Artington Connection News. Page 6

HomeLifeStyle

Page 9

Smoke circles down the side street as the Indian Scout motorcycle engine revs up and heads to join the other antique vehicles at the beginning of the Lyon Village neighborhood Fourth of July parade. They are followed by red, white and blue dressed-up children riding bikes and bemused dogs decked out in hats and ribbons.

Residents Urged to Participate In Planning Public Spaces NEWS, PAGE 3

New Direction For Arlington Arts News, Page 8

July 12-18, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Parks and Rec

Ambition and innovation at heart of new Public Spaces Master Plan.

By Vernon Miles The Connection

pace is becoming an ever more precious commodity in Arlington, and, among the competing demands, parks and open space have a tendency to get pushed to the back. Now, Arlington County's Department of Parks and Recreation are reaching out to local citizens to get feedback and suggestions on new plans underway to save Arlington's open spaces.

The Public Spaces Master Plan outlines goals and priorities for Arlington County for the preservation of natural resources. The first priorities are to add 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years and to make better use of the existing public spaces. According to the

draft plan, the most common feedback from residents at meetings is that

more space is needed. Many of the public sides of buildings, like more rock-climbing space priorities center around the Metro corridor and Columbia Pike, where Arlington has seen the highest levels of popula-

tion growth.

The Master Plan's "best practice" solution is deck parks - to build park space over the highways that run through the middle of population centers. Similar plans have been implemented in Dallas, and there is some precedent in Arlington with the parking deck built over I-66 adjacent to Washington-Lee High School. The plan recommends rehabbing the existing parking deck and expanding it into a full park. Other identified potential deck parks include both sides of N Washington Street near East Falls Church, I-395 east of Shirlington, and over the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

As new construction is ongoing in the Metro corridor, the Master Plan recommends the County Board revisit the code and open up considerations for new options. Recommended best prac-

tices include pushing for Related story, page 3 more rooftop open spaces or even spaces along the

> walls. The 2017 Public Spaces Master Plan follows up on a plan implemented in 2005.





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Parks in-use in Arlington.

The biggest priority in that plan was the development of Long Bridge Park and parks along Four Mile Run, efforts that are ongoing. The plan set the goal of developing a land acquisition policy, which was laid out but never adopted by the county. The median age of Arlington residents is 34, while throughout the D.C. area the

See Ambition at Heart, Page 8



♦ Arlington Connection ♦ July 12-18, 2017 2



Lyon Village Tradition Rides On

Lynne and Larry Pilot, residents of the Lyon Village neighborhood since 1969, are helping carry the red, white and blue banner stretching across the street at the beginning of the Fourth of July parade. Their daughter, Tracy, and grandchildren, Grace and Carter Perkins, are here from Richmond to celebrate the day and their memories. Lynne Pilot said, "There are some other grandchildren here somewhere." Her daughter says she remembers riding her bicycle in this parade many years ago.



Twins Harper and Alexis Phalen settle in their little red wagon waiting for the go-ahead signal at the Lyon Village parade Tuesday, July 4, with their Banter Bulldogge, Hawk, and their parents Colin and Audra.



A green Triumph TR6 and an Indian Scout motorcycle join the line of antique vehicles waiting to open the Fourth of July parade at Lyon Village on Tuesday. The parade began at Highland Street promptly at 11 a.m.

Residents Urged to Participate in Planning

"The one thing all the

medical professionals

agree on, is that we don't

know enough yet about

the effects of high LED

lights on humans."

How and whether to light playing fields will be discussed.

> By Eden Brown The Connection

ancy Clanton, a nationally recognized expert on lighting public spaces, is so concerned about LED lighting's health effects that she tells her interviewer to use the settings on her iPhone and PC to cut down on the glare.

LED Lighting of Arlington's playing fields will be just one topic up for discussion when Arlington residents get a chance to weigh in on the public spaces planning process on July 13,14, and 15. County Manager Mark Schwartz told residents on June 30 he supported the use of 4500 Kelvin (K) lights at the Williamsburg Middle School playing fields, saying it was a hard decision but one he made in favor of offering more Arlington residents, particularly in North Arlington, time on rectangular fields after the sun goes down.

In an interview on July 10, Clanton, a lighting engineer based in Colorado, said even modified to 4500 Kelvin (K), the lights run counter to American Medical Association (AMA) guidance that street lighting be no higher than 3,000 K. "The one thing all

the medical professionals agree on," she said, "is that we don't know enough yet about the effects of high LED lights on humans. While the AMA believes 3,000 K or less is acceptable for lighting city streets, research is ongoing. Because she is engaged in lighting projects all over the country, Clanton said, "I just play it safe. If street lighting is an issue, then playing field lighting is even more of an issue because the light intensity is greater. If I do a project that could harm the public, I will be the one of those whose name is on the lawsuit. This is why cities like Fort Collins, Colorado and Denver have said, 'we need to play it safe. If AMA has issued a warning, it needs to be taken seriously." California cities are following suit, she said. "Sometimes what

we don't know is a more powerful piece of information than what we do know," Clanton said.

The Arlington Public Health Department says it based its review of the LED lights on Musco Lighting's statements. Musco is the sole source vendor of the

lighting systems to the county. Roy Gamse, technology. In the most recent Virginia Tech who served on the Williamsburg Playing lighting competition (2016) prizes were

Ubiquitous Light

Even LED lights on a smartphone or PC should be turned down after dark, says Nancy Clanton, lighting designer: If you have a smartphone, go to

settings, choose night set back level and turn to warmer light after sunset. Flux is a free program for Macs

That helps reduce blue light during evening hours.

Fields Working Group (WPFG) said, "Eight times in their paper on the lighting's potential health effects, the health department notes, 'We rely on the sole source vendor of the lights, Musco Lighting.' If what Musco

says is true, the health impact is not a major concern." The county manager's press release to residents addressed the sleep disturbances caused by LED lights by suggesting those effects could be remedied by developing a good sleep routine.

LED Lighting tech-- Nancy Clanton nology is a new and

rapidly developing

awarded only for street lights and pedestrian lights with less than 3000 Kelvin. This competition included sports lighting for the first time. The selected lights, even for large pro/college football applications, were in the 4300-5400 Kelvin range. Reviews of the competition also cautioned there isn't yet a great solution for neighborhood fields yet, so none of the lamps tested were in fact recommended.

One of the judges commented: "While significant advances have been made in solid-state sports-lighting equipment intended for large arena and stadium applications, an imperative exists for high-quality, affordable lighting to meet the demands of smaller exterior installations such as high school and recreation fields, which comprise the vast majority of sports-related exterior lighting. In particular, affordable luminaires for relatively lower mounting heights need improved glare management for player and spectator comfort, and also need to minimize unintended scatter light extending beyond property boundaries. Color and intensity consistency across the beams is also a concern, because the quality of the lighting has a significant effect on the appearance of the countless photos that are taken at such venues."

Residents who volunteer for such community organizations as the Building Level Planning Council (BLPC), which seeks to provide community input on planning for SEE PUBLIC SPACES, PAGE 5

Arlington Connection & July 12-18, 2017 & 3

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

OPINION Food Trucks Bring Tasty Treats

And economic prosperity to Arlington.

By Caroline Hanson

e may pass by street vendors without giving them a second thought as we walk through neighborhoods like Ballston and Clarendon but, in reality, vending greatly affects our culture and economy here in Arlington.

Across America, vending has become a popular way to start a business. There are about a dozen food trucks in Arlington, each of which represents someone's American Dream of a better life. One of them is called Peruvian Brothers, which is owned by local entrepreneurs and brothers, Giuseppe and Mario Lanzone. Peruvian Brothers food truck started as their dream of opening a business together. The brothers

COMMENTARY

came to the United States from Peru in 1997. They saw a food truck as an af-

fordable entry point for what is now their growing business. Through their hard work and their commitment to offer authentic Peruvian food for their customers, Peruvian Brothers has become a great success, now operating three food trucks across the DMV.

Each of Arlington's food trucks offers food lovers something unique. That is what Peruvian Brothers wanted to do when they first started vending. Before starting the business, Giuseppe conducted market research in D.C. and realized there was no Peruvian food in and around the area. They both missed the food from home, so they opened a food truck to sell their favorite items here in Arlington.

What started out as one food truck has now expanded into catering as well, which serves items like pan con chicharrón, choripan and empanadas. Among those they've catered for is the Embassy of Peru along with private parties, corporate functions and weddings. The brothers also provide concessions at RFK stadium, and they currently have four concession stands there now. They even created their own signature Rocoto Pepper hot sauce that is now being sold by the bottle. The brothers continue to succeed because they are offering something new, different and authentic for those who have never tried Peruvian food.

With each expansion, the Lanzone brothers continue to employ more people in Arlington and throughout the region, thereby growing our local economy. They currently employ 10 to 12 people with the hope of expanding even further in the future. What's more, vendors like the Peruvian Brothers help the commercial buildings they park in front of by attracting more prospective tenants to certain area.

Thankfully, street vending laws have become more lenient here in Arlington, allowing street vendors to flourish. The street vendors are now allowed to be in the same spot for two hours, for example, instead of one hour, as it used to be, thereby allowing them to attract more customers. And they may operate on public or private property. As the Arlington-based Institute for Justice, which advocates on behalf of the economic liberty of vendors, noted in their report "Streets of Dreams," "Street vending not only creates initial economic opportunity, it also provides the possibility for upward mobility from even the humblest of beginnings."

Street vendors add character and opportunities to Arlington, and we would not have the same community without them. Arlington County should reexamine restrictions it imposes on other entrepreneurs with an eye to opening economic opportunities for those industrious individuals by reducing regulations as it did for vendors.

Caroline Hanson is a communications associate with the Arlington-based Institute for Justice. She is a senior at Bishop O'Connell High School.

Letter to the Editor Withholding Funds Hurts WMATA

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation.

Dear Secretary Chao,

As representatives of public transit customers in the Commonwealth of Virginia, we write to express our concerns regarding the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Feb. 10, 2017 decision to withhold federal transit grant money in response to incomplete efforts to establish a new State Safety Oversight Program (SSOP) for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

On Feb. 8, 2016, the FTA gave notice that the Metropolitan Safety Commission (MSC), a new SSOP to succeed WMATA's Tri-State Oversight Commission, must be in place and certified by the FTA on or before Feb. 9, 2017. On Feb. 10, 2017, with no new SSOP certified, the FTA announced it would exercise its authority to withhold five percent of federal funds authorized in fiscal year 2017 under the Urbanized Area Apportionments Program (49 U.S.C. 5307). The initial withholding equated to \$8.9 million, and is expected to total \$15 million if the withholding continues to the end of the current fiscal year. This withholding will not just impact funding for WMATA, but for broader infrastructure maintenance through out Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

The decision to withhold these federal funds has created significant uncertainty amongst state and local governments in terms of budget planning and stability. Should the withholding of funds continue throughout the remain-

der of the fiscal year, the governments and their transit systems will be faced with a number of difficult decisions about the manner in which they allocate their limited resources. Under a worst- case scenario, they would be forced to make cuts to good repair efforts or reduce service to their respective communities, either of which would be harmful to our constituents. We agree safety must be a top priority, but eliminating funding for infrastructure repair would directly contradict a SSOP's stated goal.

Given the FTA must engage in this process with 29 other transit agencies nationwide by 2019, we appreciate the complexity of the issues that were considered in making the decision to withhold these funds. However, we must emphasize — as many of us have expressed previously either directly to you, your predecessor, or the FTA — that the timing of both the notice and the deadline set by FTA were arbitrary in that there seemed to be little or no consideration of the legislative calendars of the Virginia General Assembly or the General Assembly of Maryland.

The FTA timetable effectively gave Virginia and Maryland less than one full legislative session to negotiate amongst each other and the District, draft the proposal, navigate it through the respective lawmaking bodies, and sign it into law. The unreasonable requirements FTA put forth were not simply for the SSOP to have a legal foundation by the February 2017 deadline, but to have the program fully certified by FTA, which necessitates months of work after passing legislation, including, but not limited to, appointing commissioners, hiring staff, and leasing office space. We are therefore led to believe that FTA either set their requirements without providing fair consideration to the

unique institutional challenges that exist within the jurisdictions, or the FTA set them with a deadline so unrealistic that failure was unavoidable.

Given the concerns we have raised in this letter regarding FTA's shortsighted approach to this matter, and in light of the demonstrated progress which has been made, we respectfully request that your office work with the FTA to explore a compromise in which part of these withheld funds can be released as a show of good faith, as the jurisdictions continue their work to construct a stable SSOP.

Lending further justification for this request is the real progress that has been made with respect to organizing the MSC. At the time this is written:

* Virginia, Maryland, and the District (the jurisdictions) have each enacted legislation to enter into an nterstate compact to form the MSC;

The jurisdictions have submitted a detailed draft certification plan to FTA for review (though FTA has not yet provided formal feedback on the plan);

 \diamond Joint resolutions have been introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to grant Conressional approval to the MSC compact The Senate has passed its version of the joint reso-

lution; ✤ The House Judiciary Committee, which has sole urisdiction over the joint resolution, has ordered the House's parallel version of the resolution to be reported favorably to the full House: and ♦ We are requesting that the measure be taken up

for consideration as soon as possible. We appreciate the FTA's important safety

work, especially its temporary safety oversight role with respect to WMATA. Without FTA's diligence, more harm may have come to WMATA's customers. But we must find an equitable solution to this matter.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte, U.S. Rep. Robert J. Wittman, U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor, U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, and U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner

Arrlington

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@ArlConnection

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses. Published by

Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT: arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren Editor 703-778-9415 smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

> **Mike Salmon** Assistant Editor

Vernon Miles Reporter 757-472-3435 vmiles@connectionnewspapers.com

msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Shirley Ruhe **Contributing Writers** arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING: For advertising information sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

Debbie Funk Display Advertising/National Sales 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith Classified & Employment Advertising 703-778-9411 asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Executive Vice President Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004

jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief Steven Mauren Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh

Production Manager: Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com @TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427 circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Public **Spaces**

From Page 3

public spaces, have said with regard to LED lighting of fields that technology is moving so fast that developers may want to wait for a year or two, or proceed with caution, given the developments in the technology.

Other issues to be discussed at the public meetings in July are park facilities such as playgrounds, playing fields, pavilions, rest rooms, dog parks, and details like buffers of native trees/plants near dog parks which assist in removing pollutants before they get in the stream.

For the Virginia Tech study on outdoor lighting, see: VA Tech LED lighting design competition. http:// /www.ngldc.org/pdfs/ NGL 16Winners PressRelease.pdf

The full text of the AMA guidance on LED lighting can be found at: www. ama.assn.org/sites/default/files/media-browser/public/ abot-ama/councils/

Council%20Reports/council-on-science-publichealth/a16-csaph2.pdf.





For the county's press release on the lights at WMS, see: newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/county-manager-recommends-lighting-williamsburg-fields/.



Prepared

Just before the skies burst open Saturday, July 1, Oliver and Owen Potts grabbed a "Big Bomb" combination package with the Global Lights, Mother Nature and Blazing Rebel at an Arlington fireworks stand.

carelife

Chronic Care Management

Medicare Patients Spanish and English Private Insurance Private & Self-Pay Plans

is a partnership between our

Full Laboratory Testing

Preventive Health Care

Pre-operative Clearance, EKG

Diabetic, Cholestrol Screening

STD Screening Adult Immunizations

PT, INR Monitoring

Walk-ins accepted

Summer is Here. Hip, Hip, Hoo-Rate!

Celebrate Summer with Low Car Loan Payments



*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates subject to change without notice. Rates and payment examples are for new car loans for model years 2016-2017. \$20,000 for 60 months at 1.11% = \$342.82. \$20,000 for 72 months at 2.49% = \$299.33. Offer ends 7/31/2017. Federally insured by NCUA.



Dr. Glenda Thomas, DNP, FNP-C Certified Family Nurse Practitioner

We Offer:

- Well Woman Examination
- Primary Care
- Annual Physicals

Sports/School Physicals

Contact Us Today 703-854-1298

office@carelife.md

carelife.md

2826 Old Lee Highway, Merrifield Medical Center, Suite 250, Fairfax, VA



ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

- Fabulation, or the Re-education of Undine. 8-10 p.m. through July 22 at Gunston 2, 2700 S. Lang St. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage, tells the story of Undine Barnes Calles, a businesswoman who has created a successful public relations firm and suddenly sees her once-balanced life completely fall apart. \$20; \$18 Seniors. Visit
- www.portcityplayhouse.org for more. Rosslyn Cinema and Pub in the **Park**. Fridays through August 25, 6 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. On Fridays, Rosslyn Cinema brings you games, drinks, dinner and free outdoor movies this summer. Visit www.rosslynva.org for more
- Arlington Farmer's Market. Every Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon at the corner of N. 14th Street and N. Courthouse Road. A weekly celebration of local food including fresh produce, meats, dairy, cheese, baked goods, free range eggs, specialty items, cut flowers, plants and herbs. Email csingiser@cfwdc.org or call 917-733-6402.
- Jung Min Park: Memoryscape. Various times through October 1 at the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Jung Min Park creates memorable urban and architectural scenes through first-hand experiences and observations of cities and sites. Call 703-248-6800 for more.
- **FRESHFARM Market.** 3-7 p.m. on Tuesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Shop from local farmers and producers with seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh-cut flowers, container plants and herbs, farm-raised eggs, allnatural meats, artisan baked goods, and specialty foods. Visit www.crystalcity.org for more.
- Mobile Bike Repair. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Drop off your bike on Thursday morning and have it tuned up and ready to ride before heading home. Email DC@velofix.com, or phone 855-VELO-FIX for more.
- Food Truck Thursdays. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1900 Crystal Drive and 201 12th St. Actual truck schedules are subject to change so be sure to follow your favorites. Visit www.crystalcity.org for more.
- Crystal Ball: Street Hockey. 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. A coed social league, In partnership with the DC Fray, hockey enthusiasts compete competitively and recreationally in Crystal City. Games are played weekly and champions are crowned at the end of each season. Visit www.crystalcity.org for more.
- Healthy Lifestyle Runs. Saturdays, 9 a.m. at Roosevelt Island, George Washington Memorial Parkway. American Cancer Society partners with parkrun USA to promote fitness in the fight against cancer. Free. Visit www.parkrun.us/rooseveltislanddc/ for more.
- Friday Night Live. 8 p.m. Fridays at the Church at Clarendon, 1210 N. Highland St., Suite A. Local musicians perform. Free. Visit 1bc.org for more.
- Culinaire's Winter Lunch. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Art Institute of Washington, 1820 N. Fort Myer Drive, 12th floor. Culinaire, the student-run restaurant of the Art Institute of Washington, is now serving lunch from their winter menu on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Visit

- www.artinstitutes.edu/arlington for more **Arlington's Historical Museum**
 - **Open on First Wednesdays.** The Arlington Historical Museum is open to the public on the first Wednesday of every month from 12:30-3:30 p.m. The museum consists of exhibits chronicling Arlington County's history from Native American settlements up to the present day. The museum will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is located in the former 1891 Hume School building at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Contact Garrett Peck at 571-243-1113 or at garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.
- LGBT & Straight Friends Social. Tuesdays. Happy Hour, 3-7 p.m.; Mikey's "Bar A" Video Wall, 7 p.m.; start time at 8 p.m. IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. For 21 years
- and older. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com for more. **Open Mic Comedy.** Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. at Ri Ra Irish Pub, 2915 Wilson Blvd. Doors open at 7 p.m. Age 21 and up only. Free show, \$25 cash prize for best joke. Call 703-248-9888 or Visit www.RiRa.com/
- p.m. at the corner of North Irving St. and Washington Blvd. Find a roundup of regional food trucks. Free to attend. Visit www.dmvfta.org.
- Invasive Plants Removal. Work parties are held every month to keep the parks free of destructive invasive plants. Teens, adults and families welcome. Every second Sunday of the month 2-4:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road; call 703-228-3403. Every third Sunday of the month 2-5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road; call 703-228-6535 or Visit
- registration.arlingtonva.us. Free, no registration required. **Poetry Series.** 6-8 p.m. second Sunday of the month at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Hosted by poet
- Miles David Moore. Featured artists share their poetry followed by open readings. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.
- **Open Mic Nite.** 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. every Wednesday at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Sign-up times are 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Bring instruments, fans and friends. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.
- Karaoke. 8 p.m. on the first Sunday every month at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Visit www.galaxyhut.com or call 703-525-8646
- Pub Quiz. 8 p.m. every Sunday at Whitlow's on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd. Prizes for first place. Free. Visit www.whitlows.com or call 703-276-9693.
- Storytime. Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30-11 a.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Storytime with Ms. Laura. Call 703-527-5929.
- Lego Club. Monthly on the first Wednesday. 4-5 p.m. Glencarlyn Branch Library, 300 S. Kensington St. The library provides tubs of legos and a special challenge and after the program the creations are displayed for everyone to see. No registration required. Call 703-228-6548 for more
- Crystal City Sparket. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Wednesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Sparke Mai is an extension of DC's Eastern Market with arts, crafts, and handmade goods. Free to attend. Visit www.crystalcity.org.
- Open Mic Night. Wednesdays, at 8 p.m., sign ups are at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., at Iota Club & Café, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Free. Visit



Northern Virginia Senior Olympics

Registration through Sept. 2. for the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics The NVSO includes about 70 events that exercise the mind as well as the body. To qualify for the Olympics participants must turn 50 years old by Dec. 31. RSVP Northern Virginia at 703-403-5360 or email RSVP at rsvp@volunteerfairfax.org For a complete list of events and venues please visit www.nvso.us.

www.iotaclubandcafe.com/.

Art for Life. Third Thursday of each month. The Hyatt Regency Crystal City's "Art for Life" Partnership with National Kidney Foundation brings a new artist each month to The Hyatt for a reception. Free. Visit

www.torpedofactory.org. Brunch at Freddie's. Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Freddie's Beach Bar, 555 23rd St. The Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance gathers for an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet (\$9.99). All are welcome. No reservation is required. Visit www.facebook.com/events/ 700174390103305

THROUGH JULY 24

Trip to China. Registration for the 2017 China Trip Oct.16-24 is open, the cost is \$2,599 for Chamber members and their guests and \$2,799 for non-Chamber members. Email chamber@arlingtonchamber.org or call 703-525-2400.

DEADLINE AUG. 15

Master Naturalist Class. Applications now being accepted for volunteer training for the fall 2017 class of Arlington Regional Master Naturalists. Arlington Regional Master Naturalists will be holding evening and weekend training this fall, beginning Sept. 5 through Dec. 12, 2017 on Tuesdays from 7-10 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center. Visit www.armn.org for more.

JULY 12-AUG. 30

Drawing and Painting: The Figure. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Beginning, returning, and advanced students learn drawing and painting in this course on the human form. \$280. 18 and older. Call 703-248-6800, or visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 13

Columbia Pike Movie Night. Just after sunset, Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. Movie is "Raising Arizona" (1987 Rated PG-13), sponsored by APAH.
 Visit columbia-pike.org/movie-nights for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 14

- Yoga in Nature. 3-4 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Ages 7-10. Beginning with a short walk, then returning to the nature center to practice poses representing the plants and animals that are found, and closing in a short relaxation exercise. \$5. Call 703-228-4747 for more
- The Father of the Bride. 6-11 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Part of the Rosslyn Cinema + Pub in the Park movie series, featuring a movie and food from one of the food trucks on site. Visit www.rosslynva.org/go/gateway-park for more.
- Bands in Concert. 8 p.m. at Lubber Run, N. Columbus Street and 2nd Street N. Company Danzante band. Visit CultureCapital.com for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 15

- **Bilingual Campfire (Spanish/ English)**. 7-8 p.m. at the Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. This program will be filled with entertaining activities that may include stories, special animal guests, games, songs and S'mores.
- Call 703-228-3403 for more. Bands in Concert. 8 p.m. at Lubber Run, N. Columbus Street and 2nd Street N. Chopteeth Afrofunk Big Band. Visit CultureCapital.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 16

- R.I.P. Remove Invasive Plants. 2-4 p.m. at the Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Work parties are held every month and are making a real difference, with the return of ferns and wildflowers, and the animals that depend on them, in areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. Call 703-228-3403 for more.
- Free Outdoor Concert. 6-8 p.m. at Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Music by The Buzz Hounds, voted Arlington's best band. Food available for purchase from The Healthy Fool and Pacific Twist food trucks. Visit mountolivetumc.com/concert..
- Bands in Concert. 8 p.m. at Lubber Run, N. Columbus Street and 2nd Street N. Kenny Rittenhouse Band. Visit CultureCapital.com for more.

MONDAY/JULY 17

- Meeting Bowls. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 1320 N. Courthouse Road. Meeting Bowls come to Arlington, a creation of artists' Eva Salmerón and Emilio Alarcón. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org or call 703-228-1850 for more.
- Meet the Author. 3-4:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library is 1015 N. Quincy St. A lecture by Sharon Deutsch titled "You Need A Schoolhouse: Building Schools for the Segregated South." Deutsch will speak about her biography of Julius Rosenwald, a founder of Sears. Call 703-228-2144 for more.
- Family Sing-Along. 7-8 p.m. at Aurora Hills Branch Library, 735 18th St S. Summer evening sing-along with folk musician Jim Klein. Call 703-228-5715 for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 19

Project Linus Blankets. 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Learn how to make a Project Linus blanket for a child in need of comfort, and work on it for the rest of the summer to finish it, before dropping it off at the library for donation. Visit www.projectlinus.org/about/ or call 703-228-5260 for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 20

- Columbia Pike Movie Night. Just after sunset, Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S Dinwiddie St. Movie is "The Princess Bride" (1987 – Rated PG), sponsored by Mike Garcia and Arlington Animal Hospital. Visit columbia-pike.org/ movie-nights for more.
- Ice Cream Social. 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Arlington, 2609 North Glebe Road. Call 703-527-6800 or email Office@StMarysArlington.org for more.
- Middle School Nerf Night p.m. at Westover Branch Library, 1644 N. McKinlev Road #3. All Nerf Toys will be provided by the Library. Participants should not bring their own Nerf toys. For rising 6-8 Graders. Call 703-228-5260 for more.

♦ Arlington Connection ♦ July 12-18, 2017

Arlington for more. Food Truck Thursdays. 5:30-8:30

Entertainment

FRIDAY/JULY 21

Moana. 6-11 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Hawaiian themes, part of the Rosslyn Cinema + Pub in the Park movie series, featuring a movie and food from one of the food trucks on site. Visit rosslynva.org/go/gateway-park.

JULY 24-28

Vacation Bible School. 5:30-8 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 415 S. Lexington St. Bible school with hero theme. Preschool-fifth grade. \$35 for the week, \$20 for each additional sibling. Visit stjohnsarlingtonva.org or call 703-671-6834.

FRIDAY/JULY 28

The Wizard of OZ. 6-11 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Part of the Rosslyn Cinema + Pub in the Park movie series, featuring a movie and food from one of the food trucks on site. Visit rosslynva.org/go/ gateway-park.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Moths by Moonlight Campfire. 8:30-9:30 p.m. at the Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. Have fun at this later-than-usual campfire, learning about moths before visiting a black light setup to see who's flying at night. Call 703-228-3403 for more.

TUESDAY/AUG. 1

Walking Tours of Rosslyn. 8-9:30 a.m. at the Central Place Plaza, 1800 N. Lynn Street. With artist Graham Coreil-Allen. Visit www.rosslynva.org/ for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 4

When Harry Met Sally. 6-11 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Part of the Rosslyn Cinema + Pub in the Park movie series, featuring a movie and food from one of the food trucks on site. Visit rosslynva.org/go/ gateway-park.

FRIDAY/AUG. 11

Lego Batman. 6-11 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Part of the Rosslyn Cinema + Pub in the Park movie series, featuring a movie and food from one of the food trucks on site. Visit www.rosslynva.org/go/ gateway-park for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

St. Mary's Night at the Ballgame. 7:05 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 2609 N. Glebe Road. Amy Slater's son Austin is playing for the Giants. \$20. Visit stmarysarlington.org/ or call 703-527-6800.



Summer Movies

Various Fridays in the summer, from 6-11 p.m. it's the Rosslyn Cinema + Pub in the Park at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Summer movie series features a movie and food from one of the food trucks on site. Visit www.rosslynva.org/go/gateway-park for more.

At Signature Theatre

Urban Arias: "Scenes, not Screens!"

Thursday, July 13 at 8 p.m. — UrbanArias presents "Service Provider," a comedy about how you really need to turn off your cell phone during dinner, and "opera improv" - musical skits created on the spot based on audience suggestions. Starring Melissa Wimbish, Ian McEuen, and Jeffrey Gates.

Nova Y. Payton: "Songs I Love"

Friday, July 14 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. — Nova Y. Payton shares share some of her favorite songs in an eclectic evening with something for everyone.

Bob McDonald: "And the Oscar Goes To..."

Saturday, July 15 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. — "Sizzlin' Summer Nights" annual favorite Bob McDonald takes the audience to the movies with this program of classic songs from tinsel town. Tony Nalker joins on piano.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington: "Let's Misbehave!"

Tuesday, July 18 at 8 p.m. — Soloists from the Gay Men's Chorus tell their entertaining, and sometimes salacious stories of misbehaving. Songs include "I'm Everybody's Boy," "My Stupid Mouth," and "He Never Did that Before."

Matthew Schleigh & Jessica Lauren Ball: "Falling Slowly"

Wednesday, July 19 at 8 p.m. — Married couple Matthew Schleigh and Jessica Lauren Ball sing their favorite duets in a quirky soundtrack of their life together. Featuring a mix of Broadway classics, indie rock and pop hits, plus Matthew's special wedding song written exclusively for his bride.

Liam Forde: "A Jubilee"

Thursday, July 20 at 8 p.m. — "Hand to God" Helen Hayes Award Winner Liam Forde brings his trademark zaniness and musicality to Signature. With songs by Kay Thompson, Cy Coleman, Noel Coward, Ben Folds and Brian Wilson, plus original songs and arrangements by Forde. Sponsored by Mike Blank.

Individual tickets to cabarets in the series are \$35 each. Tickets can be purchased at sigtheatre.org, in person at the Box Office, or by calling 703-820-9771.



Pat's Masonry LLC

25 Years Experience Free Estimates All Work Guaranteed

Class A Contractors License also Insured For all your masonry needs • Brick • Stone • Flagstone • Concrete • Patios • Walkways • Retaining & Decorative Walls • Repairs

540-481-6519 www.patsmasonry.com • patsmasonry@yahoo.com





... Tech Painting's got you covered!



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Ambition at Heart of New Public Spaces Master Plan

From Page 2

median age is 36. Arlington also has a 77 percent more millennials, residents between the ages of 25 and 34, than the surrounding jurisdictions. That tends to drive the public space needs towards athletic-focused outdoor activities. Walking is still the most popular outdoor activity but has seen a decline since the 2005 plan, with more niche activities like yoga and triathlons on the rise.

According to a 2016 needs assessment, paved multi-use trails were the most needed outdoor facility. Of households surveyed, 87 percent answered that they needed more multi-use outdoor trails. Hiking trails and animal habitats also scored highly, each around 75 percent. Based on a priority investment rating, combining needs expressed by the community with economic viability, the ETC Institute recommended trails and habitats be considered as the highest priority investments.

Needs for indoor facilities were a little more divided. Of those surveyed, 63 percent answered that the most needed facility is an indoor pool. This was particularly prominent in households with children, while adults with no children said the most needed facilities were those with exercise equipment.

THREE UPCOMING MEETINGS will give Arlington Residents a chance to learn about the plan and provide feedback:

July 13 at Arlington Mill Community Center Gym, 7-9
p.m.
July 14 at the Arlington Courthouse lobby, 10 a.m.- 2

p.m.

♦ July 15 at Washington-Lee High School Cafeteria, 10 a.m.noon.

New Direction for Arlington Arts

Arlington works to bring arts to people rather than people to arts.

By Vernon Miles The Connection

hen the Artisphere opened in 2010, there were big plans in Arlington for the future of the arts. The Artisphere was going to be the hub of an artistic and cultural renaissance for the county. Two years after the Artisphere's demise, the county is starting to approach the idea of an arts revival again, but with a narrower scope.

On Saturday, the County Board will review \$215,810 in arts grants. According to Cynthia Richmond, deputy director of Arlington Economic Development, the funding levels are consistent with previous years. Three types of grants are offered: individual artist grants, project grants, and grants that pay for space and

technical services to support an arts organization. There were 58 total grant applications, each reviewed first by a panel of art experts, then reviewed by the Arlington



Concept rendering for the Art Truck

Multi-Use Trails

publicly-owned amenity (not APS) / public

APS-owned amenit

nit-only use (serv

least need (best access)

at need (limited access)

Commission for the Arts.

Three individual artists, Laura Ortiz, Tom

"... we adopted a nimbler and more mobile strategy to integrate arts and culture into the spaces where we live, work, and play."

Josh Stoltzfus, director of Cultural Development for Arlington Economic Development

Dickinson, and Barbara Januszkiewicz, are each recommended to receive \$5,000 grants. Thirty organizations are recommended for grant awards, for a total of Photo contributed

 \$200,810. Josh Stoltzfus, director of Cultural Development for Arlington Economic Development, said in an email that the trend for arts in Arlington has completely flipped from the Artisphere approach.

"In lieu of one central space to bring the community to our programming, we adopted a nimbler and more mobile strategy to integrate arts and culture into the spaces where we live, work, and play," said Stoltzfus. "The pending Arlington Art Truck, which recently

garnered a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, is the embodiment of this new direction."

The grant from the National Endowment

Map of trail spaces throughout Arlington

Photo contributed



Photo by Vernon Miles / The Connection **The Artisphere**

of the Arts supplements \$70,000 approved by the County Board in 2016 to fund the purchase and operation of the truck during last year's round of art grants. The Art Truck, currently being built, is one of several efforts underway to bring arts out into various Arlington communities. A booklet is being developed documenting the history of Clarendon's Vietnamese refugee community of the 1970s and '80s. A project is also underway to bring "meeting bowls" currently being installed at Courthouse Plaza, a bench built like a bowl that focuses on

> See Arlington Arts, Page II www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

8 * Arlington Connection * July 12-18, 2017

Home LifeStyle



Interior designer Joe Van Goethem transformed a walk-in closet in his McLean home into a wine cellar.

Photo courtesy of Joe Van Goethem

Redefining Space

Designer thinks outside the proverbial box.

By Marilyn Campbell

local interior designer believes in thinking outside the box when it comes to making the best use of space in one's home.

"My advice to homeowners is to embrace spaces within their homes as if they were never assigned," said Joe Van Goethem of Joseph Van Goethem Interior Design in McLean. "Depending on location, a space previously designated as a walk-in closet can be purposefully transformed into an

"My advice to

as if they were

never assigned."

homeowners is to

embrace spaces ...

intimate guest bedroom, home office, or multipurpose wine cellar and bar."

Van Goethem followed his own advice when he transformed a walkin foyer closet in his home into a multipurpose

wine cellar, complete with a wine refrigerator, beer cooler, ice maker and cigar humidor. "Why a walkin closet if it's seldom used, and only to become an open invitation stemware and barware. He added for hidden clutter?" he asked. "En- a commissioned seascape painting vision new, functional possibilities by California artist Jonathan Koch for every space within your home.

Van Goethem, who not only designed the space, but also completed the construction himself, believes that "playing with scale and attention to every detail are key when considering the transfor-

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

mation of a confined space such as a walk-in closet," he said. "[The] closet had a nondescript narrow solid door, glued-down wood veneer floor, shelving and hanging rods, and one light fixture.'

In finishing the project, Van Goethem widened the door framing to accommodate a new French door and added storage space for a concealed television. He also installed an intercom to allow those in the cellar to communicate with those in the kitchen.

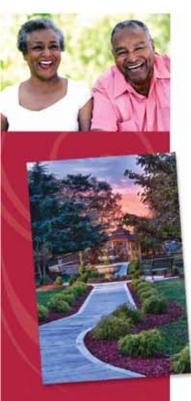
"I ripped up the old floor [and replaced it] with Spanish marble tile flooring," he said. "I added a baseboard and crown moulding, and created a grid of moulding on the walls which I painted with Farrow & Ball's Purbeck Stone. I installed Extra Fine Arrowroot

> Grasscloth hand crafted wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries within the recesses of the grid."

Van Goethem said his goal was to make the design of -Joe Van Goethem the new cellar

consistent with the aestheticS of the rest of his home. The space includes a large drum light fixture and side lamps. An oversized cabinet holds the and modern teapots by Washing ton, D.C. ceramicist Joe Hicks.

"Details are important in design, but they are everything ... when transforming a small space like the repurposing of a walk-in closet," said Van Goethem.



where seniors ages 62 and better enjoy rewarding lifestyles in the heart of Alexandria

Celebrating Life Not Years

Hermitage is a welcoming community where senior citizens can enjoy an enriching lifestyle with many choices. Residents live in spacious apartments, with a generous service package that frees them from the demands of home maintenance and supports continued personal independence.

As a CCRC, Hermitage also offers health services on site, including assisted living and health care center. Residents gain peace of mind, knowing their future needs will be met without having to relocate.

Living at Hermitage, you'll have the freedom to plan each day as you see fit. Make your life as busy or as relaxed as you prefer.

Call 703-797-3844 for more information.



5000 Fairbanks Ave. Alexandria 22311 703-797-3844 www.Hermitage-Nova.com





Active and engaged, forever curious and living life to the fullest. These are the remarkable people of Westminster at Lake Ridge. Here is a community dedicated to fostering a dynamic lifestyle where every day promises an opportunity to expand your interests or discover new talents-all with the security that comes with quality on-site health services.

> Now accepting wait list deposits. Call 703-791-1100 or visit us today!



Arlington Connection & July 12-18, 2017 🔹 9

Sports



TO Advertise in This Paper. Call by Monday 11:00 am 703-778-9411



may help you enjoy reading again. Call for a FREE phone consultation

with Dr. Armstrong, Optometrist



10 Arlington Connection & July 12-18, 2017



Champions

The Virginia Hurricanes, a 6th Grade Girls Amateur Athletic Union basketball team based in Arlington, won a recent tournament in Myrtle Beach, S.C. over the July 1-2 weekend. The team competed in the 2017 National Travel Basketball Association (NTBA) Girls Nationals Championship, against other top 6th grade basketball teams. The Hurricanes played seven games in four days, and culminated the tournament with a 38-32 win over the Lady Wolves to be declared winners of the 2017 NTBA Girls Nationals Championship Silver Division. Pictured are Ellie Rowland, Maddie Simon, Madi Goeke, Maya Solis, Sophia Goff, Sujee Rubio, Taylor Chase, Toni McCrae, Valerie Coutinho, and coach Greg Rubio.

Thuderbolts Defeat Vienna Woods

In its third meet of the NVSL Division IV season, the Donaldson Run (DR) Thunderbolts were victorious on the road against Vienna Woods. The final score was 253-167. In his third straight meet, DR swimmer Charlie Greenwood broke another DR team record by beating his own former record with a time of 38.78 in the boys' 9-10 50 breaststroke.

Double individual race winners for Donaldson Run were: Ryan Clark (girls' 8 & under 25 free and 25 back): Thomas Rodman (boys' 9-10 50 free and 50 back); Rachel Conley (girls' 9-10 50 back and 25 fly); Sean Conley (boys' 15-18 50 free and 50 fly); Evie Maloney (girls' 8 & under 25 breast and 25 fly); Charlie Greenwood (boys' 9-10 50 breast (DR team record) and 25 fly); Grace Jansen (girls' 11-12 50 breast and 50 fly); and Jack Tsuchitani (boys' 11-12 50 breast and 50 fly).

The team's single winners were (in order of age and event): Charlie Taylor (boys' 9-10 50 free); Emily Brooks (girls' 15-18 50 free); Hank Holley (boys' 11-



Evie Maloney, Donaldson Run girls' 8 & under 25 breast

12 50 back); Andrew Rehr (boys' 15-18 50 back); Hayden Hill (boys' 8 & Under 25 breast); Eliza Gromada (girls' 9-10 50 breast); Ella Rigoli (girls' 13-14 50 fly); Harrison Rehr (boys' 15-18 50 fly); Julia Fayer (girls' 15-18 fly).

Winning DR relay teams included: Josephine Brooke, Ellie Wertzler, Evie Maloney, Ryan Clark (girls' 8 & under 100 free relay); Bran Kaplan, Charlie Greenwood, Michael Corso, Thomas Rodman (boys' 9-10 medley relay); Rachel Conley, Diya Redburn, Coco Rigoli, Eliza Gromada (girls' 9-10 medley relay); Jack Tsuchitani, Braylon Meade, Charlie Taylor, Hayden Stolzenberg (boys' 11-12 medley relay); TJ Hutchison, Drew Harker, Henry Rehr, Sean Conley (boys' 13-14 medley relay); Emily Brooks, Grace Motta, Emma Hutchison, Sarah Conley (girls' 15-18 medley relay); Jack Tsuchitani, Charlie Greenwood, Sean Conley, Andrew Meighan (boys' mixed age relay); and Grace Jansen, Rachel Conley, Ella Rigoli, Emily Brooks (girls' mixed age relay).



Hank Holley, Donaldson Run boys' 11-12 50 back

News Arlington Arts

From Page 8

giving groups of friends spaces to sit and talk with a degree of privacy in a public space.

"Arlington Cultural Affairs is focused on bringing the arts to the community in many different settings where our citizens and patrons already congregate, including farmer's markets, libraries, parks, unused retail space," said Stoltzfus. "Most of these leverage the resources of our partners which include Arlington County Library (Poetry Festival, The Poet Is In), Arlington Transit (Moving Words), Arlington Parks and Recreation (events at Arlington Mill, and the free summer concert series at Lubber Run Amphitheater), Arlington Arts Center (Day of The Dead concert) and the various Business Improvement Districts and partner organizations."

According to Richmond, these changes are reflected in the Arlington Commission for the Arts' county-wide arts strategy plan, adopted in March. The plan focuses mainly on integrating arts and culture into existing civic spaces and being incorporated into public spaces rather than being set aside like the Artisphere.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/JULY 12

Gardening Talks & Demonstrations. 7 p.m. at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. The Arlington Food Assistance Center and the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia will sponsor a series of talks and demonstrations about gardening. In addition to basic gardening techniques, topics will include wild edibles, pollinators, food preparation and preservation, and more. Visit www.afac.org/.

SUNDAY/JULY 16

Waste-Water Lecture. 7-8:30 p.m. at Shirlington Branch Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Karen Pallansch, CEO of Alexandria Renew Enterprises, a leader in waste water recovery will tell all. Call 703-228-6545 for more.

TUESDAY/JULY 18

Meet Zoe. 11 a.m. at Arlington Mill Community and Senior Center. Zoe is a Yorkshire Terrier, who's allergy free, doesn't shed and enjoys people. Zoe is a registered, certified therapy dog. There will also be information given about the Yorkie breed by Chuck and Patty Toftoy. Handouts are provided. Free. For more, visit www.parks.arlingtonvs.us/events

WEDNESDAY/JULY 19

- New Lubber Run Center Design Public Meeting #4. 7-9 p.m. at Barrett Elementary School, 4401 N. Henderson Roa. Review design changes to the building based on community feedback about the four design schemes presented in March (that informed the near final design concept presented in May) and give feedback on a park design concept including the playground, outdoor courts, garden areas, tree planting and landscaping plans based on input from the May community work session and online survey. Sign up at projects.arlingtonva.us/ types/parks/lubber-run-community-centerproject/ to receive project updates.
- Gardening Talks & Demonstrations. 7 p.m. at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. The Arlington Food Assistance Center and the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia will sponsor a series of talks and demonstrations about gardening. In addition to basic gardening techniques, topics will include wild edibles, pollinators, food preparation and preservation, and more. For a complete schedule, visit www.afac.org/plot-against-hunger/pah-events/.



As I bring our two cat carriers up from the basement in order for "The Buff Boys" to acclimate in anticipation of their impending visit to the veterinarian, I can't help but think back to the spring of 1976. That's when an appointment to mend my male cat, Tillie, nearly went very wrong.

To this day, the circumstances still haunt me. Tillie had been a surprise birthday gift given to me in September 1975, along with a puppy I named Gus (both named after a W.C. Fields' movie, "Tillie and Gus").

Tillie was an all-black domestic short hair. Gus was a German Shepard/St. Bernard mix. He was beautiful. He had a white-ish beige coat, floppy ears and a curly tail.

Introduced to one another at 6 weeks old, Tillie and Gus were the best of friends/siblings. Though I made sure they spent their evenings inside, during the day, both were outside. (We had a fenced-in yard so Gus was confined. Tillie however, as you might imagine was not. He had the run of the neighborhood.)

Sure enough, one day, Tillie got into a cat fight. His tail had been bitten and was beginning to abscess. I knew I had to take him to the veterinarian. However, I was in college and had very little money to spare. Nor did I have a credit card either. (Those were the days before credit card companies solicited college students.) In a financial bind, I called my parents and asked for money (I did work in the dining hall all through college but lived in a house off campus and had the usual room and hoard-type expenses)

the usual room and board-type expenses). They sent me \$25. (In my mind, I can still see the check.) In addition to whatever other money I could scrape together, I guess it was enough so I took Tillie to the "vet" for repair. He stayed overnight. The next day, I got the call that he was ready for pick-up. That's when the event occurred that has affected me/my animal-owning life going on – four decades plus.

I went by myself. I had a car; a 1970 Ford Maverick, but no cat carrier. I was, apparently, planning on simply holding Tillie in my arms as I had done the day before. However, the pick-up was not nearly as uneventful as the drop-off.

Once I got outside the building, Tillie began squirming (his tail had been shaved and had stitches where the abscess/bite had been inflicted) and broke free from my grasp. He ran off about 20 yards – or so to the rear of this modest onestory building and stopped just shy of a chain-link fence which separated where we all were to another neighborhood – beyond my reach. My fear: had Tillie climbed over that fence somehow, he likely would have been gone forever.

Slowly I approached Tillie, repeatedly calling his name as quietly and reassuringly as I could, trying not to rattle, startle or scare him in any way; presuming post-surgery, in an unfamiliar place, possibly in pain, it might not take much from his father to cause him to scamper off and disappear.

As I casually walked toward him, amazingly, Tillie sort of stood still, enough for me to scoop him up. Which I did and then carefully walked back to my car and drove us both home without any further ado – except for the rest of my takingcats-to-the-"vet" life. And yes, that means now.

And though I'm not stupid enough to transport cats without cat carriers anymore, I am only at ease once we're back home and have let the cats out of their boxes and released them into the house (all our cats are indoor cats). Throughout this process, I must check the latches on their carriers a half-a-dozen times; in the house, in the car, in the parking lot outside the "vet's" office, in the waiting room, in the examining room and then again afterwards; back in the waiting room while I pay, in the car on the way home and finally in the driveway as I prepare to carry the carriers/cats across the yard and into the house. Once inside with the cats/carriers in hand, finally I can relax. Home at last.

Forty-one years ago; it seems like yesterday, or maybe tomorrow if the "vet" can see us. And that's what worries me. Been there and unfortunately, have done that.

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



Arlington Connection 🚸 July 12-18, 2017 🚸 11

