



# The Arlington Connection



Inside

## All Hands And Paws On Duty

Tree Stewards Hugh Robinson and Katrina Van Duyn, with Juno, who also likes trees, spent the morning of Feb. 14 pruning trees and bushes along Four Mile Run's Barcroft Recreation Center area. Not shown were Tree Stewards Jan Hull and Don Walsh. Tree Stewards volunteer their time to assist Arlington and Alexandria in maintaining healthy trees

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## A Night to Remember School Board promises action as they hear some students do not feel safe.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hey walked to the podium: black, white, Latino, student, teacher, parent. They talked about two signs: one saying “Black Lives Matter,” the other saying, “Patriots know: science is real, facts are not political, women’s rights are human rights, we are all immigrants, diversity strengthens us, justice is for all, kindness is everything.” Forty-one speakers later, the room erupted in long, loud applause.

Ben Zazzara, a Yorktown High School student, wanted the school board to know that leading up to these signs being put up, comments were made at school such as: “Maybe we should have gassed all the Jews,” and “If slavery were still legal, I’d make all the African Americans here my slaves.” Zazzara told the board: “The people being attacked are the victims, not the people who are upset at the signs.”

“Since November we have seen incidents of bias and insults: sidewalk graffiti saying ‘All Muslims are terrorists,’ along with homophobic comments,” said Graham Weinschenk, a student at YHS. “But the first time we heard anything from the administration was after parents complained about the signs: minorities feel there is no support for them at YHS. If someone is being hateful, this is not a situation where the administration should stand on the sidelines. In this month of Black history, it has been worse.”

Jordan Dixon, a senior at YHS, told the crowd of about 200 at the Feb. 16 School Board meeting, “I feel like I’m in a whole new school ever since our President was elected. Our Sister Circle chapter is one that promotes Black culture and we believe Black history matters every day. But we were mocked and verbally harassed when we tried to put this banner up, and me and my African-American sisters surely did not feel respected. I did not feel safe at Yorktown.”

Kayla Harrison, who told the School Board months ago she felt Yorktown had a diversity issue, said, “When we put up our banner,

students made derogatory comments and obscene gestures; the ‘N’ word was used. In one classroom, ‘Blacks will die’ went up on the smart board. Why do kids feel empowered to say such things? Both

Washington and Lee and Wakefield High have clubs devoted to Black Lives Matter. The prejudice exhibited at YHS has no place in Arlington County Schools.”

Not all students were in favor of signs at school. Colin Martinez, a YHS student, spoke in favor of taking the signs down: “I see these signs as a violation of the policy ‘services will be provided to students with-



**Michelle Buehlmann, a parent, and Aaron Scheultz, Yorktown High School science teacher, attend the school board meeting. Buehlmann, a former Republican staffer, said the educational professionals are doing something right: “These signs have had an impact in the school. We would not be here tonight if they hadn’t. They made the Democratic-leaning students feel enfranchised, and at the same time the Republican-leaning students still felt empowered enough to speak up.”**

out political bias’, he said, and added: “It is clear to me and other students these signs were directed at Trump supporters.” He denied those who oppose the signs are also opposed to ethnic diversity. “Only one of my grandparents was born in this country,” he said.

Martinez was followed by Andrew Uz,

who said, “School is a place for education; time is being wasted over this issue. We perceive these signs as political, and school policy says perception is real.”

Tracy Piper, mother of John Piper, who has been vocal about the issue on Fox News and WMAL Radio, said, “Our students should have an apolitical environment in which to learn. The sign was and continues to be perceived by many as political. It goes against the policy, ‘Services shall be provided to students and parents without political bias. I was told by a School Board member that these signs are not political and perhaps my son should seek counselling if he thinks they are.’”

Jade Northover said, “The school administration gave us permission to put the banner up; but when the assistant principal told us to take it down, and I told him we felt threatened, he said, ‘If I was so uncomfortable then why was I at this school?’ To me and my other classmates, inclusivity was not shown to us; we are marginalized by some students and teachers.”

Peace Pyus read a statement by a friend who is an immigrant: “My friend’s family is afraid if her face is seen they might be in trouble,” she said. “Being a black young lady .... being African American in this country, is like being born with a chain around my ankles, .... people look at me like I don’t

SEE A NIGHT, PAGE 7

## Black Lives Matter Banner Removed at Yorktown

School Board and administrators refer to “safety first” as rationale for removing banner.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

**Y**orktown High School administrators asked African-American students who had put up a #Black Lives Matter (BLM) banner to take it down on Thursday, Feb. 8, according to William Lomax, assistant principal at Yorktown High School. Lomax said some students and parents had complained about the banner, saying it was racist.

According to Lomax, Yorktown’s “Sister Circle,” a group of African-American young women, wanted to put up a BLM banner in the high school’s atrium for Black History Month. He said the students were told to hang the sign after school and refused to follow directions. “As the atrium is a popular place and must be shared,” Lomax said, “the girls were asked to wait.” The issue “became heated for the young ladies, who insisted on putting it up early, noting that their time had come and they were tired of

waiting,” Lomax said. He said, “A number of students reacted to the banner. Some students made negative remarks, some parents called or wrote the school board, and some unacceptable comments were made in classrooms. The sign became disruptive very early and a decision was made to remove the banner for the good order of the school. The presence of the banner was highlighted on WMAL radio station at noon. Two hours later, it was removed.”

A similar incident took place the previous week when teachers at Yorktown put up a poster with such axioms as “facts are not political, justice is for all, diversity strengthens us, women’s rights are human rights, science is real, and we are all immigrants, and kindness is everything,” which were perceived as political by some students. The matter was referred to the school board, which supported the teachers’ right to keep the poster up. WMAL and Fox News highlighted the poster’s presence at YHS.

Lomax said, “Yorktown has to be a learn-

ing environment where all students feel safe and welcomed. Our black students were allowed to celebrate Black History Month so they were not denied that opportunity. Many things have been said about what happened yesterday. Some of those things were true and many are not. I even had one student say that Steve Bannon had been in the building last week, which was not true.”

According to several YHS students, as the students were hanging the banner, some students at the school harassed them, using racial slurs. The sign, which otherwise has a positive message that Black lives matter “as much as other lives matter,” created controversy and disruption because some students believed the sign was political, or misunderstood its meaning.

Barbara Kanninen, the school board member who was interviewed by WMAL host Larry O’Connor about the teachers’ poster, said that while the school board supported the teachers’ right to put up posters, students have limited First Amendment rights

when it comes to activity which is perceived as “disruptive.” “There are things the school board can’t define for the school, and one of those is ‘what is disruptive.’” She acknowledged that students who made racist comments to the students putting up the banner, or in classrooms, needed to be identified, and that this had not yet been done.

Students like Jordan Dixon, Taylor Harrison, and Chloe Merriweather, who felt threatened by the poster being taken down and the racial slurs they were hearing, said the administration told students “they were ‘working on it.’”

The Yorktown Parent Teacher Association (PTA) held a meeting Wednesday night, Feb. 15 to discuss the recent controversy over signs. Dr. Ray Pasi, Yorktown principal, told the group he “had never before seen a post election season like this, and the school is searching for a way forward to deal with this post-election environment.”

Kanninen said the PTA meeting was posi-

SEE BANNER REMOVED, PAGE 7



# Arlington's One and Only Bombay Masala Hound

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ady" was a Bombay Masala Hound. Don't go looking for that in any dog breed book. That's just what she was. She was a pariah or street dog; the lady was a tramp. We had found her at the entrance of the Willingdon Club, a very posh British colonial-era club in Bombay, India. How she came into our lives, and demonstrated the power of love, makes a pretty good story.

We'd gone to lunch, my husband and I, our first since arriving in the complicated, vast city of Bombay. As we walked up past the tennis courts to the colonial entrance, we were greeted by a fawn colored puppy of undetermined pedigree. She held up a paw, implying that it was hurt, and that we looked like the kind of people who could help. She was about 4 months old, born on the golf course, and already showing an unusual interest in the finer things in life. As the white gloved Indian door man prepared to give her a kick and send her away my husband stopped him. "Don't kick the dog," he told the doorman. "We will be back in an hour."

Our two girls, 6 and 8, had clamoured for a dog for almost a year, but it was still

on the "to do" list. When we found out we were once again disrupting them from their life in Arlington and going abroad, we promised: when we get there, we will get a dog. It wasn't that simple. There were only two kinds of dogs for sale in the newspaper classified, we'd checked: huge overgrown labrador retrievers who were part Newfoundland, and tiny white fluffballs that barked incessantly. We lived in a third floor apartment on Carmichael Road.

After a lunch of lamb curry, lime soda, and strawberry trifle, we had forgotten all about the pup, but as we left, sure enough, the dog was waiting for us when we came out. She had a remarkable face, with eyes that looked as though they were lined with kohl, the local charcoal eyeliner. My husband asked who owned the dog. "No one! She's a street dog!" the doorman said. Could we just her to get her paw checked? The doorman said, "You can take her, and keep her!"

Now my husband was not a soft touch, and it puzzled me why he was reaching out to this mutt, who after all, lived on the golf course where dogs are susceptible to scourges like mange, fleas, and ticks. But after I had been returned to the office, he stopped at the school to pick up the girls on the way to the vet. The pup greeted them

like old friends. She told them, with her whole body: "Of course I'm going to be with you forever now." They shrieked with delight. The deed was done: we had found our dog.

They got her checked out at the vet and the list of items that came out of her was impressive: bones, bottle caps, saran wrap, stones, and plastic bags. She was given a bath in Dettol, a rabies vaccine, and a flea collar. She was a fast learner: leash, house training, sit, come, and catching rats, all in one week. She got a name, appropriate enough for her elegant posture: "Lady." She quickly adapted to her elevated status.

A cleaned up, collared street dog looks a lot better than a mangy dog that has never seen a bath. When we took Lady on a walk on Carmichael Road, finely-dressed Indian women plucking their way down a dirty street in gold high heeled chappals would come up to us and admire her: "What a fine looking dog! What breed is that?"

We would answer honestly: this is a pariah dog we had rescued, and they would step back a foot and barely conceal their distaste. "Oh? Living in your house?!" they would exclaim.

One day, we replied: "Actually, she's a Bombay Masala Hound." This made all the difference. "Oh, lovely!" they said in lilting English. "Where can we get one?" The girls giggled.

That Christmas Eve, while the cookies were baking, and the kitchen door was open to the balcony to cool off the room (three floors up), we were wrapping presents down the hall, when we heard the blood curdling scream of a 7 year old in pain. Running into the kitchen, I saw the cook and the girls looking over the balcony. Lady had leapt over the wall to chase a cat or a bird, and lay still, half on and half off the monsoon ledge two floors down, bleeding. Cal went down to see what he could do, grabbing the inebriated bearer and a step-ladder, and together they managed to climb up to the ledge, lift her down, and examine the damage. Her forelegs were shattered, multiple bones poking out of her skin. She was bleeding from her mouth. We lifted her gently into the back seat of the car, and my husband drove her to the Parsi Animal Hospital, an old Victorian animal care institution built by Queen Victoria to care for horses and wounded elephants. It hasn't been renovated since. It's 1879, in a time capsule.

The head veterinarian at the Parsi Animal Hospital was just taking off his white coat and grabbing his hat to go home. "It's Christmas Eve, man," he said, when asked to look at the dog. "And this is just a pariah dog! And I'm on my way to a Christmas party!"

Cal looked at him. "I have a bottle of Johnnie Walker Black in the car," he said.

Pause. "Even if I operate on this dog," Dr. Patel said, looking at the dog with more attention, "she will never survive with wounds like this in a septic place like Bombay: she will get infected and die. I've



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

**The last of her breed: the rare, versatile, ladylike Bombay Masala Hound.**

seen it: the wounds start to ooze, the animals just die of sepsis. Now, I'm late." He grabbed his jacket to leave.

"My wife works at the U.S. Consulate," my husband threw out.

Dr. Patel stopped. "Which section?"

"Visa section," my husband prevaricated.

Dr. Patel sighed. He had a nephew who was going in for an interview. "I can't promise you anything," my husband said.

"And I can promise you even less," Dr. Patel said, as he tucked in his Christmas tie and washed his hands.

Lady survived the operation. She had two full length casts on her legs. She lay unconscious for two days, washed down with Dettol to keep infection at bay. The girls were dismayed at her stillness. But on the third day, she raised her head when she heard the sound of her girls. On the fourth day she wagged her tail weakly against the cement floor. The girls went every day. A week later, she raised herself up on her two stick-like legs trying to get to the girls, eventually walking on her casts even as the plaster bit into her shoulder. She left the hospital eight weeks later.

The doctor just shook his head. "I've never seen anything like it," he said, "I'm sure it's because your kids came to see her every day. Most animals die of despair, not the wounds." He was pleased, even though his nephew didn't get his visa.

Lady went on to live a charmed life, and she showed her devotion to the girls a thousand times, warning the girls when an earthquake struck, rushing into their rooms to pull the covers off, and barking when strange cars would drive into the compound. She came home to Arlington, which she loved, because there was a back yard, then went to several other countries, experiencing gall bladder surgery in France, cohabiting with a goat and two peacocks in Morocco, and putting up with an Alexandrine Parakeet who had learned to boss her around with "No, Lady." She came home to Arlington on her last transatlantic voyage, and died a few months after the younger of "her girls" went off to college. She'd raised them well. Her job was done.

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# Matching Pets to Their Owners

**Animal shelters' counselors help families find the right fit when seeking a pet adoption.**

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Natasha had been abandoned and was wandering the streets of Arlington under the blaze of a hot summer sun when she was rescued and taken to a local shelter. When handlers at the shelter leashed the German Shepherd mix, she became aggressive with other animals. After months of behavior classes, however, she began to trust and her pugnacious disposition became docile. Within months, Natasha was adopted by a family with small children.

"Most people wouldn't think of a German Shepherd as a kid-friendly dog, but that's a great example of how by taking a dog at their face value and looking at their personality rather than their breed, you can end up with a great dog that you wouldn't have thought of before," said Chelsea Lindsey, communications specialist for the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.

Lindsey says that Natasha's adoption dispels a common misconception that certain breeds are better suited than others for families with children. Lindsey and other shelter counselors say that when selecting a family pet, parents should consider factors such as the animal's temperament and the family's ability to afford and care for a dog properly.

"We don't say there are breeds that are better with kids than others. Some pit bulls are great with kids and some aren't," said Lindsey. "You really have to look at the individual personality of the dog. Are they going to let kids tug on their ear or take away their toys? Just because a dog is a lab or golden retriever doesn't mean that they're going to be good with kids."

Before selecting a pet, families should do an assessment of their ability to give the new pet proper socialization, training, exercise, and attention. "You have to be realistic and honest with yourself," said Lindsey. "Puppies are appealing and hard to turn down, but they're a lot of work."

**"We want to understand your family's environment and match it up with the best dog."**

— Gina Lynch, Outreach Coordinator, Humane Society of Fairfax County, Inc.



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON

**Natasha, a German Shepherd mix, was adopted from the Animal Welfare League of Arlington by a family with small children.**

Maybe your family is looking for an adult dog that is already house trained."

One of the first steps to successful pet ownership is beginning with an animal that is the right fit. Counselors are on hand at local shelters to help with the adoptions process. "We want to understand your family's environment and match it up with the best dog," said Gina Lynch, outreach coordinator for the Humane Society of Fairfax County, Inc. "Half the people who walk in to adopt a specific dog

end up adopting something else after they talk to a counselor. You might want a puppy, for example, but if you're gone a lot during the day, an older dog that

SEE MATCHING PETS, PAGE 13

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# Pet Sitting for 30 Years and Still Loves It

**Fun, food  
and games.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

**S**asha hears familiar footsteps and sits at the top of the stairs waiting for his food and fun to begin. Arlene Burstrom, pet sitter for Sit-A-Pet, says their mother travels a lot for business so Burstrom comes twice a day to feed Sasha and Pippin, two rescue Manx brothers.

Both cats are very affectionate but Burstrom says Sasha is the more independent one. "He comes down the stairs until his forehead touches mine. He wants to be greeted." She explains Pippin is shy and may hide before venturing out.

Since it is late afternoon, it is time for the can of wet food that they split every day. "And they get a small cup of dry food twice a day. But no treats." Burstrom says she feeds Sasha in the laundry room and closes the door while he eats, and Pippin gets fed outside in the kitchen. "That's because Pippin eats slower and Sasha would eat his own food and then the rest of Pippin's, too. He loves to eat."

Burstrom says she sits for mostly cats and dogs but in earlier years she had a pot-bellied pig. "I walked him; he had a harness on. Also he had a litter box. But," she adds, "he wasn't too cuddly. I also had a monkey who was on loan to the owner from the zoo. He had a huge cage and the owner told me to turn on a certain TV channel for him while I was there. I can't remember if it was Animal Planet." And she has had a few rabbits and an iguana.

Today is a holiday weekend and Burstrom is mid-way through her nine stops with eight scheduled for Sunday. She carries a clipboard with "My Pet Schedule for President's Day Weekend" and her yellow marker. "Some days this is all I do and then sometimes I have a week or two off. I like this schedule."

Sasha is finished with dinner and scratching to get out but Pippin is taking his time with his dinner. Burstrom washes out the dog dishes and goes back into the laundry room to check the litter box. She points to a small vacuum cleaner that she uses to clean up any stray litter. "This is very convenient. Some houses have three floors and the water is on one floor



**Arlene Burstrom, pet sitter at Sit-A-Pet in Arlington for 30 years, is preparing the evening meal for Sasha and Pippin, two rescue Manx brothers.**



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

**Sasha has heard familiar steps and sits at the top of the stairs waiting for his food and fun to begin with pet sitter Arlene Burstrom.**

**Arlene Burstrom takes out her 25-year-old Kitty Tease to start a game with Pippin and Sasha. "All cats go wild. I don't know why."**

and the litter on another. I run back and forth. But," she adds, "It gives me my exercise."

Over her 30 years of pet sitting all kinds of things have happened. She remembers seeing an unfamiliar shopping bag sitting in the middle of a kitchen floor. Then she discovered the sliding glass doors were broken and the house had been robbed. "I called the police. It was kids stealing a lot of liquor."

Another time it was in November and getting cold. She walked out on a balcony with a plastic cup of birdseed and without a coat. Somehow the bar on the glass door dropped down, locking her outside on the balcony 25 feet up. "I was very cold. All I had was the cup so I broke it to get a tool wedge. I stuck in the handle and wiggled it and finally the handle flipped up." She says it was 18

years ago but she can't go anyplace without propping the door open. "Another time I crawled back in through a doggy door." And once a woman was in Europe and very worried about her toilet and her ceiling fan. "I don't know how but I fixed the toilet." She jokes, "We are an all service operation."

Sasha saunters across the floor and rubs against Burstrom's legs. "They are so sweet. They kind of melt into me." Burstrom reaches for her 25-year old Pet Teaser. She said she put on a new string but this is one of the originals. "All cats go wild." Pippin flips out a paw for the bouncing string. "Try to take turns. Be good brothers." Sasha jumps for the ball at the end of the string. "We've got a game going here."

Burstrom spends at least 30 minutes at each stop. When she has

many pets, it's usually longer. "I have a woman in D.C. who has nine cats. It's like feeding a family." Sit-A-Pet covers the metropolitan area with 65 employees. But Burstrom says she usually gets assigned pets within 5 miles of her house. She has a lot of regulars but a lot of new clients, as well, due to the nature of the transient area. Burstrom started her pet-sitting job in November 1987 when she was still working at a full-time job but wanted to make a little extra money for Christmas.

She said she would take pet sitting jobs before and after work and even one pet at lunchtime. "I enjoyed it then and now I say all the time I love it." She leaves carefully thought-out notes for the owners describing her visit. Burstrom says it is in her nature to do over 100 percent.

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# A Night to Remember

FROM PAGE 3

belong. Some kids had the audacity to call me the 'N' word every day, for months, until my HILT teacher intervened."

The science teachers at Yorktown stood up explaining why they had put the rainbow posters up in the first place. "Despite my love of physics I love teaching kids even more. I teach them how to work with people they like, and people they don't like. I should have posted this sign years ago," said Physics teacher Deborah Waldron. "I thought being a solid role model was enough for my students. I was wrong. I didn't support my kids enough. I have had students come up to me and thank me for the role I played in putting up the signs: they said, 'I loved YHS but I did not always feel support here.'"

Physics teacher Dan Carroll said, "The signs were posted in response to specific incidents. The sign tells students, 'You are welcome here.' He went on to say, 'It's about who has the power and who can take power. The sign was created for people who don't have power.' He added, 'Cognitive dissonance leads to growth,' reiterating a theme heard throughout the night that having the signs up, and provoking conversation, was a good thing, a learning opportunity, and something YHS students and administrators should not attempt to quash.

Adrienne Wright, another science teacher, lamented that students at YHS seemed to feel more comfortable giving voice to racist and ethnic slurs since November. She had heard students say things like "I'll brand you and make you my slave," to Black students. She defended the signs: "We wanted to calm their fears. We wanted to be inclusive and kind."

Many speakers talked about the fear im-



migrants have experienced in the past few months. Rebecca Alvarado said, "I know what it is to be a minority in this school. If someone feels 'oppressed' by signs like these, they clearly have no idea what it is to be truly oppressed. What the school has done is to remove these signs, but we need them, to remind us of who we are and to promote unity and diversity." "I'm here because some kids can't come here out of fear," said Gabriella Uro. "The fears I'm hearing expressed by kids .... five or six immigration agents coming into their homes, parents who fear walking their children to school, students who have to work part-time because one of their parents has been deported: but little attention is being paid to these kids." Shari Benitez, an educator at YHS, said, "I'm here to talk about the underlying issues. Although we've always had some racial tension at YHS, since November the incidents of racism have been worse. We need collaboration and effective communication. We need to take a stand and uphold these values especially when it is difficult. How do we teach students empathy for others? Today's student forum was something I am proud of; in the future we will need to have trained people come help the discussion too."

## How School Board Responded

School Board vice chair Barbara Kanninen told the crowd that the board is studying the immigration issue and had spent time with an attorney earlier that evening: "We want to make sure students know their rights. We want to make sure students feel prepared and aware. We aren't ready with information yet, but we are all deeply concerned. As for the incidents at Yorktown, we are all shocked and hurt by what we have heard."

Superintendent Pat Murphy, regarding the incidents at Yorktown High School, said, "Thank you to all the students and parents who came out to speak.

The behaviors as described are not acceptable and will not be tolerated; this is not how the ship will be run. We want all the schools to be a safe

place where kids grow and learn. I believe our APS staff will continue to work to provide a safe place. If anyone has concerns, I urge you to share those concerns with teachers, trusted personnel, or me." Other members of the board expressed delight that the students felt deeply, stood up for their convictions, and were honest and articulate. They applauded the courage displayed by the students, especially those who told their story even knowing it wasn't a popular one. Kanninen closed the session saying it had been one of the most moving evenings she had ever experienced. Hearing YHS students speak up — sometimes for people they didn't even know — proved to her that Yorktown is going to be OK. "Help each other, and when you see something happening, take it on."

## Banner Removed at Yorktown

FROM PAGE 3

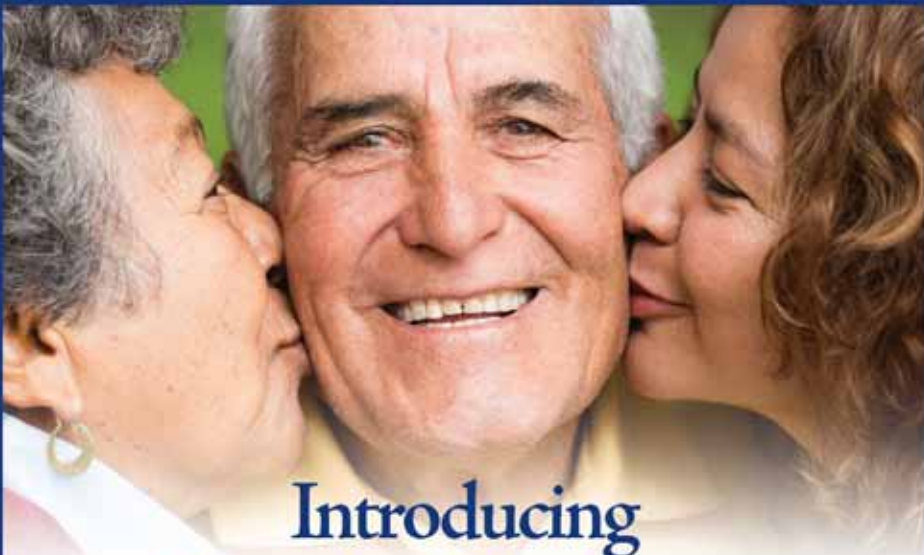
tive, with many parents looking for ways to pitch in and help. She left the meeting thinking this was definitely a small group of students who were responsible for the racist comments, not the majority of YHS students.

Yorktown students did not wait for the school to do something about the situation: the Yorktown Democrats held a seminar

called "Forum for Respect" after school on Feb. 15 which allowed students to voice their views and show each other respect.

Kanninen noted the Arlington County Public Schools' professional development training last Friday was focused on just this kind of issue and teachers received training on what to do in a situation where a student makes a comment directed against an ethnic or racial minority.

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## Introducing CaregiverConnect at The Kensington Falls Church

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with experts each month. Guest facilitators will offer information, advice and support in a welcoming, private setting. Topics to be covered include: How to Visit; Accepting Loss; and Enjoying the Remaining Strengths of Your Loved One. Aleksandra (Anya) Parpura, MD, PhD, an expert in aging and dementia, will lead our Caregiver Connect program. Dr. Parpura is the president of Aging Perspectives, Inc., the Scientific Review Officer with CSRA International, an adjunct professor at The Catholic University of America, and a faculty member at the Washington School of Psychiatry. Dr. Parpura brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Feel the Heritage

Annual free festival at Charles Drew Community Center.

BY MARY DEMPSEY  
THE CONNECTION

**T**his coming weekend, Arlington County will honor Black History Month with its 25th annual Feel the Heritage Festival. The event will take place at the Charles Drew Community Center from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25.

The event offers a variety of entertainment and activities for attendees, including performances from local dance companies and musicians, vendors selling everything from artisan products to culinary creations and informative displays showcasing Arlington's community organizations and history.

Performers include the Ebony Day Dance Company, the KanKouran West African Dance Company and the N2N Band among others.

Ebony Day, founder of the Ebony Day Dance Company, is excited to be part of the Feel the Heritage lineup for the third consecutive year.

"I'm from Arlington myself, so it's great to give back to my community through dance," Day said. "We are so blessed that we are able to do that yearly."

Day first began dancing and acting with the Arlington Youth Street Theatre at the age of 16. She has since earned an MFA in dance and choreography from American University.

According to Day, Ebony Day Dance Company focuses on "modern Dance and liturgical dance with a ballet foundation." She added that "for the most part we are contemporary modern dancers. We use a lot of music styles." This year their performance



The festival will include activities for children, including games, crafts and a scavenger hunt.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAURA BARRAGAN

**The KanKouran West African Dance Company will add traditional African song and dance to the festival lineup.**

will focus on honoring the tradition of African-American hymns.

In addition to performing with her fellow dancers, Day is looking forward to the festival as a whole.

"[Feel the Heritage] gives the opportunity to come and learn about black history," Day said. "There are vendors, things for the kids, you can shop. You can reconnect with people you haven't seen for a long time. It's just a fun family event."

Along with enjoying some live entertainment, attendees can sample food from A.R. Seafood and Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company. There will also be a multitude of vendors selling everything from jewelry to hot sauce.

"A lot of the products we will have are hand-made and based in Arlington," said Laura Barragan, special events and communications manager at Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation.

One participating vendor is Damika Levenberry. Levenberry owns ModiSH Boutique, an online retailer which specializes in costume jewelry.

"We have everything from basic and

simple to distinguished and outspoken pieces," Levenberry said.

Levenberry, who was born and raised in Arlington, said she appreciates how the Feel the Heritage festival "brings [her] back home," and that it's always "good to be back in the community."

"Arlington has changed," she added. "It's very diverse with different nationalities. [Feel the heritage] isn't just about Black History Month. We all have a heritage."

The festival will provide opportunities for those in attendance to learn more about Arlington's past and present.

The Hall of History display area will feature information and photographs highlighting Arlington's historically black communities.

"[Arlington] has a really interesting history in relation to desegregation, historically black neighborhoods and churches that have been around for a very long time," Barragan said.

According to Portia Clark, president of the Nauck Community Civic Association, this year's Hall of History will focus on Arlington residents who worked as civil rights



PHOTO COURTESY OF EBONY DAY

**The Ebony Day Dance Company will perform at Feel the Heritage for the third year in a row. This year, their dances will honor the tradition of African-American Hymns.**

activists.

"The area is experiencing a change in demographics," Clark said. "It's an opportunity for us to communicate the heritage and history of our neighborhoods to the new residents coming in."

Clark added that some younger Arlington natives may also learn something about their family's role in local history.

"Some family members may not realize they had relatives in the area who helped build the community," Clark said.

There will also be displays from some of Arlington's community organizations, including the Arlington Food Assistance Center, BikeArlington and the Four Mile Run Valley Initiative.

According to Barragan, the festival will provide activities for children as well, including "games, face painting, balloon art and make-and-take crafts." This year, there will also be a children's passport which will encourage young people to explore some of the informative displays.

"Kids can pick up a passport when they come in," Barragan said. "The can then go on a scavenger hunt where they can find information about the history and organizations and get a prize at the end when they fill it all out."

The festival is open to the public and admission is free.

"It's really diverse and we get people from all communities and backgrounds," said Barragan. "It's an event for everyone, but it highlights Arlington's African American history."

## CALENDAR

Email announcements to [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

### ONGOING

**The Power of Color.** Through Feb. 24, 8 p.m. at the Gallery Underground, Crystal City Shops at 2100 Crystal Drive. Ancient musical traditions of the griot with a savvy aesthetic engagement in the contemporary moment. Visit [www.galleryunderground.org/the-power-of-color/](http://www.galleryunderground.org/the-power-of-color/) for more.

**Kids in the Kitchen.** Through Feb. 25

at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane. Encore stage presents two siblings, with their mom at their side, exploring the wonder, excitement, temptation, and nutrition that their kitchen has to offer. For preschoolers. Visit [www.encorestageva.org](http://www.encorestageva.org) for more.

### Global Phonic Music Series.

Through Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre, 1611 N. Kent St. Noura Mint Seymali - Global Phonic Music Series 2017. Visit [arlingtonarts.org](http://arlingtonarts.org) for more.

### "Color Rush!" Art Show.

Through the end of February at the Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Member artists were challenged to create dynamic works in splashy wake-you-up colors that will pop off the walls. Opening reception: Friday,

Feb. 3, 5-8 p.m. Visit [www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org) for more.

### THURSDAYS/FEB. 1-28

**Black History Month Events.** 10 a.m.-noon at in National Hall at Reagan National Airport, GW Parkway. A month-long event musical series for airport employees and passengers in celebration of Black History Month. Visit [www.metwashairports.com](http://www.metwashairports.com) for more.

### THROUGH FEB. 28

**Lions Fundraising Fruit Sale.** Various times, at the Overlee Bath House (Lower Level), 6030 Lee Highway. Fresh Florida and

California citrus, Georgia pecans, and Vermont maple syrup. Call 703-528-1130 or email [lionskk@earthlink.net](mailto:lionskk@earthlink.net) for more.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 24

**Opening Reception.** 6-8 p.m. at the Barry Gallery at Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Opening reception for "Youth Seeking Refuge: Unaccompanied," a photo exhibition by Oliver Contreras. Visit [www.marymount.edu/barrygallery](http://www.marymount.edu/barrygallery) for more.

### FEB. 23-MARCH 26

**The Gospel at Colonus.** Various times at WSC Avant Bard Theater, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive.

Hollywood-set adaptation of one of the Bard's best known romantic comedies returns. Visit [wscavantbard.org/](http://wscavantbard.org/) for more.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 25

**Project DAPS.** Lauching Saturday, Feb. 25, an ongoing online exhibition and searchable digital collection of desegregation in Arlington Public Schools at Arlington Public Library system, at [projectdaps.org/](http://projectdaps.org/) built from thousands of photos, documents and recordings. Call 703-228-5966 or email [localhistory@arlingtonva.us](mailto:localhistory@arlingtonva.us) for more.

**Your Child's Development 2017.** 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. Parents and caregivers of children



# ENTERTAINMENT

aged 0-5 years old can meet and get resources from several County agencies and community organizations. Free. Email [tsfoster@arlingtonva.us](mailto:tsfoster@arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-1630 for more.

**Wake up, Wood Frogs.** 10-11 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center 3608 Military Road. Learn all about these and other amphibians. Ages 5 and up, \$5. Visit [parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/gulf-branch-nature-center/](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/gulf-branch-nature-center/) for more.

**Wintertime Pruning.** 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. at Bon Air Park 965 N. Longfellow St. Learn hands-on training on the proper way to prune hedges, evergreen and deciduous shrubs, and deadhead perennials. Visit [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org) or call 703-228-6414 for more.

**2017 Feel the Heritage Festival.** 1-6 p.m. the Drew Community Center, 3500 23rd St. S. Live music and dance, a "Hall of History" with photos and artifacts from Arlington's historically African-American churches and organizations. Free. Call 703-228-5725 for more.

**Gospel Play.** 4 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School Theatre, 200 South Carlin Springs Road. "I've Been Changed: A Gospel Stage Play" in celebration of Black History Month Call. \$30. Call 703-400-6986 or email [tthompson@quadraticsystems.com](mailto:tthompson@quadraticsystems.com) for more.

**Author Lecture.** 5 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St., #101. Wali Shaaker discusses and signs "The River Village: A Novel of Struggle, Sacrifice, and Survival in Afghanistan," based on the author's personal experiences and observations of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan 1979-1989. Call 703-300-9746 for more.

**Family Game Night.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Paca Hall in St. Mary's, 2609 N. Glebe Road. The Youth Committee sponsoring an evening of board games and cards including Monopoly, Risk, Apples to Apples. cookies and cocoa served too. Call 703-527-6800 or visit [stmarysarlington.org/](http://stmarysarlington.org/) for more.

## STARTS FEB. 25

**5K Training Group.** 9 a.m. at at Bluemont Park, 601 N. Manchester St. Train for the George

Washington Parkway Classic that will be on April 23. \$85, which goes to Arlington Thrive. Visit [arlingtonthrive.org/category/events/](http://arlingtonthrive.org/category/events/) for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 26

**Author Lecture.** 3 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St., #101. V.E. Schwab shares from "A Conjuring of Light," the finale of her bestselling Shades of Magic fantasy series. Call 703-300-9746 for more.

**U2-charist Service.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. at St Peter's Episcopal Church, 4250 N. Glebe Road. A multimedia Episcopal communion service using music of the Irish rock band U2. Donations. Visit [Saint-Peters.org](http://Saint-Peters.org) or call 703-536-6606.

## MONDAY/FEB. 27

**Intro to Bridge: Teens and Seniors.** 3-3:45 p.m. at Gunston Community Center, 2700 S. Lang St. Learn the basics of the game of bridge alongside the middle schoolers. Free. Call 703-228-6980 or visit [parks.arlingtonva.us/](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/) for more.

**Musical Auditions Begin.** At the Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. For current college students and recent graduates to audition for Overtures, a two-week professional training program from June 19-July 1. The program culminates in an audition for local professional casting directors and a fully-staged showcase for the public. Call to schedule 571-527-1857 or visit [www.sigtheatre.org](http://www.sigtheatre.org) for more.

**Marymount Poet in D.C.** 6:30 p.m. at Kramerbooks, 1517 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. Poet Holly Karapetkova, chair of Marymount University's Literature and Languages Department, will give a preview reading of her second collection, "Towline." Call 703-522-5600 for more.

## FEB. 28-MARCH 3

**Treemonisha.** Various times at Thomas Jefferson

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



## Announcing Group Interviews for The Kensington Falls Church

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## FEEL THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Arlington's African American History and Culture

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ARLINGTON VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



# Preview for New Arlington Fees and Tax Rates

Fee increases for fire department inspections and substance abuse treatment while County Board considers pay raise.

By VERNON MILES  
THE CONNECTION

A homeowner in Arlington in need of a fire department inspection for his business and seeking treatment for substance abuse will be the most impacted by the new fiscal year 2018 fees. Next week marks the start of budget season, and with it a series of proposed new fees and tax rates for a variety of services.

At a County Board work session at 4 p.m. on Feb 23, County Manager Mark Schwartz will preview the proposed fiscal year 2018 budget. The budget will formally be presented at the Feb 25 County Board meeting, where the board will vote consider requests to advertise 19 fee increases and other items related to the FY 2018 budget. Details on many of the larger budget ques-

tions remain hushed in the week before the official release, but among the 19 fee increases proposed at the Feb 25 meeting are several that could impact many Arlingtonians.

The first is a request to advertise a public hearing to consider a calendar year 2017 real estate tax rate, commercial real estate tax rate, and a sanitary district tax rate. The County Board will also consider a maximum general personal property tax rate of \$5 per \$100 of assessed value, a continuation of the current rate. The real estate tax rate is still to be determined.

The County Board will consider a proposed increase to the Household Solid Waste Rate by \$6.88 to a total of no more than \$314.16 per household. According to the budget item, the rate increase is proposed to raise revenues necessary to finance expenses related to the county's solid waste

program. The increased rate is estimated to generate a total of \$10.4 million in revenue in FY2018. The board will also consider rate increases for a variety of refuse and recycling services.

Part of the budget includes new fees for the substance abuse treatment and services, peer support services, and medication administration provided through the Department of Human Services. Among Department of Human Services sectors hit with fees include Substance Abuse Case Management, Office-Based Opioid Treatment, Peer Support Services, and Medication Administration. Low income, uninsured clients are charged a rate based on their income or can apply for a hardship reduction or waiver of the fee. These fees are expected to generate \$66,000 a year.

Permitting fees from the Arlington County Fire Department, untouched since 2008, will also likely see a large increase. Currently, inspections for assembly permits, hazardous materials, childcare, drycleaners and special events are all priced between \$42.50 and \$170, dependent on building capacity or number of attendees for special

events. The county manager recommendation increases these rates to between \$122.50 and \$250. The increased fees are estimated to generate an additional \$33,645 in revenue.

The last budget item on the agenda is a proposed 3.5 percent salary increase for the Arlington County Board Chairman and County Board members. Currently, the County Board chairman's salary is \$56,628 and salaries for County Board members is \$51,480. The total cost of the pay increase would be \$11,851.

The increase will still leave the County Board chairman and members below the maximum salary. In FY 2012, the County Board set the maximum salary for County Board chairman at \$63,071 and County Board member as \$57,337. The board may set its maximum salary only once every four years and must do so prior to July 1 of a year in which at least two County Board seats are up for election. In 2015, two County Board seats were up for election but the County Board took no action to increase the maximum salary. The next opportunity to increase the maximum will be 2019.

## HISTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY RATES AND REVENUE

FISCAL YEAR	TAX RATE PER \$100	REVENUE \$ IN MILLIONS <sup>1</sup>	PERCENT CHANGE
1998	4.40	65.0	3.2%
1999	4.40	67.6	4.0%
2000	4.40	72.8	7.6%
2001	4.40	76.1	4.6%
2002	4.40	82.1	7.9%
2003	4.40	81.7	-0.5%
2004	4.40	79.6	-2.5%
2005	4.40	78.1	-1.9%
2006	4.40	81.7	4.7%
2007	5.00	99.2	21.4%
2008	5.00	95.9	-3.4%
2009	5.00	99.8	4.2%
2010	5.00	93.0	-6.8%
2011	5.00	95.2	2.3%
2012	5.00	100.9	6.0%
2013	5.00	107.0	6.0%
2014	5.00	110.7	3.5%
2015	5.00	108.9	-1.6%
2016	5.00	111.8	2.7%
2017 Adopted	5.00	112.1	0.2%
2018 Proposed	5.00	115.5	3.1%

<sup>1</sup> Revenue is net of refunds and includes penalties and interest.

The 20-year history of tax rates in Arlington County.

## PROPOSED RATES FOR CY 2017

	Real Estate Rate	Personal Property Rate
Arlington	TBD Proposed TBD Advertised	\$5.00 \$4.50' Proposed TBD Advertised

## ADOPTED TAX RATES FOR CY 2016

Jurisdiction	Real Estate Rate	Personal Property Rate
Arlington	\$0.978	\$5.00 \$4.50'
Alexandria	\$1.073	\$5.00
Fairfax City	\$1.040	\$4.13
Fairfax County	\$1.130	\$4.57
Falls Church	\$1.315	\$5.00
Loudoun County	\$1.145	\$4.20 \$3.78'
Prince William County	\$1.122	\$3.70

Calendar Year 2017 real estate tax rates are still to be announced. Arlington's 2016 real estate rate was one of the lowest rates in the region, but one of the highest for personal property rates.

GRAPHICS CONTRIBUTED

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Amended & Late Returns  
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## PET CONNECTION



### Ghost

**Ghost, an American Eskimo Dog, loves his belly rubs (with Andrew Griffin and Amilia Tola). In late 2016, Ghost was diagnosed with lyme disease. Josh Griffin started a go-fund-me page and received the full amount requested for his treatment within 48 hours: \$300. All of the money went toward his treatment and he was back to normal in only a few weeks.**



### Chippewa

I walked into the Potomac Yard PetsMart in Alexandria with my partner on a Saturday morning in 2012 expecting to quickly go in to grab some cat litter and get out. After all, we were both preoccupied with knocking out our list of errands so we could move on to better things. That's

when a six-pound puppy stole my heart. We walked right into a pet adoption event.

Chipp is a Chihuahua-Shiba Inu mixed breed that was underweight, riddled with kennel cough and left alone after her brother was adopted without her. How could I say no to that little,

### Italo

As I wandered past the cages of older cats, disappointed to see no kittens, one scruffy but fluffy grey fellow looked me straight in the eye and said, "Mmrraow." I knew then that the 9-month old had found his forever home with me. In the car, it didn't take long for Italo, named for one of my favorite authors, to slip out of the cardboard box in the

back seat, curl up on my lap, and take a much-needed bath. Through our 10 years together, he seldom left my side. He took walks with me in the forest, befriended our new kitten by flattening himself on the ground to touch noses at her eye level, scared off a dog intruding into the backyard where our daughter was playing, and snuggled between my feet every night. No lap was a stranger to him. No mouse dared



Italo and Emma

enter our house. No food dish was ever full enough. So, when Italo began to lose weight and wouldn't eat, I pleaded with him to choose life. But he knew his time was up. One night he labored to jump up on the bed. Though no words were spoken between us, he told me it was time to say goodbye. Almost 20 years later, my tears still flow thinking of my beloved Italo.

— ANNE REYNOLDS



lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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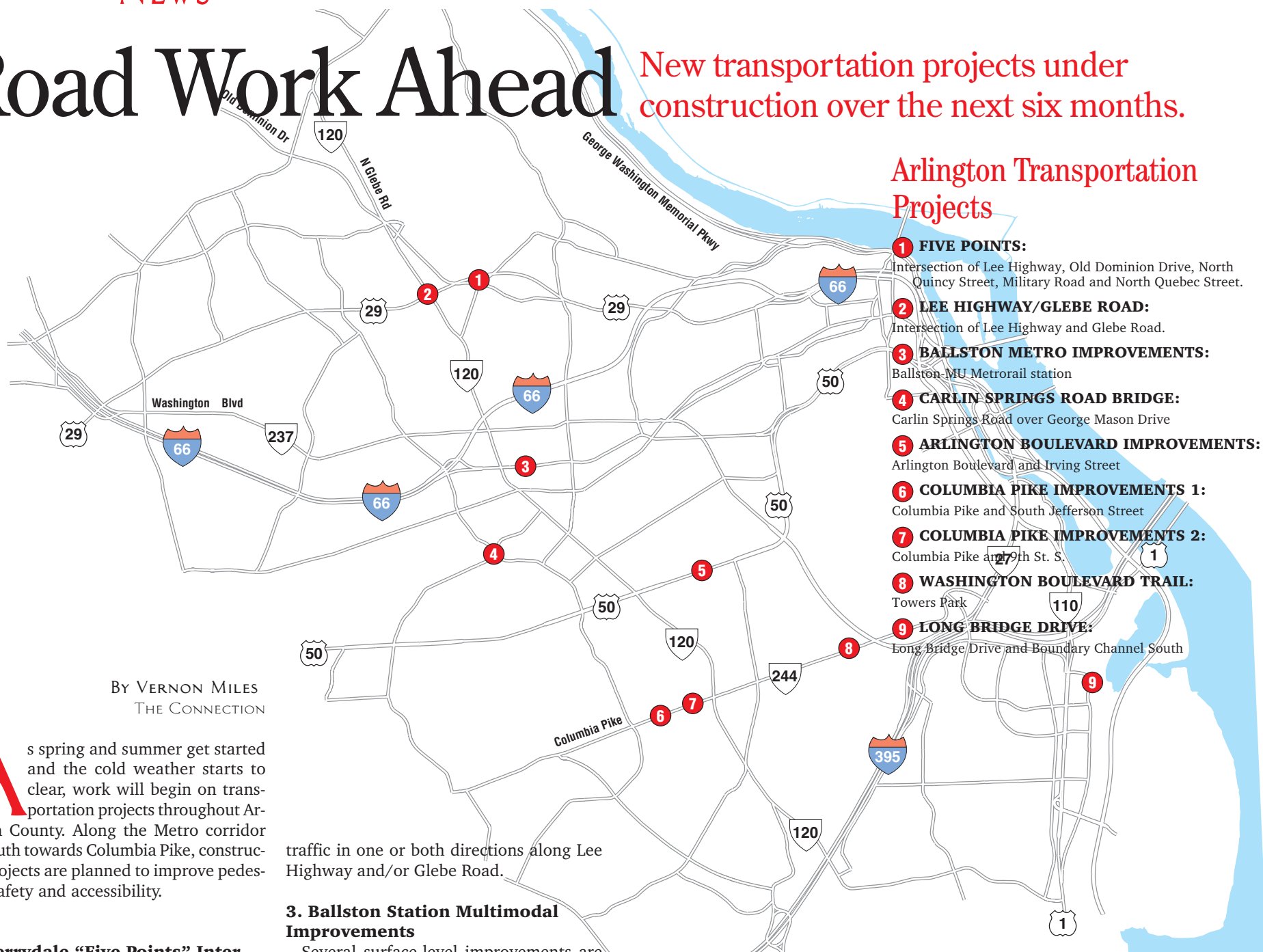
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# Road Work Ahead

New transportation projects under construction over the next six months.

## Arlington Transportation Projects



BY VERNON MILES  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s spring and summer get started and the cold weather starts to clear, work will begin on transportation projects throughout Arlington County. Along the Metro corridor and south towards Columbia Pike, construction projects are planned to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility.

traffic in one or both directions along Lee Highway and/or Glebe Road.

### 3. Ballston Station Multimodal Improvements

Several surface-level improvements are coming to the Ballston-MU Metrorail station. The improvements largely focus around adding to the multimodal transfers at the station, with expanded bus bays and new bus shelters, dedicated spaces for taxis, carshares, shuttles and kiss-and-ride. Construction is anticipated to start in late spring and early summer 2017. The county will maintain Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility to the Metro and nearby businesses throughout construction.

### 4. Carlin Springs Road Bridge

The Carlin Springs Road bridge that crosses over George Mason Drive will be demolished and replaced with a new one with improved safety features for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. The replacement bridge will include wider sidewalks on the bridge, additional bike lanes along Carlin Springs Road, four general travel lanes and enhanced lighting on and under the bridge. Construction is scheduled to take place in late summer and early fall, 2017.

### 5. Arlington Boulevard at Irving Street, Park Drive and Manchester Street Intersection Improvements

Safety improvement projects are scheduled for three intersections along Arlington Boulevard. Street lighting, crosswalk visibility and sidewalk improvement work will

take place at the intersections with Irving Street, Park Drive and Manchester Street. Construction is anticipated to start in spring 2017. No road closures are planned for the project and bus stop access will be maintained.

### 6. Columbia Pike - Four Mile Run to Fairfax County Line

As part of the Columbia Pike Multimodal Improvements project, streetscape improvements are planned for Columbia Pike at three intersections on the western end of the road. Improvements include wider sidewalks, new street lights, and new bus shelters.

Washington Gas relocations at the site will begin March 2017, followed by utility undergrounding and utility upgrades in summer 2017 with streetscape improvements to follow. Traffic disruptions and lane closures are expected while Washington Gas crews are in the street.

### 7. Columbia Pike Bike Boulevard - 9th St. S. from S. Wayne St. to S. Highland St.

Curb extensions and ADA curb ramps are coming to four intersections along 9th Street South. New signage will mark bike lanes along the nearby roads. Construction

is scheduled to begin in spring 2017.

### 8. Washington Boulevard Trail

Phase 2 of a project to link the Arlington Boulevard Trail to Towers Park and Columbia Pike will begin in spring 2017. The trail extensions will link from the existing past along Washington Boulevard to bike and pedestrian facilities on Columbia Pike and in Pentagon City. The network extension is part of ongoing efforts to address limited north-south in this area of the County.

### 9. Long Bridge Drive Utility Undergrounding & Roadway Re-alignment

At the northern end of Crystal City, utility undergrounding and utility connections are underway. The added utility connections are necessary for the planned Long Bridge Park and aquatic, health and fitness facility planned at the site. Utility undergrounding began in late 2016 and is expected to continue to summer 2017. Work hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday with Long Bridge Drive reduced to one travel lane during those hours.

Phase Two of the project will involve roadway realignment, scheduled to start in summer 2017 following the utility undergrounding.



# Matching Pets to their Owners

FROM PAGE 5

doesn't need as much attention might be a better match."

"When anyone adopts a dog, it's important to work closely with the counselors who know the dog best, so they can tell you about any personality issues," continued Lynch. "If a dog has recently lost its owners, for example, it might be depressed."

Becoming familiar with an animal's history before deciding to adopt is one of the recommendations Lynch offers. "It's like when you buy a used car, you want to know all you can about the car so that you can be an informed buyer," she said.

One-on-one counseling for families to help with the adjustment of adding a pet to a family is recommended, says Lynch. "We teach families that dogs have to have their own space and an area to eat," she said. "We want to give the best advice to make it a good situation. That's why the whole family has to be there. Until the dog gets used to your household, it's best to give the animal their space."

Often, young children don't have the emotional maturity necessary to control their feelings or the skill set and physical strength needed to care for an animal, says Lynch, so interactions with family pets must be observed closely by a parent to help ensure safety.

## Recommended Reading

For those considering adopting a pet, see [www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com/](http://www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com/).

"With regard to bringing a pet home, supervision is key in all interactions to make sure that both the child and the animal are safe and comfortable and being handled appropriately," said Joanna Fortin, community outreach and adoptions manager for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. "It can take weeks to months to get acclimated, particularly if the pet hasn't lived with a child before."

We encourage parents to be vigilant for a few months. We advise them about the potential issues that could arise so that they can coexist peacefully."

"When the family does bring the animal home, we do encourage people to use caution around food, toys or other items of high value to the dog," added Fortin. "Proactively setting boundaries with the child, like [not] touching [the dog] when he's eating or taking toys out of his mouth. Respecting those boundaries can generally set them up for success."

Parents must watch vigilantly for the signs

that a new family pet is uncomfortable or fearful, says Fortin. "Those signs include growling, avoidance, like the animal choosing to keep its distance, or things that they're visually communicating like looking fearful. Most of the time the dog will give lots and lots of warning before it bites," she said. "Children should use proper behavior and not be too loud or too rough with the animal."

There is a potential for an injury to occur, but that is not the norm."

"Kids often want to watch the dog eat, which is fine as long as they stay at an appropriate distance and respect the dog's boundaries," continued Lynch. "Just like you don't want a dog eating off your plate at the table, a dog doesn't want you trying to pull his food away from him."

There is a return on the significant investment that goes into animal adoption with benefits ranging from self-confidence to communications skills development. "Pet ownership teaches kids about responsibility if they are actively taking part in [caring for] the animal," said Lindsey. "It teaches them compassion. They learn to listen and pay attention to nonverbal cues because they don't speak the same language as the animal. Kids who grow up with animals in their homes are also more aware of animal welfare issues."

## "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

*Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs, for Feb. 26-March 4.*

**Senior centers:** Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St.; Arlington Mill, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.; Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St.

**Senior trips:** U.S. Supreme Court, D.C., Wednesday, March 1, \$6; Dept. of the Interior Murals Tour, D.C., Thursday, March 2, \$8; National Symphony Orchestra Coffee Concert, The Kennedy Center, Friday, March 3, \$19. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

### NEW PROGRAMS:

**Options regarding family heirlooms,** Monday, Feb. 27, 2 p.m., Langston-Brown. Register, 703-228-6300.

**Current events,** Monday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.

**Pick-up basketball,** Monday, Feb. 27, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.

**Genealogy 101,** basic research tracing family roots, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 11:30 a.m., Lee. Register, 703-228-0555.

**Veterans benefits and financial programs,** Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1 p.m., Walter Reed. Register, 703-228-0955.

**Arlington Walking Club,** Wednesday, Feb. 29, 9:30 a.m., Lubber Run, \$4. Register, 703-228-4403.

**Arlington Spellbinders,** volunteer storytellers, Friday, March 3, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

**The Sounds of Classical Music,** Friday, March 3, 1 p.m., Madison Community Center. Register, 703-228-4403.

**Ballroom dance,** Friday, March 3, 1 - 3 p.m., Lee. Free. Register, 703-228-0555.

**Just Playin' Country musicians,** Friday, March 3, 1 p.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.



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## A Date With Destiny



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I suppose, given that Feb. 27, 2017 is the eight-year anniversary of my original non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis, followed up almost immediately with my "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I should make mention of it. Not that I need any reminding, but perhaps you regular readers who don't exactly know my history, might be curious as to how long I've been droning on about cancer. Strictly speaking, it was June 2009 when my first cancer-type (it was the diagnostic process, actually) column was published: "Dying to Find Out, Sort Of." And I've been self-indulging myself ever since save for the odd occasion when my mind wanders elsewhere and I'm able to write outside the cancer bubble.

Which is probably a good thing, as is venting every week about the good, bad and the ugly, concerning my having cancer and learning how to live with it. Not that the content is particularly informative, factually, but it is an honest description of the anxieties and fears a patient experiences. Occasionally, I will include a few facts, but as a sports- and chocolate-person, medicine/science and my knowledge and understanding, and ability to explain them are mutually exclusive at best and an oxymoron at worst, with yours truly being the moron. What kind of moron you ask? As Curly Howard of The Three Stooges answered in a long-ago "two-reeler:" "Why? Are there more than one kind?"

Nonetheless, in spite of myself, life has gone on as I'm proud and extremely fortunate to say. As to where I am in the cancer-survivor scheme of things? Somewhere between slim and none. When I was first diagnosed, my oncologist said the survival rate for similarly staged patients (stage IV) after five years was in the low single digits (as in 1 to 2 percent). When my wife, Dina, asked him why aren't there any parades for lung cancer survivors (as is so often the case with breast cancer survivors), he answered quite succinctly: "Because there aren't any," (survivors, that is). I appreciated his honesty and told him so. I was clueless however, as to what my immediate future would really be like. I would know soon enough as it was recommended that I start chemotherapy as soon as possible. I remember my brother, Richard, asking the oncologist what would he do if it was his brother diagnosed with lung cancer; his answer was to begin infusions without delay and so a week later, we began.

And so here I am, nearly eight years later, still minding my own business and sharing it with you all every week. My infusions now occur every five weeks, CT Scans every three months. My face-to-face appointments with my oncologist occur quarterly as well, a week or so after the scan to discuss the results. So far, mostly so good. Oh sure, I've had my moments (tumor growth, fluid build-up in both lungs followed by a week-long stay in the hospital, ongoing kidney concerns, no surgery though), but for the most part, I've been incredibly lucky (my oncologist calls me his "third miracle").

As to what I'm doing to help myself and hurt the cancer? Not nothing. In addition to the standard fare offered by my oncologist, I have supplemented my treatment with a variety of non-Western alternatives, many of which I've mentioned in previous columns. Are they working? They're not hurting, I can tell you that. Could I do more? Probably. Should I do more? Absolutely! Am I doing more or less than I used to? Less, I'm afraid. But as Popeye the Sailor Man said so often: "I 'yam what I 'yam." And come Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, I'll have "yamed" myself into an eight-year lung cancer survivor. Do I hear nine? Hopefully, I hear a lot more than that. From my pen to God's ears.

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

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- Ralph Waldo  
Emerson

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Nothing is too small to know, and nothing too big to attempt.  
-William Van Horne



**“Sewers, Spinners and Weavers,” the Woman’s Club of Arlington’s Black History Month program, was presented by Club President Sandy Newton on Feb. 6.**

PHOTO BY  
CHERIE LEJEUNE

# Learning about 18th Century Life

Seventy-two students from Our Good Savior Lutheran School attended the Woman’s Club of Arlington’s Black History Month program, “Sewers, Spinners and Weavers,” on Monday, Feb. 6.

Club President Sandy Newton demonstrated techniques she learned while working at Pioneer Farm at Mt. Vernon while

doing research of George Washington’s era.

Students participated in 11 stations of activities: weaving on a loom, picking seeds from cotton, grinding corn, grinding corn into flour, spinning wool, combing wool, separating flax, identifying 18th century tools, trying on 18th century clothing, weaving, and felting wool.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Scott Joplin opera promotes message that education is the key to a full and free life. \$4 teachers free. Visit [www.operanova.org/](http://www.operanova.org/) for more.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 28

**St. Mary’s Pancake Supper.** 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Church, 2609 N. Glebe Road. Preparation for the fasting season during the 40 days of Lent. \$5 or \$10 per family. Call 703-527-6800 or e-mail [Office@StMarysArlington.org](mailto:Office@StMarysArlington.org) for more.

**Mardi Gras Parade.** 7 p.m. on Wilson Boulevard, from Veitch to N. Adams streets. The 2017 edition of the Clarendon-Courthouse Mardi Gras Parade on Fat Tuesday. Weather permitting. Visit [clarendon.org/mardi-gras/](http://clarendon.org/mardi-gras/) for more.

### FEB. 28-MARCH 26

**“Mrs. Miller Does Her Thing.”** Various times at the Signature Theatre, The Village at Shirlington, 4200 Campbell Ave. Visit [www.sigtheatre.org](http://www.sigtheatre.org).

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 1

**Wednesday Night Spins.** 6:30 p.m. at the G4 Level, 201 12th St. S. First night of a race series in Crystal City that concludes March 29. Register at [www.crystalcity.org](http://www.crystalcity.org).

### MARCH 1-31

**John Glenn Exhibit.** Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.; Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Arlington Historical Museum, 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Includes his waterski from when he went waterskiing with Jackie Kennedy in 1962 as well as items celebrating his Mercury flight as the first American to orbit the Earth. Glenn lived in north Arlington at the time. He presented the waterski to the AHS, and it is autographed. 571-243-1113 or [garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

**“Purple Reign” Group Show.** Various times at the Arlington Artists Alliance Gallery, 2100 Crystal Drive. An all-media show devoted to the color purple. Member artists were challenged to create colorful works that evoke the majesty and magic this color can elicit. Opening reception: Friday, March 3, 5-8 p.m. Visit

[www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org) for more.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 2

**The Muggle Ball.** 7-11 p.m. at the Clarendon Ballroom, 3185 Wilson Blvd. A fancy dress, Harry Potter-themed social event for adults with the JEM Jazz Band. \$35. Visit [arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2832714](http://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2832714) for more.

**Authors Lecture.** 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St., #101. Susan Dennard, author of “Windwitch,” the follow up to “Truthwitch,” and Jodi Meadows, co-author of “My Lady Jane,” chat about their latest YA fantasy books. Call 703-300-9746 for more.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 4

**Treemonisha.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Scott Joplin opera promotes message that education is the key to a full and free life. \$4 teachers free. Visit [www.operanova.org/](http://www.operanova.org/) for more.

**CycleBar Benefit.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at CycleBar, 3400 Columbia Pike. Proceeds of this rocking class will benefit the Arlington Community Foundation. Suggested donation of \$35, \$50, or \$100. Visit [www.arlcf.org](http://www.arlcf.org) for more.

**Tango Tribute.** 7 p.m. at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theater, 1611 N. Kent St. Omar “El Alemán” Fernández (invited singer), Ramón González and Peter Fields (guitarists), Jon Nazdin (bassist) and Shadi & René (dancers) put on a show. \$35; \$30 for seniors 60 and older and students. Call 703-548-3092 or visit [www.teatrodela luna.org](http://www.teatrodela luna.org) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 8

**Community Foundation Networking.** 5:30-7 p.m. at Cheesetique Ballston, 800 N. Glebe Road. Network with fellow professional advisors and friends. Email [BrendalysSnee@arlcf.org](mailto:BrendalysSnee@arlcf.org) or call 703-243-4785 for more.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 9

**Visit with author John P. Richardson.** 7 p.m. at Marymount University Reinsch Library Auditorium, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Discussion of ‘Alexander Robey Shepherd: The Man Who Built the Nation’s Capital.’ Visit [www.marymount.edu/](http://www.marymount.edu/) for more.

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Zones 1, 5, 6.....Mon @ noon  
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- Zone 1:** The Reston Connection  
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- Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection  
The Burke Connection  
The Fairfax Connection  
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/  
Lorton Connection
- Zone 3:** The Alexandria  
Gazette Packet  
The Mount Vernon Gazette
- Zone 4:** Centre View North  
Centre View South
- Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac
- Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

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Connection



2

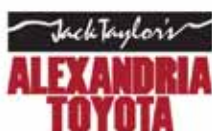
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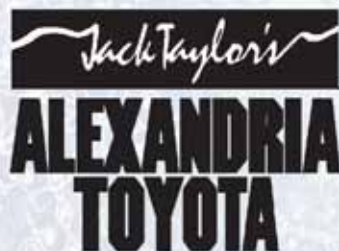
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## BRAKE SPECIAL \$99<sup>95</sup>

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## \$29<sup>95</sup> LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL \$49<sup>95</sup>

INCLUDES: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

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