

Michael Ciuffardi, Executive Chef of Inca Social in Arlington, keeps his 5-month-old son close by in the restaurant.

The Arlington Connection



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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

Arlington YMCA Hosts Pickleball Clinic

The Y starts a program for the popular sport.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

New Associate Executive Director at the YMCA Arlington Tennis & Squash Center, Kristen Larrick hit the (court) running by launching programs for pickleball enthusiasts. Beginners and experienced players alike get a chance to learn the sport, connect with others, and play indoors during inclement weather. First Serve Pickleball Pros, including USAPA Pickleball Ambassador for Arlington Helen White, will be helping introduce the sport.

A free one-week pass to visit the YMCA Arlington Tennis & Squash Center is on offer until Dec. 15. Non-members are invited to try the Y with a free 7-day guest pass that provides access to the YMCA Arlington Tennis and Squash Center. Additional fees apply for participating in drop-ins, instruction, and for making court reservations. For more information, contact the YMCA at pickleball@ymcadc.org.

At one clinic on Friday Dec. 3, White provided some background on how pickleball got its name, and some pickleball lore (did you know Naples, Florida is the pickleball capital of the world?). She went over ba-



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

From left, Karen White, Carla ("Mom") Larrick, George Dwyer, Kristen Larrick, Vadim Nabatov.

sic rules, and warm up exercises, followed by one on one coaching for anyone brand new to the sport, and group coaching to those who have played a bit. The session proved her point that pickleball is a sport for all ages and somehow leaves everyone smiling.

To learn more, follow the Y's pickleball program on Facebook or see: <https://www.ymcadc.org/pickleball/>

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FILL THE CRUISER

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE EVENT

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. 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 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

NOW THRU DEC. 14

Citrus-Pecans-Maple Products. Hosted by Lions Charities Northwest Arlington. Order online at nwarlionscitrus.fwffb.net. Maple products at: purintonmaple.com. Maple Promo Code: "nwarlions" at check out. Delivery direct to you by Christmas. Phone (703) 528-1130/ Text (703) 772-3784

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Ashton's Heights Century. 7-8:30 p.m. At Reinsch Library Audi-

torium, Marymount University, 2807 North Glebe Road, Arlington. Ashton Heights resident, Peter Dickson, as he discusses one of Arlington's oldest neighborhoods. Mr. Dickson will discuss how Ashton Heights came to be and its first 100 years. Visit the website: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/>

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

LWV-Arl-Alx New & Prospective Members Meeting. 4-5:30 p.m. Online. The League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City invites you to join them for a New and Prospective Members Meeting. "Come" to the virtual meeting to learn about the work of the League of Women Voters and our motto to "educate voters and protect Democracy." RSVP here: <https://lwvarlalexnewmember.eventbrite.com>

EVENTS WITH ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD VILLAGE

❖ "Coffee and Conversation" speaker series. Everyone is invited to join the conversation via Zoom. Bring your own coffee, learn interesting things about the community and hear from the speakers listed below. Visit www.arlnvil.org.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6

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A Little Bit of Peru in the Middle of Arlington

Inca Social scheduled to open Dec. 21

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Michael Ciuffardi, Executive Chef of Inca Social, is in the open air kitchen perfecting his chicken causa before the grand opening of the restaurant scheduled for Dec. 21. His 5-month old son lies asleep in his baby seat nearby. Ciuffardi says he is a big family man and always has his wife and son nearby at the restaurant. Every time Ciuffardi cooks he has his son along with him, and he says he is hoping he will pass along the love of cooking.

Ciuffardi is grinding potatoes, a staple of many Peruvian dishes. He will infuse the potatoes with a paste of salt and lime and yellow peppers, native to Peru. Ciuffardi squeezes the mixture with his hands until everything is well mixed and he forms it into potato pillars. He sets three in a row on a rectangular orange dish. This version of causa is topped with shredded chicken salad mixed with peppers, a little mayo and red onions. "We always use red onions."

He places a tangle of alfalfa sprouts on the chicken salad. Next Ciuffardi artfully drizzles rocoto pepper-based sauce, again with plenty of lime, and then splashes their staple Inca sauce around the edges. "This sauce has 30 ingredients including turmeric, mustard, cumin, black mint from Peru, andthe rest are secret." Peruvian cooking uses a lot of yellow chili peppers, which can be hot or mild depending on when they are picked.

Satisfied with his causa, which can also be topped with shrimp or a mixture of veggies, Ciuffardi turns to put the final touch on a tuna ceviche. The bite size chunks of tuna are set in the center of a large bowl with small chunks of avocado, shreds of cilantro, traces of purple onion, thin slices of cucumber and tiny pearl onions. "A unique ingredient is the crunchy cuzco dried Peruvian corn." When the dish is completely arranged with shreds of seaweed on the top, he slowly pours a beaker of mango marinade over the ceviche.

Giuffardi is from Peru where his



Fito Garcia, owner of Inca Social at 1776 Wilson Blvd. scheduled to have its grand opening Dec. 21 with a soft opening beginning Dec. 7.



Michael Ciuffardi, Executive Chef of Inca Social in Arlington, keeps his 5-month-old son close by in the restaurant to infuse him with love of cooking at an early age.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Chicken Causa, a favorite of the owner and chef, transforms a potato pillar with shredded chicken salad, alfalfa sprouts and the house staple Inca sauce into a work of art.



Tuna ceviche will join other interesting and unconventional versions of marinated fish on the ceviche bar.



family owned restaurants. He used to follow his mother to the grocery store, and he says now nothing is really complicated for him because he loves cooking so much. "When I cook, it brings back memories of my mother." He left Peru where he had studied with the famed Gaston Acurio. Giuffardi says he was able to leave Peru because he knew things were in good hands there and he wanted to expand awareness of Peruvian food in America.

Fito Gardia, an owner of Inca Social, sits on a barstool in front of a wall lined with mysterious for-

mations outlined in bright lights. "These represent the unknown creatures that only take on shapes when seen from the air at Nazca. Some look like animals, like that monkey or that fish, but others are a mystery. Some legends say they were created by aliens."

Gardia explains generally Peruvian cooking is a fusion of Peru with Japan, Italy, Spain, a little bit of Africa. The menu at Inca Social reflects this heritage. Gardia says they will have a ceviche bar that is "way outside the box." Gardia explains usually ceviche is made with white fish but, for instance, they will go for tuna with Peruvian-Japanese fusion of a ginger marinade with plenty of lime. Some others will still have citrus but it may be mango or passion fruit.

They are thinking about a risotto with duck or quail and citrus sauce.

Of course the restaurant will have the staple, and everyone's favorite, arroz con pollo. Gardia says he is hiring a pastry chef to produce the algo dulce including tres leches, flan, churros and inca suspiro with port meringue and cinnamon.

Gardia says he met Giuffardi at a festival when Giuffardi was on his way to another job, and "we hit it off. I liked his ideas and he has a different mind set. He gets his hands dirty and sets an example for the rest of the team so everyone works better." Gardia adds they are like a family. They read

the reviews and they are happy or they improve. He says some customers may not like a particular taste so it's about finding out what they would like.

Gardia says he loves Arlington. "The local government is awesome helping small businesses out. The foot traffic is amazing, and people in Arlington love food. They are adventuresome. They say they want healthier and they want portion control but they want trendy. They want to try ceviche."

Gardia explains the restaurant holds 187 indoors but outdoors holds 91. "See the front glass disappears and we expand outside onto the patio. "They like happy hour around here."

Ciuffardi started a family and moved from Arlington to Centerville where he started a couple of restaurants and was in corporate management for a couple of years. "But it was too slow," so he moved back and opened Inca Social in Vienna in 2019. It was a perfect space "although I always knew I wanted to end up back in Arlington." He opened the Vienna restaurant a year before COVID hit. "It was really scary for a small business. We had to pivot. We changed everything and went to delivery. We delivered things ourselves." He said they fed homeless and nurses.

Although Inca Social will have its grand opening on Dec. 21 at 1776 Wilson Blvd. with a ribbon cutting in the afternoon, the restaurant will have a soft opening as they continue to perfect the food and experience from Dec. 7-19, from 4-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 4-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

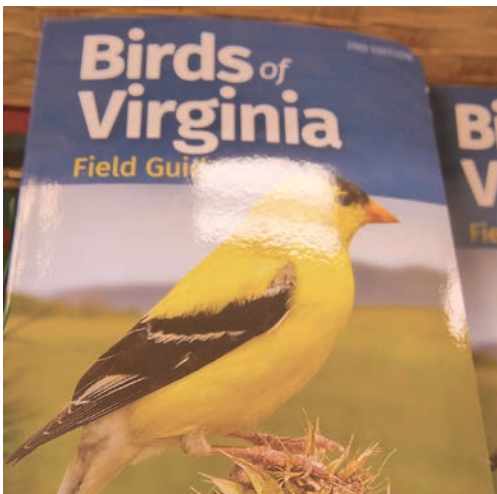
What to Put in That Christmas Stocking



Pick up a wine stopper from Total Wine to accompany a favorite Beaujolais.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Not headed back to Joshua Tree National Park this year? Tuck a stuffed California quail from Wild Birds Unlimited on Harrison Street in the stocking as a memory and squeeze it to remember the song. Or include a peregrine falcon to remember that trip to watch the hawk migration at Rockfish Gap where you saw the one peregrine falcon spotted on Nov. 30 on fall migration. Add a Virginia Bird book for \$16.95, and you've already made a dent in filling the stocking.



Send along a message for \$6 with a notepad from Company Flowers on N. Pollard. Messages range from "Being Fabulous is the Best Revenge" to "I'm Not Bossy; I Just Have Better Ideas." And add to your grandchildren's collection of little things by tucking in a miniature pig, mermaid, frog or apple for the teacher. Each is accompanied by a small card with a positive message.



Christmas stockings hung by the fireplace and ready to fill.



Cover your fisherman's bases at District Angling on N. Pollard Street with a variety of flies — a Letort grasshopper fly for small-mouth bass on the Potomac River above Great Falls. Or a parachute Adams with bright yellow captain wings, more for the angler than the trout on the shady banks of the Shenandoah River. Or the Mr. Rapidan which is good anywhere there are trout.



The
Arlington
Connection

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HOMELIFESTYLE



PHOTO BY GREG POWERS

Interior designer Tracy Morris uses a gray tweed wallcovering in the dining room of her McLean home to create a sophisticated atmosphere.



IMAGE BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG AND ANNIE ELLIOTT

Designer Annie Elliott covers the floor of her office with an Oriental rug, which offers a variety of options for pairing with colors in other parts of the room.

Inside the Home of an Interior Designer

Local tastemakers offer a glimpse of their personal style.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Interior designers spend their days helping clients create beautiful aesthetics without compromising functionality. Whether deciding to paint a living room azure or cerulean or top a counter with Soapstone or quartzite, the job of a tastemaker requires creativity and ingenuity. Now, a few local designers allow cameras into their own home for a glimpse of their personal style.

Those who enter the Bethesda home of designer John Wagner of Designs by Wagner, learn quickly that nothing about it will be subtle. An oversized pink ottoman sits in the center of the room. A plush sofa in a soft beige is positioned in front of a wall that is dotted with more than a dozen family photos, each hung with soft-pink velvet ribbons.

"I'm a maximalist through and through," Wagner said. "I help my clients create spaces that reflect their taste. You should feel comfortable in your home. It should be a haven from the outside and it should make you proud. For me that means vibrant colors and plush fabrics."

A variety of colors, textures and patterns can be found throughout the home of designer Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design. "A house filled with shades of gray just doesn't make me happy," she said. "I also like mixing antiques with modern pieces. In my dining room, for example, we have a 19th-century English sideboard and Oriental rug paired with leather chairs...and a glass chandelier from the '80s. The mix takes the edge off of whatever formality people might associate with classic pieces."

A powder room is a space where Elliott suggests that one might experiment. "I believe that every powder room should be wallpapered," she said. "I have Cole & Son's Cabaret in mine, and I encourage my clients to be as daring as possible in their own powder rooms."

An Oriental rug aficionado, Elliott often recommends this accessory to her clients. "They can be



IMAGE BY JENN VERRIER AND ANNIE ELLIOTT

When designing her dining room, Annie Elliott paired a 19th-century English sideboard with an Oriental rug with leather chairs and a circa 1980s glass chandelier.



IMAGE BY ANGIE SECKINGER AND ANNIE ELLIOTT

Annie Elliott says that Oriental rugs can be paired with traditional or contemporary furniture.

paired with traditional or contemporary furniture, they give you lots of colors to play with, and they're brilliant for hiding dirt, red wine spills, and dog fur," she said.

Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design describes the style of her McLean home as "timeless with an edge." She creates the look using textured wallpaper in her dining room. "It creates a great base for the rest of the room," she said. "We used...a gray tweed with gold accents. This allowed the room to be enveloped in sophistication.

"I'm a maximalist through and through."
— John Wagner of Designs by Wagner

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THE CONNECTION Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette Potomac ALMANAC

Children's & Teens' Connection 2021



During the last weeks of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette and Children's Almanac) is a long-time tradition.

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Advertising Opportunity

Collaboration Leads to VCE Success

Virginia Cooperative Extension Annual Showcase presentation for Arlington and Alexandria branches was on the importance of collaboration.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

The unifying theme of the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Annual Showcase presentation moved online this year on Dec. 3 for Arlington and Alexandria branches was the importance of collaboration. Community leaders, legislators, volunteers gathered online for the second virtual presentation highlighting the year's activities.

Since 1947 Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) has been providing evidence-based information to communities to improve people's lives. It is a partnership between Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and local governments. Jane Randolph, director of Arlington Parks and Recreation, says VCE is funded with federal, state and county funds, one-third each.

The extension programs span youth/4-H, agriculture and natural resources, family, food and health and community resiliency. VCE has 107 units in Virginia with an office in the majority of the counties and cities in the Commonwealth including Arlington at 3308 S. Stafford and Alexandria at 1108 Jefferson Street. The mechanism for providing research-based information is through the many volunteers who train to become Master



Rebecca Hale, a Master Gardener, hands out spinach seeds perfect for growing microgreens in small spaces on balconies, at a previous VCE Annual Showcase.

Gardeners, Master Food, Master Energy or Master Financial volunteers and who take the information to the community.

Randolph says in 2020 Arlington volunteers provided 43,000 hours which is equal to 20.5 employees. She said the Church of the Latter Day Saints volunteers alone provided 930 hours in invasive plant removal as an alternative to their required year of service that was not possible in the traditional way during COVID. She added that during the pandemic, virtual programs were used successfully and Arlington parks were used more often.

James Spengler, director of Alexandria Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, agreed that park usage in Alexandria exploded. For the first time they had to barricade the entrances to parks and lock down tennis courts. He said that Alexandria is dense and many people have not experienced being close to nature, but there is the opportunity with half of Alexandria's parkland as natural land with no active development. "Most are in favor of this but not necessarily in their backyard. They want manicured golf courses so anything we can do to teach them is helpful."

Spengler said they have been trying to understand how government operates where one segment of the population which is well versed with the government calls up with a complaint and wants immediate action but other areas don't call.

"We need to change our approach to open space."

VCE takes the research-based information to the community through demonstrations in community centers, schools, libraries, farmer's markets and programs in parks. For instance, Master Naturalist Romana Campos explains they took an outdoor nature-based program to Ft. Henry subsidized housing in Alexandria. They asked students to close their eyes and listen to the sounds around them, which were often loud city sounds, causing stress. The 4-H program helped find a way to reduce the stress. At Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center they educated apartment residents on how to grow native plants in a small area on their balcony.

In Arlington the Master Gardeners have six demonstration gardens, and in Alexandria there is a junior "Can Shine Garden" at Ruby Tucker Center. The Master Naturalists identify illegal bike trails, remove trash and invasive plants and educate the public about whitetail deer management.

The Energy Masters in Arlington

were at the Arlington Fair with information about conservation and energy savings. This gets translated into action by sealing outlets and windows and electric vents as well as education about LED lights at such locations as Buckingham Apts.

Alisha Salazar, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent, explains her program focuses on health and well being — how to cook a healthy meal, get out of debt, seek equitable health for people of all ages and ethnicities. This means teaching children in school settings or after school programs about healthy meals and translating it into action through planting gardens or teaching seniors at a demonstration luncheon how it was planned and prepared and how to find grocery store bargains. Salazar says 72 percent of the people participating in these programs have improved their diets.

During COVID VCE faced the challenges of continuing to reach the community. They pivoted to online education and demonstrations and the HELP desk in Arlington experienced increased calls in 2021 with 25 percent more inquiries assisting 1400 individuals.

Now moving forward the extension offices are looking at leveraging their collaborative efforts to combat climate change and updating their master plans for management of trees and open space.

Sip, Sing and Celebrate at Ballston Holiday Wreath Market

Wreath market, live music, pop-up bar and light art installation by popular local artist

What: Holiday Wreath Market presented by Ballston Exchange in partnership with Mastercard and Macy's. The event will take place Friday, Dec. 17 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 18 from 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. to include a pop-up outdoor bar with warm winter drinks and fresh holiday wreaths for purchase outside Ballston Exchange, or pick-up through online ordering in advance. Proceeds from wreath purchases will benefit local charities including Bridges to Independence, Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, Culpepper Garden, Doorways for Women and

Families, The Sycamore School, as well as local schools and small businesses.

Local artist Robin Bell will illuminate the Ballston Macy's storefront in celebration of holidays around the world. Bell is known for his politically charged works of art. His work will be on display from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. both nights for free to the public.

It's a "two-day, family-friendly holiday event with Santa Claus on Saturday, Fraser fir wreaths, live music ... and outdoor bar for people to gather and enjoy Ballston," said Tina Leone, CEO, Ballston BID.

Additional features of the celebration include selfies with Santa from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, live music performances by

the Arlington Children's Choir and TikTok celebrity and Ballston resident, Andrew Savoia. A Toys for Tots cruiser will be onsite to accept gifts for area children on Saturday.

For more information and event details, visit Ballston BID's website. <https://www.ballstonva.org/>

When: Dec. 17, 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 18 from noon-7 p.m. including wreath market and outdoor bar. Robin Bell holiday illumination 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. both nights. Selfies with Santa on Saturday from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: Corner of Wilson Boulevard and N. Stuart Street outside of Ballston Exchange, 4201 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203

Price: Free and open to the public. Wreaths \$20/\$40 decorated.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

Wednesdays, Dec. 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th at 10-11 a.m. Zoom Link below (except for the in-person event on 12/29, see below).

Dec. 8, 2021: Welcoming asylum seekers, Special Visa holders, and refugees in our area. Laura Thompson Osuri, Executive Director, will describe how Homes Not Borders provides resettlement tools and the comforts of home for refugee families. This new nonprofit is growing quickly as it provides friendly support for Afghanistan newcomers and others.

Dec. 15, 2021: Roving Naturalist for NOVA Parks, Matt Felperin, finds inspiration for public programs and service across the wide variety of parks in the three-county regional park system. He'll tell us about this nonprofit group established in the 1950s and let us know what's waiting for us just outside our doors.

Dec. 22, 2021: Community leader and activist, Tannia Talento, will give an overview of the community efforts and partnerships offered to the Hispanic and Latino community in Arlington. Tannia is a former chair of the Arlington Public Schools board and is a co-founder of Arlington Schools Hispanic Parents Association, helping families with issues beyond the classroom.

Dec. 29, 2021: Let's celebrate New Year's 2022 a little early! ANV members and volunteers who are vaccinated are welcome to get together in person for treats and fun. Virginia Square Condominium Community Room. Registration required through the ANV office (703-509-8057). Zoom link for Coffee and Conversation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948577106?pwd=eW0rN-1RTTU5ITmJ5NnF2QXZIN-mduQT09>

St. George's Music Program is an Arlington Gem

Concert at St. George's in Arlington showcases teens' hard work.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

The professionalism and passion were evident right away: perfect posture, four courteous bows, the intensity visible in the movements of backs, arms, fingers, the vibrato strong and firm. They limbered up as though preparing for an Olympic event. Their cores were hard at work. The only thing betraying the age and experience of the 28 teen musicians was the braided pigtails and skin tight capris, the black shirts and jeans, the undercut and the flat top hairstyles. Their enthusiasm for the music, their conscientious obedience to the composer (Allegro con spirito was really lively) their communication with each other despite masked faces, were all impeccable. Their quick glances into the audience to see their parents or friends might have belied

SEE ST. GEORGE'S, PAGE 11



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

The new Pasi pipe organ at Saint George's Episcopal in Arlington was evident behind the musicians. The organ has just been put in place and is being tuned. The remaining balance due for the American made 2,000 pipe organ and stained glass window renovation is \$150,000.



From left, Gabriel Ascoli, an 11th Grader at Thomas Jefferson High School and Emerson Mellon, a 12th grader at Meridian High School, violin, play the String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op.76 No.4 "Sunrise" by Joseph Haydn. Not pictured: Gracie Gundlach, 12th Grader, Robinson Secondary School, viola, and Elliott Renenger, Trinity Christian School, cello.



From left, Elfa Hassan, an 11th Grader at Centreville High School, violin, and Clara Meekins, an 11th Grader at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, violin, play the String Quartet in E-flat Major, K.428 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; not in photo: Alan Fan, a 10th Grader at Thomas Jefferson High School, viola; Hank Cornette, an 11th Grader at Justice High School, cello.

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Tree Stewards Tackle Degraded Paths in Brandywine Castle

Local landscaping company El Quetzal provides volunteer crew for the effort.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

“Where else can you plant trees with fun people, hang out in the forest and eat tacos!” On Nov. 13, Tree Stewards led the task of restarting the natural plantings of Brandywine Castle in Arlington. Tree Steward Jo Allen has been leading the effort to remove invasive plants from trees and groundcover and trying to keep bike riders from damaging more of the fragile environment for years. This year, she masterminded the frontal assault and enlisted reinforcements in the battle. In addition to Allen getting the Friends of Brandywine Castle out volunteering, Arlington Urban Forester Melissa Gildea worked with Earth Sangha in choosing 80 trees and shrubs to block off the damaging bike paths, plus 50 Virginia Creeper plants to stop one bank’s erosion. They planted the smaller plants in the morning and in the afternoon removed ground ivy and bolstered the trees with protective fencing.

Tree Steward Doug Dickman went with Gildea to pick up leftover plastic tree tubes,



Victor Lopez and his landscaping crew volunteered all day on Saturday to help Jo Allen and her team. Lopez has developed an impressive knowledge of native plants and trees.



From left, volunteer and owner of the landscape business El Quetzal Victor Lopez, Ramona Campos and Alex Mazur.

community, or that five of the new tree steward training class, which doesn’t even start until February, came to join in? Or was it that El Quetzal, which does the landscaping for a nearby condo, volunteered all day Saturday even though they had worked outside all week? The owner Victor Lopez knows and loves trees, and his native plant and tree knowledge impressed the tree stewards, along with his record of community work in Arlington.

Or was it that, “Jo Allen got a taco truck to come at lunch time for those of us who stayed all day, and it was better than the bananas we’ve always had.”

For more information about Tree Stewards and how to sign up for the next class, see: <https://treestewards.org>.

For more about Brandywine Castle, see, <https://library.arlingtonva.us/2019/04/11/rediscover-brandywine-castle/>.

For more about El Quetzal see: www.quetzal.green

Bikers and deer have degraded the paths, eroding banks

short and large wooden stakes, bundles of wire, plastic deer guards, etc. from the Arlington Trades Center and County Nursery. Heavy wire was staked down to close an unauthorized path. There will also be a large enclosure of chicken wire surrounding the steep bank where the 50 Virginia Creeper plants were planted. The hope is that these efforts will keep bikers from sliding down the bank. It will be a learning experience over the next year to see which protective device is most effective at deterring deer and bikers. This is a pilot for future tree steward volunteer events involving protection post planting. Once there is agreement on best practices, those could become as common as watering after planting, and benefit parks throughout the region.

Senior tree steward Nora Palmatier wasn’t sure what excited her most. Was it that 12 tree stewards and master naturalists turned out to work with 15 volunteers from the



Nora Palmatier (center) and other volunteers especially appreciated the tacos from the food truck, which were hot and delicious.



Trees and plants in the way discourage bikers from riding down the hills and degrading the trails.

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU DEC. 26

"Cinderella." At Synetic Theater, 1800 South Bell Street, Arlington. World premiere production of Maria Simpkins' "Cinderella," with choreography by Janine Baumgardner* and compositions by Konstantine Lortkipanidze. A creative team of all women brings the magical tale of a striking clock, a glass slipper, and a brave young woman who dares to pursue her wildest dreams. A modern re-telling of the classic story of family feuds, class rifts, and finding the courage to discover who you truly are. Special Event: Princess Tea Party on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$30 and are available at https://synetictheater.org/event_pages/cinderella/.

DEC. 1-31

National Landing Winter Lodges. National Landing, 2121 Crystal Drive Courtyard, Arlington. Cozy up in a winter lodge and snap an Instagram or two. The National Landing BID is transforming local-favorite Summer Houses into festive holiday themed lodges for the winter season. Winter lodges will be open to the public daily starting in December.

DEC. 1-31

Small Works of Great Importance. At Gallery Underground's Focus Gallery, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. An all-member show of little pieces that pack a powerful punch. Members were asked to create works measuring no larger than 8 x 10 inches; smaller in size but proving that good things come in small packages. The exhibition features works by a variety of artists working in a range of mediums including both 2-d and 3-d works. Visit: <https://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org/gallery-underground>

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 8

Comedian Josh Johnson. 7 p.m. At Arlington Cinema and Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Johnson is a "Daily Show" writer, comedian and artist. Cost is \$25. Visit <https://www.arlingtondraft-house.com>.

DEC. 8-9

Enjoy special "Pop-Up" holiday shopping featuring gifts by "Made



Jane Franklin Dance will perform Saturday, Dec. 11 at Theatre on the Run in Arlington.

in Arlington" at George Mason University Arlington Campus. Discover unique items by local artisans and makers for your holiday shopping. Wed., Dec. 8 and Thurs., Dec. 9 from 4 -7 p.m. Van Metre Lobby, Arlington Campus.

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Rosslyn Cheer. 5 p.m. At Central Place Plaza, 1800 North Lynn Street, Arlington. Light the Christmas tree then visit the holiday market at Central Place Plaza. HB Woodlawn Secondary School's choir and a live mariachi band will fill the air with festive music.

FRIDAY/DEC. 10

Holiday Market. 5-8 p.m. At Central Place Plaza, 1800 North Lynn Street, Arlington. Featuring artisan goods and gifts from 12 unique

local vendors. Open Road Grill will operate a bar serving beer, wine and holiday cocktails. Bring your furry friends for special dog give-

aways! Santa Claus will fly in from the North Pole for pictures!

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Rosslyn Cheer. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. At Central Place Plaza, 1800 North Lynn Street, Arlington. Bring the kids for this Family Edition of the Holiday Market. Santa Claus will still be around for pictures. Synetic Theater will perform a special holiday version of "The Miraculous Magic Balloon" show at 3 p.m. And stick around for a raffle to win Cheerio penguin plushies! Free hot chocolate will keep your warm throughout the day.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Jane Franklin Dance. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Jane Franklin Dance returns to in-person performances at Arlington's Theatre on the Run with exciting new works by award-winning choreographers. This mixed-bill performance promises an exciting evening of dance by some of the DMV's finest movement artists. Visit the website: <https://janefranklin.com/in-place>

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Peppermint Mocha Competition. 11-12:30 p.m. At National Landing, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Bring a friend and warm yourself from the cold with the comfort of good company and yummy holiday lattes!

DEC. 17-18

Ballston Holiday Wreath Market.

Outside Ballston Exchange, Corner of Wilson Boulevard and N. Stuart Street outside of Ballston Exchange, 4201 Wilson Blvd, Arlington. The event will take place Friday, December 17 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 18 from 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. to include a pop-up outdoor bar with warm winter drinks and fresh holiday wreaths for purchase outside Ballston Exchange, or pick-up through online ordering in advance. Wreaths \$20/\$45 decorated.

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

NCE Holiday Cheer Concert. 7:30 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd, Arlington. National Chamber Ensemble Concert highlights the finest classical and contemporary masterpieces and holiday favorites together for the family. The festivities include Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride", "Chanukkah Festival" and "Rejoice" from Handel's "Messiah", Strauss Waltzes, the gorgeous music from Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" and more. Young Artist Piano Competition winners will join the ensemble to perform following the competition finals on Dec 4. A Carols Sing-Along concludes the program to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Holiday Cheer features Sharon Christman (soprano), artistic director/violinist Leo Sushansky, Natasha Dukan (piano), Jorge Orozco (violin), Uri Wassertzug (viola) Vasily Popov (cello), 2021 Piano Competition winners, outstanding young guest string players. Visit <https://www.nationalchamberensemble.org/tickets.htm>.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

HOLIDAYS IN THE MOSAIC DISTRICT

At 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Santa at Mosaic -- Now Thru Dec. 23; Holiday Toy Drive -- Now Thru Dec. 13; Santa's Motorcade -- Dec. 17 at 5 p.m.

NOW THRU DEC. 19.

Holiday Lights on the Farm. Fridays thru Sundays 5:30 to 8 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. What is "Holiday Lights on the Farm"? It's where you tour Frying Pan Farm Park in the safety and warmth of your car and see an amazing display of holiday decorations lighting up the 135-acre park. The cost is \$20 per private vehicle. Or you can take the tour on a tractor-drawn wagon ride with up to 20 of your family or friends for \$150

per group. Last year this event sold out, so get your tickets early at <https://bit.ly/FPLights>.

NOW THRU JAN. 2

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Open nightly 5 to 10 p.m.; January 8 to February 27, 2022 (ice skating only), open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring an ice rink, multiple new holiday light displays perfect for Instagramming, a retail area, food, music and more. Admission: \$9 for general admission to Village; \$22 for village admission and skating; beginning January 8, \$14 for ice skating; free ages 2 and under. Visit novaparks.com/events/ice-lights

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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FLOURISHING AFTER 55

Contact: Judy Massabny, jmassa@arlingtonva.us

55+ Programs are virtual, indoors at 55+ Centers 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.

Movie discussion, "Philomena," Thursday, Dec. 9, 3 p.m. Registration # 912402-04.

Local mammals discussion with Park Naturalist Barbara Farley, Thursday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Registration # 912400-25.

Library of Virginia Outreach Specialist presents genealogy talk on prohibition commission records, Thursday, Dec. 9, 3 p.m. Registration # 912400-10.

Reduce stress through experiential meditation techniques, learn relaxation focused crafts, begin Thursday, Dec. 9, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street Fee \$75, 10 sessions. Registration # 912500-02.

Mindfulness meditation practices in daily life, Thursday, Dec. 9, 2:30 p.m. Fee \$60, 10 sessions. Registration # 912500-03.

Tai Chi Ch'uan class, slow gentle movements, examines martial arts side of Tai Chi, previous experience helpful, begin Thursday, Dec. 9, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street. Fee \$50, 10 sessions. Registration #

912105-03

Beginners line dancing classes, Thursday, Dec. 9, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.; Friday, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, 735 S. 18th Street. Both are drop ins.

About Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross, illustrated talk by Park Ranger from the Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, Md., Thursday, Dec. 9, 1 p.m. Registration # 912400-04.

Kukuwa dance workout, low impact, high energy choreography, Friday, Dec. 10, 8:45 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Fee \$60, 12 sessions. Registration # 912100-01.

Explore mixed media, learn new approaches, hands-on art material, Friday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street, Registration # 912303-14.

Afternoon of holiday music presented by Dr. Ben Hutchens, Dir. of Music Ministries, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alex., Friday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, 735 S. 18th Street. Registration # 912890-01.

Holiday Trivia game, Friday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center, 2121 N. Culpeper Street. Registration # 912890-04.

Dance to popular Latin music, no partner necessary, Friday, Dec. 10,

10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street. Drop in.

Community safety in South Arlington, Monday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, 735 S. 18th Street. Registration # 912400-16.

Plant and cutting swap, healthy and pest free, Monday, Dec. 13, 2:15 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Registration # 912401-02.

Acoustic Café, music from the 50s to the present, Tuesday, Dec., 14, 7 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, 735 S.18th Street. Registration # 912301-01.

Explore oil painting with Jim Halloran, community arts programmer, learn various techniques, materials provided, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Registration # 912303-20.

Healthy holiday eating strategies, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Registration # 912501-02.

Aurora Hills holiday party, Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1 p.m. Registration # 912890-02.

Senior Center Adult Transportation (SCAT) operations explained by manager Sabrina Brown, Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m. Learn how to sign up and get reduced taxi fare to and from 55+ Centers. Registration # 912400-18.

Employment

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St. George's Music Program is an Arlington Gem

FROM PAGE 7

their age. But wow. You go to a concert like this expecting an out of tune note or two, an audible error. These were not kids checking a box for their college applications. This was extremely well played Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Arriaga, and Bologne. And these teens have only been playing together since September.

And all through it, as he videotaped the event, Matt Richardson did a little swaying himself, tapped his foot to the time and occasionally nodded in appreciation when there was a particularly evocative passage played particularly well. Richardson, co-owner of the Ninth Street Chamber Music String Quartet, had mentored the teens along with co-owner Liz O'Hara Stahr, and Jennifer Wade and Andrew Rammon, quartet members, with a team of coaches. O'Hara Stahr was evident in the sidelines as she encouraged each quartet going up to play and coming back.

O'Hara Stahr said auditions to join the intensive youth program are held in June and September. One of the great challenges of this program is the need to fill the seats of an actual string quartet to be able to perform the repertoire, so that means every ensemble must have two violins, a violist and cellist, ideally with matching skill levels and complementary personalities. O'Hara Stahr noted the strong relationship the 9SCM Quartet has with local teachers who taught the teens for years, giving them their base skills.

When the concert ended, Richardson addressed the audience, mostly parents but some local music enthusiasts, reminding them that the quartets had to self-conduct, which is the nature of a quartet; they had to communicate with each other wordlessly as instruments played different roles, taking the melody, or providing the rhythm. They had to remain flexible in case someone lagged behind, cooperate in case someone lost their place, collaborate in order to achieve what the string quartet tried to achieve, unity of



Four teens played the String Quartet in D Major, K.499, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Pictured: Nadia Foote, 11th Grader, Washington-Liberty High School, violin; Ivy Watson, 11th Grader, Washington-Liberty High School, viola; Ruthie Williams, 12th Grader, Woodrow Wilson High School, violin; Isabella Galinski, 11th Grader, Wakefield High School, cello. The girls decided to all wear their hair in pigtails....

9th Street Chamber Music intensive program features local teens.

effect. Without all that, chaos could erupt. Richardson also thanked the parents of the musicians, for "trusting us with the musical education of your children," and provided a few details on what donations mean to the group. "Every dollar helps us fulfill our

dreams," he encouraged the audience.

Speaking of dreams, the new Pasi pipe organ at Saint Georges was evident behind the musicians. The organ has just been put in place and is being tuned. The remaining balance due for the American made 2,000 pipe organ and stained glass window renovation is \$150,000. The organ is set to be dedicated the weekend of Feb. 11-13, 2022. For more information on the project, or to provide an Advent season gift to the church

see: <https://saintgeorgesmusic.org/organ>

To learn more about the intensive youth program or to donate to this group, see: <https://www.9thstreetchambermusic.com/string-quartet-intensive>

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

THROUGH DEC. 12

Fairfax City Holiday Market. In Old Town Square, 10415 North Street, City of Fairfax. Friday, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, Noon-6 p.m.; Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. Join the Annual City of Fairfax Holiday Market in Old Town Square. Come and shop at the market of craft vendors as you enjoy Old Town Square in the heart of Historic Downtown Fairfax covered in holiday lights. The festival will include live holiday music, hot drinks, and gourmet treats and more.

DEC. 9-12

Winter Wonderland Holiday Experience. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons. T-Mobile will bring to life its "Winter Wonderland Holiday Experience" at Tysons Corner Center. Located in front of the food court, the 20x20 display is intended to inspire visitors to stay connected, share moments, carry on traditions, or create new ones during this holiday season. Visitors will have the opportunity to take a fun holiday photo, and then receive free printouts, a T-Mobile keychain, and either a snow globe or tumbler.

DEC. 10-11

Colonial Holiday Nights at Carlyle House. 5 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Experience the holiday season with Carlyle House focusing on how the Carlyles and their enslaved workers observed the holidays during the 18th century. Stay tuned for updates about live music. Tours offered of the first floor with timed entry on the hour and half hour. Space is limited and reservations are required. All participants including those under the age of 5 must be registered. Visit novaparks.com

DEC. 10, 11, 19

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Take a candlelit guided tour and learn about holiday traditions in 18th-century Virginia. Visit with Mrs. Washington and other 18th-century residents of Mount Vernon in a 45-minute candlelit tour of the Mount Vernon estate, followed by a reception. Hear stories of Christmases past from costumed character actors portraying Washington's family, friends, and enslaved or hired staff. Admission: \$36 for adults (ages 12 and up); \$28 for youth (ages 6-11); for members, \$26 for adults; \$18

for youth. Visit the website: mountvernon.org/candlelight

DEC. 3-19

"A Child's Christmas in Wales." Presented by the Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation and Vienna Theatre Company. From a story by Dylan Thomas and adapted to the stage by Jeremy Brooks and Adrian Mitchell. Dates: Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 3, 4, 17, 18 at 7 p.m.; Sundays, Dec. 5 and 19 at 2 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. Visit the website: www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

SATURDAYS, DEC. 11, 18

Holiday Market and Winter Village at The Parc in Tysons. At 8508 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Save the date to purchase your holiday gifts from local artisans and small businesses.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

"Klezmer Hanukkah" with Seth Kibel and the Kleztet. 7 p.m. McLean Community Center Hanukkah comes early this year, but Seth Kibel and the Kleztet keep the party going with festive Klezmer tunes and a little jazz thrown in. Chag Sameach!

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