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PHOTO BY PAT MCGEEHAN

# The Arlington Connection

## Cherry Blossom Festival is Underway

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## Don't Miss The Kite Festival

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## Board for Community Oversight Of Police Named

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Cherry blossoms almost at full peak on Monday, March 21. Scattered visitors walk around the Tidal Basin and the sunlight filters through the blossoms as dawn turns into a bright spring day.

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Released March 8, 2022

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From the Chief Medical Officer at WebMD, the world's largest provider of trusted health information, learn how to reduce your diabetes risk and change your mindset from I hope I don't get diabetes to I can prevent diabetes.

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## NEWS

### Community Board to Improve Transparency, Accountability In Arlington Police

The Arlington County Board appointed members of the Community Oversight Board (COB). The Oversight Board is a public body appointed by the County Board charged with advising the Board on how to improve transparency and accountability in the Arlington County Police Department and to perform delegated functions of the County Board including accepting complaints from community members, reviewing ACPD investigations into police conduct, and engaging with the community to improve the relationship with law enforcement professionals.

The Oversight Board will consist of seven voting members who are residents of the County and reflect our demographic diversity along with two non-voting members with prior law enforcement experience. Among the Oversight Board's first acts of business will be to establish policies and procedures for their operations.

The work of the Oversight Board will be supported by an Independent Policing Auditor, a new position that the County is in the process of recruiting. The hiring announcement for the Independent Policing Auditor was posted by the County last week. View the posting here: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/jobs/3457854-0/independent-policing-auditor>

At its March 22 recessed Board meeting, the County Board appointed the 7 voting and 2 non-voting members. "My colleagues and I were very impressed with the quality of applicants for our inaugural Community Oversight Board. We are confident that the thoughtful group selected, which brings together a broad range of life and professional experiences, will be leaders in advancing mutual trust and respect between public safety and Arlington residents," said Board Chair Katie Cristol.

The nine members of the Oversight Board were introduced at the County Board recessed meeting on March 22, 2022. A short biography on each member is provided here, including employment information, volunteer work, and their answer to the question 'why do you want to serve on the COB?'

#### VOTING MEMBERS

**Garry Dean (65)** – is a retired United States Air Force (USAF) Major General with experience as both a military and civilian pilot. He is also the former Deputy USAF Inspector General. He has also

served as a youth sports coach and is on the Board of Advisors for the National Youth Impact Program. Dean also serves on the board of his church. "I think I can provide a balanced oversight approach to ensure the basic rights of citizens are respected and helping to inspire a culture where the high standards and responsibility of law enforcement as public servants enables safer communities with mutual respect between our citizens and law enforcement."

**Lisa Ortiz (58)** – is a Senior Economist at US Agency for International Development (USAID) where she serves as an agency mentor. She is bilingual in English and Spanish. "I think this is a critical issue. I have never had anything but positive encounters with the police but I know that is not everyone's experience. Even when fully warranted, finding a member of one's family engaged with the justice system can be frightening, especially when you are poor and an immigrant that barely speaks the language. The police and the legal system should not be a frightening experience. Strengthening transparency, increasing communication, and developing a shared vision can help to correct that."

**Sasha Ridley (46)** – promoted police and military human rights education at the Department of Defense and the Department of State. She also taught Constitutional Law at DC public schools and helped educate kids on their Constitutional rights. "I want to strengthen our community by advocating for fair and effective policing that is consistent with local and state laws and regulations. I love our county and want to promote an accountable police force."

**Julie Evans (32)** – is a transportation engineer and also volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in Arlington and Alexandria. She also has experience promoting adult literacy and women's health and safety. She is bilingual in English and Spanish. "Our community needs to be proactive to ensure all residents feel safe and served by our local law enforcement and I'm eager to understand and help navigate the challenges involved in modern policing."

**Martin Ennis-Osorio (22)** – is an IT specialist for the US Department of State. He also volunteers for local charities such as Red Cross and Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). He is bilingual. SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 3

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

## Arlington Activists Won't Give up on Campaign Finance Reform

MoneyOutVA will ask legislators why good governance laws failed.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

Virginia's General Assembly killed 20 of the 24 campaign finance reform bills introduced during the 2022 legislative session. The defeated bills include attempts to restrict the personal use of campaign funds, place limits on campaign contributions, improve disclosure from dark money groups, and ban contributions from public utilities.

Awaiting a signature from Gov. Glenn Youngkin are two bills pertaining to disclosure, an oversight bill which strengthens the Department of Elections' ability to monitor and enforce campaign finance regulations, and a resolution extending a study of campaign finance reform in Virginia.

Bills sponsored by Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate, including Del. Lee Ware (R-65) and Sen. Richard Stuart (R-28), would have prohibited campaigns from accepting contributions from public utilities. Because members of the General Assembly shape the laws public utilities operate under, contributions from these entities can lead to a perceived conflict of interest. The bill failed to pass out of the House Privileges and Elections committee where 13 of the 24 introduced campaign finance reform bills came to die.

Sen. John Bell (D-13) sponsored a bill,

along with Delegates Marcus Simon (D-53) and Mike Cherry (R-66), to prevent candidates for state office from using campaign contributions for personal use. A similar bill unanimously passed the House last year before being defeated in the Senate. This year, the bill passed through the Senate while encountering stiff resistance in the House Privileges and Elections committee along party lines, leaving Virginia one of a handful of states with no law prohibiting the personal use of campaign funds. Bills capping contributions, implemented in 45 other states, continue to be elusive. Four bipartisan bills which would cap contributions from individuals were introduced in this General Assembly, two in the House of Delegates and two in the Senate. The two bills in the Senate would have set limits at \$20,000-25,000 per donor in each election cycle. The caps of these bills are nearly seven times higher than the federal limits of \$2,900 per individual to federal candidates. Introduced by Democratic Senators Chap Petersen (D-34) and Joe Morrissey (D-16), the bills died immediately with similar bills in the House killed during their first hearing.

Of the four campaign finance reform bills that did pass, two relate to campaign finance disclosure. HB 125, sponsored by Del. Glenn Davis (R-84), establishes a fine of up to \$25,000 for sponsors violating campaign advertisement disclosure laws. HB 86,

sponsored by Del. Tim Anderson (R-83) directs the Department of Elections to create a searchable online database containing information about campaign finance reports. It is still in play because of delays in finalizing the state budget. Eight other disclosure bills, some of which would have strengthened reporting by dark money groups, died in committee. A bill requiring campaigns to keep certain records that may be subject to review by the Department of Elections passed nearly unanimously. However, it has a delayed implementation date of 2024, allowing legislators to get through the next election cycle without any oversight. Finally, a resolution extending a study of campaign finance reform in Virginia by a joint subcommittee passed without any dissent.

Good governance advocates Heidi Drauschak, Executive Director of VAOurWay and Nancy Morgan, coordinator of the VA Chapter of American Promise, expressed their disappointment that many common sense campaign finance bills never made it out of committee. "Citizens of the Commonwealth should be disappointed. After the most expensive election in Virginia history and, 30 years after the Governor Wilder Ethics Commission report recommended campaign finance reform, 2022 should have been the year for bipartisan wins for reform and good governance laws." They highlighted that the continuation of the work of the Joint Leg-

islative Subcommittee means that comprehensive reform will be implemented in Virginia, just not in 2022.

Several Arlington residents, when asked how they felt about campaign finance reform, said they were not qualified to respond as the issue was not one they follow closely - even though a few weeks before the start of the General Assembly a poll showed an overwhelming 78% of Virginians said they support reducing money from big campaign donors, and 88% of Virginians support public disclosure of contributions. Virginia held its most expensive election in history last year, with a record amount of money — \$7 million — contributed by undisclosed donors. For more information on how to follow campaign finance reform, see [www.MoneyOutVa.org](http://www.MoneyOutVa.org), which provides information about which bills passed and which failed. MoneyOutVa is also sponsoring a "Roundtable on the Status of Good Governance Legislation" Wednesday, March 23 at 7 pm, the link to which is also on their website. MoneyOutVa suggests to those who want to hold their legislators accountable, "Find out when your elected officials are organizing a post-legislative town hall; they do this every end of session. Attend and ask them, "Why did the General Legislature kill 20 out of 24 campaign finance bills this year?" Or "What is your position on campaign finance reform in VA?"

## Community Board to Improve Transparency, Accountability in Arlington Police

FROM PAGE 2

gual in English and Spanish. "I am interested in contributing as part of a new generation, and multicultural family, that has been and is heavily impacted in police work in Arlington. I want to positively contribute to my community and a healthy relationship between the police and my community. I am fluent in Spanish and English, basic IT systems, and was raised in heavily policed areas of Arlington."

**Anika Montgomery (41)** – is a licensed Master Social Worker with extensive experience in mental and behavioral health, as well as working with active-duty military. Her volunteer experience includes AFAC and Hospice Care.

"I am interested in serving on the COB because of my commitment to ethical and social oversight. I believe that all individuals in appointed positions should have a checks-and-balance board to ensure that rules and policies are being complied with. This helps strengthen the community's trust with law enforcement and promote engagement."

**David Smith (61)** – is counsel for Legal Initiatives at the Executive Office for the US Attorneys (DOJ). He is also Co-Chair of the Ministry on Race, Reconciliation, and Equity at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Arlington. "It is important that police and the community they serve understand, trust, and believe in

each other. I see the role of the COB as helping to bring transparency and accountability to the review of citizen complaints and allegations of police misconduct that are currently handled internally by Arlington PD without public input. The COB will help the Arlington PD avoid the self-bias that institutions inevitably have when there is no form of outside accountability."

### NON-VOTING MEMBERS

**James Miller (39)** - USMC veteran with 3 combat tours. 8 years in federal law enforcement with the US Department of State. Senior Security Manager in corporate security. Volunteers with the Arlington Little League. "The res-

idents of Arlington County must have confidence in our public institutions. At the forefront of our confidence, law and order upheld by a trusted police department remain a pillar in our community. I care deeply about our community and want to encourage residents' participation to grow, foster, and adopt new methodologies of police oversight. Time has shown it is necessary to institutionalize coordination and cooperation among police, government officials, and private organizations through new relationships."

**Gary Coffee (61)** – is currently serving as a security consultant in Washington DC. He retired as an FBI Special Agent and Supervisor

after 22 years, with experience in national security and criminal programs, including civil rights and internal investigations. Prior to that, he served 10 years as a police officer. "It's important to give back to the community and based on my experiences in policing this role would provide the other board members and community with ideas based on 32 years of experience."

The Board will begin meeting soon and will start by developing their policies and procedures, as well as attending training both locally and with the National Association of Community Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) regarding police oversight best practices.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 25

Creating a Well-Layered Landscape. 10 – 11:30 a.m. Online.

Many gardeners are looking to bring both beauty and support for wildlife into their garden designs. One important way to do that is through creating a well-layered landscape. Join Extension Master Gardener Elaine Mills to learn some techniques for introducing diverse layers of vegetation in a variety of garden contexts, from

reestablishing forest edges and planting around trees to refreshing foundation plantings, creating perennial beds, and rethinking front yard designs. Elaine will share ideas and lessons learned from her own garden and those of several Master Gardener colleagues. Free. RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/events/> to receive a link to participate.

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 31

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce will hold its Tenth Annual Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, March 31 from 8-9:30 a.m. via Zoom. This event, sponsored by Nestlé, brings business, government, and community leaders together for a moderated discussion about recent legislative topics and the outlook

for the Commonwealth. The Legislative Breakfast offers the opportunity to hear about the recent General Assembly session from the legislators who represent Arlington in Richmond. Arlington's members of the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates will discuss the  
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6





## CHERRY BLOSSOM



PHOTOS BY PAT MCGEEHAN

Cherry blossoms almost at full peak on Monday, March 21. Scattered visitors walk around the Tidal Basin and the sunlight filters through the blossoms as dawn turns into a bright spring day.

# Cherry Blossom Celebration Showcases Blooms in Full Display

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**P**at McGeehan got a jump start on the cherry blossom crowd on Monday at 7:30 a.m. when she drove to the Tidal Basin with a friend. She said they drove around the Tidal Basin and back and found a parking place pretty easily. Arlington resident McGeehan added that when they left at 9 a.m. there were several parking spaces still available. She said she always goes early. "It's just easier." And she adds, "the trucks aren't out yet selling everything with cherry blossoms."

McGeehan says today in addition to the locals and tourists there were the usual women in their wedding dresses in full regalia. "There was a woman who was a Georgetown law graduate in her academic gown. Someone with four kids was taking a family portrait and I saw what seemed to be the American University girls soccer team."

McGeehan says over the years she has seen it all—people in Japanese ceremonial garb and Latin American fifteen-year-old girls celebrating their quinceanera. It seems whatever you have to celebrate, you can do it at the cherry blossom festival.

McGeehan says there was a large group who had set up tables and were having breakfast with juice and donuts. "When they cleared out, it wasn't too crowded." There were some dog walkers and scooters and runners but who could think they could actually run through the crowd around the Tidal Basin?

McGeehan has been coming to the Cherry Blossom festival for decades and went during COVID, too. She remembers coming with her husband and four sons who are now in their 40s and 50s. "And my teenage grandchildren come now, too."

The opening ceremony for the 2022 National Cherry Blossom Festival was held on Sunday, March 20, the first day of spring. The festivities will be hosted from March 20-April 17 as a sign of friendship between Japan and the United States dating back to 1912 with the gift of cherry trees from Tokyo to Washington, D.C. The festival will feature four weeks of activities including traditional and contemporary arts and culture —art bloom and petal palooza, a number of musical presentations, Japanese stone lantern lighting, festival walks and run, the traditional kite flying day and the National Cherry Blossom Festival parade down Constitution.







Get your bounce on! We'll have three fun inflatables for kids of all ages to get their wiggles out.



Food trucks will be onsite.

# Arlington Park Featured for National Cherry Blossom Festival's 2022 Blossom Kite Festival

Virginia Highlands Park is a featured park for the National Cherry Blossom Festival's 2022 Blossom Kite Festival. As a featured park, Virginia Highlands will offer high-flying fun for the whole family. Check out the list of activities on the Things To Do page. <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Cherry-Blossom-Kite-Festival/Things-to-Do>

This event is free and open to the public and is suitable for all ages.

❖ Food/Drink: Food trucks will be on site serving us tasty eats. Attendees are also welcome to bring food and have a picnic in the park.

❖ Kites: The first 100 attendees will receive a kite kit. Attendees

are also welcome to bring and fly their own kites.

❖ Dogs are welcome: Attendees may bring dogs to the event. Dogs must be under control and leashed at all times.

❖ Rain Date: In case of heavy rain/thunderstorms, the event will be postponed to Sun., March 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

❖ Kite Kits and Decorating: The first 100 attendees will receive a free kite kit to decorate, fly and take home.

❖ Food Trucks: Local food trucks serving up delicious eats will be set up along S Joyce St facing the baseball fields for a seriously delicious lunchtime. Including: BBQ At Its Best, The Big Cheese, El Encanto Latino, Kona Ice of Annandale and Burke



Art activities include making 3-D cherry blossom trees, and origami

❖ Using decorative paper and paper bags, we will create 3-D cherry blossom trees. For ages 5+.

❖ Origami. Study Japanese in Arlington will host an origami

activity open to young learners, children 3 to 12, interested in learning origami paper folding, an art form and one of the oldest parts of Japanese culture. Easy-to-follow instructions create simple

yet adorable models anyone can enjoy. Instructors are trained and certified under the Taro's Origami Studio Artist Basic Certification Course.

Access for All Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day. Arlington County can provide reasonable modifications for people with disabilities upon request. Advance notice is welcome. Call 703-228-4740.

El Condado de Arlington puede proveer acomodaciones razonables conforme la Ley de Personas con Incapacidades (ADA). Comuníquese con nosotros con anticipación llamando al 703-228-4740 TTY 711.

Questions? Email Laura Barragan or call 703-228-3329

## Paintball and Pellet Attacks from Vehicles

Arlington County Police Department is investigating four reports of paintballs and pellets being discharged from vehicles at community members in the last week. Similar incidents have been reported in other states and appear to stem from challenges originated on social media. While the motivation behind the Arlington incidents is unknown at this time, the Arlington County Police Department takes these incidents seriously and contin-

ues to actively investigate to identify those responsible.

### Reported Incidents

ASSAULT & BATTERY, S. Eads Street at 12th Street S. At approximately 6 p.m. on March 16, police were dispatched to the report of disorderly conduct. Upon arrival, it was determined the victim was walking in the area when the suspect vehicle approached and discharged a pellet gun, striking the victim. The suspect vehicle is described as a maroon SUV.

ASSAULT & BATTERY, 1400 block of S. Eads Street/15th Street S. at S. Eads. At approximately 7:24 p.m. on March 18, police were dispatched to the report of an assault. Upon arrival, it was determined the two victims were walking in the area when the suspect vehicle approached and the passenger discharged a paintball gun striking the victims, a parked vehicle and the door to a business. At approximately 9:10 p.m., police were dispatched to the report of an assault and determined two

additional victims were walking in the area when they were struck by the suspect discharging a paintball gun from the vehicle. The suspect vehicle is described as a silver, older model four door sedan.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING, Washington Boulevard at N. Highland Street. At approximately 4:54 p.m. on March 21, police were dispatched to the report of a person with a gun. Upon arrival, it was determined the victim was walking in the area when he was struck by pellets discharged from a vehi-

cle. The suspect vehicle is described as a gray or light blue small SUV.

Report Information and Incidents to Police for Investigation

These remain active criminal investigations. Anyone with information related to these incidents is asked to contact the Police Department's Tip Line at 703-228-4180 or ACPDTipline@arlingtonva.us or anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).



## Budget Remains in Limbo

BY SEN. ADAM P. EBBIN

The General Assembly adjourned Sine Die on Saturday, March 12, 2022 after 60 contentious but rewarding days with a number of legislative decisions and the conflicting House and Senate biennial budget proposals still unresolved. The central cause of this delay was the somewhat unearned but unabated inertia of the recent campaign cycle. Governor Youngkin, who won by a margin of only 63,000 votes, one of the narrowest in Virginia's history, and a House majority that won their seats by a total of less than 500 votes in two districts, entered the session claiming a "mandate" from the voters on their agenda. While the Senate budget prioritizes investing our historic surplus in valuable services, infrastructure, and people while also providing tax relief, the House version is singularly focused

on reducing ongoing revenue to these programs for short term tax reductions. This view has moved us away from compromise and towards the partisan disputes which so often lead to roadblocks.

Things are in limbo – however I expect our experienced budget conferees to soon strike a deal, at which point we will be called back for a special session to take up unresolved legislation and pass a final compromise budget. In the meantime, despite much still to be resolved, there are successes to report.

Some of these include the banning of negative dark money ads in political campaigns, an expansion of state funding for free and reduced fare transit programs, and banning abusive juvenile detention "boot camps." This session we also passed legislation to extend the popular "cocktails to go"



program, train law enforcement officers and hotel industry workers to recognize and support victims of human trafficking, enhance criminal penalties for persons with power of attorney to financial-

ly abuse the elderly in their care, remove sales tax from drugs prescribed by veterinarians, and create penalties and enforcement for the use of loud, altered exhaust systems on vehicles. Importantly, we passed comprehensive legislation to begin much needed reforms to the Virginia Employment Commission.

Several key priorities still remain in "conference committees" where the sticking points between House and Senate positions will need to be hashed out before we return for the Special Session. These include legislation I oppose to create an incentive package for the Wash-

ington Commanders to locate their next stadium in Virginia, which unfortunately I believe will pass. Still up for debate are proposals to create "lab schools" which are public schools administered by public universities, increase rates of reparations for those wrongfully incarcerated, and to expand the membership of our Board of Elections.

For my part, I was glad to get twelve bills to the Governor's desk. While their fate remains unclear until his signature is inscribed on them, I believe each represents strong and needed public policy and merits his approval, even in this hyperpartisan environment.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.

P.S. If you are a member of a civic group or organization and would like me to provide a post-session legislative update in the late spring or early summer, please email my office at [district30@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district30@senate.virginia.gov).

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

legislation that they patroned, the issues that the General Assembly took up, and their perspectives on the future of Arlington and the business community. This event features a question and answer portion, questions must be submitted by March 24. Registration closes on Thursday, March 24 at 5 p.m. The cost of registration is \$35 for Chamber members and \$50 for prospective members. Sign up here: <https://web.arlingtonchamber.org/events/Legislative-Breakfast-3696/details>

#### FRIDAY/APRIL 1

Tips, Tricks, and Tools: Advice from Extension Master Gardeners. 10 – 11:30 a.m. Online. Ever wonder what Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) know that you don't? In this talk, you'll learn some of what EMGs have learned either through training or hard experience. Expect a mix of affirmation of tried and true techniques, myth busting, and ideas worth exploring. EMG Alyssa Ford Morel has gathered helpful tidbits from her colleagues with the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia and compiled them in this light-hearted celebration of getting things done in the garden. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/events/> to receive a link to participate.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Sen. Mark Warner will host his annual Academy Day on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a virtual event that will be hosted on Accelevents. The event will offer students, their parents or guardians, and school counselors a comprehensive overview of the United States service academies and their admission processes.

Attendees will have the opportunity to join breakout sessions with representatives from the United States service academies for presentations and an interactive question and answer period. On the main stage, you will hear from representatives from the Virginia congressional delegation about the application procedures for congressional nominations to the academies as well as speakers from the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board, the University of Virginia ROTC programs, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the Virginia Military Institute, and the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin University. There will also be time to speak in more detail with many of these representatives at their virtual resource tables. Information on the nomination process for the service academies is available on the Senator's website at [www.warner.senate.gov](http://www.warner.senate.gov). You may email [academy\\_noms@warner.senate.gov](mailto:academy_noms@warner.senate.gov) with any questions.

#### COUNTY TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH MOBILE CRISIS CARE

Arlington County is set to receive federal funding for behavioral health mobile crisis care in the amount of \$390,000. This is one of 10 projects Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) was able to secure funding for a total amount of \$5.4 million across Virginia's 8th District, which includes Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and parts of Fairfax County.

The request for funding of mobile crisis care is part of an extensive assessment by the County to reorient how it responds to 9-1-1 behavioral health calls. The \$390,000 will help with the purchase of equipment, including vehicles

outfitted for the purpose of performing mobile behavioral health crisis response. The vehicles will house a computer aided dispatch system and allow for connectivity to Arlington County's 9-1-1 Call Center should additional emergency response be needed.

Two other projects were also earmarked, including \$800,000 for Glencarlyn Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Project and \$325,000 for the Bluemont Junction Trail. These projects are earmarked as part of the appropriations in the Omnibus spending bill, which passed on a broad bipartisan vote in the House and Senate and signed into law by the President on Tuesday, March 15.

#### NVDECS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Northern Virginia Delta Education and Community Service (NVDECS) Foundation is accepting applications for seven 2022 Friends

and Family of Northern Virginia Deltas Educational Scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors who are planning on pursuing a post-secondary education at either an accredited two-year or four-year college or university. Also, scholarships will be awarded to support graduating seniors pursuing an education in a career field for: health care, teaching, behavioral health or health and human science, behavioral sciences, and science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). Applicants of the Northern Virginia area are encouraged to submit a completed application by Thursday, March 31, 2022. Applications with complete details about the criteria and requirements for these scholarships are available via [www.nvdecs.org/education-al-scholarships](http://www.nvdecs.org/education-al-scholarships).

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 8

### 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.

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## CALENDAR

### THURSDAY/MARCH 24

From Lee Highway to Langston Blvd discussion. 5-6 p.m. At Gilliam Place, 918 S. Lincoln Street, Arlington. Local author, Nadia Conyers and her daughter Arrington will read their book, From Lee Highway to Langston Blvd. The children's book describes the historical name change. Nadia is giving out and signing free copies of the book for APAH residents at the events.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 25

Culpepper Gardens Opens Daffodil Gardens. 11 a.m. At Culpepper Gardens, 4435 North Pershing Drive, Arlington. Arlington's retirement community for low-income seniors will welcome Congressman Don Beyer (VA-8) and Virginia State Senator Barbara Favola (SD-31) for the spring opening ceremony of its garden of 33,000 daffodils. Rep. Beyer and State Sen. Favola will deliver remarks before the cutting the ribbon to officially open the garden for the season. Also part of the opening, Police Chief Andy Penn will join representatives from the county sheriff, fire, and EMS departments to christen the garden's newest feature — the Arlington County First Responders Bench — which will stand as a testament to the brave first responders who have been at the frontline of the fight against COVID-19.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 25

La Belle Danse. 8-9:30 p.m. At St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 North Oakland Street, Arlington. Baroque Dancers with the Capitol Early Music Dance Band. Enjoy some of the finest dances of the French Baroque and a rousing choreography to Vivaldi's "La Follia." Danced in costume by renowned baroque dancers Paige Whitley-Bauguess and Thomas Baird. Plus instrumental compositions inspired by dance with The Capitol Early Music Dance Band, featuring recorder player Anne Timberlake. Cost is \$35. Visit the website: <https://capitolearlymusic.org/la-belle-danse-march-25-2022/>

### MARCH 25-26

Just for Kicks: Teen Artists Paint Sneakers. At Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. March 25, 6-8 p.m. - Teen artist private workshop; March 26, 12-5 p.m. - public sneaker customization event. Arlington Arts Center presents an exclusive teen artist sneaker competition. A jury of indepen-

dent creatives, arts professionals and sneakerheads will select 30 teens to participate from across the DMV. The teen artists will participate in a private workshop led by professional artists to train them in the art of working with paint to create custom sneaker designs. There is no cost to participate and selected teens will receive an honoraria of \$100. Parental/Guardian approval to participate is required. Visit: [arlingtonartscenter.org](http://arlingtonartscenter.org).

### MARCH 25-27

Annual Spring Artfest. At Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th Street N, Arlington. The popular annual "Spring Artfest" Art Show and Sale is coming to Ft. C.F. Smith Park in Arlington, featuring artwork by over 30 top Arlington-based artists: paintings of many genres, ceramics, jewelry, glasswork, artist's cards, unframed works and more. Artful Weekend will open on Friday, March 25th from 2 to 8 p.m. with an opening wine reception from 6-8 p.m. The show will also be open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 26th, and 12 p.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, March 27th. Free and open to the public. For more information about Arlington Artists Alliance members, exhibits, and programs, visit the Alliance website at <https://arlingtonartistsalliance.org>.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Blossom Kite Festival. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Virginia Highlands Park, Arlington. Enjoy live entertainment, inflatables, art projects, games, food trucks, and, of course, kite flying! Free kite kits will be handed out to the first 100 attendees. No registration required. This event is free and open to the public and is suitable for all ages. Food/Drink: Food trucks will be on site serving tasty eats. Attendees are also welcome to bring food and have a picnic in the park. In case of heavy rain/thunderstorms, the event will be postponed to Sun., March 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. The Capital City Showcase, the variety show that features the DMV's best performing artists and hosted by Christian Hunt, returns with its new one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment: The Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. Put a team together and win prizes

by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle.

### MARCH 26-APRIL 10

TAP/LTA Night of One Acts. At Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road, Arlington. The Arlington Players has partnered with the Little Theatre of Alexandria to bring a premier of three one-act plays to the Northern Virginia theater scene. These three shows were selected from more than 100 global entries to LTA's annual one act competition, and tackle a variety of current issues in unique and thoughtful ways.

Guinea Pig Apocalypse follows the story of two parents dealing with a bizarre incident with their son's class guinea pig, which leads into an apocalyptic disaster.

"The show is on the absurd side," commented Juli Tarabek Blacker, director of the show. "But the message buried in all of the mad-cap is a good one, and one that is becoming more and more needed as the years go on."

Wild Horses brings three campers to the stage who struggle to survive the elements and each other at the height of the Black Lives Matter movement.

"The show hits on an important topic to me: making outdoor recreation feel accessible to all," said director Farrell Tapscott. "My hope is the play will spark conversation over this topic, because awareness and conversation are the spark of progress!"

Across a Crowded Room follows two individuals meeting for the first time at a party at a suburban home as they peer into their future "together".

Performances are set for Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees begin at 3 p.m. Visit <http://theArlingtonPlayers.org/seas-sons/71st-season/night-of-one-acts/>.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Colonial Games at the Ball-Sellers House. 1-4 p.m. At Ball-Sellers House, 5620 3rd St., South, Arlington. The Ball-Sellers House opens its season on Saturday, April 2 with a Colonial Games Festival. Children of every age can play some of the games that the five daughters who lived here from 1742-1766 played. Join us for Ninepins, Jacks, Corn Cob Darts, Graces, pancake races and more. They'll have colonial era sweet treats and beverages. Visit the website: [arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org)

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

### CALLING ALL COMMUNITY ADVOCATES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD COLLEGE

Learn how to become a neighborhood advocate and create positive change in your community through Arlington County's free Neighborhood College program. The application period for the Spring 2022 Session is now open. It closes on April 1, 2022. The program is geared toward Arlingtonians who

want to become more involved in neighborhood and County-wide issues. Participants will learn about many aspects of Arlington County government and practice core communication and influencing skills, key to civic engagement and leadership.

Class sessions will be virtual and held on Tuesdays, April 19 – June 7, from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. They will feature conversations with County Board members, County staff, local nonprofit leaders, and more.

Applications are due Friday, April

1. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, live in or own and operate a business in Arlington, and be willing to devote time and energy to improving their communities.

### MASKS OPTIONAL IN COUNTY FACILITIES

Effective Thursday, March 3, 2022, Arlington County will no longer require masks for the public and most employees while inside County government

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10



Friends of the W&OD Trail and Arlington volunteers helped clean up the trail in Shirlington this past weekend.





SPRING

# Enjoy Spring Break Activities at Virginia State Parks

Spring break is the perfect time to take the family outdoors to experience nature.

"You can see the trees starting to bud and flowers in bloom while taking a scenic hike at any Virginia State Park location," Virginia State Parks Director Dr. Melissa Baker said. "Camping locations offer a nighttime glance of the park and its surrounding wildlife. Sleeping under the stars is a unique way to connect with nature."

Springtime park visits allow for more outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, kayaking and bird watching to help shake off those wintertime blues.

"Camping in spring is great because it's not too hot and you can't beat the chorus of frogs and toads at night," said Rebecca Whalen, Chief Ranger of Visitor Experience at Pocahontas State Park. "Fishing is super popular and so is bird watching. We are also excited for the ranger-guided programs as we're ready for warmer weather so we can show our visitors everything the park and nature have to offer."

All 41 Virginia State Parks offer self-guided explorations including backpacks with field guides and binoculars, GPS units to rent for geocaching, self-guided trails, scavenger hunts and other activities.

Many Virginia public libraries have nature backpacks available to check out. In addition to handy tools to investigate the natural



Springtime at York River State Park.

world, the backpacks include a parking pass for free entrance to a state park.

"I see lots of families using the backpacks during their visits. The packs have field guides, observation jars and free passes to the parks. It provides the opportunity for a lot of family-led activities that help build confidence and connectedness," Whalen said.

Virginia State Parks are managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. For more information about Virginia State Parks' activities and amenities or to reserve one of the more than 1,800 campsites or 300 climate-controlled cabins, call the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center at 800-933-PARK or visit [www.virginia.state.parks.gov](http://www.virginia.state.parks.gov).

## Find a State Park

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/find-a-park>

## In Fairfax County:

### MASON NECK STATE PARK

Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge  
7301 High Point Rd, Lorton, VA 22079  
+1 703-339-2385  
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/mason-neck>

## Not Too Far:

### LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

Details from Google Maps  
2001 Daniel K Ludwig Dr, Woodbridge, VA 22191  
+1 703-730-8205

### SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK

11012 Edmonds Ln, Delaplane, VA 20144  
+1 540-592-3556

### SHENANDOAH RIVER STATE PARK

350 Daughter of Stars Dr, Bentonville, VA 22610  
+1 540-622-6840

### CALEDON STATE PARK

11617 Caledon Rd, King George, VA 22485  
+1 540-663-3861

## THE CONNECTION

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## Special Connections Calendar 2022

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3/23/2022.....Senior Living  
3/30/2022.....Spring Family Fun

### APRIL

4/6/2022.....Wellbeing  
4/13/2022.....HomeLifeStyle  
4/20/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools  
4/27/2022.....Senior Living

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**CALENDAR**

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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**Employment**

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## NEWS

# Prayer For Ukraine and Russia

**T**his Friday, March 25, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge will lead the faithful of the Diocese of Arlington in the Prayer of Consecration, offered for Russia and Ukraine. The prayer will take place at the end of the 12:05 p.m. Mass for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, celebrated by Bishop Burbidge, at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, Va.

Bishop Burbidge is uniting the Prayer of Consecration to that of Pope Francis, as the Holy Father will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during an evening penance service at Saint Peter's Basilica the same day. The Holy Father invited all bishops and priests throughout the world to join in this consecration.

### What:

12:05 p.m. Mass for the Solemnity of the Annunciation, celebrated by Bishop Burbidge

Prayer of Consecration, offered for Russia and Ukraine, led by Bishop Burbidge at the end of the Mass

### Where:

The Cathedral of St. Thomas More  
3901 Cathedral Ln.  
Arlington, VA 22203

### How:

In addition to celebrating the Mass in-person and joining in prayer at the Cathedral, Bishop Burbidge invited all priests and parishioners to join him via live-stream at the diocesan YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/Np-4F2yQLosE>).

For more information on the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, visit [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org).

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

facilities. This decision follows new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued on Feb. 25, 2022, which updated how it monitors COVID-19's impact on our communities.

### 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, 210 O 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](http://www.curative.com).

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