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Mary Jones (left) and Elizabeth Powell
plant daffodils at Culpepper Garden in
Arlington on Saturday, Nov. 6 with a
youth group from McLean Bible Church.

The Arlington Connection

Creating Spring in November

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NEWS

Spring Is in the Air at 45 Degrees



Selection of random daffodil colors that will grow into a “mishmash of color.”



A group from McLean Bible Church plants a variety of daffodils as part of a six-phase restoration of the outdoor space.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Mary Jones inserts her metal bulb planter into the ground and pushes down a six-inch deep hole. She digs the holes five inches apart in a zigzag pattern and inserts six bulbs in each hole.

Elizabeth Powell, working alongside her, picks a “colorful mishmash of bulbs” from boxes nearby and arranges them appropriately “which means I pick colorful mixtures at whimsy and when they bloom they’ll be like an abstract painting. But,” she adds, “I’m a complete novice.”

Jones and Powell are with a youth group of 18 volunteers from the McLean Bible Church at Tysons. They are at Culpepper Garden in Arlington on Saturday, Nov. 6 planting daffodils for Culpepper’s garden restoration project. John Mathai says he organizes a group to just hang out at senior centers on the second Saturday of the month. “We go inside and talk to the residents, paint their nails.” But today they are outside working on a special project. Mathai, who has been doing this for at least ten years, says they used to volunteer at different senior centers but since COVID the group has been working only with Culpepper Garden.

It was about 45 degrees when the group arrived to begin their work at 11 a.m. although Powell says she arrived “fashionably late at 11:15. You can take my picture. I’m single.”

“So am I,” chimes in Jones. “I think everyone here except Sasha is single. It’s a good place to meet people.”

The garden restoration began in the fall of 2020 with planting of more than 28,000 daffodils as the first phase of a six-part renovation. The restoration

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Elizabeth Powell (left) chooses the bulbs and Mary Jones plants them in a zigzag pattern at Culpepper Garden on Saturday.



Gibboney Walk is the first phase of the Culpepper Garden renovation.

is a tribute to Dr. Charles Culpepper who previously owned the land that now houses Culpepper Garden, senior affordable housing with independent living and an assisted living wing. Culpepper was known for his variety and profusion of daffodils, and some of the original daffodils still bloom around Culpepper Garden.

The second phase of the beautification and enhancement of the grounds will be Woodland Walk which focuses on linking the current walking paths so that residents can stroll all around the property. Martha Hill Gray, executive director, says they have found during COVID that residents have spent more time in the outdoor spaces “connecting more deeply to the healing powers found in nature.” Gibboney Walk, the first phase of the project, has new places for residents to sit and enjoy the variety of native Virginia plants and the birds at the newly-installed feeder.

The design of the six phases of renovation includes a pavilion, a koi pond, trees, benches, garden stone and bird feeders. Outdoor spaces can be named to commemorate a loved one, your company, organization or someone special to you.

Culpepper Garden is currently organizing a daffodil drive. A contribution of \$75 or more will result in a reusable canvas bag with 25 premium daffodil bulbs just in time for your own spring planting or for donation back to Culpepper Garden to be planted along Gibboney Walk.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Arlington County Election Results November 2021

Member County Board

	Votes	Percent
Takis P. Karantonis	50,994	60.10%
Audrey R. Clement	15,566	18.35%
Adam Theo	4,828	5.69%
Michael T. Cantwell	11,731	13.83%

Member School Board

	Votes	Percent
Major M. Webb	15,565	19.23%
Mary B. Kadera	63,027	77.89%

Metro and Transportation

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$38,700,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and other transit, pedestrian, road or transportation projects?

	Votes	Percent
YES	73,680	79.24%
NO	19,298	20.76%

Local Parks and Recreation

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$6,800,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation?

	Votes	Percent
YES	74,525	80.24%
NO	18,350	19.76%

Community Infrastructure

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$17,035,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects, including but not limited to Neighborhood Conservation, improvements to County facilities in the Court House area, and other County infrastructure?

	Votes	Percent
YES	65,805	71.07%
NO	26,790	28.93%

Arlington Public Schools

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$23,010,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for Arlington Public Schools?

	Votes	Percent
YES	73,028	78.49%
NO	20,014	21.51%



Rendering of architect’s drawing for the new Culpepper Garden dream daffodil garden.

CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Republican Sweep

Democrats lose statewide for the first time since 2009.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Virginia has a long tradition of offering a counterpoint to presidential elections starting after the election of Democrat Jimmy Carter for president in 1976. Virginia responded by electing Republican John Dalton. Ever since then, it's been a pretty predictable pattern. After the Reagan Revolution in 1980, Virginia elected Democrat Chuck Robb governor. The election of Democrat Bill Clinton brought on the election of Republican George Allen, and the answer to Republican George W. Bush was Democrat Mark Warner.

Only one candidate for governor has been able to break the spell — Terry McAuliffe, who bucked the trend in 2013 by defeating Republican Ken Cuccinelli on the heels of Barack Obama's reelection. Democrats were hopeful that McAuliffe could pull it off again. But his campaign attempting to tie Republican Glenn Youngkin to former President Donald Trump failed as a wave of voters raised objections to anti-racism curriculum in schools and transgender students using the bathroom of the gender their choice.

"Unfortunately, Virginia's long-standing trend of electing a governor from the opposite party of the president continues," said Noam Lee, executive director of the Democratic Governors Association. "Sidestepping the issues that mattered to voters, the GOP lied and schemed to hide their candidate's extreme positions, and their far-right agenda won out."

Youngkin declared victory at a raucous victory party in Chantilly, thanking his family and outlining his agenda for the next four years. At the top of the list was education reform. He made no mention of critical race theory, the law-school concept that he has vowed to ban from public school classrooms. But he did promise the largest education budget in history, and he said he would expand charter schools. He also said he would deliver the largest tax refund ever, and he vowed to eliminate the grocery tax.

"This is our moment," said Youngkin. "Together, we will change the trajectory of this commonwealth."

"Together, we will change the trajectory of this commonwealth."
— Governor-elect Glenn Youngkin



Republican gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin addresses a crowd Oct. 30 at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria. Youngkin upset Democratic nominee Terry McAuliffe in the Nov. 2 general election.

The blame game has already started among Democrats, who are critical of the McAuliffe campaign for focussing too much attention on Trump and for not fighting back harder against allegations that critical race theory is taught in Virginia classrooms. As Democrats saw power slipping from their grasp Tuesday night, they were particularly angry that Republicans were able to seize on the issue of education — a campaign issue Democrats have long considered their own personal realm.

"You cannot lose education," said Brian Moran, a former Democratic caucus chairman in the House who now works in the Northam administration. "It's bread and butter: Health care, education and safety. That's what Democrats talk about, and that's what we care about. We cannot

forfeit those issues."

Since Democrats seized control of the General Assembly two years ago, they've been able to achieve drastic change.

They've legalized marijuana, abolished the death penalty, restricted predatory lending, implemented gun violence prevention measures and overturned restrictions to abortion. For many voters, that may have been too much too soon. The election of Youngkin and the Republican ticket is certain to be viewed as a repudiation of the agenda that Democrats pushed during their brief era of legislative power.

"It's official: Virginians have completely rejected the failed policies of the liberals running Richmond and voted for a brighter future full of supported small businesses, empowered parents and safer streets," said Dee Duncan, president of the Republican State Leadership Committee. "We supported the right candidates, developed the right messages, and executed the right strategies to



Hundreds turned out in Old Town Alexandria Oct. 30 for a rally for Republican gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin.

overcome a two-to-one spending disadvantage driven by national liberals like Barack Obama, Eric Holder, Nancy Pelosi and Stacey Abrams."

Youngkin launched his campaign initially aiming squarely at economic issues, promising tax cuts as part of a very traditional Republican playbook. But then events caught up with the campaign. A high-profile prosecution in Loudoun gave opponents of transgender students using the bathroom of their choice an opportunity to question safety. And a national movement against so-called critical race theory erupted at local school board meetings across Virginia. Then McAuliffe stuck his foot in his mouth in the second debate saying he didn't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach.

"I think Terry made an unfortunate remark, and that started it," said Del. Kaye Kory (D-38). "Before that, there really was not any talk about this on this scale."

After the debate in Alexandria

at the Schlesinger Center, Republicans recalibrated their campaign to be aimed right at the issue of parental rights. That gave them an opportunity to ride the wave of concern over anti-racism curriculum in the classroom, which they call critical race theory even though that's not taught in Virginia classrooms. And every new detail in the Loudoun prosecution was amplified on right-wing media. McAuliffe's own words were endlessly repeated in Republican television ads, and the McAuliffe campaign was late in walking the statement back.

"We are grateful to Virginians who place their trust in us," said Republican House Leader Todd Gilbert after Republicans won enough seats to take control of the House of Delegates. "We look forward to immediately going to work with Governor-elect Youngkin and his administration to restore fiscal order, give parents the voice they deserve in education and keep our commonwealth safe. Our work begins now."

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.

55+ Programs

Honoring Virginia's officially recognized Native American tribes, Friday, Nov. 12 1:30 p.m. Presented by Shane Begay, North American Indian History Council. Registration # 911400-45.

Explore drawing and painting techniques with community arts programmer Jennifer Drobny, Friday, Nov. 12, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street. Registration # 911301-9 (drawing). Registration # 911301-11 (painting).

55+ Arts and Crafts Festival, Saturday, Nov. 13, 1-3 p.m., outdoors, Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. Local artists from the 55+ age group display their works. Open to the public. Rain date Saturday, Nov. 20. For more information, email, sashton@arlingtonva.us.

Garden Tours highlighting landscaping
at County Community Centers,
Monday, Nov. 15, 1 p.m., Lubber
Run 55+ Center, 300 N. Park
Drive. Registration # 911400-14.

Library of Virginia's genealogy series
ends with how to access church

records, Monday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m.
Registration # 911400-46.

Current events discussion of local and world news, Monday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street. Registration # 911402-16.

Keeping homes warm this winter, easy and low-cost tips, Tuesday, Nov. 16. 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Registration # 911401-2.

A gold rush in Virginia? Discover long forgotten gold mining history with Todd Bonshire, manager/curator of the Monroe Park/Gold Mining Camp Museum in Fauquier County, Tuesday, Nov. 16, 1:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street. Registration # 911400-47 or virtual, registration # 911400-48.

Genealogy 101, led by experienced genealogist Eileen Bogdanoff. Share information and tools, Tuesday, Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, 212 N. Culpeper Street. Registration # 911400-56.

55+ Live! Talk Show, preview of upcoming programs, demonstrations, meet 55+ staff, Tuesday, Nov. 16, 12 p.m. Registration # 911801-5.

The impact of Alzheimer's, risk factors, symptoms and treatments, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55 # Center, 735 S. 18th Street. Registration # 911500-19. Presented by Lindsey Vajpeyl, Insight

Memory Care Center.

Learn about autoharps, similar to a zither, demonstration by Fran Fields, Thursday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, 2121 N. Culpeper Street. Registration # 911400-49.

Urban birds who don't flee during the winter, European starlings, Rock pigeons and Peregrine falcons, Thursday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m.. Presented by Park Naturalist Kenneth Rosenthal. Registration # 911400-51.

Movie group to discuss and critique, "Supernova," Thursday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 N. Culpepper Street. Registration # 911704-5.

Older drivers meet Mike Perel, Ret.,
U.S. National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration, Thursday,
Nov. 18, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+
Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street.
Hear how aging might affect
driving and how new technologies
can help avoid crashes and reduce
injuries. Registration # 911400-50.

Sunshine Gang Band, performs rock and popular classic selections, Friday, Nov. 19, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street. Drop-in; no need to register.

Acoustic Hour at Aurora Hills 55+ Center, 735 S. 18th Street. Music from the 50s hosted by Carl Gold, Friday, Nov. 19, 1 p.m. Registration # 911802-8.

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

**ARLINGTON
COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

❖ Sun. Nov. 14 -- Seeing Farther into the Universe: A Look at the James Webb Space Telescope, hosted by Friends of the Planetarium. 2 - 5 p.m. Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S Dinwiddie St. 22204 and streamed [here](#).

Th. Nov. 18 -- 28th annual Spirit of Community Virtual Awards Celebration, hosted by the Arlington Community Foundation. 12:00 p.m. Virtual.

Now - Jan. 8 -- Columbia Pike:
Through the Lens of Commu-
nity, a unique exhibition of
photographs that celebrates the
extraordinary cultural diversity
found in Arlington's 22204
neighborhood.

FILL THE CRUISER HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE EVENTS

Help spread joy this holiday season by donating new, unwrapped toys during the Arlington County Police Department's (ACPD) seventh annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive. This year, with families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for donations may be greater than ever and your generosity helps ensure the holidays are

bright for some of our most vulnerable community members – children in need.

Contactless Donation Drop-Off
Locations: Officers will collect new, unwrapped toys for children ages newborn to 17 at the following locations:

Thursday, November 11, 2021 at
Ballston Quarter, 6:00 p.m. –
8:00 p.m.

4238 Wilson Boulevard (a cruiser
will be parked on the sidewalk
between Ted's Bulletin and True
Food Kitchen)

Saturday, November 13 at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City,
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

1100 S. Hayes Street
Wednesday, November 17 at Lee
Harrison Shopping Center, 5:00
p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

2425 N. Harrison Street
Tuesday, November 30 at Our Lady
of Lourdes Church, 6:00 p.m. –
8:00 p.m.

830 23rd Street S.
Friday, December 3 at Arlington
Assembly of God, 5:00 p.m. –
7:00 p.m.

4501 N. Pershing Drive
Those wishing to donate toys, but unable to attend the Fill the Cruiser events can drop off donations at Police Headquarters, located at 1425 N. Courthouse Road, until Friday, December 10 at the 2nd Floor Administrative Support Unit Front Counter from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6





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Unofficial Results from Virginia Board of Elections

	Votes	Percent
Governor		
Glenn A. Youngkin - R	1,663,755	50.68
Terry R. McAuliffe - D	1,593,741	48.55
D Princess L. Blanding - LP	22,625	0.69
Leiutenant Governor		
Winsome E. Sears - R	1,659,942	50.82
Hala S. Ayala - D	1,603,076	49.08
Attorney General		
Jason S. Miyares - R	1,649,034	50.48
Mark R. Herring - D	1,614,724	49.43
Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOL BONDS		
Yes	174,236	67.82
No	82,676	32.18
Delegate District 34		
Gary G. Pan - R	17,109	43.15
Kathleen J. Murphy - D	22,496	56.74
Delegate 35th District		
Kevin E. McGrath - R	11,132	31.6
Mark L. Keam - D	24,044	68.26
Delegates 36th District		
Matthew J. Lang - R	10,220	28.4
Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum - D	25,701	71.41
Delegate 37th District		
Kenny W. Meteiver - R	9,491	33.36
David L. Bulova - D	18,914	66.47
Delegates 38th District		
Tom L. Pafford - R	7,468	31.12
L. Kaye Kory - D	16,451	68.55
Delegates 39th District		
Maureen T. Brody - R	9,950	33.32
Vivian E. Watts - D	19,850	66.46
Delegates 40th District		
Harold Y. Pyon - R	17,021	45.91
Dan I. Helmer	20,025	54.01
Delegates 41st District		
John M. Wolfe - R	12,361	34.88
Eileen Filler-Corn - D	23,016	64.94
Delegates 42nd District		
Edward F. McGovern - R	14,097	40.09
Kathy K. "KL" Tran - D	21,012	59.76
Delegate 43rd District		
Brenton H. Hammond - R	9,341	29.92
Mark D. Sickles - D	21,838	69.95
Delegates 44th District		
Richard T. Hayden - R	8,568	32.45
Paul E. Krizek - D	17,795	67.41
Delegates 45th District		
Justin D. "J.D." Maddox - R	10,924	26.15
Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker - D	30,733	73.57
Delegate 46th District		
Charniele L. Herring - D	20,024	92.1
Delegate 47th District		
Laura A. Hall - R	8,473	21.61
Patrick A. Hope - D	30,616	78.1
Delegates 48th District		
Edward William Monroe, Jr. - R	10,709	27.71
Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. - D	27,847	72.05
Delegates 53rd District		
Sarah White - R	8,749	28.14
Marcus B. Simon - D	22,292	71.69
Delegates 67th District		
Bob L. Frizzelle - R	13,958	39.42
Karrie K. Delaney - D	21,407	60.46
Delegates 86th District		
Julie Anna Perry - R	10,113	34.65
Irene Shin - D	18,988	65.05

OPINION

Schools Lost on Nov. 2

BY PAT HYNES

The winner of the Virginia governor's race, Glenn Youngkin, would have you believe that teachers can't be trusted to teach historic truth or inclusive literature without victimizing white children. He would have you believe that school librarians push pornography on children and that parents have no right to challenge books. He wants you to think that school principals can't support trans students and keep girls safe in the bathroom at the same time.

None of that is true. The vast majority of parents know that none of that is true. Polls show that parents overwhelmingly trust their children's teachers and school leaders to provide safe, effective learning environments for their children. And every day, in classrooms across every part of Virginia, educators earn that trust.

Unfortunately, most media and Democratic politicians failed to effectively challenge these destructive, divisive lies.

Bullying school boards, teachers, librarians, and our most vulnerable students worked for Youngkin and the GOP. They are already doubling down for the 2022 midterm elections.

It's time for public school teachers, parents, and students in Vir-

ginia to get organized and get loud. We have to assume that politicians, parties, and many in the media will do no better going forward. We must make our own voices too loud to ignore.

Here's the truth about schools in Virginia:

❖ Teachers empower students when we teach the whole, unvarnished truth about U.S. and Virginia history, from the first slave ships at Point Comfort, through the Capital of the Confederacy and Massive Resistance, to the systemic inequities that remain today.

❖ Teachers empower students to think critically and empathically by exposing them to traditionally under-represented voices and stories in literature.

❖ Teachers create safe, joyful learning environments for all students when they respect preferred names and pronouns.

❖ Parents and students in Virginia overwhelmingly expect teachers to do these things because it's just good teaching.

Schools lost in Virginia on Nov. 2. It's time for educators, parents, and students to speak up and protect our most important public institution.

Pat Hynes is a former member of the Fairfax County School Board, a teacher in Arlington and a Reston resident.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

DEC. 3, 4

Help Plant Daffodils. At Culpepper Garden in Arlington. Looking for an opportunity to get outside and connect with nature? This fall, Culpepper Garden is hosting a variety of community planting days as they plant 3,000 daffodils in preparation for our Spring Daffodil Walk. Dates include: 11/5, 11/6, 12/3, and 12/4. Masks and social distancing will be required. To volunteer, contact Ashley

Gomez, Volunteer Manager at agomez@culpeppergarden.org.

DONATIONS

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe

Contributing Photographer and Writer
slrbc@aol.com

Joan Brady

Contributing Photographer and Writer
joan@joanbradyphotography.com

Eden Brown

Contributing Writer
arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore

Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President

Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Creating a Holiday-Ready Kitchen

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As the holiday season begins in less than two weeks, a home's kitchen is the center stage for holiday parties and even casual gatherings with friends. But many people feel that their kitchen could use an overhaul. Local designers offer suggestions for making the best of your space.

"Though a remodeling project is unrealistic given the time constraints, minor tweaks can spruce up or refresh a kitchen," said Angela Morrison, designer and founder of Morrison Style in Vienna. "You don't have to redo your entire house for the holidays. You can easily do a few easy things to make it look updated for the holidays."

After giving her kitchen a quick makeover in advance of a Hanukkah party that she hosted for her children's friends and their parents three years ago, Linda Goldstein, a Bethesda based mother and interior designer, says that she developed several strategies for making a big impact on a dated kitchen in a minimal amount of time.

"I tried several design tricks, so I know that they work," she said. "I have shared these with my clients who have short lead times, but they want to have a kitchen that looks decent for the holidays. You can make mini adjustments that have a big impact and don't cost a lot of money."

Before tackling any design project, Fairfax based designer Julia Tull of Tull and Foley Designs believes in starting with the basics.

"During the holidays we are cooking a lot more food at one time, it's important to make a note of the things that are currently on your countertops and see what can be packed away to free up much needed space. Crockpots and waffle irons can be stored elsewhere."

Something as simple as a fresh coat of paint can transform a kitchen with a minimal investment in time and money. "Over even just a few years, paint can start to look dingy and dirty, and this can really bring down the look and feel of your kitchen," said Jennifer Moriarty, an interior design student who lives in Alexandria. "Instead of leaving it, take a day or two and add a fresh coat of paint to your cabinets and kitchen walls."

Updating hardware can give an outdated kitchen an updated look. "Replace the kitchen pulls and handles," said Moriarty. "It's not a bad idea to splurge on them and reuse them if you decide to remodel your kitchen in the near future."

Replacing a kitchen's window treatments can transform a room instantly, easily and inexpensively suggests private interior designer Anita Stanley of Woodbridge. "The design options are plentiful," she said. "Very few things transform the style of a room like window treatments."

Replacing outdated or worn flooring might be a long-term project, but Chris Katkish, general manager, InSite Builders & Remodeling in Bethesda suggests a quick fix.

"Consider using Peel and stick tile for flooring," he said. "Not a permanent solution but could be just enough to get through the holidays."

Replacing lighting will brighten a kitchen space and create an updated look. "Add inexpensive under-counter LED lighting," said Katkish. "Toe kick lighting is not very common, but a great way to make a space pop."

Lighting can make even the most dated cabinets look chic, said Linda Berkson of Berkson Interiors in Vienna. "Under cabinet lighting brings attention to the beautiful tile work of your backsplash and adds a festive glow to your kitchen," she said. "Under cabinet lighting kits are easy to install and can be found on Amazon."

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Adding holiday accessories to a kitchen counter-top can create a festive space.

Holiday lights are for more than trimming the tree. "As the days grow shorter, lighting becomes more comforting," said Morrison. "Put mini lights on top of your cabinets. You buy different color lights and swap out the color for the particular holiday. Orange lights work for Thanksgiving, blue for Hanukkah and red and green for Christmas."

Try adding accessories in holiday colors, suggests lead designer Jen Patton of Patton and Patton Interiors. "You can swap out things like potholders, vases, dishware, and candles from everyday patterns to holiday-inspired ones," she said. "Add a few cheerful touches of red, green, and silver. Maybe you could add a garland on the wall or a small vase with pinecones, festive berries, and candles for a centerpiece."

"If you have the space, you can hang a wreath on one of your walls or drape garland on top of a cabinet," said Patton.

"Do you get a lot of cards?" asks Berkson. "Perhaps attach them to cascading grosgrain or another type of ribbon and turn a plain wall into a festive display."

Even those with Formica countertops that are reminiscent of the 1970s, can create the illusion of elegance and festivity. "If you don't like your counters and don't have the time or money to redo them, you can always cover sections with holiday placemats or nice cutting boards," said Patton.

When the counters are satisfactory, they can be versatile. "Take one section of a countertop and make it the drink center," said Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design, based in McLean, VA. "That way, you will not have guests making drinks where you are trying to cook. Line up the bottles, fill a decanter and show your guests a great time."

Use the space to create stations that are streamlined and inviting. "It's a quick way to update the kitchen for the holidays and keeps [guests] out of the work space, but still part of the conversation," said Allie Mann, designer and senior interiors specialist with Case Architects & Remodelers in Falls Church, VA.

Those fortunate enough to have a kitchen island can enjoy the luxury of an additional canvas on which to express holiday creativity. "Consider using it to lay out a buffet," said Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design in Bethesda. "It could also serve as a great kids' table."

As with other facets of the impending holiday festivities, practicing expectation management with kitchen design is essential for a peaceful Yuletide season. "You have to be realistic about what can and can't be done," said Berkson. "You can embellish your kitchen table and counters with simple seasonal décor, but you can't redesign it in two weeks. Try to get easy kitchen maintenance done now and make a mental note of any bigger projects you'd like to complete next year."

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Neonatal kittens (how many can you see?) who are well on their way to finding their forever homes, thanks to the Kitten College.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON



Vanessa Parks, the AWLA's Kitten College Intake Coordinator, pauses to take a picture with Annie -- a graduate of the Kitten College who soon after went on to find her forever home.



Three newborn kittens who all practically fit into the palm of one human hand, landed at the AWLA before even opening their eyes, which typically occurs at seven to ten days after birth.

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Neonatal kittens – those under eight weeks old – are enough to melt even the coldest of hearts. These unimaginably tiny cats fit in the palm of your hand, they don't open their eyes until they're at least a week old, and they don't have teeth until they are four weeks old.

These newborn kittens are just like human babies: they need their mothers to nurse them, care for them, and protect them until they are mature enough to fend for themselves. Neonatal kittens are at severe risk if they are orphaned.

Abandoned infant kittens are actually the most euthanized animals across the country.

According to Marnie Russ, the Program Administrator for the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's Kitten College, euthanasia is a common approach because these underdeveloped kittens often just require too much time, effort and resources for the majority of shelters that are already over capacity and pushed to their limits.

"While healthy kittens are some of the most adopted animals in shelters across the country, neonatal kittens in shelters who are not ready for adoption require a lot of resources that many shelters do not have," Russ said. "Unfortunately, in these cases, euthanasia is a shelter's only – and usually most humane – option."

Especially during the summer feline breeding season, shelters are flooded with abandoned neonatal kittens who simply cannot survive without constant, intense support until they are ready for adoption.

In 2016, the AWLA team pursued a life-saving opportunity for these kittens: they teamed up with the National Kitten Coalition – a national non-profit organization that sets out to increase the survival

rates of these tiny kittens.

Leveraging the expertise of the National Kitten Coalition, the AWLA team devised a plan for creating a kitten nursery in Arlington. They also formed an education and outreach program for other local shelters so that they too could establish such nurseries.

According to the Best Friends Animal Society, kitten nurseries are areas within, or associated with, shelters where "very young kittens receive the time and care they need to grow big enough to be spayed or neutered and adopted. That process requires eight to nine weeks of intensive care ... [as well as] staff and volunteers ready to care for kittens 24 hours a day."

The AWLA's partnership with the National Kitten Coalition had Russ traveling around the country to meet with the few large-scale kitten nurseries that exist across the country.

"As I sat in these meetings with these large-scale, established kitten nurseries, we saw the amazing things that these nurseries were doing," Russ said. "But, at the same time, I wondered how it would all work at a mid-sized municipal shelter [like the AWLA], where most animals end up."

She thought, shouldn't there be hope and options for kittens everywhere, and not just in the areas with major kitten nurseries?

The knowledge that Russ

brought back was crucial because, until the AWLA established its own kitten nursery, most mid-sized shelters in the area did not even have plans for forming these life-saving operations.

In 2017, the AWLA officially launched its own kitten nursery, called the Kitten College. It is staffed with volunteer foster caretakers who, after extensive training by AWLA professionals, take these kittens into their homes and care for them around the clock until they are ready for adoption.

"We call our nursery the Kitten College," Russ said. "It is a 'college' based on the ages that the foster parents are comfortable caring for kittens. For example, tiny bottle-fed babies are cared for by our senior-most experienced fosters, and our freshman fosters will take in two pound kittens waiting for their sterilization surgeries."

The Kitten College has given so many otherwise doomed neonatal kittens a chance to have normal, happy lives. And, AWLA recognizes that these life-changing results wouldn't be possible without their fosters.

"We trained an entire army of foster families to care for these kittens until they were ready for adoption," Russ said. "Prior to establishing our nursery, we had about 30 foster families, and today we have more than 250 foster families. These amazing people are the

reason we have been such a huge success. Their love and commitment to caring for these kittens drives us every day as the program continues to grow."

The year before AWLA's Kitten College was established, the organization took in 92 neonatal kittens. Then, the next year – the Kitten College's first year – AWLA rescued 367 neonatal kittens. The Kitten College has exploded so much that in 2020, the same program saved 1,518 neonatal kittens.

The explosive growth also made it essential for the AWLA to bring on a full-time employee, Vanessa Parks, as the Kitten College Intake Coordinator to run the operation.

"When I was first asked to come aboard in 2018 and work with Marnie, I was thinking, 'Okay, this will be nice to get a nice part-time job working at the animal shelter,'" Parks said. "Little did I know, it became a full-time career that I absolutely love. Now I can't imagine working less than 50 hours a week keeping all foster parents and kittens in line."

Now that the Kitten College is up, running, and growing, the AWLA team's next step has been to spread their knowledge to, and inspire other mid-sized municipal shelters to set up kitten nurseries.

To spread awareness of kitten nurseries and to lend support, the Kitten College now has eight satellite campuses which Russ ex-

plained are "regional shelters who have struggled with the care of under-age kittens."

And now, because of Parks and Russ, these satellite campuses – all in Maryland and Virginia – are building out their own kitten nurseries and related programs.

"We are offering them whatever resources they may need and guiding them through the process," Parks said. "Our strategy is to target the areas where we have pulled a lot of kittens from over the last three years in the hopes that the shelters in these areas will soon be able to perform this life-saving work on their own."

While Parks finds her work beyond fulfilling, she hopes that one day, there will be an easier way to give neonatal kittens the happy, healthy lives that they deserve.

"I am so excited to see what happens in the next few years," she said. "Of course the goal is always for me to be out of a job, but sadly that may never happen. However, I am confident that other shelters and rescues will learn they can help the kittens in the same way we do. And, for the record, I'm always looking to grow the foster network and teach new foster families how to bottle feed and care for the babies. The more fosters we have, the more kittens we are able to save."

To volunteer or find out more about AWLA's Kitten College, see <https://www.awla.org/programs/kitten-college>.

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series Visit the website: [https://
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THURSDAY/NOV. 11

Parke Custis Family Discussion.
7-8:30 p.m. At Reinsch Library
Auditorium, Marymount Uni-
versity, 2807 North Glebe Road,
Arlington. Author Charlie Clark
will discuss his recent book on
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tis. Raised at Mount Vernon by
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wealth with good and bad from
agricultural innovation to slav-
ery. Books will be available for
purchase and author signing.
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NOV. 12-14

"The Eye of the Beholder." The
McLean Art Society, a local
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and art enthusiasts is sponsor-
ing an Art Show and sale on
Friday Nov. 12, 5-8 p.m., Sat-
urday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,
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Rock Spring Recital. 3-4 p.m. At
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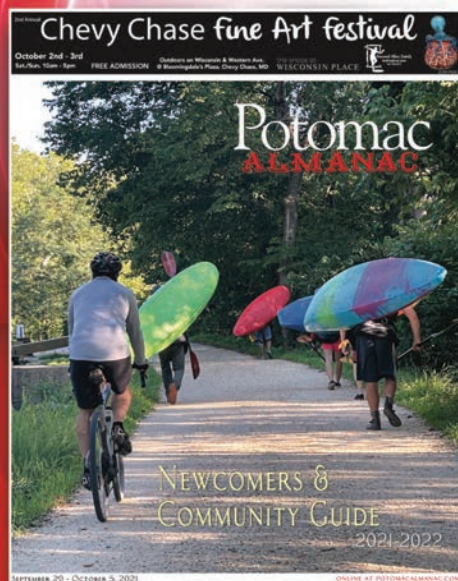
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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 6

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.

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 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/audubon-at-home-1/ for more.

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Monthly Memory Café. 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6, Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, virtually. Registration is free and highly recommended to reserve spots, which are open on a first come first served basis. To reserve a spot, please call 571-210-5551 or email bdesai@seniorhelpers.com. Visit www.dementiacare-connections.com/memory-cafe or www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va for more.

Walk-Fit. Ongoing Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Fashion Center at Pentagon City, Arlington. Participants walk at their

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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OPINION

Redistricting Moves to the Supreme Court of Virginia

By SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

While the Nov. 2 election has dominated recent headlines, the process to redraw state and federal legislators' districts has been moving along six months late due to delays in receiving U.S. Census data.

Ever since Elbridge Gerry signed a bill to draw several Federalists out of their seats in 1812, gerrymandering has been a problem in the United States. I have always believed that redistricting is one of the most significant fundamental problems in American democracy, and it has become especially problematic with the power of computer-aided mapping coupled with Big Data. Voters should pick their elected officials instead of elected officials picking their voters.

Based on this principle, I have always supported nonpartisan redistricting. In the 2019 Virginia General Assembly session, several members introduced a constitutional amendment requiring nonpartisan redistricting, but after it emerged from rewrites in the legislative process it became bipartisan redistricting, which is very different. In 2020, legislators approved the measure a second time. I was one of two Senators who voted "no" because I do not support the involvement of elected officials or partisans in redistricting and I believe the proposal was inadequately thought out. The amendment was placed on the ballot and approved by voters 65.6% to 34.31% in November 2020.

This summer, the Virginia Redistricting Commission was created and began work redrawing state Senate, House of Delegates and Virginia's Congressional districts after census data became available in late August. Four senators, four delegates and eight citizens were appointed, equally balanced between Democrats and Republicans. The Commission gridlocked on every important vote from the first day. It had two chairs, two lawyers and two map drawers. They could not agree on a committee process, on Virginia law or the requirements of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. They produced multiple separate maps for every district and were unable to reconcile any of them because they ostensibly disagreed on the law and would not negotiate.

Once the commission process fails, the Constitution requires the Supreme Court of Virginia to draw districts. Democrats and Republicans are required to submit three or more proposed special masters, legal representatives of the court who have no "conflicts of interest." The Supreme Court

is required to pick one person to serve as a special master from each list, people who will be charged with putting together the maps within 30 days of their appointment. No one knows how that will work given that courts typically only pick one special master in court-administered proceedings.

Last week, the House and Senate Democratic Caucuses submitted three names. Each were experienced academics who had been previously selected by judges to redraw districts that suffered from legal or constitutional violations. The Republican Caucuses took a different tack. They proposed three partisans who have never been appointed by any court in America to serve: (1) the Executive Director of the National Republican Redistricting Trust; (2) a Republican consultant who drew the hotly litigated 2010 Wisconsin Senate map for the Wisconsin Republicans and is now drawing maps for Texas Republicans; and (3) a data researcher who was paid \$20,000 by the Virginia Senate Republican Caucus two months ago for "consulting services."

The Senate and House Democratic Caucuses asked the Court to set deadlines for all caucuses to submit maps and for public hearings before and after the maps are proposed to give the public an opportunity to comment on the proposals. We also asked the Court to set up an online commenting system so that all comments can be filed and accessed electronically instead of submitted on paper and only reviewable in the Supreme Court Clerk's office in Richmond. The Republican Caucuses refused to join our request.

No one is really sure what the process will be at this point. However, the Supreme Court is accepting comments in writing at its clerk's office. Please stay tuned to my Facebook, Twitter and Blog for information about how to participate. Redistricting now will happen very fast and these districts will be in place until after the 2030 census.

Many predict that there will be major changes to state Senate and U.S. Congressional districts in Northern Virginia given their current boundaries and population changes since the last census. Major changes are possible for some House of Delegates districts. The proposals and comment process, as allowed by the Supreme Court, will take place between Thanksgiving and Christmas or maybe beyond.

Please stay tuned and contact me if you have any questions at scott@scottsuovell.org. It is an honor to serve in the Virginia Senate.

tic violence and sexual assault, and health. There are also topics specifically for teens and youth — such as scholarship opportunities and school clubs — as well as ones targeted at seniors and older adults, such as SAGE. Visit topics.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources. Volunteer Bike Repair Night. First Tuesday of the month, 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Volunteers gather to refurbish bikes, sort parts or help with essential tasks. No experience necessary.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

own pace in a safe and friendly environment. Group stretch and cool down led by Virginia Hospital Center staff at 9:15 a.m. Meet on the first level by Nordstrom. Call 703-558-6859. Arlington County, in partnership with the Human Rights Commission's Equality Task Force, has launched a web page with resources for the LGBTQ community. The new webpage compiles LGBTQ resources on a variety of topics, including homelessness and housing, domes-

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"I Hope Nothing Bad Has Happened"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As heart-warming and sincere as this sentiment is, it's a bit of a window into my presumptive future. Similar in effect to the obituary I happened upon once in The Washington Post years ago. Randomly perusing the Obituary section, my eyes wandered up and to the right, and there it/he was: Samuel Tyson. You don't know him? Neither do I. But there it was beneath his photo, my exact date of birth including year: 9/30/54. It shook me up, I can tell you that. Seeing one's date of birth in the agate type of an Obituary section does give one pause: so that's what my date of birth is going to look like in the Obituary section. Yikes. It wasn't exactly a look into my future, but it was my birthdate.

This title was part of an email sent to our publisher inquiring about my whereabouts since the sender/reader hadn't seen my column for a few months. Again, so this is how some people might react when my column is no longer being printed, as in I'm no longer writing it, or anything else for that matter because I'll be "gishtorben," (Yiddish for dead). Again, a slice of death. It reminded me of a voice message my oncologist left me June of '20 - during the height of the pandemic. Because of an internal mechanism at my HMO, files on the computer are shrouded/darkened to indicate a patient's death. My oncologist came upon my computer file and it exhibited these patient-died clues. Shocked. My oncologist called my cell phone - hoping to talk to my wife, Dina, and when no one answered, proceeded to leave a nearly minute-long condolence message concerning my surprise death. Hearing that message was uncomfortable, sort of. Again, another slice of death moment. And not that we all don't occasionally have these near-misses in life, but when you're a cancer patient who originally received a "13 month to two year" prognosis, a "terminal" diagnosis if there ever was one; death/people dying/your proximity to any of it takes on an entirely new life - so to speak. You try not to get consumed by it, but when you've been told - quite unexpectedly, at age 54 and half that your life expectancy has just taken a 30-year hit, given your parent's age when they both died, the news tends to attach itself to you. As much as you try to be normal/you're pre-diagnosed self, after the medical facts are presented, jokes just aren't as funny, music isn't as uplifting and dancing - for me anyway, seemed particularly pointless. But since that's no way to live, I made a conscious effort to try to find humor in all of it and be as positive and upbeat as I could. Easier written than done.

That's because cancer/a serious medical condition is no laughing matter; "serious as a heart attack" to invoke an all-too-familiar refrain. But unless you find a way to navigate the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" (make that misfortune) to quote Cerphe from his old "WHFS" days, life becomes dreary and not worth living. Somehow, one must find light in the all-encompassing darkness and push back against the forces of negativity/death. There's a spiral out there and the more you're able to fight back - emotionally, and not become a victim of your own circumstances, the greater your chances of finding some kind of happiness/accommodation/assimilation in your life. Still, having a less-than-ideal medical prognosis/diagnosis is all it's cracked up to be. Nevertheless, making the best of a bad situation seemed the only logical option for me. My diagnosis was bad enough on its own, I didn't need to make it any worse by droning on about it. I had to accept it and move on, which is exactly what I did. And now I find humor in the blackest of contexts.

Unlike the popular country-music song from a few years ago that sang "Live like you were dying," I want to live like I was living. I don't want to be affected by my disease. I've found a way to live with it, not simply to die from it. Life's too short. Don't I know it.

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



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