

# The Arlington Connection

Leo Maggio and his wife Brittani show off their new Artisan 3-e coffee bean grinder on Oct. 11 at ESP Tea and Coffee on King Street in Alexandria.

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PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE / THE CONNECTION

OCTOBER 13-19, 2021

ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



## Culpepper Garden proudly presents our Annual Daffodil Bulb Donation Drive

Proceeds raised benefit older adults in  
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# Let's Color Arlington Yellow This Spring

**Take advantage of our special  
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[www.culpeppergarden.org](http://www.culpeppergarden.org)

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/OCT. 14

ACCS Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At  
Busboys and Poets, 4251 Campbell Ave.,  
Arlington. The Arlington County Crime  
Solvers (ACCS) invites you to the "2021  
ACCS Law Enforcement Officer of the Year  
Awards Luncheon." The program will include  
remarks by ACCS Officials, followed by an  
Awards Luncheon. This year's theme will be  
"Protecting and Serving During the Pandemic:  
Honoring Public Health & Law Enforcement".  
The recognition awards will be presented to  
Police Chief Charles "Andy" Penn and Chief  
Deputy Sheriff David Kidwell. Guest Speaker:  
Dr. Reuben Varghese, Public Health Director.

### FRIDAY/OCT. 15

Native Trees: How to Select, Plant and Trans-  
plant. 10 - 11:30 a.m. Online. A significant  
proportion of our area's urban tree canopy  
depends upon the efforts of thousands of  
residents to care for mature trees and plant  
new ones on privately held properties from  
single family homes, to townhouses, to apart-  
ment complex shared greenspaces. Extension  
Master Gardeners Amy Crumpton and Alicia  
Martini will discuss best practices for caring  
for trees. Amy will describe how to assess  
your site's conditions for new tree plantings  
and how to select from the many native tree  
species that thrive in our area. Alicia, Coordi-  
nator for the Small Trees Make Big Canopies  
program, will describe the program and share  
her expertise on how to transplant found tree  
seedlings. Free. RSVP at [https://mgmv.org/](https://mgmv.org/events/)  
events/ to receive a link to participate.

### OCT. 18-25

Arlington Restaurant Week. Some 47 restau-

rants in Arlington have signed up for this  
event. Through this event, diners will enjoy  
some of the best food Arlington has to offer  
at special prices. Arlington Restaurant Week  
is a great opportunity for diners to explore  
Arlington's diverse restaurant and to find a  
new go-to place for dining out. Restaurants  
pick their own price point, market their menu  
on the website, and offer both dine-in and  
carry-out options. The Arlington Chamber is  
pleased to offer free participation for member  
restaurants, courtesy of its sponsors. Visit the  
website: [https://www.arlingtonchamber.org/](https://www.arlingtonchamber.org/arlington-restaurant-week.html)  
arlington-restaurant-week.html

### FRIDAY/OCT. 22

How to Care for Houseplants. 10-11:30 a.m.  
Online. Interested in bringing your gardening  
hobby indoors or looking to add a little green  
to your space? Join Extension Master Garden-  
er Interns Evin Morrison and Rebecca Secula  
to learn about getting plants to thrive in your  
home. Evin and Rebecca will cover a variety  
of topics including ideal lighting conditions,  
potting soil recipes, and how to deal with  
pests. This presentation is geared toward the  
beginner houseplant owner but will be a great  
refresher for anyone looking to make their  
houseplant ventures more successful. Free.  
RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/events/> to receive  
a link to participate.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 23

Live-In Arlington Info Fair. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At  
Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park  
Drive, Arlington. LAIF -Live in Arlington  
Info-Fair- is a great place to get free and  
useful information about housing and health  
opportunities in Arlington. The event provides  
an excellent opportunity to talk with health  
and housing professionals including mort-  
gage lenders, real estate agents, apartment  
rental professionals and many other service

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5



## HOME SERVICES

# Cabinet Makeover



**Before & After**

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to provide you with a free in-home or virtual  
Cabinet Makeover consultation and quote.  
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**LCL21K\_CM02**





Truckload of hot asphalt goes down on the street.



The scraped road gets ready for asphalt.

## Road Paving is Underway in Arlington

**Arlington maintains 376 miles of non-state roads.**

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ately, it seems every road in Arlington is being scraped and repaved.

“Not so,” said Dave Hundelt, Chief Support Engineers, Water, Sewer, and Streets Bureau, Arlington County. “We fell behind a little bit last year, when due to the pandemic we weren’t able to do as much, but we are on track to do 72-lane-miles of resurfacing this year, pretty much our normal goal per year.” (A lane mile is one lane of paving: some roads have as many as three lanes worth of square footage.) So a short residential street can have 3 lanes, if it’s wide. Streets can only be resurfaced when the weather is warm, so everything will be wrapped up before November.

Hundelt said it might seem like streets get repaved more often, but the average residential street is only done (roughly) every 20-to-30 years. If the street is a busy one or has had a lot of construction on it, then that will happen sooner. Hundelt says Arlington tries to review



Putting down the hot asphalt after scraping.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION



An Arlington street is scraped down as old asphalt is conveyed to trucks and sent for turning into RAP.

one third of its streets every year, or put another way, streets get reviewed roughly every three years to check on the condition and obtain a score on the index that will tell Arlington whether the street needs work. The county will probably increase the frequency of that review given the needs they are seeing.

“You want to do a road over before it is in really bad condition,” Hundelt said. “So it’s easier to repair a road that has an index of 40 than a worse score.” Some roads, like Wilson Boulevard get 20,000 to 30,000 vehicles driven on them every day, and therefore need repair more often.

The county also uses another

pavement solution to try to keep the resurfacing down, the slurry seal. The county does about half as many slurry seal surfaces because that seal will last another 8-10 years, reducing the frequency of the major work.

And what happens to the truckloads of asphalt scraped off the road and spewed into trucks, sometimes as many as five trucks full for a short road? Most of it gets recycled. It is either processed down into small pieces and reused for a granular base, subbase, stabilized aggregate, embankment, or fill material. Or more frequently, the milled asphalt becomes reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) in a new

asphalt mix. They process the old asphalt into smaller pieces and thus save on aggregate and binder, which is the most expensive material used in the paving mix.

Hundelt said Arlington residents are generally very cooperative about the parking restrictions that come into play during repaving. Sometimes residents, especially those who have lived in developing countries, ask why the streets are being paved when they don’t seem to need it. Others want to know why their street isn’t being paved when their neighbors’ street is.

The equipment used is very tall, so sometimes trees close to the road or overhanging the road get

damaged by the paving machines. Once a paving machine got too close to a tree and it caught fire, but the excitement was short-lived. Trim your trees if you don’t want them snagged by the trucks.

Arlington roads are a small piece of the U.S.-wide program of repaving: the Federal Highway Administration says there are 72 million lane-miles of road in the lower 48 states and the U.S. builds roughly 30,000 lane miles per year on top of that, adding roughly 60 square miles per year to the land covered by roads.

Hundelt says asphalt is not a “green” surface since it’s full of petrochemicals, but it’s the only alternative, right now.



# Dream Chasers Catch Their Dream

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t all started over eight years ago with the smell of coffee beans roasting in a friend's skillet. Leo Maggio says, "It filled the room up with aroma and made me wake right up and get going." Gradually Leo began experimenting with his own skillet over the stove.

"In the beginning it was not very good. Like one side was green or yellow." But he decided he wanted to take roasting more seriously instead of just buying. "That's when I started nerding out with the skillet."

Leo and his wife and business partner, Brittani, say they tried different kinds of beans to find the right ones. And Brittani adds, making a face, "in the beginning some could have been better. But I was always behind him." She explains they would test the beans with small groups of friends — "not just us because we know what we would say."

They found they love Ethiopian (the customer favorite at the Arlington Farmers Market), and they loved Brazilian. So they thought "why don't we put them together. It turned out to be a big hit." And during the summer the cold brew coffee was also a favorite at the Arlington market. Leo explains the cold process takes a long time, sometimes up to 17-20 hours. They grind the coffee coarser. It sits in the water for a while to get out the bitter notes. "It's about the undertones — the chocolate, the caramel-y, what each bean tastes like."

Brittani adds, "to get the best flavor from the beans."

Now Saturdays Leo shares a space with Family of Nuts at the Arlington Farmers Market located at Dorothy Hamm Middle School. Other days Leo and Brittani try new things for business so they join forces with a mobile cigar van, a pop-up beer place or man a table at craft fairs.

Today they are making plans to set up their newly-purchased coffee bean roaster situated in shared space at ESP Tea and Coffee on King Street in Alexandria.

Brittani says they hope to begin roasting coffee for ESP within the next few days and have their grand opening event for Dream Chasers Coffee Company in a couple of weeks.

Brittani says they will be at ESP several days a week roasting their beans and serving their signature

drinks. So far she has planned crème brûlée and a dark chocolate peppermint latté and, of course, the popular lavender latté. And the Affogato, which is a scoop of vanilla gelato with a shot of espresso with her own special touch, a sprinkle of caramel chips. "It's really yummy."

**CHOCOLATE COVERED** coffee beans are another specialty, some dipped in caramel chips that will be perfect for holiday gifts. Brittani is always thinking of new ideas. "Maybe a butterscotch latté could be good, too."

Leo says when this all began he spent a lot of time in ESP while between his sessions as a trainer, and Brittani worked there for a while when she was also a trainer. She lived along his delivery route in his job at the time and he frequently went by her house.

"And our birthdays are one day apart," she adds. But their paths never crossed. As it turns out, they met online and were drawn together by their love of coffee. He says there were so many chances they could have met in person but instead it was online. Like it was meant to be.

It has been a long way from the day Leo and Brittani had their first date at ESP until now when they have a business roasting, marketing and selling a variety of coffee bean products and teas.

"She is the tea and chocolate person," Leo says.

"And he chews on coffee beans," she points out.

**IN THE BEGINNING** they didn't know any of the technical aspects of beans, only that they loved coffee. So Brittani worked at ESP and Leo immersed himself in extensive research. "I decided I loved the whole idea but I needed to learn more about it." They were so passionate about the idea of coffee that somewhere along the way they thought why not start their own business.

Leo points to their new Artisan 3-e coffee bean grinder, which cost them about \$5,000. "We bought it instead of a honeymoon since we got married during COVID." He explains it doesn't do a lot of volume but you can see right inside so you can see the coffee floating. "It roasts with hot air instead of gas so there are no combustion byproducts and you get a lot more flavor out of the coffee beans." And it isn't as hard on the stomach — less harsh.

They buy fair trade coffee mostly from Ethiopia, Brazil and Mexico, Brittani says.



Leo Maggio makes a personalized cup of Ethiopian coffee at ESP Tea and Coffee on King Street



Leo Maggio pours a cup of the Ethiopian "Motivation," a customer favorite at the Arlington Farmers Market located at Dorothy Hamm Middle School.

"And I have a five bean espresso," Leo adds.

Currently about 90 percent of their business is online but they expect this to change as they branch out to form partnerships with other businesses and make new connections and as life moves out of COVID.

Brittani and Leo are expecting a daughter in early January. Brittani says the daughter is a kicker and when Brittani is grinding coffee beans, her daughter is especial-



Leo Maggio at Arlington Farmers Market on Saturday, Oct. 9 at the Dream Chasers Coffee Company stand he shares with Family of Nuts.



Leo Maggio and his wife Brittani show off their new Artisan 3-e coffee bean grinder on Oct. 11 at ESP Tea and Coffee on King Street in Alexandria.

ly active as if she can smell them from inside the womb.

"I'm so proud of how far we've

come."

<https://dreamchaserscoffee.com/>

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



## NEWS

# In-Custody Death Investigation Ongoing

**T**he Northern Virginia Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) is investigating an in-custody death at the Arlington County Detention Facility.

At approximately 6:30 a.m. on Oct. 5, 58-year-old Clyde Spencer, who had been charged with Trespassing on Oct. 2, was found unconscious in the medical unit within the Arlington County Detention Facility. Arlington County Sheriff's Office deputies and medical staff began resuscitation efforts until the arrival of Arlington County Fire Department medics. He was transported to Virginia Hospital Center where he received medical treatment. His condition did not improve, and he was pronounced deceased at 5:58 p.m.

Spencer had been charged with Trespassing on Oct. 2, 2021 and was being held in the Arlington County Detention Facility.

An autopsy was conducted by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to determine cause of death, which was not released. This remains an active criminal investigation and anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact ACPDTipline@arlingtonva.us. Information may also be provided anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solv-

ers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

The critical incident response team was formed in January of this year to investigate critical incidents involving law enforcement officers within the cooperating jurisdictions. The team includes experienced criminal detectives, crime scene technicians and commanders from the 11 participating agencies. CIRT is a multi-jurisdictional team designed to provide effective and standardized investigations in critical incidents such as in-custody deaths. Chief Penn requested CIRT to investigate this incident in the interest of promoting transparency and public confidence.

Commonwealth Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti said, "We are diligently working with the CIRT and the ACPD on these cases and hope the community and the families involved understand that we cannot reveal the content of the investigations, and the Virginia rule of professional conduct 3.6 prohibits me from commenting on a pending case."

At the completion of a comprehensive, thorough, and impartial investigation, the CIRT will present the facts and evidence to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

providers, and representatives of government and not-for-profit organizations. Call the Housing Division at 703-228-3765 or the LAIF team at 301-328-3292 or visit [www.arlingtonlife.org](http://www.arlingtonlife.org).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 23

Nat'l Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will provide the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. This disposal service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Locations include: Police Headquarters (1425 N. Courthouse Road) and Fire Station #5 (1750 S. Hayes Street).

### DONATIONS

\* Rock Springs UCC Church, 5010 Little Falls Road, Sundays 9 a.m.-noon only. (Look for the donation bin on the Rock Spring Drive side of the church).

Pet Food Bank. AWLA is establishing a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal is

to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit [goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4t-Pw2](https://goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4t-Pw2).

### GET MORE WITH SNAP

Arlington and Alexandria Farmers' Markets accept SNAP/EBT (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) cards for purchases. SNAP/EBT customers can purchase farm fresh produce at local area farmers' markets and get matching bonus tokens to add to their purchases. Virginia Cooperative will be on-site at several local farmers' markets of Alexandria and Arlington to provide more information on SNAP and offer food tastings, prizes and more at the Arlington Farmers' Market, N. 14th and Courthouse Road (second Saturday of the month) and Columbia Pike Farmers' Market, 2820 Columbia Pike (third Sunday of the month).

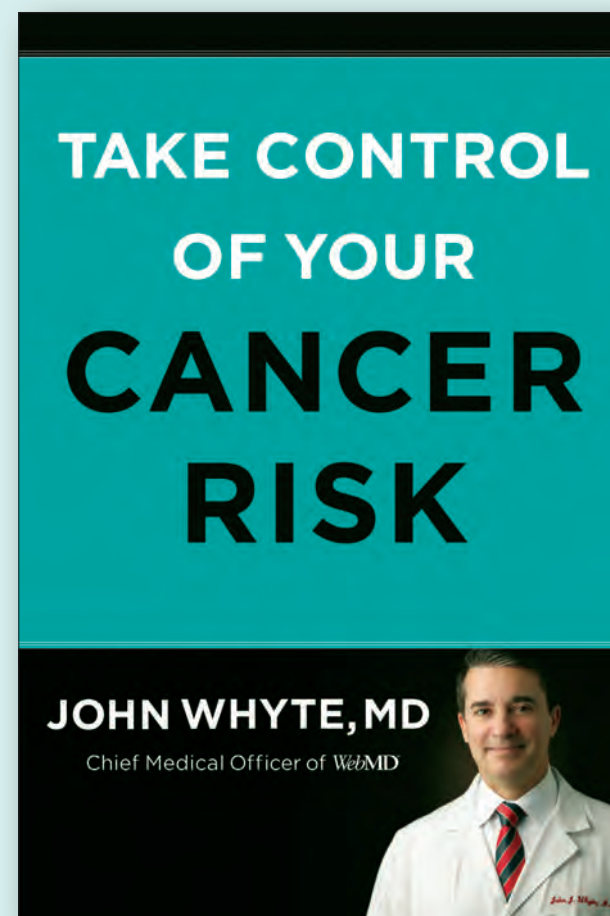
### ONGOING

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



# Dr. Whyte's New Book Released October 5, 2021



This book shares straightforward information and equips you with strategies to help you on a journey to better health, including:

- Assessing your cancer risk
- Knowing which screenings you need, and when
- Learning the role food, exercise, and sleep play
- Understanding the relationship between stress and cancer

You have the power to reduce your cancer risk--and this book will show you just how easy it is.

**Order this and Dr. Whyte's other books on Amazon.com**



# ENTERTAINMENT: HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



Nutsa Tediashvili as Madeline and Alex Mills as Roderick in The Madness of Poe at Synetic Theater.



Ryan Sellers as Edgar in The Madness of Poe at Synetic Theater.



Ryan Sellers as Edgar, center, with Nutsa Tediashvili and Alex Mills in The Madness of Poe now playing at Synetic Theater.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY SHROCK PHOTOGRAPHY

# ‘The Madness of Poe’

## Synetic makes spellbinding return.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

Synetic Theater makes a triumphant return to live performances with a spellbinding execution of “The Madness of Poe,” a masterful adaptation of the works of Edgar Allan Poe.

Synetic Theater founder Paata Tsikurishvili was greeted with enthusiastic applause as he welcomed the audience on opening night. “The last year and a half has been a very dark time for so many of us,” said Tsikurishvili, before adding wryly, “so we thought we would return with something light.”

Directed by Tsikurishvili and choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili, “The Madness of Poe” will play a limited engagement through Oct. 31.

“Like Shakespeare, Poe has become more than a writer,” Tsikurshvili said. “He has become an institution and genre unto himself and tonight we witness the moments before the pen touches the page. We watch how Poe, the inventor of American horror, created some of the most frightening and disturbing stories the world has ever known.”

“The Madness of Poe” fuses two of Poe’s most famous works -- “The Fall of the House of Usher” and “The Raven” -- creating a bridge between his poetry and prose.

Anchored by a reimagining of Synetic’s 2007 hit adaptation of “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Madness of Poe” hauntingly blends the writer’s unHINGED reality with the intoxicating imaginings of his stories, including “The Raven.” A talented cast brings the sinister tales to life in an evening of macabre



Synetic Theater founder Paata Tsikurishvili.

suspense.

Ryan Sellers gives a riveting performance as Edgar, capturing Poe’s descent into madness over the course of the 90-minute per-

formance. Fellow Synetic company members Alex Mills and Nutsa Tediashvili join Sellers as Roderick and Madeline respectively, with each taking command of the stage with spellbinding performances.

Rounding out the cast are Philip Fletcher as Servant, Maryam Najafzada as The Raven, Megan Khaziran as Lenore, and Chris Galindo, Scean Flowers and Ariel Kraje in the ensemble.

The choreography by Irina Tsikurshvili is powerful and precise, perfectly executed to an appropriately haunting score.

The production features scenic and props design by Phil Charlwood, costume design by Alexa Duimstra, sound design by Justin

Schmitz and lighting design by Doug Del Pizzo. For “The Raven” Scott Brown serves as creative associate, director, Najafzada as creative associate, choreographer, and Katherine DuBois as adaptor. Nathan Weinberger created the original adaption of “The Fall of the House of Usher.”

“The Madness of Poe” features mature themes including scenes of intimacy and drug use. If this were a movie, it would be rated PG-13. Proof of COVID vaccine is required, along with photo ID. The process is smooth and goes quickly, adding only a few brief moments to the check-in process. Audience members must wear masks, which can be removed when enjoy-

ing refreshments both in the lobby and the theater. Running time is 90 minutes with no intermission.

“The Madness of Poe” will play a four-week limited engagement through Oct. 31 at Synetic Theater, 1800 South Bell Street in Arlington.

Performances are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Industry Night is Monday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$60 and are available at [www.synetictheater.org](http://www.synetictheater.org), in-person at the box office located in the underground Crystal City Shops, or via phone at 703-824-8060 x117.

“The tragedies of Poe’s life took the light from Edgar Allan Poe,” said Tsikurshvili of the author who died at the age of 40 under mysterious circumstances. “The result was a creative mind charged with terror, steeped in longing and filled with some of the bleakest humor ever written.”

## HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

### NOW THRU NOV. 6

Workhouse Haunt. 7-11 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year’s Workhouse Haunt immerses guests through a highly-themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups for a frightening 30-minute experience that brings them next to the site’s abandoned, historic buildings and into the dark woods where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. Cost is \$25. Occurs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each weekend from Oct. 3 through Nov. 6. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/workhouse-events/2021-workhouse-haunt-the-collection-2/>

### OCT. 1-31

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays additional tours at 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per adult; \$14 for seniors, military and law enforcement; \$10



PHOTO BY DAVID BLANCO

### THROUGH OCT. 31

#### “THE MADNESS OF POE”

“The Madness of Poe” will play a limited engagement through Oct. 31. “We watch how Poe, the inventor of American horror, created some of the most frightening and disturbing stories the world has ever known,” said Synetic Theater founder Paata Tsikurshvili. Synetic Theater, 1800 South Bell Street in Arlington.

David Blanco in character for the 2021 Lorton Workhouse Haunt, every weekend through Nov. 6.



PHOTO BY MORGAN PRESCOTT

Morgan Prescott in character for the Lorton Workhouse Haunt, every weekend through Nov. 6.

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Industry Night is Monday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$10-\$60, [www.synetictheater.org](http://www.synetictheater.org), or in-person at the box office located in the underground Crystal City Shops, or via phone at 703-824-8060 x117.

### COX FARMS FALL FESTIVAL

#### THROUGH NOV. 7

Giant slides, hayrides, rope swings, farm animals & their babies, Cornfield adventure, farm chores, kiddie zone, apples & cider, food, entertainment, Imagination Trail, over 90 acres. <https://coxfarms.com/fall-festival/festival-attractions/>.

FIELDS OF FEAR Not recommended for children under 12 years old. When night falls on the farm, it’s time for Fields of Fear. Friday and Saturday nights until Nov. 3. Fields of Fear, the Dark Side Hayride and the Cornnightmare. The Firegrounds feature several bonfires, a six-lane slide, music, karaoke, entertainment, tasty treats, Foamhenge, and more. All under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (18+). Tickets required. Last

admission at 10pm Come alone or in a group. Buy your tickets online or same-day at the door. Proof of age required. See <https://fieldsoffear.coxfarms.com/> for more details on timed entry assignments, rain policy, food options, and complete list of attractions.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Raven’s Night at the Birchmere. 7:30 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. In its 10th year, Raven’s Night creeps, slithers and slinks its way back to The Birchmere. Keep your Halloween season going with a unique soirée featuring fusion belly dance, live music and a pre-show carnival. This year’s theme, COVEN, brings the most iconic witched, warlocks and wizards to the stage. Doors open at 5 p.m. with an “All Hallows Eve Exposition,” featuring pre-show entertainment including games, palm reading, live performances and more, followed by the “Salon Lunaire” dinner concert at 6:30 p.m., leading up to the main event at 7:30 p.m.

SEE HALLOWEEN, PAGE 9

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**2021-2022 Season**

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**NOV**

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## HOME LIFE STYLE



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

The cabinet-front bar in the family room of this Bethesda home, by Mark Kaufman of GTM Architects, blends seamlessly with the built-in bookcase.



PHOTO BY GREG POWERS

Because it occupies a small space, designer Tracy Morris was able to use bold colors and textures in this bar without overpowering the rest of this McLean home.

# Building a Better Bar

Local designers share home bar trends.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Whether unwinding after a long day or hosting a dinner party for family and close friends, the pandemic has boosted the popularity of home bars, say local designers. Their relatively small size makes home bars a blank canvas on which to unleash design creativity. A few local tastemakers offer ideas to those who are ready to trade-in their bar cart for a full-size version.

"The home bar is no longer just a bar," said Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design in McLean. "It has turned into the new workhorse of the home. Since our clients have been home a bit more, they are looking for secondary kitchen spaces."

Because home bars occupy only a small area in a home, homeowners can experiment with unexpected colors and textures that might overpower a larger space.

"Saturated colors are among the latest trends in home bar designs. [They] present a great opportunity to be different and creative," said Danielle Steele, lead interior designer, Marks-Woods Construction Services. "This space is often near the kitchen, which may be white or neutral, so it presents an opportunity to go bold."

From wall coverings to countertops, options for courageous design abound. "We are using jaw-dropping wallpapers in many of our home bars," said Morris. "This is the most asked for item. Clients are trying to differentiate their home bars from the rest of the home. One way to do this is with amazing wallpaper."

Those who enjoy entertaining friends and family know that the kitchen is often a dinner party gathering spot. Home bars offer an alternative space for guests to mingle. "[It] moves them away from the center of a busy and congested kitchen into a second area, which is perfect for conversation and gathering," said Tom Reineberg, architect. InSite Builders & Remodeling.

In fact, home bars can be equipped with accessories that allow them to serve as extensions of the kitchen. "In one recent Bethesda home, we provided a full walk-behind bar with bar



PHOTO BY REGIS VOGT

The bar in this home by interior designer Danielle Steele of Marks-Woods Construction is fitted with a wine refrigerator and glass front cabinetry, which create a minimalist style.

**"Since our clients have been home a bit more... the home bar is no longer just a bar. It has turned into the new workhorse of the home."**

— Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design in McLean

stool seating, said architect Mark Kaufman of GTM Architects. "The bar has a full array of appliances including an ice maker, refrigerator, dishwasher, sink and power outlets."

Proper lighting is essential. "Popular choices are LED circular-shaped lights, tape lighting and lighting strips ... [which] create a bright and attractive entertaining area," said Reineberg. "Open shelves with mirrors behind the shelving and dramatic lighting can be used to display and showcase barware, unique bottles and liquor collections."

lighting can be used to display and showcase barware, unique bottles and liquor collections."

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# HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



A 75-year tradition, the Vienna Halloween Parade is Oct. 27. This year's theme is the "Roaring 20s."

FROM PAGE 7

p.m., "Cabaret Melancholia," a theatrical belly dance program featuring some of the greatest exponents of the art. Please be advised that people under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Admission: \$45 per person. Visit the website: birchmere.com

## OCT. 16 TO NOV. 6

"Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Set against the socially turbulent 1960s, "Wait Until Dark" follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman who, while left alone in her apartment, becomes embroiled with a group of con men hatching an elaborate scam. As the tension mounts, Suzy must fend for herself, but the phone line is cut, and the house is plunged into darkness. Can Suzy outwit her murderous visitors? Note: All patrons are required to wear a mask (even if vaccinated) for the duration of the performance. Admission: \$21 to \$24 per person. Visit the website: thelittletheatre.com

## SOCIALLY DISTANCED

### TRUNK-OR-TREAT AT BULL RUN

Trunk-Or-Treat Monday, Oct. 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Dr., Centreville. Cancelled in event of rain. The event is free; register required. Include the number of kids in each car, to ensure enough treats for all the children. During the event, everyone will remain in their car at all times. The attendees will drive through slowly admiring the Halloween trunks/displays. At the conclusion, an officer will offer goody bags to the attendees if they choose to accept one. All goody bags will be prepared and distributed by officers wearing personal protective equipment.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 21

Halloween Ball and Anniversary Celebration at Barkhaus. 7:30 to 10 p.m. At Barkhaus, 529 E Howell Ave, Alexandria. Celebrate Barkhaus's first birthday with a Halloween ball. Guests will dress formally and add their own Halloween twists to their costumes. Dogs are encouraged to dress up as well. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, puppuccinos for dogs, a limited-edition Barkhaus anniversary shirt and more. Admission: \$75 per person. Visit the website: brews-kisbarkhaus.com

## OCT. 22, 23, 29, 30

Grief & Ghost Tour at Lee-Fendall House. At 7, 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Celebrate Halloween with a look at Victorian mourn-

ing traditions coupled with stories of tragic deaths and mysterious occurrences at the Lee-Fendall House. Customs such as draping the mirrors after a death, funeral practices, hair mementos, mourning clothing and séances will be explored. These tours offer a rare opportunity to see the house after dark. Tours groups will be limited to 10 participants and tickets must be purchased in advance. Face masks are required. Admission: \$15 per person. Visit leefendallhouse.org

## SATURDAY/OCT. 23

Old Town Trick or Treat by Old Town Business Association. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Bring your little ghouls and goblins to historic Old Town Alexandria for tricks and treats from your favorite boutiques and restaurants. Check the event website for more details and a trick or treat map. Visit the website: oldtownbusiness.org

## SUNDAY/OCT. 24

8th Annual Doggie Trick or Treat. 1 to 5 p.m. Meet at The Dog Park, 705 King St., Alexandria. Bring your costume-clad four-legged friends to historic Old Town Alexandria for tricks and treats from your favorite boutiques. Winners receive gift cards from The Dog Park in three different categories. Visit the website: thedogparkva.biz

## SUNDAY/OCT. 24

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2 p.m. Parade begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray's annual Halloween Parade begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte, and continues down to the Mount Vernon Recreation Center play fields. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb; awards are given for Best Pet Costume, Best Decorated Business, Best Decorated Home and Best Decorated Stroller. visitdelray.com/halloween

## OCT. 24, 30, 31

Halloween Pet Portraits and Trick or Treat. At Village at Shirlington, and Westpost (formerly known as Pentagon Row.) Federal Realty invites kids in costumes to trick or treat (tickets go on sale October 15th and are required), and complimentary Halloween pet portraits by Pooch Portrait Studios. This photography experience welcomes pets in costumes to capture a Halloween moment. Details: Sunday, October 24, 2021 at Pooch Portraits at Westpost Plaza (1201 S Joyce Street in Arlington) from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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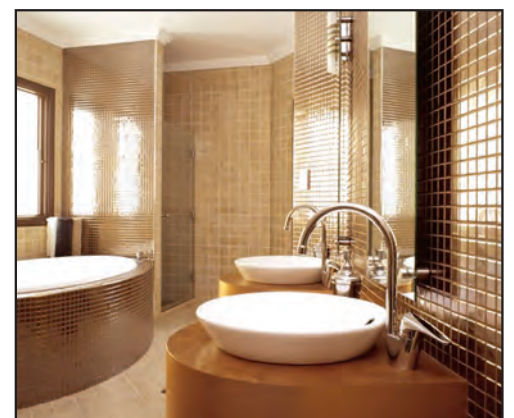
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# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU OCT. 29

"Water" Barry Keith. At Gallery Underground, 2120 Crystal Drive, Arlington. "Water," a solo show of large-scale acrylics by artist Barry Barnett Keith. Keith is a native of Alexandria, and a product of Alexandria City Public Schools. He began drawing Marvel and D.C. comics superheroes at a very early age for friends in grade school. After graduating from TC Williams High School in 1978, Keith went on to the University of Delaware art school, where he majored in Painting, Drawing and English. Visit the website: <https://galleryunderground.org/>

## NOW THRU OCT. 31

"Proof." 8-10 p.m. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Peter's Alley is back with the Pulitzer Prize Winning "Proof" by David Auburn, and what better way to commemorate the rebirth of Live Theater than with this witty classic of contemporary American theater? Cost is \$20. Preview performance is Thursday, 10/7; Opening Night Friday, 10/8 at 8 p.m.; 10/9, 10/15, 10/16, 10/22, 10/23, 10/28, 10/29, 10/30 at 8 p.m.; Sunday 10/17, 10/24, 10/31 at 3 p.m. Visit the website: <http://www.petersalley.com>.

## OCT. 12 TO NOV. 30

Forty + Project. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Jane Franklin Dance, 3700 S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Forty+ celebrates the collective creativity of people past the age of 40. Each project features a different choreographer. The goal is a unique tapestry of collaboration between choreographer and performers. Cost: \$160 for the 8 session series Visit the website: <https://janefranklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus>

## THURSDAY/OCT. 14

Syphax Family of Arlington. 7-8:30 p.m. At Reinsch Library Auditorium, Marymount University, 2807 North Glebe Road, Arlington. Historian and genealogist Steve Hammond will discuss the Syphax family, a founding African-American family in Arlington. The speaker will provide an overview of the Syphax family in a "scenic by-way" of the Syphax family in Virginia and Washington, D.C. Visit the website: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/>

## OCT. 18-25

Arlington Restaurant Week. Some 47 restaurants in Arlington have signed up for this event. Through this event, diners will enjoy some of the best food Arlington has to offer at special prices. Arlington Restaurant Week is a great opportunity for diners to explore Arlington's diverse restaurant and to find a new go-to place for dining out. Restaurants pick their own price point, market their menu on the website, and offer both dine-in and carry-out options. The Arlington Chamber is pleased to offer free participation for member restaurants, courtesy of its sponsors. Visit the website: <https://www.arlingtonchamber.org/arlington-restaurant-week.html>

## TUESDAY/OCT. 19

JLNV Recruiting Event. 6-6:45 p.m. Virtual Event. Zoom call to learn more about membership in the Junior League of Northern Virginia. Members will share their experiences and opportunities they've explored through the

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit salary.aauw.org.

Create a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners in restoring their home's natural habitat by providing information on sustainable gardening practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit [audubonva.org](http://audubonva.org)

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A discussion of the Syphax family of Arlington will be held Thursday, Oct. 14 at Marymount University in Arlington.

Junior League, and answer any questions you may have about becoming a member. They are currently accepting applications for the Winter 2021 New Member class. Visit the website: <https://www.jlnv.org/october-19th-virtual-meet-greet/>

## OCT. 24, 30, 31

Halloween Pet Portraits and Trick or Treat. At Village at Shirlington, and Westpost (formerly known as Pentagon Row.) Federal Realty invites kids in costumes to trick o' treat (tickets go on sale October 15th and are required), and complimentary Halloween pet portraits by Pooch Portrait Studios. This photography experience welcomes pets in costumes to capture a Halloween moment. Details: Sunday, October 24, 2021 at Pooch Portraits at Westpost Plaza (1201 S Joyce Street in Arlington) from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Pike & Rose on Saturday, October 30, 2021 with PIKEkids Trick or Treat from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (\*Tickets required). Sunday, October 31, 2021 a Bark Social Halloween Puppy Parade at 2 p.m. (\*Tickets required at [www.barksocial.com](http://www.barksocial.com)) Village at Shirlington on Arlington Mill Drive in Arlington. Saturday, October 30, 2021, Pooch Portraits on the Plaza at Arlington Mill Drive from 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Dogma Bakery Puppy Trick or Treat from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, October 31, 2021 a Kids Trick or Treat from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 29

Halloween Vampire Ball. At Syntetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; Show starts at 8 p.m. Syntetic Theater, in association with the National Landing Business Improvement District, JBG SMITH, and The Freshman, is throwing a VAMPIRE BALL. The festivities start with a performance of The Madness of Poe followed by an indoor/outdoor dance party with all the food, drinks, and candy that a ghoul could ask for. Expect aerialists, Edgar Allan Poe-themed cocktails, dancing, physical theater, spooky Georgian remixes, fun-sized candy bars, and more. Tickets are \$95-\$125 and are available at [syntetictheater.org](http://syntetictheater.org).

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## Life I'm Trying to Live



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Continuing last week's justifiable rant about my less-than-ideal cancer-driven circumstances, I have to look ahead somehow, not behind. I can't change the past and focusing on what happened that possibly didn't need to happen would make yours truly more of a dull boy than I already am. Besides, living my life with constant anger and disappointment concerning how I was potentially harmed serves no real purpose. It can't change the facts. It seems logical to me therefore that what damage I can't change and/or control, and that which medically has harmed me in the past, I must find a way to embrace it somehow so that I can live my present and future life - what there is of it, with some dignity and joy. Easier said than done, I assure you, especially for my wife. Though it's not exactly in the vault for me, it is nonetheless compartmentalized.

Oddly enough, it's this ability to compartmentalize which has likely carried me this long: nearly 13 years from my Feb., 2009 "terminal" diagnosis of stage IV non small cell lung cancer, a killer cancer if there ever was one, and of course, there are many. In fact, annually, more people die from lung cancer than the next four cancers combined. No wonder I was worried when I recall the "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given. Hearing those "you have cancer" words are life changing and in many cases, life ending. Fortunately for me, I was misdiagnosed and only thought I had a few years left to live.

Nevertheless, receiving this kind of life-threatening blast of reality at age 54 and a half is overwhelming. The treatment (heavy-duty chemotherapy) that followed was challenging. The life the patient is forced to live as a result becomes cancer centric. Very little time passes when you are not keenly aware of your circumstances or preoccupied with them or planning/coordinating your life/schedule around something cancer related. All the while knowing/having been told that your chances of surviving beyond two years is in the low single digits. And for many lung cancer patients, particularly stage IV patients, there's very little the doctors can do about it. There is no cure. As my oncologist told me: "I can treat you, but I can't cure you." It was extremely hard to process that statement. I mean, really process it to understand that you are going to die because of this diagnosis. It reminds me of an episode from the M\*A\*S\*H, the television series. It was a long day/night in the operating room and "Hawkeye" Pierce, one of the trauma surgeons, was questioning his ability to save wounded soldier's lives. Lt. Col. Henry Blake and "Hawkeye" are standing outside the surgery taking a break. And Henry, hearing his fellow surgeon's frustration, says to "Hawkeye:" "There are two rules in war. Rule number 1, young men die. Rule number 2, doctors can't change rule number 1." The warning/advisory one hears after getting a non small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis is very similar. It's not exactly a rule, but it is a startling reality nonetheless. That reality? Most stage IV lung cancer patients die much sooner than later.

This is the kind of news that you don't want to take to your grave. This is the news however that you must incorporate/assimilate into your life somehow so you can try to go on living a rewarding and productive life. Ignoring your diagnosis seems stupid and irresponsible. And pretending that your future actions will not have consequences for your health seems incredibly naive. The only real choice as I saw it, was integrating these horrible circumstances into my life, somehow. And the only way I could see doing this was to compartmentalize them. Try to control/file them away so everyday is not dreary and depressing. Life can go on by living it, not dying because of it. I made a conscious choice to not give in, and in a way, I've been rewarded for it. I've lived 10 years-plus beyond my original prognosis. Granted, mistakes were made, apparently. But for the 10 years or so until I learned my true diagnosis, I believed as Curly Howard believed in an unrelated Three Stooges two-reeler: "I'm too young to die. Too handsome. Well, too young, anyway."

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





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