

The Arlington Connection

As motorcycles ride by during the 32nd running of Rolling Thunder on May 26, Christian Jacobs clutches a photo of his father, US Marine Sergeant Christopher Jacobs, who was killed in a training accident in 2011. Organizers announced last December that 2019 would be the final running of the annual event that honors fallen service members, POWs and those still missing in action over Memorial Day weekend.

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PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Rolling Thunder bikers take off for Thunder Alley early Saturday morning, many waving and sporting American flags. About 2,500 motorcycles showed up for the first ride in 1988. Last year the group was estimated to be about 500,000 riders. They ride to honor veterans and prisoners of war to assure they are remembered.

The Arlington County police escort follows the last rider onto their route to begin the Memorial Day activities.

Rolling Thunder

Record crowds gather for 32nd and final rally.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of thousands of motorcyclists gathered at dawn in the shadow of the Pentagon for the 32nd annual Rolling Thunder ride on May 26 in what could

be the last rally from Arlington to Washington, D.C., honoring fallen service members, POWs and those still missing in action.

Confusion surrounded the iconic event as organizers announced last December that the 2019 ride would be the final one of its kind in the area. Citing rising costs, particularly those related to the use of the Pentagon parking lots as a staging area and starting point of the ride, organizers said they would focus on smaller community events beginning in 2020.

However, mixed messages circulated throughout the day following a Tweet from President Donald Trump that implied the ride would return to the Washington area. Trump said that the government would work with organizers to help maintain costs so that the annual ride, which begins at dawn at the Pentagon and ends at the Vietnam Memorial Wall, would continue. Organizers said they would entertain talks to continue the ride but no official word has been made to indicate a change in status.

Officially known as the First Amendment Demonstration Run, or Run to the Wall, the ride began in 1987 on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend to show continued support for the efforts to find lost service men and women of past conflicts. It is estimated that more than 500,000 riders participated in this year's event.



PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE/THE CONNECTION

With an American flag and POW/MIA flag affixed to his bike, a rider joins hundreds of thousands of others in the 32nd annual Rolling Thunder ride to honor fallen service members on May 26.

See www.rollingthunder1.com.

See www.rollingthunder1.com.

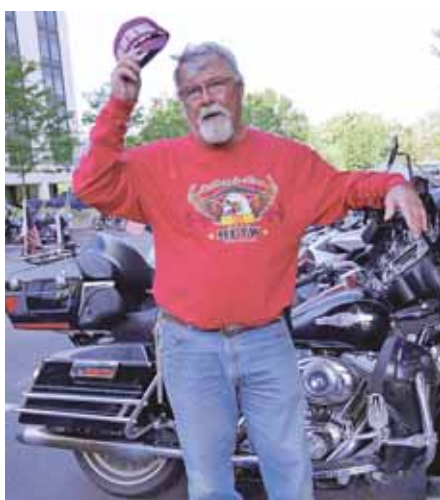


PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Dan Koster "Boilermaker," Quartermaster for the Rolling Thunder central route, says the riders gather in Ontario, Calif. 10 days before the Friday preceding Memorial Day. "The group of riders is so large now that we have three routes across the country — northern, southern and central." Koster says there are approximately 1,650 missing in action just from Vietnam, 1,650 families who haven't had a funeral. The Run for the Wall mission statement says "to promote healing among all veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from all wars and to support our military personnel from all over the world."



World War II veteran E. Bruce Heilman greets other veterans before the 32nd running of Rolling Thunder on May 26. Heilman is Chancellor and President Emeritus at the University of Richmond and is the national spokesperson for the Greatest Generations Foundation.



Combat boots adorned with photos of fallen service members line a portion of the route of the 32nd annual Rolling Thunder motorcycle ride from Arlington to Washington, D.C., on May 26.

AFAC Faces Competing Parking Priorities

County: Restriping adds parking.

By Shirley Ruhe
The Connection

A large purple truck emblazoned with eggplants and tomatoes backs into the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) driveway in front of the headquarters on S. Nelson Street. The truck drives away and is quickly followed by another while volunteers carry 35-pound boxes of canned food down the street to their cars. AFAC clients are lined up in front of the building waiting their turn to fill bags with onions, fish, milk, eggs and pasta for their weekly supply of groceries.

Charles Meng, CEO and executive director of AFAC, stands in front of one of the newly installed paid parking meters down the street from the AFAC headquarters. "These were just put in last month." This is just one of the parking headaches facing Meng at the moment.

Parking for AFAC volunteers, clients and staff is already tight. Anticipated changes under the 4MRV redevelopment plan currently underway include elimination of Jennie Dean Park parking just down the block from AFAC as well as increased competition for street parking from park users across the street.

In a letter to the Arlington County Director of Parks and Recreation on April 30, Meng says, "The reduction of available parking in the area of South Four Mile Run Drive, South Nelson and South Oakland Streets, and the increased demand for parking by park goers will negatively affect AFAC and neighboring businesses and homeowners." A petition signed by over 800 Arlingtonians and accompanied with 155 comments accompanied the letter.

Meng says on a day like Monday, May 20, AFAC will serve between 150-200 families who will come to pick up their weekly supply of food. Some of them will need parking. From AFAC's point of view, they will use 30-40 volunteers today who will be sorting and packaging food and will need to find a place to park close to the building. Until now, these spaces have been free. Volunteers work in three-hour shifts, but the new meters are for two hours. Meng says on average AFAC requires 75 parking spaces within a two-hour period.

Meng says because things are so tight metering the parking spaces provokes illegal parking in handicapped spaces or double parking. If their low-income clients get a parking ticket, as some already have, it costs \$40. Stephan Crimm, parking manager for Arlington County explains, "No one likes to pay but the meters better accommodate people in the park encouraging turnover so they stay only the amount of time they need and businesses won't park in a space all day."

A number of volunteers are senior citi-



Restriping of street adds parking but prohibits 18-wheeler delivery trucks from turning around for food delivery to AFAC.



Charles Meng stands in front of a newly installed parking meter down the street from the AFAC warehouse.

zens and some with mobility issues. Comments attached to the petition sent to county staff include:

❖ William Bates, an AFAC volunteer: "This change would heavily deter me from volunteering at AFAC."

❖ Elizabeth Slanta: "Please do not deprive us AFAC volunteers of our parking spaces. I have volunteered with AFAC since 1981 and depended on parking near AFAC."

❖ Danielle Paterno: "Arlington needs to start prioritizing its citizens and the organizations that perform a community service to all. As the neighborhood changes making transportation difficult for working class and low income people remains a shameful failing of our local officials."

Meng estimates after a cursory review that in excess of 50 parking spaces will be lost.

Lisa Grandle, park development chief, explains that parking on the west side of

the park (adjacent to AFAC) will be eliminated but that parking will be retained on the east side of the park down by the shelter. She says the street parking on Nelson will stay. Grandle puts parking in the larger context of park design. Grandle says they had some challenges because they have purchased the WETA site but don't know when it will become available and had to design around it for now. They needed to address the stream floodplain, they wanted more casual space. "In the long run it will fit together nicely."

Meng cites another example of a piecemeal parking action taken by the county that causes major issues for his 18-wheeler delivery trucks. He says, the county restriped the street at the end of South Oakland and South Nelson Streets at the urging of an individual and without input from local businesses. As a result the 18-wheeler food delivery trucks that allow AFAC to buy food wholesale in bulk aren't able to transit from one street to the other to make the deliveries to the warehouse. "We have 100,000 pounds of food."

Grandle says the restriping involves replacement of parallel parking with angle parking because it was a big open area and they were hearing from business owners that they needed more parking. She says that area is actually part of the park.

Crimm says the restriping was due to concerns about parking. "It's important that somebody can still get in and out. It may not be ideal for the AFAC trucks but if you are trying to balance needs"

Meng explains the Four Mile Run Task Force agreed to address the issue but handed it off to the Traffic Department. He says the issue still sits unresolved. Meng said each of the traffic decisions have been stand alone without regard to the larger picture. "I have urged a comprehensive approach."

Crimm puts the parking decisions in a wider perspective. He says parking modifications are always ongoing and a number of the changes in the Four Mile Run area

have been related in time but were not necessarily incorporated in the 4MR redevelopment efforts.

These parking issues come amidst a much larger decades-long struggle to develop a revitalization plan for the Four Mile Run Valley 4MRV area in Arlington. It is an area of diverse interests including Jennie Dean Park, small industry, an arts community, the largest dog park, Arlington Food Assistance Center, the Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC), Four Mile Run and the Nauck community neighborhood which is an African-American community predating the Civil War.

Each interest has its own needs and priorities. A working group was established three years ago and, after 30 meetings addressing often contentious issues, the county adopted a 4MRV working plan.

Meng says the proposed Master Plan is missing a vital analysis of the parking requirements for the various uses in the park under the county's zoning ordinances. "You would expect a zoning analysis in any development of this size. They must have done it, but I haven't seen it."

Robyn Stompler, community affairs chair for the Green Valley Civic Association located in the 4MRV area, discusses some of the changes that have been in the works for years. For instance, parking meters have been installed that have increased parking on Four Mile Run. She says after several years of working unsuccessfully with County Board and staff on common sense, easy solutions for parking improvements, these new changes work for the community, business and the arts.

Stompler adds, "In the first year or two the county agreed with our concept but took no action. Later they came out with a plan that sounded like it incorporated some of our ideas but without a lot of specifics. Then," she says, "in October 2018 they came out with a plan that was nothing like anybody wanted to see done. We were con-

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Honoring Foster Parents of the Year

The gift of guidance and love recognized.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Heidi Kaplan has been a foster parent for Arlington County since 2015. Kaplan came into fostering initially wanting to help children in her community and not necessarily wanting to adopt; she also thought that she would be better suited in fostering children ages 6 through 9.

Since she originally started fostering three years ago, Kaplan has welcomed two school-age children into her family unit. She helped to bridge the gap with their birth families and continues to be a source of support to them today.

When Kaplan was asked to welcome a sibling group of teenagers into her family, she accepted the challenge, and in September 2017, that sibling group joined Kaplan's family. The sibling group goal has recently changed to adoption and Kaplan is currently in the process of adopting them.

Kaplan was recognized on May 20 for going beyond expectations by keeping the sibling group connected to their family of



Heidi Kaplan was awarded the distinction of "Arlington County Foster Parent of the Year" at the annual dinner on May 20. Kaplan brought her two teenagers to the event but sent them home early to get ready for school the next day.



James and Sarah Braxton have been foster parents in Arlington since 1984. Recognizing their 35 years of fostering, and unwavering dedication to doing it right, an award for excellence in fostering was created in their name.

origin, maintaining cultural connections, and even taking Spanish classes to learn how to better communicate with their family.

Kaplan is active in Arlington's Foster Care Program, by supporting outreach and recruiting events. Most recently she participated on Arlington Foster Care Program's PRIDE panel for prospective foster families, where she was able to provide her perspective about fostering and adopting teenagers. She continues to be a source of support to other foster families by providing respite services, so the fostering families can take a break if needed.

Kaplan has done all this as a single parent. She said her mother, who attended the event with her, has been supportive all along, and while long distance (she lives in California), she said the children are looking to her more and more as "grandma."

Like many adoptive parents, Kaplan said people always tell her what a great thing she is doing, and she always tells them, "What the kids give me — love and trust — and watching them grow up — is the great thing."

James and Sarah Braxton were also honored during the dinner. The Braxtons have been foster parents with Arlington County DHS Child and Family Services for 35 years.

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Courtney Jacobs hugs her son in front of her late husband's grave on Memorial Day, May 27, in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery. Sergeant Chris Jacobs was killed in a training accident in 2011.



Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen lay flowers at the grave of Colonel Paul Kelly, who was killed in Iraq in 2007, in section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day.

Remembering The Fallen

Pence pays tribute on Memorial Day.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Vice President Mike Pence paid tribute to fallen service members in a visit to Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, acknowledging that for surviving family members “every day is Memorial Day.”

Pence placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to remember deceased service members whose remains haven't been identified and observed a moment of silence.

Following the wreath-laying cer-

emony, Pence and his wife Karen visited Section 60 of the cemetery, where they placed flowers at the grave of Colonel Paul Kelly, who was killed in Iraq in 2007. They met with several surviving family members, including former White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, whose 29-year-old son, First Lieutenant Robert Michael Kelly, was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010.

President Donald Trump, currently on a State visit to Japan, and First Lady Melania Trump visited the cemetery last week and placed flags at several gravesites as part of what is known as “flags in” day.



A sign honoring the fallen rests against a flagpole at the entrance to Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day.



A Marine bagpiper salutes at the grave of a fallen comrade in section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day.



The family of Sergeant First Class Bradley S. Bohle of Glen Burnie, Md., visit his grave in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day. Bohle was 29 years old when he was killed in Afghanistan in 2009.

The
Arlington
Connection

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/MAY 31

Application Deadline. Leadership Center for Excellence (LCE) is accepting applications for its 6th Annual 40 Under 40 awards. The awards honor 40 emerging leaders under the age of 40 who demonstrate personal and/or professional impact through their leadership in the Northern Virginia region. Self-nominations, including previous applicants, are encouraged. Previous winners are ineligible. Email Caitlin McKelway at cmckelway@leadercenter.org or visit www.leadercenter.org.

Application Deadline. The Leadership Arlington Youth Program, powered by Leadership Center for Excellence, is currently accepting applications for the next cohort of high school leaders. Every participant is matched with a mentor who has graduated from a civic Leadership Program and receives a personalized college recommendation letter from the Leadership Center's President and CEO. The program will start with a one week (July 29-Aug. 2, 2019) experience. Program tuition is \$500 and includes materials and supplies for the summer week. Limited scholarship support is available. Learn more at leadercenter.org/youth-program or call 703-528-2522.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 1-2

Church Open House. Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for tours and drop off point for the service project; 6-9

p.m. for an interfaith musical fireside, building tours and drop off point for service project at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 727 23rd St. S., Arlington. Tour the new building for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Guests can donate items for school care packs and hygiene kits, learn about family history work and enjoy refreshments. Free. Email candaceharmanlds@gmail.com for more. Visit tinyurl.com/y6y47qys for needed items.

MONDAY/JUNE 3

"Kurdish Culture, Geography and History." 3-4:30 p.m. at the Arlington County Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Encore Learning offers a presentation on "Kurdish Culture, Geography and History." The four speakers represent the Kurdish communities in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. All of the speakers are now located in the United States. The public is invited. The program is sponsored jointly by Encore Learning and the Arlington Public Library. Call Encore Learning at 703-228-2144.

Plan Now for Arlington County Fair Competitive Exhibits in August 2019. Residents of Arlington County, Alexandria City, the City of Falls Church, or Ft. Myer-Joint Base Henderson, are eligible to enter vegetables or ornamentals in the Competitive Exhibits of the Arlington County Fair. Compete for blue ribbons. There are separate categories for adults, teens, and children. Visit arlingtoncountyfair.us.

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ENTERTAINMENT

It's Summer Already

Marymount Farmer's Market opens.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Nothing says the beginning of summer like the vegetables piled high, the tastes of Turkish borek, and the cups of passion fruit juice at the Marymount Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 25.

Stephan Cunningham, market manager, says some of the stalls haven't set up yet this year since it is Memorial Day weekend. "We have a new cheese vendor and a new Belgium waffle stand with a different Turkish vendor and a new vegan baking stall, a little bit wild." He continued, "The goal is to have music every week but this week our music cancelled. But," he said pointing to the Marymount Market information stand. "I have Nick Rozek. I call him my emergency music man."

Rozek says, "I'll show up at the last minute and play folk songs on my guitar."

Ana's Twist has sold out of her oven baked chicken, beef and vegetarian empanadas by 11 a.m. "My customers came back from last year and told me how much they missed my food. I didn't make as many this time because it was Memorial Day. "I ran out of my soup and my sorbet, too." Her large container of hand-squeezed passion fruit juice is almost empty.

Ana says she is one of 36 people selected from around



the world to compete in a D.C. gelato festival in September. "The ice cream makers are coming from all around the world — Japan, U.S. and Europe." Her entry will

be colada morada, a specialty from her home country of Ecuador.

The hot breakfast stand is doing a brisk business with homemade sausage, egg and cheese bis-

cuits on fresh made English muffins while customers are ordering ice lattes reflecting the heat of the day. Joe Keyes is loading his bag with radishes, zucchini, kohlrabi

and beets from J&W Valley View Farm. The Marymount Farmer's Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. from May 25-Nov. 23.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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 Kasewitz, 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.

Richard III. Through June 16, at Synetic Theater, 1800 South Bell St. Paata Tsikurishvili's modern cyberpunk adaptation explores King Richard III's Machiavellian rise to power is a movement-driven and action-packed display of stunning physicality and powerful visuals. Starring Alex Mills as Richard III and Irina Tsikurishvili as Queen Elizabeth. Tickets start at \$35 at www.synetictheater.org or 866-811-4111.

Spunk. Through June 26, in Signature's ARK Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Guitar Man and Blues Speak Woman 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.

Arlington Mill Farmer's Market.

Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. The market features produce, meats, and dairy products from our region's top local vendors. Support local farmers and entrepreneurs. Come for opening day and meet special guests, the Arlington Art Truck, South Arlington Moms Club, Long Branch Nature Center, and more. Visit columbia-pike.org/fm-arlington-mill.

THURSDAY/MAY 30

Walk with a Ranger. 10 a.m. at Arlington Ridge Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway. Meet at the Marine Corps War Memorial and join a National Park Service Ranger for a 3-mile hike around the edge of the Arlington National Cemetery to Memorial Avenue, down to the Mount Vernon Trail, up to Theodore Roosevelt Island and

around to Rosslyn and back to the starting point. The hike will take approximately 2.5 hours. Bring walking shoes, sunscreen and drinking water. Visit www.nps.gov/gwmp for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 31-JUNE 2

The Talented Clementine. Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at Gunston Arts Center-Theatre One, 2700 S. Lang St. Encore Stage & Studio and Kid Pan Alley present the World Premiere of The Talented Clementine. Clementine gets nervous when her third grade teacher announces that her class will be putting on a talent show to raise money for the spring trip. The talent she has would not work on a stage. Recommended for ages 6 and older. \$15, adults; \$12, children, students, military, and seniors. Visit www.encorestage.org or call 703-548-1154.

ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Fort C.F. Smith Park Walking Tour. 9-10 a.m. Meet at the Fort C.F. Smith Park parking lot, 2411 N. 24th St. Families ages 7 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Fort C.F. Smith was one of the last Union forts built to protect Washington during the Civil War. Learn about the park's history, the role of the fort and the soldiers stationed there in the Civil War. Dress for the weather. Terrain will be uneven and possibly muddy. For information: 703-228-4775. Free. Register at parks.arlingtonva.us, activity #642759-A.

Walk with a Ranger. 10 a.m. at Arlington Ridge Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway. Meet at the Marine Corps War Memorial and join a National Park Service Ranger for a 3-mile hike around the edge of the Arlington National Cemetery to Memorial Avenue, down to the Mount Vernon Trail, up to Theodore Roosevelt Island and around to Rosslyn and back to the starting point. The hike will take approximately 2.5 hours. Bring walking shoes, sunscreen and drinking water. Visit www.nps.gov/gwmp for more.

Microbes Hike. 10:30-11:30 a.m. 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. Microbes are too small to see with the naked eye, but there are signs that they are all around. Hike in search of signs of microbes a discover just how important they are to the ecosystem and humans. For information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center. \$5. Register at parks.arlingtonva.us, activity #642859-H.

Fort Scott Park Walking Tour. 11-11:30 a.m. Meet at Fort Scott Park, 2800 Fort Scott Drive. Families ages 7 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Built by the Union Army in 1861, this fort had a commanding view of the Four Mile Run Valley and protected approaches to Washington from the south. Explore the remaining earthworks while discussing how and why the fort was built. For information, call 703-228-4775. Free. Register at parks.arlingtonva.us, activity #642759-F.

Gardening for Pollinators. 11 a.m.-noon at Glencarlyn Library Community Garden, 300 South Kensington St. Learn from Extension Master Gardener interns how they designed and installed a trellis and selected native plants to serve as nectar and host plants for a variety of pollinators in the renovation of the Pollinator Bed at Glencarlyn Library Community Garden. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

75th Anniversary Celebration. Noon-4 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza, 1333 North Courthouse Road. The League of Women Voters of Arlington is 75 years old this year. All are invited to attend their annual member meeting and join the celebration with an anniversary luncheon featuring Elaine Weiss author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, followed by the annual League business meeting. Visit lwv-arlingtonva.org to RSVP.

Author Event: Ariel Kaplan. 3 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 North Westmoreland St. Kick off June with Ariel Kaplan's "We Are The Perfect Girl," a Young Adult retelling of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. This love letter to female friendship is perfect for anyone who's ever thought of trying on a new identity to impress a guy. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com for more.

Netherlands Carillon Recital Series. 6-8 p.m. at Arlington Ridge Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway. Enjoy sweeping views of Washington, D.C., while guest artists play patriotic music, jazz, and pop on the carillon's 50 bells. Meet on the lawn at the foot of the carillon. Free and open to everyone. Visit www.nps.gov/articles/600288.htm for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 1-2

Rose and Photography Competition. Saturday, 1:30-6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Arlington Rose Foundation presents a friendly rose and photography competition, a celebration of roses in more than 50 categories. Ask advice of award-winning exhibitors, vote for best fragrance, bid in a silent auction and plan a rose garden. Free and open to public. Visit www.arlingtonrose.org/ for more.



Rose and Photography Competition

Arlington Rose Foundation presents a friendly rose and photography competition, a celebration of roses in more than 50 categories. Ask advice of award-winning exhibitors, vote for best fragrance, bid in a silent auction and plan a rose garden. Saturday, June 1, 1:30-6 p.m.; Sunday, June 2, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Free and open to public. Visit www.arlingtonrose.org/ for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 2

Bird Walk for Beginners. 8-9 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families ages 6 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Learn the basics of binoculars, field guides, bird identification and finding birds. Then get a little birding practice on a walk in the park. Loaner binoculars are available. For information: 703-228-6535. Free. Register at parks.arlingtonva.us, activity #642959-N.

Open House for Sunny and Shade Demonstration Gardens. 1-3 p.m. at Bon Air Park, 850 N. Lexington St. Both the Quarry Shade Garden and the Sunny Garden will be open. Find plant selections, combinations, and ideas for any yard conditions. Extension Master Gardeners will be on hand to provide growing tips. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

17th Annual Green Home and Garden Tour. 1-5 p.m. Various homes and gardens in Arlington. This tour offers participants new ideas to go green in their homes through energy-efficient technologies, solar power, and watershed-friendly gardens. \$5 registration fee. Register only at www.ecoactionarlington.org by noon on May 31. Day of tour registration at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., 12:30-3 p.m.

Author Event: Christina June. 2 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 North Westmoreland St. One More Page welcomes back local Young Adult author Christina June to celebrate the release of her third novel, "No Place Like Here." With a modern twist on the story of Hansel and Gretel, Ashlyn finds herself at a remote, rustic team-building retreat center as her family life crumbles and she faces a summer full of challenges. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com for more.

Washington Balalaika Society Anniversary. 3 p.m. at Wakefield High School, 1325 South Dinwiddie St. The Washington Balalaika Society will celebrate its 30th anniversary with Dowra virtuosi Alexander Tsygankov from Moscow; Tamara Volskaya and Peter Omelchenko will join WBS Balalaika Concertmaster Andrei Saveliy; in a concert program created by WBS Conductor and Artistic Director, Svetlana Nikonova with an orchestra of sixty musicians. \$15-\$25. Visit www.balalaika.org for tickets.

MONDAY/JUNE 3

New Play Readings. 7 p.m. at Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington at Ali's Bar in the Mead Lobby. Free. Reading of the play "Soldiers of the Cross," by Caleen Sennette Jennings. When black activist Asha Brown's brothers marry outside of their race, she experiences the pain, compromises and joys of a new kind of family in a serio-comedy about intermarriage in Trump's America. Visit www.sigtheatre.org.

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6/12/19.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts
6/12/19.....HomeLifeStyle
6/19/19.....A+ Graduations & Summer Education
6/26/19.....Senior Living:
Connection Families: Summer Life

July

7/3/19.....Wellbeing
7/10/19.....HomeLifeStyle
7/17/19.....A+ Camps & Schools

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ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY/JUNE 4

Fern Foray. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Scott's Run Nature Preserve, 7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Adults. Join naturalist Rachael Tolman for a walk and hands-on experience with ferns. Discuss the history of these ancient plants and how they have survived thus far. This program will include some hiking off trail. Teens ages 16 and up are welcome but must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information: 703-228-6535. \$10. Register at parks.arlingtonva.us, activity #642949-A

Lecture Series: Agents. 11 a.m.-noon at DEA Museum & Visitors Center, 700 Army Navy Drive. Drug Enforcement Administration lecture series "Who We Are and What We Do" with three DEA Special Agents. Special Agents are on the front line for drug law enforcement in America and around the world. Free. Call 202-307-3463 or visit deamuseum.org/lecture/2019/Agents-DEA for more.

An Evening with Ascend

Afghanistan. 5:45 and 7:45 p.m. at Trade Roots, 5852 Washington Blvd. Trade Roots is sponsoring, with Dunya Restaurant and Arlington Kebab, a benefit dinner for "Ascend," an Arlington-based nonprofit building leadership in Afghan women through mountaineering. \$35. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-ascend-afghanistan-tickets-60866378978 for tickets.

Launch Party: Anna Bright. 6:30 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 North Westmoreland St. Celebrate the launch of the debut, "The Beholder," by One More Page's very own Anna Bright. When Selah, daughter of the leader of Potomac,

faces a very public rejection, she's forced to set off across the Atlantic to get engaged and soon encounters unexpected adventures. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 5

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk. 8:30-11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for one or all of these informal walks through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Park in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcomed. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at the Long Branch Nature Center's parking lot. Free. Register at parks.arlingtonva.us, activity #642949-B.

THURSDAY/JUNE 6

Walk with a Ranger. 10 a.m. at Arlington Ridge Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway. Meet at the Marine Corps War Memorial and join a National Park Service Ranger for a 3-mile hike around the edge of the Arlington National Cemetery to Memorial Avenue, down to the Mount Vernon Trail, up to Theodore Roosevelt Island and around to Rosslyn and back to the starting point. The hike will take approximately 2.5 hours. Bring walking shoes, sunscreen and drinking water. Visit www.nps.gov/gwmp for more.

Rosslyn Rocks: Party Like It's. 6-8 p.m. at Central Place Plaza, 1800 N. Lynn St. Rosslyn Rocks! Concerts are back again this June. Check out



Live Comedy: Hari Kondabolu

Hari Kondabolu is a Brooklyn-based comedian and writer who has performed on Comedy Central, Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, and The Late Show with David Letterman. His Netflix stand-up special "Warn Your Relatives" made a number of Best Of lists. He is also a public radio favorite on shows including Wait Wait Don't Tell Me, Morning Edition, All Things Considered and more. Friday, June 14, 7:30 and 10 p.m.; Saturday, June 15, 7 and 9:30 p.m. at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. \$20. Visit arlingtondrafhthouse.com or call 703-486-2345.

favorite local acts for free on Central Place Plaza every Thursday. Enjoy the concerts while sipping on a glass of wine or having a beer in downtown Rosslyn's outdoor space. Visit www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-rocks-concert-series for more.

Walking Tour: Rosslyn Public Art.

6-7:30 p.m. meet at Central Place Plaza, 1800 N. Lynn St. Join artist-in-residence Graham Coreil-Allen to discover the history, design and purpose of Rosslyn's works of public art. Taking advantage of Rosslyn's pedestrian-friendly character, the tour will also explore a robust network of spectacular and hidden public spaces. Immediately following the tour, join a social at the Rosslyn Rocks! concert at Central Place Plaza. Enjoy live music and share thoughts about the walking tour. The tour is free and open to the public, however registration is encouraged at www.eventbrite.com/e/rosslyn-public-art-walking-tour-tickets-61991010782.

Silent Sentinel Awards. 6-9 p.m. at Army Navy Country Club (Arlington), 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington. Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association is bestowing the Silent Sentinel Award upon seven people who exemplify suffragist strength in pursuit of equal rights. The evening's festivities include a cocktail reception, dinner, and a live performance of Elizabeth Cady Stanton: "Cyrano of the Suffragists." \$200. Seating is limited, reserve space at www.eventbrite.com/e/countdown-to-suffrage-centennial-and-silent-sentinel-awards-gala-tickets-59388838615 or email pwirth@suffragistmemorial.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 7

Rosslyn Cinema: Spider Man: into the Spider-Verse. Pub in the Park opens at 5, movies start at dusk in Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Rosslyn Cinema outdoor movies in Gateway Park feature some classics and some surprises, including recent blockbuster. Bring blankets and folding chairs. Child and dog friendly. Free admission. Visit www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-cinema-outdoor-movie-festival.

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OBITUARY

Michael J. McMorrow

Michael J. McMorrow, of Arlington, died on May 18, 2019. He was born Nov. 20, 1937, to Michael J. and Alice (McBride) McMorrow in Buffalo, N.Y. and is survived by his wife nee Mary Louise Schenewerk of Rochester, Minn.; his four children — Mary Alice (Charles Ball), Walpole, Mass.; Margaret Ann “Megan” (Barry Reicherter), Arlington; Myles Patrick (Kate Gilchrist), McLean; and Maureen Ellen (John Bett), Arlington; and six grand-children Regan Ball; Brendan, Madeline and Mary Kate Reicherter; Aiden McMorrow; and Colleen Bett.



Michael graduated from Canisius College, Buffalo, N.Y. and St. John’s University School of Law before being admitted to the New York Bar.

He served in the General Counsel’s Office of the Maritime Administration for nearly 40 years, heading the Divisions of Administration and Litigation, with service to the Merchant Marine, before retiring in 2002 as Assistant General Counsel/Supervisory Trial Attorney.

Longtime resident of Arlington, his many retirement activities included court-room docent at the U. S. Supreme Court; journalist writing for Northern Virginia’s Connection Newspapers; many projects of Edward Douglass White Council, Knights of Columbus; and enjoying time with his grandchildren.

As a freelance writer and photographer for Connection Newspapers since December 2010, he contributed more than 155 stories and photographs primarily for the Arlington and Alexandria editions. In his introductory letter seeking the opportunity to write, he concluded his list of work experience and education with “father and grandfather.” He had attached more than 30 story ideas that appealed to his interests in history and government.

There will be a Memorial Mass at St. James Church, Falls Church, 1 p.m., Saturday, June 1, 2019.

Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to either Bishop Timon High School, 601 McKinley Pkwy., Buffalo, NY 14220, www.bishoptimon.com/Donate; or Honor Flight, Inc., Attn: Meredith Rosenbeck (kofcedw2473), 175 South Tuttle Road, Springfield, OH 45505, www.honorflight.org/donate-online.

Recalling Mike and His Story List

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Mike McMorrow used to come into the editorial meeting at the Connection News papers building, into a room that was always too hot in summer and too cold in winter, and sit right under where the ceiling leaked, and pull out his list. He always had a cup of black coffee in one hand, and said he came for the donuts. But he had a running list of stories he wanted someone to tell — whether about housing, or over development, a questionable allocation of finances, or a pick-up basketball league that he found particularly touching, because there were men in their 60s in it. He had his ear to the ground in Arlington, and the wisdom of a man who’d lived here most of his life.

He wouldn’t always write the stories himself: he’d pick who around the table should take the story on. He was looked up to by the new interns and staff, and many of them started writing for the paper because McMorrow was an inspiration to them and

would push them gently: “Follow the money,” he’d say. “Who’s profiting from that?” Or, “Did you write that story yet? What are you waiting for?” Or “Good story. Reminds me of Joseph Mitchell. What? You’ve never heard of Joseph Mitchell?! Go get a copy of “Up in the Old Hotel.” Read the story about McSorley’s Saloon in New York.” He had a soft spot for stories about Hall’s Hill in Arlington, about World War II veterans, and about the old Arlington buildings and their history.

Mike had an Irishman’s sense of humor, intensity, calm, intelligence, and sweetness that made him approachable, fun to spend a moment with, and nobody’s fool. No one knew how old he was, because he never seemed old. When he started fighting cancer, losing weight and energy, he still came to the weekly meeting, chemo strapped to his belt, his bright blue eyes dancing around the table to see who he could get to take on another story. We will miss you, Mike. May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.

Eden Brown, of Arlington, is a freelance writer and photographer.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

TUESDAY/JUNE 4

Volunteers Wanted. 7-9 p.m. at Drew Elementary School. The Arlington Democrats School Board Caucus identifies the School Board candidate endorsed by the Democratic Party for the general election on Nov. 5. Arlington Democrats are committed to providing a positive experience for voters, and must fill approximately 230 volunteer shifts to make that happen. Contact Carol at precinctoperations@arlingtondemocrats.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 5

Awards Ceremony and Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. This spring, the Arlington Community Foundation will be awarding up to 218 new and renewing college scholarships worth over \$500,000 to Arlington students. Join the

Arlington Community Foundation as they host a reception and awards ceremony in honor of the 2019 scholarship recipients, and thank the donors and volunteers who make this program possible. Call 703-243-4785 or visit www.arlcf.org. RSVP at www.jotform.com/arlingtoncf/2019-scholarship-reception-RSVP.

Tying Tax Prep to Voter

Registration. 7-9 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 900 S. Dinwiddie St., Room 525. Learn how linking voter registration to tax preparation can lead to an increase in voter registration from an expert researcher in tax policy and government and social policy. Free with online registration. Email arlLWVnews@gmail.com or visit lww-arlingtonva.org for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 6

Volunteers Wanted. 7-9 p.m. at Key Elementary School. The Arlington

Democrats School Board Caucus identifies the School Board candidate endorsed by the Democratic Party for the general election on Nov. 5. Arlington Democrats are committed to providing a positive experience for voters, and must fill approximately 230 volunteer shifts to make that happen. Contact Carol at precinctoperations@arlingtondemocrats.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 7

Monthly Memory Café. 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6 Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, will be held on the first Friday of every month. Registration is free. To reserve a spot, call 571-210-5551 or email bdesai@seniorhelpers.com. Visit www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe or www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va for more.

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I-395 Shirlington Interchange Improvements Study Arlington County City of Alexandria

Public Information Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 2019
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Presentation starts at 7:30 p.m.

Drew Model Elementary School
3500 23rd Street South
Arlington, VA 22206

Find out about a study to improve safety and operations at the I-395 Shirlington interchange, including the ramp from South Glebe Road to southbound I-395, the South Shirlington Road and South Arlington Mill Drive traffic signal, and the four-way stop controlled intersection of Gunston Road and Martha Custis Drive.

Stop by between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the study. VDOT will hold a presentation beginning at 7:30 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT’s Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2318 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **June 24, 2019** to Olivia Daniszewski, EIT, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference “I-395 Shirlington Interchange Improvements Study” in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Olivia Daniszewski at 703-259-2318.

State Project: 0395-100-842, P101
UPC: 107831
Federal: OC-395-4 (187)

AFAC Faces Competing Parking Priorities

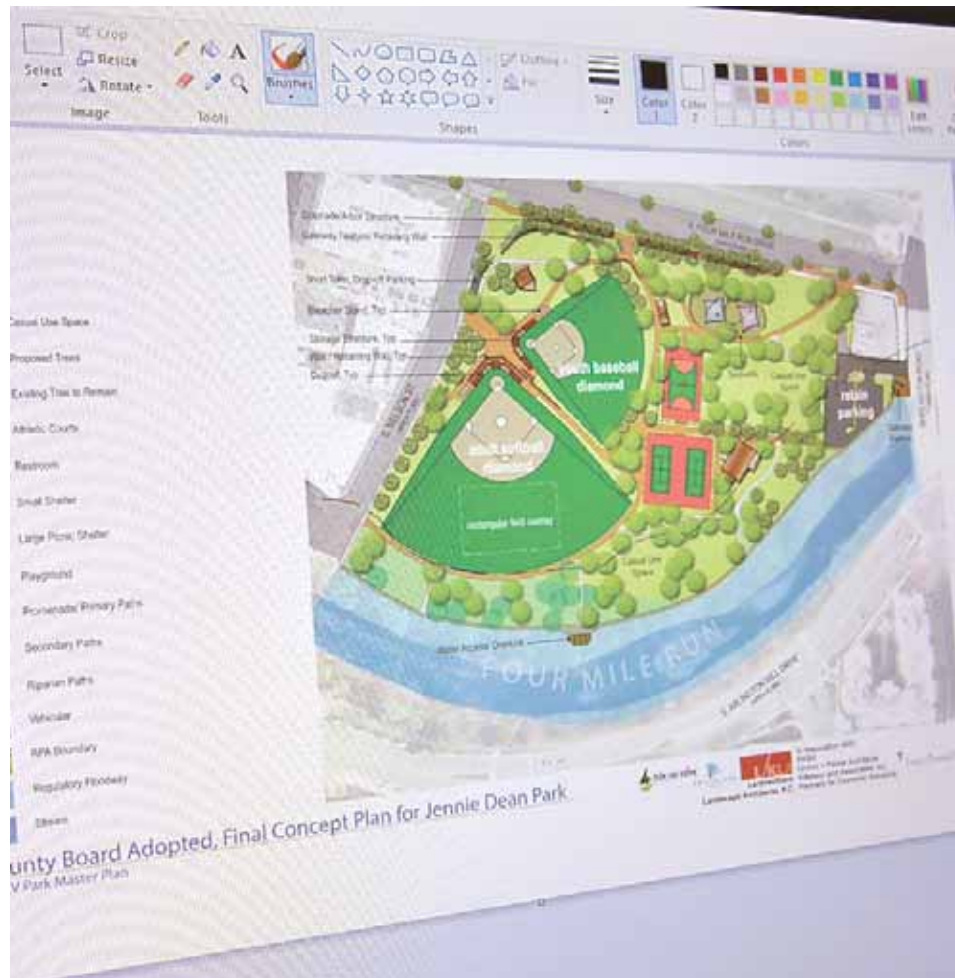
FROM PAGE 4

cerned. We kept talking to them and today we have parking that has been implemented and is working.”

She says, “Now there is a much better flow; it is working for the residents. I can tell you I’m looking out there now and with the new configuration and signage there are dozens of spots available right now on S. Four Mile Run.” She says the design phase for the park includes 4-5 back-in angle parking spaces just in front of the park that could be used for baseball drop-off and also for AFAC.

What next? Meng throws his hands in the air. Meng says he believes in taking things up the ladder and would prefer to see the county staff respond to this to see if it can be resolved without having to go to the County Board. He says the County Board has enough to do but so far he hasn’t heard from any of the County Board members or staff on the issues he has raised.

County adopted design plan for Jenny Dean Park adjacent to AFAC (located across S. Nelson Street).



“FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

“Flourishing After 55” from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for June 9-15.

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: HONFest, Baltimore, Md., Sunday, June 9, \$6; National Museum of African American History and Culture, Wednesday, June 12, \$5; National Portrait Gallery, D.C., Thursday, June 13, \$5; The Kennedy Center, NSO Coffee Concert, Mozart Forever, Friday, June 14, \$43; Wolf Trap, Vienna, “Johnny Mathis,” Saturday, June 15, \$98. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

NEW PROGRAMS

Mayo Clinic healthy aging experts, Monday, June 10, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills. Register, 703-228-5722.

Classical music appreciation, Monday, June 10, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

Pickleball for absolute beginners, Mondays, 9 a.m., Arlington Mill, 9⁴⁵ a.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-7369 (AM), 703-228-0955 (WR).

Summer scams, Tuesday, June 11, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown. Register, 703-228-6300.

Probate in Virginia, Tuesday, June 11, 10a.m., Walter Reed. Register, 703-228-0955.

Monthly writers group, Tuesday, June 11, 11 a.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Great books for summer reading, Tuesday, June 11, 11:30 a.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

Elsa Riveros sings popular Spanish hits, Tuesday, June 11, 11 a.m., Arlington Mills. Details, 703-228-7369.

Cornhole toss games, Tuesday, June 11, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill. Practice for senior Olympics. Details, 703-228-7369.

Bocce games, Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Walter Reed. Practice for senior Olympics. Details, 703-228-0955.

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Summer Fun
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The Weak That Was



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

All's well that ends well.

The fortnight or so from you-know-where has finally ended and I am here to write that my warranty has been extended for another two months. The CT scan showed no tumor growth or movement. The "promise" of immunotherapy so far is keeping its 'promise' – keeping the tumors stable.

Throughout my extremely fortunate cancer experience, I have felt reasonably well and manifested few symptoms/side effects; at least the kind of symptoms/side effects: shortness of breath, coughing, expectorating blood, mind-numbing neuropathy and headaches, among others, about which my oncologist regularly inquires.

Generally speaking then, my health status has always been about the tale of the tape – to invoke a boxing reference – meaning the diagnostic scans: brain MRI, CT scan of the neck/lower abdomen, PET scan and the initial X-Ray which started the whole adventure, to determine my fitness for duty, so to speak.

It is not until my oncologist shares/summarizes the radiologist's findings – and occasionally shows us the actual computer images themselves, that yours truly/Team Lourie knows where we stand.

And, where we stand typically is where we are sitting, in a cramped exam room, face to face with the man who holds my life in the palm of his hand – or more specifically, in the words that he chooses and the gesture/body language he exhibits. It's not exactly "Bath Fitter," but "the reveal" is imminent.

It never gets easy, but it does get easier to endure this kind of potentially life-altering/life-ending moment. Though the familiarity of it hasn't dulled the pain, it has enabled us to balance the pros and cons, up and downs and all-arounds, as we anticipate the words we are about to hear.

During most of these post-scan visits, we've exhaled in relief, but we have had our share of disappointment.

On one occasion, back in late July 2013, I was hospitalized for a week when my lungs accumulated 4.5 liters of fluid, among more significant internal problems (lung collapsing).

Externally, I was unable to speak more than a few words before needing to regroup. As a matter of humorous fact, when my long-time oncology nurse, Ron, saw me that infusion day, he thought I "was a goner," since my oxygen level was so low.

Within a few hours, I was a 'goner' in an ambulance to Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md. where I was eventually admitted. Two days later, a thoracic surgeon operated, and a day or two after that, my lung amazingly reinflated.

As a result, in my head and in my gut, (though I'm no Jethro Gibbs from NCIS), when I show up for my infusions and for my post-scan appointments, there's always a part of me that thinks I might not be spending that evening in my own bed.

When you're a cancer patient/survivor, and this kind of whisking off not to Buffalo but instead to the local hospital affiliated with your HMO has happened once, it's only a matter of time (it's impossible not to believe it's inevitable when you've been staged a IV) before it will happen again. I'm not being negative, I'm just saying.

As we sit and wait at home for my oncologist to email us the scan results, or whether we sit and wait in the on-site exam room, I wouldn't say our respective lives pass before us, but I will certainly admit to the total unpleasantness of it.

That being said, we're the lucky ones. There are nearly 160,000 lung cancer patients who succumb to this terrible disease every year who aren't nearly so lucky.

So when I hear the words "stable" from my oncologist, I am humbled as much as I am relieved, that I have lived to fight another eight weeks until my next scan is scheduled and my next fortnight is fought.

And that's how I live my life: in increments. Increments which I'm grateful to have. It may not be ideal, but it's a living, and it sure beats a dying.

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

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News

Foster Parents

FROM PAGE 5

Non-stop. They have contributed to the Arlington community by taking care of vulnerable children and their families, while raising three children and adopting a foster child. Over 35 years, the Braxtons have parented hundreds of children. They were still doing it as they received their award: waiting at home were two teenagers they are fostering, meeting a critical need in Arlington for fostering teenagers.

The Braxtons say the secret to their successful parenting is to let the children know what is expected of them and that there are consequences for not meeting those expectations, but they don't lay down too many rules or go in for draconian punishments. They are supportive, but firm. "Like the case of one of ours right now, he came down late and missed the bus to school. I told him the phone had to be plugged in downstairs from now on, that's it."

The Braxtons began being foster parents just as some of the first impactful child welfare laws were being put in place, like the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act. There have been numerous legal, welfare, and practice changes since 1984; the Braxtons stayed abreast of the changes. They rode along with the changing expectations of foster parents and learned to "bridge the gap," a "new practice" Sarah Braxton had been doing all along, just following her intuition.

The Braxtons parented toddlers, school-aged children, and teens. They helped manage loss and parented children through very challenging behaviors. Sarah Braxton has the admiration of the entire foster family program, who refer to her spirit, determination, and insight, and give her husband, James Braxton, plaudits as well. They refer to his unwavering guidance and support for the youth who come back to their home to visit. As the award was presented he was praised for being the extra set of eyes, the different view, the calming presence that makes the Braxton home and family work.

Arlington Foster Program is further honoring the couple by naming an Arlington County Child and Family Services foster parent award in their honor.

The "James and Sarah Braxton Excellence in Fostering Award" would be given annually to foster parents who exhibit the attributes demonstrated by the Braxtons. Fostering for 35 years straight is not one of the requirements, but it does demonstrate how, for the Braxtons, fostering is not a burden, but an added joy in their lives.

Foster parents, especially for teens, are always needed at DHS. Sixty percent of children in foster care in Arlington County are above the age of 12. Between the ages of 18 and 21 is when teens age out of foster care.

The average age that a young adult leaves home to live independently in most American homes is 26.

For more information, see: www.openheartsoopenhomes@arlingtonva.us or attend the next information session: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call: 703-228-1550.

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A Call For Peace

By Nick Soto



HWPL Volunteers outside of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. - Hundreds gathered at U.S. Capitol on Saturday, May 25 to mark the 6th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace. The anniversary was marked by a peace walk that began outside the U.S. Capitol, where participants urged heads of state from 193 countries, political leaders, and community leaders to support the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War, or, the DPCW.

A diverse group of over 500 citizens from the D.C. metropolitan area and representing 21 countries walked for peace in conjunction with 52 other major cities including Boston and Atlanta. Volunteers from the D.C. Heavenly Culture, World Peace and Restoration of Light (HWPL) have also been working in various countries within the Caribbean such as Haiti, Belize, Guyana and Grenada to help host local peace walks in each respective country.



Peace Walks were held in major cities like Busan, South Korea

Many participants wore traditional clothing to display their cultural differences and to convey that many countries, cultures, and ideologies are actively working together to achieve peace through the DPCW. Individuals from countries such as Madagascar, Guatemala, and India held large, colorful peace signs and props, and chanted, "The people, united, will never be divided!"

Sara Fawn, an HWPL volunteer, said she attended the event to ensure she could be part of a movement that is bigger than herself. "That's why we have all come together today to urge our elected officials — the public servants that have been put in position by the people and for the people — to support the DPCW. We all want the same thing."

The DPCW serves as the solution for worldwide peace and conflict resolution, and is a legal framework for spreading the culture of peace on a local, national and international level.



Citizens outside of the U.S. Supreme Court urging the enactment of the DPCW

"I think our differences are what unite us - it's our strength. There is no religion, no nation that doesn't want peace" says local Woodbridge native, Michael Sarpong.

The DPCW has already been enacted as a National Declaration in various countries around the world including Antigua, eSwatini, and Seychelles. It is currently being presented to pass as law through the United Nations, and citizens around the world are urging their legislators to support the DPCW on a local and national level.

The group sponsoring the event is the "Heavenly Culture, World Peace and Restoration of Light (HWPL)". The organization was founded in 2013 to build a worldwide network of people dedicated to achieving global peace in communities around the world.

HWPL is a peace NGO associated with the United Nation's Economic and Social Council (UNESCO), as well as the UN Department of Global Communications. Amidst rising global tensions, HWPL is engaging political and community leaders, journalists, and young people draw attention to its cause.