

The Arlington Connection

Let It Snow

PAGE 3

Josh Hennessy-Davis and his mother sledding the hill in front of their house in Arlington. They recently moved from Australia where they'd never seen snow like this.

WELLBEING

PAGE 6

Overdose Crisis

NEWS, PAGE 4

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
REQUESTED IN HOME 1-6-22

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT #322

Inside or out...



...Tech Painting's got you covered!



Serving:
VA
DC
MD
OBX

703-684-7702
www.techpainting.com



NEWS

Grocery Tax Change Proposed

Alternative revenue source not identified.

BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Since the dumping of chests of tea in Boston Harbor by American colonists in 1773, American citizens have shown a distaste for taxes on food. The topic of eliminating Virginia's grocery tax was raised again during this year's gubernatorial race by then candidate, now Governor-elect, Glen Youngkin. This is not the first time elimination or reduction of the grocery tax has been proposed, by both Democratic and Republican politicians.

Today the grocery tax remains a major source of funding for education, transportation, and localities, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a total of \$341 million in revenue that could be lost if the tax were abolished.

Gov. Ralph Northam (D) has proposed elimination of the 1.5 percent state portion of the tax; however the one percent portion going to localities would remain under his budget proposal. The budget proposed by the outgoing governor is under a two year cycle that must be reviewed and agreed upon by the General Assembly and enacted by the incoming governor.

Virginia now enjoys an unprecedented \$2.6 billion surplus following record economic growth and federal subsidy under the American Rescue plan. The Northam budget adds \$1.1 billion in the Revenue Stabilization fund, raising reserves to \$3.8 Billion.

With the new Youngkin administration's lofty goals to "restore excellence in education ... rebuilding schools,

raising teacher pay, and investing in special education," Youngkin has not said what funds would be put toward those goals if the grocery tax source is eliminated.

Originally enacted in 1966, the University of Virginia attributes adoption of the two percent state-wide retail sales and use tax and one percent local option sales tax, to a "public mood change to a desire for significant progress in public services and specifically to public education." The primary purpose of the tax was for upgrading public education. The first year's revenue of \$109.6 million had grown to \$349.8 million five years later in 1972. Interest in public education remains high as evidenced in the recent Youngkin-McAuliffe race.

The grocery tax became a campaign issue in the 1973 campaign between incumbent Governor Mills E Godwin Jr., who had enacted the tax, and Democratic challenger Henry Howell, who was then the Lieutenant Governor. Godwin narrowly won election to his second term. Democratic Gov. Douglas Wilder (1990-1994) also ran on the populist message of "no new taxes" and sought to remove taxes on prescription drugs and groceries.

Such taxes are considered "regressive" meaning they have a greater impact on low income people than the wealthy. Because the tax is applied uniformly it has the effect of taking a greater percentage of income from low income earners than from high income earners; the average tax burden decreases with income.

Although 45 states have general sales taxes, only 13, including Virginia, still tax groceries; Virginia is one of ten that impose a lower rate on groceries than their general sales tax rate, according to the Center On Budget and Policy Priorities (April 2020).

**Life is short.
Don't make it shorter.**

Choose life. Make sure your kids get their HPV vaccine and protect them against cancer.

@vaccinatevirginia



Protect the ones you love,
get vaccinated now.



VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH




THE SYLVESTERY
Memory Care Community
VINSON HALL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT

Every moment is an opportunity.

The Sylvestery at Vinson Hall Retirement Community strives to ensure that each moment is an opportunity for meaning and comfort. The Sylvestery offers round-the-clock dementia care for those who are still active but require specialized support for Alzheimer's or other forms of memory loss.

Call us today to learn more • 703-935-1438

The Sylvestery's award-winning, 36-resident community is located just across the street from Vinson Hall Retirement Community's main campus. No military or government affiliation required for residence at The Sylvestery.



www.vinsonhall.org

1728 Kirby Road, McLean, VA 22101

703-935-1438

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS



Four and a half year old Josh Hennessy-Davis is building his first snowman with his mother while his father shovels snow off the car nearby. The family has just moved to Arlington in December from Australia. "Out of the street mate," Josh's mother yells as he scampers all around the yard.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Josh Hennessy-Davis and his mother try out sledding the hill in front of their house in Arlington where they had recently moved from Australia where they'd never seen snow like this

Let it Snow, Let it Snow

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Holiday vacations were set to end on Monday, Jan. 3 with the 2022 school year ready to begin. Then Sunday night at 8 p.m. Arlington Parks and Recreation sent out a notice that due to impending weather conditions most parks and recreation programs would be canceled. Children started looking for their sleds while parents went to gas up the car and find their snow boots.

Then Monday at 5:13 a.m. the update indicated all County buildings would be closed with all indoor parks and recreation facilities and in-person activities and programs canceled.

In addition, Arlington County Public Schools announced Sunday night that all county schools would be closed as well as libraries and county-run COVID-19 vaccination and testing sites. Trash collections and recycling scheduled for Monday were pushed back one day. The only good news is that parking meters will not be enforced on Monday.

National Airport reported a storm total accumulation of 6.9 inches of snow.

Arlington County Government shifted to virtual operations on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022. In-person facilities and programming were canceled. Schools were closed for the second day. Arlington County Courthouse was closed and in-person and virtual court hearings were canceled.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Where's Waldo? This dark-eyed junco is camouflaged sitting on a bird feeder in the middle of Monday's snowstorm.

For more information, see www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Emergency/Closings-Delays-Cancellations



Hamburger anyone? Saturday's balmy 65-degree temperature plunged to 29 degrees overnight on Sunday.



Snow brings down power lines along Glebe Road but the good news is that power is still on for this house despite neighboring reports of outages.

ARLINGTON CONNECTION ❖ JANUARY 5-11, 2022 ❖ 3



Information provided to residents who may be about to use drugs potentially fatal if contaminated by Fentanyl.



Test Strip packet to identify Fentanyl contamination in drugs.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Arlington Hands Out Fentanyl Test Strips To Save Lives

Program helps keep fatal Fentanyl overdoses at bay.

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Two Splash Girls were treading water in the Yorktown High pool; Ruth Neikirk, 81, shouted over to another swimmer about Arlington's program of handing out Fentanyl test strips so opioid users could avoid a fatal overdose. "Someone needs to let people know about this program," Neikirk said. "It's important to save the lives of these people."

"Good," said Emily Siqveland, opioids program manager, Arlington County Department of Human Services, "because normalizing these conversations about addiction, making sure these conversations do take place at the pool and over the dinner table, is important. Addiction is affecting all of us. It's a disease, like cancer, or hepatitis, and we need to talk about it, not sweep it under the rug."

Arlington's Department of Human Services started the program on Aug. 12. "We had been thinking about this on and off for some time and decided the time was right," said Siqveland. Reports were coming out of CDC saying the majority of overdose deaths were Fentanyl related. So we ordered 100 test strips as a pilot program. By Aug. 20 we were out of strips."

Siqveland and her team got the word out. "We put out a press release on test strips; we put out information on social media, and we pretty much made it clear, however we can get strips to you, we will get them to you."

"As of Aug. 31, we started handing them out at the county jail. Even if someone was incarcerated for a short time, even just the weekend, if they were identified as using

opioids, we gave them test strips. We even put up a sign in the magistrate's office. All of our staff in Behavioral Health were aware of the program and if their clients were using, we handed out strips." Siqveland has now handed out over 748 test strip packets since August.

"We make a real effort to keep people safe if they are using drugs. We offer NARCAN when we offer test strips, and we tell people not to use alone, and to make sure they have someone with them, and have Narcan out on the counter where it can be seen."

What result is Siqveland seeing?

"We don't necessarily know if it's fentanyl strip related, but since we started dispensing the test strips, from Aug. 16 thru Dec. 20 there have been five fatal overdoses; prior to that, from January 2021 to Aug. 12 there were 21 fatal overdoses."

"We get anecdotal evidence that Narcan is being used, but we try not to be too inquisitive because that creates a barrier. Police data tells us there have been 64 applications of Narcan this calendar year."

People are dying in Arlington because they buy an opioid pill from a buddy who bought it from a friend, they may not know it's counterfeit or contaminated.

"But if it's purchased from anyone but a pharmacy," says Siqveland, "it could be laced or contaminated with fentanyl."

You only need a tiny bit to overdose. Cocaine and other drugs can also be contaminated.

"Anecdotally, we have had someone tell us she bought four bags of cocaine. She used our test strips and two of the bags came back positive for fentanyl," said Siqveland. "She threw out the two bags that were contaminated. And that also proves the point that people who are suffering from addiction don't have a death wish. They are suffering from a disease. They want to be alive. This young woman could have died from an overdose if she hadn't tested first."

The response in Arlington to the test strip

program has been very positive. "Arlington is a community which understands this is an addiction: these aren't bad people, they are sick people. We emphasize the hope of recovery. You can't recover if you aren't alive."

Money for the program comes from the Virginia Opioid Response Grant and a Car-eFirst grant.

Siqveland feels strongly about what she does. "I have wanted to be a therapist since I was a kid: peer support was my first training in middle school. This particular role in terms of helping people with opioid addiction is great, because while I still have clients I provide therapy to, I can help people on a macro level too."

Siqveland is guided by her sense that these are people who are hurting a lot and who are misunderstood by society. They are lonely. Helping people who are hurting is why she is engaged in her career as a therapist in the first place.

"Our behavioral healthcare counselors remind addicts, 'I was once an addict, and I made it through to recovery. There is a better life waiting for you when you get past this.' Helping them survive to the point where they can recover is key."

For more information: see:
www.facebook.com/onearlington

This is a public group open to anyone in the community.

Frequently Asked Questions Fentanyl Test Strip Program

What are fentanyl test strips?

Fentanyl test strips let active users test for the presence of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs in their drugs, which can reduce harm from using dangerous substances.

How effective are fentanyl test strips?

Initial findings from a recent study conducted by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University with support from the Bloomberg American Health Initiative indicates that this kind of drug checking presents an important opportunity for a public health approach to the fentanyl overdose crisis. A survey conducted during the study found that 84% of respondents were concerned that the drugs they use contain fentanyl, and only about 1:4 stated a preference for drugs laced with fentanyl. Drug checking was viewed as an important means of overdose prevention, with 89% agreeing that it would make them feel better about protecting themselves from overdose. Importantly, 70 % of respondents reported that knowing that their drugs contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior by not using the drugs at all, using the drugs more slowly, using the drugs with others who have Naloxone (i.e. Narcan) or changing their purchasing behaviors.

How is fentanyl affecting the national and local landscapes?

In 2015, more people in the U.S. died from drug overdoses than from firearm homicides, melanoma, auto accidents or HIV-related causes--and those numbers have only climbed since. The recent, national increase in overdoses has been traced to fentanyl and other incredibly strong synthetic opioids that are increasingly mixed into heroin and other street drugs, making them even more deadly. Over the past three years, fentanyl-related deaths are up 540% nationally.

Wouldn't this program just promote continued drug use?

No. This program is one of many harm-reduction tools we can offer our community members to decrease the risk of fatal overdoses in Arlington. It is the cornerstone of

SEE ARLINGTON HANDS OUT, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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.

Hearing aids, beware and be wise, Monday, Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Presented by Bonnie O'Leary, Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. In-depth discussion and demonstration. Registration # 912500-13.

Dealing with others' dementia changes, presented by reps from George

Washington Institute for Brain Health and Dementia, Monday, Jan. 10, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 912500-16.

Estate planning 101 with attorney Alison Lambeth, Monday, Jan. 10, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Learn about wills, revocable living trusts, advance medical directives, power of attorney and probate. Registration # 912404-01.

Wake up early to join art activities with community arts programmer Jennifer Droblyen, Monday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m. Registration # 912303-02.

Morning meetup, friendly conversa-

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 7

Visit www.janefranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream." At Thomas Jefferson Community Theater, Arlington. Presented by The Arlington Players. Adapted by Erin Branigan and Katie Rey Bogdan. A Midsummer Night's Dream takes you into the Athenian woods, full of magic and fairies, to celebrate the wedding of Duke Theseus of Athens and the Amazon queen, Hippolyta. However, a feud between the king and queen of the fairies has caused the natural world to become unbalanced. Visit www.thearlingtonplayers.org.

Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates **703-999-2928**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784



And affiliated newspapers

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac ALMANAC CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

Connection Newspapers.... Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac
1606 King Street • Alexandria, VA • 703-778-9431



ENRICHING
LIFE'S
JOURNEY

AT HERMITAGE NORTHERN VIRGINIA, it could be today.

With one of the highest vaccination rates in the region, our beautiful retirement community is getting back into the swing of things in Alexandria.

READY TO JOIN US? **LET'S CHAT.**

HERMITAGE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA



703 797 3800 | HERMITAGENOVA.ORG
5000 FAIRBANKS AVENUE | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22311



BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND
CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

CALL US TODAY FOR
A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

15% OFF + **10% OFF** + **5% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST | **Promo Number: 285**

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainville, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 WA UEL# 603 235 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153a License# LEAFFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2705169445 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 0086990 Registration# H-19114

**Life is short.
Don't make
it shorter.**

**Choose life. Make sure your kids get
their HPV vaccine and protect them
against cancer.**

@vaccinatevirginia



VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH



GENERAC

**Prepare for
power outages
with a Generac
home standby
generator**

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
844-947-1479

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



CLASSIFIED
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Legals

ABC LICENSE

B LIVE, LLC trading as B LIVE, 2854 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises; Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Bramson and Christal Bramson, Managing Members
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Ramen Arlington LLC trading as Jinya Ramen Bar, 4238 Wilson Blvd Ste 150, Arlington, VA 22203-1829. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises & Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sam Shoja, Sole Member.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

TBD on Wilson, LLC trading as Coco B's, 2854 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises; Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Bramson and Christal Bramson, Managing Members
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

HBARL, LLC trading as El Rey/Filling Station, 4201 Wilson Boulevard Suite 150/160, Arlington, VA. 22203-4417. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on premise, Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ian Hilton, Managing Member.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA • VACATION RENTALS



500 VACATION HOMES
*Selling fast for Summer 2022
due to need to escape covid*



Book now for best selection!

www.brindleybeach.com

877-642-3224

Protect the
ones you love,
**get your
flu shot
today.**



@vaccinatevirginia



VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

WELLBEING

Making Decisions During COVID

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

“Should I allow my 12-year-old daughter to go the movies with a group of friends, two of whom haven’t been vaccinated?” “Should I let my son play in games with the basketball team when players on both teams haven’t been vaccinated?”

These are the types of questions that Potomac parents Elaine and Brett Madden ask themselves almost daily. In the age of the coronavirus pandemic and omicron variant, the Maddens, like many others, face making decisions that have the potential to cause a major chain of events. This cycle often leads to stress that impacts one’s overall health and wellbeing.

“It’s like living with a low grade anxiety that is subtle, but builds up if we’re not in tune with our body,” said Elaine Madden, a licensed therapist who specializes in stress management. “Almost 99% of the clients I’m seeing are dealing with anxiety around making decisions that are related to COVID. If they make the wrong decision, will they catch the disease or spread it to others? Will their job be affected by COVID? Should they begin looking for a new job? With the spike in new cases, there’s been a new wave of uncertainty.”

Madden points to a recent study by the American Psychological Association, which showed that daily tasks and decision-making have become more difficult during the pandemic, particularly for parents.

“I’ve been telling my patients to take a step back, breathe and really think through the ramifications of each decision and write them down,” she said. “This can work for decisions that range from small things like what to pack in your kids’ lunches, to larger ones like whether to plan a vacation.”

For larger decisions, like a career or job change, Madden suggests enlisting the help of a few trusted advisors who can offer objective guidance.

“You need someone who has experience dealing with your issues, but won’t be impacted by them,” she said. “For example, a college student who is deciding whether or not to study abroad might get

SEE MAKING, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Arlington Hands Out Fentanyl Test Strips To Save Lives

FROM PAGE 4

the therapeutic approach of “meeting a person where they are.”

It is important to 1) note that this tool would be used as part of a larger overdose prevention campaign with strong messaging around overdose prevention education and treatment resources and 2) underscore that the strips cannot prevent overdoses or make drugs safe for use. This program would allow those using drugs to gain more information about their substances in order to make informed decisions around using.

Are other jurisdictions utilizing Fentanyl Test Strip Programs?

Yes. Cities around the country have implemented Fentanyl Test Strip Programs. Nationally, there are large programs in Columbus, Ohio; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and several large districts across California, South Carolina and Washington State.

FLOURISHING AFTER 55

FROM PAGE 5

tion, BYOC (bring your own coffee, Monday, Jan. 10, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop in.

Registration open to join the acclaimed Encore Chorale, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1:45 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. 15 weeks of classes, no audition required. Fee, \$160 and \$25 for materials. Registration # 912301-05 or call 301-261-5747.

Rock music legends, rock and roll pioneers, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 912400-33.

Intro to line dance, basic steps Wednesday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop in.

Making Decisions During COVID

FROM PAGE 6

the opinion of an older adult who has actually spent a semester abroad rather than, or in addition to, a parent who would be paying for that semester. If you're deciding to change jobs, someone with a financial stake in your decision should not be the only person offering an opinion. But just know that these opinions are just advice. The final decision should be made jointly with those closest to you.”

Some decisions are minor, but can feel monumental. “Many of us are on decision overload, so we start shutting down, and things like deciding what to wear or what to eat can feel paralyzing,” said Great Falls psychologist Rachel Cohen. “Try planning ahead during a time when you're feeling relaxed. For example, my husband and I gather our kids on Saturday and we decide on a menu for the week for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. We create a chart and pre-make as much of those meals as we can. The same goes for our clothes for the week.”

“Know your limits and boundaries and have a backup plan,” said Alexandria-based therapist Lee Tripp, MSW. “If going into the office is mandatory for you, but your child

Locally, the City of Alexandria has launched a program with assistance from the Chris Atwood Foundation and Fairfax County and Loudoun County are preparing to launch programs.

There are thriving programs in both Baltimore and the District of Columbia. Many of these programs are a hybrid initiative between the local health departments and local governing agencies.

Are there any legal implications for this program?

According to the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, the short answer is no for adults over the age of 18. Arlington County's distribution program serves only persons ages 18 and older.

Participants also should be aware that a prosecutor from another jurisdiction might interpret the law differently, including for adults over the age of 18.

History roundtable topic, the impact of art on history, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 11:15 a.m. Registration # 912402-08.

Movie group to discuss, “Don't Look Up” (2021), Thursday, Jan. 13, 3 p.m. Registration # 912402-05.

Black women and the civil rights movement, Thursday, Jan. 13, 1:30 p.m., presented by a representative from the National Women's History Museum. Registration # 912400-01.

About Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross, Saturday, Jan. 15, 10 a.m. Illustrated talk by a Park Ranger from the Clara Barton National Historic Site. Registration # 912400-05.

has to quarantine and miss school unexpectedly, what is your childcare plan? At what point will you decide to have your child tested for COVID? When you hear snuffles? When they have a persistent cough? Having these guidelines in place can cut down on the number of last minute decisions.”

“Try not to get stuck on over-analyzing,” added Cohen. “At the end of the day, we just need to make a decision, take a chance and stop procrastinating.”

Let Us Know Your View

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. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

Send letters

Online www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter
By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

By mail to: Letters to the Editor The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter
www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>
<https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette>
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL

ELECTRICAL

K & D ELECTRIC

COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
Family Owned & Operated

Recessed Lighting
Ceiling Fans
Phone/CATV
Computer Network Cabling
Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc....
Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Office 703-335-0654
Mobile 703-499-0522
lektrkman28@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING

LANDSCAPING

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.

Expert Tree Work

Tree removal, topping & pruning,
shrubbery trimming, mulching,
leaf removal, planting, hauling,
gutter cleaning, retaining walls,
drainage problems, etc.

25 years of experience – Free estimates

703-868-5358

24 Hour Emergency
Tree Service

Landscape Drainage

Landscape Drainage

ProDrainage
A JES Services, Inc Company
Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts
Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More
Your Neighborhood Company since 1987!
703-772-0500 www.ProDrainage.com
VA, Licensed Class A Contractor

Sign up for
FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
to any or all of our 15 papers
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE

No Car and No Computer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Due to circumstances beyond my control, for two days after the deer accident, I had no car and as it happened, no computer either. The no-car situation you regular readers know about from the previous edition's column: “Oh Deer.” The no-computer element just occurred as machines, technology, almost anything I guess, eventually succumbs to old age/extended use. As a result of this dual inconvenience, I can't get anywhere, literally, and figuratively. Moreover, with these two losses, temporary though they may be, I've sort of lost my way. To invoke author Robert A. Heinlein: I'm a “stranger in a strange land.”

Though I now have a courtesy rental car, I don't yet have a computer. It's being delivered later in the week by Amazon. It won't be an expense as it is being paid for my part-time employer. When the computer arrives, my brother's IT guy will come over and set it up. That means I won't have that problem to solve. As for the car, in five days or so, I was told, I'll learn whether my car can be repaired or if it will be declared a total loss. Soon thereafter I imagine, if the car is “totaled,” I'll be receiving a settlement check from the insurance company. Then the fun will begin.

If in fact, I receive a settlement check, since the car I was driving was a model year 2000 Honda Accord, unfortunately the amount will be nowhere near what I'll need to purchase a new car. The net effect will be an increase in my monthly car payment from zero dollars to likely multiple hundreds. Money, I don't really have and are not eager to spend. However, the new computer can't arrive quickly enough. And given the evolution in technology since I last bought a computer, 10 years ago at least, I can well imagine the improvement/benefit in my life it will provide. As for the improvement/benefits in my life a new car will provide? Not really important to me if it costs money, which it will. I am not looking to add another car with bells and whistles since I already have a new-ish car with all the bells and whistles already. I was not looking to whistle any more bells however. What I/we need is only one car payment. Which, for the past 13 years, since my mother passed away in 2008, and I inherited her car, I've had. And I've enjoyed every minute of it. Now, I'm afraid, the party is over.

Now this is where not having a working computer at home becomes a problem. I can't research a potential solution. Consequently, I'm stuck in a kind of limbo between the car I used to own and the car I'm about to own. Right now, I'm driving a rental car, a temporary solution. What I need is a permanent solution. Sure, I receive a daily newspaper and I do have a car to drive, but I'm not going to drive randomly around and/or trust the classified ads to direct me to a proper solution. What I need is a version of Indeed.

The conclusion: I need a computer before I need the car. In fact, it's very likely that if I'm told the Honda is totaled, having a new computer will provide me with the tools and information necessary to perhaps make an intelligent and acceptable decision. Acceptable meaning a moderate impact to our finances. For me, it's not so much about creature comforts as it is about this creature's comfort.

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



ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA



START THE YEAR OFF RIGHT!

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA
COROLLA LE SDN**

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$189
/MO



MODEL# 1852. MSRP \$21,520. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA
CAMRY LE SDN**

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$259
/MO



MODEL# 2532. MSRP \$26,320. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA
PRIUS**

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$269
/MO



MODEL# 1223. MSRP \$26,730. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA
HIGHLANDER**

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$339
/MO



MODEL# 6948. MSRP \$40,220. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SERVICE & PARTS HOURS: MON-FRI 6A-7P & SAT 7A-5P

**BATTERY
SPECIAL**

FREE

**BATTERY CHECK-UP
INCLUDES:** CHECK COLD CRANKING
AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF
BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES
BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT
TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.

**LUBE, OIL &
FILTER SPECIAL**

\$39.95

**\$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE
INCLUDES:** CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.), INSTALL
GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT & ADJUST
ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-
POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX
AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.

**ALIGNMENT
SPECIAL**

\$89.95

**4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT
INCLUDES:** 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT,
INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS,
STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION
AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT
TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.

**BRAKE PAD
SPECIAL**

\$99.95

**BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT
INCLUDES:** INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS,
INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE
CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TCMC PADS ONLY.
MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.

**TOYOTACARE
PLUS**

\$329.00

**SPECIAL
MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY
EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE
COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE
PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!**

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT
TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.

**SERVICE
VARIABLE
DISCOUNT**

**THE MORE YOU SPEND,
THE MORE YOU SAVE!**

**\$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99
\$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199
\$20 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499
\$50 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+**

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT
TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.

CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY: 703-684-0710



**Toyota's
President's Award
34 years in a row!**

Se habla español



ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria

703-684-0700

AlexandriaToyota.com