The Arlington Connection



Three Democratic poll greeters stand outside the polling place at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 8 am on Election Day. From left: Melissa Lord, Judy Kiley who was on the early 6-8 am shift, and Traci Parks.

Photo by Shirley Ruhe/The Connection

Senior Living, Page 5 ❖ Entertainment, Page 9 ❖ Classifieds, Page 10

The Voting Before the Counting

Page 3

Halloween on Parade

Page 7

"Barbie, a Cultural Icon Exhibition"

Page 12

Adopt a Senior in Need



This holiday season, Culpepper Garden has launched the Adopt a Senior campaign to ensure that our local seniors are kept warm, safe, and cared for during the winter months. Many of our residents face isolation and the challenges of aging, and your support can help provide them with the essentials they need to stay comfortable this season. By sponsoring a senior, you can provide critical items of warmth, essential household goods, and toiletries, all tailored to their individual needs, including cozy blankets, warm clothing, hats, scarves, gloves, and more.

Here's how you can help:

- **Winter Hats, Scarves & Gloves**
- **Warm Blankets & Cozy Throws**
- **Essential Household Items (e.g., cleaning supplies, kitchen goods)**
- **Toiletries (e.g., soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste)**
- **Gift Cards for food, winter coats and accessories**
- **Items from our Amazon Wishlist**

Your donation of these essential items will ensure that a senior in our community has the warmth, comfort, and care they deserve this holiday season. Whether you choose to provide winter accessories, household items, or toiletries for one individual or multiple, your generosity will make a lasting impact. Join us in making the holidays brighter for our seniors at Culpepper Garden—because every senior deserves to feel valued, loved, and supported. Thank you from the bottom of our heart!

Hats, gloves, etc can be mailed to Culpepper Garden at 4435 N. Pershing Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 or dropped off with our front desk receptionist between the hours of 9 am and 9 pm. All donations should be directed to Attn: Development Office. Thanks so much and let me know if you need any additional information

Arlington County Tree Canopy Fund Planting Applications Open

Arlington property owners could receive a free native tree to help grow urban canopy

The Arlington County Tree Canopy Fund Planting Program offers Arlington property owners the chance to receive a free native tree to help grow our urban canopy. This program offers large and medium native shade trees planted by a contractor. Trees are typically 8 to 10 feet at planting. Spring planting is around the corner, so don't miss out! Applications for spring 2027 planting are open through Jan. 13, 2027. As part of this program, EcoAction Arlington's Tree Canopy Equity Program serves historically under-resourced neighborhoods with low tree canopy coverage. Thanks to the generosity of our funders, residents of 13 target neighborhoods are provided a wider range of species to plant including small trees and shrubs. For more information, visit ecoactionarlington.org/trees or email trees@ecoactionarlington.org.

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.

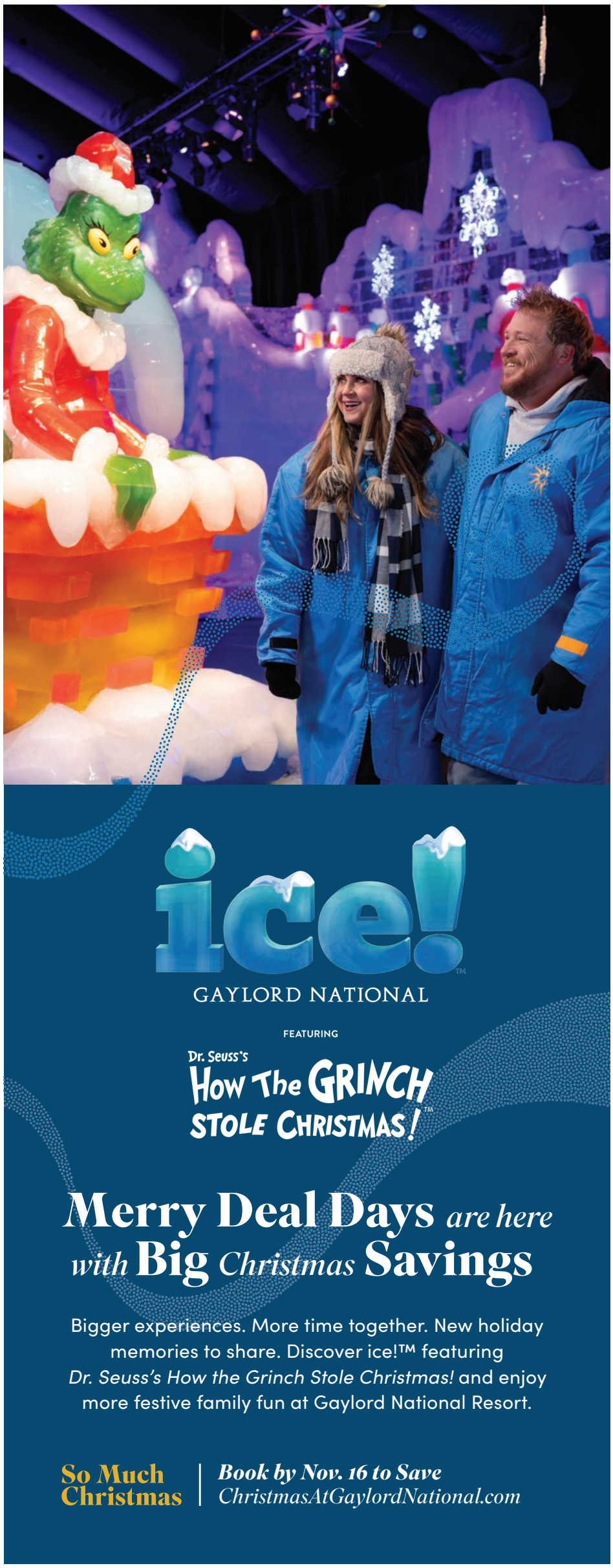
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

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.

See Bulletin, Page 8



Arlington Voters Turn Out Early and Steady



The polling place has temporarily changed for Precinct 135 from Madison Community Center which is currently under renovation. But the voting line has remained steady as voters have found their way. The most common issue raised at polls across the board at the 54 precincts in Arlington is voters who try to vote in the incorrect location.





Voters mark their ballots for Congressional representative as well as County Board and School board and three constitutional amendments.

Photos by
Shirley Ruhe
The Connection



Three Democratic poll greeters stand outside the polling place at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 8 am on Election Day. From left: Melissa Lord, Judy Kiley who was on the early 6-8 am shift, and Traci Parks. There were no Republican poll greeters present at the time.



Judy Kiley and Doug Frost give each other a last minute hug before departing the polling place after their 6-8 a.m. shift. Kiley says, "Nobody else wanted this one but I live right down the street so I thought it would be easy for me to just walk here."



Election workers check in voters for early morning voting at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Glebe Road.

‘No Kings’ All About Getting Out the Vote



From left, Judith Lelchook, Gloria Mog, and a friend spent two hours waving the American flag and urging residents to vote early.



A colorful backdrop to the protest ran along South Glebe Road.



This tireless “zebra” danced, hopped up and down, and shouted from the median for hours.

Photo by Eden Brown The Connection

On Oct. 17, the No Kings events across the U.S. were about getting out the vote. Participants along lower Glebe Road outside the Tesla dealership (a favorite spot for protests) asked motorists to honk if they supported voting. It was hard to tell who was noisier: the protesters or the honkers.



Photo by Eden Brown

Vincent showed off his Batman costume as he checked receipts on the way out the door at the COSTCO in Pentagon CIty. The costumes added to a festive atmosphere as shoppers stocked up on Halloween candy and got an early look at Christmas items.

Flourishing after 55

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.

Opera appreciation group will hear and discuss "Parsifal" by Richard Wagner, part one, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 911300-05. Part two will be Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 911300-06. Professional commentary by volunteer George Cecchetti.

History discussion group led by Encore Learning's Dwight Rodgers, Thursday, Nov. 5, 1 p.m., virtual. Topics will be emailed to participants before each meeting. Registration # 911402-09.

Open jam session featuring folk, country, classic rock, bluegrass, oldies and blues, Thursday, Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. All skill levels welcome. Bring your favorite acoustic instrument. Drop-in.

Peak foliage plus pie, Thursday, Nov. 5, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Join Arlington Regional Master Naturalist Volunteers for a 1.5-mile urban nature walk with a stop at the ACME Pie shop. Volunteers will talk about native plants, notable trees and the intricacies of nature. Registration # 911106-34.

Friendly games fundraiser, enjoy a light-hearted day of games for all skill levels including bunco, five crowns, rummikub and more, Friday, Nov. 6, 1-4 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911600-06. Once you have registered, pay the $15 admission fee by visiting friendsofthealliance.org or pay at the door with exact cash.

First Friday Social with a theme of Gratitude Game Social, Friday, Nov. 6, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Light refreshments, music and fun. Registration # 911801-03.

Movie matinee, "Good Morning Vietnam" (1987) (R), Friday, Nov. 6, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 911804-09.

55+ Travel group will explore the vibrant Dutch Country Farmers Market, Laurel, MD, Saturday, Nov. 7. Cost $22, Arlington resident; $26, non-resident. Registration # 902611-02.

Occupations and military records help genealogists learn who their ancestors were and how they lived, Monday, Nov. 9, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Presented by family historian and genealogist Susan Court. Registration # 911400-17.

Holiday cards in colored pencils, create a beautiful silver bell with a festive red ribbon using Prismacolor colored pencils, Monday, Nov. 9, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Taught by 55+ volunteer artist Sandra Phillips. Materials not provided. Check registration receipt for a supply list. Registration # 911303-16.

55+ Travel group will visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA, Monday, Nov. 9. Cost $22, Arlington resident; $26, non-resident. Lunch on your own at the museum. Registration # 902611-03.

The Pearl Bryan Murder Mystery, presented by genealogist Susan Court, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 911400-18.

Genealogy 101, learn to use primary sources such as grave sites, family records and DNA services such as Ancestry.com, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by experienced genealogist Eileen Bogdanoff. Registration # 911402-03.

55+ Travel group will enjoy a day of shopping at the Leesburg Outlets, Tuesday, Nov. 10. Cost $22, Arlington residents; $26, non-resident. Registration # 902611-04.

Let's Go Over the Guide, learn about exciting updates and new 55+ programs with Lubber Run 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez, Thursday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m., registration # 911400-01 or Friday, Nov. 13, 12 p.m., registration # 911400-02.

Artist's cookbook, Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen will

See Flourishing, Page 10

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ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL

Fall E-CARE Event Was Tons of Work

Arlington residents dropped off toxic materials, metals, electronics, and a perfectly good colander.

By Eden Brown
Arlington Connection

While the International Repair Day volunteers were busy mending broken things a few miles away, over 1,700 Arlington residents dropped off things that couldn't be fixed at the semi-annual E-CARE event. According to Kiara Candelaria Nieves, the fall 2026 E-CARE on Oct. 17 collected approximately 26 tons of household hazardous materials (HHM), which includes paint products, batteries, automotive fluids and other materials. In addition, approximately 20 tons of electronics and 2.8 tons of scrap metal were collected at Fall 2026 E-CARE.

The nonprofit organization Bikes for the World was also present at the fall 2026 E-CARE. They collected 198 bicycles and a mix of bike tools, parts, and accessories.

In total, 1,743 residents made drop-offs at Fall 2026 E-CARE on Oct. 17.

If you are wondering what can be taken to the next (Spring) E-CARE event, see: arlingtonva.us/E-CARE under "Accepted Materials."



James Wallace (left) and Steven Wade of the Department of Environmental Services man the scrap metal container. Although they are DES staff, many of the helpers at the E-CARE event were volunteers who wanted to do something to keep garbage out of the landfill.



Photos by Eden Brown

The scrap metal container had everything from bikes that couldn't be fixed to wire hangers and old lawn sprinklers. Wait! Is that a perfectly good colander in that pile?

Arlington Police Participate in Fall 2026 Street Smart Campaign

Now that daylight saving has ended, and darkness is arriving earlier, visibility becomes increasingly important for everyone traveling on our roadways. Whether driving, walking, biking or using another mobility device, staying alert, remaining aware of your surroundings and looking out for other road users can help everyone reach their destination safely. This November, the Arlington County Police Department will participate in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Fall Street Smart campaign, reinforcing our shared commitment to safer roads and smarter travel. Through education and enforcement, the region-wide campaign encourages drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists to follow traffic laws, share the road safely and make choices that help reduce traffic-related crashes and injuries.

Transportation Safety Tips for Travelers

Whether you travel on foot, two wheels or four wheels, share our roadways safely by being a PAL – predictable, alert and lawful.

If you're driving . . .

❖ Slow down, drive the speed limit and obey all posted traffic signs and signals.

❖ Stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

❖ Be careful when passing transit buses or stopped vehicles.

❖ When turning, yield to people walking and biking.

❖ Look for bicyclists before opening your door.

❖ Allow at least 3 feet when passing bicyclists.

❖ Avoid using your cell phone and never text while driving.

If you're walking …

❖ Cross the street at the corner and use marked crosswalks when they're available.

❖ Use the pushbuttons and wait for the walk signal to cross the street.

❖ Watch for turning vehicles.

❖ Look both ways before crossing the street.

❖ Stay visible after dark and in bad weather with light-colored clothing, reflective gear and/or lights.

If you're biking or using a shared micro-mobility device …

❖ Obey posted traffic signs and signals.

❖ Ride in the same direction as traffic.

❖ Communicate your intentions by using hand signals.

❖ Wear a helmet (required for riders 14 years of age or younger and recommended for all).

❖ Use headlights and taillights, especially when riding between sunset and sunrise.

❖ Ensure you are riding an e-bike or other micromobility device legally. Research the rules associated with your device to Know the Law Before You Ride

As part of our department's key initiative of Transportation Safety, officers continue to conduct traffic enforcement throughout Arlington and respond to community complaints and concerns with the ultimate goal of gaining compliance with traffic laws, even when police are not present. During the Street Smart campaign, the

Arlington County Police Department will conduct high-visibility traffic education and enforcement activations, highlighting that the safety of everyone on the road depends on the cooperation of drivers, bicyclists, shared micro-mobility device users and pedestrians on a daily basis.

Neighborhood Halloween Parade Jump Starts Trick or Treat Activities

By Shirley Ruhe
Arlington Connection

Saturday afternoon is buzzing with Halloween activity as turtles, Snow White, a sea rat, giraffes, cartoon characters and the Arlington County Police Department) K-9 dog gather at 38th and Wakefield Street for their annual neighborhood Halloween parade.

Jacqui Martinez is there with her two daughters. "They asked me every five minutes when is Halloween going to start so I thought I'd bring them to the parade for an hour to occupy them with something else." The parade is scheduled to begin at 3:30 pm and head up to Walker Chapel UMC where cider and donuts will be served at 4 at the end of the parade.

Erik Dove, dressed as one of the Ninja turtles, is there with his 81-year-old mother Rainee who is decked out as a witch from head to foot in black with a slightly greenish face. He says, "She never was a witch when I was growing up."

Rainee smiles and comments, "I figure I'm still on my feet and I'm still having fun."

Erik says, "My wife started this parade back in 2022 or 2023." Erik says he has come as a turtle because "our daughter loves turtles. We don't have any turtles but that's why we go to South Carolina every summer because that's a big place for the turtles to land."

An Arlington County Police Department officer is walking with the group accompanied by their Community Outreach K-9 Labrador, Hope, who is decked out in her Halloween costume. A small car zooms by manned by two costumed boys, while 2 1/2 year old twins Grace and Isla sit in their wagon waiting for things to happen. A tall father giraffe complete with head and mane is walking with a younger version and a woman posing as a unicorn is heard to say, "Another unicorn?"



Photos by Shirley Ruhe/Arlington Connection

Twins Isla (left) and Grace sit in their wagon before the parade.



ACPD K-9 Hope is relaxing with her handler before the parade begins.



The neighborhood crowd, complete with excited dancing children.



The neighborhood crowd including the ACPD K-9 Hope (right) walks from 38th and Wakefield to Walker Chapel Halloween afternoon.



Erik Dove, a Ninja turtle, and his 81-year-old mother, Rainee Dove, dressed as a witch.



A tall and a small skeleton and the very hungry caterpillar.

The Weekend They Stepped Inside the Industry

Two young Arlington creatives travel to New York to learn what it takes to build a future in fashion.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

They caught the 5:30 a.m. Vamoose bus from Arlington, the kind of ride where the lights stay dim and everyone pretends to be asleep.

As the bus approached Manhattan, Anna McClure, 23, an aspiring designer with a sketchbook full of knitwear ideas, pressed her forehead against the window.

"I felt like my stomach was doing cartwheels," she said, laughing as she adjusted the strap of her tote bag. "But the good kind. The kind that means something's about to happen."

Andre' Mullins, her 23-year-old friend, hoped to become a professional model. He had no agency representation and was still learning how to build a portfolio. He slung his messenger bag over his shoulder as they arrived near Penn Station. Inside was what the fashion world calls a model book, a collection of professional photographs showcasing his range, from headshots and full-length portraits to candid shots that captured him off guard.



Photo courtesy Andre' Mullins

This nighttime photograph of Andre' Mullins is part of the model portfolio that he took with him to New York Fashion Week.

"It was like, 'We're here,'" he said. "Now we have to figure out what to do."

Neither had invitations to runway shows or introductions to established designers. They had enthusiasm, limited experience and a weekend to learn how the industry worked.

> "Usually, the first step is being ready when someone does notice you."
> — Julia Ravindran, associate professor of fashion design at Marymount University's School of Design and Art

For McClure and Mullins, New York Fashion Week was not a promise of instant recognition. It was a chance to observe the work behind the spectacle and consider where they might fit within the industry.

Their first stop was the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where exhibitions offered visitors an opportunity to study clothing, textiles, and design. McClure examined silhouettes, seams, and textures, making notes about details she wanted to explore in her own work.

"I thought I needed to have a whole collection before I could take myself seriously," she said. "But I need to learn how to develop the ideas I already have."

Mullins approached the visit differently. He paid attention to how lighting, posture, and styling influenced the way people saw clothing. He began to understand that modeling involved more than looking good in a photograph.

Their observations reflected a broader lesson about entering fashion: the runway is only one part of an industry built on a range of creative and professional skills. Professor Julia Ravindran, associate professor of fashion design at Marymount University's School of Design and Art, emphasizes that range in preparing students for professional opportunities. As she explains, "these experiences can take many forms beyond presenting in an official runway show."

The museum gave McClure and Mullins a quieter view of fashion than the one usually associated with New York Fashion Week. There were no flashing cameras or crowded runways, only garments, displays, and the questions each of them carried into the galleries.

Later, they explored SoHo, where independent designers and retailers offered a glimpse of the business beyond the runway. McClure studied how collections were presented to customers and wondered how emerging designers financed production and built an audience.

Mullins considered what he needed before approaching agencies: clear photographs, accurate measurements, and a professional submission. Rather than expecting to be discovered, he began thinking about how to present himself seriously.

For students in Ravindran's Fashion Design program, preparing for professional opportunities includes more than developing creative ideas in the classroom. She describes an approach that incorporates "industry partnerships, internships, collaborative projects, portfolio development, and experiential learning" that connect students' creative ambitions with the practical demands of the profession.

By late afternoon, neither McClure nor Mullins had landed a job or gained industry credentials. Over a modest meal, they compared notes.

McClure planned to develop her sketches into a portfolio. Mullins wanted to organize his photographs and research agencies.

Their conversation turned the day into a list of practical tasks. McClure needed to shape scattered ideas into a body of work. Mullins needed to prepare the materials agencies would expect to see.

The fashion industry still seemed distant, but it no longer seemed entirely mysterious. They had begun to see that entering the field might mean finding a place within its many interconnected roles, rather than waiting for a single invitation to the runway.

They had not broken into fashion in a weekend. They had learned something more useful: ambition required preparation, persistence, and a willingness to begin wherever an opportunity appeared.

For two young creatives from Arlington, the weekend did not end with a runway invitation. It ended with a clearer understanding of the work waiting for them when they returned home and of the many paths that could lead them into the industry.

Bulletin Board

From Page 2

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 audubonva.org/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 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 Siqveland at 703-228-0913 or esiqveland@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 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

See Bulletin, Page 10

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 Thursdays 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



The Color Stories exhibit will be held now through Nov. 29, 2026 at Alliance Gallery in Clarendon.

NOVEMBER ON COLUMBIA PIKE

- Thursday/Nov. 5 – Friendsgiving on the Pike. Join the Columbia Pike Partnership for the monthly Happy Hour at Abi Azteca. Connect with neighbors and celebrate our Pike community!
- Wednesday, Nov. 18 – Columbia Pike Lunch Club. Join us at MoMo GoGo for lunch and a community conversation focused on civic associations.
- Saturday, Nov. 28 – Small Business Saturday. Shop, dine, and support Columbia Pike's local businesses as you kick off the holiday season. For event details and registration updates, visit columbiapike.org.

<cal1>Now Thru Jan 18

Image Building. Exhibit at Cody Gallery at Marymount University, Virginia Square, Arlington. Image Building is a solo exhibition of abstract and representational works, including paintings, drawings, and assemblages. Every image in this exhibition is built. Together, the works show abstraction and observation as two approaches to constructing an image, piece by piece, until it holds together.

NOW THRU NOV. 29

Color Stories. 5–7 p.m. At Alliance Gallery, Clarendon. Alliance Gallery is pleased to present Color Stories, a member juried exhibition celebrating how color can tell a story, evoke a mood, capture a moment, or express ideas. This show invites artists to explore their relationship to color and light, whether through vibrant palettes or pastel hues.

FRIDAY/NOV. 6

St. George's Chamber Series. 12 p.m. At St. George's Episcopal Church, Virginia Square, Arlington. Spend your Friday lunchtime with the Friday Morning Music Club for a free chamber music concert at St. George's Episcopal Church. The November 6 program features Brahms' Cello Sonata No. 2 and Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 8 in G Major, Op. 30, No. 3.

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

National Chamber Ensemble's 20th Anniversary Season Opens. 7:30 p.m. At Gunston Arts Center in Arlington. Featuring Romantic Masterworks: Mendelssohn, Schubert & Brahms. Special guest, Diana Stelzer, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum who will give opening remarks.

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

Dominion Hills Fall Craft Show. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Dominion Hills Community House, 6000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. The 23rd Annual Dominion Hills Fall Craft Show will present 12 local and regional artisans featuring: framed artwork, jewelry, chocolate, pottery, glassware, notecards, soap and body products and more. Admission is free and all are welcome. Come and browse original, handcrafted works for unique and reasonably priced gifts for the holidays -- or for yourself. For more information, contact Julie Jernigan at 703/864-2973 or jules@julesjewelsjewelry.com

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

Romantic Masterworks: Mendelssohn, Schubert and Brahms. 7:30 p.m. At Gunston Theater 1, Long Branch Creek, Arlington. National Chamber Ensemble's 20th Anniversary Season opens with an evening of Romantic masterworks by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms. Acclaimed soprano Karin Paludan joins National Chamber Ensemble musicians for a program celebrating the beauty, passion, and elegance of the Romantic era. Featuring chamber music and vocal selections by three of classical music's most beloved composers. The concert features "Shepherd on a Rock", Schubert's spellbinding opera-like song, Mendelssohn's glorious Piano Trio in D minor and Brahms dramatic Piano Quartet in G minor. Join for an inspiring evening of exceptional artistry as NCE begins their milestone 20th season.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle. Hosted by Christian Hunt, this experience features comedy from the DC area's finest comics. The headliner for November's show is the hilarious Will Purpura!

NOV. 14-15

Fall 2026 Open Studios & Exhibition. 2-5 p.m. At 932 S. Walter Reed Drive, Second Floor, Arlington. Columbia Pike Artist Studios (CPAS) will host its Fall 2026 Open Studios & Exhibition. The free event invites visitors to explore the working studios of 18 local artists, view new work, meet the artists, and learn about their creative processes. Artists working in painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, and sculpture will open their studios to the public. A group exhibition of CPAS member artists will also be on view in the gallery. Artwork will be available for purchase, and artists will be on hand to discuss their work and answer questions. The following artists will participate: Karen Bland, Laura Bollettino, Rhys Conlon, Johnny Dukovich, Helen Ginberg, Anne Hancock, Paula Lantz, Joanne Mazarella, Susan Mcelhinney, Nan Morrison, Bridget Murphy, Robbie Namy, Anna Radjou, Ursula Seckel, Ruth Sievers, Margaret Stewart, Monica Stroik, and Alice Whelin. Visit the website: www.columbiapike-artiststudios.org

POLICE HOST FILL THE CRUISER TOY DRIVE

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) is proud to host its 12th annual Fill the Cruiser Toy Drive, continuing a beloved holiday tradition of bringing joy to children in need across Arlington. Community members can help make the holidays brighter by donating toys at designated collection events or convenient drop box locations throughout the county in November and December.

Collection Events

Officers will collect new, unwrapped toys for children ages newborn to 17 at the following locations:

Saturday, November 21

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 830 23rd Street S.

Saturday, December 5

Lee Harrison Shopping Center, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., 2425 N. Harrison Street

Stationary Drop Box Locations

If you are unable to attend one of the donation collection events, stationary drop boxes will be located at the following locations from November 1 to December 9:

Westover Market Beer Garden, 5863 Washington Boulevard

Compass Coffee, 4710 Langston Boulevard

Cathedral of St. Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane

Office Building, 200 N. Glebe Road

Arlington Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Administrative Support Unit, 1425 N. Courthouse Road

Ireland's Four Courts, 2051 Wilson Boulevard

Celtic House Irish Pub, 2500 Columbia Pike

Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Avenue

Ruthie's All-Day, 3411 5th Street S.

Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, 333 Long Bridge Drive

Freddie's Beach Bar, 555 23rd Street S.

Courthouse Public Library, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard



Employment

Civil Engineering Technician, Arlington, VA. Create & modify CAD drawings & technical layouts. Update & manage CAD templates & standards. Support engineers w/design revisions & drafting tasks. Prep & compile construction documents. Communicate via email & coordinate project info. $28/hr. Apply online w/DeMarr Engineering, PLLC at https://www.demarrengineering.com/careers/.





Senior Living

Flourishing after 55

From Page 5

introduce participants to "recipes" for art materials that can be made from household items, Thursday, Nov. l2, 9 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911300-13.

Big Picture: Documentary Series, a screening of "The Elephant Whisperer", winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Film, Friday, Nov. 13, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 911804-03.

Tea and a Movie, screen films that align with books being read by Aurora Hills book club, "Apocalypse Now" (1979) (R), Friday, Nov. 13, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 911804-15.

Introduction to Age Tech, an overview of technologies that support daily living for older adults, Friday, Nov. 13, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Presented by Dr. Barbara Fillip, Fillip Consulting. Registration # 911500-10.

Coffee House Live! An evening with the musical group DEMZ, featuring classic rock, folk and pop tunes from the 60s and 70s, Saturday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911301-10.

What to do with Thanksgiving leftovers, learn tasty new recipes from Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers, Monday, Nov.16, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 911501-10.

Baking Social and Sweet Treats, volunteer baker Joni Leonardo demonstrates holiday-ready recipes with a November theme, Monday, Nov.16, 11:30 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 911501-14.

Retirement: Before and After, get tips and tools to use when making the decision to retire, facilitated by certified federal coach Sallie Wiley, Monday, Nov.16, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911404-06.

Colored pencil Hannukah cards, create a card featuring a colorful dreidel using Prismacolor pencils, Monday, Nov. 16, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Taught by 55+ volunteer artist Sandra Phillips. Materials not provided; check registration receipt for a supply list. Registration # 911303-17.

Meet the Beatles Part III featuring pianist Ken Schellenberg and vocalists Judy McVerry, Sherry Hickey and Cameron Fletcher, Monday, Nov. 16, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, registration # 911304-19; Thursday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center, registration # 911304-21 and Friday, Nov. 20, 11 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center, registration # 911304-22.

Painting demonstration, paint along with Community Arts Programmers as they present a detailed step-by-step demonstration, Monday, Nov. 16, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Picture and supply list will be sent prior to class. Registration # 911303-06.

Holiday Memories, share favorite holiday memories at a program presented by volunteer Jim Morris, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911801-15.

Arlington Mill 55+ Center book club will discuss "Gone Before Goodbye" by Harlan Coben and Reese Witherspoon, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Dinner and a Show, bring your own dinner and enjoy local musicians performing at an Acoustic Café, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911801-12.

Acoustic Café with local musicians featuring Letitia Van Sant and the O'Kays, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Open to all ages; no 55+ Pass required. Registration # 911301-04.

Piano Lounge and Sing-Along with pianist Valerie Welsh featuring "Oldies but Goodies" LP Collection, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Lyrics provided. Registration # 911304-17.

Murder Mystery Dinner Night at Arlington Mill 55+ Center, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5:30 p.m. Bring your own dinner, non-alcoholic beverages and desserts provided. Uncover clues and reveal secrets at this interactive game. Registration # 911801-06.

Travel Gurus: Italy. Join 55+ volunteer Susan Court who has traveled to Italy more than 10 times, as she shares
Stories about the sights, incredible food and meeting remarkable people, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 911400-35.

Responsibilities of an Executor, presented by Elder Law Attorney Ed Zetlin, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911404-07.

How to read a credit report, presented by Tanise Bing, financial counselor with CommonWealth One Federal Credit Union, Thursday, Nov. 19, 3 p.m., virtual. Registration # 911400-09.

Phase 10 Game Day, classic card game, join 55+ Center Director Jennifer Weber for a friendly game, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Beginners welcome. Registration # 911600-07.

Healing Steps: Grief Walking Group with licensed clinical social worker Jennifer Lanouette, Thursday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m., begin at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Walk about two miles at a relaxed pace, supporting healing through nature. Registration # 911106-23.

Open jam session, bring your favorite acoustic instrument and join volunteer Al Robertson for a relaxed jam
featuring folk, country, classic rock, bluegrass, oldies and blues, Thursday, Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. All skill levels welcome. Drop-in.

Brains and Brawn, interactive wellness program with 55+ staff, Friday, Nov. 20, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Walk the indoor track and answer a trivia question after each lap. Registration # 911106-26.

Bulletin Board

From Page 8

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

Helmsmen 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.

Pentagon Legacy Toastmasters meet Tuesdays 5:15-6:30 p.m. in the Pentagon Main Cafeteria/food court, left of Dunkin Donuts. Most clubs are meeting online at this time. Toastmasters is an international organization that helps people speak, think, lead and listen better. Call 703-695-2604 www.toastmasters.org.

The Friends of the Planetarium Visit www.friendsoftheplanetarium.org to find up-to-date show times, a schedule of future events, information about Friends of the Planetarium membership, astronomy news and events, the history of the David M. Brown Planetarium, a link to the Friends' store, and more.

Photos by Shirley Ruhe/The Connection



Angelica Martin and Selbin Castro, co-managers of the newly opened Surfside taco stand at Chesterbrook Shopping Center.

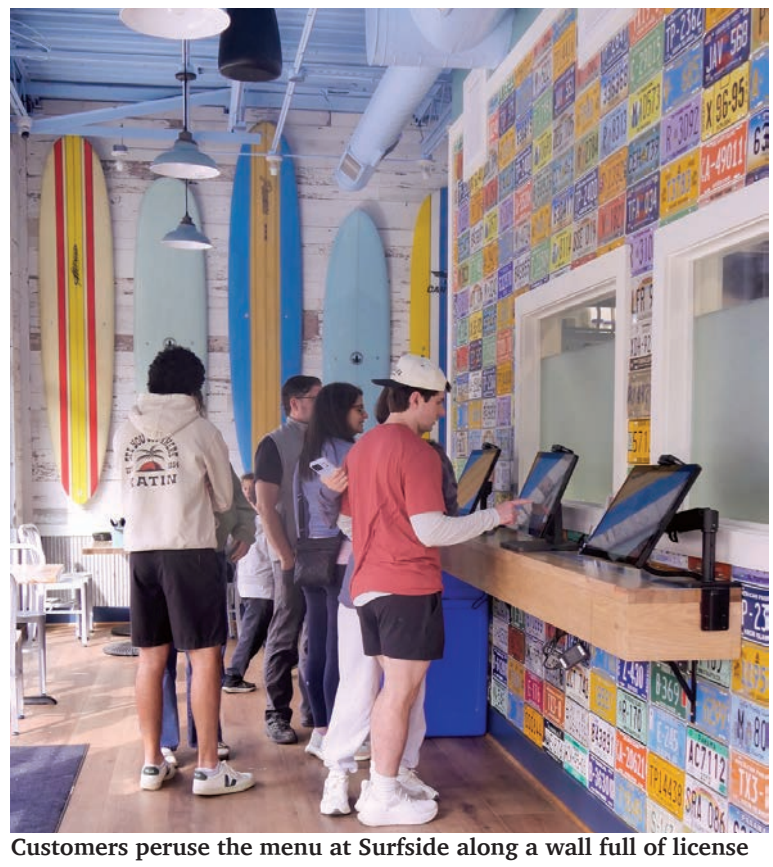


Seven-year-old Caleb says he is helping his mother Angelica Martin "a little bit" at Surfside by cleaning a few tables.

New Island-Themed Taco 'Stand' Opens



Surfside taco stand opens October 22 at Chesterbrook Shopping Mall on Old Dominion Drive.



Customers peruse the menu at Surfside along a wall full of license plates reading "St Maarten-friendly island," "Hawaii-aloha state," and "Aruba-one happy island."

By Shirley Ruhe
The Connection

Selbin Castro is calling out names as quickly as the bright green bags are filled with orders at Surfside Taco Stand. The co-manager Angelica Martin is handling the payment and delivery of the bags to the correct customer. She says the biggest challenge so far has been finding the best way to keep the service quick and have great customer service.

Surfside Taco Stand opened at Chesterbrook Shopping Mall on Oct. 22, and Martin says it was a great opening and a really busy weekend. She described Surfside as a place where everything is homemade. "Everything is made here fresh every day by our Mexican chef Diego Rivera."

Martin had just finished a St. Lucia taco with fried shrimp and creamy slaw. "So good" although her very favorite is the Maui taco with grilled fresh barramundi, black bean corn salsa and lime crema on corn tortillas.

Although the theme of the restaurant is island-related and many of the choices include fish, she says the customer favorite so far has been the Birria which is braised beef brisket with Monterey jack cheese, sweet onion and cilantro.

You can sit at the tables by the wall (inside) with hanging surfboards or on stools by the front windows or at the tables on the outside patio. And while you are tasting your quesadilla, burrito or taco, or munching on street corn served with a toothpick you can guess how many miles to the island destinations that are listed on a large road sign inside the front door.

Today Martin's seven-year-old son Caleb is roaming the store "helping a little bit" by cleaning a few tables and putting drinks in the refrigerator. He had just devoured an egg burrito which he declared "good with rice, eggs, cheese and a lot of vegetables like broccoli and carrots" and says he is having fun helping his mom.

Surfside has several locations in the metropolitan area but this is the first to open in Northern Virginia. This location is open on the weekends until 2 a.m. Martin says, "We are hoping to attract people from nightclubs around here, and there is a university nearby." She says everyone in this neighborhood has been very nice.

A grand opening is planned on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 11 am-3 pm with special activities and samples of food. Surfside is located at 6218 Old Dominion Drive in McLean.

Surfside Grand Opening Party

Live music, face painting, scratch offs,
free samples and more

Date: Saturday, Nov. 7
Time: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Address: Chesterbrook Shopping Plaza
6218 Old Dominion Drive
McLean, Va. 22101



Kenny Lourie's column will return in the Nov. 18 editions.

The Arlington Connection

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Barbie Stars in Richmond Exhibit

"Barbie, a Cultural Icon Exhibition"

By Glenda C. Booth
Connection Newspapers



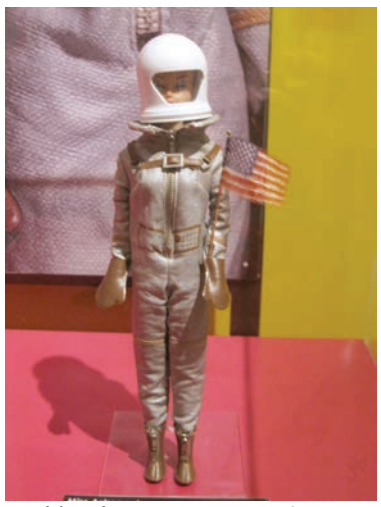
Pennant promoting the exhibit, the first Barbie, 1959.



The George Washington Barbie.



Becky, Barbie's friend.



Barbie, the astronaut, 1965.



Christie, the first Black Barbie doll, 1968, Barbie's friend



The Malibu surfers, Ken, Christie and Barbie.1973.



Ken, Barbie's boyfriend, is ready for the beach.



In 1962, Barbie wore a replica of the dress that First Lady Jackie Kennedy wore on a trip to India.



Some of the 92 Barbie hairstyles.

Our image of Barbie is likely that sleek, fashion-conscious, curvaceous, 11-½-inch doll with ruby red lips. But a tour of "Barbie, a Cultural Icon Exhibition" at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond can dispel that stereotype.

With over 250 Barbie dolls displayed amid bright pink walls and girl anthems resonating, the exhibit is a retrospective of social change. Visitors can see Barbie the athlete, the entertainer, the elected official, the doctor, the scientist, the astronaut and more. For 65 years, Barbie has evolved, today with nine body types, 35 skin tones, 52 hair colors and over 94 hairstyles.

Barbie's creator, Ruth Handler, who co-founded Mattel, Inc., with her husband, Elliot, came up with Barbie after seeing that her daughter, Barbara, played with dolls focused on mothering and caregiving, while her son's toys encouraged him to be a firefighter or doctor. "My whole philosophy of Barbie was that through the doll, the little girl could be anything she wanted to be. Barbie always represented the fact that a woman had choices," Handler said.

Creating a Barbie requires a 10-member team, including fashion designers, makeup artists, hair stylists, sculptors, graphic and packaging designers and marketers. They also create her clothes and accessories, like miniature shoes, hats, purses, jewelry, athletic equipment and other accoutrements. A life-size replica of Barbie's hot pink Corvette offers a tempting photo op.

Barbie over the Years

A pony-tailed Barbie debuted in 1959 at the New York Toy Fair wearing a black-and-white, zebra-striped swimsuit and white-rimmed sunglasses. In 1961, her boyfriend, Ken, showed up, and they frolicked in the California surf. In the 1960s, more workplace opportunities for women emerged and Barbie became a flight attendant and even Miss Astronaut in 1965, four years before man landed on the moon.

In 1968, Christie, a talking Black doll, hit the stores, Barbie's friend. Hippies popularized denim, a fabric originally favored by working men, so Barbie donned tight blue jeans with flared bottoms, bib overalls and a denim bra and skirt.

With the feminist movement gaining steam in the 1970s, bolder Barbies wore groovy skirts – minis, midis and maxis. Mattel introduced multi-cultural Barbies and for the first time, her blue eyes faced forward. More jobs opened up and Barbie went to boardrooms and courthouses wearing power suits.

One Barbie became a chief executive officer and donned a straight skirt and power pink blazer. The first Black Barbie and the first Hispanic Barbie emerged in 1980.

In the 1990s, voters elected three women to the U.S. Senate. Barbie followed suit and in 1992 a Barbie for President doll arrived. The Dr. Jane Goodall Barbie in 2022 ventured out with binoculars. In 1997, Mattel created Barbie's friend with disabilities, Becky.

Barbie is the most diverse and inclusive doll line in the world, promoters tout.

A Virginia Angle

The exhibit spotlights several Barbie Virginians, including Katherine Johnson, a mathematician known as "the human computer" at NASA's Langley Research Center. Also Norfolk-born singer Ella Fitzgerald, including the actual steel helmet she wore on World War II tours. There's a George Washington Barbie and his actual silver shoe buckles are on loan from Mount Vernon.

"Barbie has always been more than a doll — she's a snapshot of what people wore, what they imagined and what they believed was possible," said Elizabeth Klaczynski, curator of the exhibition. "This exhibition invites visitors to enjoy themselves and create memories, while experiencing how pop culture can serve as both an illuminating time capsule and a vivid magnifying glass."

Wikipedia reports, "The original Barbie doll retailed for three dollars and her first range of clothes consisted of 22 ensembles priced at between $1 and $5 US dollars. Mattel designed Barbie to drive ongoing garment sales after the initial doll purchase."

An online search shows that Barbies today cost from $14 to $44, with original vintage dolls priced in the hundreds. Mattel has sold over a billion Barbie dolls.

The exhibit closes on Jan. 18, 2027. Visit www.virginiahistory.org.