

The Arlington Connection

Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima gather for a photo following a wreath laying at the Marine Corps War Memorial Feb. 18 in Arlington. Pictured left to right are: Roy Earle, John DeGennarro, Louis Bourgault and Ivan Hammond.

Honoring Survivors Of Iwo Jima

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PHOTO BY FRED LASH
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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.

POLICE PRACTICES IN ARLINGTON

Thursdays, March 3 – April 21, 10 – 11:30 a.m. (eight weeks). Gain a greater local understanding of one of the most important issues of our time — police practices — from the perspective of both the police and the community. Guided by representatives from various departments of the Arlington police plus citizen groups, learn more about police practice groups, civilian oversight including the response from Black parents of Arlington and NAACP, traffic enforcement practices, mental health and policing, and alternative dispute resolution. Contact info@encorelearning.net or 703-228-2144.

FRIDAY/MARCH 4

Vegetable Gardening Without Fear – Part 2: Planting and Maintaining. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. This is the second half of an entry-level, step-by-step course on creating a vegetable garden. Join Extension Master Gardeners Susan Wilhelm and Dona Lee to learn best vegetable garden practices, including proper watering techniques, identifying and controlling weeds, managing pests and diseases, and harvesting your crops. Part 1 of this series is available at <https://mgnv.org/ug-class-video/>. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/events/> to receive a link

to participate.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 9

Trees for All. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Online. Join EcoAction Arlington to explore Trees For All with featured speaker Terry Baker, CEO of the Society of American Foresters. More information: www.ecoactionarlington.org.

CURATIVE COVID-19

TESTING SITE RELAUNCHED
The Curative COVID-19 PCR testing site in Arlington has been relaunched for the general public at no out-of-pocket costs to patients, whether insured or not. Curative's testing site is located at Arlington Department of Health Services, 2100 Washington Blvd., Arlington, operating Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Appointments can be made ahead of time by visiting www.curative.com.

DONATIONS NEEDED

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 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.

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.

Naloxone (Narcan) can save the life of someone who is overdosing, if given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need is protected from liability by the Good Samaritan Law. Naloxone (Narcan) is available without a prescription for a fee at all pharmacies. Obtain it for free by attending a REVIVE! training. Contact Emily Siqveland at 703-228-0913 or esiqveland@arlingtonva.us or visit health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/ for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone for details.



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Arlington's Industrious Workspace Supports Local Art



The reception area. Bridget Cahill is community manager at the Courthouse site and makes visitors feel welcome with a big smile.

Light-filled offices feature work by Susan Grace.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

“Industrious” workspace provider in Court House, opened in December 2019, is an oasis for local entrepreneurs, and sometimes, artists. Arlington painter Sue Grace is showing five of her paintings there until March 9. Industrious is a leading flexible workspace provider in the U.S. The company provides clients an office that works for any sized team — even if it’s just for once or twice a week. Industrious is a fast growing national business, offer-

ing flexible terms and locations in more than 50 U.S. markets and the U.K. It also knows, according to PR and Communications Manager Cecilia Amador de Sanjose, “that supporting local businesses and artists is an important part of being an active member of the community. Industrious showcases the work of local artists in the same way that it chooses the best local coffee and pastries to serve to members.” The offices are at 4201 Wilson Boulevard.

Sue Grace’s concurrent exhibits, “Sue Grace: Recent Work,” are about to end after 3 months in the Industrious offices in Arlington and Bethesda. Industrious has a downtown Bethesda location at 7200 Wisconsin Avenue. Sue Grace’s recent work is an intuitive approach to abstraction. Moderate scale paintings create a surface of texture and color and include



Grace standing along the Exhibit Wall.

feints and references to space. Per Grace, “Like the game we played as kids, the Rubik’s Cube, the handheld toy cube offered endless possible solutions: the rectangle of the picture plane offers the same tantalizing challenges ... how can the composition avoid figure and ground? How can one push forward (for example the ground)? How can one quiet down (for example the figure) so that it does not dominate?”

There is a struggle between the desire to tell a story and the practice of asserting the material. The struggle presents a continual fresh source of questioning that leaves open the possibility of introducing the element of spirituality.”

Painted before as well as during the pandemic, the canvases make one viewer think about how vast

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PUBLICATION.

“City Dwellers”
Sue Grace 2021
Oil on Panel
18 x 24 inches.



PHOTOS BY SUE GRACE

“Breast, Box, Pelvis, Bone,” Sue Grace 2021; Oil on Panel 18 x 24 inches. Permission to use and print granted by the artist for this publication.



our imaginations are even when we are limited in our physical space. Do they tell a story of what we see when our vistas are limited? Our ability to escape to another reality is more difficult and our inner landscape takes on a new dimension. To that interpretation Grace says, “I wasn’t thinking about the pandemic when painting these, but I learn more and more that what the viewer brings to the

painting finishes the work in some ways.”

Sue Grace’s work can be seen at the Industrious spaces until March 9. Her website is www.suegrace.com.

<http://instagram.com/sue-gracefineart>

To learn more about flexible work space at Industrious, see: <https://www.industriousoffice.com>

Heart of Safety Arlington

Restorative Arlington, the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Services Unit have signed an agreement establishing Heart of Safety, Arlington County’s first restorative justice diversion program for youth and young adults. Heart of Safety is aimed at promoting safety, healing, and accountability.

Through the Heart of Safety program, both people harmed and people responsible for harm in Arlington and the City of Falls Church will be able to participate in a process that centers their needs, addresses accountability, and offers both individual and community healing. Heart of Safety will provide an alternative to

prosecution in certain misdemeanor and felony cases in which both the respondent(s) and person(s) harmed voluntarily agree to resolve the case through the restorative justice conferencing process. The respondent(s), or the individual who caused harm, must be 26 years old or under at the time of the incident.

“Heart of Safety embodies the priorities and interests of our community and is in full alignment with best practices in restorative justice diversion,” said Kimiko Lighty, Executive Director of Restorative Arlington. “We are grateful to be able to offer this long-awaited option for people who have been harmed in our community.”

Cases identified and referred to as appropriate for Heart of Safety, will go through

a rigorous restorative justice conferencing process overseen by a trained facilitator and consisting of four stages. First, the facilitator informs potential participants of the process and allows them to determine if they consent to remain in the process. Next, the facilitator carries out individual conversations with both the respondent(s) and person(s) harmed to listen to their experiences, establish their individual needs, and determine when they are ready for a joint meeting. Next, should the parties agree, the facilitator helps them draft a mutually agreed-upon written restoration plan. Lastly, the facilitator follows up with participants to ensure they are satisfied and that the restoration plan has been completed. If the restorative justice process is unsuccessful in resolving a

case, the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney retains the option of initiating prosecution.

“Restorative Arlington’s Heart of Safety program will provide a great new option for diverting some youth from the traditional court process,” said Court Services Unit Director Earl Conklin. “It is an alternative model that has proven successful for both the youth and those who have been harmed.”

“Punishment often makes the problem worse, particularly when it arises from unmet basic needs, a lack of skills, or a history of trauma in young people,” said Arlington resident and co-founder of the Coalition for Trauma Informed Schools,

SEE HEART OF, PAGE 11

COMMUNITY

Teach Your Kids About Hunger During March Nutrition Month

SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Arlington County, the sixth wealthiest county in the nation, has nearly 20,000 people living below the federal poverty level of \$25,100 for a family of four. The number of children eligible for free or reduced price lunches ranges from 0.56 percent or 3 students at Tuckahoe, 19 students or 3.07 percent at Jamestown Elementary, to 514 students or 80.56 percent at Carlyn Springs Elementary.

Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) distributes over 80,000 pounds of food to more than 2,400 needy families each week in Arlington, and at the beginning of the pandemic the number of households jumped 23 percent. Forty percent of the food donated to AFAC is from food drives and grocery store donations with a little over half of this from grocery stores.

Charlie Meng, Chief Executive Officer of AFAC says, "Food drives are vitally important to the work of AFAC." But he points out that as grocery stores have better matched supply and demand, donations from stores have been dropping. He says in the next year they will be encouraging more food drives.

March is Nutrition Month and where there is an idea, there is a way, big or small. Food drives take a variety of forms from neighborhood and church groups to libraries and local businesses and school groups.

Children have played a big role in these efforts. Eagle Scout Charlie Gaylord and Boy Scout Troop 106 built a permanent Little Free Pantry in back of the Central Library to collect AFAC donations.

The Keenan family in 2020 set up tables in their front yard with a goal of collecting 10,000 cans and offered treats for those who stopped by with a contribution. Neighborhoods were dotted with food drives advertised on NextDoor and sponsored by various high school organizations.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology students have organized a mini Construction where each team creates a sculpture out of cans and non-perishable items. In October 2021, they donated 3,474 pounds of food to AFAC. Two elementary school students organized a food



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Jamestown Elementary students assemble baking kits at Valentine's Day for AFAC families.

Elementary made Valentine's packages with cooking oil, flour, sugar and other baking needs. Every year Scouts fan out in the national Scouting for Food effort around neighborhoods to collect bags of cans left outside doors in the biggest AFAC volunteer effort of the year.

Your child can organize family, their Sunday School class, friends, soccer team or neighbors around a food drive. Or they can reorient their next birthday party to expand or replace the traditional birthday gift they receive with a can of tuna or soup for someone else.

Or they can organize a cereal drive in the winter with their friends and build a wall of cereal boxes in their living room. Maybe they would rather make emergency food kits including specified items for a day including breakfast, lunch and dinner and put them in a decorated bag with a handwritten note. One group collected baking supplies in a festive bag around the holidays.

The kids can have an organizational and planning party (with pizza of course) where they make the yard signs, an outline of things to do, create a social media message, design flyers with a

list of most needed items including canned tuna, canned soups, canned vegetables and tomatoes, peanut butter in plastic jars and low-sugar cereal.

They can go grocery shopping with you while scanning labels for no salt added, no sugar added, low sodium, unsweetened for their own contribution to the food drive. They might want to imagine they are feeding their own family and choose things from the accepted list that they would like to eat.

While it is easy to plan a food drive, it does take some organizational skills which can be a bonus as your child learns to set the date for the food drive and register it online, order the food collection box from AFAC, advertise the drive and return the food to AFAC. More details can be found on the AFAC website.

If your child isn't quite ready to jump into a food drive yet, it's easy to just pick up a can or box when shopping with mom or dad and drop it in one of the many AFAC boxes scattered around the community outside some grocery stores, churches and businesses who maintain a permanent collection site. They may want to spend part of their allowance each week on a can of soup or container of cooking oil. For a list of these sites check fooddrives@afac.org

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE
Items on the most requested AFAC list include tuna, low sodium canned vegetables, low sugar cereal, peanut butter and cooking oil.

collection on their street, nearly filling an AFAC box.

Just this month students at Jamestown



FILE PHOTO
Annual Scouting for Food Drive around local neighborhoods provides the biggest contribution of canned goods and non-perishable food items all year.

Uncommon Valor



Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima gather for a photo following a wreath laying at the Marine Corps War Memorial Feb. 18 in Arlington. Pictured left to right are: Roy Earle, John DeGennaro, Louis Bourgault and Ivan Hammond.

Survivors mark Iwo Jima 77th anniversary.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Roy Earle was just 18 years old when he enlisted in the Marines shortly after graduating from high school in 1942. For the next three years he would mark his birthday in the midst of some of the worst battles fought in the Pacific Theater of World War II, including his 21st birthday as the Battle of Iwo Jima raged around him.

“For several years, I never celebrated a birthday,” said Earle, who will turn 98 on March 5. “The best I can say is that I marked the occasion lucky to be alive.”

Earle was one of four survivors to gather in Arlington over President’s Day weekend to mark the 77th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest in U.S. history.

“Two years ago we had more than 50 Iwo Jima survivors gather for the 75th reunion,” said David Fields, a board member of the Iwo Jima Association of America that sponsored the gathering. “This year only four veterans were able to return.”

Fields, a Vienna resident who served six years as a Marine infantry officer, is the son of the late Col. Thomas Fields, a veteran of Iwo Jima who went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam.

“Dad felt he was an old man at age 26 when he served in WWII,” Fields said. “He did not talk much about his experience on Iwo Jima, but he always said that the credit goes to the 18-year-olds, who fought with immeasurable courage. In his Company D battalion of the 5th Marine Division, 250 men in his company walked in and only 19 walked out.”

The Battle of Iwo Jima began Feb. 19, 1945. It was the first day of an intense, 36-day battle that

stepped on it you went down to your ankles. Mount Suribachi was an active volcano and the Japanese had fortified the island with 15 miles of tunnels so you never knew where or when you would be attacked.”

Recalled Fields, “Dad would say that the Japanese were not on the island, they were in the island.”

Approximately one-third of all Marines killed in action during World War II were killed on Iwo Jima. More than 100,000 Americans fought there and 6,821 died as a result — 5,931 of them Marines. An additional 19,000 troops were wounded in the battle that claimed more than 21,000 Japanese lives. Of the 23,000 Japanese troops defending Iwo, only 1,083 were taken prisoner.

In addition to Earle, Iwo Jima veterans attending the reunion at the Hilton Crystal City included Ivan

Hammond, John DeGennaro and Louis Bourgault.

Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears, a Marine Corps veteran, was the keynote speaker and the recipient of the first Iwo Jima Association of America’s Woody Williams Award. The award is named in honor of Herschel Woodrow “Woody” Williams, a Marine survivor of Iwo Jima and the last living Medal of Honor recipient from WWII. Williams virtually presented the award to Sears.

“What an incredible honor to



Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears, center, receives the Iwo Jima Association of America’s Spirit Award Feb. 19 in Crystal City. With her are IJAA President Lt. Gen. Norman Smith, USMC, Ret., and Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Schultz.



John DeGennaro.

“In [Col. Thomas Fields] Company D battalion of the 5th Marine Division, 250 men in his company walked in and only 19 walked out.”

— David Fields, speaking of his father



Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears greets Iwo Jima veteran Roy Earle Feb. 19 at the Hilton Crystal City.

sit in a room full of veterans and their families, including those who fought at Iwo Jima,” Sears said. “I heard stories and thoughts from veterans and Gold Star families, reminding us that freedom isn’t free.”

The four-day series of events included a veterans panel, a visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico and wreath-laying ceremonies at the WWII Memorial and the Marine Corps War Memorial.

Earle, who lives in Maine with his wife Linda, was in constant combat against the Japanese in

the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. For his service he received the two Presidential Unit Citations awarded the 4th Marine Division, the Navy Unit Citation awarded JASCO, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with four bronze battle stars, and the World War Two Victory Medal.

“I walked off of every battlefield, I was that fortunate,” Earle said. “I was proud to be a Marine. More specifically I was proud to be a 4th Marine Division Marine. We fought four battles and won them all.”

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Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima gather for a photo following a wreath laying at the Marine Corps War Memorial Feb. 18 in Arlington. Pictured left to right are: Roy Earle, John DeGennaro, Louis Bourgault and Ivan Hammond.



Ivan Hammond.



Louis Bourgault.



Roy Earle.

Shirlington Circle South Rotary Bridge Rehabilitation Arlington County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 7 p.m.
<https://www.virginiadot.org/ShirlingtonCircle>

Find out about plans to rehabilitate the Shirlington Circle south rotary bridge over I-395 to improve safety and extend the overall life of the bridge. The bridge connects the southbound I-395 collector-distributor lanes and southbound Shirlington Road to North Quaker Lane at the I-395 Exit 6 interchange. The project includes resurfacing the concrete bridge deck and closing deck joints, repairing concrete piers and abutments, repairing and repainting steel beams, adding protective concrete barriers adjacent to piers, replacing bearings, and upgrading guardrails adjacent to the bridge.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/ShirlingtonCircle>. The project team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

Review project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT’s Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-3256 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **March 25, 2022** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Vicente Valeza, Jr., P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference “Shirlington Circle South Rotary Bridge Rehabilitation” in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

State Project: 1250-000-913, B608, P101

UPC: 118832

Federal: STP-5B01 (210)

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Monday, March 28, 2022 at the same time.

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The Ninth Street Quartet played newer, less traditional work on Feb. 18 at St George's Church.

PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION



The Ninth Street Chamber Music concert on Feb. 23: Maria Soukup, violin, from Yorktown High; Benjamin Kurland, violin, Woodson High; Christopher Tate, cello, Washington and Liberty High; and Helen Shamzi, viola, Marshall High; playing Franz Schubert's String Quartet No.14 in D minor, Death and the Maiden.

Arlington's Ninth Street Quartet Offers Edgy Evening

Something old, something new, something blue at 9SQ concert.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

The Ninth Street Quartet notes: "Tonight's program highlights music's power to move us.

Whether we respond to the rhythmic call of music through dance, or we turn inward, connecting with the intimate spaces of our hearts and minds, human beings seem to be hardwired with the desire to participate in musical experience."

Participate one did, on Friday, Feb. 18, at St. George's Church, where the 9SQ (Ninth Street Quartet) laid out a banquet of new sounds, rhythms, and juxtapositions of old and new, delighting those in the audience open to the experience of "noteless" bow-

ing, cello pizzicato, and dissonance melting into harmony.

The first piece was a reimagining of a simple minuet from Bach by Elena Kats-Chernin, fun and fast-paced. And then came "Summa," by Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. Initially written in 1977 as a choral work, it was later scored by Pärt for instruments. It was performed by the Kronos Quartet in 1992. This piece was an emotional one of blended cello, violin, and viola, with plenty of low notes combining for strong emotion. It almost sounded like one instrument answering another in a conversation we were lucky enough to overhear. It was, as Matthew Richardson, co-director of the 9SQ, noted, "melancholy but hopeful."

Next on the program was Caroline Shaw's "Entr'acte," a minuet and trio. Shaw

is a Pulitzer Prize winning composer. For those in the audience not familiar with Shaw, it was good to have the warning provided by Richardson: "She writes stuff that makes us sound like we're falling apart."

But Entr'acte is mesmerizing. It evokes big open spaces and images of prairies and storms, and then the use of extended bowing techniques (tentative whispers from the bows) answered by full-on bowing provokes quite the opposite sense, an intimate give and take that builds suspense and emotion. Shaw plays with us, puts us up in midair and then gives us a parachute, leads us into darkness, then out into the open. She's going on the playlist.

After intermission, the quartet played Charles Singleton's "Testimony." Testimony was commissioned by the Kronos Perform-

ing Arts Association's "Fifty for Fifty" and Singleton's work begins beautifully but very emotionally, setting us up to feel sadness and joy before we even know the score. The composer's creative use of knee slapping and stomping, and the echoes of a Southern spiritual, tell us what we need to know and it's why some people have cried listening to it. It's a history lesson in less than 6 minutes.

The last piece, Heitor Villa-Lobos' "Quarteto Popular" rounded out the program and got an enthusiastic response.

9SCM followed up this concert the following week with a free concert, also at St. Georges, on Feb. 23, featuring 28 young musicians from the area playing more traditional quartet pieces.

See their website for future concerts: <https://www.9thstreetchambermusic.com/9th-street-quartet>

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WELLBEING

Managing Anxiety Triggered By News from Ukraine

Music and meditation among the ways to cope.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Sitting on yoga mats with their eyes closed as meditation music fills the air, Stephanie Dowd's yoga and meditation students seek a sense of calm. For the past two weeks, the Arlington instructor offered a special class for those who are seeking solace in the midst of an abundance of disturbing news about the crisis in Ukraine.

"My students have come to class talking about the sadness and stress they're feeling," she said. "They're looking for ways to decompress from the upsetting headlines."

The onslaught of disturbing images and news headlines about the crisis in Ukraine can take a toll on one's mental health. While feelings of stress over negative events is normal, there is a point in which these feelings can become unmanageable.

"It's normal to feel some level of anxiety over negative national and international events," said Bethesda psychologist Michele Windsor. "The key is having enough self awareness to recognize those when feel-

"The key is having enough self awareness to recognize when those feelings are interfering with your ability to carry out daily tasks."

— Michele Windsor

ings are interfering with your ability to carry out daily tasks."

"Deep breathing, meditation or just spending five minutes sitting quietly and without access to news, smartphones and social media can help cultivate that self awareness," Windsor said.

When members of her prayer group began to express feelings of profound sadness over the crisis, Yves Jaffe said they discussed some of the ways in which they can find comfort in their faith. "I play the flute and I've started playing at the beginning and end of our gatherings. The sounds are peaceful and give us a sense of calm. There's another woman in our group who's a pianist and she plays, 'Let there be Peace on Earth' while we sing it.

In fact, spending time with friends and setting limits on news consumption can reduce anxiety, says Windsor.

"Because we're all attached to our smartphones, get news alerts and spend time on social media, we can lose track of the amount of negative news we're getting," she said. "Make a conscious effort to unplug. Set aside a certain amount of time each day to stay off

the internet and social media.

There are very few reasons why most of us can't choose to stay away from these things for at least three hours each day. It can do wonders for our mental health."

Arlington Tax Rate

Arlington County Board will hold a public hearing on the CY2022 tax rate on March 31, 2022 at 7 p.m., or soon thereafter, at the Ellen Bozman Government Building, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 307, Arlington, Va 22201.

Members of the public may participate virtually and in-person.

Sign up to speak in advance on the County Board website <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/County-Board> or call 703-228-3130 between 8am and 5pm starting five days before the hearing. Speaker sign up will also be available in-person on the day of the meeting. Online and in-person speaker sign up will close at 8 p.m. on March 31, 2022. The meeting will be available via live stream at www.arlingtonva.us and local cable stations on Comcast 25 and 1085 and Verizon FiOS 39 and 40. Spanish language interpreters will be available. Please contact the Clerk's Office at 703-228-3130 or by email at countyboard@arlingtonva.us 48 hours prior to the hearing for any accessibility requests.

The County of Arlington, Virginia, proposes to increase property

tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 2.3 percent.

2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.990 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."

3. Effective Rate Increase: The County of Arlington, Virginia proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$1.013 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$0.023 per \$100, or 2.3 percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on proposed real

property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of Arlington County will exceed last year's budget by 5.5 percent.

5. The County also proposes to maintain the real estate tax for properties used for or zoned to permit commercial and industrial uses at the current rate of \$0.125 per \$100. Revenue from this tax is dedicated for transportation initiatives.

6. The County also proposes to maintain the sanitary district tax at the current rate of \$0.017 per \$100 of assessed value. Revenue from this tax is dedicated for the storm-water management fund.

After the hearing is held on March 31, 2022, the County Board may adopt a tax rate lower than \$1.013 per \$100 of assessed value, but it cannot adopt a higher rate.

A copy of the proposed resolution fixing the real estate tax rate for CY 2022 is on file and available for review by contacting the Office of the Clerk to the County Board at 703-228-3130 weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or by email at countyboard@arlingtonva.us.

— KENDRA M. JACOBS, CLERK
TO COUNTY BOARD

2021-2022 Season

Brandenburg, Vivaldi & Tango

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm

Editor and Publisher

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe

Contributing Photographer and Writer
slrbc@aol.com

Eden Brown

Contributing Writer

arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444

debfunk@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

Publisher

Jerry Vernon

703-549-0004

jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong

Production Manager:

Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Heart of Safety Arlington

FROM PAGE 3

Juliet Hiznay. “Heart of Safety facilitates communication and enables community members to identify root causes of harm while developing meaningful solutions in response to these harmful acts.”

“Mass incarceration is one of the greatest civil rights injustices of our era,” said NAACP Vice President Mike Hemminger. “The implementation of this research-based program will surely have life changing results for those who have interactions with our current punitive legal system.”

“I have seen how the legal system traumatizes people with punishment, which is different from accountability, while the needs of the people affected by their actions have gone unmet,” said Liane Rozzell, who started the Restorative Arlington initiative during 2020 while on loan from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. “Through Heart of Safety, people will have a chance to take real accountability through acknowledgement, remorse and

repair, including becoming people who won’t repeat that harm.”

“I see restorative practices as effectively changing the mindset around how victims and those who harmed them interact in a way that brings healing to both parties,” said Arlington Civic Federation President Allan Gajadhar. “More importantly, it does so in a way that does not perpetuate the harm with punishment and revenge cycles that perpetuate the underlying socioeconomic contributors to harmful behaviors.”

“At the Annie E. Casey Foundation, we are committed to improving community safety so that all children, youth, and families have the opportunity to thrive,” said Jaquita Monroe. “Arlington’s Heart of Safety aligns with positive youth development principles and focuses on reducing the disparities we see in justice systems across the country. We’re pleased to have supported the development of this program and we look forward to seeing great results.”

Commonwealth’s Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti said, “Heart of Safety is about survivors’ rights, youth rehabilitation, and crime prevention. For survivors, it’s the peace of mind of taking charge of their recovery. For young people, it’s a second chance to make right what they did wrong. And for the community, it’s an investment in crime prevention.”

The establishment of Heart of Safety represents the culmination of two years of hard work led by Restorative Arlington and thousands of volunteer hours on behalf of system partners, victims of crimes, formerly incarcerated persons, and community stakeholders, including teens and young adults.

Restorative Arlington is actively working with Arlington Public Schools to sign a separate agreement that creates a referral pathway to allow schools to directly refer students to Heart of Safety. Establishing this pathway will allow schools to hold students who have caused harm accountable while preventing them from entering the criminal legal system entirely.

Suspicious Death on Columbia Pike

The Arlington County Police Department’s Homicide/Robbery Unit is investigating a suspicious death along Columbia Pike.

At approximately 7:42 a.m. on Feb. 26, police were dispatched to the 3600 block of Columbia Pike for report of a suspicious vehicle with an unresponsive male inside. Upon arrival, officers located the parked vehicle in the lot of a business and observed an adult male deceased inside. The Office of

the Chief Medical Examiner will determine cause and manner of death.

This remains an active criminal investigation and anyone with information that may assist with the investigation is asked to contact the Arlington County Police Department’s Homicide/Robbery Unit at 703-228-4180 or ACPDTipline@arlingtonva.us. Information may also be reported anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477

Blood Drive

Rock Spring Congregational/UCC with support from the Arlington Rotary Club will hold a blood drive Sunday, March 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile will be

parked along 5010 Little Falls Road. Book your appointment ahead of time by contacting laurawatchman@gmail.com or calling 1-866-256-5672 with sponsor code 8166. The need for blood is critical.

CALENDAR

MARCH 1-25

Solo Exhibition by Kinda Barazi. At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Crystal City Shops, Arlington. Gallery Underground’s Focus Gallery in March presents Earth Speaks, a solo exhibition by Kinda Barazi. In Earth Speaks Barazi uses mixed media on canvas to explore the questions: “Are humanoids advancing or retrogressing? Were we once a high-tech civilization, and are we now living in a virtual simulation? As humans tamper with the process of evolution, speeding extinctions, and creating organizational powers and loyalty of thousands to go to wars, when few animals do, are we truly the superior

species?” For more information about the gallery: <https://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org/gallery-underground> Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. or by appointment.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 2

Library Audiobook Club. 7-8 p.m. Online. Join in a discussion of audiobooks and rediscover the joy of being read to. “The Secret Lives of Church Ladies”, authored by Deesha Philyaw, narrated by Janina Edwards. Free. Call 703-346-0854 or visit the website: <https://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/8885741>

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More Than a Virtue



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sit and write this column on Sat., February 26, 2022, it is 13 years, almost to the day (it was a Thursday actually, Feb. 27, 2009) when Team Lourie (me, my wife, Dina and my brother, Richard) first met an oncologist who would become the center of my universe. This initial meeting WAS to review your recent diagnostic medical history and discuss treatment. Moreover, once this meeting occurs and a cancer diagnosis is confirmed, your oncologist is placed on speed-dial and his/her email is auto-selected every time you type the first few letters of their name. This oncologist becomes your lifeline, phone a friend and/or the person you ask about all thing’s cancer related. And there’s plenty to ask, especially if you’re clueless to begin with, as was Team Lourie.

I wouldn’t say I’ve learned my lessons well, but after so many years, one does accrue a working knowledge/familiarity with certain practices and procedures. And though I never mastered the pronunciation of some of the early-on/heavy-duty chemotherapy I infused, I always knew where to be and when. As a result, I was described as a “compliant” patient. Meaning I did what I was told and never missed any appointments. (You mean not all patients are compliant,” I remember asking. The answer I received: “You’d be surprised.” After a diagnosis of cancer, how does a diagnosee not show up for treatment, et cetera? Apparently, it happens, more than I can understand.)

But I never had to be told twice. And though text and emails were sent with regularity by my provider, I was always aware in advance and even though I was contacted multiple times on multiple devices, I never needed to be reminded. I was ready, willing, and able. As was the case with “Deets,” (Danny Glover’s character in “Lonesome Dove”). When he died, Capt. Woodrow Call (Tommy Lee Jones) carved the following sentiment on his headstone: “Never shirked a task. Cheerful in all weathers.” He was dependable and reliable, as have I been during this cancer adventure.

Now whether my compliance and cheerful attitude has had any bearing on my survival, or whether a possible misdiagnosis – which led to my diagnosis being changed in 2020 to papillary thyroid cancer from the original non-small cell lung cancer after multiple biopsies confirmed the rediagnosis, Team Lourie can’t know for sure – and of course, no one is admitting it. I’ve been told that papillary thyroid cancer, generally speaking, is a slow-moving (perhaps that’s why I’ve survived so long), curable type of cancer. Quite a bit different than the “terminal” diagnosis/“13 month to two years” prognosis I initially received back in 2009.

Maybe that’s why I am alive and reasonably well. When you’re told that you have two years to live, maximum, it’s hard to be mad if you’re still alive 13 YEARS LATER. Over these many years, I have learned to roll with the punches and go with the flow because if being diagnosed with cancer has taught me anything, it has taught me how to be patient – and how to be one as well.

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



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