



The Arlington Connection

Celebrating In the Heat

NEWS, PAGE 3

Graduates of Yorktown High School in Arlington tossed their mortarboards in celebration.

Police Removed from Arlington Schools

NEWS, PAGE 4

Debate on Streams

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER KNITTIG

FLOURISHING AFTER 55, PAGE 2 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

JUNE 30 - JULY 6, 2021

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55+ Programs are virtual and outdoors. A 55+ Membership is required to participate (\$20 annual fee). To join or register, go to registration.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

Virtual & Outdoor Programs

- ❖ 55+ Live! Talk Show, preview of upcoming programs, meet 55+ staff, Tuesday, July 6, noon. Registration # 914801-15.
- ❖ Rock music legends in the movies, Tuesday, July 6, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 914400-10.
- ❖ Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteers, Tuesday, July 6, 10 a.m., Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 2901 S. 2nd Street. Registration # 914105-04.
- ❖ Yarn creations, share with a casual group of crafty individuals, Tuesday, July 6, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 914703-03.
- ❖ Local history group to discuss Lee Heights Shopping Center, Wednesday, July 7, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 914402-11.
- ❖ Open Mic show online, hosted by musician Carl Gold, Wednesday, July 7, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 914802-07.
- ❖ Genealogy discussion group, led by Susan J. Court, Wednesday, July 7, 3 p.m. Share discoveries and Techniques. Registration # 914402-26.
- ❖ Book club to discuss "The Lincoln Conspiracy" by Brad Meltzer, Wednesday, July 7, 11 a.m. Registration # 914402-02.
- ❖ Movie discussion, July's choice, "The Dig," Thursday, July 8, 3 p.m. Registration # 914402-05.
- ❖ Armchair travel will view video of art and architecture of New York's

- Guggenheim Museum, Friday, July 9, 3 p.m. Registration # 914402-22.
- ❖ Line dance in the park, easy for beginners, Friday, July 9, 10 a.m., Virginia Highlands Plaza, 1600 S. Hayes Street. Registration # 914100-03.
- ❖ Monday morning meet-up with fellow 55+ members, July 12, 10 a.m., casual conversation. Registration # 914801-05.
- ❖ Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteers, Monday, July 12, 10 a.m., Virginia Highlands Plaza, 1600 S. Hayes Street. Registration # 914105-17.
- ❖ Virtual piano lounge, listen, sing, play along with Valerie Welsh, Tuesday, July 13, 2 p.m. Registration # 914802-03.
- ❖ Safe online activities, Tuesday, July 13, 1 p.m. Registration # 914400-28.
- ❖ History roundtable group to discuss the impact of horses on history, Tuesday, July 13, 11:15 a.m. Registration # 914402-14.
- ❖ Paper management, presented by professional organizer, Sonya Weisshappel of Seratim Inc., Tuesday, July 13, 1:30 a.m. Registration # 914404-03.
- ❖ Cancer and nutrition, program presented by Cynthia Chol, registered dietitian, Virginia Hospital Center, Wednesday, July 14, 1 p.m. Registration # 914500-12.
- ❖ The study of words, phrases, expressions, Wednesday, July 14, 10:30 a.m. Registration # 914402-17.
- ❖ Understanding Medicare enrollment, presented by Marge Steinlage, Steinlage Insurance Agency, Thursday, July 15, 1 p.m. Registration # 914500-11.



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Arlington's Yorktown High Graduates Class of 2021 Outdoors

It was hot, but great to be together, said graduates and parents.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Yorktown High School Class of 2021 Graduation ceremony was for Friday, June 18, 2021, outdoors in the school's football field, Greenbrier stadium.

It was an accomplishment to hold graduation in person.

"It was definitely hot. I think it was best for Covid safety to do the ceremony outdoors but I would have preferred having graduation at the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) building if it were a normal year," said Yorktown graduate Hannah Knittig. "The students were right in the sun and water didn't help much. My parents, who were in the shade, actually thought graduation on the football field was better than at DAR. ... All in all, I thought the ceremony was great, the student speakers Kevin Ferrell and Rylei Porter were fantastic."



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER KNITTIG

Yorktown High School celebrated its graduates in the open-air football field to keep it safe but in person. While it was hot, many attendees liked the improved visibility.



Graduates of Yorktown High School in Arlington tossed their mortarboards in celebration.



Yorktown High School's Carolina Blue diplomas stacked up for the class of 2021.



The choir performed for the graduation crowd.

Arlington Teen Makes Olympic Swim Team

Torri Huske missed graduation - the Olympics were calling.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

One of Yorktown High School's graduating class of 2021 couldn't make it. She was busy training for the Olympics. When Torri Huske broke her own American record in the 100m butterfly at the Olympic trials on June 14th, she clinched a spot on Team USA this summer. Huske, whose records line the board at the Yorktown High aquatics center, grew up swimming in Arlington pools. Her classmate,

Kate Marston, who is a lifeguard at the pool this summer, had this to say about Arlington's newest Olympic sensation: "Torri and I were in the same class in Sophomore year."

She will be going to Stanford University where she was recruited for the swim team. She is also very smart and could have gone anywhere, but Stanford's swim team is one of the best. Torri is literally good at everything she does: sports, academics, art. Torri is, like, if you are in class with her, she is just the most genuine and good person."

GIRLS				PATRIOTS				Swimming & Diving Records			
200-MED-RELAY				NAME	TIME	YR	IND EVENTS	NAME	TIME	YR	
MK. REICHERTER				V. HUSKE	1:46.07	20	200 FREE	J. DAY	1:43.54	17	200
B. MORRIS LARKIN	1:42.59	20		V. HUSKE	1:57.70	20	200 I.M.	T. DOLAN	1:51.93	93	
V. HUSKE				V. HUSKE	21.83	20	50 FREE	D. BROOKS	21.14	20	200
N. ENGLISH							6 DIVES	C. ALDERMAN	512.80	96	
200-FREE-RELAY				M. TAYLOR	478.95	09	11 DIVES	R. SOH	49.69	19	400
E. LARSEN	1:35.04	20		V. HUSKE	50.69	20	100 FLY	D. BROOKS	46.82	20	
C. BURGESSON				V. HUSKE	48.63	20	100 FREE	T. DOLAN	4:29.27	93	400
N. ENGLISH				V. HUSKE	4:51.76	20	500 FREE	R. SOH	50.31	19	
V. HUSKE				MK. REICHERTER	56.08	19	100 BACK	B. ALMAND	57.95	16	
400-FREE-RELAY				S. DOLAN	1:01.84	15	100 BREAST				
K. PARK	3:26.54	19									
E. LARSEN											
N. ENGLISH											
V. HUSKE											

The Records board at Arlington's Yorktown High pool reflect Huske's record breaking swims over her four years at Yorktown. She had to miss graduation on June 18th because of Team USA training.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER KNITTIG

End of SROs in Schools in Arlington

BY HANNAH KNITTIG
THE CONNECTION

School Resource Officers are a divisive element in discussions around making schools a safer and more inclusive environment for students of color.

“SROs are essentially unnecessary considering their impact on the Yorktown community,” says Yasmina Mansour, a junior at Yorktown High School.

SROs are defined by the U.S. Department of Justice as “sworn law enforcement officers responsible for safety and crime prevention in schools.” The program began officially in Virginia Public Schools in the mid-1980s, although SROs were in some Arlington schools as early as 1969. Supporters of SROs argue that they are important to keep students and staff safe and can introduce a positive example of police. Opponents say that SROs reinforce a school to prison pipeline, and their duties could be replaced by other staff members.

In July of 2020, the Arlington Branch of the NAACP voted “in favor of the removal of removing School Resource Officers from Arlington Public Schools. ... We made this decision after nearly a year of data-driven research led by our Education Committee with input from our Criminal Justice and Political Action Committees. The data shows stark disparities in the percentage of Black and Latino juveniles arrested and sentenced to detention relative to their population in the county.”

Arlington’s Yorktown High School has been without an SRO for the past year while students participated in hybrid learning during the pandemic. Several students and staff from Yorktown responded to questions about SROs.

“My experience with working alongside SROs in school districts over the years,” said Tee Newton, one of the staff sponsors of the Sis-



The office of Yorktown’s SRO has been empty throughout the 2020-21 school year while students participated in hybrid in-person learning.

ter Circle Club at Yorktown High School, “has led me to believe that their presence in schools helps to create a trusting alliance between the force and youth, a safe learning environment for students and staff, a strong sense community between residents and the police assigned to the neighborhood, and decreases feelings of alienation that certain students of color may feel when cops show up in their community, outside of school. I believe the ongoing larger issues of institutional racism with police isn’t so much stemming from the roles of SROs but the police assigned to the streets.”

Lillian Beall, a senior at Yorktown said: “I think they should be around just in case something bad happens. But I definitely think they need more training.”

Like Beall, many parents believe

SROs are in school to assist with lockdown procedures in case of a school shooting incident. In fact, SROs were in schools more than a decade before the Columbine shooting. While they do assist with lockdown training, Arlington Police noted a statistic indicating only 12 percent of attacks were ended by SROs, while 22 percent of attacks were ended by an adult in the school who was not a police officer. SROs may contribute to a reduction in weapons being carried into school, school fights, gang activity, and hate speech or bullying.

Brenna Hardy, a senior at Yorktown said, “I heard the SRO has a gun on them. I think a gun can be intimidating and very threatening to the students.”

Simi Lawal, a senior at Yorktown said, “SROs are not necessary for ensuring the safety of students and teachers in the school building. More students of color tend to have negative connotations when it comes to SROs meaning they don’t feel as safe or feel welcomed because they know they run a higher risk of being arrested. Something I would change with SROs in schools is not having possession of any weapons, especially deadly weapons.”

Yasmina Mansour, a junior at Yorktown said, “In the past few years, their role has become redundant and conflated with that of the school psychologist to an extent.

SROs Will No Longer Be in Arlington Schools

The Arlington School Board approved the Superintendent’s recommendations at its June 24 meeting. SROs will no longer have a daily presence in schools and Arlington Public Schools will work to redefine its relationship with the Arlington County Police Department to ensure continued school safety.

APS will continue its longstanding relationship with ACPD.

APS and ACPD will collaborate to determine the best method of providing law-enforcement services to schools, but officers will not be located in school buildings.

In the event of an emergency or for law-enforcement needs, ACPD will provide police services as needed.

The services of SROs will be reimagined to meet the needs of students, staff, and the APS community.

ACPD will continue to provide training to students and staff as needed to implement the recommendations of the SRO Work Group.

The name of the SRO program will be changed to reflect the new support role they will be providing to students and staff. (e.g. Juvenile Response Group or Youth Resource Officer).

APS will explore the creation of a community advisory group to annually review and provide input on the relationship and establish a regular, transparent mechanism for collecting data regarding law-enforcement engagement in schools and reporting progress toward the agreed upon goals annually.

The Superintendent’s recommendations that were presented to the School Board are available online www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Superintendent-SRO-Recommendations-FINAL-for-ACTION.pdf

The Superintendent’s full recommendations report is also posted online www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Supt-SRO-Report-Recommendations.pdf

Not to mention students of color are exponentially more likely to face consequences at the hands of an SRO versus a white student. In the coming years, the best course of action would be the elimination of the position altogether.”

Athena Perry, a senior at Yorktown said, I don’t believe that SROs are necessary. They don’t benefit the students nor make us feel safer. They are there to be used against us.”

“They don’t benefit the students nor make us feel safer. They are there to be used against us.”

— Athena Perry,
Senior at Yorktown High School

This year, the Arlington School Board put together a working group made up of students, staff, and community members to form a proposal for recommended changes to the SRO structure. This month, they presented their conclusions to the school board. Their primary recommendations were to: “Revise the roles of ACPD in the schools to emphasize functions that can only be performed by law enforcement” and to “Ensure continued participation of ACPD members as coaches, mentors or in informal roles as appropriate for any member of the community to participate in the support of the development of APS students,

without specific access or engagement because of a role as an SRO.” Their website with more information is <https://www.apsva.us/engage/schoolresourceofficer/#S-ROCharge>. Last week, the school board voted to accept the Superintendent’s recommendations to move SROs out of schools at least in part due to these recommendations.

Black Parents of Arlington called for the removal of SROs from schools, citing the negative effects of racial disparities. “The statistics on the detrimental effects of SROs on our Black and Brown students are staggering. For example, nationally, Black youth are nearly three times as likely to be arrested in school than white youth, even when charged with similar offenses,” said Black Parents

of Arlington President Whytni H. Kernodle. “Arlington is no exception to these extreme disparities: In Arlington Public Schools, 28% of students are Hispanic but make up 41% of all referrals to law enforcement. Meanwhile, 11% of students are Black but make up 25% of all referrals to law enforcement. The presence of police in Arlington Public Schools criminalizes student behavior and targets our most marginalized students.

“Systemic racism must be dismantled and destroyed in all of its permutations,” said Kernodle in a statement. “It’s time for APS

Polling taken from Arlington County Board SRO Work Group

When Arlington students were asked

❖ “How many times have you interacted with your SRO?” 51.1% said 0 times, 33.9% said 1-2 times, and the remaining 15% have interacted more than 3 times.

❖ “Do you know the name of the SRO at the school you currently go to?” 79.1% no and 20.9% said yes.

❖ “Do you think SRO’s should be armed?” 31.9% said yes, 24.8% said no, and 43.4% said maybe.

❖ “Do you think SROs have a role to play in the future?” 50.5% said yes, 35.4% said maybe, and 15.1% said no.

Your Help Needed to Protecting Our Water

Arlington's streams eroding under pressure of development; Potomac Conservancy advocates to save water quality.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

**Controversial Stream
Restoration Techniques
Divide Residents**

Did you know Arlington covered over 70 percent of its streams as it developed from a bucolic refuge from Washington's hot summers to a bedroom community of car dealerships and strip malls? Arlington's natural stream network served as the stormwater management system. But development caused stream erosion and gullies; streams and floodplains were filled in or paved over.

As Hedrick Belin, President of the Potomac Conservancy walked the banks of Tributary B on May 14, he was on a mission to involve more members of the local community in the protection of one of the most important resources they have: their watershed.

A few streams remain prominent parts of the landscape in Arlington, but are increasingly at risk for erosion, bringing sediment and unfiltered runoff down to the Potomac



Tributary B along Donaldson Run shows the effects of erosion as trees fall down on either side.

River. Belin led a group of interested Arlington neighbors up the path along Donaldson Run's Tributary B for a "Riverside Chat."

His goal was to educate residents on the need for action to diminish run-off into the streams and take note of the County's effort

to "restore" Tributary B. He connected with Arlington County staff for the May 14 walk because Potomac Conservancy wanted to showcase that tributary's challenges as an example of how stormwater is impacting the streams that flow to the Potomac. Donaldson Run is not unusual in that regard, but is a very visible example with a lot of needs.

Belin reminded residents we drink the water in the Potomac and need to help maintain the momentum in cleaning it up. The recent report card on river cleanliness declined from a "B" to a "B-minus" indicating the need for more effort to keep that momentum up. "And," said Belin, "that means we have to ask for support, particularly donations, which have been down in the pandemic year." There are other ways to support the Potomac Conservancy too, either with advocacy or hands-on volunteering.

Although Potomac Conservancy has not collaborated with Arlington County on either Trib A or Trib B restoration, Belin was joined on his walk by Aileen Winkist, Outreach Manager for the County's Donaldson Run Stream Restoration Project, who explained what the County is planning for Donaldson Run's Tributary B to improve its ability to handle stormwater. A technique known as "natural channel design" will be used to create a new stream channel that the County believes can better manage the

SEE YOUR HELP, PAGE 7

PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

CRYSTAL CITY METRORAIL STATION Proposed Second Entrance



ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

Arlington County, in coordination with Metro, is proposing a second entrance to the Crystal City Metrorail Station near 18th St S and Crystal Dr.

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- Take the survey, provide written comments or upload documents at wmata.com/plansandprojects.



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- To provide oral testimony via video, preregister by emailing speak@wmata.com by 5 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 2021.



Watch or listen live

- Watch or listen to the Virtual Public Hearing live at wmata.com/plansandprojects or [YouTube.com/MetroForward](https://www.youtube.com/MetroForward) or by calling **855-925-2801** and entering meeting code **8137**.



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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
AT&T proposes to construct an 88' stealth bell tower to collocate antennas (tip heights 86') at 6400 Old Centreville Rd, Centreville, VA (20210666). 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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Hedrick Belin, president of the Potomac Conservancy, talks to a group of residents in Arlington about what the Potomac Conservancy does and how streams in Arlington are at risk.



Aileen Winquist, outreach manager for Arlington County's stream restoration project, talks about the Trib B Plan and encourages County residents to plant rain gardens and choose pervious surfaces when building.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN

Your Help Needed To Protecting Our Water

FROM PAGE 5

runoff it receives from the surrounding land. This method steps the water down the stream on large rocks into pools, and uses floodplain reconnection and "meanders" to reduce the energy of the stream flow and its ability to erode the banks during a storm.

Not all stream conservationists believe this technique to be effective, in fact, he County's imminent stream restoration project is viewed as a waste of money by some conservationists. Since it will require cutting down about 80 trees along the stream, the effort has been called into question by residents, who thanks to recent public meetings, are more aware of the pitfalls of this restoration technique.

According to Mary Vasse, Senior Director of Development for Potomac Conservancy, "We have not collaborated on any design work for Tributary A or B projects. We are aware of community concerns about the project and we recognize it is a challenging project."

One thing Belin and Winquist can agree

on is encouraging residents to do whatever they can to help reduce run-off, from installing rain gardens to planting canopy trees, to not using impervious surfaces for parking lots, driveways, and public spaces. Local government should be encouraged to take more action to limit growth and manage stormwater in an era of more storms, said Winquist.

Potomac Conservancy's mission remains to identify solutions residents can be a part of at the local level, as individuals and river managers.

The debate over the Donaldson Run Tributary B restoration will be the topic of a future article.

To learn more about what you can do to help the Potomac Conservancy see: <https://potomac.org/donate>

To participate in the Potomac Conservancy's "Take Me To the River" event, see: <https://secure.everyaction.com/GilDTzWReUId5zrd826IGQ2?sourceID=1046269>

To see this year's report card on the Potomac, see: <https://potomacreportcard.org>

End of SROs in Schools in Arlington

FROM PAGE 4

to create an environment where all students can learn without fear and intimidation. ... We know that simply reimagining the role of SROs will not eliminate the blatant discrepancies in discipline between Black and Brown children and their white counterparts.

We call on every member of the School Board to be a steward of justice for our children and follow the lead of the Superintendent

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dent on this."

Members of the Arlington community have their voices heard, and last week the School Board voted to follow the recommendations of the Superintendent and remove police from schools, while retaining a relationship with Arlington County Police.

Hannah Knittg recently graduated from Yorktown High School, and completed her senior internship at the Arlington Connection.

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... stable, with a side of shrinkage, however modest. No jeopardy here, final or otherwise. Simply more of the same here, but hardly ho hum. A status quo with which I am fond of writing: I can live. Promises and guarantees left the building on that fateful day in late February, 2009 when an oncologist who I had previously never met summarized my condition and identified it as stage IV, non small cell lung cancer. A "terminal" disease if there ever was one, and of course there are many. And along with that bombshell came the excruciatingly unpopular prognosis: "13 months to two years." I was 54 and a half with no history of cancer in my immediate family.

Much has happened and many medications prescribed since I infused my initial chemotherapy back in early March, 2009. Most of which you regular readers know. If you recall anything from my 12 years of weekly cancer columns, it is that regular diagnostic scans: CT scans, bone scans, P.E.T. scans and MRIs have been recurring nightmares. Every three months, I am scheduled for some type of scan, sometimes more than one ("BOGO, I call it) which based on its findings will determine my subsequent course of treatment. If the results are encouraging, a change in my treatment is unlikely. If however, tumors are growing, newly appearing or spreading then it's "Katy bar the door," as we say in New England. Which means, hang onto your hat, among other things, as a new health situation presents, and one without an automatic solution. After years of conversations with my oncologist, I've learned: The best one can hope for is a definite maybe. It's this unpredictability which fills my day - and night.

Nevertheless, my life has gone on way longer than my oncologist anticipated. It may be because I was misdiagnosed (as a Georgetown Cancer Center oncologist suggested) and had a slow moving form of papillary thyroid cancer rather than an aggressive form of lung cancer which kills more often than it cures. Or, I may simply be my oncologist's "third miracle," as he's fond of saying. Presumably my positive attitude and good humor about my circumstances in conjunction with the many supplements I ingest with alkaline water exclusively have contributed to my unexpected survival. Regardless, as Frankenstein might have said: "I'm alive."

As scary as Frankenstein, Dracula or Lon Chaney ever was, a cancer diagnosis tops them all. Being told by a doctor you have never met that you have two years to live, at best, is as you might imagine, nearly impossible to process. It's not exactly what you had planned on or expected hearing when you sat in the doctor's office. Yet, as Ralph Edwards used to say: "This is your life." And as many others have said: "You're stuck with it." And as grim as you feel about your future, this is no fairy tale. As always, reality beats make-believe any day, and in this instance, not in a good way.

But I am in a good way. I am still typing, among other activities. And after having just received a "looks good" comment from my oncologist concerning this week's CT and bone scan, my warranty has been extended for another 90 days, when the results of my next quarterly scan will be emailed. Until then, I am in high cotton. To say I'm not worried is of course naive, but in the interim, between scans, I am in "the rocking chair, good buddy," to invoke a familiar CB-ism. This is how many cancer patients live: from one scan to the next. It's not ideal, but it is a living, and one for which I'm extremely grateful and fortunate to still have. It may not have been the life I expected, but I'm glad to live it nonetheless.

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

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