old Joselyn about the race to the grocery store to fill the cart with cans of peas. “I've never seen the store like this. Someone at every elbow filling carts to the brim. And stranger still everyone so quiet.”

Another from 10-year-old Reuben about the man who lived three townhouses down

from him who worked at the Pentagon and didn't come home. And the neighborhood get-together with quesadillas, falafel and pho “like international day at school except no dancing, music, more



Jacqueline Jules, author of “Smoke at the PENTAGON”

tears than smiles.”

Five-year-old Kelvin describes his teacher's reaction but he didn't know what had caused it.

“Miss Susan, the teacher calls come NOW.

She waves her arms.

When I get close, she grabs my hand

Like she is pulling me away from the street

Her eyes are big, so big

Her eyebrows looks too high up on her face

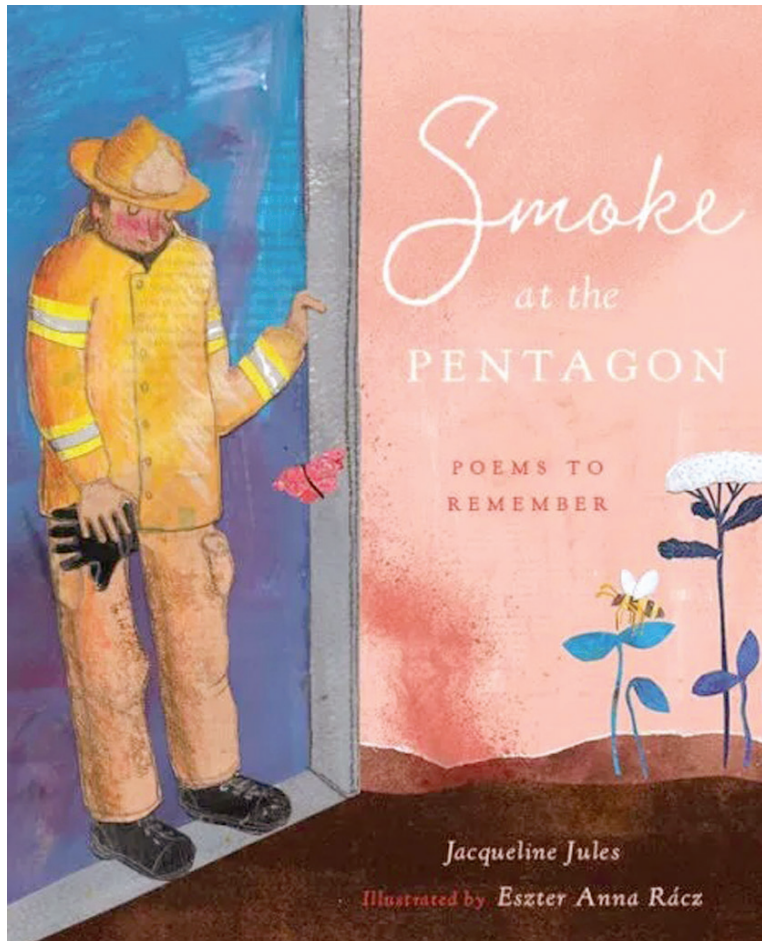
And her breath is so heavy I can hear it.”

Jules says, “The experience shouldn't be overlooked and how it changed our community. We are approaching the 25th anniversary of 911 this year.”

She continues, “It is a story of resilience; the Pentagon was rebuilt in a year. It shows we can suffer terrible things but rebuild.

“I think since what happened is not part of the curriculum it is not frequently taught in schools which focus on testing. There isn't time in the classroom for discussion so children really do grow up not knowing what happened.”

Jules recounts an experience in 2008 where she had turned on the television in the library before school. It was Sept. 11. The Marines were ringing the bell and



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

“Smoke at the PENTAGON — Poems to Remember”

people were reading the names of the fallen. Some students came in and realized it was the Pentagon and looked at it and asked what was happening. “My students had no idea.

“It may be difficult to discuss ideas like this with kids. That's why you write children's books so you have an opportunity to discuss it.”

Jules is the author of over 50 books including several series of children's chapter books focused on teaching reading skills including the Zapato Power series, the Sofia Martinez series, “My Name is Hamburger,” “Tag Your Dreams,” and “Smoke at the Pentagon.” Visit www.jacquelinejules.com to learn more.

Applications Open for EcoAmbassadors Local Climate Action Program

Local residents looking to make a meaningful difference in their community can now apply for the 2026–2027 cohort of EcoAmbassadors. This climate and energy-centered volunteer training and community engagement program, co-managed by EcoAction Arlington and the Virginia Cooperative Extension, empowers everyday people to lead grassroots environmental efforts. Apply by: 5 p.m., Friday Sept. 4

The interactive, 5-week hybrid training program begins this Sept. 14. Designed for real-world impact, the sessions teach practical ways to engage neighbors to help them save energy, lower utility bills, and contribute to creating greener, more liveable spaces across Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Following the training, volunteers will commit to a minimum number of service

hours throughout the year.

The EcoAmbassador program is about building strong local connections and giving people the tools they need to protect our shared environment together.

Any community member 16 years old or more in the DMV can join. No prior environmental background is required. There is a fee of \$110. Students can participate

SEE APPLICATIONS OPEN, PAGE 5

PHOTO BY BILL CAMPBELL
Trained EcoAmbassadors mingle with several interested newcomers at the Aug. 4 information session. Pictured left to right are Janice Morris, Anya Motayed, Rob Nutter, Joan McIntyre, Amy Hjerstedt and Leslie Loudon.
www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/ecoambassadors/



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ARLINGTON CONNECTION



A bubble machine welcomes students for the first day of school at Nottingham Elementary School.



School bus number 40, the first of the day, pulls up in front of Nottingham Elementary at 8:40 am.



This young passenger is deciding whether to get off the school bus on the first day or to just stay right where she is on the steps.

School Year Begins with Enthusiasm and Caution

‘Your students belong in our schools, and we are here to support them.’

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

It's Aug. 31, that time of year again in Arlington. Backpacks are loaded with number 2 pencils and composition books. Excited but slightly anxious children squirm in their school bus seats. Newly polished and welcoming classrooms stand ready for the first day of school. Additional speed cameras have been installed and will be in operation before and after school during the week.

But something is different this year as immigrant enforcement efforts have been stepped up, generating fear among a number of families who are afraid to venture outside their homes.

The Arlington Public School system sent out a letter to parents on Aug. 20 assuring students they belong in the schools, information is not required about immigration status and they want students to feel safe, cared for and connected to adults they trust.

Bold oversized print declares,

“We want every APS family to hear this clearly: You are an important part of our community. Your students belong in our schools, and we are here to support them.

“We want every student to continue coming to school every day. If circumstances are making it difficult for your student to attend school or participate fully, please contact your school so we can work with you and provide support.

“School counselors and social workers are available to support students who may be experiencing

fear, anxiety, changes at home or other challenges. Bilingual Family Specialists are also available to help families communicate with their schools, understand school processes and connect with resources and support.”

The APS population is 41 percent white, 31 percent Hispanic, almost 11 percent African American and almost 9 percent Asian. Educational materials are provided in English, Español, Amharic, Arabic and Mongolian.

APS has 24 elementary, 6 mid-

dle, and 4 high schools, 1 secondary institution with 4 other educational programs within the school district. This is comprised of 45 schools with 27,026 students enrolled in PreK-12 as of Aug. 26, 2026 and with a teacher ratio of 13-1.

The calendar for the Arlington school year is set by School Board Policy I-4.30 which establishes, “The first instructional day of the school year for students will occur during the week one week before Labor Day.”



Students line up along the rail waiting with enthusiasm to burst through the front door to start the first day of school.



Safety patrol students stand along the sidewalk along the bus drop off area at Nottingham.

Applications Open for EcoAmbassadors Local Climate Action Program

FROM PAGE 3

for free. Full fee waivers are available, no questions asked, to ensure financial barriers never stand in the way of volunteering. A background check is required for confirmed adult volunteers over 18 to ensure a safe environment for all.

For more information about,

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](https://www.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.ourladyqueenofpeace.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.org for more.

Naloxone (Narcan) can save the life of someone who is overdosing, if

and to apply to, the EcoAmbassadors program visit <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/ecoambassadors/>

About EcoAction Arlington

EcoAction Arlington is a well-known 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to fostering environmental

given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need 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 Siqueland at 703-228-0913 or esiqueland@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.dementiacareconnections.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/>

Volunteer Bike Repair Night. First Tuesday of the month, 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. 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 Rethink 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

stewardship through neighborhood advocacy, hands-on education, and community action.

For years, the organization has brought people together to care for our natural spaces and champion environmental justice across Northern Virginia. Visit ecoaction-arlington.org

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.

Arlington PFLAG Community Group. 7:30-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, PFLAG promotes the equality and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and their families. Meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Boulevard. Contact arl.pflag@gmail.com for more or go to www.pflagdc.org

Helmetsmen Toastmasters meet Thursdays, 7:30-8:45 a.m. at Pentagon Library and Conference Center. Toastmasters is an international organization that helps everyone speak, think, lead and listen better. Most clubs are meeting online at this time. Contact Carl Sabath carl.e.sabath.civ@mail.mil or 703-695-2804 or Elizabeth Femrite elizabeth.m.femrite.civ@mail.mil or 571-256-8674.

Soil Testing. Virginia Cooperative Extension is offering soil testing services to analyze soil and determine what is needed to condition soil for plantings. The routine soil test is all one normally needs for a fertility evaluation. Pick up soil sampling box at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Arlington office, 3308 S. Stafford St., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Send filled soil sample box with form and fee to the Virginia Tech Lab for analysis. Fees vary, visit www.soiltest.vt.edu/Files.

Alzheimer's Association Support Group has meetings. They are open to people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, family members and friends. Free. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 703-359-4440 or 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time to verify meeting information, obtain directions or other information about the group. A complete list of all groups in the National Capital Area region can be found at https://www.alz.org/nca/helping_you/support_groups.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Limited Access Control Changes Arlington Boulevard and Glebe Road Arlington County

Willingness for Public Comment

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) invites you to review information about proposed changes in limited access control at the Arlington Boulevard (Route 50) and Glebe Road (Route 120) interchange.

Improvements are proposed in the area, requiring existing limited access lines to be adjusted to accommodate them. The proposed improvements include a new shared-use path along the eastbound Arlington Boulevard ramp to Glebe Road, upgraded pedestrian signals and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps at the intersection, and a reconstructed sidewalk along southbound South Glebe Road. This project will involve changes in limited access control.

Materials are available for review online at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/Goodwill> or by contacting the VDOT Project Manager, Mr. Joseph Webb, at 703-259-2382 or TTY/TDD 711.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will consider the proposed limited access changes at a future meeting.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Joseph Webb, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 on or prior to **September 21, 2026**. If upon receiving public comments it is deemed necessary to hold a public hearing, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

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Requiem for a Five and Dime

Ayers General Merchandise Closes after 78 Years.

By EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

On Sunday, I stopped off at the goat cheese stand at the Westover Farmer's Market, picked up some plums and kale, and retrieved my dog from his hitching post near the market. I had been gone most of the summer and it felt good to be back. I headed over to browse the late season plants at Ayers. They're always a relative bargain. Who knows what else I might find that I needed? Ayers had a way of drawing one in.

As I turned the corner, I saw right away there were no plants. Odd. Then I saw something even stranger. Ayers had closed. Its windows weren't full of macrame flower pot holders or funny signs or brooms and rakes. It was completely empty and a sign on the wall said it was for lease. Ayers, quite simply, was no more.

You could buy anything at Ayers General Merchandise. Rug pads, birthday cards, clay pots, plants to go in them, magic tricks, cas-



Ayers, empty and for lease.



Sign in Toby's Ice Cream shop down the block.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

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seroles, seeds, cables, penny candy, gardening gloves, canning supplies, sieves, candles, funny signs, toys, kites, costumes, you name it. It was the kind of store you went to when the world seemed unmanageable and plastic. It was better than Amazon. If you asked anyone where to buy something, they'd say "Probably find it at Ayers," and you usually did. They were more likely to have a real broom with straw bristles than fake ones. The candy was old-fashioned, like Malo bars and Bit-o-Honey. It was a perfect place for stocking stuffers. It smelled like a general store: old wood planks and flannel shirts, candle wax and chocolate.

Arlington is slowly seeing these old relics, useful if historical, like an old movie theatre with squeaky seats, or a barber shop with leather strops, or the fishing supply store on Langston Boulevard that just turned into a vape shop, disappear. The Kaplan/Peterkin families who ran Ayers said the kids didn't want to take it over, didn't want to work that hard.

A neighbor on the street in front of the shuttered store said they tried to sell the store and had finally found a buyer, but the landlord didn't agree to the lease. "How silly," she declared, "Ayers made this block — now all the businesses will be at risk." That probably depends a lot on who moves into the spot, a large retail space in the middle of an increasingly upscale neighborhood.

Ayers was founded by John W. Ayers in 1948, as "J.W. Ayers Five and Ten Cents Store."

Ayers wanted it to be more than a store: it was a community place and supported local community events and schools. Cherrydale Hardware is a similar store, although not as impressive in its variety (it's smaller). Ayers

was a little like those French "quincailleries" in Paris neighborhoods that carry everything from batteries to elegant hats, and where the proprietor knows everyone by name and has to climb up on a ladder to retrieve the stock. Instead of ordering online, you went in and had a conversation about the thing you needed. It wasn't hard to find someone to help, either.

Closures like this are viewed as inevitable, like the closure of the general store in Blue Hill, Maine, which was once the only place in town you could buy oilskins, penny candy, aspirin, face cream, clamming equipment, towels, toys, and bait. It has long since bitten the dust, replaced by chain stores like CVS and - a long drive away - Walmart. The general store in the next town over, Brooklin, has turned into a fancy coffee shop, lunch joint, and wine store. Every small town had a general merchandise store, and they were centers of community. When they go something else goes, though we can't quite name it. We should think about preserving "it," before it's too late.

We still have a few relics in Arlington - Mr. Moore's barber shop comes to mind, as does Casual Adventure on Washington Boulevard. Cherrydale Fire Department and Cherrydale Hardware. Each, like Ayers, involves itself in the community, supporting kids, social dances, local groups. They evoke the Arlington which was a tender bedroom community of farmhouses and ranch homes, bordering on farmland and the Blue Mountains, approachable, old school, a little southern, neighborly, kind. We can help by frequenting these small businesses, so we don't turn the corner someday and find those blocks empty - a casualty of online stores. So long, Ayers. I'll miss you.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SENIOR LIVING

Flourishing after 55, Office of 55+ Programs

Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation
703-228-4721

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate (starting at a \$31 annual fee). To join or register, go to registration. arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

Pickleball for all ages, come give it a try, Mondays and Fridays, 12:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Mah Jongg games, American style, Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 12 - 4 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center, drop-in; Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, drop-in; Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center, drop-in; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, drop-in. Beginners welcome.

Mexican Train dominoes, Mondays, 9:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center; Wednesdays, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center; Sundays, 1:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. All are drop-in.

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.

55+ Ice Skating, Mondays at the Med-Star 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.medstarcapitalsiceplex.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.

Line dance 101 (new), join 55+ volunteer instructor Elaine Eder for a fun, low-impact class featuring easy-to-follow steps and lively music, Wednesdays starting Sept. 2, 11 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Healing Steps: Grief Walking Group, led by licensed clinical social worker and registered volunteer Jennifer Lanouette, Thursday, Sept. 3, 10 a.m., Long Branch Nature Center. Walk will be about two miles at a relaxed pace. Registration # 911106-13.

Virtual Trivia games, Thursday, Sept. 3, 11 a.m. Registration # 911600-14.

The Circle (new) discussion group exploring life's mysteries, meaningful experiences and thought-provoking questions, Thursday, Sept. 3, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Led by 55+ volunteers. Drop-in.

55+ Travel Supervisor Sharleka Ashton will highlight how the 55+ travel program supports in-person experiences plus key procedures and resources for participants, Thursday, Sept. 3, 3 p.m., virtual. She will also cover 55+ virtual programs which offer accessible remote opportunities. Registration # 911400-03.

Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL), series of 23 classes held Mondays and Thursdays, Sept.

3-Nov. 23, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Curriculum includes aerobics, balance exercises, stretching routines and education to reduce the risk of falls. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance. Registration # 911502-01. No fee.

Social bridge at Fairlington Community Center, Thursdays starting Sept. 3, Sept. 3, 1 - 3 p.m. Join fellow bridge enthusiasts to practice skills and enjoy friendly competition. All experience levels welcome. For more information email, 55plus@arlingtonva.us. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will tour the Museum of the Bible in D.C., Friday, Sept. 4. Cost \$43, Arlington resident; \$50, non-resident. Registration # 902609-01.

Social ballroom dance on a spacious dance floor, Friday, Sept. 4, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. All will have an opportunity to dance. Drop-in.

Fall Yard Sale Fund Raiser for Arlington Mill 55+ Center being held at the Arlington Civitan Flea Market, 4001 15th St. N, Saturday, Sept. 5, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Open to all ages no 55+ Pass required. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will embark on a four mile guided hike beginning in D.C. at the Carousel in Glen Echo Park and concluding at the Clara Barton National Historical Site, Tuesday, Sept. 8. Cost \$22, Arlington resident; \$26, non-resident. Registration # 902609-02.

Genealogy 101, learn to use primary sources, DNA services and more to explore family roots, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Led by experienced genealogist Eileen Bogdanoff. Registration # 911402-01.

Speed friending fundraiser, similar to speed dating but designed for building friendships, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 3:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Cost \$10 cash entry fee-please bring exact change. Registration # 911899-01.

Murder Mystery Dinner Night, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 5:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Bring your own dinner, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert provided. Registration # 911801-04.

Power outage food safety presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911501-11.

Third Act Dance Ensemble, learn an original piece of choreography, rehearse it then showcase it for the community, Wednesdays beginning Sept. 9 - Nov. 18, 1:30 - 3 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Cost \$100, Arlington resident; \$115, non-resident. Registration # 911802-01.

History roundtable participants to discuss monarchies and empires of

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 15

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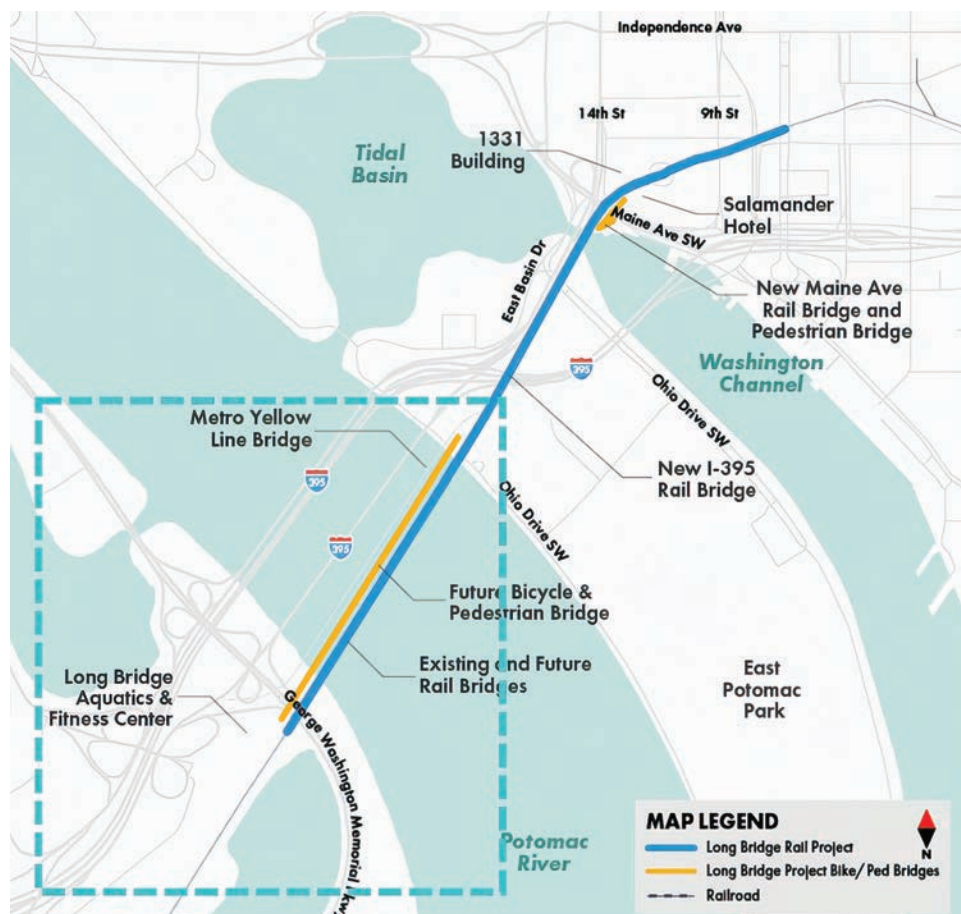
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RENEWAL
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Mount Vernon Bike Path Detours Away from Long Bridge



MAPS BY VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

Once across the Potomac River, the Long Bridge pedestrian-bicyclist bridge links up with the Mount Vernon Trail.



At Gravelly Point, cyclists coming from the Mount Vernon area are detouring away from the river.

Bridge project has many facets including bicyclist implications.

BY MIKE SALMON
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

This summer, cyclists along the Mount Vernon Trail encountered a detour on the northern end of the trail at Gravelly Point due to the Long Bridge Project where impacts include a temporary bypass

and detour.

Beginning July 1, the bypass opened, shifting riders closer to the GW Parkway, with a well-marked maze of fences and cement barriers. It will be in place for the next few years.

Cyclist Trent Bailey captured it all in a video he posted on social media to lessen the confusion,

calling it a “massive detour on the Mount Vernon trail.”

“They’re making a separate bridge for bikers and walkers,” Bailey explained.

The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling posted a blog about the detour too, noting that it didn’t open on the exact date that was initially targeted but soon after. “The good news is the Mount Vernon Trail will remain open throughout construction,” the blog stated.

The trail detour, separate bike and pedestrian bridge, and rail

work are all part of the \$2.3 billion project that includes more rail tracks to accommodate a projected increase in railroad traffic along this corridor. This includes Amtrak, VRE and CSX Transportation railroad services.

Cyclists on the trail will encounter the detour just past Reagan-National Airport where the trail goes through Gravelly Point. The temporary trail takes them back up to the Parkway, past the Metro bridge, and back down to the riverside path.

On July 30, the project officials

met with the Arlington and Alexandria Advisory Group to update them on the project. The bike trail detour at Gravelly Point was a topic they covered. “Very exciting for us to get this open, we’ve had a lot of compliments,” said project control manager Brian Grayburn.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association mapped out a route that skips the area entirely. On the WABA map, a bicyclist bypasses the Gravelly Point lot and follows Long Branch Drive, but this requires crossing some busy streets.

Thrillers, Poetry, History, Memoirs, Literary Fiction

Fall for the Book’s 28th Annual Festival includes ‘New American Voices Award.’

Fall for the Book’s 28th Annual Festival is packed with more than fifty writers, including poets, historians, novelists, memoirists, children’s authors, graphic novelists, and more.

Chantel Acevedo’s *Cages*, Bindu Bansinath’s *Men Like Ours*, and Ada Ferrer’s *Keeper of My Kin*, have been named finalists for the New American Voices Award,

presented in partnership with Fall for the Book and the Institute for Immigration Research. Celebrating its ninth anniversary, this post-publication award recognizes recently published works that illuminate the complexity of human experience as told by immigrants, whose work is historically underrepresented in writing and publishing.

In-person and virtual events run from Oct. 6-10, at George Mason University, downtown City of Fairfax, and in Fairfax County Public Library branches.

In addition to headliners Celeste Ng, and Stephen Graham Jones, the festival welcomes featured writers Elizabeth Rusch, presenting the Beck Environmental Lecture with her book “The Twenty-One: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the U.S. Government Over Climate Change,” and award-winning journalist and PBS NewsHour co-anchor

Geoff Bennett with *Black Out Loud: The Revolutionary History of Black Comedy from Vaudeville to ‘90s Sitcoms*.

The full schedule is now live and can be found on www.FallfortheBook.org/schedule.

The 2026 Festival will also host many local authors including, novelists Caroline Bock, Lina Patton and Diana Rojas; poets Michele Evans and Danika P. Myers; mystery writers Melanie McCabe and Aggie Blum Thompson; historians George Oberle and Nina Willner; Maryland state delegate Lily Qi; and folklorist Brittany Warman.

The Fall for the Book Festival partners with the City of Fairfax’s 50th Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 10 and offers a day of hands-on literary events to readers aged 2 to 13.

For the younger kids, Chuchu Wang will launch the morning with an interactive sto-

rytime featuring her picture book and lead a drawing demonstration. Next, Marcie Flinchum Atkins will help kids make their own animal handbook followed by Korena Di Roma Howley who will guide them as they make a paper drum. The middle-grade set will get zany with Adi Rule and make their own cut-out ghost chicken in time for Halloween. Finally, Amanda Foody will reveal the inspirations behind her bestselling series and offer advice on creating magical worlds.

Fall for the Book will host the Ninth Annual award ceremony for immigrant writers: The Institute for Immigration Research New American Voices Award, judged by Angie Cruz, Donna Hemans, and Weike Wang. The three finalists, Chantel Acevedo, Bindu Bansinath and Ada Ferrer, will appear at the festival on Oct. 8.

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/>.

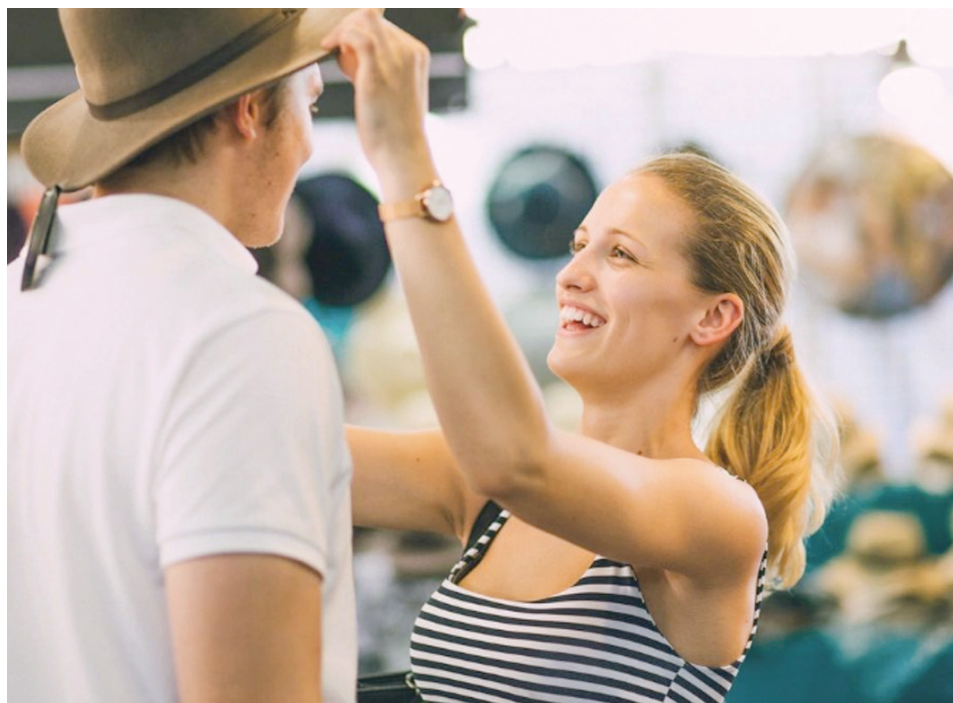
YEAR ROUND ON SUNDAYS

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-

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Arlington Civitan Flea Market will be held Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026 at the I-66 Parking Garage adjacent to Washington Liberty High School in Arlington.



DMV Girls Hockey Weekend will be held Sept. 12-13, 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.

COLUMBIA PIKE EVENTS

Thursday/Sept. 3. Back to Cool on the Pike Happy Hour. 5-7 p.m. Ryu Izakaya. Kick off the fall season with Columbia Pike Partnership's September Pike Social Club Happy Hour. Enjoy free appetizers, test your knowledge with a Pike Pop Quiz, and connect with neighbors and local businesses as we welcome the return of fall on Columbia Pike.

Saturday/Sept. 5. Pike Mural Celebration. Goodwill Parking Lot. Celebrate the completion of the new Columbia Pike mural. This community celebration will bring neighbors together to experience one of Arlington's newest public art installations.

Wednesday/Sept. 30. The Pike Lunch Club. 12-1:30 p.m. Restaurante El Salvador. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at The Pike Lunch Club with special guest Zuraya Tapia, Executive Director of The Dream Project. Join us for a conversation about education, community, and the important work being done to support immigrant students and families

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

Arlington Community Blood Drive. 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. At Fire Works Pizza, 2350 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington. Fire Works Pizza will host the Arlington Community Blood Drive this Friday, September 4, as Inova Blood Donor Services continues to seek blood donors across the region. Approximately 200 people need to donate blood, red cells, platelets and plasma every day to meet the needs of patients across the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Donors who participate Friday will receive a \$10 e-gift card while supplies last. Gift cards generally take seven to 10 business days to arrive by email, and donors must complete the screening process to receive the giveaway. A photo ID is required. Donors should allow approximately one hour for the donation process. Appointments are strongly encouraged. To schedule an appointment, visit bit.ly/FWP0904 or call 1-866-256-6372 and use Sponsor Code 8629.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Arlington Civitan Flea Market. 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the I-66 Parking Garage adjacent to Washington Liberty High School, Arlington. More than 150 vendors return Saturday, Sept. 5, as consumers look for ways to stretch their dollars and one of Northern Virginia's oldest flea markets celebrates four decades in Arlington. For bargain hunters, part of the attraction is simple: no two markets are exactly alike. The

vendors and merchandise change from month to month. Shoppers who arrive early generally find the widest selection, while those who come later may find vendors more willing to negotiate as the market approaches closing time. Admission and parking are free, and most vendors are inside the covered parking garage. The market operates rain or shine.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

24th Annual Police, Fire, Sheriff & ECC 9/11 Memorial 5K. The race will take place on the evening of Saturday, September 5, 2026. The Arlington County Police Department will close the following roadways around the Pentagon and in Crystal City to accommodate the event:

From approximately 3 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Army Navy Drive from S. Eads Street to 12th Street S.

From approximately 5 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

S. Eads Street from Army Navy Drive to 12th Street S.

S. Fern Street from Army Navy Drive to 12th Street S.

S. Hayes Street from Army Navy Drive to 12th Street S.

Army Navy Drive from S. Joyce Street to S. Eads Street

S. Joyce Street from Army Navy Drive to Columbia Pike

Columbia Pike from S. Nash Street/Southgate Road to Washington Boulevard

S. Washington Boulevard from Arlington Boulevard to Columbia Pike

S. Washington Boulevard from SB George Washington Parkway

Route 110 S. from I-66 and Wilson Boulevard to Army Navy Drive

Marshall Drive from Iwo Jima Access Road to Route 110 S.

The ramp to Army Navy Drive from I-395 N. Exit 8A, Arlington Ridge Road, and N. Washington Boulevard

The ramp from I-395 N. Exit 8C to Pentagon City / Crystal City

Traffic is expected to be impacted along the route and the surrounding areas. Motorists are advised to leave extra time and seek alternate routes to reduce road congestion. Race attendees are encouraged to use Metro or other forms of multi-modal transportation. Paid parking is available at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City garage for those choosing to drive.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

Steady on Your Feet: Understanding Balance, Strength, and Fall Prevention. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free webinar. Gain a basic understanding of the vestibular system and its role in balance, movement, and daily activities. Dr. Brandon Lusk, PT, DPT with PT Solutions will discuss how vestibular dysfunction, poor balance, and weakness can contribute to dizziness, imbalance, and fall risk. He will explain the important connection between balance and strength to everyday tasks such as transfers, walking, dressing, reaching, and fall recovery. Learn to recognize symptoms, understand common causes, and identify when treatment may be beneficial—all with the goal of promoting safe, confident movement and greater independence. Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4221548963970480221>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

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 D.C. area's finest comics. The headliner for September's show is the hilarious Christine O'Dea. Visit capitalcityshowcase.com.

SEPT. 12-13

DMV Girls Hockey Weekend. Registration is now open for the first-ever DMV Girls Hockey Weekend (previously DMV Girls Try

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Protecting the Right to Vote Still Requires Vigilance



Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26, attracted 315 people to Lorton's Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Legendary country music singer Dolly Parton may be an atypical woman activist, but on Aug. 26, one day after she died, she was honored at Lorton's Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

NOVA Parks Executive Director Justin Wilson told the 315 celebrants who gathered for Women's Equality Day that Parton wrote a song titled "19th Amendment" about the U.S. Constitutional amendment, certified on Aug. 26, 1920, that gave some women in the United States the right to vote.

Wilson shared some of Parton's lyrics: "There was just so much back then we weren't allowed to do, but the first bite of that apple I guess revealed the truth. That's when Eve got smart and that's why Adam don't like fruit. ... We had to fight for women's rights."

Calling the area a "sacred site," Wilson explained that in 1917 suffragists called the Silent Sentinels peacefully picketing on the White House sidewalk for the right to vote were jailed in the Occoquan Workhouse.

Pat Wirth who led the memorial's fund raising and building reminded all, "It is a national memorial. It took millions of dollars." Its name comes from the 1917 "night of terror" when prison guards brutally treated the jailed women and word leaked out, news that nudged a recalcitrant President Woodrow Wilson to support the amendment.



Virginia Lt. Governor Ghazala Hashmi gave the keynote address for Women's Equality Day at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

His change of mind was a turning point in the suffrage movement.

Hashmi, a Historic First

Introducing the keynoter, Virginia's Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi, Camdyn Parker, a 13-year

cookie mom," Hashmi highlighted three key words: persistence, vigilance and engagement. She applauded two South Carolina, enslaved women, Sarah and Angelina Grimke, who in the 19th century agitated for both slavery's abolition and women's rights and challenged the notion that women should stay in the home. "She made the radical argument that went to the very heart of democracy," Hashmi said. "How can a nation claim that it was ruled by the consent of the governed while systematically excluding half of its citizens from political power?"

Hashmi saluted other heroines, including the late African-American U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. Hashmi said, "It's a democratic philosophy that argues if one is excluded, enter. If the in-

"If one is excluded, enter. If the institution was not designed with you in mind, change it. And once you have a seat, make room for someone else."

— Lt. Gov. Ghazala Hashmi

Alexandria Girl Scout, said that Hashmi "made history" in 2026 as the first Muslim woman elected statewide in the United States, remarking, "Her election represents a more inclusive democracy."

Dubbing herself a "Girl Scout



Justin Wilson, NOVA Parks Executive Director, welcomed attendees.



Laura Greenfield, AAUW Virginia President, described her group's projects.



Patricia Wirth relayed the memorial's history.



Nancy Tate, national League of Women Voters President, said that challenges to voting still persist today.



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Oriella Mejia, a Prince William Parks Commissioner, donned one of the sashes like those the suffragists wore.

Protecting the Right to Vote Still Requires Vigilance

FROM PAGE 10

stitution was not designed with you in mind, change it. And once you have a seat, make room for someone else.” She exhorted the audience to use “the power that that generations before us fought to secure.”

“Threats to voting rights are greater now than in 60 years,” Nancy Tate told attendees. “The suffragists knew that the fight for equality was never over,” she said, so some went on the found the League of Women Voters in 1920. Tate, an Arlington resident, is the League’s executive director.

Historian Shirley Marshall, author of “An Inside Story of the National Woman’s Party,” said, “The suffragists did more than hold banners and stand around.” Combining through the 1918 letters Elizabeth Kalb wrote from Washington to her mother, Marshall described

incidents, like the police arresting women “for carrying the American flag” and Kalb getting a lump from being “cracked on her head.”

“Police violence was common,” Marshall said, “But mostly out of sight.” Because Wilson initially did not support suffrage, women burned his speeches in Lafayette Square. “Kerosene was the secret, keeping the fires lit. They soaked logs in kerosene,” she snickered.

Many historical accounts portray the suffragists as white women, but suffrage was diverse, Marshall asserted. And she emphasized that even upon the 1920 passage of the amendment, women who were not white, like African Americans, Indigenous women and Chinese women, still could not vote.

Joy Galberth, president of the Fairfax County chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, recalled that the organizers of the suffragists’



The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Lorton.

1913 Washington parade insisted that African American women march at the end. “Our sorority marched with dignity even when forced to the back,” she said, adding, “Equality is not a destination but a responsibility.”

Gloria Blackwell, reinforced Hashmi’s themes. “It was a long, courageous effort,” she said. “They persisted. Democracy is not self-sustaining.” Blackwell is head of the American Association of University Women.

Kobby Hoffman, president of the Virginia chapter of the National Organization for Women, read the “Women’s Declaration of Independence” and sought petition signers urging Congress to recognize the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th amendment to the Constitution.

Marshall quoted Mary Church Terrell, a 1905 African-American civil rights leader: “There is an imperative need of meddlers today, active, insistent and fearless meddlers.” The meddlers are still at it.

“I declare to you that woman must not depend upon the protection of man, but must be taught to protect herself, and there I take my stand.”

Susan B Anthony

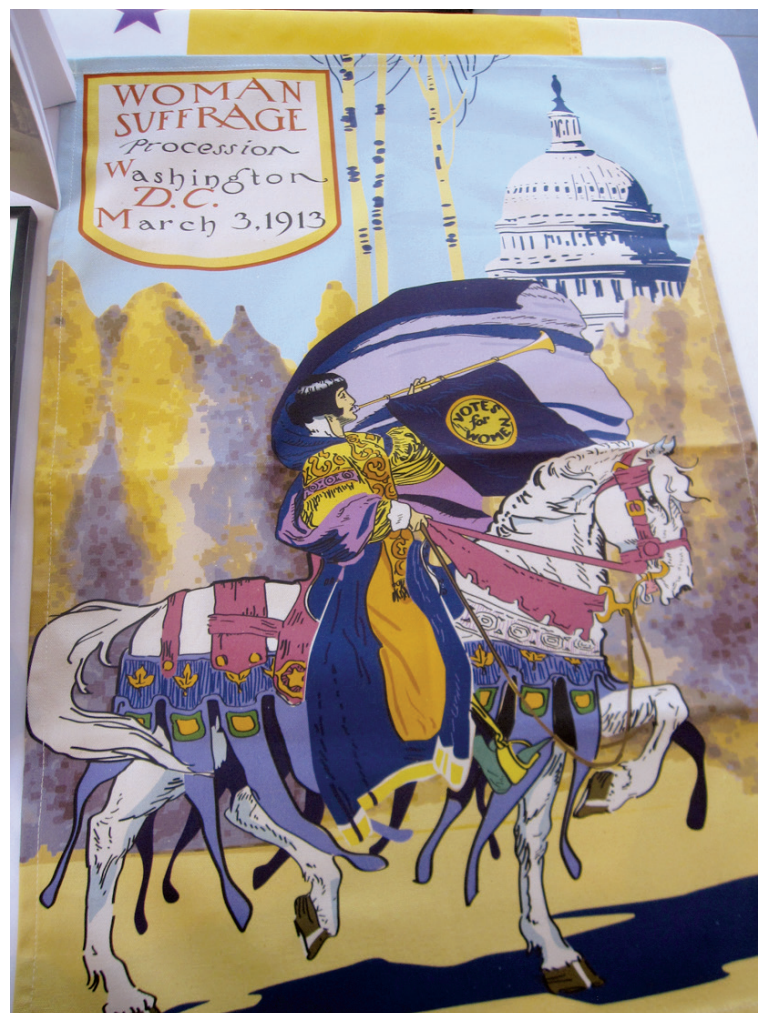
Susan B. Anthony was just one of many suffragists.



Thirteen stations tell the suffrage story.



Lynne Garvey-Hodge portrayed Mrs. Robert Walker, a suffragist.



The suffragists staged a parade in Washington, D. C., in 1913.



Cia Price, Delegate, HD-85, spoke on “How We Fight Back,” telling the audience it is time to get off the couch. Referring to the crisis in politics and whittling away at women’s rights, she said, “These things have happened and will continue to happen unless we get off our asses and do something.”



Micaela Pond and her daughter, Lily, of Arlington’s “We of Action Virginia”, spoke about the power of the grassroots movement, reminding people that activism can be joyful.



Heather Booth of Democracy Partners, whose activist credentials go back to fighting for civil rights in the 60s, and Anna Putnam, of Feminist Campus, who increased her activism on the campus of UVA after the Dobbs decision.

Tenth Annual Women’s Summit Held in McLean

Virginians from all over the state spoke about the power of women.

The Women’s Summit could easily have been a “one and done” event, given the energy and money required to set it up. But ten years on, it still draws women from all over the country, primarily Virginia, thanks in large part to the efforts of organizers Katherine White, FInale Norton, Robbin Warner

and Stair Calhoun, who seem to know just how to connect with the 600 women (and a few men) in the audience. The premise is simple: when women unite over ANY issue, amazing things happen.

Speakers covered topics from voting rights to the environment, with one particularly moving story of the group “Just Moms,” a

grassroots non-profit organization formed to advocate for the cleanup of radioactive and toxic waste at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, Missouri. Candidates for the upcoming congressional races in Virginia, Elaine Luria (CD-2), Shannon Taylor (CD-1), Tom Perriello (CD-6), Jennifer McClellan (CD-4), Joy Powers (CD-9), Beth Macy (CD-

6), Suhas Subramanyam (CD-10), James Walkinshaw (CD-11), Eugene Vindman (CD-7), Bobby Scott (CD-3), and Don Beyer (CD-8), gave quick summaries of their campaigns.

For more information on the Women’s Summit, see: www.Networknova.org and to get involved in campaigns in the state, go to candidate websites.

Yorktown High School to Induct 9 Alumni into Hall of Fame and Inspiration

Yorktown’s football coach Bruce Hanson for 40 consecutive seasons also to be honored.

Nine alumni of Yorktown High School will be inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame and Inspiration at a public ceremony set for Friday evening, Sept. 18. Presenters will dedicate nine plaques displaying photographs and biographies mounted on the wall in the gym lobby.

The Hall of Fame and Inspiration was created in 2004 and today includes such notable alumni as broadcaster Katie Couric (’75), former Google CEO Eric Schmidt (’72), Olympic swimmer Tom Dolan (’93), the late astronaut David Brown (’74), CNBC Anchor Tyler Mathisen (’72) and Hilton Hotels CEO Chris Nassetta (’80) among others.

A special plaque and career recognition also will be presented to Yorktown’s coach Bruce Hanson who served as head varsity football coach at Yorktown for 40 consecutive seasons and coached 53 years altogether. Beginning in 1985, his teams won over 300 games, 12 district championships and two regional championships. As a career educator, he taught in Arlington for over 50 years – 40 at Yorktown.

This year’s ceremony also will be informally dedicated in part to the memory of Charlie Clark (Yorktown Class of 1971) who

was a driving force behind the Yorktown Hall of Fame, and a beloved classmate, community historian and journalist.

“Our honorees’ fame can be local and national, but the accomplishments should have meaning to the students who walk by the plaques every day,” said committee volunteer Sara Jane Knight, a retired Yorktown American history teacher. “Yorktown has taught a wealth of remarkable and notable individuals which makes the selection even more challenging.”

This year’s honorees include:

Bonnie Atwood

Journalist, Author, Voice for Social Justice
YHS Class of 1965

An independent writer, Bonnie Atwood was a feminist, single mom, cancer survivor, promoter, lobbyist, lawyer, author and citizen-volunteer. After graduating Yorktown, she began her professional life skating in the Ice Capades. Atwood gained renown as a nationally award-winning news reporter and author of three books. She served as Past President of the Virginia Professional Communicators. She named her business Tall Poppies Freelance Writing LLC which is “Where ideas take root, grow tall and pop!” Lifelong activist and journalist, Atwood described her work “at the intersection of humor, social justice and extreme etiquette.”

Matthew Bradley

Award-Winning Foreign Correspondent
YHS Class of 2000

Matthew Bradley is an award-winning international correspondent for NBC News

since 2016, based in London and Tel Aviv. He reports on major global events for Nightly News, Today, NBC News Now, and NBC-News.com, covering stories ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic, Middle East conflicts, political upheaval, terrorism, and humanitarian crises. Before joining NBC, he worked for The Wall Street Journal in Cairo, Beirut, and Baghdad, where he covered Egypt’s January 25 Revolution, the rise of ISIS in Iraq, and the region’s complex political and cultural transformations. Bradley has earned significant professional honors for his cutting-edge news coverage and travel writing expertise.

Lowell Bryan

Global Thought Leader and Business Strategist

YHS Class of 1964

At Yorktown, Lowell Bryan was the epitome of scholar-athlete. A Davidson college star in football, wrestling and baseball, he was inducted into the college’s Hall of Fame in 1995.

He earned his Harvard MBA with distinction, and rose in business leadership spending 37 years at McKinsey, prestigious management consulting firm. Bryan has authored six books about financial institutions, global markets and the use of technology. He has contributed leading articles in major news media with appearances on CNN and CNBC, as well as expert commentary in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, during the savings and loan crisis.

Harvey Ernest

Business Executive and Civic Leader

YHS Class of 1967

Harvey F. Ernest Jr. is President and Founder of RIVERGROUP Inc., a global consulting firm located in the Washington, D.C. area, helping chief executives enhance their business through strategy development and implementation for Fortune 500 Companies, technology startups, and not-for-profit organizations. He founded his company in 2001 after a successful 27-year career with 3M, serving in headquarters management roles, and as the head of 3M Federal Systems, Washington, D.C. As a trusted civic leader, he has served in voluntary leadership roles including The Marrow Foundation, the National Industries for the Blind, Junior Achievement, and the Federal City Council.

John “Rob” Marsh III MD

Valiant Military Doctor to Country Doctor of the Year

YHS Class of 1974

Rob Marsh’s military career earned him two Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, the DOD Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Meritorious Service Medal along with the Purple Heart. Stationed in Somalia in 1993 as a Delta Force flight surgeon, Marsh was almost killed by a mortar during events described as “Black Hawk Down.” Following Army service, Marsh served as a rural doctor in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley, where he grew up. In 2014, Dr. Marsh was named “Country Doctor of the Year,” for his dedication delivering medical care to underserved, rural populations – and establishing what is believed to be the only full-service truck stop

SEE HELPING, PAGE 13

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ACPD Shares Information on Commonly Reported Scams

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) is reminding the public to remain vigilant against common and recurring scams affecting communities nationwide. As scammers continue to use increasingly convincing tactics to target individuals, ACPD is sharing information to help the community recognize, avoid and report fraudulent activity.

Community members are encouraged to exercise caution when receiving unsolicited phone calls, emails, or text messages, particularly those requesting personal information, financial details, or immediate action.

Common Scam #1: Outstanding Warrant and Jury Duty Scams

Scammers will pose as local law enforcement and contact potential victims accusing them of failing to appear for jury duty and stating a warrant for their arrest will be issued unless a fine is paid. Payment is often requested in the form of gift cards, cryptocurrency or digital cash transfers.

As a reminder, ACPD and the Sheriff's Office will never call, email or text to solicit funds or collect fines over the phone. Additionally, juror summonses are sent through the mail and communication through any other method should be considered suspicious.

Legitimate government agencies and businesses will not call individuals and demand immediate payment in the form of gift cards, cryptocurrency (such as Bitcoin) or digital cash transfers.

Any unsolicited contact that puts you in fear, requests you to act quickly or states there is an emergency requiring you to provide funds or personal identifiable information is likely a scam. If you receive a call of this nature, hang up and call the government agency directly to verify the claim.

Common Scam #2: Bank Account Scams

Scammers may pose as representatives from a bank and claim that a potential vic-

tim's account has been hacked, frozen, or is otherwise compromised. They may tell the victim their money is "unsafe" and must be moved to another account immediately.

If the scammer contacts you by phone, they may use caller ID "spoofing" to make the call appear to come from your bank or another company you know and trust. Spoofing occurs when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Because spoofed calls can look legitimate, you may not be able to recognize them immediately.

If someone calls or texts you claiming to represent your bank or another company, do not provide personal information, account credentials, or verification codes. Hang up and contact the organization directly using the phone number on your account statement, debit/credit card, or the company's official website to determine the legitimacy of the initial contact.

If you believe you have been scammed, contact your bank immediately. Ask whether a recent transfer or transaction can be stopped or reversed due to suspected fraud.

Common Scam #3: Spam Text Messages

Scammers send fake text messages to trick you into clicking on links and/or providing personal information such as passwords, bank/credit card account numbers or your Social Security number.

Spam text messages can take many forms including, but not limited to:

- ❖ Account Verification: Fake text alerts about a locked account requiring you to log in or reset your password using a link.
- ❖ Fake Package Deliveries: Messages claiming a package delivery has a problem and needs verification.
- ❖ Prize/Giveaway Scams: Text messages

saying you've won a prize or giveaway and asking you to click on a link.

- ❖ Unpaid Tolls: Messages claiming you owe money for unpaid tolls and providing a link to pay.
- ❖ Unsolicited Job Offer: Text message offering a job that you've never applied for.

If you get a text message you weren't expecting and it asks you to provide personal or financial information, do not respond or click on any links. Legitimate companies, banks and government agencies will not ask for personal information, passwords, finan-

emails or text messages.

- ❖ Take your time and trust your instincts: if an unknown caller makes you uncomfortable or says things that don't sound right, hang up.

Remain fiscally secure by following these practices:

- ❖ Review your credit reports regularly and consider adding a credit alert notification which is available through various credit monitoring services. Accounts/loans might be opened without authorization and you will not be made aware until the account has gone to debt collection. Consequently, this will negatively affect your credit score.
- ❖ Track and review your bank and credit card statements for irregular activity. Irregular activity should be reported to your bank immediately.

- ❖ Avoid unusual payment methods. No government agency or legitimate business will instruct you to resolve your debt using a payment method such as Bitcoin, money wires, cash app, mailed cash or gift cards where the identification numbers are provided over the phone.

- ❖ Do not respond to emails or text messages requesting you to "confirm," "update," or "provide" account information.

Report Scams

If you find that you were a target or victim of a scam, please file an online police report or call the Alternative Reporting Unit at 703-228-4300.

Please note: the information provided in this press release is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible scams currently circulating. Individuals seeking additional information about fraud are encouraged to visit our financial crimes information webpage.

LIKELY A SCAM: Any unsolicited contact that requests you to act quickly or states there is an emergency requiring you to provide funds or personal identifiable information is likely a scam.

cial details or information about your account by text. Block the number and report the text as junk or spam on your cellphone. You can also report the message to the Federal Trade Commission by forwarding the message to 7726 (SPAM).

Fraud Crime Prevention Tips

Reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a scam by following these crime prevention tips:

- ❖ Always be suspicious of unsolicited phone calls, texts or emails.
- ❖ Even if information displayed on caller ID appears the same as a legitimate organization, hang up and call the agency directly to verify the caller's legitimacy.
- ❖ Never use a phone number provided to you from the caller to verify their credibility.
- ❖ Never give money or personal information to someone with whom you don't have ties and did not initiate contact with.
- ❖ Don't click on links from unsolicited

Yorktown High School to Induct 9 Alumni into Hall of Fame and Inspiration

FROM PAGE 12

medical clinic in the nation.

Laurie Mathews
Conservationist, Global Health Pioneer, Citizen Leader
YHS Class of 1970

Laurie Mathews has had lasting impact in sustaining the environment, global public health and community leadership. As director of Colorado State Parks in 1991, she was instrumental in adding five new state parks, 19 new visitor centers, and creating the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund, investing \$1.3 billion in every Colorado county, serving 10.5 million visitors a year. In 2001 she founded Global Dental Relief bringing critical dental care to children in

underserved countries and serving 25,000 children annually. Since the start, the group has provided \$61.5 million in dental care to 285,000 children in Guatemala, Nepal, India, Kenya, Cambodia and Mexico. Back home, Mathews serves on boards benefiting Colorado's libraries and parks.

Chris O'Connell
Grammy-Award Winning Singer and Advocate for Animals
YHS Class of 1970

Chris O'Connell is a Grammy Award-winning singer and guitarist, best known as an original member of the Western swing band "Asleep at the Wheel," which she joined in 1970 after Yorktown graduation. She contributed to

nine albums including Texas Gold and on top-10 country hits such as "The Letter That Johnny Walker Read," before her solo career. Her styles include Western swing, country, 1940s R&B, jazz, and standards, with influences such as Johnny Paycheck and Rodgers and Hart. Music is not Chris' only lifelong pursuit, as she also advocates on behalf of homeless, sick, abandoned, abused and neglected pets.

Lieutenant General Charles "Chip" Roadman II
Our Nation's 16th Air Force Surgeon General
YHS Class of 1962

General Roadman had a distinguished 32-year military career and served as our nation's 16th

Air Force Surgeon General. He advised America's top military leaders on the health and readiness of Air Force personnel and families. He directed more than 52,000 medical personnel across 87 facilities worldwide in peace and wartime medical missions. He was a Board-Certified OB/GYN and Chief Flight Surgeon. He commanded four Air Force medical facilities and held two Joint Major Command Surgeon Positions.

Scott Taylor
African-American Historian, Journalist and Community Leader
YHS Class of 1978

Dr. Scott Taylor is a 3rd generation Arlingtonian, raised in the historic Hall's Hill neighbor-

hood. With degrees in theology and journalism, music remains his life's passion. Since 2017, Dr. Taylor has served as President of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, leading efforts to interpret the experiences of black Arlingtonians. His children's book, *The Wall*, describes the physical barrier in mid-20th Century Arlington built to separate black from white neighbors in Hall's Hill. Dr. Taylor is dedicated to memorializing enslaved individuals in Arlington, Va, by placing historically accurate "stumbling stones." He has secured historical markers for Queen City, a neighborhood demolished to make way for the Pentagon, as well as for Camp Casey, a Black Civil War camp.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

Hockey for Free Day), taking place at 18 rinks across Maryland and Virginia on Sept. 12-13. DMV Girls Hockey Weekend is a joint effort between the Washington Capitals, Monumental Sports & Entertainment (MSE) Foundation, the Potomac Valley Amateur Hockey Association (PVAHA) and various youth hockey organizations throughout the region to introduce girls ages 4-9 to hockey at no cost. Participating clubs in Virginia include: Ashburn Ice House (Ashburn, VA), Caps Academy at MedStar Capitals Iceplex (Arlington, VA), Hampton Roads Warriors/Hampton Roads Youth Hockey Association at Iceland of Hampton Roads (Virginia Beach, VA), NoVA Ice Dogs at Mount Vernon RECen-ter (Alexandria, VA), Potomac Lady Patriots at Prince William Ice Center (Woodbridge, VA), Reston Raiders at SkateQuest (Reston, VA), Richmond Generals at Richmond Ice Zone (Chesterfield, VA), Roanoke Lady Dawgs at Lancerlot Sports Complex (Vinton, VA) and STJ Hockey Club at The St. James (Springfield, VA). Visit capsyouthhockey.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

Career Forward: Veteran Transition Summit. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Marymount University's Ballston Center, Arlington. This one-day sum- mit will provide veterans and transitioning service members with practical tools, career guidance and direct employer connections. It is designed to help military veterans and transitioning service members translate their military experience into meaningful civil-

ian careers through hands-on workshops, employer networking and personalized career planning. Sessions will cover topics including translating military experience into civilian qualifications, navigating government hiring, entrepreneurship, personal branding and financial planning during career transitions. Attendees will also participate in a three-hour career fair and an interactive workshop ex- ploring how artificial intelligence can support career development through resume trans- lation, job search automation and LinkedIn optimization.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 22

Fall Prevention Health Fair. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Lubber Run Community Center, Arlington. Talk with VHC Health geriatrician and rehab therapists. Speak with experts about:

Fall risk assessments
Balance & strength evaluations
Medication review
Blood pressure screening
Vision screening
Home safety tips
Questions: 703-558-6859 or seniorhealth@vhchealth.org

TUESDAY/SEPT. 22

Marymount University to host Nick Anderson for McLaughlin Lecture. 6 p.m. At Reinsch Library Auditorium, Marymount University, Arlington. Marymount University established the McLaughlin Lectureship to honor the memory of Marya McLaughlin and her long and distinguished career as a political corre-

spondent in Washington.

This year, Nick Anderson, a former higher edu- cation reporter for The Washington Post will give the lecture, titled "Our Public Confidence Problem: How Higher Education Lost Public Trust and How We Can Win it Back." Ander- son is now the executive director of strategic communications at the American Council on Education and is a national advocate for higher education. In his work, he analyzes public confidence in higher education, its decline, and what colleges and universities can do to reverse the trend.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

"In the Heights." This fall, Arlington Arts is hosting outdoor Friday night film events. AFAC has been selected to co-host one night featuring the film "In the Heights" on Friday, September 25 (time TBD). This event coincides with Hunger Action Month, so we ask that attendees bring food donations to support the mission. This event is open to the public and will be held in the 2700 park space. Questions? Reach out to Lily Duran at lily.duran@afac.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 2

Barry Barnett Keith; "An American Artist." At the FOHTA Gallery, 2206 S. Monroe Street, lower level, Arlington. Barry Barnett Keith's 26 solo painting exhibition consists of land- scapes from around Maryland and Virginia. Opening reception 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 2nd.

FLOURISHING AFTER 55

FROM PAGE 7

Africa, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 11:15 a.m., virtu- al. Research and deliver a five-minute presen- tation on the month's topic or listen and learn from others. Registration # 911402-04.

The Angler's Corner, share fishing exploits, tackle recommendations and favorite fishing loca- tions, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Cooking demonstration featuring Hispanic des- erts, Thursday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m., Langston- Brown 55+ Center. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volun- teers. Registration # 911501-02.

Understanding credit unions presented by Tanise Bing, financial counselor with Common- Wealth One, Federal Credit Union, Thursday, Sept. 10, 3 p.m., virtual. Highlighting how credit unions differ from traditional banks. Registration # 911400-07.

The Model T Ford and the history of the Ford Motor Company, series of three classes presented by 55+ volunteer Dick Sullivan, Fridays, Sept. 11, 18 and 25, 9 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. The third meeting will be a field trip to the Edward R. Rohr Memorial Car Show in Manassas (transportation not pro- vided). No 55+ Pass required. Registration # 911400-20.

Open office hour with Ashley Gomez, Lubber Run 55+ Center Director, Friday, Sept. 11, 1 p.m., share ideas, ask questions, discuss programs. Registration # 911801-07.

Big Picture: Documentary Series (new), a screen- ing of "The Greatest Night in Pop," Friday, Sept. 11, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 911801-07.

55+ Travel group will attend The Mushroom Festival at Kennett Square, PA, the mushroom capital of the world, Saturday, Sept. 12. Cost \$85, Arlington resident; \$98, non-resident. Plus \$5 cash entrance fee (this is a cash only festival). Registration # 902609-03.

Baking Social, live baking demonstration of orchard favorites with 55+ volunteer Joni Leonardo, Monday, Sept. 14, 11:30 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration #

911501-12.

Dinner and a show with 55+ friends, hear local musicians perform at an Acoustic Café, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Bring your own dinner. Registration # 911801-10.

Squirrels, acorns and forest life, join Arlington park naturalist to learn how squirrels prepare for winter and their special relationship with oak trees, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 911400-23.

Arlington Mill 55+ Center book club will discuss "Taste" by Stanley Tucci, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1 p.m. Drop-in.

Piano Lounge and Sing-Along with pianist Valerie Welsh, lyrics provided, different theme each month, September: Latin Rhythms, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911304-13.

Acoustic Café, live performances by local musi- cians, September's musicians: The Co-Con- spirators with Sean Tracy, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911301-02. Open to all ages, no 55+ Pass required.

55+ Travel group, Maryland Park Hike and Lunch, Street, MD, Tuesday, Sept. 15, self-guided outdoor adventure along the Palmer State Park Trail Loop then lunch (on your own) at Broom's Bloom Dairy. Be aware trails are uneven. Cost \$22, Arlington resident; \$26, non-resident. Registration # 902609-04.

Euchre, a classic trick-taking card game, easy to learn, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 5 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Taught by 55+ volunteer Ben Childers. Registration # 911600-18.

Estate planning documents discussion with elder law attorney Ed Zetlin, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911404-01.

Memoir writing and autobiography, reflect on life experiences, share and exchange ideas, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Build a miniature fort using Civil War techniques,

interactive program led by Park Historian Blake Lindsey, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m., Fort C.F. Smith. Registration # 911310-04.

Pickleball: Battle of the Ages, fun-filled tour- nament for teens and adults 55+ to come together for a friendly competition, Wednes- day, Sept. 16, 4:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. All skill levels welcome. Some equip- ment provided, feel free to bring your own. Registration # 911201-01.

Virtual Fiesta to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, includes a curated video showcasing vibrant traditions, music, dance and cultural highlights, Thursday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m., virtu- al. Registration # 911899-02.

Library services discussed by Cherrydale Library staff, learn how to access free ebooks, audio books and sign-up for an Arlington Public Library Card, Thursday, Sept. 17, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911400-04.

Cybersecurity for mobile devices, recognize com- mon scam warning signs, practice safe habits, protect personal information, Thursday, Sept. 17, 3 p.m., virtual. Presented by Arlington's Dept. of Technology Services Cybersecurity Team. Registration # 911403-02.

Open jam session, join volunteer Al Robertson for a relaxed jam session featuring folk, country, classic rock, bluegrass, oldies and blues, Thursday, Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Bring your favorite acoustic instrument. All skill levels welcome. Drop-in.

Brains and Brawn, challenge your mind and body with 55+ staff, interactive wellness program, walk on the indoor track and stop after each lap for a trivia question, Friday, Sept. 18, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. All fitness lev- els welcome. Registration # 911106-24.

Viva la Musica! Lively dance performances, colorful fashion show, light lunch, celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Friday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Cost \$10, pay after registering by visiting the Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs website, friendssofthealliance.org. Registration # 911899-03.

News With Which I Can Live



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After yet another monthly lab test, my on- cologist responded with a brief electronic reply: "Cancer well controlled. Stable creatinine and liver function tests." Why this statement matters, other than the obvious is, that my health situ- ation exists on two simultaneous tracks which unfortunately compound the treatment of either: stage IV papillary thyroid cancer and as a direct result of its previous treatment, stage IV chronic kidney disease. Two for the price of one, you might say, as I did say to the X-Ray tech when I had both a CT scan and MRI consecutively one visit, (I use that term 'visit' loosely). My lab tests measured the usual choices, but as soon as damage was done/creatinine level was too high, my oncologist stopped that original papillary thyroid cancer medicine and went on to plan (B), which I still remain on. (During the time I was being treatment for papillary thyroid cancer, I went to Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center for an evaluation/second opinion. Their thyroid cancer specialist doctor confirmed my papillary thyroid cancer diagnosis and agreed that I was on the best drug available for its treatment.)

However, like many medicines, they sort of have a shelf/effective life and are prescribed until they are no longer effective and another medicine/chemotherapy is recommended. This situation (changing medicines) is not so much a matter of if as it is when. In conjunction with recurring CT scans and MRIs, the indications from your regular lab work might indicate that something might be happening in your body and so changes are made to your treatment protocol, and this routine goes on and on and on (so long as you live on and on).

And since I wasn't promised a rose garden (much of a life/future in Feb. '09 when I was giv- en a "13 month to two years" prognosis), I pretty much consider it a miracle that I'm still alive and take nothing for granted. Moreover, blips on scans and/or abnormal levels on my lab work are all just the cost of doing business, so to speak (remaining alive). As such, none of it really both- ers me; it's more that it gets my attention and focus until the situation is addressed/hopefully resolved. The problem that persists is that none of this is guaranteed and most people's least fa- vorite word is cancer is my most necessary word. And as you most of you should equate, cancer is the original "Big Dog," who rarely wants to get off the porch. As much as you (the patient) want to be in control of your life, a cancer diagnosis is the ultimate topsy turvy. Upside down is only the beginning. Whatever was before will never be again. You are a victim of your circumstance. And though there are many cancer patients in the world (heck, there are probably some on your street) from whom you might gain some strength and understanding, there are still times when you're on your own: as in receiving emails from your doctor with results of your recent lab work or scan. This moment is not for the faint of heart. And more often than not, you're by yourself when this kind of news appears on your computer/device.

Sometimes, very often in fact, I have been rewarded with the appearance and/or sound of my most favorite word: stable. I can live with sta- ble. Moreover, I can live with uncertainty of not knowing what happens next. In addition, I can live with the monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly and hopefully even longer intervals between medical assessments I'll call them, to determine where me and my cancer stand in Kenny's world.

It's hardly an ideal existence but it's one I never expected, and one for which I'm eternally grateful.

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

St. Mary's Street Festival Opens to the Community

“There’s so much to love here.”

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The line is long at the free taco truck Sunday, Aug. 23 at the first community street festival at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church on Glebe Road. One blue ticket gets you a choice of al pastor, veggie or chicken taco bowl from the Roaming Coyote Howlin’ Good Food Tex Mex taco truck. Josie Lewis sits on the curb with her quesadilla while her mom has tried the veggie taco bowl. Gregory Hooker, the Music Director, sits at a table in the shade with his demolished al pastor taco bowl in front of him.

A red ticket would get you a choice of a free popsicle in a choice of many special flavors like mango-tangerine, strawberry, blueberry-lime or salted caramel. One small customer is insisting she wants a “regular” bar without the “flakes” on the outside of the salted caramel bar.

The street is barricaded to make room for the moon bounce and the picnic tables. Chalk markings on the street declare “The Lord is Good,” and chalked boxes on the street nearby allow for hopscotch players.

The Rev. Meg Ingalls, interim rector at St. Mary’s, says a lot of those attending today are parishioners who have come after the usual Sunday morning service but “we put signs up near the church and are hoping to attract people from the neighborhood.” Ingalls stands chatting with her husband, Brad Ingalls, a retired Episcopal rector, and their granddaughter.

Prosper Daziorlor is standing by holding his taco order number and shares that he is the facilities manager for the church. He says he used to attend a different Episcopal Church in D.C. but he likes it so much better here. He explains he definitely loves the Christian attitude at St. Mary’s. “There’s so much to love here. People are so open minded and would go 1,000 miles for you.”

Cynda Tipple, a long-time parishioner, agrees. “There are so many reasons to like it here. It feels like home. It is possible to grow in so many ways.”

Steve Cory adds, “and the sermons. All of the pastors.”

And of course there’s the free taco truck and popsicle stand ...



First community street festival on Sunday, Aug. 23 at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church located at 2609 N Glebe Rd.



From left: Retired Episcopal rector Brad Ingalls, interim rector of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, The. Rev. Meg Ingalls and their granddaughter Sophia.



St. Mary’s Facilities Director Prosper Daziorlor (left) chats with parishioners at the community street festival.



A chalk drawing offers the message of the day at the St. Mary’s community street festival.



There is a line all morning for a free taco at the Roaming Coyote Howlin’ Good Food Tex-Mex taco truck.



Cynda Tipple and Steve Cory are longtime parishioners at St. Mary’s. “There is so much to like here.”



A customer at the popsicle stand isn’t sure about the “salted” chocolate bar.



Josie Lewis sits on the curb with her family enjoying a quesadilla with sour cream.