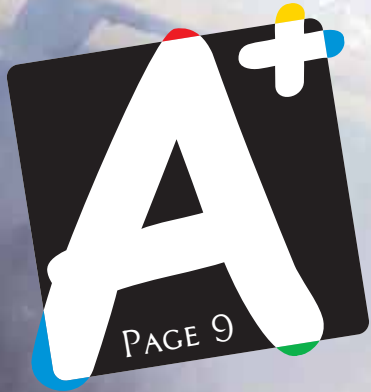




The Arlington Connection



Nauck Pride Day

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Ed Whitehead is barbecuing “about 20 racks of ribs” at the 2017 Nauck Civic and Community Pride Day at Drew Model Elementary School and Community Center on Saturday, Sept. 16. Whitehead said he has to let the bone protrude, and then flip the ribs over for about another half hour. He is cooking ribs and chicken for Restaurant Depot.



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Individualized Care for Couples

NEWS



The turtle on display was from Gulf Branch Nature Center, and he was trying to go places.



The black snake was also trying to go places, much to the delight of the children, who were eager to join it under the table. "Hiding is a natural impulse for a snake," said Barbara Farley, the naturalist supervising the animals.

Enjoying Autumn Fest

Something for everyone at Glencarlyn Library.

The Glencarlyn Library Garden, at 300 South Kensington St., was an oasis full of exotic plants, reptiles, herbal concoctions, and body-painting on Sunday, Sept. 17, from 1-3 p.m. The Master Gardeners put on a display of skills as they blended ginger and lemon verbena and mint to make teas, taught children how to mix potpourri into sachets, and provided plant advice. The Tree

Stewards were also present, dispensing advice on how to kill a tree and how to save one, and Naturalist Barbara Farley juggled a turtle, a snake, and a tarantula with aplomb, as children leaned in for a closer look. Plants for sale varied from turmeric and ginger to the more mundane dog wood and smoke bush.

— EDEN BROWN



Aysha Ahmed gets her arm decorated by Master Gardener Becky Halbe.



Becky Halbe practiced her painting skills on her fingers.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION



Patrick Weathers has a close encounter with the turtle as Barbara Foley, Gulf Branch Naturalist, talks about turtle behavior.

Much Heat without Light County Board delays decision on Williamsburg lights.

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

No one was happy on Saturday. Roughly 60 speakers came out to the County Board meeting on Sept. 16 to show their support or opposition to lighting the athletic fields near Williamsburg Middle School. Some were local residents dressed in all green to show their opposition to another encroachment onto the neighborhood. Others were parents with their children or recreational park users who took the stand to lament the limited current lack of options for evening sports and activities. Many on both sides expressed a hope that there would be some definitive resolution out of the Saturday meeting.

There was not.

The County Board voted unanimously to delay any decision on the Williamsburg lights.

But while the members of the County Board expressed disappointment that further progress wasn't reached over six hours of discussion, the debates over the lights have been ongoing for at least four years. The debate over lights at Williamsburg goes



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Opposition to Williamsburg lights attended the County Board meeting dressed in green.

back to 2013, when a working group was established to evaluate whether or not lights would be feasible at that field. A report by the working group noted that the use of recreational facilities, particularly those requiring a rectangular field, have continued to increase over the years, while accessibility of field space has remained mostly

stagnant. Additionally, nearly all of the rectangular fields in Arlington are in central or south Arlington, leaving north Arlington underserved.

"What is appropriate in one neighborhood is not appropriate in another," said Pamela Stapleton.

Stapleton was one of several residents

who shared concerns not just about the excess light flooding their living rooms, but the noise more late night activities would bring to their quiet neighborhood.

But those who use Arlington's fields said the desperate need for additional hours was being felt by the local community.

"I understand and appreciate the [neighborhood's] concerns, but we can't let nimbyism prevail," said Francesca O'Reilly. "As neighbors and friends, we all need to give a little bit, compromise inherently means we're all a little bit unhappy."

Nimbyism refers to the phrase NIMBY, or "not in my backyard," which refers to a mentality by local communities that they aren't opposed to development for others but don't want it to happen near them.

Both sides argued that their side was being mischaracterized by the other.

"This is not nimbyism," said Nancy Delogu, who noted that all three of her children had played soccer locally. "This community accepted a new school."

Delogu pointed out that the local community had accepted the Discovery School despite the fact that the facility had been

SEE DELAY, PAGE 10

Casual Adventure Looks Back — and Forward

Stern gets lease extension through 2017 holiday season.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Eric Stern sat in the back office of Casual Adventure on a hot July morning looking around at the memorabilia documenting the store's past. It was about 95 degrees in the office; the air conditioning had broken, he was expecting large crowds taking advantage of his "End of an Era" sale, and he was feeling nostalgic. It was like being in a museum with a curator who had lived through its history.

Stern's great-grandfather Oscar Stern opened the store in 1940: it was called the District Grocery Store or DGS; later Giant came and the big store pushed little grocery stores out of business. Around the same time his grandfather, Sid, who had served in the U.S. Air Corps during WW II came home and told the family about all the Army surplus items that could be purchased at a bargain. From 1955 to 1985, the store sold ammo cans, canvas tents, sleeping bags, mess kits, and in the wintertime, when camping wasn't very active, they sold office furniture. In 1985, when Stern's father, Neil, took over the store, the demand for more upscale outdoors equipment had al-



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Not a lot has changed in the back room office since 1957.

ready changed the store: Ray Ban sunglasses and Red Wing boots were on the shelves next to the combat boots. Some of the big brands in the industry didn't like the idea of being in a surplus gear shop, so they changed their name from The Surplus Center to Casual Adventure. The name came from a contest they held in the community. "And the catchy slogan, 'From Great Falls to Nepal' — came from our Store Manager, Dave," said Stern.

"That's the thing about Casual Adventure," Stern said, "it just keeps on changing. In ending the store as we know it on Washington Boulevard ... we see that as an opportunity. Every generation has recreated



Eric Stern holding up the Springsteen record he and his father liked to listen to on Christmas Eve when they finally closed down for the day.

this store, has shifted gears, has developed a new idea. "Stern's father had died 18 months earlier. He never knew the store was closing but it wouldn't have surprised him, Stern said. For 30 years, Neil Stern had said, "a street like this won't stay the same forever; one of these days this block is going to go."

Casual Adventure has been a family business, with each generation of the Sterns growing up in the shop and learning the business with the sense of community that made it more than a camping equipment store.



The walls of Casual Adventure: Customers who have climbed Old Rag ... or Mount Everest ... make a point of recording their travels for the store.

Stern's father grew up in the area, went to Yorktown High School, placed a priority on family values, and helped individuals and groups in the neighborhood, a characteristic he passed down to his son. Every school in the Arlington area asks the Sterns for donations to their silent auctions, Arlington's Little League, Babe Ruth League, and girls softball teams, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Arlington Outdoor Lab and Arlington County Police

SEE CASUAL ADVENTURE, PAGE 8

Senior Olympics Rolls Along Green Acres Senior Center hosts bocce competition.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Despite forecasts of post-Hurricane showers, things rolled along in bright sun at the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics bocce competition on Thursday, Sept. 14. Nineteen competitors in five age groups from 50-99 are signed up at Green Acres Senior Center in Fairfax. Competitors and onlookers sat at picnic tables munching donuts and drinking water to cool down as they waited for the competition to begin.

Ninety-two-old Henry Coletto from Oakton, the oldest competitor, has no one in his age group for competition so he was paired with Sonny Caputo from Springfield in the 80-89 age group. Caputo says this is his first Senior Olympics although he is playing in the regular bocce league. Coletto's regular league partner, Nicholas Garito of Fairfax, is also competing. "Henry and I had a tough year. We came from last place to third place," Garito said, adding he got the bocce program started 10 years ago

and convinced the Lions Club to build the court five years ago.

Coletto says he lived in Massachusetts for 82 years and then four of his children who live around here "kidnapped me and brought me here." He had driven to the competition from Oakton. He said, "My children don't believe I should drive too much anymore."

Robena Reid of Lorton and Lynn Thompson of Fairfax started out with the women's 55-59 competition. Reid says she is kind of a novice, and Thompson says this is her first tournament, and she has practiced twice. Pink balls, blue balls, back and forth.

Charlie Perla, bocce ref, said, "Here we go measuring again. Blue is closer and touching. No, no, no it's red." He adds, "Get out the dollar bill." The test of touching is whether you can get a dollar bill between the balls. "I can't believe it: did they both get gold?" He measures again and the final result is Reid wins by one inch.

Herb Levitan of Arlington plays one of the later competitions. He says he is registered



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION
Herb Levitan of Arlington.

in 27 events this year but may not be able to do a couple of them on Saturday since he is also organizing a table tennis match at the same time.

In Competitive Mode at Senior Olympics



Lori Grimm from Arlington out threw her competition in the 60-64 age group with a distance of 86' 5" to win a gold medal.



Alease Brooks from Arlington competes in the discus in the 80-84 age group.

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION

Herb Levitan from Arlington launches the mini javelin in the 75-79 age group.

Ready, Set, Bags in the Air

Red striped and blue polka dot bags whiz through the air at Fairlington Community Center on Friday, Sept. 15. Contestants from across a wide spectrum of Northern Virginia are lined up in lanes for the singles corn hole competition for the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO).

The sign-in desk is scattered with a pile of papers including a list of contestants, a bracket and NVSO information. The volunteer coordinator announces, "We've had a lot more singles sign up then we expected ... and that's awesome." She shuffles through the stack of papers and says since all the women are present she will start them out in lanes one and two.

Cindy Hook from Annandale and Lizzet MacDonald from Falls Church are competing in lane one. It will be the best of 15 with the winner needing to win by two points. At the end of the first round MacDonald reports she has won by a score of 19-11. After a closely fought match, Hook com-

ments, "she sure filled it up on the last one."

A blue bag lofts high into the air and falls into the hole to cheers from a noisy crowd. Lloyd Pierce is here from Ashby Ponds in Loudoun County along with Don Tanner from Ashburn. Pierce reports after his first round a win of 15-3 and Tanner is 15-2.

Charlie Dierkes of Arlington is here this year playing singles. He says, "Last year I played doubles with my son. This year I almost didn't make it because my dog is really sick with an inner ear infection that makes her sway." He demonstrates with a sideways wobble.

Charles Toftoy is also here from Arlington. He has been entering Senior Olympics for 20 years and this year will bring his total number of different events to 30.

The NVSO will continue until Sept. 20 with a full week to come including eightball pool, pickleball, badminton, basketball, bunko and sudoku.

— SHIRLEY RUHE



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Lizzet MacDonald of Falls Church

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News



Nauck Civic and Community Pride Day

The Nauck Civic Association is selling raffle tickets to support three \$500 scholarship awards to residents of the Nauck Community. To qualify a student must have been, or be, attending an accredited two- or four-year college, university, technical or higher education institution. Local merchants donated the prizes.

A young volunteer helps man the Nauck Civic Association food tent, offering free hot dogs, popcorn and cotton candy for children. Nauck, in South Arlington, is the oldest African-American community in Arlington with a history dating back to the Civil War. Each year in the fall they hold a community event featuring a day of outside activities, a variety of food booths and representatives of the community such as AFAC and the Arlington County Child and Family Services. Activities held in the Community Center included Dr. Alfred Taylor on Nauck History, Ticara Smith on Electric Eating and Lachaka Treakle on Extreme Couponing Tips.



PHOTOS BY
SHIRLEY RUHE/
THE CONNECTION

Sumayya Iracks traces Elmer's glue on a picture of a cinnamon stick. She sprinkles it with fresh cinnamon. The back of her card has a recipe for how to use cinnamon. Jennifer Abel, Senior Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, says their booth at Nauck Civic and Community Pride Day is to illustrate healthy alternatives to salt.

Saint Ann Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:
 Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
 Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 AM
 1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy

DAILY EUCHARIST:
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 Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM
 Saturday, 8:30 AM

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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Featured Artist. Through Sept. 29, 11 a.m. at the The Arlington Artists Alliance Gallery Crystal City Shops, 2100 Crystal Drive. See Ginger Sanaie, Watermedia exhibit created with pencils, acrylic, ink and watercolor crayons. Email art@galleryunderground.org or visit www.galleryunderground.org.

Jung Min Park: Memoryscape. Various times through Oct. 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.

“A Little Night Music.” Extended through Oct. 15 at the Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Visit www.sigtheatre.org.

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.

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, all-natural meats, artisan baked goods, and specialty foods. Visit www.crystallcity.org.

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.

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.crystallcity.org.

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/.

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.

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.

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/ Arlington.

Food Truck Thursdays. 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the corner of North Irving St. and Washington Blvd. Find a round-up of regional food trucks. Free to attend. Visit www.dmvfta.org.



Bonfire Thursdays

Starting Thursday, Sept. 21, the Fall Bonfire Concerts are 6-8 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Purchase seasonal brews, ciders and wine and shop at a different fashion truck each week. There will also be donuts from Mama’s Donut Bites and s’mores from the Capital Candy Jar. Scheduled Thursdays through Oct. 12. Visit www.rosslynva.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.

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.

Crystal City Sparket. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Wednesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Sparket — A Creative Market is an extension of DC’s Eastern Market with arts, crafts, and handmade goods. Free to attend. Visit www.crystallcity.org.

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.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 20

How Charlotte Bronte Wrote Her Masterpiece. 7-8:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N Quincy St. Why did Charlotte Bronte go to such great lengths on the publication novel to conceal its authorship from her family, close friends, and the press? John C. Pfordresher, author of “The Secret History of Jane Eyre,” explores these questions through an investigation into the relationship between the novel’s heroine and its author. Books will be available for sale and signing after the event. Visit library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21

Fall Bonfire Concerts. 6-8 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Purchase seasonal brews, ciders and wine and shop at a different fashion truck each week. There will also be donuts from Mama’s Donut Bites and s’mores from the Capital Candy Jar. Scheduled Thursdays through Oct. 12. Visit www.rosslynva.org.

Conversations with the Experts. 7-8:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N Quincy St. Learn tips and tricks to writing Young Adult Literature from a panel of YA authors. The authors take questions from the audience, and their books are available for signing after each discussion. September’s theme: Writing Romance and Relationships in YA. Visit library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library or www.onemorepagebooks.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 22

Cinema and Pub in the Park. Dusk at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. The Lego Batman Movie, rescheduled due to summer rain, food trucks will be on site. Visit www.rosslynva.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Native Plant Sale in Northern Alexandria. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parking lot, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Twelve vendors from three states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

Artist Lecture. 11 a.m. at the public plaza at 1310 N. Courthouse Road. Meet the minds behind the “Meeting Bowls” when Arlington Arts presents an Artist Talk by Eva Salmerón and Emilio Alarcón of Madrid-based mmmm... Email jbyers@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-1847.

Fall Fashion Must-Haves. 1-5 p.m. at Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, 1100 S. Hayes St. Indulge in a day of fall fashion must-haves from popular stores. The event is free and open to the public. Visit simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

Sunday Brunch Yoga at the Pub. 9 a.m. at Crystal City Sports Pub, 529 23rd St. S. Hour long, all-levels vinyasa flow followed by drinks at the bar. The \$10 ticket includes a brunch beverage of choice. Takes place every Sunday through December. Visit www.crystallcity.org/do/september.

MONDAY/SEPT. 25

Village Movement Anniversary. 4-7 p.m. at Founders Hall, George Mason University, 3351 Fairfax Drive. Author Dr. Atul Gawande will speak, via a live event in Boston, simulcast across the country, on the value of community and choice. Visit arlington.gmu.edu/.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

Fall Bonfire Concerts. 6-8 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Purchase seasonal brews, ciders and wine and shop at a different fashion

truck each week. There will also be donuts from Mama’s Donut Bites and s’mores from the Capital Candy Jar. Scheduled Thursdays through Oct. 12. Visit www.rosslynva.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

Cinema and Pub in the Park. Dusk at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Golden Eye will be featured, rescheduled due to summer rain, food trucks will be on site. Visit www.rosslynva.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 1

Sunday Brunch Yoga at the Pub. 9 a.m. at Crystal City Sports Pub, 529 23rd St. S. Hour long, all-levels vinyasa flow followed by drinks at the bar. The \$10 ticket includes a brunch beverage of choice. Takes place every Sunday through December. Visit www.crystallcity.org/do/september.

Become a Nature Teacher. 1:30-3 p.m. at the Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Get a behind the scenes look at being a nature teacher by learning about animals and how we teach people about nature. Create a nature activity, and teach to the other participants while on a nature hike. Free. Call 703-228-6535.

MONDAY/OCT. 2

ARTrageous Silent Auction. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Annual Arlington Artists Alliance silent art auction. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org/.

Empty Bowls Soup Lunch Tour. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Hyatt Centric Arlington, 1325 Wilson Blvd. At each lunch, about 300 guests will taste unlimited soups from local restaurants, and choose a handcrafted bowl to take home. \$35, benefit for the Capital Area Food Bank. Visit capitalareafoodbank.org/empty-bowls.

OCT. 3-NOV. 26

“An Act of God” on Stage. Various times at the Signature Theatre 4200 Campbell Ave. Starring veteran local actor Tom Story. Visit www.sigtheatre.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 4

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk. 8:30-11 a.m. at the Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for one or all of these informal walks through Long Branch in search of resident and migratory birds. Bring binoculars and field guides if possible. Free. Call 703-228-6535.

OCT. 6-21

Performances of Pippin. Friday and Saturday performances at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. visit www.thearlingtonplayers.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 6

Dance Party. 7-9 p.m. at the Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Live music, refreshments, libations for purchase, cash only. All ages. 703-228-5710

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Columbia Pike Fall Festival. 2-7 p.m. at Adams St. and Columbia Pike. Featuring Craft Beer and Wine, music, food. Visit columbia-pike.org/.

ENTERTAINMENT



Vampire's Ball

11th Annual Vampires Ball, Friday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m. at Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. Dance the night away with music courtesy of Resident Composer and Halloween DJ, Konstantine Lortkipanidze. The event will include an open bar, light appetizers, and a costume contest with prizes. \$60 to \$75. Visit synetictheater.org/ for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St., #101. NPR books commentator Nancy Pearl will discuss her debut novel "George & Lizze." Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com/.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

Meet the Author. 6:30 p.m. at Yorktown High School, 5200 Yorktown Blvd. Arlington author Burt Solomon lectures on his novel Where They Ain't, a history of baseball in the 1890s. Burt has recently published his first novel, The Murder of Willie Lincoln. Email BSCRSPV@gmail.com or call 703-241-0390.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Jack-O- Lantern Campfire with Costumes. 6-7 p.m. at the Long Branch amphitheater, Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Stories, special animal guests, games, songs and S'mores. Wear your Halloween Costumes. Call 703-228-6535

National Chamber Ensemble Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Gunston Middle School and Community Center - Theater 1, 2700 South Lang St. "Night In The Garden Of Spain," celebrates music of Granados and Turina. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/gunston-community-center/.

OCT. 18-NOV. 19

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Casual Adventure Looks Back — and Forward

FROM PAGE 3

Department's Friends and Family Fund, all have benefitted from Casual Adventure's community involvement. Casual Adventure supports Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, Arlington Optimists, Potomac Overlook Park, and Youth for Understanding. On the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scout cookie sales, the Scout with the most creative post on the store's facebook page got to sell the store \$100 worth of cookies.

Eric Stern, now the fourth generation of Stern to run the store, majored in French in college, and wanted to go into sports production. But 20 years later, he realized the business he'd learned from the ground up, literally, sweeping the floor in his father's shop, and washing the windows, Casual Adventure, was where he wanted to be. He missed the community involvement, the sharing of stories when someone came back from a trip, the time with his father. Working with his father was one of the great benefits of coming back. Few people have the pleasure of working with their fathers, Stern said, and "as much time as they spent together, now that he is gone, it wasn't



The store is still open for business, and still selling its wares at discounts, until January 2018.

enough. Still, I get to sit at his desk every day"

His most distinct memory of time with his father running the store was Christmas Eve, when the last person would leave the store with the last gift; they would turn off the Christmas music, and sit together, and put "The Boss" (Bruce Springsteen) on the stereo and revel in the end of a hectic holiday season and having done it together.

One of the things clients have always loved about Casual Adventure is the wall of postcards and photos of clients wearing

their gear in all four corners of the earth. The Sterns developed relationships with some of these daredevils: Andrew Towne was one of them. The store sponsored several of his climbs, which he did to raise funds for Youth for Understanding (YFU). Towne tried to reach Mount Everest in 2015 but was interrupted by the earthquake which killed 19 people at Everest Base Camp. When he finally did summit Everest, in 2017, he came back and spoke at the store, talking about how he survived the earthquake and avalanche. Towne stayed in Nepal to help triage the wounded and assist the sherpas. Towne has now, with his recent

climb to Mount Everest, become one of the few people in the world (there are 149) to have climbed all seven summits. Casual Adventure sponsored his climb, which took place as they were announcing their closure: Towne said it was typical of the store that even as it was closing, the Sterns supported his climb and the YFA.

Stern says over the years, the store was approached many times to sell the building. It wasn't pressure from developers as some have suggested, nor was it entirely the stiff competition from large retail stores



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

"Up here on this shelf is Grandfather Sid's U.S. Air Force hat and his photo," Eric Stern points out. "He was the family member who had just gotten out of the military after WWII and decided the family should sell Army surplus items instead of groceries."

like REI, Cabela's, and online businesses. What Casual Adventure has done well for years is provide personal service, and while sales did suffer from the internet sales popularity, many clients still came in for proper fits they couldn't get on line. That said, it was getting harder to compete with Amazon and the offers to buy out the store were looking more attractive. Stern has a son and daughter he'd like to keep the business for

SEE CASUAL ADVENTURE, PAGE 11



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New Year, New Teacher

How to identify effective teachers.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As a new school year got underway this month, Sebla Tobin, a family therapist in Rockville, Md., noticed an uptick in the number of her patients who are parents, expressing concern about the teachers their children had been assigned.

"So many parents are leery of new teachers or teachers who are young," she said. "I encourage them to give the teacher a chance before passing judgment and marching into the principal's office to ask for a different teacher. Just because a teacher graduated from college last spring doesn't mean that they won't be effective. And a teacher who's been in the classroom for 20 years may be jaded and grumpy."

Teacher effectiveness is a concern among parents as the school year gets underway, says Tobin, and she points to research which shows how teachers can affect student achievement. A 2011 study from Harvard and Columbia universities showed a link between effective teachers and stu-

dents who were more likely to attend college, have lower teenage pregnancy rates and other positive outcomes. So what qualities constitute an effective teacher?

Effective teachers are knowledgeable of the subjects they are teaching, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. professor of Childhood Studies at George Mason University. "Effective teachers are able to transfer that knowledge to students who have different comprehension levels," she said.

Creating a classroom environment that is safe for student learning is also important, adds Garner. "Overall, effective teachers work hard to create a positive classroom climate which is characterized by providing opportunities for student input in decision making and support for individual differences," she said.

Setting high expectations for all students, but realizing that students have a variety of abilities, is an important factor, believes Jessica Lewis, Ed.D., professor of education at Marymount University. "For some students getting a C is like a medal of



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

A positive classroom helps welcome students back to school is an important factor in student learning, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. of George Mason University.

honor and that's OK," said Lewis. "Students want to do well and be pushed, but pushed with support. Knowing that a teacher un-

derstands the student and their abilities sends a positive message that the teacher is on their side when it comes to learning."

A teacher who is able to demonstrate genuine concern for students is necessary to create an effective learning environment, adds Lewis. "Parents often say 'I want a teacher who knows their content,' but I always go back to 'does the teacher care?' If a teacher doesn't care, then they're not going to be effective. An effective teacher motivates students to want to learn."

An ability to form a strong relationship with students is another characteristic that Lewis believes is important. "The more rapidly the teachers can get to know the individual students and things they enjoy like their hobbies, the sports they like, the sooner that teacher can see that students are real little people behind those names," she said. "As a teacher you have to put the heart first and policy second. What factors are going on at home that can throw the student for a loop. If you have a caring adult to say, 'Hey do you want to talk about it?' that can make a big difference."

An effective teacher accepts students for and where they are, adds Lewis. "Students can learn more from a teacher when the teacher shows that they care," she said.

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A. Bowden Houser, (42917)
Attorney for Plaintiff
c/o The Houser Law Firm, P.C.
PO Box 279
Jacksonville, NC 28541
(910) 333-9679

Dates of Publication: 9/13, 9/20, 9/27/17
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NEWS

Delay on Lights

FROM PAGE 3

approved with fewer parking spaces than required in that neighborhood. But County Board Chair Jay Fisette said he remembered the community's view on the Discovery School differently, saying at the time that many in the community had opposed the school and had only come to accept it after meeting with the county and being willing to accept project modifications. Fisette, and others on the board, pointed out that this discussion about neighborhood space vs broader community needs isn't new. The working group's report on the lights notes that this conflict is very characteristic of land use controversies ongoing across the county.

"In many ways this is a classic land use issue related to growth in Arlington," stated the working group report. "Should growth in the county adversely impact a given set of residents? Or, flipped around, should a small number of residents inhibit growth that benefits a far larger number of residents?"

Fisette admitted that going into the County Board meeting, he felt comfortable with approving the lights on the field. But during the discussions, Fisette and other members of the County Board had concerns about the impact on local residents and questioned whether it was the local community that would really be getting the most use from the new facilities.

While the majority of the County Board still seemed favorable to the idea of lights on the Williamsburg field, there were still enough con-

cerns to merit further study.

"I don't want to change the nature of the neighborhood," said County Board member Libby Garvey. "Every decision we make, we look at what is the good and for whom at what cost? We've established what a lot of the good is, for whom we can pick that up, at what cost? It's the cost to the neighborhood. I realize you're bearing that costs. The question is how bad is that cost, and with proper mitigation, I don't think it will be that bad."

The board directed County Manager Mark Schwartz to bring the board a list of tiered options to achieve increased field capacity of facilities. The board also direct Schwartz to initiate a study to consider amendments to the zoning ordinance that would allow light poles above 68 feet.

"Sometimes when you get to the end and no one is really happy, you think you succeeded," said Fisette. "Somehow that is eluding me. I can see there's disappointment in the whole room all the way around. A lot of us wanted it to be over, to get the lights or not get the lights."

For most on the County Board, despite the delay, it's still clear that Williamsburg field lights is a likely end point.

"The conversation is clumsy, the language is probably imperfect, but the direction is clear and I think that's the most important thing for us to move forward in a way," said County Board member Christian Dorsey. "I do think we are moving forward, though we haven't reached a point with a final, determinative position."



The Williamsburg Middle School field.

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News



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Another favorite area of the store is the “wall of money” behind the cash register. Ravi, a client, used to travel to India and brought a one Rupee note back one day; then others would bring currency. There are Rouble notes from the Russians, signed: “To great outdoor store, from Great Russia Militia.”

Casual Adventure

FROM PAGE 8

if they want it: going the way they have been for 60 years isn't the way of the future, he said. His son, Ben, is 12, and his daughter, Samantha, is 11, and they have worked in the store just as Eric did, and his father did. When the children were younger, they got a dollar for helping set up in the morning, and were recently rewarded for selling \$1,000 worth of merchandise. That doesn't mean they will take over the business, but Stern wants it to evolve with the market, and remain healthy, well into the future. He hopes to be able to continue to serve the Arlington community, and is making plans for his next phase.

The good news is, Ben and Samantha, now both in middle school, will be able to spend time in the store for a little while longer. Casual Adventure's announcement to customers announcing the sale of their building and “End of An Era Sale” led to a response beyond Stern's wildest expectations. Stern said he is very grateful for the support Casual Adventure received from the community. They've decided to extend the sale — and their lease — at least through the holiday season. And if Ben or Samantha go to help their father on Christmas Eve this year, the chances are pretty good that Springsteen record is going to be put on the stereo in the back room of the store, to be cranked up full volume, and listened to by father and children, one more time.

“FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

“Flourishing After 55” from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for Sept. 25.

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Senior trips: Dover Downs, Del., Monday, Sept. 25, \$9; Museum of the American Revolution, Phila., Pa., Wednesday, Sept. 27, \$47; Washington Nationals vs Pittsburgh Pirates, D.C., Saturday, Sept. 30, \$56. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg			

Talking the Walk



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Our long, local, overnight nightmare is almost over. By the date this column publishes: Sept. 20, 2017, I will, for the first time in nearly nine weeks, not had to have snaked down in the dark, our “turny-twisty” and narrow 150-year-old staircase to walk from the upstairs master bedroom to the downstairs and only usable commode. Though the renovation of this upstairs bathroom is not entirely complete nor ready for primetime (it is mostly usable as the water is now running and flushing), the demolition/renovation process apparently must go on/adhere to a schedule so, on Tuesday, Sept. 19 the downstairs bathroom, with all its fully functioning amenities will come under the sledge hammer — among other tools, and provide no further use until on or about Oct. 24.

This heretofore (“Good Will Hunting”) logistical challenge has not presented too many difficulties for my wife, Dina. But given that I’m a male of a certain age, quite the opposite has been true for me. Once or twice and occasionally even more per overnight depending upon how late and how much I’ve had to eat or drink before bedtime, I’ll need to visit the bathroom to attend to some very personal business. To be clear, the ‘challenge’ to which I refer is getting to the bathroom, not starting and/or finishing what I intended once I get there.

Moreover, when the task at hand has been completed, of course I need to retrace my steps — usually in the dark, and walk back upstairs. Though not nearly as difficult as walking downstairs; nevertheless, at the time I am going down and back up, in the middle of the night, my vision might not so readily acclimate and my balance is, let’s just say: inconsistent, especially when trying to avoid the miscellaneous bathroom-remodeling boxes staged in the living room on the very route I must travel.

Needless to say, having this nightly nonsense come to an end is most definitely a column worth writing. Not necessarily to self-indulge anymore than usual but more so to amuse you regular readers and possibly even prepare you for your own in-home renovation. And considering that this renovation is our first — and we have minimal experience with these matters, I thought it useful to write it forward and perhaps share a less-than-obvious impact of taking the one-and-only-on-the-same-floor bathroom out of service. Sinks, mirrors and shower/tub issues notwithstanding, all of which can be withstood and endured with the reorientation to the downstairs bathroom, the commode issue, considering its unpredictability, naturally trumps all other real or imagined difficulties.

Though the upstairs bathroom is incomplete and lacking multiple finishing elements, its transformation so far is incredible — to our eyes. I’ll spare you any details because that really would be self-indulgent and not at all the point of this column. But the two months or so it will have taken for the upstairs bathroom to become operational again and the nightly effect it’s had on me appears to have been worth the wait.

As concerns the downstairs bathroom, we are now ready, willing and able to integrate its destruction into our routine. Given that it is more of a powder room than a master-type bathroom — though it will include a shower-only enclosure, no longer will it be my twice-nightly destination. In addition, I am looking forward to its transformation because the interim process will not prevent me from going anywhere I regularly go nor inconveniencing my wife, Dina, when she readies for work in the morning.

Monitoring its progress will be more of a curiosity than a calamity, since, in my mind, there will be no sense of urgency about the pace of this project as there had been with the upstairs bathroom because my bathroom access will not be affected in the least. And in the most, I am extraordinarily grateful — and relieved.

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

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NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/17.



BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

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BASIC LUBE, OIL & FILTER CHANGE SERVICE

\$29⁹⁵

NON-SYNTHETIC

\$44⁹⁵

SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

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4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT

\$64⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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15% OFF
ANY ONE REPAIR
Maximum Discount \$200.

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Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES

\$10 OFF

Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER (ONE GOOD THRU 8/31/17).

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM