

# The Arlington Connection

A woman reflects at the grave of Onyekachi "J.R." Erenghwa in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery May 31.

## On Hallowed Ground

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Democratic Primary Primer

NEWS, PAGE 6

## Arlington Parks Rank #4 in Nation

NEWS, PAGE 4

CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY MARK MOGLE/THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

# Arlington Partnership For Affordable Housing

## Welcome Baskets for Queens Court Residents.

249 families have started moving into APAH's newest community – Queens Court. Groups and individuals are asked to donate Welcome Baskets for these new neighbors.

The ask is for complete baskets with items to fit into a laundry basket. Please limit your donation to the items listed below as there is not space or capacity to accept other items.

For purposes of hygiene and dignity, all items must be new, unopened, and unused.

A complete basket includes:

- ❖ Laundry basket large enough to fit listed items
- ❖ Laundry Detergent (pods)
- ❖ Dishwasher detergent (pods)
- ❖ Kitchen Cleaning Sponges
- ❖ All-Purpose Cleaner
- ❖ Dish Soap
- ❖ Hand Soap
- ❖ Paper towels (6 pack)
- ❖ Toilet Paper (6 pack)



CEO-Elect Carmen Romero thanks the construction team at the Terwilliger Place's, "Topping Out," ceremony, May 2021.

- ❖ Tissue Paper (6 pack)
  - ❖ Oven mitts
  - ❖ Optional: Welcome to the
- SEE ARLINGTON, PAGE 9



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# NEWS

## Remembering Travis Staats in Arlington National Cemetery

Since 2006, there has been an 86 percent increase in suicide rates among 18-34 year old male veterans.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

Deanna Muir sat with her husband, Daniel, her arm draped around the headstone of her brother, Travis Staats, the way a sister does, casually affectionate. Staats was a casualty of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. It was Memorial Day 2021 in Arlington National Cemetery, and the poignancy of this grave of a man born in 1987 and dead before age 30 was not lost on other visitors, who looked over and saw the family's grief, still fresh, of Staats' death in 2015.

He started out as a sniper in the U.S. Marines, serving in both theaters, and then joined the U.S. Army hoping to make it to the Green Berets. "He was always looking for the next challenge,"

said his sister. "He wanted to go as high as he could."

SPC Staats was a combat engineer on a bomb squad, clearing a road of IEDs in Nangarhar Province in Afghanistan on November 26, 2011. The intelligence they had was sometimes right and sometimes wrong, and as Staats himself said, "sometimes the IED would be just an inch off of where

of his Hummer. After feeling the full impact of his tours in the war zone, struggling with depression and PTSD, he was unable to ask for help, either because he was afraid to ruin his military record, or because as a man, he thought he should be able to handle this himself.

He left behind a wife, two toddlers, his sister, his family. None of them suspected he was suicidal. All of them had talked to him a day or two before he died, even the night he died, and he was upbeat and as always, the one in the family everyone turned

**"Travis didn't want to lose his job and his means to support his family. He loved his job and wanted to continue in the service. So he didn't get the help he needed. We should make sure you don't get penalized for seeking help."**

— Deanna Muir, sister

it was supposed to be." That was the day Staats' luck ran out.

But Staats didn't die in Afghanistan. He took his own life, four years later, after returning to the U.S. to recover from the bombing

to for strength and a positive attitude. "He was the least likely person to do this," said Deanna. "We had no idea."

Staats tells about the day he  
SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

Deanna and Daniel Muir spent Memorial Day at her brother's grave in Arlington Cemetery. Travis Alan Staats, who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq, died in 2015. He tells about the day he was blown up in a video called "Eyewitness War, Bomb Squad Boom."

## On Hallowed Ground Biden, Harris mark Memorial Day in Arlington.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

President Joe Biden honored the nation's fallen military during a visit to Arlington National Cemetery May 31, marking Memorial Day by placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The president was joined by first lady Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and second gentleman Doug Emhoff in the dedication to deceased service members whose remains have not been identified. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were also in attendance.

Following the wreath laying, Biden gave his first Memorial Day address as Commander-in-Chief.

"This nation was built on an idea, the idea of liberty and opportunity for all," Biden said. "We've never fully realized that aspiration of our founders, but every generation has opened the door a little

**"We owe the honored dead ... our full best efforts to perfect the Union for which they died."**

— President Joe Biden  
at Arlington National Cemetery May 31

wider. We owe the honored dead ... our full best efforts to perfect the Union for which they died."

Due to ongoing COVID-19 precautions, the assembled crowd was sparse and restricted to invited guests.

"Generation after generation of American heroes are signed up to be part of the fight because they understand the truth that lives in

SEE BIDEN, HARRIS, PAGE 8



MARK MOGLE/THE CONNECTION

Rory Mogle, 9, with sisters Norah, 7, and Sarah, 10, mark Memorial Day with a visit to Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery where their great grandfather, Captain Silas Johnson, is buried. Johnson served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.



# Arlington Parks Ranked Fourth in Nation

**New measure assesses equity in park access.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**S**ome of the nation's best parks are right down the block in Arlington. Arlington County parks were recently ranked fourth in the nation by the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore Index.

Whether you like to picnic, take the kids to cool off in a sprayground on hot summer days, grab a pick up game of basketball, make your retriever happy with a trip to the local dog park, walk the trails or explore the nature exhibits, you can find it in Arlington.

ParkScore rankings are based equally on five factors including Park Access, Park Acreage, Park Investment, Park Amenities and Accessibility, and Park Equity, a new criteria this year to measure how equitable park land was for people of color and those with lower incomes.

This year's criteria were expanded to measure accessibility beyond the general population and to focus on equitable access for all.

In Arlington, neighborhoods of color have 34 percent less park space than white neighborhoods and low-income neighborhoods have 34 percent less than high-income neighborhoods.

Arlington rated highly in park investment with \$347.72 spent per resident on parks and also on park amenities where they received perfect scores for dog parks, basketball hoops and per capita spending. In addition, 11 percent of Arlington is reserved for parks, and 99 percent of Arlington residents can walk to a park in 10 minutes or less, exceeding the national average of 75 percent.

County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti in-



**Hayes Park.** Family bouncing on playground equipment at Hayes Park on Memorial Day. Park also has basketball and tennis courts, covered picnic shelter and spray park.



**Lyon Village spray park**

dicated that Arlington is committed to advancing equity and "glad that we have new information as to where we can improve so that all Arlingtonians have equitable access to great public spaces."

The Board is focused on developing several initiatives to address the current situation in Arlington where neighborhoods of color have 34 percent less park space than white neighborhoods and low-income neighborhoods have 34 percent less than high-income neighborhoods. In order to work toward the goal of advancing equity with a vision of an Arlington where all are valued, the county staff will ask who benefits, who is burdened, who is missing, how do we know and what do/did we do.



**Shirlington Dog Park**

PHOTOS BY  
SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION



**Ft. Ethan Allen Dog Park**



**Louis (Louie) Fedever** cautiously tries out the spurting water at the Hayes Park sprayground on Memorial Day. The five spraygrounds in Arlington opened May 28 after closure last year during the pandemic. Louie decided it was a little too cold and played ball with his big brother Enkule instead.



**James Hunter Dog Park**



**Gulf Branch Nature Center** native plant garden and Fall Heritage Festival



# Remembering Travis Staats in Arlington National Cemetery

FROM PAGE 3

was injured in a National Geographic Eyewitness War episode called “Bomb Squad Boom.” His Go-Pro follows the bomb squad as he tells his story — a young, confident, even humorous realist. “The route we were clearing led from our base, and had a lot of traffic from the base that was headed out to other areas; our job was route clearance so everyone else using the road stayed safe.” But it was dangerous work, and Staats notes in the video that every time he went out “I knew in my head I might not come back.”

His sensitivity about his role comes through when he also explains the Taliban in that area were there to kill U.S. personnel. As he narrates the story, his squad watched a Predator kill two Taliban insurgents who had been placing an IED on the road.

“People say we are sick-minded, some people say we are crazy. But if the Predator hadn’t taken out the enemy, they would have gone on to put down another IED and kill us. You gotta tune your mind into things like this to help you cope.” The videos in the National Geographic series show how young these soldiers are, and how they carry on with the mission even when one of the hummers blows up and their squad members are medevaced by helicopter.

That day, Staats thought he had a few minutes before they got to the IED the intelligence had indicated and they would defuse, so he grabbed a meatloaf MRE (meals ready to eat) thinking, “Boy, this would be a terrible last meal!” That’s when his hummer went over an IED they didn’t know about. Staats sustained traumatic brain injuries and was hospitalized in Germany until he returned to the U.S.

“He was never the same after the war service,” said Deanna. But it was so subtle, no one noticed just how different he was. He recovered physically but mentally he was struggling. No one knew he was haunted by what he had seen and done in the war, by living every day on the edge. Staats was like many other war vets; he just didn’t talk about it.

**WHAT WOULD** his sister want done differently for those returning with PTSD and mental health issues from Afghanistan and Iraq?

“I’d definitely want to reduce the stigma of mental health issues,” she said. “People think if you have

mental health problems you are weak, or unfit. No one wants to talk about it. And the second thing is, I would make sure the returning military get the counseling they need. Travis was scared of losing his security clearance if he sought help for his emotional issues. He didn’t want to lose his job and his means to support his family. He loved his job and wanted to continue in the service. So he didn’t get the help he knew he needed. So we need to make sure you don’t get penalized for seeking help.”

An organization called Stop Soldiers Suicide reports over 114,000 deaths by suicide of veterans since 2001, and since 2006, there has been an 86 percent increase in suicide rates among 18-34 year old male veterans.

Deanna and Daniel had another reason to visit the cemetery on Memorial Day. They are both in the Air Force. She is an Airman First Class who just finished basic training and has started her training as a photojournalist at Fort Meade; her husband has been in the Air Force about 8 years, and is a staff sergeant with a radio engineering and SATCOM background. They were separated for the pandemic, and now that they are both vaccinated, they were able to meet up in Washington for a long-awaited reunion. He coached her long distance through Basic, took care of the dogs and her car, and she got through training and went to a graduation full of empty seats. He drove up from their home state of Georgia to visit on this long weekend.

The grief of an untimely death aside, they are looking forward to their careers in military service as they also cherish the memory of Travis Staats. Serving their country, and honoring others who have served, is just part of who they are.

To hear and see Travis Staats talk about his time in Afghanistan, see “Eyewitness War,” streaming on Amazon. [https://www.amazon.com/Caught-Outside-the-Wire/dp/B00ESB2M76/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crd=XPQ78XECPCY7&dchild=1&keywords=eyewitness+war+full+episodes&qid=1622477734&s=instant-video&sprefix=eyewitness+war+%2Cinstant-video%2C156&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Caught-Outside-the-Wire/dp/B00ESB2M76/ref=sr_1_1?crd=XPQ78XECPCY7&dchild=1&keywords=eyewitness+war+full+episodes&qid=1622477734&s=instant-video&sprefix=eyewitness+war+%2Cinstant-video%2C156&sr=1-1)

To learn more about suicide among returning soldiers, see: <https://stopsoldiersuicide.org/vet-stats>

## "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

### Office of 55+ Programs

Department of Parks and Recreation  
3829 N. Stafford St.,  
Arlington, VA 22207  
703-228-4747

Date: 5-26-21  
Contact: Judy Massabny,  
jmassa@arlingtonva.us  
55+ Programs are virtual. A 55+ Membership is required to attend (\$20 annual fee). Learn more at [parks.arlingtonva.us](https://parks.arlingtonva.us), search 55+ member. To join or register, go to [registration.arlingtonva.us](https://registration.arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747.

### Virtual & Outdoor Programs

Virtual Fitness Challenge begins Tuesday, June 1 and ends Saturday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. Run, walk, hike, bike. For more information and to register, call 703-228-4747. Registration # 914899-01.

Drumming Circle, Tuesday, June 1, 10 a.m., Langston-Brown Community Center basketball court, 2121 N. Culpeper Street. Registration # 914300-07.

55+ Live! Talk Show, up-to-date preview of programs and activities, Tuesday, June 1, noon. Registration # 914801-13.

Yarn creations group meets for informal sharing of ideas and fellowship, Tuesday, June 1, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 914703-01.

Book club to meet at Langston-Brown 55+ Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St., to discuss “The Dutch House” by Ann Patchett, Wednesday, June 2, 11 a.m. Registration # 914402-01.

Local history discussion group to focus on Ye Olde Arlington Antique Shoppes, Wednesday, June 2, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 914402-10.

Open Mic talent slots, sign up for a three to five minute slot by emailing [lpaig@arlingtonva.us](mailto:lpaig@arlingtonva.us).  
Travel Trivia, stimulating challenge,

Thursday, June 3, 11 a.m. Registration # 914601-01.

Arlington’s Magnolia Bog, wetlands near the Four Mile Run watershed, hear from Natural Resources Manager Alonso Abugattas, Thursday, June 3, 10 a.m. Registration # 914400-22.

Afternoon hangout with fellow 55+ members, casual conversation, Thursday, June 3, 3 p.m. Registration # 914801-19.

Basic drawing class, hone skills through keeping a sketchbook, Friday, June 4, 1:30 p.m. Presented by art instructor Ruth King. Registration # 914301-02.

Armchair travel group to view video of sheer cliffs and rock formations in Bryce Canyon National Park, Southern Utah, Friday, June 4, 3 p.m. Registration # 914402-18.

Virtual tour of artworks and artifacts in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, led by a museum guide, Friday, June 4, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 902106-02.

## Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Feasibility Study Arlington County

### Virtual Public Information Meeting

**Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**  
**[www.virginiadot.org/route1multimodalstudy](https://www.virginiadot.org/route1multimodalstudy)**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) invites you to join a public information meeting for the Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Study. This virtual meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to:

- Learn about updated concepts and analysis of the future build conditions on Route 1
- Provide input on proposed design elements along the corridor
- Ask questions and address concerns with the study team

The purpose of this feasibility study is to identify enhanced multimodal connectivity and accommodations along Route 1 (between 12th Street to 23rd Streets South) to meet the changing transportation needs of the Crystal City and Pentagon City communities.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for participating in the virtual meeting is available at **[www.virginiadot.org/route1multimodalstudy](https://www.virginiadot.org/route1multimodalstudy)**. The study team will make a short presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer period.

**Review** study information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT’s Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2599 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

**Give your comments** during the meeting, or online by **July 2, 2021** via the comment form on the study website, by mail to Mr. Dan Reinhard, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to [route1multimodalstudy@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:route1multimodalstudy@VDOT.virginia.gov).

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Voters will be selecting Democratic nominees for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general in the June 8 primary.

# Democrats Decide

Voters to determine direction of party in June 8 primary.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

## More Election Coverage

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/may/20/convention-done-primary-ahead/>  
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/apr/15/running-second-command/>

The June 8 primary will determine the direction of the Democratic Party in Virginia at a critical time, when the commonwealth is emerging from the pandemic and trying to recast itself as something other than a party in opposition to former President Donald Trump. Opposition to the former president helped Democrats claim the trifecta — all three statewide offices, the House of Delegates and the state Senate. Now they'll be facing a Republican ticket that has racial diversity, gender diversity and geographic diversity.

"We have the momentum, energy, and grassroots organization to send good, solid Republicans to Richmond," said Rich Anderson, chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. "And we're going to fight harder than ever to ensure we do just that."

Democrats head into Election Day likely to nominate white males from Northern Virginia as governor and attorney general, while the election for lieutenant governor remains wide open. Voters could end up selecting a Democratic ticket that is three white males from Northern Virginia. That's one of the reasons why Gov. Ralph Northam attempted to tip the scales by endorsing Del. Hala Ayala

(D-51) for Lieutenant Governor, a Democrat from Prince William County who identifies as an Afro-Latina-Lebanese-Irish woman. Campaign finance records show she's struggled to raise as much money as Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11) or Del. Mark Levine (D-45).

"Establishment Democrats clearly think that Hala Ayala is going to be the better candidate in the general election," said Quentin Kidd, a political science professor at Christopher Newport University. "But that doesn't mean that she would be, and that doesn't mean that she'll win the Democratic primary."

**AT THE TOP** of the ticket is the race for governor. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe has an outsized lead in the polls and the fundraising, although it's extremely rare for a former governor to decide to seek a non-consecutive term. It hasn't been done since 1973, when former Gov. Mills Godwin was elected to a second non-consecutive term after a four-year absence from the Executive Mansion. In his first term, Godwin was a Democrat. But eight years later, he switched parties and became a Republican during a time when both parties

were experiencing an identity crisis.

"I was moved to run [again] because I love this state," Godwin said in 1973 during a campaign speech in Southwest Virginia. "And I don't want the liberal left to take over the state and lead us down the path of ruin, and I don't think you do either."

Now, almost half a century later, the Virginia Democrats are facing a different kind of identity crisis. Do they want to return McAuliffe to power at a time when Democrats control the General Assembly, or give the nomination to a new generation? Supporters of Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-9) point to her long record of service in the House and Senate, noting that she's been in Virginia politics much longer than any other candidate including McAuliffe. Her campaign issued a fact-check after Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2), who served one full term in the House before resigning to run for governor, repeatedly called herself "one of the most effective legislators in Virginia history."

"Jenn McClellan is the most experienced and effective candidate

SEE DEMOCRATS, PAGE 9

## Democrats On the Ballot June 8

In order as they appear on the ballot  
Some voters will also have a delegate race on their ballots.

### Governor



Terry McAuliffe



Jennifer McClellan



Jennifer Carroll Foy



Lee Carter



Justin Fairfax

### Lieutenant Governor



Hala Ayala



Sam Rasoul



Andria McClellan



Sean Perryman



Mark Levine



Xavier Warren

### Attorney General



Jay Jones



Mark Herring



## OPINION

### Ebbin: Bennett-Parker Is Best Choice For Delegate

**D**emocratic primary voters in the 45th House of Delegates District (parts of Alexandria, south Arlington and Mount Vernon) will choose their nominee for Delegate on Tuesday, June 8. I am endorsing Elizabeth Bennett-Parker because I need a partner in Richmond who will be an effective and collaborative Delegate.

Elizabeth has done the hard, often thankless work that makes government work for the people. Whether it's working with women re-entering society, delivering transportation solutions as chair of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Board, or on the City Council where she helped formulate the city's thoughtful pandemic response, particularly regarding food insecurity, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker has already delivered real results in the 45th district and earned the respect of those who work with her.

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker's personal, impactful record of results is the product of her attentive, forward thinking approach to leadership. You will rarely hear her take credit for these accomplishments because she is already on to the next pressing issue, listening to those she represents and doggedly fighting for their interests. This is reflected throughout her campaign, which has charted out a path to more affordable health-care, resilient local infrastructure, and stronger educational opportunities for every student.

The elected officials who know the candidates best are joining me in supporting Elizabeth Bennett-Parker. She is endorsed by an array of local officials including former 45th District Delegates Rob Krupicka and Marian Van Landingham; Alexandria City Council Members John Taylor Chapman, Del Pepper and former Council Member Tim Lovain; former Mayor Bill Euille; Arlington County Board members Katie Cristol, Libby Garvey, and Matt de Ferranti; Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and other community leaders like former Alexandria NAACP president Christopher Harris, former Fairfax Democratic Chair Dan Lagana and Former Virginia Deputy Education Secretary David Temple. These leaders know what it takes to be effective in Richmond and believe Elizabeth to be an outstanding choice.

SEE EBBIN, PAGE 9

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# Biden, Harris Mark Memorial Day in Arlington



President Joe Biden leaves Arlington National Cemetery May 31 following his Memorial Day address and wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Crowds acknowledge President Joe Biden as his limousine passes through Arlington National Cemetery May 31.



President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden visit Section 12 of Arlington National Cemetery following Biden's Memorial Day remarks and wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier May 31. Section 12 is one of the primary burial locations of service members killed overseas and repatriated to the United States after World War II and the Korean War.



Men sit among the graves of fallen comrades May 31 in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery.

FROM PAGE 3

every American heart: that liberation, opportunity, justice are far more likely to come to pass in a democracy than in an autocracy," Biden said. "These Americans weren't fighting for dictators, they were fighting for democracy. They weren't fighting to exclude or to enslave, they were fighting to build and broaden and liberate."

Following the ceremony, the Bidens made a visit to Section 12, one of the primary burial locations of service members killed overseas and repatriated to the United States after World War II and the Korean War. More than 400,000 service members are enshrined at Arlington National Cemetery. [Arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://Arlingtoncemetery.mil)



A Navy Captain and SEAL salutes the grave of a fallen comrade May 31 in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery.



A visitor places flowers at a grave in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery to mark Memorial Day May 31.



A member of the TAPS Good Grief Camp places sunflowers at graves in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery May 31.



A woman reflects at the grave of Onyekachi "J.R." Erengwa in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery May 31.

PHOTOS BY MARK MOGGE/THE CONNECTION



# Democrats Decide

FROM PAGE 6

for governor. Full stop,” said Del. Kathy Tran (D-42). “As a delegate, I’ve seen the difference between legislators who lead when the going gets tough and those who don’t. Jenn McClellan is a leader who lifts up all Virginians.”

**THE RACE FOR** lieutenant governor is the race that will determine the missing third of the statewide Democratic ticket. Sam Rasoul has raised and spent more money than any other candidate, a notable achievement considering he refuses to take money from special interest PACs or lobbyists. During a televised debate on WJLA last week, anchor Dave Lucas asked if Rasoul believed he could represent Virginians of all faiths. The televised question caused a firestorm because Rasoul is Muslim, and the question employed anti-Muslim tropes.

“Sadly, this isn’t what Virginians are wanting to hear about,” said Rasoul. “They’re wanting to hear about how we’re going to improve access to their health care, about broadband issues, how we are going to safely get kids back in school.”

WJLA eventually apologized, calling the question “inappropriate and disrespectful.” Meanwhile, Rasoul picked up new endorsements and gained a ton of free publicity. But he wasn’t the only candidate to seize on a moment from the WJLA debate. When the candidates were asked if critical race theory should be taught in Virginia classrooms, former Fairfax NAACP president Sean Perryman seized the moment to explain that the law-school concept wasn’t being taught in K-12 classrooms.

“Critical race theory is not even being taught in our schools,” said Perryman. “It’s a Republican dog whistle where anything they disagree with is critical race theory.”

**ATTORNEY GENERAL** Mark Herring is the only statewide incumbent seeking reelection. He’s being challenged by Del. Jay Jones

(D-89). Herring was the town attorney in Lovettsville and served on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors before being elected to the state Senate in a 2006 special election after Attorney General Bob McDonnell appointed Sen. Bill Mims (R-33) chief deputy attorney general.

Herring was elected attorney general in 2013, and he’s now seeking a third term in office. During his time as attorney general, he created a new Office of Civil Rights as well as a new conviction integrity unit and a new worker protection unit while also reorganizing the consumer protection section. He opposed Virginia’s ban on gay marriage, fought against Trump’s Muslim ban, and overturend Republican gerrymandering in the United States Supreme Court.

“I’ve transformed the job into a progressive powerhouse,” said Herring. “I have proven that I can win even the biggest fights.”

Jones was first elected in 2017, part of the first Democratic wave that began the transformation of the House of Delegates.

Since that time, he’s been seen as a rising star in the party. Jones says it’s time to hand the office to the next generation, and as an African-American man he says he would be able to bring his lived experience into conversations about criminal justice reform and equity. During a televised debate, he avoided answering questions about a bill he introduced that would have allowed predatory lenders to charge 350 percent interest — a point of distinction that provides contrast with Herring, who worked with lawmakers to pass the Fairness in Lending Act. Jones never withdrew his bill which died in committee, although he ended up voting for the bill that Herring supported.

“The attorney general knows that he and I supported the exact same bill,” said Jones. “I was happy to work with Delegate Bagby, the chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, who has endorsed my campaign.”

## Ebbin: Bennett-Parker Is Best Choice for Delegate

FROM PAGE 7

I know Elizabeth will continue to work hard for the people she represents, as she does in her current position as Alexandria’s Vice Mayor, and be a strong, effective advocate for the progressive values of the 45th House District. I am respectfully asking 45th District voters to join me in voting for Elizabeth Bennett-Parker on or before June 8. She is the dedicated leader this district deserves, and the effective partner I need in Richmond to deliver meaningful results for the people of Alexandria, Arlington and Mount Vernon.

abeth Bennett-Parker on or before June 8. She is the dedicated leader this district deserves, and the effective partner I need in Richmond to deliver meaningful results for the people of Alexandria, Arlington and Mount Vernon.

**Adam Ebbin**  
Member, Senate of Virginia  
Alexandria

## Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing

FROM PAGE 6

neighborhood personalized note.

To donate or pledge a complete basket, please fill out the following registration form to learn more about drop-off date/location and any additional instructions.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhEgb-vzj7jUO-Q1eaid8gd2TRjh1jb-p5xCce4Kc8UD6m0oA/view-form>

For questions, please contact Volunteer Manager Aseel El-borno at [aelborno@apah.org](mailto:aelborno@apah.org) or 571.249.2928.

### Terwilliger Place’s “Topping Out”

In May, APAH joined CBG Building Company to celebrate Lucille & Bruce Terwilliger Place’s “Topping Out”, the milestone when a new project completes its tallest part of the project. The construction team and APAH staff celebrated this milestone at the site on a beautiful, sunny day, enjoying barbecue from neighboring Rocklands, and the views of the Virginia Square community.

In the months to come, the Terwilliger Place construction

team will continue work on exterior sheathing, window installation, exterior masonry, as well as mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.

Terwilliger Place will be home to 160 units of affordable housing and a new ground floor condo for American Legion Post 139. Of the 160 units, 50% will have a veterans preference, providing critical housing and resources to support the needs of low-income veterans in our community. It is expected to be completed in summer/ fall 2022.

### Reflections on APAH’s 14 Years of Growth

If Nina Janopaul’s earliest days at APAH were a master class in crisis management, opportunities for growth and greater service to the community also began to emerge — and the key was planning.

“For me,” Janopaul recalled, “it was a big discovery that long range planning was such a powerful and flexible tool that could make it possible for APAH to do something really innovative.” Walking APAH’s Columbia Grove property in 2007 with an advisor, Janopaul speculated about how much additional affordable housing could be added to the sprawling garden

apartment community. “I remember him saying, you know Nina, you can’t just do that, it’s only zoned for a few more units.” But the possibility stuck in Janopaul’s mind—there was land, and a high-rise next door, why couldn’t APAH find a way to build more to meet Arlington’s community need?

Though it had felt a little like ‘whack-a-mole’, APAH was working its way through some of the big financial challenges Janopaul faced when she arrived at APAH. “In those early years, it wasn’t at all about growth or adding to APAH’s portfolio. We were just focused on finding resources and solutions for five different properties in different kinds of distress.” But as the challenges began to ease, possibilities began to arise.

A few years later, it was Chris Zimmerman, then a member of the Arlington County Board, who urged Janopaul to connect with planning. He noted that Arlington was doing sector plans all the time and APAH should participate. Over one memorable conversation, Chris pointed out the proximity of

SEE ARLINGTON, PAGE 11

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**Notice of Availability:** Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Pentagon Remote Delivery Facility Roof Structural Strengthening Project

**Agency:** Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services

**Summary:** It is the decision of the United States Department of Defense (DoD) Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) to implement the Proposed Action: The Remote Delivery Facility (RDF) Roof Structural Strengthening Project. The RDF structure was not originally designed with the intent of supporting a helipad; however, it now contains the Pentagon Helipad, which includes a concrete helipad and four grass helicopter parking pads. This decision will allow WHS to address structural and safety modifications at the RDF Roof and Pentagon Helipad in order to convert the existing helipad into a permanent facility that sustains the safe operations of emergency support vehicles and of aircraft during landing, takeoff, and parking. By strengthening the roof and improving its safety features, the project will support certain helicopter vehicle weights to meet the needs of military branches using the facility. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review has been completed through preparation of a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate environmental impacts arising from implementation of this project. Based on the analysis of baseline conditions and the anticipated impacts described in the EA, WHS has concluded that no significant impacts to the human or natural environment will result from implementation of the project, and recognized effects will be mitigated. This decision is further documented in the FONSI, which was signed on May 26, 2021.

This notice announces the availability of the FONSI to implement the Pentagon RDF Roof Structural Strengthening Project evaluated in the EA.

**Contact:** For further information on the availability of the FONSI, please contact Joe Eichenlaub, Environmental Branch Manager, WHS/Facilities Services Directorate (FSD)/Standards and Compliance Division (SCD)/Environmental, Sustainability, and Energy Branch (ESEB); telephone: 703-614-9583; email: joseph.d.eichenlaub.civ@mail.mil. Please include "RDF Roof FONSI" in the subject line.

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Shirley Ruhe**  
Contributing Photographer and Writer  
[slrbc@aol.com](mailto:slrbc@aol.com)

**Joan Brady**  
Contributing Photographer and Writer  
[joan@joanbradyphotography.com](mailto:joan@joanbradyphotography.com)

**Eden Brown**  
Contributing Writer  
[arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Ken Moore**  
Contributing Writer  
[kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
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**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
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[debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh

**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**CIRCULATION**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# Arlington Partnership For Affordable Housing

FROM PAGE 9

APAH's Carlin Springs property to the area where Harris Teeter and the Mercedes Benz repair shop were pursuing rezoning. "The process had been going on for three years," Janopaul recalled, "but APAH jumped in the final year. I was so proud. Even though we came into the process late, we worked with the community and the others in the process—developing at least ten iterations of our plan until we reached agreement."

APAH's project was the first to be built. The Springs Apartments were completed in 2016, bringing 104 beautiful, new, affordable apartments where there had been just 27, and a new first-floor office for the rapidly growing organization.

The success at The Springs was a watershed. "I began to realize that you can work with your community and together create a new, shared vision." Over the years that followed, APAH repeated these complicated entitlement journeys over and over again. "When I reflect on APAH's growth," Janopaul commented, "I am really proud of that. It's all about getting the right people on the team, presenting attractive building designs, displaying data about the dire need, sharing stories about neighbors being displaced, plus sitting in those little folding chairs with others in the community for hours and hours. I think our work was really groundbreaking. As we did it over and over again, we got really good at it. Our work with the long-range planning process has made affordable housing happen where there was no zoning path and no possibility before."

Partnership has been as important to APAH's growth as planning. Incoming CEO, Carmen Romero, points with pride to Gilliam Place, APAH's collaboration with Arlington Presbyterian Church (APC). "There were so many times along the way that the answer was 'no', or 'this is too hard', or 'too risky'," Romero recalled, "but we never gave up. APC was our partner and we really believed in what they wanted to do."

The result is beautiful housing for 173 families. "But the multi-faceted project is also so much more," Romero noted. "It's economic development and creating new businesses for entrepreneurs of color on the Pike through our partnership with La Cocina VA. It's housing for young adults with autism and seeing a resident who cannot speak spell out on a video that living at Gilliam Place is like a dream. It's having a place for APC's congregation to worship and thrive. It's beautiful, open, contemplative space for the neighborhood. It's having Governor Northam come to the property and announce half a billion dollars in rent relief and then walk around the property and touch the stone on the building that we had preserved and brought back from the original church. I'm just so proud of what we achieved at Gilliam Place and how it inspires APAH and the community to imagine and realize truly amazing outcomes together."

Over Gilliam Place's seven-year journey, APAH's tenacity was tested over and over

again. "I look back and there were so many challenges," Romero recalled, "from surviving a \$2 million flood near the end of construction, a fire at the church before demolition began, relocating and rebuilding a daycare center that could have been put out of business by the redevelopment, and getting a full-on 'no' from the National Capital Presbytery and coming back a year later to a standing ovation and a 'yes'."

And we faced all of this without ever having an unkind word with our partner the entire time. "That's what I am the most proud of—APAH's resilience and commitment to honor their vision."

That power of partnership continues to fuel APAH's growth. "I love bringing people to Gilliam Place and see them get excited," said Janopaul. "I remember bringing folks from American Legion Post 139, with whom APAH is now developing Terwilliger Place, and seeing them embrace that same spirit." I think they saw what we did at Gilliam Place and said 'I want to work with a partner that is going to be here for me, a partner that is going to do the impossible to reach our vision'."

"That same spirit of partnership is really with the community as well," added Janopaul. "The community in Arlington said we've got this Affordable Housing Master Plan that says we need thousands more units, and APAH said, 'OK, let's step up and do that. And let's not do it in a minor way. Let's build 200-unit apartments. How can we work with our architects, and with financing tools to help our community meet its ambitious goals? When we opened Arlington Mill in 2015 we had a huge waiting list with 3,000 people on it. We knew that people needed affordable housing, and it didn't make sense to do it halfway."

It was that desire to serve, to really meet the growing need for affordable housing in Arlington and beyond, that fueled APAH's decision in 2018 expand its work to other jurisdictions in the DMV. "As an organization, we have really honed our approach to planning and partnerships," Janopaul noted, "and we want to bring those skills to other places. And we also want to keep learning and innovating. Now that APAH has projects in five jurisdictions, it has really widened our horizons. We can see that the world is not all one cookie cutter. Some places have a lot of public land, others have funding, but no land to spare; some places are focused on preservation, others want new construction. I think the expansion is helping APAH step into an even better version of itself—to be more nimble and innovative."

As she prepares to step up as APAH's new CEO, Carmen Romero is in full agreement. "For me and for APAH's Board, geographic expansion has always been 'both/and', and I think that's wonderful. I think we are a better partner to Arlington by being regional as well. It opens up how we approach things, we see how other communities address problems, and are learning new tools and strategies."

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## Nearly Nicked



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, I made the mistake of clicking on an email from an unfamiliar sender. It said "Membership Renewed," as in money had been spent by yours truly. But I hadn't spent any money renewing a membership that I knew of, and there is, I imagine, the axis on which some phishing scams are turning: By peeking your instinct to know where and what one's money is doing. Maybe I forgot something? Maybe my wife, Dina, paid for something and forgot to mention it? Maybe, maybe, maybe - so I clicked. The email looked as if it had been sent by "Geek Squad" with whom I have a service contract so I called to inquire further about this 'paid membership.'

The conversation began innocently enough. They confirmed my membership and seemed to have my pertinent data as well so I continued. When I couldn't recall this money being spent - and they couldn't tell me the last four numbers of the account which had been debited, I grew cautious, as I had been down this road once before. Nevertheless, I persisted. Since I had "Geeks" (or whomever, unbeknownst to me) on the phone, I figured I'd ask if they could fix a computer problem (no volume) and asked if the repair was covered by my service contract. They assured me that it was. And so, I gave them access to my computer so they could address the problem remotely. After computer fits and starts, and curious delays, they confessed that they were unable to fix the problem. So, and here it is, the hook: since they were unable to fix my computer, they wanted to refund me the 'membership' fee. That was excruciatingly familiar so I knew it was time to exit stage right.

What had happened to me previously is that I didn't get out soon enough. I didn't know then what I know now so I agreed to the refund and gave them the last four of my account, and sure enough they electronically deposited the money into my checking account (or so it appeared. I later learned that no actual money had ever been transferred). However, they made a mistake, they said. They deposited \$3,000 instead of \$300. They apologized profusely at their mistake and requested that I pay them back \$3,000, which I thought was odd; why not just withdraw the money the same way they deposited it? They said they couldn't and I needed to pay them back. When I refused to follow their directions on how to pay them back (again, since they couldn't withdraw the money/stop payment, whatever), by getting cash and then going to a Western Union office and sending it back that way, I knew I was hooked. Then they threatened to disable my computer unless I paid them back exactly as I had been instructed. Then they erased all the icons on my desktop as a last attempt to coerce me to pay up. At this point, it had been nearly two hours since I made first contact, and I could see/feel where the conversation was going, so I risked it and hung up. Sure enough, my computer was wiped clean and locked. I couldn't access anything. The next day, I called Best Buy and explained the problem and how it had happened. They suggested I bring in my computer tower for an analysis. Within a day, they had identified the problem and offered a solution. They could unlock my computer, no problem, but the computer would have to be reset to the way it was when I first bought it. It wasn't a total disaster as most data was retrievable. As "The Three Stooges" would have said: "It wasn't a total loss."

This recent caller was once again leading me down the garden path. A path which would have ended at a rabbit hole into which me and money would have disappeared. The caller tried desperately to keep me on the line. I said I was at work and had to go. I told him I didn't expect the call to last so long and I promised to call him back. He had access to my computer - remotely, so I was afraid he could cause similar computer trouble as had happened before under eerily similar circumstances. He confirmed - so he thought, that I had his phone number and so I hung up, cautiously optimistic that I hadn't earned his wrath. I never called him back but for the next four hours, he called me back several times, a number from Los Angeles. I never answered, obviously. If I had I might not be pleased with myself.

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



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