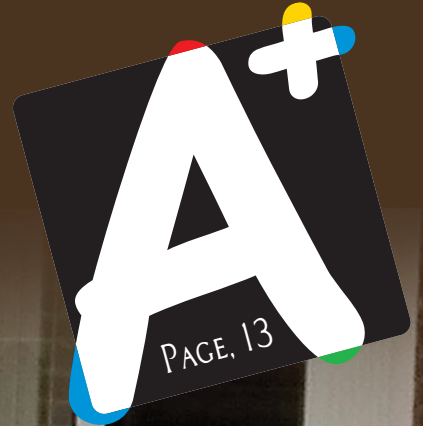




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The Arlington Connection



Not My Basement Again

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Restoration company employees in "moon suits"
arrive to clean out basements filled with sewage
from overflow on N. Powhatan Street on April 7.

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APRIL 17-23, 2019

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Arlington's Sister City Choir Performs with UMC

Program honors both French and American music.

By Eden Brown
The Connection

“C’était magnifique!” (It was magnificent) was the reaction of Anne-Marie Daris to the concert held at the United Methodist Church In Clarendon on April 10.

The French choir, La Maîtrise de Reims, is on a three-week east coast tour with 48 of their choristers. Their trip culminated with four days spent in Arlington, a sister city of Reims, France. The Clarendon United Methodist Church Youth Choir was their host and joined them on three songs for this final performance of their tour, one by French composer Henric, “Above All”, one by American A. Parker, “Hark I hear the Harps Eternal”, and one by Faure, “Cantique de Jean Racine.” The French choir also honored their American hosts by singing three American songs, including a Leonard Bernstein song from Westside Story.

They began with a traditional Gregorian chant, Pueri hebraeorum, harking back to



The Maitrise de Reims, choristers dressed in black, sang with the Clarendon United Methodist Church choir, dressed in blue.

PHOTO BY
CHARLES DARIS

the choir's beginnings in the 13th century. They sang a traditional repertoire of Franck, Handel, Mozart, Faure, and Purcell, but also added several songs written by a young French composer, Marc Henric, who is only 32, including the “Magnificat de la Paix”, written in 2016 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI.

La Maîtrise de Reims Cathedral was founded in 1285 making it one of the long-

est established musical foundations in France.

The whole choir comprises 220 boys and girls aged between 7 and 15. The choristers attend the Notre-Dame School of Reims. They rehearse and train after school between 6 and 10 hours a week depending on their age and level, and they also have weekly theory classes. Choristers sing regularly at Cathedral services and for special

occasions. They are also involved in special events which take place in the Cathedral or in the city, make recordings and concert appearances on a regular basis, and also travel in Europe.

Sandrine Lebec, music director and conductor, who conducted the choir, has been training boys and girls for nearly two decades. In 2001, she became the first woman to conduct the Choir of Reims Cathedral.

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Not My Basement Again

Residents of Powhatan Street awash in sewage for third time.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Stephen Starr says the sewer main at N. Powhatan backed up for the third or fourth time in as many years, flooding basements with sewage. When his neighbor knocked on the door Sunday night, April 7 about 7 p.m. and “asked if I had been in my basement, my heart sank because I was the one knocking on his door a year and a half ago when the sewer backed up in the same area.”

Starr said, “I think we all called it in but it took the Arlington Water Department crews three hours to get here which is the difference between inches and feet.” He says the first crew, which arrived with their great big pump, and high-pressure jet with super power suction got the nozzle stuck in the sewer. I guess they only have enough crews for one truck so they had to call the supervisor in to work and another crew. They were here pretty late, past midnight.”

Starr said Arlington has old infrastructure, and it doesn’t meet the more rigorous requirements today. He says the crew told him, “We know there is a problem in this area.” Starr said, “You see your water bill is so much and you say, ‘It’s pretty simple to prevent. Just flush. What are we paying for? How often do they flush on a regular basis; why isn’t this problem permanently fixed?’”

Starr speculates in today’s world with the availability of remotely operated vehicles that can travel the sewers it ought to be routine to do maintenance. “They know the problem, have a record, should check once a year. It drives me crazy.” Starr says this has happened another time in the three years he has been living on Powhatan Street and once on his property on Patrick Henry.

Jeremy Hassan, chief engineer, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services, says the county has preventive maintenance on the 470 miles of sewer line in Arlington that has most of the lines on a four-year preventative maintenance. “We have a subset of trouble and grease spots, many around restaurants, that are on 3-month, 6-month or 9-month regular maintenance.” However, he says the background on Powhatan Street is that in 2001 when they had the first problem, the backup was due to roots inside the host pipe. “They were small and they grew. It is a perfect nutrient-rich place for roots to grow bigger.” So at that time the county did a trench list repair to put new material inside the host pipe, very thin but very strong. He said they find 9 out of 10 problems are in the unlined pipes. “The problem should have been solved.”

In 2008 the problem occurred again, this



Neighbors carry out bags of damaged belongings in their basements after the overflow of sewage in their neighborhood on Sunday night.



Sewage overflowed into the neighborhood park on N. Powhatan, making the park off limits due to health concerns.

time due to an accumulation of blockage at the bottom of the pipe. “We sent the camera down. No red flags. Just normal sanitary sludge.” But when it happened again on April 7, 2019 with tree liners in place, “it was absolutely strange. It red flagged it for us.” Hassan said it was an unusual configuration, which ties into 30-inch pipes. “There are two sharp 90-degree turns and there’s lots of flow. It’s kind of steep. We are still evaluating this for a possible hydraulic issue. It could be a possible combination of flow, slope and downhill pipe.”

Starr says one of the major issues for the neighborhood is the county doesn’t pay for the damage to your house. Starr says they just fix the sewer in the street; inside the house is your problem. Starr says at midnight, “We were all calling restoration com-

panies. We woke up Monday morning to men in moon suits entering our houses to clean sewage from our basements.”

Hassan says the county has a third party adjustment company, which gets all of the information and handles the claim decisions. Starr said the restoration company had to cut out the drywall in his basement, take up the flooring, sanitize, and vacuum up all of the poop. For five hours the neighborhood sump pumps were running sewage out into the yards and a neighborhood park. “My house wasn’t so bad as James down the street. His basement is really bad.”

James Riley says he has lived on N. Powhatan Street at the end of the block for 40 years so has seen all three sewage backups. This time it affected five houses, which is more than last time. He says a neighbor

alerted him on Sunday and at one point the water in his basement was 12-14 inches. “It was gurgling out of the hatch covers and sewage pump and spurting around the floor drain. Riley said, “My basement isn’t finished because I lost enthusiasm after the first sewage backup right after 9/11. And after the second I said, ‘I’m not going there.’” He said most houses have a back up valve that swings open but with any back pressure it closes up and stops the flow of sewage. It’s not complicated. “I had a check valve but that blew out in 2001. I got a fairly robust new one installed that got blown out in 2008. Then I went and did some serious research and bought a valve that probably goes in some chemical plant with 225 psi, pretty incredible pressure. The sewer system just blew through that.”

Riley says he doesn’t have any problems with the three guys who came out who were a hard working crew. “They tried their best to work things out with a water jet thing. No complaint on

the service side. They seem to be good people. I know some of them by first name.”

But he continued, “It’s the attitude of the county. Wouldn’t you think after it happened three times They say it’s your problem, not ours.” Riley says the county is based on the old British system of sovereign immunity. You can’t bring action against the King. You can’t come after us. They left us hanging.”

Hassan explains staff work from 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and most go home, “but we have standby staff on call 24 hours.” He says when they get an emergency call like on Powhatan Street Sunday night a team gets dispatched. They get in their personal vehicle and drive to pick up a county vehicle, then drive to the site. He says since the staff live all over the D.C. area, this can take time.

He says his records show the original vehicle was on the site at N. Powhatan Street in an hour but hit a blockage and had to call in a second crew. “It took them until 11 p.m. to get the second truck. “We felt terrible hoping we could do more in the interim.” Hassan says when the second staff arrived, they started to see results in 15-20 minutes and within an hour things were restored to normal.

Moving forward, “We’ve brought in our engineers to look at it; they already are. The verdict is still out. It could be months away, but they are looking at interim solutions and proposing putting this site on a 6-month frequency list to document and keep track.”

Hassan says his overall message is to educate people on what is allowed down the pipes, especially fat and grease. He refers them to the county website: <https://water.arlingtonva.us/sewer/fog/>.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Second Chances Event highlights OAR services.

Hundreds of attendees turned out as Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington, Falls Church and Alexandria held its 11th annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast April 9 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. The event featured the journeys of reentry into the community by several formerly incarcerated clients. OAR assisted 2,014 participants in their program in 2018 including 635 men and women who received reentry assistance, both pre- and post-release and 1,432 men, women, boys and girls who were enrolled in the Community Service program, which is an alternative form of sentencing. In addition, this was the third year of a new Intensive Reentry Program, which focuses on individuals still in incarceration to provide classes in essential life skills as well as case management and employment coaching. Individuals in this program have a recidivism rate of 14 percent compared to 54 percent for a comparable population nationally.

See www.oaronline.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), Bill Euille, Senica Lee, Alexandria City Council member Amy Jackson, Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey, Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) and OAR executive director Elizabeth Jones Valderrama gather at the OAR Second Chances breakfast April 9 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott.



Arlington County Sheriff E.F. Arthur with Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney Theo Stamos at the April 9 OAR Second Chances breakfast.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/THE CONNECTION



Senica Lee with Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey.



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Tiana Woods tells her story of desperation facing eviction with a young child and a husband in prison: "I'd never experienced something like this." Now after assistance from OAR, her husband has been helped with getting a job after release from jail, her rent is caught up, and she is working as well. "Things have gotten better." She says OAR treated her with respect and helped "when we had no place else to turn."

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Culpepper Celebrates One More Step in Renovation

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Culpepper Garden took another step forward on April 12 on its major renovation of 204 low-income apartments built in 1975. Snipped ribbons announced the completion of their newly renovated modern fully ADA accessible restrooms in the public space on the Garden Level of Culpepper Garden.

Arlington Retirement Housing Corporation (ARHC) and Wesley Housing, their redevelopment partner, broke ground on the renovation of Culpepper Garden's original independent wing last April.

The renovation would include upgrading of all apartment interiors and public spaces, replacing all major systems and adding six apartments.

By November nearly 40 apartments had been completed and by April 2019 the renovation reached 75 apartments.

The public restrooms on the lobby level were the first to come back into use in the common



Culpepper Garden celebrates the next step in their major renovation with opening of new modern restrooms in the public space.

space. The current effort is expected to be completed in 2020.

Culpepper Garden is an affordable nonprofit retirement community dedicated to serving low-income seniors aged 62 and older. Residents pay rent based on their

individual incomes. The average age of residents in the independent living is 79 and in the assisted center the average age 87. The oldest resident in independent living is 100 and in assisted living is 102.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Culpepper Garden staff member Candy Dragity and resident Janice Nichols take the tour of the newly renovated restrooms at Culpepper Garden on April 12.

They opened in 1975 with 204 Independent living apartments that were expanded in 1992 with the addition of 63 one-bedroom apartments. Assisted living was added in 2000 with 73 one-bedroom apartments.

Culpepper Garden will host its annual springtime party on Saturday, June 8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington to help support the programs and services for the low-income residents.

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Best Defense Against Fraud

Scammers are always looking for new and inventive ways to steal from hardworking members of the public. In recognizing that an informed consumer is one of the best defenses against fraud, the Arlington County Police Department is sharing common consumer scams reported to law enforcement and tips on how to protect yourself.

Scam #1: The "Imminent Account" Fraud

Residents have reported being contacted by someone alleging to represent the Arlington County Police Department who states the victims have an imminent fraud being perpetrated against them. The caller will relay that the victim needs to withdraw funds from their bank and/or credit card accounts and place the funds on gift cards such as iTunes, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or Visa cards for safekeeping. The victims are then directed to provide the gift card information so that the money can be protected.

Law enforcement will never contact you and ask you to move or send funds to anyone. In the event of a breach, bank and/or credit card accounts can be locked by a financial institution. No established companies will contact you and ask for gift cards as a form of payment.

Scam #2: The "I am in Trouble" Scam

These scams tend to originate in the form of an email or phone call from an alleged distant family member. In a recent case, a grandparent was contacted and informed that their grandson was arrested and money for bail or fines was needed. The victim was advised that they should not tell anyone of the situation. In

another variation of this scam, an individual contacts the victim and claims they need money because they have been injured. In some cases, scammers will request funds be paid through store gift cards.

These types of scams use fear to rush citizens into making quick financial decisions. Remember that if an individual is arrested, they may contact you directly from jail. Store gift cards are not a form of payment accepted by the courts or bail bonds companies.

Scam #3: The "Jury Duty" or "IRS" Scam

Either through a phone call or an email, citizens are threatened that they need to either pay a fine to avoid jail time or that there is a warrant out for their arrest. These emails often include phishing tool hyperlinks to gather information and access additional data on the victim.

A telltale indicator that an email is not of a legitimate nature include misspellings and hyperlinks that do not link to a known, verifiable source.

If you receive a "jury duty" call of this nature, immediately hang up with the caller and verify the claim by calling the Arlington County Sheriff's Office at 703-228-4460. Never use a phone number provided to you from the caller to verify their credibility. Also, never provide personal information such as bank account numbers to anyone over the phone.

Reporting Fraud to Police

If you have been a victim or target of a scam in Arlington County, report to police using the online crime report.

Additional Fraud Prevention Tips

Scammers may use various techniques to fool potential victims. Avoid becoming a victim by following these practices:

Be suspicious of any unsolicited phone calls, emails or in-person solicitations which request funds or claim that you owe money.

Avoid providing your personal information to organizations you are unfamiliar with.

Stop and think before you provide personal banking information or hand anybody cash.

Take your time. If you are requested to act quickly or there is a stated emergency, it may be a scam. Scammers create a sense of urgency to get you to act impulsively.

If it looks too good to be true, it probably is. Remain fiscally secure by following these practices:

Track and review your bank and credit card statements for irregular activity

When using an ATM machine, credit card reader or gas pump, make certain the device is securely attached to the machine. If unsecured, alert the business.

Use the credit card feature at the gas pumps; your zip code, not PIN, is required.

Do not wire money to anyone you do not know.

Do not respond to emails requesting you to "confirm," "update," or "provide" account information.

The information provided in this release is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible fraud schemes. Individuals seeking additional information about fraud are encouraged to visit the police website or contact the Arlington County Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit at FinancialCrimes@arlingtonva.us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fallout from The Civil War

To the Editor:

Although the Civil War ended more than 150 years ago, the fallout continues. Numerous cities, including Alexandria, have statues or other monuments honoring the Confederacy. Some citizens insist on these displays, but others are offended by them.

Fortunately, there are ways to give both sides to these disputes a victory. We can use Alexandria as an example.

As a tribute to deceased Confederate veterans, a statue of a young Rebel soldier stands in the middle of an Alexandria street. Some people love him, and some people hate him. The sculpture, called "Appomattox" (the area where General Robert E. Lee surrendered), does more than memorialize Rebel warriors. It also embodies sorrow for the defeat of the Confederacy, including slavery. As such, it is an outdated symbol of what Alexandria should stand for today.

The city did consider moving Appomattox. According to Alexandria's website, in 2016 the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names concluded that the statue "should remain in place, with additional

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/THE CONNECTION

Volunteer Appreciation Day

Volunteers from Arlington's Melwood Horticultural Training Center gather at the Capital Caring Volunteer Appreciation Day April 11 at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria. Melwood program specialist Stephanie Grange, second from left, is shown with volunteers Ann Bechtal, Duay Cabrera and volunteer coordinator Ilene Thorman.

NEWS DEPARTMENT: arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren

Editor

703-778-9415

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card

Production Editor

jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe

Contributing Photographer

and Writer

arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown

Contributing Writer

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

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant

703-778-9431

dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment

Advertising

703-778-9431

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

CIRCULATION

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF
AN APPLICATION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL AND
CERTIFICATION OF POTOMAC YARDS UNDERGROUNDING AND GLEBE GIS CONVERSION
PURSUANT TO TITLE 56 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA
CASE NO. PUR-2019-00040**

On March 7, 2019, pursuant to Virginia Code § 56-46.1 and the Utility Facilities Act, Code § 56-265.1 et seq., Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion" or "Company") filed an application and supporting documents for approval and certification of electric facilities ("Application") with the Virginia State Corporation Commission ("Commission").

Specifically, Dominion seeks to convert the overhead portion of 230 kilovolt ("kV") Glebe-Ox Line #248 and 230 kV Glebe-North Alexandria Line #2023 between Glebe Substation (located in Arlington, Virginia), and Potomac Yards North Terminal Station ("Potomac Yards Station") (located in the City of Alexandria, Virginia) to underground lines and to tie the converted lines into Glebe Substation. This conversion would include the removal and replacement of related underground lines comprising a total installation of approximately 2,100 feet of new underground cable from existing manhole #110 to new manhole #111 to Glebe Substation ("Potomac Yards Undergrounding"). Of the 2,100 feet of underground line Dominion proposes to install, 1,100 feet would be installed using microtunneling and 1,000 feet would be installed using existing underground right-of-way. Dominion also proposes to remove 550 feet of underground cable and pipe from Potomac Yards Station to new manhole #111 and to remove 1,000 feet of cable only from new manhole #111 to existing manhole #110. Dominion also seeks to convert and rebuild the Company's existing Glebe Substation to a Gas Insulated Substation (collectively, all the work described above comprises the "Project").

Dominion asserts that the proposed Project is necessary to comply with the expiration of an existing Special Use Permit issued by the City of Alexandria. The Special Use Permit is expected to expire January 1, 2021. According to Dominion, the proposed Project is necessary to permit the Company's remaining transmission facilities in the area to provide adequate service to the Company's existing customers located in the City of Alexandria and Arlington County, consistent with North American Electric Reliability Corporation Reliability Criteria. Dominion further asserts that the proposed Project would improve operational performance, maintain critical energy infrastructure needed to provide continued reliable electric service to facilities depended upon to provide critical services, and to maximize available land use to accommodate necessary transmission terminations.

The proposed Project would require new right-of-way across Four Mile Run. Dominion explains that no feasible alternatives have been submitted to the PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. specifically limited to this proposed Project because the key driver for the Project is the undergrounding requirement in the City of Alexandria's Special Use Permit.

Dominion anticipates an in-service date of May 2022 for the proposed Project, subject to Commission approval and outage scheduling. Dominion estimates the conceptual cost of the proposed Project to be \$122.8 million, including approximately \$59.3 million for transmission-related work and approximately \$63.5 million for substation-related work (2019 dollars).

Description of the Proposed Project

For the existing line relocation under the Potomac Yards Undergrounding, the entire Potomac Yards Station, including three double-circuit 230 kV structures, two single circuit structures and conductors would be removed. Also, approximately 550 feet of two existing double circuit underground lines, currently entering Potomac Yards Substation would be removed and the connection relocated directly into Glebe Substation. Each line consists of two sets of three conductor bundles, with one three-conductor bundle per line. At the tie-in point 550 feet from the existing Potomac Yards Station, four new steel pipes would be installed turning northwest, crossing U.S. Route 1, going under Four Mile Run, and proceeding north into Glebe Substation. Four three-conductor bundles, high-pressure fluid-filled ("HPFF") cables will be removed from the Potomac Yards Station to existing manhole #110, where cables could be removed to facilitate this undergrounding project. This is approximately 1,550 feet, the distance of this line relocation is approximately 1,100 feet.

After the four HPFF cable pipes are installed into Glebe Substation, approximately 2,100 feet of new cable for each pipe would be installed in each pipe from existing manhole #110 to Glebe Substation.

Because the Potomac Yards Undergrounding would be constructed underground, no structure heights are provided.

All distances and directions are approximate. A sketch map of the proposed route accompanies this notice. A more detailed map of the proposed route may be viewed on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/pur/elec/transline.aspx>.

The Commission may consider a route not significantly different from the route described in this notice without additional notice to the public.

A more complete description of the proposed Project may be found in the Company's Application.

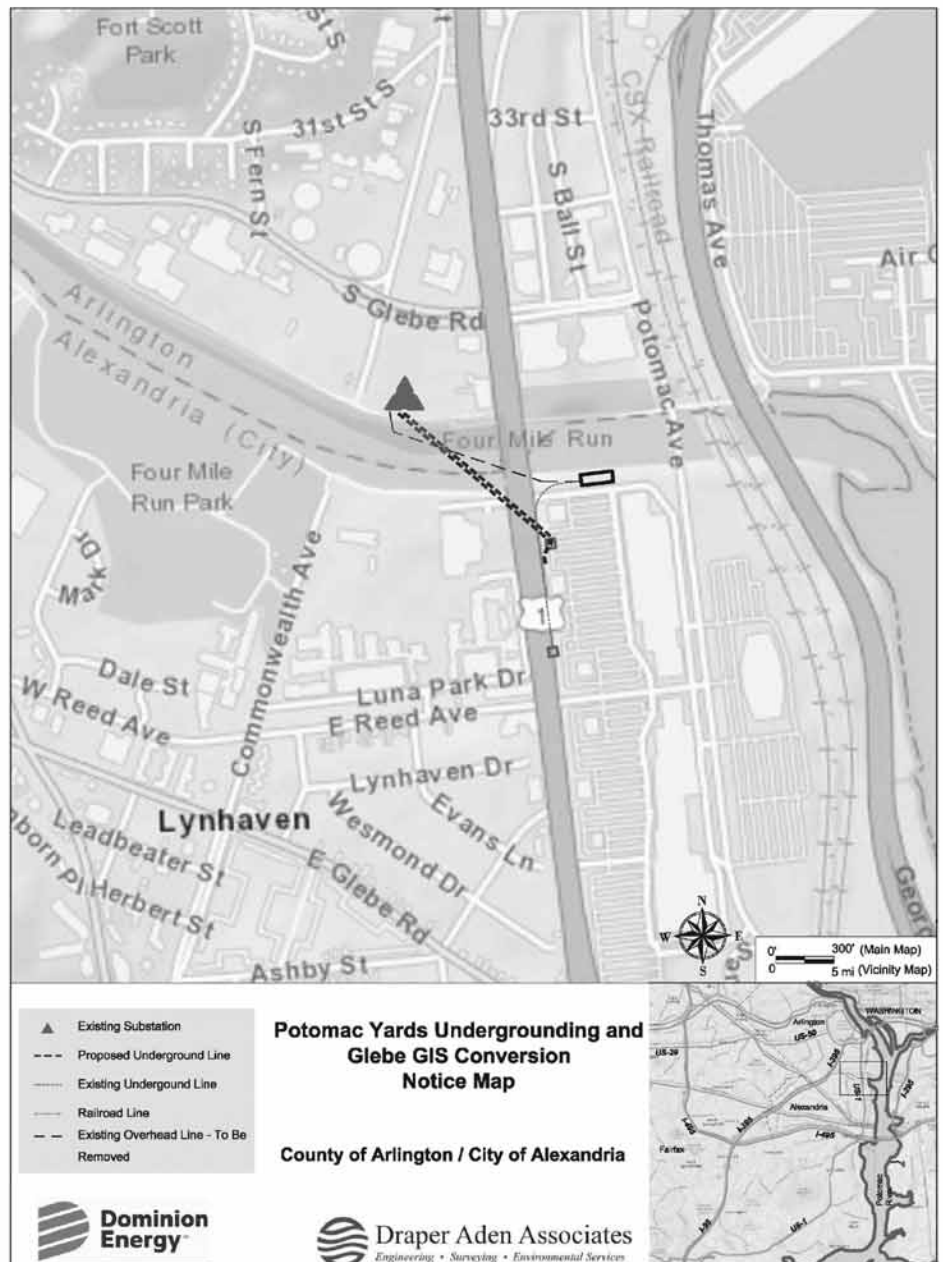
The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public evidentiary hearing to be held on July 23, 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive testimony from members of the public and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff. Any person desiring to testify as a public witness at this hearing should appear fifteen (15) minutes prior to the starting time of the hearing and contact the Commission's Bailiff.

Copies of the public version of the Application and documents filed in this case also are available for interested persons to review in the Commission's Document Control Center, located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

Copies of the Application and other supporting materials also may be inspected during regular business hours at the following location:

Attn. John Mulligan
Dominion Energy Virginia
10900 Nuckols Road
Suite 400
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Attn. Karl Mortiz
City of Alexandria Planning & Zoning
Room 2100
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Attn. Steven Cover
Arlington County Department of Community
Planning and Housing Development
Suite 700, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Copies of the public version of the Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, David J. DePippo, Esquire, Dominion Energy Services, Inc., 120 Tredegar Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the documents by electronic means.

Any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing, on or before May 14, 2019, a notice of participation. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also shall be sent to counsel for the Company at the address set forth above. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2019-00040. Interested persons should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing for further details on participation as a respondent.

On or before July 16, 2019, any interested person wishing to comment on the Company's Application shall file written comments on the Application with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Any interested person desiring to file comments electronically may do so on or before July 16, 2019, by following the instructions on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Compact discs or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with the comments. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2019-00040.

All documents filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and Format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The Commission's Rules of Practice may be viewed at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. A printed copy of the Commission's Rules of Practice and an official copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding may be obtained by the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

ENTERTAINMENT

Signature Theatre Serves Up ‘Grand Hotel’

Musical set to 1928 in Berlin is center of razzle-dazzle between two wars.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Signature Theatre is staging “Grand Hotel — The Musical” from now through May 19. It is 1928 and Berlin is at the center of a razzle-dazzle world between two wars. At the bustling Grand Hotel, a series of eclectic guests and staff including a fading ballerina, a destitute baron, a wannabe-starlet typist, and an ailing bookkeeper collide in a non-stop musical toast to the high life. It was made into a 1932 film and the show’s 1989 Broadway production won five Tony Awards.

According to Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer: “I’ve always loved ‘Grand Hotel.’ It’s a special show that is unique in both structure and musicality. There haven’t been any productions of the musical in the area in recent years and I thought it was time to reintroduce audiences to this special piece.”

He said the hardest thing about this show is that it is presented with snapshots of all the different characters and stories overlapping in the world of 1928 Berlin. “Almost all of the show is set to music and so everything has to be coordinated on every aspect of the production. It’s very rewarding when you see all of the pieces come together with this terrific cast and design team,” he said.

As far as audience takeaways, he added: “I hope audiences have a great time at ‘Grand Hotel.’ It has all the great elements of a great musical — wonderful characters, great dancing, terrific songs and an emotional journey for everyone. It’s hard not to get swept up in the grand world of Berlin — you feel like you are sitting in the hotel lobby watching everything unfold before you and that’s a special experience that only Signature can deliver with our intimate black box theater.”

Actress Nicki Elledge plays the role of Flaemmchen, a young typist who dreams of becoming a star in Hollywood. “Her mor-



The ensemble of “Grand Hotel” in rehearsal at Signature Theatre, now through May 19.

als are tested during the story as she discovers how far she will go to get what she wants,” she said.

She added: “I have never played a role like Flaemmchen, so this is an exciting challenge as an actor. I want to make sure that even with the more flirtatious, bubbly, and sensual moments Flaemmchen has during the show, the audience never loses sight of what Flaemmchen is honestly fighting for, which is ultimately money to start a new life. Finding this balance and clarity definitely took time in the rehearsal room (and I am still discovering).”

She continued: “Another beautiful challenge is that practically the whole show is underscored, so timing scenes with the music took energy and nuance. ‘Grand Hotel’ is a deceptively hard show to do right for a multitude of reasons, but I think we have made something stunning.”

She said one of her favorite characters is Otto Kringlein, played by Bobby Smith. “Otto is terminally ill and arrives at the Grand Hotel looking for life. Even at the end of the play when things could look grim

for everyone, Otto once again finds the good and proclaims, ‘Life is everywhere.’ This show has many serious and powerfully dark moments, but Otto’s hope and acceptance of life is what I can’t stop thinking about. I hope our show resonates with audiences and gets them thinking for a while too,” she said.

Signature Theater is staging “Grand Hotel — The Musical” from now through May 19. Show times are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$65-\$99. Discussion Nights are April 30 and May 8, 2019; Pride Night is May 3, 2019; Open Captioning is April 28, 2019 at 2 p.m. The venue is located at 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Call the box office at 703-820-9771 or visit www.sigtheatre.org.

Natascia Diaz (Elizaveta Grushinskaya) stars in “Grand Hotel” at Signature Theatre, now through May 19.



CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Photos with the Easter Bunny.

Through April 20, at Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, 1100 S. Hayes St. Visitors can hop down the bunny trail near Nordstrom on the First Level to meet and take egg-citing photos with the Easter Bunny; skip the line, make an appointment at simonbunny.com. Families can also visit Caring Bunny for a sensory-friendly experience on April 7, 9-11 a.m. Visit simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity for

more.

Arlington Art Truck. Through May 11, various locations. Packed with digital and traditional creative tools, the “Truck” is a curated mobile toolbox for five artists-in-residence throughout the season. For the start of the second Arlington Art Truck season, artist Rachel Schmidt transforms the inside of the Arlington Art Truck using discarded plastics from her everyday life wrapped in paper printed with original photography of Arlington’s fauna by Drew Model and Discovery School students. Visit arts.arlingtonva.us/arlington-art-truck/ for times and locations.

Art Exhibit: The Binding Ties.

Through June 2, gallery hours in the Wyatt Resident Artists Gallery at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. In The Binding Ties, Roxana Alger Geffen presents sculptures created in part with objects and materials drawn from her family, ordinary things found in her own attic or her grandmother’s junk drawer. Visit arlingtonartscenter.org for more.

Art Exhibit: Onwards and Upwards.

Through June 2, gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Organized by instructor Faylinda Kodis, Onwards and Upwards presents work by H-B Woodlawn seniors who have made a commitment to the visual arts,

concentrating on creating a portfolio throughout their time as high school students. As they prepare for graduation and their school moves from its longtime location on Vacation Lane to a new building in Rosslyn, these five students reflect on the experience of moving on and consider the history, ideology, and accomplishments that shape both the school and their time as students. Visit arlingtonartscenter.org for more.

Spring SOLOS. Through June 7, gallery hours in the Main Galleries at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Artists Brian Barr, Emily Campbell, Noel Kassewitz, Greg Stewart, Greta Bergstresser, Jack

Warner, and Ying Zhu will install solo-style exhibitions in AAC’s seven main gallery spaces. The artists tackle timely environmental issues, draw on their own experiences of childhood, and create installations that shift viewers’ perceptions of time, space, and history in work that encompasses sculpture, photography, installation, drawing, and painting. Visit arlingtonartscenter.org for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

Anatomy Lab: The Lungs. 1-2 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 6-10. How do different animals breathe? Explore

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Aprilfest at Walker Chapel UMC on Glebe Road.

So Many Choices, So Little Time

Pick up some spring flowers or herbs, your favorite history book and grab breakfast or lunch or a muffin from the bake sale prepared by members of the congregation at the Walker Chapel UMC annual Aprilfest. It will be held on Saturday April 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dawn Kyser, in charge of the book sale, says they are accepting gently used books until April 22. Last year they had thousands of books stacked on the long tables in Fellowship Hall for children, cooks, home repair, hobbies, history and biographies at bargain prices. She says please no text books, encyclopedias, cassettes, magazines or vinyl records.

Since they have so many interesting books, there

is often a line down the sidewalk before opening for those hoping to score a real find amidst the stacks.

Flowers and herbs will be on sale outside the church including red, violet and orange impatiens, pots of geraniums and lantana as well as hanging baskets of Boston ferns and ivy geraniums. Divisions of perennial plants will be accepted April 20-25. Shredded hardwood mulch and flats or six packs of plants may be ordered online at www.walkerchapel.org/ for pick up or delivery.

All of the proceeds from Aprilfest are donated to local and global benevolences.

— SHIRLEY RUHE

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

the respiratory systems of other animals, and compare them to what humans have. View a dissection demonstration of sheep lungs. Call 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center. \$7. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us, #632829-E.

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

Free Play Days. 1-2:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 6 to 10. Give kids unstructured time they can call their own: explore the woods, make mud pies, throw rocks in the creek and just be free. Dress to get wet and dirty, and wear closed-toe shoes. Call 703-228-3403. Free. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us, #632829-B.

2019 Crystal City 5K Fridays. 6:30 p.m. Run a low key race after work on Friday and meet up for happy hour after the run. Runners will receive post-race drink tickets that can be used at select Crystal City watering holes. Individual races \$20-\$25; series \$60-\$75. Visit www.runpacers.com/race/crystal-city-5k-fridays/.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 19-20

Live Comedy: Kountry Wayne. Friday, 7:30 and 10 p.m.; Saturday, 7 and 9:30 p.m. at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Early on King Kountry Wayne had visions of being a huge success in the

music industry, which did not yield the success he had hoped for. During a time of soul searching he realized he was blessed with the gift to make people laugh and it blossomed from there. \$30. Visit ArlingtonDrafthouse.com for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

Earth Day Bird Walk. 8-9:30 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Families ages 7 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Celebrate Earth Day early with a morning of birding. We'll begin with a refresher for using binoculars and field guides, then practice our new skills on the trails at Gulf Branch. Beginners and experts welcomed. Loaner binoculars are available. For information: 703-228-3403. Free. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us, #632859-F.

Boundary Stone Bike Tour. 9:15 a.m. at Entrance to East Falls Church Metro Station (under I-66 on Sycamore Street). See 12 historic D.C. boundary stones in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax County on this 35-mile tour. The pace will be leisurely with many stops with easy-to-moderate difficulty and a few long uphill climbs on bike trails and paved streets. Bring lunch, water, and any type of bike. No reservations necessary. Sponsored by Center Hiking Club (www.centerhikingclub.org), \$2 for non-members. Contact Bernie Berne

at 703-243-0179 or bhberne@yahoo.com.

Yoga in the Nature Center. 10-10:45 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Ages 7 to 10. Start with a fun short walk, then return to the nature center to practice poses representing the plants and animals found, ending in a short relaxation. No prior experience needed, bring a Yoga mat if possible, but not required. For information, call 703-228-6535. \$5. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us, #632929-E.

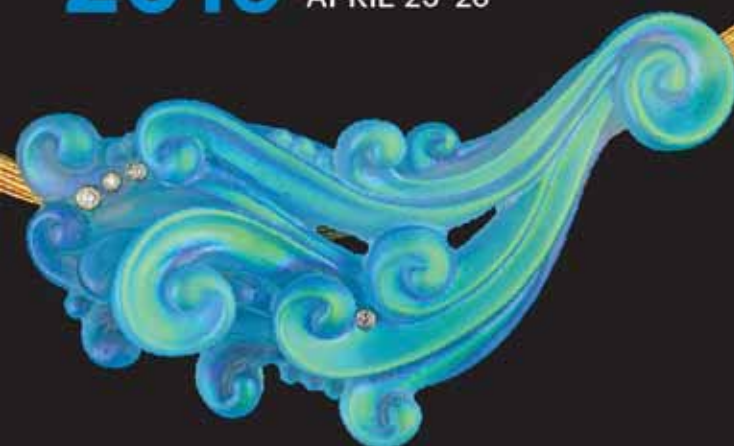
Defending Chain Bridge Hike. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meet at Fort Ethan Allen Park, 3829 N. Stafford St. Families ages 10 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Explore the remnants of Forts Marcy and Ethan Allen, built by the Union Army to defend the Chain Bridge, to learn the stories of the forts and their defenders at this important junction between north and south. This is a three mile loop-hike over occasionally rocky and steep terrain. For information, call 703-228-4775. Free. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us, #632759-F.

iNaturalist for Families. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Families ages 8 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. The iNaturalist app and community can help identify that mystery plant,

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APRIL 25-28



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ENTERTAINMENT

insect, spider, reptile, bird or other organism. Start with a quick introduction to iNaturalist on a smart device, then head outside. Observations and photos can contribute to a much larger scientific snapshot of the natural world. For information, call 703-228-3403. Free. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us/#632859-G.

Tree ID Hike. 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults. Learn to identify the trees of Arlington parks by their bark and shape. Dress for the weather, participants will be outside the whole time. Teens 14 and up are welcome, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information, call 703-228-6535. \$5. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us/#632949-E.

Spring Herp Hunt. 2-3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Ages 6 to 10. Search Long Branch's ponds, streams and woods for salamanders, frogs, toads, snakes and turtles. Be ready for a creek walkin', rock flippin', log rollin' good time and find out which herps are back in action after winter. Bring closed-toe water shoes. For information, call 703-228-6535. \$5. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us/#632929-F.

Animal Talk Campfire. 7-8 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. All ages. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Sound is an important way for many animals to communicate but it isn't the only one. Animals also use body language, touch, scent, and even "signs" to talk to each other. Explore animal communication. For information, call 703-228-6535. \$5. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us/#632959-D.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

R.I.P. - Remove Invasive Plants. 2-4 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults, teens and families ages 8 and up. Want to restore habitat and increase native species diversity right here in Arlington? Work parties are held every month and are making a difference with the return of ferns, wildflowers and the animals that depend on them to areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. Call 703-228-6535. Free.

MONDAY/APRIL 22

Building Bridges. 3-4:30 p.m. at the Arlington County Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Jan Canterbury and Vivek Patil will give a



On Exhibit

Photographs, by local professional photographer Jim Coates, of Yorktown Theatre IV students' One Person Shows are on display at Joe's Place, Pizza and Pasta, 5555 Lee Highway, now through April 26. The Theatre IV One Person Shows were the culmination of the four-year Yorktown Theatre Program. Each Theatre IV student chose a literary, fictional or historical character and then wrote, staged, directed, and acted in a 30-minute show about that character on March 23.

presentation on Building Cultural, Economic, and Environmental Bridges Across Virginia. The Commonwealth of Virginia, like the nation, faces a growing divide over values, environmental progress and economics. These divisions exist across geography, income level, race, gender, and political beliefs. The public is invited. Call Encore Learning at 703-228-2144.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

Gardening Talks. 7 p.m. at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., in the garden (tennis court side). Vertical Garden Structures & Protection Techniques. Make better use of limited space and use cages, trellises, and fencing to train vegetables – tomatoes, cucumbers, pole beans, peas – to grow upwards rather than sprawl. Learn about structures to protect



PHOTOS BY JIM COATES

your veggie tables from squirrels and other critters. Visit afac.org/plot-against-hunger/pah-events/ for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 25

Rosslyn Reads! Book Festival. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at Central Place Plaza, 1800 N. Lynn St. In addition to celebrating community (entertainment, food and drink for all ages) and giving (all proceeds

benefit Turning the Page), the festival will honor: women's fight to obtain the right to vote with an author talk and book signing with Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour*; Bring Your Child to Work Day with Tunes & Tales (a musical story hour), craft activities and the Magic of Zain. Visit www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-reads-book-festival for more.

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Who: Competitive Runners; Fitness/Frequent Runners;
Joggers/Recreational Runners; and Walkers/Strollers.
Website: www.ArlingtonBunnyHop.org



Children's Activities: 5K finisher medals will be given to all children crossing the finish line. A family style block party will be featured after the race with characters, free food, bounce houses and live music.

About: The race's mission is to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy a fun, healthy, spring weather activity together and to raise support for local Arlington charities. *Bridges to Independence* will be the beneficiary of all net proceeds from registration, donations, sponsors and expenses—\$9,132.88 in 2018. Join us for a romp through the historic and eclectic Ashton Heights neighborhood near Clarendon.

Costumes: Costumes are welcome and encouraged for this fun, family event. Medals will be awarded to three finishers with the best costumes.

Course Info & Registration: Course and registration information is available on our web site. For further information contact the Race Director at ArlingtonBunnyHop@gmail.com, 703-527-8574.

Another **CONNECTION** Community Partnership

ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

Digital Preservation. 2-3 p.m. at Westover Library, 1644 North McKinley Road. Learn how to store, preserve, and organize a photo collection. Join the Center for Local History as they give advice on how to best care for and preserve both physical and digital photo collections. Free. Visit arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/5107879 or call 703-228-6327.

2019 Crystal City 5K Fridays. 6:30 p.m. Run a low key race after work on Friday and meet up for happy hour after the run. Runners will receive post-race drink tickets that can be used at select Crystal City watering holes. Individual races \$20-\$25; series \$60-\$75. Visit www.runpacers.com/race/crystal-city-5k-fridays/.

Slithering Snakes Campfire. 7-8 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families. Register adults and children; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. The whole family is invited to meet at the Long Branch amphitheater for lots of old-fashioned fun. Activities may include stories, special animal guests, games, songs and of course, S'mores! For information, call 703-228-6535. \$5. Register online at registration.arlingtonva.us/#632959-E.

Plant Order Deadline. St. Mary's is raising travel scholarship funds to send their choristers to England's Lincoln Cathedral this July. Buy flowers and plants to support the choir's pilgrimage. Order online at stmarysarlington.org/pilgrim-mayflower by April 26. Pick up (and pay by cash or check) by May 11 or 12 at St. Mary's (2609 North Glebe Road). Email Chorister Anne Veigle at AVeigle@gmail.com for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 26-28

"Curtains." Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. The Arlington Players presents "Curtains." The Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new cowboy musical, Robbin' Hood. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage, the entire cast and crew are suspects. Enter Lt. Frank Cioffi, a local detective who just happens to be a musical theatre fan. The May 4 performance will be ASL interpreted. \$15-\$25. Visit www.thearlingtonplayers.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

EcoAction Arlington Earth Day Cleanup. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Bon Air Park Shelter, 850 N. Lexington St., Arlington. Join the community in celebration of Earth Day as we bike, walk, and plog (picking up trash while jogging) to remove litter from our parks, trails and streams. This event is free. For registration or more information, visit www.ecoactionarlington.org.

Bike Rodeo. 10 a.m.-noon at The Woman's Club of Arlington Parking Lot, 700 South Buchanan St. Bring children and their bikes to participate in: safety helmet check; bike maintenance check; and games to teach basic biking skills. Two riding courses of varying levels; and balancing bikes available for preschooler use. Donate unwanted bikes to Phoenix Bikes that day. Free. Call 703-553-5800 or email womansclubarlington@gmail.com for more.

Handmade Arlington 2019. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Swanson Middle School, 5800 N. Washington Blvd. Handmade Arlington 2019 will feature more than 60 high-quality, professional arts and crafts makers and local food trucks: The Big Cheese, Rocklands Barbecue, and Captain Cookie and the Milkman. Free admission. Visit www.handmadearlington.com for more.

Arlington Home Show and Garden Expo 2019. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Spring Road. Come get tips on how to make a home more beautiful, valuable, and energy efficient. Featuring home remodelers, architects, energy auditors, realtors, master gardeners, banks, nonprofit organizations and Arlington County housing, zoning and inspection representatives. Visit www.arlingtonhomeshow.org or call 202-599-0665.

Complete Dogness. 4 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S Four Mile Run Drive. A family friendly performance about a dog with bad habits who learns new tricks. Featuring Andie deVaulx, Kelsey Rohr, Brynna Shank, and Rebecca Weiss of Jane Franklin Dance. Tickets \$15 adults; \$10 children under age 10; \$45 family of four. Visit www.janefranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.



Complete Dogness

A family friendly performance about a dog with bad habits who learns new tricks. Featuring Andie deVaulx, Kelsey Rohr, Brynna Shank, and Rebecca Weiss of Jane Franklin Dance. Saturday, April 27 and May 4, 4 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Tickets \$15 adults; \$10 children under age 10; \$45 family of four. Visit www.janefranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.

ACF Annual Gala. 6-11 p.m. At The Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City, 1250 S. Hayes St., Arlington. Join the Arlington Community Foundation's "Building Bridges for Arlington's Future" Annual Spring Gala. Celebrate the community connections that make Arlington a special place. Enjoy a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, and live entertainment, showcasing Nova Payton. \$300. Visit www.arlcf.org for more.

Jane Franklin Dance Presents EyeSoar. 7:30 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. EyeSoar highlights the landscapes near 3700 S Four Mile Run Drive, a somewhat non-gentrified neighborhood that spans across Nelson Street, the footbridge and Jennie Dean Park and curves around to South Oakland Street. Featuring Carly Miks, Kelsey Rohr, Amy Scaringe, Brynna Shank, Rebecca Weiss with Ken Hays and Richard Nyman. \$22-\$35. Visit www.janefranklin.com/eyesoar or call 703-933-1111.

TUESDAY/APRIL 30

An Evening With Civil Rights Activist Joan Mulholland. 7 p.m. at Reinsch Library Auditorium, Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington and the Marymount Department of History & Politics present: An Evening With Civil Rights Activist Joan Mulholland. Mulholland is an American civil rights activist and a Freedom Rider from Arlington. She is known for taking part in sit-ins, being the first white to integrate Tougaloo College in Jackson Mississippi, joining the Delta Sigma Theta, joining Freedom Rides, and being held on death row in Parchman Penitentiary. Free and open to the public. Visit arlingtonblackheritage.org for more.

APRIL 30-JUNE 26

Spunk. in Signature's ARK Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. An unearthly Guitar Man and Blues Speak Woman tantalizingly interweave three tales of the early 20th century African American experience, from the fierce determination of a resilient washerwoman, to the zoot suit struts of 1940s Harlem, to the bittersweet innocence of young married love. Specialty nights: discussion nights – May 29 and June 4; pride nights – May 31 and June 7; and open captioning – June 2. Call 703-820-9771 or visit www.SigTheatre.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 3-5

2019 Spring Concert. Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 202 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. BalletNova will be performing a fun and humorous ballet 'La Fille Mal Gardée' and 'Steps in the Street' – a masterpiece by Martha Graham. Guest choreographer Matthew Powell will create the new production of La Fille Mal Gardée. \$12-35 (\$3 more at the door). Visit www.balletnova.org for tickets.

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PEOPLE



The players, with their biggest fan, the senior janitor at Nottingham, far right. “They are the best,” said Ryan Paquet, “they run a tight ship here, keep everything beautifully maintained.”



Dean Schwanke, in white T-shirt, shows off his superior height, and age, reaching for the ball over one of the younger players.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Arlington’s ‘All Ibuprofen League’ “It’s our version of bookclub.”

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

It was “March Madness” and the tension was high-wire taut. The squeaking of the basketball high tops across the gym floor reached fever pitch as the men rushed down the court to keep Andrew, who was particularly hot tonight, from scoring. But score he did, and the players clapped in admiration of a beautifully executed basket, lobbed from the far corner in a nice neat arc. Swoosh.

The level of play is quick-paced and skilled at Nottingham Elementary School’s gym, every Thursday night, when men who can no longer be called young get together to spend an hour coaching youth basketball. Afterwards, from 8 to 10 p.m. or so, they possess the court with energy, attitude, and lots of ace bandages.

Ryan Paquet found out about the group when his son was in kindergarten. The first time he came into the gym he was a little nervous because the level of play so good, but he said, “the guys were so welcoming I forgot all about being nervous.” Paquet reserves the court every week.

We’re the “All-ibuprofen league,” joked Andrew Kerr, laughing. The oldest player is 70. The men have been playing here since the ‘90s. They play every Thursday night



Andrew Kerr watches the play during a brief moment off the court.

that school is open. Sometimes they are 10, sometimes 20. Most play every week unless they are out of town for business or have family obligations.

“It’s our version of book club,” said Josh Firebaugh, with a smile, “We don’t like to miss it, we look forward to it, along with the post-game trip up to the Knights of Columbus bar for a beer.”

Paquet pointed to one of the players, “That’s Jonny, who is a janitor here, and he is playing tonight for the first time. The janitors keep the gym open for us, so the last day before Christmas vacation and summer vacation, we raise money among ourselves and



From left: Kent Withycombe, Jared Dean, and Grant Yoder, at Thursday night’s game.

give it to them as a thank you because they stay late to let us play.” “We range from ages 36 to 65 tonight,” Paquet said. “That guy over there, Dean Schwanke, is 65. Man, I went out with him for a beer on his 60th birthday and he told me, “Just play basketball as long as you can. And he is the proof of that—a really good player who holds his own against the guys in their 30s.” “There are rules,” Paquet said. “One thing, you have to wear a dark shirt [with] a lighter colored shirt on top, because we switch teams a lot and the only way you can tell who is on your team is by the shirt color. Another rule is that if someone falls down, play stops.

We don’t want to take advantage of an old guy! Also, you have to have a child at Nottingham or be in the Nottingham PTA to play.”

Firebaugh said he started playing when his sons were at Nottingham. He didn’t play in high school or college, like many of the men. Others were on teams.

Kerr, who proved to be an almost infallible shooter, has a brother who played in the NBA and is now a coach for a major NBA team.

“There are a lot of lawyers—they are the cheapest of the players,” Firebaugh deadpanned. “The information technology guys are the best.” The players are bureau

SEE ALL IBUPROFEN, PAGE 15



Jonny Rojas janitor, played for the first time with the League this March and, by all accounts, “held his own.”



Ryan Paquet off the court at the end of the game.

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Opportunities for community service and/or religious education are some of the reasons that parents might consider switching a child from public to private school.

PHOTO COURTESY SSSAS



Making the Leap from Public to Private School

Signs that a public school isn't meeting your child's needs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Elizabeth and Kent Hillegass noticed that their 6th grade son's grades began to drop while the number of times they received notices from the school regarding his misbehavior had increased. He was also having challenges socially.

"He was really unhappy, the other kids made fun of him, he didn't have any friends and to top it off his grades were awful," said Elizabeth. "I would lie awake at night crying because I felt helpless."

After a series of neuropsychological tests, the Hillegasses learned that their son had ADHD. The testing psychologist advised them to see an education consultant who helped them determine that a quiet school environment with small class sizes would best suit their son's needs. The Hillegasses ultimately decided to send their son to a private school with a student-teacher ratio of 10 to 1.

"We've always been supporters of public education, but the class sizes and noisy environment were too overwhelming for him," said Kent. "It was like he was lost and unable to focus when he was at school. He couldn't sit still and pay attention in classes and was always getting into trouble, which made him feel ostracized, like he was the bad kid in school."

A parent's decision to move a child from public to private school can be based on factors that run the gamut from smaller class sizes to tuition that can cost as much as \$50,000 annually. Although it's a choice that should not be taken lightly, there are signs that it might be time to make the change if it's possible, say education consultants.

"I suggest to parents that they focus on the needs of their child, not on the prestige that they think a private school holds or the sticker on the back of your car that lets everyone know that your child attends a certain school," said Kim Hardy who was the education consultant to the Hillegass family. "There's a range of factors that parents should take into consideration."

The first, advises Hardy, is whether their child is

happy and well adjusted. "If a child is bored or frustrated at school, not just because their grades aren't good and they've given up, but there are also cases where students are making straight As without much effort and are bored because they aren't being challenged."

When the accommodations that a school can offer don't meet the needs of one's child, that's another clue that a change is necessary, suggests Arlington-based education consultant Rita Feters.

"Some children need to be in a classroom with a low student teacher ratio so that teachers have time to redirect students who have trouble staying focused," she said. "Other students need a lot of exercise and outdoor activity to release energy so that they can focus better in class. Public schools may not be able to offer that."

The Heights in Potomac, Md. builds activity and exercise into each school day including outdoor recess and a challenging physical education program that not only releases energy, but teaches important life skills.

Feters says some parents make the change because they want specialized opportunities that a public school might not offer.

"If religious education is important to a family, that is certainly one reason to leave a public school," she said. "If a family wants their child to be involved in public service beyond what is required to graduate, they might choose a private school that has community service built in to the curriculum."

One such school is St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School (SSSAS) in Alexandria, Va. "Our school offers religion classes and weekly chapels," said Mandi Sapp of SSSAS. "We also have a ton of service-learning opportunities that students ... do throughout the year, including global service trips offered in Middle and Upper School. We have done a lot of work with ALIVE (ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically) in Alexandria."

If a child is unhappy and asks repeatedly to change schools, Feters believes that is a reason to give serious consideration to academic switch.

"At the end of the day, parents have to take a long, hard look at their child and their family," Feters said. "They have to find the best school for their family, not the one that's most prestigious or most popular. Does what the school offers as a whole align with your family's values and your child's needs. Whether it's public or private, that's what a parent must determine."

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

efforts made to add context to its story." Subsequently, the General Assembly of Virginia declined the City Council's request to change the state law forbidding removal of the statue.

Therefore, I propose two solutions for putting the Rebel soldier in context. These alternatives would also work for other cities wrestling with the problem of memorials to the Confederacy. Both of my solutions would allow fans of a statue to keep it and opponents to take pleasure in an addition to the sculpture.

The first solution for Alexandria would be to erect a second statue a block or so further. This sculpture would stand back-to-back with the statue of the Rebel soldier.

The new statue would represent a Union soldier about to head home from the war. (Like for many combatants, his home could be a farm, which required an able-bodied man to work the land.) This soldier would be the same height and age as the Rebel. He would be dressed in a Union army uniform. The man would not be in a triumphant pose. He would be missing a limb, as shown by a

rolled-up sleeve where an arm should be or by a broomstick-style wooden leg.

Together the statues would symbolize the horrific price paid by both camps in a civil war. The back-to-back position of the men would reflect the refusal to compromise that resulted in Americans being pitted against each other in a bloody conflict. The two-statue alternative would shift the focus from mourning fallen Rebels and the loss of the war to honoring the pain and casualties of both sides. Together the statues would show that Americans of different beliefs must unite and work together.

Some citizens balk at spending tax money on art. They may prefer my second solution for placing a statue of a Confederate soldier in context. This alternative is quick and dirt cheap — and blunt. It only requires adding to the site a big sign saying "Traitor."

On balance, I recommend that Alexandria (and any city that chooses to keep its Confederate monument on public land) implement the first solution.

Renée Henning

Arlington

The writer is an attorney and an international author.

'FLOURISHING AFTER 55'

"*Flourishing After 55*" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for April 29-May 4.

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

Senior trips: Mike's Crab House, Riva, Md., Monday, April 29, \$7; Virginia Garden Week, Petersburg, Tuesday, April 30, \$48 plus \$12 for lunch; Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton Township, N.J., Thursday, May 2, \$45; National Cathedral Flower Mart, D.C., Friday, May 3, \$9; Around the World Embassy Tour, D.C., Saturday, May 4, lots of walking, \$7. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

NEW PROGRAMS

Art Swap, Sunday, April 28, 3-4:30

p.m., Arlington Mill. Register, 703-228-7369.

Home decluttering, Monday, April 29, 1:30 p.m., Lee. Register, 703-228-0555.

Green Thumbs with seniors and teens, Monday, April 29, 1 p.m., Walter Reed.

Pickleball for absolute beginners, Mondays, 9 a.m., Arlington Mill or 9:45 a.m., Walter Reed. For more information, 703-228-7369 (AM), 703-228-0955 (WR).

Billiards and table tennis, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – noon, Walter Reed. Practice for senior Olympics. Details, 703-228-0955.

Urban beekeeping, Tuesday, April 30, 11:30 a.m., Lee. Register, 703-228-0555.

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WEST VIRGINIA

PEOPLE



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Michael Sewha ices his arm before returning to play. Sewha is the closest thing the All-Ibuprofen League has to a professional player. He used to play for a team in Slovakia, back when it was Czechoslovakia, and got paid about \$1.89 per game for his efforts. He was a volunteer teacher in a small town called Levice, where basketball was a big thing. He didn't get the job he wanted but he did come home with a wife and child — and pretty good basketball skills.

'All Ibuprofen League'

FROM PAGE 12

crats and rocket scientists. One retired Air Force colonel still plays about once a month despite having Parkinson's.

"Another neat thing is a lot of the guys' sons come out to play now," said Paquet. "The level of play is amazing — but friendly. If anyone gets too aggressive, we have a talk, and either things get better, or they walk."

The men agreed that while there may be other elementary school gyms which have regular games — Tuckahoe has a game on Wednesdays — the Nottingham game has a culture all of its own and even guys whose children moved to Discovery Elementary School a few years ago stayed with Nottingham because of the game's vibe.

When the schools close for the summer, the teams play in tournaments. It's all very good-natured, but competitive. There are no arguments on the court, if anyone can't remember the score, play stops until there is agreement.

There are no refs. The banter heard on the court is typical for a basketball court, whether it's 15 year olds or 50 year olds playing: "How many points did we lose by last game?"

"I don't know I just remember you lost!"

This story was suggested by Michael McMorrow, who has a great eye for stories around Arlington. If you have a story about a noteworthy group of Arlingtonians, contact www.connectionnewspapers.com

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As It Is Happening



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Thankfully I woke up today (duh!) — without the crushing, incapacitating fatigue that I woke up with two weeks ago, post-my-last-immunotherapy infusion.

As I have written previously, I did not alert my oncologist to my bedridden status then or since as I have been trying not to worry that I had crossed some Rubicon-type line concerning my treatment and its side/straight-on effects. Apparently, and I will continue to believe (cling to this belief) that my inability to get out of bed two Saturdays ago was indeed an aberration rather than an actualization, of life in this new Kenny lane.

So here I sit at my desk writing away, fully dressed, teeth-brushed and clean-shaven, all by 8:15 am, pill-popping as I go.

As I recall two weeks ago, when I finally summoned the strength to extricate myself from under the covers to get dressed and attempt to walk downstairs and restart my day (I had gotten up earlier to feed our cats breakfast and give Chino his insulin shot), "The clock on the wall" (clock radio, actually), to quote George Thorogood, said 3:53 p.m. (And other than bathroom breaks, that was all I could muster in the nine hours since I woke up at 7 a.m.)

No pain, just zero energy. It was almost as if I was paralyzed.

Writing back to the present, anticipating this morning, I've been a bit apprehensive the last few days — fearful that when I awoke today, I would once again be fighting that terrible fatigue and considering a new reality in my cancer existence.

When my eyes popped open at 6:30 this morning, I was grateful (as my father used to say: "Any day that I wake up is a good day") and relieved that when I raised my right arm to roll back the covers, I did so with relative normalcy; and even more relieved when I was able to swing my legs out from underneath the covers and onto the bedroom floor where I had no difficulty getting my bearings. Before too long (maybe 30 seconds or so), and after a few deep breaths, I stood up and officially began my day without any further adieu. Although I hadn't taken any Roloids: "Oh, what a relief it is!"

Dare I say then it will be a normal day, up and at 'em with nary a hint of fatigue in the forecast.

Rain, however, is in the forecast and given the date on the calendar: April 13, 2019, I have to face an even greater challenge than the fatigue I experienced two weeks ago: clothes shopping.

More specifically, I have to buy a suit, as well as some upgraded good-looking casual attire which my wife, Dina will approve and that Kenny's budget will tolerate, as I'll be attending a family wedding and rehearsal dinner beginning May 3, 2019.

One more concern: my weight. It's not good. It's the talking-scale-joke-will-one-of-you-please-get-off, bad. But I have no choice. Today's the day (for availability reasons) or it will be "Good night, Irene." Is there a tent sale going on anywhere?

You know, now that I think about it — and feel it, I may be feeling a little fatigue.

Maybe it's not the best day to be trying on ill-fitting clothes ALL DAY. What if I don't have the manual dexterity to be in and out of dressing rooms, up and down while in them and back and forth to the clothing racks with shoes, slacks, shirts and suits?

What if today is another day in my life — which seemingly began at birth, where I spent hours in the "Husky"/"Portly" departments at Jordan Marsh, Filene's Basement and Kennedy's in downtown Boston, trying to find Kenny some "school clothes" that fit, that is excruciating AGAIN? Granted, it wasn't cancer then as it is now, but for an overweight young boy, it was torture personified and the experience imprinted me for life as a serial-clothes-shopping-hater.

Got to go. Wish me luck. I'll need it.

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

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24 month free roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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 5/31/19.

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$69⁹⁵

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.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
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ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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**CLEAN AIR A/C INSPECTION
& VENTILATION SPECIAL**

\$129⁹⁵

Includes: Replace cabin air filter, and Toyota Evaporator Service
using anti-bacterial foam cleanser and odor eliminator.
Bring back that new car smell!

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 5/31/19.

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