

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2015-2016

David crosses the rotating monkey bars at Bluemont Park. The large, enclosed, playground features play structures for both younger and older children.

The
Arlington
Connection

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

About the Connection

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Connection's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to try to make sense of what is happening in your community, to gather information about the best things in and around your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we've included an expanded and updated version of our award-winning Insider's Guide to the Parks, plus details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an e-mail or call us, contact us on Facebook or send us a tweet. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Con-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

nection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

The Connection Newspapers have won hundreds of press awards in just the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service, Best in Show for our Insiders Guide to the Parks, first place for our community guides, plus awards in news, art, business, special projects, sports, entertainment, design, photography and much more.

We have staff and contributors here at the Connection with remarkable talent and experience, far greater than one might expect. We continue to publish 15 distinct papers every week that serve their communities in distinct ways.

We welcome contributing writers, with the caveat that our freelance pay is nominal; if you are interested in covering news or events in your community, email editors@connectionnewspapers.com. We offer summer and year-round educational internships with information at www.connectionnewspapers.com/internships.

In addition to our weekly coverage, we have monthly special focus pages on Wellbeing; Education, Learning, Fun; and HomeLifeStyle, plus other seasonal specials including Real Estate, Senior Living, Fall Fun, Food and Entertainment (also Winter, Spring and Summer), a twice annual Pet Connection, and others.

If you have story ideas for these, email editors@connectionnewspapers.com; if you are interested in marketing, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

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PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUIHE/THE CONNECTION

The Capital Bikeshare program offers annual, 30-day or day key memberships available online. The bikes are available at a number of solar-powered stations around the metropolitan area. This station located at the Central Library is 10 minutes from the County Courthouse.



The Arlington Post Office located at 3118 Washington Blvd., was built in 1937 as the first federal building constructed in the county. Lobby murals depict scenes about Arlington history and today the building is a designated Arlington County landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic places.



Columbia Pike stretches for more than three miles across Arlington from Arlington Cemetery in the east to Arlington's western border with Fairfax County. It is the busiest bus transit corridor in Virginia. It reflects Arlington's diversity with a blend of housing, local shops and a large variety of ethnic restaurants.

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The Ballston Corridor



Jesse Fonkert, a member of the Crystal City Civic Association, and one of the millennials changing the culture of Crystal City



View of Rosslyn from the Key Bridge.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/THE CONNECTION

Undergoing ‘Reinvention and Transition’

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

Despite the colorful banners and lively street life, Crystal City’s a shell of its former economic powerhouse. While Arlington overall faces a high office vacancy of 20 percent, at 28.7 percent, Crystal City is hit the worst. But in the middle of this devastation, something new has sprung up. Crystal City is becoming the leading face of Arlington’s more youth-oriented shift. Young professionals are moving into the neighborhood to commute to jobs in D.C., and the county is beginning to recognize, even rely on, this demographic as the future of the neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

“Crystal City is also undergoing reinvention and transition,” said Alex Iams, assistant director of Arlington Economic Development. “This area was most impacted by BRAC, which took 13,000 jobs.”

According to Iams, Crystal City faces the added difficulty that many of these former government or contractor offices are unsuitable for newer tenants. While Crystal City has seen the addition of new tech companies, like 1776 and Eastern Foundry, it has hardly put a dent in the office vacancy numbers, which continue to rise.

“With the rise of teleworking, big office spaces aren’t as necessary as they once were,” said Iams. “You can feel that transition most acutely in Crystal City. [The county is] working on transitioning office buildings to other spaces, including residential.”

According to Iams, the new residences, some in converted office space, is part of what’s bringing younger populations to the area.

“Crystal City is also good landing spot for people who are new to the area because of its access to transportation amenities,” said Iams. “It’s an easy commute into D.C., it’s right next to the airport. The new stores in

adjacent Pentagon City will be [a major source of] employment.”

At 23, Jesse Fonkert stands out from most of Arlington’s Civic Association leadership. Fonkert is the membership liaison for the Crystal City Civic Association, and in many ways is emblematic of the changes happening in the neighborhood. Fonkert moved to Crystal City in January from rural South Dakota. He said that he and his girlfriend were looking for a safe place for their first real urban experience, but close enough to the city for his job working in the Federal government. It didn’t hurt that Virginia generally has lower taxes than D.C. or Maryland. Fonkert also appreciated that Crystal City was equidistant from D.C. and Old Town Alexandria.

Fonkert is quickly learning that Crystal City is very different from South Dakota. At the same time, the two areas share surprising similarities. Back in South Dakota, Fonkert said that everyone in an area gets to know each other through years of living together. In Crystal City, most residents are renters who typically stay for a year or two. But Fonkert also noted that there’s a certain level of community in that.

Fonkert praised the Crystal City Business Improvement District for its efforts in making these temporary residents feel at home. His personal favorite event is the “Brew, Blues, and Barks,” a dog-friendly event with beer and live music hosted every Wednesday in June.

But Fonkert says Crystal City faces its share of challenges. The majority of complaints center around the area’s transportation. Fonkert says the local streets can be extremely confusing and progress on road construction seems almost non-existent. Instead of addressing these issues, Fonkert says the county focuses more on adding more bus transit and forcing Crystal City to become more connected with the rest of Arlington.

“Honestly, most of us just use the metro to get into D.C.,” said Fonkert, “We don’t use the buses to get around Arlington.”

Fonkert said Crystal City’s coolest feature

is the tunnels that run under the neighborhood. The pedestrian tunnels run underneath the entire neighborhood and connect to both the metro and many of the storefronts. Fonkert said the tunnels are a relief from both freezing temperatures and heat waves. Fonkert also recommended most newcomers to Crystal City visit the ethnic restaurants and other entertainment venues on 23rd Street.

“There’s something there for everyone,” Fonkert said, in particular referencing his love of “Kabob Palace”, calling it the best kabobs in all of Arlington.

With its millennial-oriented lifestyle and greater-D.C. area access, Fonkert says he thinks he made the right decision about where to move.

“For newcomers to the area,” said Fonkert, “Crystal City is a great place to start.”

The Ballston Tightrope

After losing one of its largest economic drivers, business and county leadership remain optimistic about the neighborhood’s chances of recovery. Many of these hopes pin on the impending transformation of the Ballston Common Mall.

“Ballston is predicated on balance between commercial and residential,” said Iams. “It has a stability and a diversity of uses that give it a balance.”

For Tina Leone, the CEO of the Ballston Business Improvement District, that balance is the result of careful planning for decades.

“Ballston is a 50-50 mix of residential and commercial,” said Leone. “It’s the community Arlington has been trying to achieve since it created the sector plan in 1980.”

But according to Leone, it’s time to give that sector plan a review. There have been substantial changes in Ballston over recent years, like the April demolition of the “Blue Goose” building at the corner of Fairfax Drive and N. Glebe Road. The building will be replaced by a nine-story office building

and a 15-story residential building. One of the biggest hits Ballston has suffered, though, is the loss of the National Science Foundation (NSF). With the departure of the NSF to a new home in Alexandria, Ballston will not only be losing 2,400 employees, but over 200,000 visitors to the site every year. Construction continues at the new headquarters in Alexandria, and the NSF is expected to move into its new home in 2017.

“We’ve got that vacancy to absorb,” said Leone. “In Ballston, the strategy needs to be not chasing after [government] tenants but focus on a commercial base. These spaces aren’t being backfilled with more government tenants, it’s more private companies.”

After the NSF leaves, only 8 percent of the commercial space in Ballston will be leased by the government. As bad for Ballston as the loss is though, Iams says that the situation isn’t as bad as it could have been.

“Ballston has the advantage over other parts of Arlington in that it never had as much federal tenancy and it’s more diversified,” said Iams.

Another visible loss in Ballston has been the slow decline of the Ballston Common Mall. In June, the Arlington County Board announced that it would be looking into a public-private partnership with mall owner Forest City Enterprises for a \$300 million redevelopment. The new Ballston Mall would have a more open-air design and would include 365,000 square feet of retail space as well as 400 new residential units.

“[The thing] we’re most excited about is the Ballston Mall redesign,” said Leone. “The Mall design is set to be approved in November The mall redevelopment should help spur more development and bring people back into that vacancy.”

For new residents to Arlington, Iams said Ballston is ideal for its variety of local jobs available.

“There’s an enormous opportunity there,”

SEE CHANGING, PAGE 11



Chain Bridge was first constructed in 1797 as a wooden covered bridge by Georgetown merchants. The eighth and present version of today's bridge crosses the Potomac River connecting Washington with Arlington and carries close to 22,000 cars a day. It has three lanes with the middle one reversible.



Weenie Beenie is a local institution, the last of a small Washington-area chain of drive-ins specializing in half-smokes. The Fearless Critic says, "The thing to have is a half-smoke with chili and cheese. It's beautifully charred, served on a super-absorbent white hot-dog roll and has in every sense mastered the delicate balance of fat, salt, sugar and starch that's required for all-out straight-up pleasure."

Arlington Quick Facts

Arlington County is a diverse, professional community located across the Potomac River from Washington D.C. It is the smallest self-governing county in the United States.

Area: 26 Square Miles

Population: 216,700

Median Household Income: \$106,400

Residents' Highest Level of Education:

Bachelor Degrees-71.7%

Graduate Degrees-37.4%

School Divisions: 13th largest among Virginia's 132 school divisions

School Enrollment: Projected PreK-12 25,678

Public Schools: 4 high schools, 5 middle schools, 22 elementary schools, 4 alternative programs.

Largest Employers: Department of Defense (24,000), Arlington County (7,555), Department of Homeland Security (7,300), Deloitte (7,000), Department of Justice (5,300), Accenture (4,500) as well as other Federal agencies and private companies.

Bicycle Trails: More than 100 miles of on-street and paved off-road bicycle trails. Off-road trails travel along the Potomac River, abandoned railroad beds or major highways.

Public Transport: Reagan National Airport serving the metropolitan area is located in Arlington. Served by the Orange, Blue, Yellow and Silver lines of the Washington Metro. Also Virginia Railway Express commuter rail, Metrobus (regional public bus), Fairfax Connector (regional public bus), Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (regional public bus) and a county public bus system as well as Capital Bikeshare, a bicycle sharing system that began in September 2010 with 14 rental locations.



Theodore Roosevelt Island is in the Potomac River near the Key Bridge. The only way to reach the island by land is from the Arlington side of the river but the island is actually part of D.C. It was turned from forgotten farmland into this memorial to America's 26th President in the 1930s. Miles of trails wind through wooded uplands and swampy bottomlands.



Arlington Hospital Center, located at 1701 N. George Mason Drive, has been named one of America's 100 Top Hospitals for the third year in a row. It specializes in the areas of oncology, neuroscience and urology. It performs general, colorectal, orthopedic, pelvic and cardiovascular surgeries. In addition, it offers intensive care, laboratory, radiology and medical imaging services. The center was founded in 1933.



The 40-45 block Clarendon area of Arlington is a neighborhood between the Rosslyn area and the Ballston area. Surrounding the Clarendon metro station are a mix of shops, trendy bars, small restaurants as well as apartments, office buildings and townhouses. There is a Farmer's Market on Wednesday afternoons outside the metro during the summer.



Arlington County's Central Library is located at 1015 N. Quincy Street. In addition to the Central Library, the County Library system includes 7 branch libraries at Aurora Hills, Cherrydale, Columbia Pike, Glencarlyn, Plaza Branch, Shirlington and Westover as well as the Center for Local History and the Shed: Garden Tool Lending Library open March-November.



Fire station number 3 is Arlington's newest fire station, completed in 2011. It houses one engine with four people, a battalion chief, and 1 fire marshal 24 hours a day as well as a bomb unit and a deputy chief during the day. Other Arlington Fire Stations include: 1 (Glebe Road), 2 (Ballston), 4 (Clarendon), 5 (Jefferson District/Aurora Highlands), 6 (Falls Church), 7 (Fairlington), 8 (Cherrydale/Military Road), 9 (Walter Reed), 10 (Rosslyn).

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The Governmental Center is located at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. It houses a number of county services including environmental works, streets, sewer, taxes, Department of the Revenue, and County Board officials.

PHOTOS BY
SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION



A Farmer's Market is set up outside the Clarendon metro station on Wednesday afternoons in the summer. Other Farmer's Markets in Arlington include: Arlington at N. Courthouse Road (Saturday), Ballston at 901 N. Taylor St. (Thursday), Columbia Pike at Columbia Pike and Walter Reed (Sunday), Crystal City at Crystal Drive (Tuesday), Fairlington at 3308 S. Stafford (Sunday), Westover at Washington Blvd. and McKinley (Sunday).



The David M. Brown Planetarium at 1426 N. Quincy St. is the sole freestanding school planetarium open to the public in the metro area. It is named after Captain David M. Brown, a Yorktown High School graduate, who died while serving as a mission specialist on the NASA Space Shuttle Columbia mission in 2003. The planetarium offers weekend programs on a variety of space-related topics for the public, and more than 20,000 students visit it each year.



Arlington County operates and manages a permanent year-round Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) Collection and Recycling Center at 530 South 31st St. where residents can drop off hazardous materials on Saturdays between 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or by appointment during the week. Hazardous products are flammable, corrosive, poisonous or potentially hazardous. Emmanuel Nocon collects household products from a recent resident drop off.

Governance

Current Arlington County Leadership

County Board

Mary Hughes Hynes (D), Chair
- Retiring
J. Walter Tejada (D), Vice Chair
- Retiring
Jay Fisetta (D), Board Member
Libby Garvey (D), Board Member
John E. Vihstadt (I), Board Member

School Board

Emma Violand-Sanchez, Chair
Nancy Van Doren, Vice Chair
Barbara Kanninen, Member
James Lander, Member
Abby Raphael, Member - Retiring

Candidates for November 2015 General Election

Senate of Virginia, 30th District
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent
James R. Fisher (IG)

Senate of Virginia, 31st District
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent
George V. Forakis (R)

Senate of Virginia, 32nd District
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent

House of Delegates, 45th District
Mark H. Levine (D)

House of Delegates, 47th District
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent
Janet H. Murphy (IG)

House of Delegates, 48th District
R. C. "Rip" Sullivan (D), incumbent

House of Delegates, 49th District
Alfonso H. Lopez (D), incumbent

Clerk of Circuit Court
Paul F. Ferguson (D), incumbent

Commonwealth's Attorney
Theo K. Stamos (D), incumbent

Sheriff
Elizabeth F. "Beth" Arthur (D), incumbent

Commissioner of Revenue
Ingrid H. Morroy (D), incumbent

Treasurer
Carla F. De La Pava (D), incumbent

County Board (two seats up for election)

Kate A. "Katie" Cristol (D)
Christian E. Dorsey (D)
Audrey R. Clement (I)
Michael T. McMenamin (I)

School Board
Reid S. Goldstein
B. A. "Brooklyn" Kinlay

Adopt. Don't buy.
The Animal Welfare League of Arlington offers community services, programs and a diverse selection of adoptable animals, including: cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs and hamsters.

Animal Welfare League of Arlington
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Kathryn J. Sowerwine, MD



Dr. Kathryn J. Sowerwine is a board certified Allergist and Immunologist with a special interest in dermatological diseases linked to allergy. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Georgetown University Hospital and her clinical and research fellowship in allergy and immunology at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Sowerwine has specialized training and experience to find out what causes your allergies, prevent and treat symptoms, and help keep them under control.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day is Sept. 7

9/9/2015.....HomeLifeStyle Pullout – Real Estate & New Homes

9/16/2015...A+ Camps & Schools Back to School, Open Houses

9/23/2015.....Fall Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

9/30/2015.....Professional Profiles & Your Business in the Community

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PARKS

A SAMPLING OF ARLINGTON PARKS

1 Alcova Heights Park
901 S. George Mason Drive; 13 acres. Features: picnic shelter and tables, public restrooms, playground, baseball field, basketball court, volleyball court and grill.

2 Allie S. Freed Park
2465 Culpeper St.; 5 acres. Features: running trail, bridge, stream, open space.

3 Andrew Ellicott Park at the West Cornerstone
2824 N. Arizona St.; 0.25 acres. Features: the boundary markers of the original District of Columbia, picnic tables and benches.

4 Arlington Hall West Park
290 S. Taylor St.; 7 acres. Features: playground, multi-use rectangular field, picnic area and grill.

5 Bailey's Branch Park
990 S. Columbus St.; 2 acres. Features: playground, benches and open green space.

6 Ballston Pond Park
4747 N. Fairfax Drive; 4 acres. Features: a great spot to observe wildlife.

7 Barcroft Park
4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive; 65 acres. Features: lighted handball, basketball and tennis courts, lighted baseball and softball fields, batting cages, volleyball courts, a drop-in rectangular field, horseshoe pit, fishing at the stream, scenic running/walking/biking trail, sheltered picnic areas, charcoal grills and playgrounds.

8 Barton Park
2401 10th St. N.; 3 acres. Features: healing garden, labyrinth and seating.

9 Benjamin Banneker Park
6620 N. 18th St.; 11 acres. Features: trail access, picnic tables, charcoal grills, playground, multi-use field and dog park.

10 Big Walnut Park
1915 N. Harrison St.; 2 acres. Features: open space, playground and picnic area.

11 Bluemont Junction Park
744 N. Emerson St.; 15 acres. Features: paved walking trail, Bermuda grass rectangular field and the retired Bluemont Junction Caboose.



Bluemont Park covers 70 acres. This park features trails, sporting fields, basketball and volleyball courts, healthy vending machines, a professional grade disk golf course, and fishable streams.

12 Bluemont Park
601 N. Manchester St.; 70 acres. Features: biking/running/hiking trails, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse and football fields, a playground, picnic areas and nature areas with streams for fishing.

13 Bon Air Park
850 N. Lexington St.; 24 acres. Features: memorial rose garden, azalea and ornamental tree gardens, playgrounds, volleyball and basketball courts, picnic areas and charcoal grills.

14 Charles A. Stewart Park
2400 N. Underwood St.; 4 acres. Features: woods, fields, gazebo, playground and basketball half court.

15 Cherrydale Park
2176 N. Pollard St.; 0.8 acres. Features: open green space, benches, playground and path.

16 Clarendon Central Park
3140 Wilson Blvd.; 1 acre. Features: War memorial dedicated to Arlington citizens, hosts seasonal farmers market and occasional concerts.

17 Dark Star Park
1655 Fort Myer Drive; 0.4 acres. Features: sculptures by artist Nancy Holt and a fountain.



18 Doctor's Run Park
1301 S. George Mason Drive; 6 acres. Features: picnic tables, charcoal grills, playground, volleyball court and path.

19 Donaldson Run Park
4020 30th St. N.; 8 acres. Features: forested area, trail and stream.

20 Douglas Park
1718 S. Quincy St.; 5 acres. Features: playground, nature trails, stream, picnic shelter, volleyball court and stone fireplace.

21 Drew Park
3500 23rd S. Features: basketball court, baseball field, playground and "sprayground."

22 Eads Park
2730 S. Eads St.; 4 acres. Features: gazebo, charcoal grills, playground and multi-use field.

23 Fields Park
825 N. George Mason Drive; 4 acres. Features: multi-use field with bleachers, path and ornamental garden.

24 Fillmore Park
33 N. Fillmore St.; 1 acre. Features: playground, picnic area and baseball and softball fields.

25 Fort Barnard Park
2101 S. Pollard St.; 5 acres. Features: dog exercise area, playground, diamond field with backstop and bleachers, basketball court and a path.

26 Fort C.F. Smith Park
2411 24th St. N.; 19 acres. Features: tree canopy, open meadow, the Hendry House, preserved earthworks of a Civil War Fort and more.

27 Fort Ethan Allen Park
3829 N. Stafford St.; 15 acres. Features: gazebo, playground, basketball court, multi-use field and a dog park.

28 Fort Scott Park
2800 S. Fort Scott Drive; 12 acres. Features: picnic area, playground, baseball and softball fields, tennis court wall and a basketball court.

Julia R. and Juan D., of Washington, D.C., came to the park, with their parents, to ride bikes. Bluemont Park offers extensive trails that connect with the W&OD and Four Mile trails, popular with bikers, hikers, and joggers.



29 Fraser Park
1800 28th St. S.; 2 acres. Features: grills, picnic tables and open green space.

30 Gateway Park
1300 Lee Highway; 3 acres. Features: ornamental garden, fountain and amphitheater.

31 Glebe and Randolph Park
N. Glebe Road and N. Randolph Street. Features: bocce ball courts, benches and green space.

32 Glebe Road Park
4211 N. Old Glebe Road; 4 acres. Features: playground, tennis courts, basketball court, nature trails, drinking fountains and picnic tables.

33 Glencarlynn Park
301 S. Harrison St.; 95.5 acres. Features: picnic shelters, fishing, nature trails, playground, amphitheater and dog park.

34 Greenbrier Park
2700 N. Greenbrier St.; 18 acres. Features: basketball and tennis courts, diamond fields, multi-use synthetic turf field and a track with high jump and shot put discus area.

35 Gulf Branch Nature Center and Park
3608 Military Road. Features: exhibits, classroom, discovery room, pollinator garden, restored log cabin and observation bee hive.

36 Gunston Park
2700 Lang St. S.; 10 acres. Features: picnic shelter, playground, tennis courts, multi-use rectangular field, baseball/softball field and basketball court.

37 Hayes Park
1516 N. Lincoln St.; 3 acres. Features: tennis courts, basketball court, picnic shelter, playground and "sprayground."

38 Henry Clay Park
3011 7th St. N.; 1 acre. Features: gazebo, playground and basketball court.

46 Long Bridge Park
475 Long Bridge Drive. Features: three rectangular synthetic turf fields, walkways, art features and picnic areas.

Parker Smith, of Arlington, tries some old-fashioned rock skipping, as his parents look on.



Martha Boshnick, of Bethesda, came to walk her dog Little Man. The large park offers multiple trails, suitable for walking.



Dagoberto, of Arlington, sets up his next shot on the park's basketball court. Along with basketball, the park offers a volleyball court, open green space for casual play, and fields for several sports.



At the center of the Bluemont Park playground is a large play structure, designed to look like a train. There are also three smaller structures, for younger children, that look like western farm buildings, a theme which makes it stand out.

47 L u b - b e r Run Park
200 N. Columbus St. Features: basketball and volleyball courts, picnic shelter, charcoal grills, gazebo, amphitheater, nature paths, playground and grassy multi-use fields.

42 James W. Haley Park
2400 S. Meade St.; 5 acres. Features: charcoal grills, gazebo and nature trail.

43 Jamestown Park
3618 N. Dickerson St.; 6 acres. Features: diamond field, rectangular grass field, tennis courts and a basketball court. Great for sledding in the winter.

44 Jennie Dean Park
3630 27th St. S.; 22 acres. Features: picnic shelter, playground, baseball/softball fields, tennis courts, basketball court and open field.

45 Lacey Woods Park
1200 N. George Mason Drive; 14 acres. Features: picnic shelter, lighted basketball court, charcoal grills, playground, multi-use field, nature trails, ornamental garden, wooded areas, open green space and a fire ring.

50 Marcey Road Park
2722 N. Marcey Road; 3 acres. Features: tennis and basketball courts and access to Potomac Overlook Regional Park.

51 Mosaic Park
544 N. Pollard St. Features: playground, small climbing wall and bocce ball courts.

52 Nelly Custis Park
701 24th St. S.; 0.8 acres. Features: playground, landscaped open green space and benches.

53 Nina Park
800 S. 24th St. Features: sand pit, picnic area and wave wall.

54 Oakgrove Park
1606 N. Quincy St. Features: picnic tables, gazebo, playground, rectangular fields and paved walking trail.

55 Parkhurst Park
5820 20th Road N. Features: play area for toddlers, sand area, playground and gazebo.

56 Penrose Park
2200 6th St. S.; 2 acres. Features: picnic tables, charcoal grills, playground and basketball court.

57 Powhatan Springs Park
6020 Wilson Blvd. Features: skatepark, drinking fountains, concessions, stream, rectangular grass field, ornamental rain garden and fountain.

58 Quincy Park
1021 N. Quincy St.; 4 acres. Features: tennis, basketball and volleyball courts; baseball and softball fields; picnic area and playground.

59 Rocky Run Park
1109 N. Barton St.; 2 acres. Features: picnic shelter, playgrounds and a lighted oval field.

60 Rosslyn Highlands Park
1529 Wilson Blvd.; 2 acres. Features: basketball court and playground.

61 Shirlington Park
2601 S. Arlington Mill Drive; 29 acres. Features: drinking fountain, stream, walking path, benches and dog park.

62 Slater Park
1837 N. Culpeper St.; 3 acres. Features: playground, picnic tables, charcoal grills and a path.

63 Stratford Park
4321 Old Dominion Drive; 5 acres. Features: baseball/softball field, picnic tables, lighted tennis courts, rectangular multi-use field and a lighted basketball court.

64 Thomas Jefferson Park
3501 S. 2nd St. Features: lighted basketball and tennis courts, diamond field, lighted multi-use rectangular field and fitness trail.

65 Towers Park
801 S. Scott St.; 4 acres. Features: playground, lighted tennis and basketball courts, sand volleyball court, community garden, lighted dog park, picnic tables, charcoal grills and gazebo.

66 Troy Park
2629 S. Troy St.; 2 acres. Features: picnic tables, horseshoe pit, stream, playground and basketball courts.

67 Tuckahoe Park
2400 N. Sycamore St.; 12 acres. Features: playground, baseball/softball fields, lighted tennis courts, rectangular grass field, nature trails, ornamental garden, amphitheater and picnic tables.

68 Tyrol Hill Park
5101 7th Road S.; 2 acres. Features: playground, picnic shelter and tables, charcoal grills, basketball and volleyball court, open drop-in field and nature trails.

69 Utah Park
3191 S. Utah St.; 4 acres. Features: baseball/softball field, volleyball court, dog park with water hook-up and picnic tables.

70 Virginia Highlands Park
1600 S. Hayes St.; 18 acres. Features: lighted baseball/softball fields, lighted tennis and basketball courts, volleyball court, "sprayground," rectangular drop-in fields and petanque courts.

71 Westover Park
1001 N. Kennebec St.; 4 acres. Features: picnic shelter and tables, playground, baseball/softball fields, lighted basketball courts, volleyball courts, rectangular grass field, path and ornamental garden.

72 Windy Run Park
2420 N. Kenmore St.; 14 acres. Features: stream, nature paths and wooded areas.

73 Woodlawn Park
1325N. Buchanan St.; 1 acre. Features: stream, playground, half basketball court, open green space and picnic tables.

74 Woodstock Park
2049 N. Woodstock St.; 1 acre. Features: water fountains, picnic tables, gazebo, playground and basketball court.

75 Zachary Taylor Park
2900 Military Road; 44 acres. Features: nature trails, stream and baseball/softball fields.

ENTERTAINMENT

A SAMPLING OF ANNUAL
COMMUNITY EVENTS

September 2015

SATURDAY/SEPT. 11-12

Rosslyn Jazz Festival. 6-9 p.m. on Friday, 1-7 p.m. on Saturday, at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. The Jazz Festival kick-off event will feature Mexico's fusion band Troker and DJ G-Flux on the 33rd floor of the 1812 North Moore building. The Funk Ark, Sonny Knight & The Lakers, Debo Band, and The Dirty Dozen Brass Band will headline the main event. Free admission—registration required for kickoff. See www.rosslynva.org/events.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Memorial 5K. 6 p.m. in Crystal City. This race was organized to honor the victims, firefighters, and public safety who responded on Sept. 11, 2001. Registration fees are \$35-40. Visit www.arlington911race.com.

SEPT. 12-25

33rd Annual Senior Olympics. Various times at various locations. Participants over 50 years old will participate in track and field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, golf, miniature golf, ten pin bowling, Wii bowling, scrabble, duplicate bridge, cribbage, Mexican train dominoes, pickleball, racquetball, handball, volleyball, badminton, bocce, eight ball pool, cycling, horseshoes, yo-yo tricks, American style Mah Jongg, 5K run and more. Admission varies based on event. Visit www.nvso.us.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 13

Vintage Crystal: Sip and Salsa. 2-6 p.m. at 1900 Crystal Drive. Wine from Spain Portugal, and Argentina and food from local latin restaurants come together at this annual event. Also find live Latin music and salsa lessons. Tickets are \$25 at the the door, \$20 in advance; designated drivers tickets are also available for \$10. Visit www.crystalcity.org for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Backyard Beer Festival. 12-10 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Unlimited beer tasting featuring entertainment, food trucks, and backyard games and activities. Admission is \$35. Visit www.backyardbeerfest.com for tickets.



PHOTOS BY AMINA LUQMAN

The 2015 Arlington County Fair featured all of the traditional trappings—carnival rides, games, piglet races—and for the first time, a parade featuring reenactors (above) and other local entertainment. The 2016 Arlington County Fair has been scheduled for Aug. 17-21. Admission to the fair is free; prices vary for other activities. Visit www.arlingtoncountyfair.us for more.



SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

Vintage Crystal: Pups and Pilsners. 2-6 p.m. at 12th and Crystal Drive. This dog-friendly festival will feature a beer garden with 10 stations—each featuring a different brew. Visit www.crystalcity.org for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Clarendon Day. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Clarendon Blvd. and Wilson Blvd. between Washington and Highland. Find all the traditional trappings of a street fair plus an International Chili Cookoff, arts and crafts promenade and more. Free to attend. Visit www.clarendon.org/clarendon-day.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27

Latinoamerican Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S Carlin Springs Road. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage month by learning more about the folk traditions, music, food and dance of several Latin-American

countries. Free. Visit www.parks.arlingtonva.us/events/latinoamerican-festival.

SEPT. 27-OCT. 3

Fall For The Book Festival. Select locations throughout Northern Virginia, D.C., and Maryland. This week-long regional celebration of literature and the arts connects readers and authors at all levels. Offering bookworms the chance to meet their favorite writers. Free and open to the public. Visit www.fallforthebook.org.

October 2015

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

16th Annual Mid-Atlantic Oktoberfest. 12-7 p.m. at The Village at Shirlington, 4000 Campbell Ave. Breweries bring 4 oz. samples to accompany a day of authentic German food, music, and more. Tickets are \$30. Visit www.facebook.com/CapCityOktoberfest.

SATURDAY/OCT. 16-18

US FreedomWalk Festival. 3-6 p.m. on Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. at 1900 N Fort Myer Drive. The FreedomWalk Festival is a three-day long social walking challenge meant to bring together people of different backgrounds. Different trails are offered each day at a variety of distances from 3-27 miles starting at the Holiday Inn. Costs vary. Visit www.usfreedomwalk.org for more.

FRIDAYSUNDAY/OCT.23-25

Marine Corps Marathon Weekend. Events like the Health & Fitness Expo, First Timers Pep Rally, Runners bRUNch, and more, lead up to the main event—The 40th Annual Marine Corps Marathon—on Sunday at 7:55

a.m. and the MCM Finish Festival. Visit www.marine-marathon.com for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

VolunteerFest. A region-wide day of community service helps nonprofits accomplish tasks they would not have time or resources to do on their own. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

Chiefs vs. Chefs. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Clarendon Ballroom, 3185 Wilson Blvd. The Arlington Food Assistance Center is hosting its 4th annual “Chiefs vs. Chefs” live cooking competition. Three professional chefs will compete against three firehouse cooks for the “Golden Eggplant” using only food found in center’s pantry. Visit www.afac.org.

November 2015

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony. Arlington National Cemetery. Thousands of visitors gather to honor fallen and living veterans. Visit www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.

March 2016

SECOND TUESDAY IN MARCH

Clarendon Mardi Gras Parade. Annual parade to celebrate Fat Tuesday. Visit www.clarendon.com/mardi-gras.

April 2016

APRIL-JUNE

Relay for Life. Raise funds for cancer research by attending all-night-long events sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Visit www.relayforlife.org for specific details.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 16-17

Arlington Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Highland Street in the Clarendon District of Arlington. Artists from all over the country will showcase paintings, jewelry, pottery, glass, and more. Free. Visit www.artfestival.com.

APRIL 23-30

Historic Garden Week. This eight-day statewide event provides visitors with a unique opportunity to see elaborate gardens with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by the Garden Club of Virginia Members. Visit www.va.gardenweek.org for more.

May 2016

Taste of Arlington. This annual event turns the Ballston area into a street festival featuring Arlington’s restaurants and live music. Ticket prices vary. Visit www.ballstonbid.com.

June 2016

MONDAYS, JUNE-AUGUST

Crystal Screen. 1851 S. Bell St. Each year a different theme is chosen for this outdoor film festival beginning at sunset each Monday. Visit www.crystalcity.org for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 21

Arlington’s Got Talent. Local talent is invited to perform to benefit the efforts of Leadership Arlington. Visit www.leadershiparlington.org for more.

August 2016

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 17-21

Arlington County Fair. Times vary at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second Street South. Summer family event complete with carnival rides, musical entertainment, food and more. Admission is free. Visit www.arlingtoncountyfair.us



Lead singer of the cover band, **Burnt Sienna**. Live music is offered each spring at Taste of Arlington in downtown Ballston. Visit www.ballstonbid.com/Taste.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Public Schools	Fairfax County	Montgomery County, MD	Arlington County	Alexandria City
FY 2015 Cost Per Pupil	\$13,519	\$15,351	\$19,040	\$17,041
Average Teacher Salary	\$66,782	\$75,452	\$76,892	\$73,612
2014 ACTUAL ENROLLMENT				
Total Enrollment	183,895	151,289	23,421	13,563
Percent ESOL Enrollment	17.0%	13.2%	17.4%	25.5%
Percent Free/Reduced Price Meal Eligible	27.5%	34.3%	31.8%	59.7%
Percent Special Education Enrollment	13.8%	11.7%	14.7%	12.6%
2015 APPROVED ENROLLMENT				
Number Increase/Decrease from 2014 Actual	2,890	2,889	792	548
Percent Increase/Decrease from 2014 Actual	1.6%	1.9%	3.4%	4.0%
SCHOOLS				
Elementary	139	133	22	12
Middle	23	38	5	2
Traditional (K-8)	0	0	0	1
Secondary and High Schools	25	26	5	1
Special Education	7	5	2	0
Alternative	2	0	3	2
SOURCES OF REVENUE				
Local	69.6%	66.6%	83.0%	79.3%
State	23.3%	27.9%	12.5%	14.9%
Other	7.2%	5.5%	4.6%	5.8%
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS				
School-Based	93.2%	91.2%	90.9%	89.7%
Nonschool-Based	6.8%	8.8%	9.1%	10.3%

SOURCE: 2015 WASHINGTON AREA BOARDS OF EDUCATION GUIDE

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

Arlington Chamber of Commerce

2009 14th St., North Suite 100. Founded in 1924, the Arlington Chamber is a voluntary, nonprofit organization of hundreds of businesses and thousands of professional people who are committed to the economic prosperity and civic well being of the local community. Call 703-525-2400 or visit www.arlingtonchamber.org.

Arlington Economic Development

1100 North Glebe Road, Suite 1500. A resource for consumers and businesses in Arlington, with everything from updates on what on businesses' recent accomplishments and successes to studies on Arlington demographics that show how the city is changing. Call 703-228-0808 or visit www.arlingtonvirginiausa.com.

The Ballston Business Improvement District

901 North Glebe Road, Suite 806. Ballston's BID strives to be a foremost business, cultural and entertainment destination; they plan the large food-music-art festival Taste of Arlington. Call 703-664-1194 or visit www.ballstonbid.com.

The Crystal City Business Improvement District

2001 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 505. A public-private partnership established in April 2006 to promote the Crystal City business, retail, restaurant and residential community. The BID is committed to showcasing the area as a world-class destination for visitors, employees and residents. Call 703-412-9430 or visit www.crystalcity.org.

Rosslyn Business Improvement District

1911 North Fort Myer Drive, LL-10. Established in 2003, the Rosslyn BID takes a leadership role in making Rosslyn a viable place to live, work and play. Call the office at 703-522-6628 or visit www.rosslynva.org.

Pakistan American Business Association Inc.

9302 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite B. PABA is a nonprofit, bilateral trade association that promotes business opportunities between Pakistan

and the U.S., and nurtures leadership skills within the Pakistani American business community. Call 703-627-1500 or visit www.pabausa.org.

Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce

The Alexandria-based organization provides resources to black-owned businesses in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties. Visit www.northernvirginiabcc.org.

Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce

6521 Arlington Blvd., Suite 401. Provides networking and professional services to the Vietnamese community. Call 571-858-9909 or visit www.vietamcham.com/site/.

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Northern Virginia

Located in Herndon, the organization serves businesses lead by and those that work with the Hispanic community in the area. Visit www.hccnva.org.

Asian American Chamber of Commerce

8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, McLean. Located in Tysons, it offers programs to Asian and Pacific business communities in the region. Call 703-752-6292 or visit www.asian-americanchamber.org.

U.S. Lebanese Chamber of Commerce

A privately held business association founded in 2010 offering networking and resources to Lebanese Americans. Call 703-761-4949.

Afghan American Chamber of Commerce

8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 103, McLean. AACC offers resources through business advice, conferences, seminars, networking events and publications to stimulate U.S.-Afghanistan business and investment; Working Groups seek to reduce impediments to business and market progress for members. AACC also serves as a link between the private sector and government to encourage economic policies that result in increased business and investment. Call 703-442-5005 or visit www.a-acc.org.

ARLINGTON BY ZIP CODE

Zip code: 22206

Population: 19,051
Race: White-13,346 (70.1%), Black/African American-2,459 (12.9%), American Indian and Alaska Native-61 (0.3%), Asian-1,294 (6.8%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-2,700
Total housing units: 11,166
Owner-occupied housing units: 4,586 (45.8%)
Households with individuals under 18 years: 1,730 (17.3%)
Households with individuals 65 years and over: 927 (9.2%)
Median household income: 95,023
Mean family income: 125,954
Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 22.9%

Zip code: 22202

Population: 22,543
Race: White-16,872 (74.8%), Black/African American-1,777 (7.9%), American Indian and Alaska Native-83 (0.4%), Asian-2,698 (12%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-1,823 (8.1%)
Total housing units: 14,505
Owner-occupied housing units: 3,005 (22.9%)
Households with individuals under 18 years: 1,137 (8.7%)
Households with individuals 65 years and over: 1,774 (13.5%)
Median household income: 109,006
Mean family income: 170,684
Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 24.4%

Zip code: 22204

Population: 47,233
Race: White-24,650 (52.2%), Black/African American-7,920 (16.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native-322 (0.7%), Asian-5,407 (11.4%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-14,433 (30.6%)
Total housing units: 21,637
Owner-occupied housing units: 8,205 (41.5%)
Households with individuals under 18 years: 5,272 (26.7%)
Households with individuals 65 years and over: 2,794 (14.1%)
Median household income: 75,135
Mean family income: 99,944
Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 49.4%

Zip code: 22203

Population: 21,850
Race: White-15,552 (71.2%), Black/African American-1,321 (6%), American Indian and Alaska Native-256 (1.2%), Asian-2,247 (10.3%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-3,839 (17.6%)
Total housing units: 11,272
Owner-occupied housing units: 3,859 (34.3%)
Households with individuals under 18 years: 1,554 (13.8%)
Households with individuals 65 years and over: 1,937 (17.2%)
Median household income: 100,874
Mean family income: 166,006
Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 26.8%

Zip code: 22201

Population: 33,476
Race: White-26,562 (79.3%), Black/African American-1,506 (4.5%), American Indian and Alaska Native-71 (0.2%), Asian-3,297 (9.8%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-3,044 (9.1%)
Total housing units: 18,969

Source: U.S. Census 2010; American Community Survey 2012

Owner-occupied housing units: 6,348 (35.5%)
Households with individuals under 18 years: 2,006 (11.2%)
Households with individuals 65 years and over: 1,438 (8.1%)
Median household income: 110,293
Mean family income: 191,123
Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 21.3%

Zip code: 22209

Population: 12,314
Race: White-8,682 (70.5%), Black/African American-639 (5.2%), American Indian and Alaska Native-43 (0.3%), Asian-2,058 (16.7%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-1,409 (11.4%)
Total housing units: 7,979
Owner-occupied housing units: 2,062 (28.2%)
Households with individuals under 18 years: 610 (8.3%)
Households with individuals 65 years and over: 652 (8.9%)
Median household income: 94,109
Mean family income: 145,192
Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 32.8%

Zip code: 22205

Population: 17,087
Race: White-14,393 (84.2%), Black/African American-466 (2.7%), American Indian and Alaska Native-50 (0.3%), Asian-1,042 (6.1%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-1,645 (9.6%)
Total housing units: 6,759
Owner-occupied housing units: 4,648 (72.5%)
Households with individuals under 18 years: 2,317 (36.1%)
Households with individuals 65 years and over: 1,353 (21.1%)
Median household income: 140,948
Mean family income: 186,322
Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 20.2%

Zip code: 22213

Population: 2,936
Race: White-2,493 (84.9%), Black/African American-76 (2.6%), American Indian and Alaska Native-6 (0.2%), Asian-209 (7.1%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-177 (6%)
Total housing units: 1,350
Owner-occupied housing units: 939 (79.4%)
Households with individuals under 18 years: 368 (31.1%)
Households with individuals 65 years and over: 239 (20.2%)
Median household income: 138,512
Mean family income: 199,507
Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 27.1%

Zip code: 22207

Population: 30,920
Race: White-26,247 (84.9%), Black/African American-1,424 (4.6%), American Indian and Alaska Native-75 (0.2%), Asian-1,696 (5.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-2,281 (7.4%)
Total housing units: 11,860
Owner-occupied housing units: 8,982 (79.5%)
Households with individuals under 18 years: 4,047 (35.8%)
Households with individuals 65 years and over: 2,808 (24.8%)
Median household income: 162,424
Mean family income: 250,422
Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 16.3%

Neighborly Advice: Arlington Favorites

From bicycles to barbecue: great places to try here.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

You're new to Arlington and you have no idea where to go or what is good in town? Relax. Ten Arlingtonians were asked to share their "go-to" list of favorites. Some of their "picks of Arlington" were well kept secrets; some were the old stand-bys that give Arlington its mix of suburban and cool. One couple answered the questions separately and were surprised at each other's answers: Katie Harvey said: "I have to say, my husband's answers are fascinating to me as his wife. We both have lived in Arlington our entire lives (outside of college years) and have been married 11 years so it is entertaining to see answers that I wouldn't have expected." (They didn't use the same dry cleaner.).

Grocery, Specialty, and Wine Stores

Katy Lang's favorite grocery store is Trader Joe's in Clarendon for the cheap basics and unique items, "just try to avoid the 7 p.m. rush." Liz Thomas agreed. But most of those polled went for either Harris Teeter on North Harrison Street or Whole Foods on Clarendon Boulevard. Only one liked Safeway. Arrowine Wine and Cheese store at 4508 Lee Highway was hands down the favorite wine (and cheese) store for all of those who weighed in. The Italian Store, whether at the Lyon Village location or the new location in Westover, stood in a category of its own: Jennifer Wilkin-Penick said, "I will never forget what a delight it was to walk in there after moving here from Italy. Not only could I speak Italian with the (Tuscan) cashier, but they had my favorite Italian brand of toothpaste. My favorite cheese (sweet gorgonzola layered with mascarpone), my favorite Italian cookies (Pan di Stelle) and then staples from Italy, such as dried mullet roe, good olives, farro, and huge 'paccheri' pasta. And that was back when they had a vintage Vespa sitting outside the shop, which reminded me of the Vespa I'd left behind."

Neighborhood/Ethnic Restaurants

Everyone had their own favorite Thai restaurant: Heining's was Thai Square on Columbia Pike, Thomas and Lang's was Thai Thai at 5123 Lee Hwy., for the cheap, authentic food and free delivery, and Gary Harvey's was Thai Noy in Westover (although he also goes to Falls Church for Thai food at Duangrat). Heining likes Ravi Kabob, on Glebe Road in the Buckingham Shopping center: "It's not fancy but it's a great place to hang out." It is also known for its lamb shanks. Lang said: "Liberty Tavern — I know they've been around forever, but they are so consistently good and the space is always warm and comforting." Gary Harvey and Thomas both liked Kapnos Taverna located on Wilson Boulevard. Also cited were: SER, a Spanish restaurant at 1110 N. Glebe Road, Ballston, and Cassat's Kiwi Cafe, at 4536 Lee Highway, and Bistro 360 at 1800 Wilson Boulevard for take-out, and Backyard BBQ at 2910 N. Sycamore St. Wilkin-Penick said her own favorites were District Taco and Lebanese Taverna; "District Taco is just so easy to stop in to get a delectable duo or trio of tacos for a song and with speedy service, too." The Eden Center on Wilson Boulevard was also listed as an authentic ethnic dining experience with many Vietnamese restaurants to choose from. Katie Harvey liked Lyon Hall, a French-German Brasserie at 3100 Washington Blvd., as her "go-to" restaurant. Sheridan Collins liked Peter Chang at 2503 N. Harrison St. for Chinese food.

Dry Cleaners and Hair Salons

Wilkin-Penick said: "Millie's, at 2222 North Glebe Road, hands-down. I love the older gentleman who shouts 'Hello' when you walk in, and I would trust Mrs. Kim, in the tailoring department upstairs, with anything. She is a wizard." Gary Harvey likes the dry cleaners in the Dominion Hills Shopping Center, in the 6000 block of Wilson Boulevard. "I use them because they are very conveniently located and they do a quick turn with my dry cleaning." Collins agreed on Millie's for alterations, but chose Hi-Hat Cleaners at 3131 Lee Highway for cleaning and her friend Mary chose Hurt Cleaners at 3410 Wilson Blvd., and Eli's Salon on Lee Highway

for hair care. Liz Thomas cited Smitten Boutique Salon, 2209 N. Pershing Drive in Clarendon for hair. Gary Harvey liked Tom's Barber Shop in Westover. Hair salon? Jenny Chang in Clarendon at Sung For Hair, "3000 10th St. N Suite C is the best," per Katie Harvey.

Car and Bike Shops

Each of the Arlingtonians polled had a favorite bike or car repair shop: Jan Heining swore by the Japanese Auto Clinic on Lee Highway; Gary Harvey was equally upbeat about D&V Service Center. "Robbie Guenther and his staff are very honest and do fantastic work at reasonable prices. Robbie will not upsell unnecessary repair services and will complete repairs in a timely fashion. We love D&V Service Center." Liz Thomas liked Brakes and Beyond, a mobile mechanic who cares for her 1989 Volvo, and J and F Motors when Brakes and Beyond cannot fix it. Sheridan Collins liked Koons Toyota at 4045 Lee Highway and her friend Mary likes Cherrydale Motors at 3412 Lee Highway.

One of Katy Lang's favorite things about Arlington is the variety of transit options: "The bus system in Arlington (and where WMATA comes over into Arlington) is truly wonderful — clean, reliable, and goes many places that you might never think of. I think if a town has good public transit, it shows their commitment to the health and well-being of its townspeople and that's so, so important in a place to live." Her bike shop is Fresh Bikes, at 3924 Wilson Blvd.; others liked Revolution Cycles 2731 Wilson Boulevard, and Big Wheel Bikes at Lyon Village Center, 3100 Block of Lee Highway.

Caterers, Bakeries, and Farmers Markets

Lang said Earl's Sandwiches, at 4215 Fairfax Drive, is good for catering, and the Farmer's Market at Courthouse on Saturday mornings is just the right size and has everything one might need, with the added bonus of the adjoining craft/flea market which is fun to browse. Some liked the Westover Farmers Market, mainly because it's open on Sunday. Many people liked Pastries by Randolph at 4500 Lee Hwy. Katie Harvey said Taste by Katie, at 6017 Wil-

son Boulevard, is her go-to caterer and take away shop. "We just adore the business and as two parents who max out our time between work, church, kids' activities and volunteering, Taste by Katie is a lifesaver. The food is delicious and fresh and keeps healthier food on the table during very busy evenings in our household. She has also catered a few events for us (co-ed baby shower and Auction Happy Hour) with fabulous, customized menus."

Bars and Coffee Shops

Lang reports that lately she has been "loving the vibe of the bar at Fireworks Pizza — a good mix of travelers looking to be social, and locals coming from after work nearby." Her favorite coffee place? "Northside Social," she said. "Hands down. Great staff, delicious coffee, space for everyone whether you're socializing, studying, or stuffing your face with pastries and cheese." Wilkin-Penick said Northside Social reminded her of a place that you'd find where she's from, the North West. Gary Harvey said, "The Westover Beer Garden is a great neighborhood bar that constantly rotates quality craft beers from all over the country. It is a great place to see friends, listen to music, watch sporting events on the outside TV and get quality food. The Forest Inn is a great dive bar that is truly different from all of the other bars in Arlington. Folks here are not pretentious and the overall atmosphere is very laid back." Bayou Bakery also got good reviews by Rachel Minchew for their coffee. Thomas liked the Galaxy Hut at 2711 Wilson Blvd. for beer, and Northside Social for coffee. Katie Harvey liked Screwtop, a wine bar with cheese flights and craft beers at 1025 N. Fillmore St.

AND Jamie Usrey summed it up: "There is much to love about Arlington; most people move here for the schools, or the proximity to Washington: but Arlington stands on its own too. It has great tennis courts (that you can actually get on), many senior activities, and public transportation accessibility. There are so many places to go on a bike ride, so many nonprofit organizations helping those in need, so many libraries, and," she added with a smile: "And there are so many Democrats here."

NONPROFITS IN ARLINGTON

Arlington Thrive

Arlington Thrive provides one-time, same-day emergency financial assistance to Arlington residents facing a financial crisis, and also has programs to help prevent homelessness. 703-558-0035 or www.arlingtonthrive.org

Doorways for Women and Families

Provides services to help women out of domestic violence and homelessness toward safe and stable lives. Call 703-237-0881 for 24-hour hotline and safehouse, 703-504-9400 for general questions, or visit www.doorwaysva.org.

The Arlington Food Assistance Center

Provides supplemental food assistance to Arlington County residents, on average serving 2,200 families every week with over 35 percent of the those served being children. The Center is at 2708 South Nelson St., Arlington or visit one of their distribution centers—view the map at www.afac.org/get-food. Call 703-845-8486 or visit www.afac.org.

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia

Helps families located in the counties of Arlington and Fairfax along with the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. Assists families in obtaining affordable housing and connects them with groups of volunteers who contribute time and/or talent to help build homes; volunteers and monetary donations are needed. Call 703-521-9890, email info@habitatnova.org or visit www.habitatnova.org.

Arlington Free Clinic

Provides low-income, uninsured adults with access to a full range of medical services in Arlington, 703-979-1425, 2921

11th St. South Arlington. Visit www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org.

Bridges to Independence

Bridges to Independence (b2i) offers shelter to homeless people and works in coordination with public agencies, businesses and community groups to give homeless people the support, shelter, counseling, and employment training they need to regain self-sufficiency. Call 703-525-7177 or visit www.bridges2.org.

A-SPAN

Provides services for Arlington's street homeless. Their mission is to secure permanent housing for one of Arlington's most vulnerable populations. Call 703-820-4357 or www.a-span.org.

Northern Virginia Family Services

This nonprofit offers employments and job training, health care, housing, mental health, foster care and home visitations to new parents. Northern Virginia Family Services is headquartered at 1455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100 in Oakton with centers and thrift shops throughout the region. Call 703-385-3267 or visit www.nvfs.org.

Arlington Neighborhood Villages

Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) is a non-profit organized to help people "aging in place" throughout Arlington County. ANV combines elements of a senior cooperative, a social club and a concierge service. With a single phone call or email members can make requests from a broad range of services or register for village social, educational and cultural events. Visit www.arlnvil.org.



Changing Neighborhoods

FROM PAGE 3

said Iams. "It's really a complete community."

Beyond commercial opportunities, Leone said that one of her favorite spots in Ballston visitors may not know about is the small "ellipse park," a courtyard behind the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"It's a beautiful little spot," Leone said. "There's a fountain back there and sometimes, when you sit there, you really don't feel like you're in an urban environment."

'Realize Rosslyn'

Like other neighborhoods in Arlington, Rosslyn is seeing a greater push towards retail and commercial spaces rather than the large government jobs that dominated the local economy before Base Realignment and Closure hit in 2005. A new Target is expected to open in Rosslyn by the end of 2015, and Iams said the county's "Realize Rosslyn" plan has helped push for more shopping and dining options in the area.

However, some long-time residents believe the county is selling them out for a chance at greater development in the area. Paul Derby, president of the North Rosslyn Civic Association, said the view out the window from his home has changed dramatically over the last few years.

"When I first moved here, it was a lot of low rise garden apartments," said Derby. "Now, those four or five story buildings are being replaced by a very tall skyline."

Derby said the battle for local residents is keeping the new development in Rosslyn between the Wilson and Key boulevards.

"We're getting pressure from Arlington County, under the drive for affordable housing, to put up larger, high density buildings in residential areas," said Derby. "That's been the biggest debate here. The community is very much in support of affordable housing, but not at the expense of replacing a low rise neighborhood for six to eight story buildings."

There are 1,745 residential units in North Rosslyn. With an average of two people per household, there's an average of 3,500 people living in North Rosslyn. Derby says he isn't opposed to development, but wants to see that process slowed to allow the local occupancy time to catch up to the new retail expansion.

Derby says this kind of frustration, in North Rosslyn

and other neighborhoods, was a large part of independent John Vihstadt's reelection in the 2014 general election to the otherwise uniformly Democratic County Board.

"Vihstadt's election was a show of frustration at the massive concessions and things that are happening for the developers at the cost of voters," said Derby.

Mary-Claire Burick, president of the Rosslyn Business Improvement District, said that the key to developing in Rosslyn is keeping both the residents and the day workers happy. Burick said the Rosslyn Sector Plan, approved by the County Board in July, calls for streetscape changes, regional wifi, and cosmetic adjustments to support new retail in Rosslyn.

But if the added commercial space is one of Rosslyn's largest conflicts, Derby also acknowledged that the present lack of retail can be a source of frustration as well.

"Within 15 to 20 minutes, you can walk to Courthouse, Clarendon, or Georgetown," said Derby. "There are huge numbers of retail establishments and places to eat. That's good and bad. The bad is that retail doesn't place itself in Rosslyn, there's a real dearth of that here."

According to Iams, Rosslyn also struggles to bring in commercial clients to fill the vacant office space because the majority of those offices were built and designed with the Department of Defense in mind.

"To the extent that that space can be adapted to the new norms of office tenancy and new amenities, it can continue to do well, but there's a strong need for reinvestment in those properties," said Iams.

But Iams said there's plenty of opportunities for newcomers either looking to commute into D.C. or find work locally.

"You could easily make a compact, convenient life in Rosslyn working for the government with easy access to D.C.'s federal core," said Iams. But [Rosslyn] also has cool opportunities for creative types: Politico, WJLA. There are also some large professional services shops, like Corporate Executive Board [CEB] and Deloitte, based out of Rosslyn."

For commuting into D.C., Derby argues there's no better place than Rosslyn.

"If you live in Rosslyn, it's one of the few places where you have walking access to three metro lines: blue, orange, and silver," said Derby. "You can catch three different metro lines from home. And there's airport access at National. It's even easy to get to BWI."

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Getting To Know High School School Sports...

Yorktown

School: Yorktown High School.
Mascot: Patriots.
School Colors: Columbia blue and white.
Athletic Director: Mike Krulfeld, 703-228-5388.
Football Coach: Bruce Hanson (31st year).
 Yorktown finished the 2014 regular season with a 7-3 record and lost to Patriot in the opening round of the 6A North playoffs.

Volleyball coach: Sheena Gauer.
Boys' basketball coach: Joe Reed.
Girls' basketball coach: Devaughn Drayton.
Baseball coach: John Skaggs.
Boys' Lacrosse Coach: Greg Beer.
Girls' Lacrosse Coach: Crystal Fraser.
Rival school: Washington-Lee.

What Happened Last Season: The girls' soccer team went 13-2-3, finished Conference 6 runner-up and reached the 6A North region quarterfinals. Then-sophomore gymnast Juliette Mitrovich earned all-state honors on bars and beam. Then-senior wrestler Jason Kappel won the

Football team finished 7-4 in 2014, made playoffs.

195-pound Conference 6 championship. The boys' basketball, boys' lacrosse, girls' lacrosse and field hockey teams qualified for regionals.

Notable: The boys' lacrosse program in 2014 reached the region semifinals for the first time.

Quotable: "It's a great feeling. Three years of hard work paid off. It means a lot because I worked hard for this. Seeing all my teammates out there cheering for me; that meant a lot." — Then-senior wrestler Jason Kappel after winning the 2015 195-pound Conference 6 championship.

Former Yorktown wrestler Jason Kappel, right, won the 2015 195-pound Conference 6 championship.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Wakefield

School: Wakefield High School.
Mascot: Warriors.
School Colors: Kelly green and black.
Athletic Director: Noel Deskins, 703-228-6733.

Football coach: Wayne Hogwood, (third year)
 The Warriors finished the 2014 regular season with a 7-3 record and earned a 5A North region playoff berth. It was Wakefield's first winning season since 1983 and best record since 1972. Wakefield hosted a playoff game for the first time in school history and defeated Potomac Falls, 25-18, for the program's first playoff win. The Warriors lost to Tuscarora in the quarterfinals, finishing the year at 8-4.

Field hockey coach: Mike Wisniewski
Boys' basketball: Tony Bentley
Girls' basketball: Marcia Richardson
Baseball: Mike Ruck

What happened last season: The boys' basketball team went 24-2 and won the Conference 13 championship, but lost in the 5A North region quarterfinals. The girls' basketball team finished 16-10, lost to Edison in the conference championship game and advanced to the region quarterfinals. The softball team qualified for

Football team went 8-4 in 2014, won 5A North playoff game.

regionals.

Notable: The boys' basketball program, led by head coach Tony Bentley, has won three straight district/conference championships. The Warriors are 73-12 during that stretch, with one region title and one region runner-up finish.

Quotable: "People will stop seeing Wakefield as a basketball school completely, and maybe they'll want to play [football] here. I'm a teacher in Arlington; I still live in the area. There are a lot of kids that are like, I think I want to go to Washington-Lee or I think I want to go to Yorktown because they've done things the right way over there. [W-L head coach Josh] Shapiro has turned that program around, [Yorktown head coach] Bruce [Hanson] is always staying competitive and doing what he does, [but] now we've got a reason to make people think about hanging out here for a little bit." — Wakefield head football coach Wayne Hogwood.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Leon Young, then a junior, and the Wakefield football team earned its first playoff win in program history last season.

Washington-Lee

School: Washington-Lee High School.
Mascot: Generals.
School Colors: Blue and Gray.
Athletic Director: Carol Callaway, 703-228-6207.
Football Coach: Josh Shapiro (ninth season).

The Generals finished the 2014 regular season with a 6-4 record and qualified for the 6A North playoffs. W-L lost to West Springfield 38-20 in the opening round.

Cross Country Coach: Matt Przydzial.
Field Hockey Coach: Beth Prange.
Boys' Basketball: Bobby Dobson.
Girls' Basketball: Angie Kelly.
Gymnastics Coach: Joe D'Emidio.
Baseball: Doug Grove.
Boys' Soccer Coach: Jimmy Carrasquillo.
Girls' Soccer Coach: Eddy Matos.
Rival School: Yorktown.

What Happened Last Season: Then-senior gymnast Sophie Hatcher won the Conference 6 and 6A North region all-around championships, and placed fifth at the state meet. The boys' cross country team won the conference title, placed sixth at the 6A North region meet and qualified for the state meet. The girls' cross country team finished conference runner-up. Then-junior wrestler Ethan Guenther won

Boys' XC team makes first states appearance in 33 years.

the 220-pound conference championship. The boys' soccer team finished the season 12-1-1, but lost in the opening round of the conference tournament and failed to qualify for regionals.

Notable: The boys' cross country team in 2014 qualified for the state meet for the first time in 33 years. The gymnastics program won three consecutive region championships from 2012-2014.

Quotable: "Sophie was, again, on a roll. She won the all-around at conference and here she is, not missing a beat. We just hope that beat keeps going all the way to states. We're following her excitement and the team is still excited for her that she's advancing." — W-L gymnastics coach Joe D'Emidio after Sophie Hatcher won the 2015 6A North region all-around title. The Generals won three consecutive region titles from 2012-2014 but failed to qualify for states in 2015.

Bishop O'Connell

School: Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School.
Mascot: Knights.
School Colors: Blue and silver.
Athletic Director: Joe Wootten, 703-237-1455.

Football Coach: Colin Disch (first year).
 The Knights started the 2014 season with five straight wins, but dropped their final five games, starting with an overtime loss to St. John's, and finished 5-5.

Girls' Soccer Coach: Alberto Starace.
Boys' Basketball Coach: Joe Wootten.
Girls' Basketball Coach: Aggie McCormick-Dix.
Baseball Coach: Kyle Padgett.
Softball Coach: Tommy Orndorff.
Rival Schools: Paul VI, Bishop Ireton.



Orndorff

What happened last year: The softball team went 27-3, lost to St. Mary's Ryken in the WCAC championship game and won the VISAA state title. The girls' cross country team won the WCAC championship and placed second at the VISAA state meet. The boys' cross country team placed third in the WCAC and second at the VISAA state meet. The girls' soccer team lost to Good Counsel in the conference championship game. The boys' soccer team

Baseball team reached the 2014 WCAC championship series.

lost to DeMatha in the conference final. The boys' basketball team went 20-11 and reached the WCAC semifinals. The girls' basketball team lost to Paul VI in the VISAA state final.

Notable: The Bishop O'Connell softball program won 10 consecutive WCAC tournament championships from 2004-2013. Head coach Tommy Orndorff in 2015 surpassed 700 victories in 30 seasons with the program.

Quotable: "I don't know if there's a correct answer for that. It's certainly a problem, but it's a nice problem to have. There are a lot of people that would like to have just one of those guys." — O'Connell softball coach Tommy Orndorff, when asked how to keep his talented 2015 pitching staff — Erin Sweeney, Patty Maye Ohanian, Kathryn Sandercock, Olivia Giaquinto — happy with limited opportunities to pitch during the season.