

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2019-2020

The
Arlington
Connection

Go Outside and Play

Arlington provides 148 county-owned parks with 127 playgrounds, four spray grounds, three nature centers and 16 reservable picnic shelters.

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION LLC

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Superintendent's Closing Message

Dear APS colleagues, students, families and community members: For the past decade, I have had the honor and privilege of being at the helm of one of the top school divisions in the country. As I reflect on our time together, I am immensely proud and grateful for all that I have learned from you, and for all that we have accomplished together.

The people of Arlington care deeply about public education and believe that a strong school system is the driving force in our community and nation. I thank you for supporting our schools throughout my tenure, and for being thoughtful, generous, engaged and, most of all, passionate about quality public education. We are all focused on the same destination for our students – we want them to dream big, believe in themselves and find their paths to success.

The most gratifying part of my time at APS has been the opportunity to watch as our students progress on their academic journeys from elementary school to middle and high school, up to graduation day as they walk the stage to accept their diplomas. As an educator, there is no greater joy than to see our students achieve their goals.

It is no secret why businesses, young professionals and families are flocking to Arlington. Our schools are the crown jewel of Arlington — consistently helping our kids achieve and delivering quality education and excellence reflected in every school. This success is because of our outstanding teachers, principals, administrators and staff. They are the best of the best.

These are the reasons why APS has been ranked the number one school division in the Commonwealth of Virginia by Niche for the past two years in a row, and why APS consistently tops numerous other challenge indexes and quality rankings.

WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED a great deal together since 2009. Our PreK-12 student enrollment has grown by nearly 8,000 stu-



Patrick K. Murphy

dents, and we have grown, evolved and strengthened our schools, services, options and instructional programs to advance student success and meet their needs every step of the way. Because of Arlington County's commitment and our residents' overwhelming support for bond initiatives, we have completed many renovation and construction projects and are ready to open five new schools and programs this school year, as we continue to expand our school division to serve generations to come.

As we have grown, we have maintained our focus on excellence and our commitment to providing a high-quality education and multiple pathways to success for every student.

Through hard work and teamwork, APS has earned the distinction of being the only school division in the Commonwealth to earn full accreditation for all our schools from the Virginia Department of Education for the past five consecutive years. Our most recent results demonstrate that APS students continue to meet or outpace their peers in Virginia and across the nation in SOL pass rates, average SAT and ACT scores, as well as IB pass rates.

In the past 10 years, the number of APS students enrolled in dual enrollment courses to earn college credits while in high school has risen by nearly 10 percent, and on-time high school graduation rates for

high school seniors in APS have increased by 10 percent. APS achieved a 95 percent graduation rate for the Class of 2018 at the comprehensive high schools.

IN THAT SAME TIME, on-time graduation rates for Hispanic students have risen by 12.6 percentage points, and for Black students by more than 13 percentage points to 93.6 percent in 2018. This is progress, and we continue to focus on strategies for addressing the opportunity gap among student groups.

Together, we deepened our community outreach and expanded our network of volunteers and community partners to offer our students valuable work-based learning experiences. We harnessed "lightning in a bottle" with the growth of Northern Virginia's technology sector to launch Arlington Tech and spurred the expansion of innovative career and technical education options for Arlington students.

Success starts with keeping kids in school, and we made this a priority by providing supportive services that give our students an extra helping hand when they need it. Through targeted interventions and the help of a highly-dedicated team, APS has kept 99 percent of students in school and maintained the lowest suspension rate in Northern Virginia.

One constant that I have seen over the last 10 years has been change. From new principals and administrators to boundaries, budget challenges, enrollment growth and new schools, APS has changed quite a bit. But through it all, there has been strength and stability in the classroom. APS is strong because we have the people, the instructional programs and the long-term plan to ensure our students succeed. I want to say thank you:

To our administrators, teachers and counselors. You are the best at what you do and you are making a difference in students' lives every day.

To our support staff, bus drivers, food

services workers, custodians, and maintenance and technology teams. Thank you for working hard behind the scenes and in our schools across the division to ensure students are healthy, safe and supported.

To our County partners, most notably, the Arlington County Board and County Manager Mark Schwartz, for your continued partnership in making sure we have the resources to help our students thrive and succeed. With their help and our Board's commitment, we overcame a \$43 million shortfall and fully fund our schools for the coming year. This was no small feat.

To the members of the APS Executive Leadership Team and school principals, who have been on the front lines of so many positive changes. Your knowledge, will, enthusiasm and caring nature have been the fuel to make good things happen for the students in all our schools.

To our dedicated School Board for their service and commitment. The 13 school board members and eight school board chairs I have worked with in Arlington have given their time and energy serving our community to ensure success for all students.

To our families, for staying engaged and supporting our schools, and to our students for allowing me to share in your academic journey.

There are many bright spots over the last decade, but the ones I will cherish the most involve the successes of our students. I leave the school division in excellent hands with Cintia Johnson as your interim superintendent.

I wish you continued success with the important work of the APS Strategic Plan and in supporting student growth. In the years ahead, I will continue to reflect fondly on my time in Arlington and will keep track of the division's continued progress which is certain to make me smile.

Continued success!

— PATRICK K. MURPHY, ED.D.

About the Connection

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Connection's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local and regional fairs and festivals, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email. We invite

you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a

photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

SEE ABOUT. PAGE 13

Keep in Touch

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- ❖ Events to list in the calendar, www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/
- ❖ Digital editions of papers are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs
- ❖ Past issues of the Connection back to 2008 are available at www.ConnectionArchives.com/PDF/
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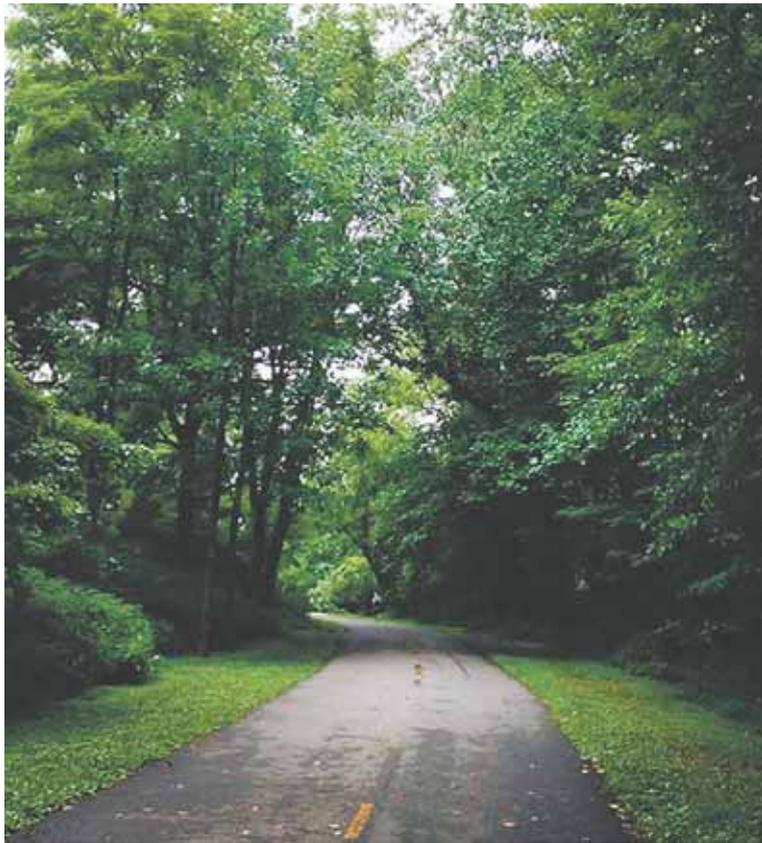


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Westminster at Lake Ridge is changing! Transformations are currently underway and will bring a renewal of amenities and décor to the community. Near the historic town of Occoquan, the serene location has all the small town charm and friendliness you desire, yet is just a few miles from the excitement of our nation's capital.

Westminster at Lake Ridge offers beautiful maintenance-free cottages and apartment homes, all with the security of onsite health care. Visit us today and see for yourself.

Experience life in balance, and call 703-291-0191 for a personal tour today!



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WESTMINSTER AT LAKE RIDGE IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT, CARF ACCREDITED, CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT



And The Winner Is ...

Congratulations to @smithakonduri's scenic pic of one of Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation's trails. Smitha Konduri's photo captured the most votes in the county's #ArlingtonParkMemories Instagram contest.

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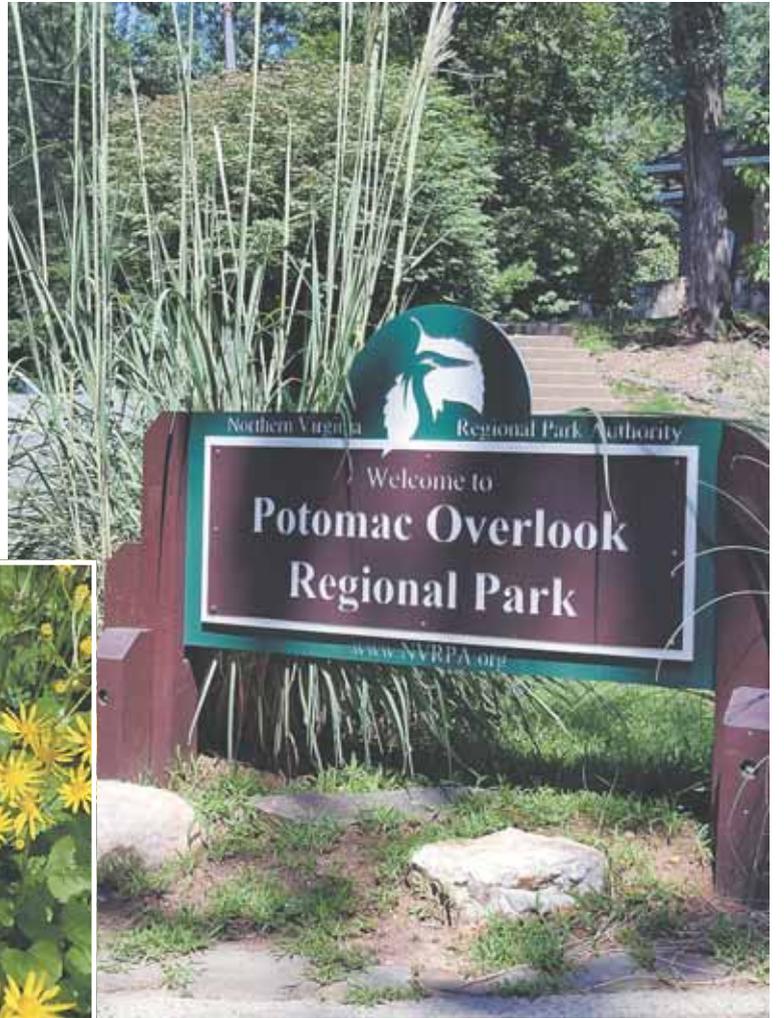
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Go Outside and Play

Ninety-eight percent of Arlington residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park. This includes 148 county-owned parks with 127 playgrounds, four spray grounds, three nature centers and 16 reservable picnic shelters. In addition there are four indoor or outdoor public pools. Other park amenities include seven community gardens, eight off-leash dog parks, three outdoor tracks and a new skateboard park.

— SHIRLEY RUHE



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE
/THE CONNECTION



FAIRS & FESTIVALS

September 2019

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

2019 Rosslyn Jazz Fest. 1-7 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. A variety of jazz bands, presented by the Rosslyn Business Improvement District (BID) and Arlington Arts. Free. Visit www.rosslynva.org/jazzfest for more.

October 2019

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Pumpkin Carving Party. 12-2 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 Marcey Road. Tickets are \$12. Ages 4 and up. Visit <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/potomac-overlook-regional-park/events/pumpkin-carving-0> for more

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 18-20

US FreedomWalk Festival. 12-6 p.m. on Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. at 1900 N. Fort Myer Drive. The FreedomWalk Festival is a three-day long social walking challenge meant to bring together people of different backgrounds. Different trails are offered each day at a variety of distances from 3-27 miles starting at the Holiday Inn. Costs vary. Visit www.usfreedomwalk.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Fall Heritage Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center & Park, 3608 N. Military Road. Step back into history and try a hand at some old-time games and crafts, make a corn husk doll, try on a coon-skin cap, or work the cider press. Write with a quill pen or churn butter and enjoy old-time music. Tickets are \$5. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/fall-heritage-festival/# for more.

THURSDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 24-28

Washington West Film Festival. Screening events in Reston, Arlington and other local areas. For tickets and schedule visit wwfilmfest.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 25-27

Marine Corps Marathon Weekend. Events like the Health & Fitness Expo, First Timers Pep Rally, Runners bRUNch, and more, lead up to the main event – The Annual Marine Corps Marathon – on Sunday at 7:55 a.m. and the MCM Finish Festival. Visit www.marinemarathon.com/events/marathon/mcm-info/mcm-schedule/ for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

VolunteerFest. A region-wide day of community service helps nonprofits accomplish tasks they would not have time or resources to do on their own. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

Annual Halloween Party. 6:30-9 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 Marcey Road. Snacks, games, arts and crafts, storytelling, guided hikes through the woods, and the Haunted Nature Center makes up the yearly party. Cost is \$15 per participant for the party, \$5 per participant includes the Haunted Nature Center experience. Children 3 and under are free. Visit www.novaparks.com/parks/potomac-overlook-regional-park/events/halloween-party-and-haunted-nature-center-1 for more.

November 2019

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

SCAN's Toast to Hope. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive. Toast to Hope is SCAN's signature fall giving event and offers wine and beer tastings, food samplings, plus a Silent/Live Auction. Tickets prices vary. Visit www.scanva.org/support-scan/news-events/toast/ for more.

December 2019

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



DC resident Jeffrey Stein, 32, celebrates after winning the 2018 Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 28 in Arlington. Stein finished the 26.2-mile course in 2:22:49.

Marine Corps Marathon 2019

Marine Corps Marathon Weekend, Friday-Sunday, Oct. 25-27, includes events like the Health & Fitness Expo, First Timers Pep Rally, Runners bRUNch, and more, lead up to the main event – The Annual Marine Corps Marathon – on Sunday at 7:55 a.m. and the MCM Finish Festival. Visit www.marinemarathon.com/events/marathon/mcm-info/mcm-schedule/ for more.



A monarch perches on a sponge soaked in sugar water on a stick at the this year's Arlington County Fair.

Jingle Bell Run/Walk. At Pentagon Row, 1101 S. Joyce St. This run/walk features a "Jingle in Your Jammies" and a "Children's Fun Run" as well as races for adults. Registration is \$15-\$40. Race begins at 9 a.m. Visit <https://events.arthritis.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=846> for More.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Last Chance Holiday Bazaar. At Lyon Village Community House, 1920 N Highland St. Shop for holiday gifts in a historic building. Visit www.evensi.us/chance-holiday-bazaar-lyon-village-community-house/325146525 for more info.

February 2020

SATURDAY/FEB. 29

Annual Move Me Festival. 2-5 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. Each year, Bowen McCauley Dance hosts a family-friendly celebration of arts and culture featuring live performances and interactive demonstrations. Activities in arts and crafts, theatre games, singing, storytelling, world dance, yoga, Pilates, and more are perfect for the whole family. Free. Visit www.bmdc.org/event/11th-annual-move-me-festival for more.

April 2020

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 25-26

Arlington Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 3003 Washington Blvd. Artists from all over the country will showcase paintings, jewelry, pottery, glass, and more. Free. Visit www.artfestival.com/festivals/arlington-festival-arts for more.

APRIL 18-25

Historic Garden Week. This eight-day statewide event provides visitors with a unique opportunity to see elaborate gardens with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by the Garden Club of Virginia Members. Visit www.va.gardenweek.org for more.

May 2020

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 18-19

Quarterfest 2020. In downtown Ballston. This annual event turns the Ballston area into a street festival featuring Arlington's restaurants and live music. Ticket prices vary. Visit www.quarterfestballston.org/ for more

June 2020

Pops for Pets. 6 p.m. at Lubber Run Amphitheatre, 200 N. Columbus St. The Arlington Philharmonic collaborates with the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) to present the annual Pops for Pets, an informal outdoor benefit concert. Free. Visit www.awla.org for more.

August 2020

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 12-16

Arlington County Fair. Times vary at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second St. South. Summer family event complete with carnival rides, musical entertainment, food and more. Admission is free. Visit www.arlingtoncountyfair.us for more.

Arlington County Fair 2020

A summer favorite, family-friendly event complete with carnival rides, musical entertainment, food and more. Times vary at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second St. South. Admission is free. Visit www.arlingtoncountyfair.us for more.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LANE

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Every Year Is Election Year in Arlington

Contact

Arlington Voter Registration & Elections
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 320
Arlington, VA 22201
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F
<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/>
Phone: 703-228-3456
TTY: 703-228-4611
FAX (main): 703-228-3659
Fax (absentee applications): 703-228-3705
Email: voters@arlingtonva.us

When you register to vote in Virginia, you do not register to vote by party. Virginia is an Open Primary state which means that any registered voter in Virginia can vote in either a Democratic or Republican primary. When both parties are holding a primary election, you will be asked which primary you want to vote in when you check in to vote with your photo ID. Note, you may only vote in one primary.

Voter ID Requirements:

Per Virginia law effective July 1, 2014, all residents must provide valid photo identification when they vote in-person. Please consult the VA Department of Elections for the most up to date information regarding acceptable forms of voter photo ID.

Many types of photo ID are acceptable for voting in Virginia. You only need to show ONE acceptable photo ID to vote. Photo IDs can be used to vote up to one year after the ID has expired. Acceptable forms of valid identification: Virginia driver's license, Virginia DMV-issued photo ID, United States passport, Employer-issued photo ID, Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia, Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID, Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID, Virginia Voter Photo ID card

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.



- ❖ Nov. 5: Deadline to return absentee ballot to the Office of Elections, 7 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 5: Election Day, Polling Places open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On the Ballot in Arlington

Virginia Senate

- ❖ District 30
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent, unopposed
- ❖ District 31
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent, unopposed
- ❖ District 32
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

Virginia House of Delegates

- ❖ District 45
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent, unopposed
- ❖ District 47
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent, unopposed
- ❖ District 48
Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan (D), incumbent, unopposed
- ❖ District 49
Alfonso H. Lopez (D), incumbent
Terry W. Modglin (I)

Commonwealth's Attorney

- Parisa Dehghani-Tafti (D), unopposed
- #### Sheriff
- Elizabeth F. "Beth" Arthur (D), incumbent, unopposed

Commissioner of Revenue

- Ingrid H. Morroy (D), incumbent, unopposed

Treasurer

- Carla F. de la Pava (D), incumbent, unopposed

County Board (two seats)

- Kate A. "Katie" Cristol (D), incumbent
- Christian E. Dorsey (D), incumbent
- Audrey R. Clement (I)
- Arron O'Dell (I)

School Board

- Reid S. Goldstein (I), incumbent, unopposed

2019 Elections

The next General Election is Nov. 5, 2019. On the ballot will be all Virginia General Assembly offices (Virginia Senate and House of Delegates), Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, Treasurer, County Board (two seats), and School Board.

Candidates are listed in the order they appear on the ballot. Please note that political party does not appear on the ballot for local offices but is included below. Incumbent status is also included for information.

Voting: Important Dates

- ❖ Oct. 15: Voter Registration Deadline. In-person: 5 p.m., online: 11:59 p.m.
- ❖ In-person absentee voting begins Friday, Sep. 20 and continues until 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2. Bozman Government Center (Courthouse Plaza), 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 320
- ❖ Oct. 29: Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, 5 p.m.
- ❖ Nov. 2 Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5 p.m.

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About the Connection

FROM PAGE 8

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Burke Connection: [@BurkeConnection](http://www.twitter.com/BurkeConnection)

Centre View: www.twitter.com/CentreView; @CentreView

Chantilly Connection:
www.twitter.com/ChantillyConne;
@ChantillyConne

Fairfax Connection www.twitter.com/FFXConnection @FFXConnection

Fairfax Station-Clifton-Lorton Connection:
www.twitter.com/LFSCConnection;
@LFSCConnection

Great Falls Connection:
www.twitter.com/GFConnection;
@GFConnection

McLean Connection: www.twitter.com/McLeanConnect;
@McLeanConnect

Oak Hill/Herndon: www.twitter.com/HerndonConnect;
@HerndonConnect

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Springfield Connection:
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— MARY KIMM

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

New Grab & Go at Libraries

Arlington Public Library has launched a new book collection, "Grab & Go," which grants library patrons quick access to the most popular books and eBooks without having to wait. The express collection contains both bestselling adult fiction and nonfiction titles such as:

- "The Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead
- "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens
- "Fleishman is in Trouble" by Taffy Brodesser-Akner
- "The Pioneers" by David McCullough

"We want our patrons to have access to the books they want, when they want them," said Library Director Diane Kresh. "Visit any branch and get them while they are hot."

Visitors to all library branches will discover popular Grab & Go titles, ready to be checked out immediately, and digital readers will receive instant access to favorite eAudiobooks and eBook titles from Overdrive.

The Grab & Go collection will not display in the library catalog, which makes this an exclusive treat to Arlington residents and library patrons. Titles can be checked out for two weeks and no holds can be placed.

This initiative was made possible through an increase in the FY2020 collections budget. Visit any branch or go online at library.arlingtonva.us/g&g and read.

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for Sept. 8-13.

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 travel: A Day at Rehoboth Beach, Del., Tuesday, Sept. 10, \$35; Dulles Day Festival and Plane Pull, Saturday, Sept. 14, \$6. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

NEW PROGRAMS

Classical music appreciation, Monday, Sept. 9, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

Consuming more calcium for stronger bones, Monday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m., Walter Reed. Register, 703-228-0955.

Morning tennis reserved for seniors, Bluemont Courts, 8 a.m. – noon, Monday-Friday. Details, 703-228-4771.

History roundtable to discuss "What If's." Tuesday, Sept. 10, 11:15 a.m., Lee. Details, 703-

228-0555.

Writers session, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Eating right on a budget, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m., Walter Reed. Register, 703-228-0955.

Warning signs of Alzheimer's, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown. Register, 703, 228-6300.

Peace making efforts in 50 countries, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill, Register, 703-228-7369.

Travel experiences in Ghana, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills. Details, 703-228-5722.

Arlington Walking Club for seniors will along the Mount Vernon Trail, Alexandria, Wednesday, Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m., \$4. Register, 703-228-4771.

Butterfly gardening, features Monarch butterfly, Thursday, Sept. 12, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

Arlington Mill Trekkers walk along the W&OD and Four Mile Run Trails, Thursdays, 9 a.m., Details, 703-228-7369.

California travels, Friday, Sept. 13, 1 p.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.

Artventures project, oil pastel ink transfers, Friday, Sept. 13, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills. Details, 703-228-5722.

Reading great plays, Friday, Sept. 13, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills. Details, 703-228-5722.

Contra dance, Friday, Sept. 13, 1 p.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Lee Walkers, will walk along Donaldson Run, Arl., Friday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m., \$4. Register, 703-228-0555.

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, opening ceremonies, Saturday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m., Thomas Jefferson Community Center. The public is invited. Track events to follow.

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