

The Arlington Connection



Jesus Collazos in his mail truck with his first granddaughter, Juliana Collazos.

Cleaning River Banks as They Go

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Coronavirus Claims Beloved Mailman

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Senior Living, Senior Activists

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PHOTO BY VANESSA COLLAZOS

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NEWS



COURTESY NATIONAL LANDING

Rendering of Long Bridge.

National Landing BID Unveils Unified District

The Crystal City Business Improvement District is officially renamed the National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) following an action by its voting membership at its annual meeting today.

The organization's adoption of the National Landing name is the culmination of a robust, years-long community engagement process in which the BID sought and received positive feedback from residents, civic associations and stakehold-

ers, and attained approval from the Arlington County Board.

The name and coinciding brand assets, which were unveiled for the first time at the meeting, aim to better reflect the BID's enlarged boundaries and to foster a more cohesive identity for National Landing, which is comprised of Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard-Arlington. The National Landing area encompasses nearly 12 million square feet of office space in a mixed-use, walkable urban center that includes more than 26,000 residents, nearly 5,900 hotel rooms and over 450 restaurants and shops.

The new visual identity for the organization and unified district includes a new logo and corresponding digital assets including a video, website (NationalLanding.org), and social handles (@NationalLanding on Twitter & Instagram, @NationalLandingBID on Facebook). The branding features an iconic "N" comprised of bright yellow, blue and green, which reference the Metrorail lines, the area's abundant natural green spaces and parks, and the water of the Potomac River.

To reinforce the unified spirit of the area, all three neighborhood names are included in the logo.

In her remarks, Ms. Gabriel reflected on the BID's accomplishments over the past year, which include achieving its longstanding goal of expansion. "At nearly one square mile or 60 blocks, an expanded BID geography enables us to promote the area's unified identity as a vibrant, nationally-recognized urban center and to shape and manage growth and investment in ways that enhance the quality of life for those who live, work and visit here," said Ms. Gabriel. The BID also worked with local organizations and businesses to produce its signature lineup of programs and events and introduced new art installations and beautification projects this year.

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Washington-Liberty Celebrates Graduation

After the virtual graduation ceremony held online at 10 a.m. June 18, Washington-Liberty High School 2020 graduates celebrated with a motorcade parade beginning on 15th Street and driving down Quincy Street and around the school. Cars were decorated with balloons, streamers and one sported an oversized teddy bear on the roof.

PHOTOS BY
SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION



Arlington Couple Cleans Up Nice

Two residents dedicate themselves to cleaning up the banks of the Potomac.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

You've seen the trash along the banks of the Potomac and you might even have picked up a plastic bottle or bag two to bring home for recycling. But two Arlington residents have taken plogging (jogging while picking up plastic) or in this case, pliking, to a new level.

Karen Hannigan and Joe Schwartz, of Bluemont and Lyon Park neighborhoods, were seen lugging Santa-Claus sized garbage bags down the street adjacent to Donaldson Run on Friday morning, June 19. As they staggered under the load of their sacks, they gave a cheerful thumbs up to local residents who thanked them for their work cleaning up the banks of the Potomac. One passer-by asked if they were "River Keepers" - a an organization that works to protect the public's right to clean water.

"Nope," they said cheerfully, "We are just two people that think cleaning up trash is a necessary thing."

The two Arlingtonians have a system: they collect some trash, leave it in a garbage bag near an intersection leading out of the park, with a sign on it. "Putting contractor bags at hotspots where

we see a lot of trash, then asking hikers to take the trash with them as they leave, and we find very often the hikers do just that." They've noticed that by putting the bags out, more of the fisherman and picnickers use the bags too, and often make an effort to show Hannigan and Schwartz that they are picking up after themselves.

Hannigan and Schwartz patrol the area in Arlington that runs from Potomac Overlook to Chain Bridge. They would love to see other residents adopt other trails, so the load can be shared. It took them three hours to collect two

huge trash bags of garbage ranging from recyclable bottles and cans to dirty diapers. Their most disliked item to find on the banks of the river? Broken glass. "But we never shake our finger at those who leave trash, and try to make them feel bad. We just show them what we are doing by doing it."

"Trash is getting worse along the Potomac," Hannigan said. But she doesn't resent cleaning up.

"I'm happy to do it. Of course, we prefer people take their trash away, but we think the more they see us doing this, the more likely it is that they will."



The poster Hannigan and Schwartz leave on the bags of trash they collect as they go along the river paths.

Karen Hannigan and Joe Schwartz, of Bluemont and Lyon Park neighborhoods, with their full garbage bags and their dog, Sadie, after a morning's work picking up trash.



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Jesus Collazos Was More Than Our Mailman

BY DIANE ALLARD
THE CONNECTION

Four years ago, we moved into a neighborhood that really felt like one. Houses are not too far apart, so neighbors know one another, and stop to check in. One person who stood out with the warmest welcome was our mailman. When he first introduced himself, he said his name — Jesus — in English, with a twinkle in his eye. We would soon learn of his Colombian heritage, so of course, his name was properly pronounced as Jesús. He loved to tell people “I am my own mailman!” which meant he was also a neighbor. Yes, he brought our mail, but he gave meaning to the word neighbor.

He loved to talk about family — his family, our family. He loved that our daughter could speak Spanish, and he encouraged my early pursuit of Spanish. He was connected to many skilled friends. When we needed something fixed, he knew a good handyman, electrician, and auto mechanic. When we were ready to install a side patio, his buddy, a skilled stone mason, became our stone mason.

What we didn’t expect was the bonus — Jesús Collazos also enjoyed home projects, and his friends spoke varying degrees of English, so he would stop in and clarify — for them and for us. Did we want the wall to be this high or that high? What about this edge



PHOTO BY VANESSA COLLAZOS

Jesus Collazos delivering the mail in a snowstorm.

or that element? He knew how details matter, so without asking for it, he translated for us, cared enough about getting it right. He told us he hoped to do home projects for people after his retirement. He was genuinely concerned about every neighbor he served.

His daughter, Vanessa, told us he grew up poor, having to put cardboard in shoes when holes appeared. He and his wife worked hard and bought a home in Arlington, the epitome of the American

dream. He and Luz were proud that both of their children got a great education, even Masters degrees.

In the ultimate “Arlington often feels like a small town” twist, after Jesús had knee surgery and subsequently retired, our daughters found themselves working at the same summer therapeutic recreation camp. How serendipitous it was for our daily contact to suddenly skip a generation.

In the past week since he died

of the COVID-19 virus, stories have emerged from other neighbors who remember his warm welcome to the neighborhood.

When I hear the sound of an older mail truck, I automatically look out front and expect to see Jesús. But after retiring and having some all too brief family time, COVID-19 came knocking at his door. He was such a connector, never afraid to get close to a new neighbor. Jesús spent a month in the hospital, ultimately succumbing to a stroke brought on by the virus. He is among the many whose American Dream has been snuffed out by the coronavirus. With the loss of Jesús, at age 67, the pandemic now feels more real than ever. It serves as a reminder that we are still not in the clear. Weary of taking precautions? We all are. But this virus is still very much with us and we still don’t know enough about it to treat it lightly.

Jesús was way more than our mailman.

This neighbor, and many others, will not soon forget his many acts of kindness. He was a servant — public, personal, and full of goodness that transcended his time on earth. Some people in the area are continuing acts of kindness to show our mail deliverers and sanitation workers that we appreciate them. Baking brownies, sending cards, offering gift cards. Just to say: we know you are out there serving us during difficult times. Jesus would like that.

Terminate Memoranda of Understanding with US Park Police

To: Fairfax County Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay, Supervisor Daniel T. Storck, Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk; Mayor Justin M. Wilson, City of Alexandria; Chairman Libby Garvey, Arlington

Dear Chairmen McKay and Garvey, Mayor Wilson, Supervisors Storck and Lusk:

As you know, on Monday, June 1, 2020, the United States Park Police (USPP) used tear gas on citizens at Lafayette Square who were peacefully exercising their constitutional rights prior to any curfew. While clearing the crowd, they also assaulted a journalist who was taking video of the event. The next day, they issued a public statement denying the use of teargas. This was later contradicted by WUSA 9 who found a teargas canister which caused USPP public relations officer, Sgt. Eduardo Delgado to acknowledge the use of teargas who was then contra-

dicted by Acting Chief Gregory T. Monahan.

The day before, on May 31, 2020 a recent West Potomac H.S. graduate and area resident, Michael Cunningham, was killed in a single car accident on the George Washington Memorial Parkway near the Mount Vernon Estate where two other individuals were injured. As of this writing, we do not believe a statement has ever been issued by the USPP about the fatal accident. One reporter we are aware of made an inquiry and received a two-sentence response which did not even identify the victim.

On Sept. 13, 2019, a different fatal accident occurred about half a mile further north near the Stratford Landing interchange on the Parkway. As of today, the USPP still has not released the name of the driver who was killed.

Finally, we are all aware of the situation involving Bijan Ghaisar who was shot 10 times including

4 times in the head about two blocks from my house on Nov. 17, 2017. Mr. Ghaisar was unarmed, a victim of a minor traffic accident, and it has been confirmed that his pursuit and the shooting violated numerous USPP policies. Very little explanation has been given about that incident.

The USPP public statements seem to be driven more by political considerations and self-interest rather than building public trust. The Department also appears to operate under a set of principles which are wholly inconsistent with the traditions, restrictions, oversight and transparency that the citizens of Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria expect of law enforcement. There seems to be very little training, oversight or control of its officers. The USPP transparency practices are non-existent. While the USPP operates under the oversight of federal authorities, they do have a memorandum of understanding

(MOU) with the Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County Police which also shares jurisdiction with the Parkway.

We are aware that Arlington County withdrew its officers after the Lafayette Square incident and are currently reviewing their MOU. However, we would ask that your jurisdictions terminate your memoranda of understanding with the USPP until your local police chief has certified the following:

- ❖ That all USPP officers have completed diversity training;
- ❖ That all USPP officers have completed de-escalation training;
- ❖ That the USPP has a functional disciplinary process that is substantially similar and either equal to or more rigorous than those in use in our local departments;
- ❖ That the USPP has adopted policies requiring transparency

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LETTER

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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

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SENIOR LIVING

Seniors Join Protests for Racial Injustice

Remembering the past to inform the future.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Long before there was a Black Lives Matter movement and smart phones that captured police brutality on video, and long before throngs of people filled streets around the world to protest racial injustice, there were smaller crowds of pioneers fighting to tear down barriers imposed by Jim Crow laws. Now in their 70s and 80s, the activists of the 1960s are proud that a new generation has picked up and is now carrying their torch. A few locals share their reaction to the current protests and their recollections of the past.

"These protests are necessary," said Annie Lou Copeland Johnson, 80, who now lives with her daughter in Arlington. "We've been fighting for freedom for 400 years and we still don't have it."

Johnson was inspired to get involved in the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s after an incident involving a city bus ride. "My family and I boarded the bus, but we were told to get to the back of the bus, that was everyone except my uncle who had light skin and green eyes," she said. "He was often mistaken for being white." When he told the driver that he was Black, the driver told them all to go to the back of the bus.

One of the most poignant memories of her activism, says, Johnson was attending The Great March on Washington in 1963. "It was hot, people fainted and we couldn't use the bathroom, but we stayed," she said. "We knew that we had to agitate and agitate until our voices were heard."

Audrey Nell Edwards Hamilton, now 74, was arrested in 1963 for sitting at a lunch counter and ordering a hamburger. Today she's awestruck by the worldwide protests she's seeing on television.

"I never thought that in my lifetime, I would see people of different shades and colors from all over the world saying, 'Enough is enough,'" said Hamilton, a civil rights leader who marched with Martin Luther King Jr. and who was part of the St. Augustine Four. "I'm proud of the young people who are marching today. It's wonderful and it's long overdue."

In 1963, Hamilton and three other teens sat at the lunch counter inside a Florida Woolworth's, a discount department store chain, and ordered hamburgers. At the time, laws that enforced racial segregation in the South, made it illegal for African Americans to do such a thing.

"My mother used to go to Woolworth's to buy my school supplies, but she couldn't go to the lunch counter and get a glass of water," said Hamilton. "We were tired of being treated that way. We were told to leave and stop protesting, but we didn't."

As a result, the four teens were sent to jail for six months. "It was mentally draining," said Hamilton. "They tried to break us down. We had to scrub floors on our knees until our knees were bloody."

The attempt to chip away at their resolve was in vain. "We were determined not to accept being treated like second-class citizens," said Hamilton. "We were attacked with dogs and fire hoses, but we were still in the streets picketing every day."

Hamilton, who shared her experience in a video interview that is now part of the collection at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, says that she was contacted by a woman



Known as the most arrested family in the country during the Civil Rights Movement, the Lee family fought to break down barriers imposed by Jim Crow laws and racism. Turner is pictured with five of her 13 siblings (l-r) Peggy J. Lee, Sandra Lee Swift, Elaine Lee Turner, Ernestine Lee Henning and Brenda Lee Turner.

in Black Lives Matter who was looking for advice.

"I believe that protesters have to be consistent and constant," she said. "You have to take to the streets and stay there until you get a change."

For Elaine Lee Turner, civil rights activism was a family affair. So important was the movement to the Lee family that they were also ready to go to jail for the cause. "My entire family was involved," said Turner. "There were 7 girls and 7 boys. We were arrested for protesting. In fact, we were called the most arrested family in the movement, but we did affect change by being consistent." The current protests, says Lee, are a continuation of the work from the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s. "The protests now are much needed," said Turner. "In the 60s we made changes, but we didn't correct all of the changes that were needed in this country. There's still so much systemic racism."

Turner says that she became involved in civil rights activism after being inspired by her older sister who was in college at the time. "There were sit-ins and marches throughout the 1960s until the laws began to change," said Lee. "When Dr. King called everyone to come from around the country to Montgomery, Alabama, to march, I came."

Lee has several nieces and nephews taking part in the current protest and her daughter, who's an attorney, is offering pro bono services to protesters who've been arrested. The size of the crowds demanding change today, says Lee, offers an opportunity for making monumental changes.

"We were smaller in number in the 1960s and we did make changes, but there are so many things that we could not change," she said. "This is another generation, we have more people involved who are diverse and who finally understand what we were fighting for which is justice for Black people." Modern technology is one of the major differences between the two movements. "There is still racism, but today people have a better understanding because of the camera phone video tapings of things like police brutality," she said. "We didn't have videos back then."

Those advancements have offered a view of the reality that Black Americans face, says Lee. "People all over the world are seeing what America is all about," she said. "America pretends to be the home of the free, but it's not the home of the free for Black people. Even when slaves were emancipated we weren't free. After the Civil Rights Movement we still weren't free, and as long as people are still being beaten and killed on the street by police and vigilantes, we won't be free."

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Legals

ABC LICENSE

Goody's LLC trading as Goody's Pizza Sub & More, 3125 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201-4419. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer on and off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Glenda Alvarez, Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to collocate antennas (tip heights 87') on the building at 4401 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA (20200984). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to collocate antennas (tip heights 74') on the building at 2807 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA (20200972). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 30' streetlight pole with a new 30.8' streetlight pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 38.7' near 1750 Crystal Dr, Arlington, VA (20201057). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.



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OPINION

Terminate Memoranda

FROM PAGE 4

practices public incidents that are as robust or more robust than currently utilized by your departments.

❖ Devise and implement team approaches to de-escalation and restraint situations that stress appropriate roles to insure that someone is focused on speaking up if policy and procedure are not being followed, to prevent over reaction and potential criminal conduct.

Your MOUs are the only leverage we have to effect change on these issues and the only measures that we can utilize to ensure that the rights and safety of our area residents is being maintained in a fair fashion.

Thank you for considering this request.

Senator Scott A. Surovell, 36th District

Delegate Paul E. Krizek, 44th District

Senator J. Chapman Petersen, 34th District

Senator David W. Marsden, 37th District

Senator Barbara A. Favola, 31st District

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Delegate Kaye Kory, 38th District

Delegate Vivian E. Watts, 39th District

Delegate Mark H. Levine, 45th District

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 26

What's Eating My [Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Eggplant, Beans, Squash]? 10-11:30 a.m. Online. Insect Pest Management for the Vegetable Garden and How to Succeed Without Losing It All. Join this class on recognizing common injurious insects in your vegetable garden. Learn how to attract and encourage beneficial insects to assist you in fighting off these pests. We'll cover tips and tricks for limiting and even preventing damage from insect pests on your vegetable crops. Online class offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. RSVP at <https://mgvnv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

BALLSTON FRESHFARM MARKET OPENS

The Ballston FreshFarm Market has now returned to Welburn Square, 901 N Taylor St, Arlington, VA 22203. The market runs every Thursday from now through November, from 3-7 p.m. This neighborhood staple brings back known favorites, and some exciting new vendors as well. Find fresh, local produce, fresh-pressed juices, delicious prepared meals and more. For the health and safety of customers, staff, and vendors, visitors should wear a face covering while shopping and practice social distancing.

CRYSTAL CITY FRESHFARM MARKET OPENS

The Crystal City FreshFarm Market has a new location at The Grounds, 1102 S. Eads Street, Arlington. The market runs every Tuesday from now through November, from 3-7 p.m. This neighborhood staple brings back known favorites, and some exciting new vendors as well. Find fresh, local produce, fresh-pressed juices, delicious prepared meals and more. For the health and safety of customers, staff, and vendors, visitors should wear a face covering while shopping and practice social distancing.

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Masking My True Feelings



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of us living in states where mask-wearing is mostly mandatory (indoors: yes, outdoors: not nearly as much), it is very easy to hide one's emotions. If your mouth is undercover, and being that it is located under your nose and above your chin, it most definitely is, communicating with the public has become strictly verbal. Body language as personified by the expression on one's face has become non grata. All that remains - above the mask, are your eyes and to a much lesser effect, your ears, your hair and your forehead. If words are not spoken when passing by, either within the six-foot cone of safety or not, no one knows whether they've been greeted with a smile or disparaged with a frown.

Still, I can't help doing either the former or the latter which invariably leads me to remind myself that what can't be seen must either be heard or not considered part of the new social-distancing equation. After a few months of donning the mask and viewing others donning the mask, I can't really see how I'm able to read the tea leaves, so to speak, that is, one's eyes. And how frustrating, because eyes have often been described as "windows to the soul." Unfortunately, without one's other facial features visible to the naked eye, interpreting one's eyes has become the only clue in conversation.

I refer you all back to the early game-show television, specifically to "Make a Face" which aired between 1961 and 1962. In the game, contestants attempted to name the famous celebrities after seeing only a portion of their faces. Of course there was a revolving wheel whose spin would provide clues to the celebrities being featured that day. I vaguely remember anything more, except I thought the host was Art James (who was actually the host of "Say When," another game show from the same era). The host was actually Robert Clayton for whom I have zero recollection. I can still see the wheel however, sort of, and I can recall seeing images of eyes, ears, noses, etc., and contestants trying to guess identities based on these facial fragments.

Life is sort of like that now. We're all receiving incomplete information. The masks are hiding all manner of interesting and identifiable characteristics which we've all spent years interpreting. Just the other day, I met a woman from the local tree-service company offering free quotes to me and my neighbors. As she walked around our property with us, mask on and clipboard in hand, she identified trees which needed to come down and limbs which needed to be trimmed back. And while she spoke, naturally there was eye contact, from which I developed an impression. A few days later, she was back in our neighborhood supervising her company's work cutting down some neighbor's trees. I inadvertently bumped into her while she was driving up the street just as I was at my on-street mailbox. She stopped her car and when she rolled down the passenger window to say "Hello", I could see she was not wearing a mask. I saw her entire face and I thought she was older than her eyes had led me to believe ("not that there's anything wrong with that"). It only confirmed my suspicions of just how poor my judgment had been after initially having only seen her wearing a mask. And then later I realized that just as I hadn't seen her face entirely, so too would other folks not be seeing mine. So regardless of any facial gesture I had made, it was only my words that mattered, not my deeds. But since I hadn't "deeded" anything, I realized that an entire level of communication and impression is now missing.

It feels like a combination of Halloween and Stanley Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut" where you're not sure who you are, but neither is anybody else. And in that anonymity breeds some contempt and lack of need for any familiarity. It's that lack of familiarity while quarantining at home which has led to the infrequent opportunity to interact socially - from distance or not. As a result, I believe I've lost some of my humanity, some of my dignity and perhaps even some of my friends.

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

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