



# The Arlington Connection

## Golden Goodbye

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Signs announce going out of business bargains at Facets Fine Jewelry after 27 years at Lee Heights Shopping Center.

## Who Will Gas Tax Holiday Help?

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The team from Davey Trees knows their way around tree planting. They would plant 11 trees on this day alone — each job taking about an hour. Shown here from left, Elmer Calderone, Jose Aparicio, and Ricardo Contreras.



Jose Aparicio smooths mulch around the Black Gum in order to make a “donut” shape - this holds the water in and doesn’t cause problems for the tree trunk. The popular - but wrong - approach by many lawn services to mound up the mulch into a cone shape around the trunk is not good for the tree.



Ricardo Contreras plants the Hickory. The owner’s last Hickory died of an Ambrosia beetle infestation, caused by the beetle taking advantage of a stressed tree. The mature 50-foot tree had been stressed by neighbors digging a drainage ditch through its root system.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

## EcoAction Arlington Plants 170 Trees

Replanting canopy trees helps manage stormwater, shade, carbon.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

**S**uddenly can’t see when you pull out of a street because there is nothing cutting the sun’s blinding glare? The large tree up the hill was cut down last week, and with it, the protective sun block. Your gas bill goes up suddenly? The shade tree you cut down kept you cool in summer. The cul de sac floods every year now? The powerful water management ability of five trees cut down last year is no longer there.

Luckily, EcoAction Arlington is offering free shade trees to Arlington residents twice a year to help stem the tide of decreasing tree canopy.

EcoAction Arlington is giving residents free trees and planting them for free for a reason. Tree canopy in Arlington has declined over the past decades. Ballston and Rosslyn have gotten measurably hotter as a result. The community will feel even greater effects as climate patterns shift. The program was authorized by Arlington County Board in 2007 and is administered by EcoAction Arlington in partnership with the Urban Forestry Commission. The program is 75 percent funded by Arlington County, and supported by donations. More than 2,000 trees have been planted in Arlington since the Tree Canopy Fund was initiated.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



A construction site in Country Club Hills where four mature canopy trees were removed to build a much larger house.

EcoAction Arlington gives away between 300 and 500 young trees a year to residents, businesses, and organizations who could show they had a good place to put them on private property. The value of that one tree, planted, is roughly \$800. The value of that tree 20 years later when it offers shade,

More than 2,000 trees have been planted in Arlington since the Tree Canopy Fund was initiated.

water filtering, and beauty is ... immeasurable.

This spring, EcoAction Arlington planted 170 trees: the number depends on demand. EcoAction Arlington paid Davey Trees to plant the trees correctly, since many tree issues stem from incorrect planting. Grants are also available for maintenance of champion trees.

Trees are being cut down left and right in Arlington - some for large McMansions, some for swimming pools. Many trees aren’t being replaced; some because people are scared of large trees falling on their houses, some because some people prefer flowering decorative trees. Crepe myrtle is cheaper and has flowers but is not native. An oak, maple, hickory or black gum has more wildlife value, water filtering value, and grows tall enough to offer shade. Trees, properly placed and cared for, don’t cause damage, they enhance the value of property and community. Environmentalists laud shade trees for their ability to transform carbon, improve the air quality, lower the temperature on city streets and parking lots, and offer mental health benefits. You can’t climb a crepe myrtle, or put a swing on its branches; you can’t put our picnic table under a dogwood and get filtered sunlight.

To apply for a tree to be planted in the Fall 2022, or to donate or volunteer, see: <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/>



# Fossil Fuel Fiesta

Governor proposes gas-tax holiday, but will Virginians benefit?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

A majority of savings from Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposed three-month gas tax holiday would not go to Virginians according to data compiled by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy and the Commonwealth Institute. By looking at the experience of Illinois and Indiana, the groups determined that the oil industry and out-of-state drivers would drive into the sunset with a majority of the benefit. That would leave Virginians with an estimated 46 percent of the profits.

"If we get rid of the state retail gas tax, which is around 26 cents per gallon, the price of gas would not automatically go down by 26 cents per gallon," said Chris Wodicka, a senior policy analyst at the Commonwealth Institute. "So that difference would effectively go to oil companies for them to add to their bottom line."

Rather than pass savings along to motorists, oil producers would end up raking in about a third of the profits. But that doesn't mean Virginia drivers will get to reap the rest of the benefits. Because Virginia is a tourist destination with three interstate highways, about a quarter of the remaining savings would be taken by people who don't live in Virginia.

"A significant slice of Virginia's gas tax isn't paid by Virginians in the first place. It's paid by tourists headed down to Williamsburg or Virginia Beach. It's paid by truckers headed up and down I-81, passing along their higher transportation costs to, in many cases, out-of-state residents."

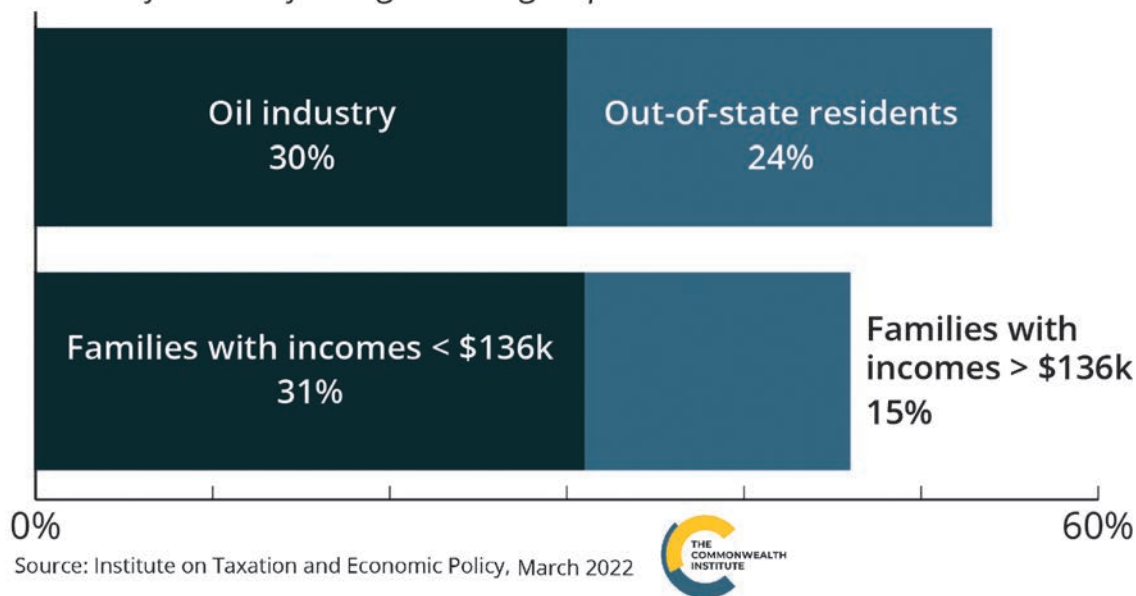
A HISTORIC \$2.6 billion surplus created a massive windfall for lawmakers, who are usually fighting over dwindling resources. This year, though, they got to fight over how to spend a giant pot of money. Republicans argued for tax cuts; Democrats pressed for services. Lawmakers left town last month without coming to an agreement, and then the governor suggested a three-month gas tax holiday.

"Virginians need tax relief and it's time for the General Assembly to act on the multiple tax relief proposals," said the governor in a written statement. "With gas prices and inflation squeezing families' pocket books across Virginia and the nation and with over \$1 billion in unanticipated revenue in our

## Off Target: Majority of "Savings" Flow to Oil Industry and People Outside of Virginia

54% of benefits under proposed three-month gas tax suspension will not reach Virginia families

Share of tax cuts flowing to each group



**"Higher gas prices really hurt people, and people really notice it. It is so much more visible a tax than what's withheld from your paycheck. As a result, politicians have to be acutely sensitive to gas prices."**

— Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington

transportation fund, the General Assembly must act now."

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) briefly tried a parliamentary move he hoped would have prevented lawmakers from considering any bill introduced by the governor during the special session. But after a consultation with Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears, who has the power to rule the amendment out of order, Surovell abandoned his amendment to the procedural resolution. After lawmakers left town, Sen. Steve Newman (R-23) and Del. Tara Durant (R-28) introduced legislation on behalf of the governor to implement a three-month gas tax holiday.

"Higher gas prices really hurt people, and people really notice it. It is so much more visible a tax than what's withheld from your

paycheck," said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington. "As a result, politicians have to be acutely sensitive to gas prices."

THE ESTIMATED COST of the three-month gas tax holiday is \$437 million. The governor plans to pay for the holiday using money from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, which is expected to take in \$1 billion in unanticipated revenue. The bill seems poised to pass a Republican-controlled House, although Senate Democrats may end up rejecting the bill. Democrats say the Republican governor should not have called lawmakers

back to Richmond when budget conferees had not yet reached a compromise.

"The governor thinks he's still the co-CEO of a company — he's not, he is the governor of the commonwealth of Virginia, and his glaring incompetence is beginning to harm Virginians," said DPVA Spokesperson Gianni Snidle. "The governor is wasting taxpayer dollars to play political theater and it needs to stop."

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On Thursday, April 7, 2022, the Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S., Oksana Markarova visited Arlington.

# Arlington Donates Public Safety Equipment to Ukraine

On Thursday, April 7, 2022, Arlington welcomed the Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. Oksana Markarova, as Arlington donated public safety equipment and supplies for first responders in Ukraine.

Arlington's Public Safety Agencies – Fire Department, Police Department, Sheriff's Office, and Public Safety Communications & Emergency Management – teamed up to donate equipment, medical supplies, and Personal Protective Equipment after a call to action from one of their own.

Ukrainian-born Igor Scherbakov, Arlington County Public Safety Procurement Specialist, initiated the donation effort and it was quickly supported by County leadership.

"Ukrainian first responders are facing the fight of their lives, dealing with providing emergency services in unimaginable conditions," said David Povlitz, Chief of the Arlington County Fire Department. "Arlington recognized the grave situation that the Ukrainian citizens face and wanted to show our support in whatever way possible. We are hopeful that this important equipment will make a difference, and our hearts and prayers remain with the Ukrainian people during this tragic time."

Loading the supplies for shipment was the culmination of weeks of preparing inventory for donation, coordinating with public safety partners and non-profits, and ultimately getting the equipment into the hands of the Ukrainian first responders.

For this initiative, Arlington County is coordinating with Unit-

ed Help Ukraine, <https://united-helpukraine.org/>, a grassroots, entirely volunteer-based organization, and the Ukrainian-American Coordinating Council (UACC). <https://uaccusa.org/>

Additionally, Arlington was able to secure donated equipment and supplies from the Blacksburg Police Department, Goochland County Sheriff's Office, Powhatan Sheriff's Office, and Windsor Police Department.

In all, Arlington County coordinated the donation of the following supplies: 200,000 disposable gowns; 9,000 Particulate Respirator N95s; 19,000 latex gloves; 125 sets of firefighting gear; more than 100 ballistic vests; 219 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus; 2 pallets of critical medical equipment and firefighting hand tools

If you're inspired to donate, United Help Ukraine is accepting donations through its website <https://unitedhelpukraine.org/>.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) has also organized a campaign to collect donations of much needed cold weather items. In Arlington, items can be dropped off at Central Library. The donation box is next to the Quincy Street entrance, under the bulletin board near the Youth Services room.

## Arlington Shows Support for Sister City Ivano-Frankivsk

Arlington and Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, were formally declared sister cities on March 4, 2011. Since that time, the two communities have participated in hosting government delegations, student

exchange programs, and the sharing of information with public safety responders.

On Feb. 28, 2022, the Arlington County Board presented a Resolution to the community, stating in part, "in the spirit of friendship, understanding, and mutual respect of our cultures and histories, we believe it is important to speak out against unjust actions and demonstrate our support for our friends and partners."

The Arlington Sister City Association (ASCA) continues to foster productive exchanges in education, commerce, culture, and the arts with the County's six sister cities, including Ivano-Frankivsk. ASCA identified the following trusted organizations as providing a variety of services to the Ukrainian people.

Razom Organization - providing humanitarian aid for Ukraine <https://razomforukraine.org/>

Nova Ukraina - providing medical supplies for soldiers and essential supplies, such as food and diapers, for civilians <https://novaukraine.org/>

Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc. - humanitarian aid for Ukraine <https://unwla.org/>

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) - is on the ground in Ukraine and is one of the principal organizations managing the settlement of refugees in the US <https://www.rescue.org/topic/ukraine-crisis>

World Central Kitchen - in Poland and other border nations feeding fleeing Ukrainians <https://wck.org/relief/activation-chefs-for-ukraine>

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# A Local Gem Sparkles No More



A sidewalk sign advertises going out of business bargains at Facets Fine Jewelry after 27 years at Lee Heights Shopping Center.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**F**acets Fine Jewelry at Lee Heights Shopping Center is crowded with shoppers inspecting the jewelry cases for last minute deals, picking up their final custom-designed piece and sharing stories with Tom and Suzanne Arnold, co-owners for 27 years. The store is closing in May after everything is sold.

Suzanne Arnold says it is bittersweet to be retiring. “We would not have made it through COVID without the locals buying things, telling us that they wanted to support local businesses.” Arnold says it has been so touching as customers come in remembering the wedding ring Tom created for them. Or when Lisa was born and her husband had earrings made for her. Or the cancer survivor’s bracelet—it was the color; it was pink.

Arnold thinks back over the years. Some things are different; others are the same. She points to a 17-inch 14 carat gold paper clip necklace in the jewelry case “which is the new style this year.” Jewelry follows fashion but she adds the most popular over time are the diamond cluster earrings and diamond bracelets.

Arnold likes to say they specialize in jeans jewelry. “I think that’s one reason we are successful. If you can wear it with jeans, you’ll wear it. We have a lot of women professionals who like to look polished for work and express themselves through jewelry.”

When she and her husband Tom opened the store, the row of shops where they are located was very much a neighborhood meeting place where people walked up, stopped in after tennis, bought a pastry down the street. They were wedged between Bradshaw’s Children’s Shoe Store and Company Flowers. Now it is Starbucks and the UPS store.

She comments a lot of the people have important jobs and they felt they could relax here; they felt at home. That’s still very

much the same. “People liked a place that would look you in the eye, listen to you and design your jewelry, then stand behind it, a real jewelry store—not a chain. A lot relies on trust.”

But she says an area that has changed as technology has developed is some jewelry design, which is now done on a computer instead of all by hand. This is also true of the manufacture, which may be partially by computer and finished up by hand.

She says they do a lot of custom work, “something classic but with a twist. Something that won’t be dated when we are zipping around on our jet packs. People are willing to pay for quality.”

Arnold remembers the locket which encases the ashes of a loved one, the cross pendant entwined with calla lilies and the giant leopard ring all in diamonds that was copied from a costume jewelry ring given as a present 20 years before.

And when she had cancer Tom designed what she called a tutti frutti ring—a big blue topaz with stones of all colors. “I didn’t wear it much; it sat on the bedside table but I looked at it and it made me feel better.”

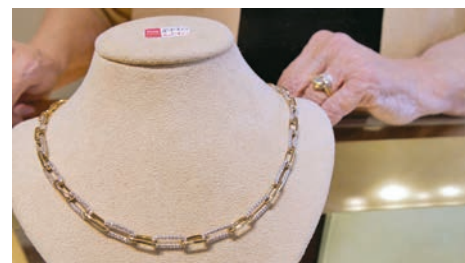
It’s been a good 27 years but on the other hand there are Arnold’s four book clubs that need some attention and the Whistler waiting for them at the American Art Museum’s new show.

Tom Arnold got his start as a master jeweler in Beverly Hills and apprenticed there. “It was back in the day when he was young enough to be star struck,” said Suzanne Arnold. “But he got a really great start designing jewelry for John Wayne and other famous stars. They had the money and were not shy about what they wanted. They wanted things people would notice.” The business of jewelry now spans generations with their daughter currently a jewelry designer at the Tiny Jewel Box in D.C.

Suzanne and Tom Arnold met in Hawaii at a jewelry store. “It was a pretty romantic place.” Then after a while in Oregon and in



Suzanne Arnold greets customers from many years who share memories of custom jewelry designed by Tom Arnold at Facets Fine Jewelry.



This year’s popular style is a 17-inch 14 carat gold paper clip necklace studded with diamonds.

Florida, they were visiting her parents in the D.C. area 47 years ago. “The Smithsonian was a great lure. We just fell in love with the place with all of the free museums.” So they moved here and worked in retail stores in the D.C. area, then opened their own store in Arlington 27 years ago.

They still go to a museum about once a week.

Jewelry is the thread running through the Arnolds’ adventures from their first meeting in a jewelry store to their travels through Italy and Greece. She says jewelry is a common theme all over the world. When they were in Greece, Tom heard a familiar noise around the corner and found a small jewelry shop where the man was having trouble casting something. While they didn’t speak the same language, they could solve a problem together. And Tom wrote “A Day in the Life” columns, which were published by three different journals at the same time. In Italy the storeowner recognized Tom as the man on his newsstand and gave Tom and Suzanne the royal tour of his operation.

Arnold’s favorite piece of all time is the wedding ring her husband designed 51 years ago. “Guess I’m lucky — 51 years. I tell people it will become a talisman. Things can get rough out there ... but you look at your ring and say somebody loves me.”

## “FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

Office of 55+ Programs  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203  
703-228-4747

Date: 3-23-22  
Contact: Judy Massabny, [jmassa@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jmassa@arlingtonva.us)

55+ Programs are virtual, indoors at 55+ Centers and outdoors. A 55+ Pass is required to participate (starting at a \$20 annual fee). To join or register, go to [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747.

Virtual movie discussion of “The Irishman” (2019), Thursday, April 14, 3 p.m. Registration # 913402-04.

Save the planet and your wallet. Learn how to keep cool and manage energy bills, Thursday, April 14, 11 a.m. Registration # 913401-05

Starting a garden, Monday, Apr. 18, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Learn about plant placement, ways to maximize yield and more. Registration # 913401-06.

Short story reading and discussion of “A Dark Brown Dog” by Stephen Crane, Monday, Apr. 18, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913300-10; virtual, # 913300-11.

Step-by-step painting demonstration with a community arts programmer, Monday, Apr. 18, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Picture and supply list sent to participants prior to class. Registration # 913303-11.

Ukulele class, basic strumming, Tuesday, Apr. 19, 4:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 913304-04.

Meal planning with a representative from Virginia Cooperative Extension, featuring repurposing leftovers, Tuesday, Apr. 19, 11 a.m. Registration # 913501-04.

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 10

## Wakefield Plant Sale and Yard Sale April 30

**W**akefield Senior High’s PTSA is holding its annual plant sale on Saturday April 30, from 11am - 3pm, at Wakefield (along Dinwiddie St). This is Wakefield’s biggest fundraiser of the year. Support the school while preparing your community garden plot. In addition to what is available from our commercial grower/vendor, a Wakefield parent grows outstanding vegetable seedlings for sale to further support the PTSA. This year, Wakefield expects to have around 400 seedlings, including over 40 varieties of tomatoes, over 30 varieties of peppers, and 8 varieties of eggplants.

A community yard sale is being held at Wakefield as well, so stop by Wakefield Sr High on April 30 for seedlings and other treasures.



# Creating an Elegant and ADHD-friendly Home

Designers share tips for combining style and effective organization.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**L**arge, plastic storage containers often come to mind when decluttering and organizing one's home. While effective, those receptacles might look unsightly sitting in the middle of the living room or in the corner of the dining room.

For an adult with ADHD, managing clutter and organization can be particularly difficult. Combining those challenges with the desire for an elegant interior can be particularly daunting. Local designers offer ideas for using storage containers to achieve that goal.

**“Think of them as an opportunity to be creative with a home's décor. Storage solutions are a wonderful way to add color and visual interest to living spaces.”**

— Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design.

“Think of them as an opportunity to be creative with a home's décor,” said Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design. “Storage solutions are a wonderful way to add color and visual interest to living spaces.”

Use boxes in bright colors to hold papers, pens and other office supplies, suggests Walker.

“Arranging the boxes in groups on open shelves makes them easy to access and very functional,” she said. [Placing] labels on each box makes organization quick and easy.”

A bedside table can become a cluttered eye sore when topped with a pile of items like books, magazines, tissue or lip balm. “Try [using] small dressers for night stands so that you have more storage space,” said interior designer Sallie Lord of GreyHunt Interiors. “We love using boxes on night stands that store your favorite items such as nighttime lotion or keep sakes or jewelry.”

When one needs a storage space that keeps items visible, Lord recommends open shelving. “They can be added to each room and they have a chic look,” she said. “This works particularly well in the bathroom and kitchen. They are both pretty and functional. In the kitchen they can be used to hold cooking utensils and mixing bowls. In the bathroom they can hold a toothbrush and toothpaste.”

Ideally a dining room should be used to house traditional items such as china, silver and table linens. If space is an issue in one's

SEE DESIGNERS SHARE TIPS, PAGE 11



Small boxes on a night stand can be used to store jewelry or nighttime necessities.

PHOTO BY STACY GOLDBERG



Placing labeled boxes in groups on an open shelf, makes them functional and easily accessible.

PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER



The box on this coffee table helps prevent clutter while blending seamlessly into the room's decor.

PHOTO BY CHRISTY KOSNIC

## Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Feasibility Study Arlington County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Thursday, April 28, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

<https://www.virginiadot.org/route1multimodalstudy>

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) invites you to join a public information meeting for the Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Study. This virtual meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about Phase 2 of the feasibility study, which will identify enhanced multimodal connectivity and accommodations along Route 1 (from 12th Street to 23rd Streets South) to meet the changing transportation needs of the Crystal City and Pentagon City communities.

The purpose of the second phase of this study is to further analyze the feasibility of the at-grade roadway recommended in the first phase. Phase 2 will develop transportation demand management strategies aimed at reducing vehicular trips through the area, provide additional feasibility analyses and multimodal street design options, including reviewing a potential grade-separated pedestrian crossing at 18th Street South, and updating the Phase 1 multimodal transportation analyses as needed.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/route1multimodalstudy>. The study team will make a short presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer period.

**Review** study 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 703-259-2599 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

**Give your comments** during the meeting, or online by **May 20, 2022** via the comment form on the study website, by mail to Mr. Dan Reinhard, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to [route1multimodalstudy@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:route1multimodalstudy@VDOT.virginia.gov).

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# Coalition for TJ Files Emergency Request to Vacate the 4th Circuit Stay

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n April 8, Pacific Legal Foundation, counsel for Coalition for TJ, filed an emergency request in the Supreme Court of the United States in the case Coalition for TJ v. Fairfax County School Board. According to the coalition's lawsuit, the admissions process is designed to reduce the number of Asian American students admitted to TJ, violating their constitutional rights. The case is to vacate the March 31 stay pending an appeal by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (No. 22-1280) by U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton.

Coalition for TJ v. Fairfax County School Board challenged the new admissions plan (2020) for students applying to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ).

"The Fourth Circuit's decision to allow TJ's discriminatory process to continue will cause significant harm to the students who are going through the admissions process for the next school year," said Pacific Legal Foundation attorney Glenn Rope in a statement on April 8. "The district court decision found a clear constitutional violation, and we hope that the Supreme Court will agree that this stay should be vacated, and the discriminatory process halted while the case proceeds."

TJ is an elite magnet school. As the Virginia Governor School for Science and Technology in Northern Virginia, the Virginia Department of Education supports the school. Fairfax County School Board administers the program and TJ serves other school districts, including Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William counties, and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. TJ has been named among the best high schools in the country.

On March 31, 2022, a three-judge panel of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, under the direction of federal Judge Toby Heytens and concurred by Judge Robert King, voted 2-1 to grant a stay pending an appeal to the Fairfax County School Board (the School Board) and Scott Brabrand, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the Fairfax County School Board, against Coalition for TJ. Judge Allison Jones Rushing, the panel's third judge, voted to deny the March 31 motion.

The 4th Circuit order on March 31 did not overturn the U.S. district court's decision by Judge Claude Hilton Feb. 25, 2022 disallow-

ing the new admissions policies. But the order was put on hold while considering the school board's appeal.

The School Board may continue to use the challenged admissions plan for students applying to TJ, according to the March 31 judgment.

Coalition for TJ issued a statement following the 4th Circuit judges' 2-1 decision, stating that "Judge Toby Heytens and Judge Robert Bruce King of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals have made a grave error in allowing Fairfax County Public Schools to continue its illegal admissions process that discriminates against Asian American students applying to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. If the judges' decision stands, we would see Fairfax County Public Schools usher in a second class of students to America's No. 1 public high school through an unconstitutional race-based admissions process."

Judge Heytens filed a concurring opinion for the March 31 vote, writing in part, "I believe the public interest favors a stay given the timing and logistical constraints inherent in repealing the current admissions policy and implementing a new one so close to the end of the current admissions cycle. Thousands of students and their families will be thrown into disarray for the next several months if the district court's order is not stayed."

On Oct. 25, 2021, applications for the TJ Class of 2026 opened with applications due by Dec. 15, 2021. Students should receive notification of their admission status this month, April 2022, according to FCPS.

In her dissenting opinion, Judge Rushing stated, "Everyone — even temporary

frustrated applicants and their families — ultimately benefits from a public-school admissions process not tainted by unconstitutional discrimination."

According to Judge Heytens, undisputed data presented to the district court demonstrate that a higher percentage of Asian American students were admitted than applied, even under the current plan. He wrote in his opinion, "Taking all this into account, it seems the more prudent course is to allow the current admissions cycle to proceed according to settled expectations and require a change, if any, beginning with the next class."

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology admissions had been questioned for decades because of the demographics of the student body which included only a tiny percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

For example, in 2015, Fairfax County Public Schools said 8 percent of applicants and 1.2 percent of those admitted qualify for free and reduced meals. Of all students in Fairfax County, by comparison, more than 28 percent received free and reduced meals at the time.

Numbers of Black and Latino students were also very low. The admitted class of 2019 was 2.4 percent Hispanic, 1.6 percent Black.

In 2003, nearly 20 years ago, the Fairfax County School Board established a Blue Ribbon panel of experts to study the disparities and make recommendations. But revamped admissions policies made little change in the disparities.

It wasn't until qualitative changes in the

admissions process in 2020 that change was reflected in the makeup of TJ's student body, with students entering in 2021 for the class of 2025. Black students increased from 1.23 percent (2020-21) to 7.09 percent. Hispanic students increased from 3.29 percent (2020-21) to 11.27 percent. The number of economically disadvantaged students [those eligible to receive reduced-price or free meals at school] increased from slightly greater than 0.5 percent (0.62 in 2020-21) to 25.09 percent.

Every middle school in the Fairfax County Public School division was represented at TJ as seats in the Class of 2025 were allocated for the top 1.5 percent of applicants from every middle school's eighth-grade student population. Students from historically under-represented schools increased to 30.73 percent versus 5.56 percent (2020-21).

The Coalition for TJ filed a federal lawsuit against the School Board with the help of the Pacific Legal Foundation, claiming that the School Board's changes were specifically designed to reduce the percentage of Asian American students who enroll at TJ, to equalize the school per Fairfax County's racial demographics.

The New York Times reported that the Pacific Legal Foundation is behind multiple lawsuits that challenge elite public high schools changing their admissions policies to diversify their student body. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/16/us/school-admissions-affirmative-action.html?smid=url-share>

In February, a federal judge struck down the new admissions policy. But late in March, the U.S. Court of Appeals issued a stay, allowing the current applications, already in process for the class of 2026, to move forward under the invalidated admissions process.

The Coalition for TJ filed on April 8, 2022 an emergency request with the U.S. Supreme Court to vacate the Fourth Circuit's stay (March 31, 2022).

According to Pacific Legal Foundation, the Supreme Court is expected to rule on the coalition's emergency request in the coming weeks.

Even if the Supreme Court does not vacate the stay, the Fourth Circuit or Supreme Court could ultimately agree with the district court judge that TJ's revised admissions policy is unlawful, says Pacific Legal in its online statement. Pacific Legal Foundation adds that it expects a Fourth Circuit decision on the school board's appeal around the end of the year.



Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ), located in Alexandria.

SCREENSHOT



# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU APRIL 16

**Hop to It! The Bunny Returns to Fashion Centre Pentagon City for Easter.**  
Things to know before you go:  
Reservations are encouraged. Make Bunny reservations at <https://bunnyphoto.splashthat.com>.  
Families may choose to sit with Bunny or maintain social distance.  
The Bunny's helpers will wear masks throughout the duration of each visit.  
The Bunny Photo Experience hours are Monday – Saturday from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. and noon – 6 p.m. on Sunday. On Saturday, April 16, hours are 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Fashion Centre Pentagon City will also host events with the Bunny this season including:  
Caring Bunny, for children with special needs – Sunday, April 3 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

## NOW THRU APRIL 29

**Art Unmasked.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Gallery Underground's Focus Gallery presents Art Unmasked, a group show led by Hernan Murno. Murno joins Lesley Clark, Beverly Ryan, and Marsha Staiger for an exciting mixed media show. Hernan describes the show as "Four artists that approach art making in very different ways, but, at the same time, all fueled by a desire to express themselves with paint, ink, collage, wax and more, on paper, wood, and canvas. In this exhibit, for this short period of time, the viewer will be able to find relationships that transcend the individual styles and themes." Additionally, our Main Gallery features new works by our gallery members, in media including oil, acrylic, pastel, watermedia, sculpture, glass, and ceramics.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 14

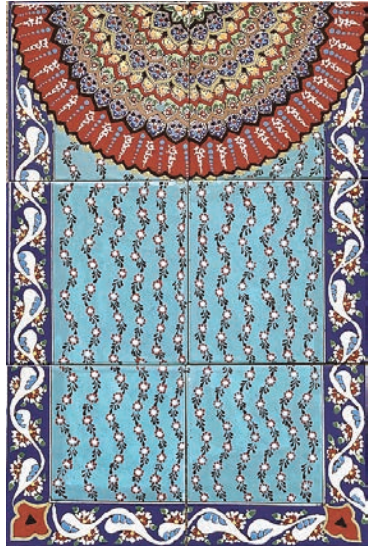
**Beyond the Notes with Maria Schneider.** 4 p.m. At Arlington Campus of GMU, Van Metre Hall, Multi-Purpose Room 125/126, Arlington. Join composer Maria Schneider for an intriguing conversation about her boundary-pushing musical career and arts activism, moderated by George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School Professor and Arts & Entertainment Advocacy Clinic Director Sandra Aistars. Part of Schneider's engagement as a Mason Artist-in-Residence with the Center for the Arts, the event is co-hosted by Mason's Center for Intellectual Property x Innovation Policy (C-IP<sup>2</sup>) and Arts Management Program. Learn More: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/beyond-the-notes-with-maria-schneider/>

## APRIL 19-MAY 31

**Jane Franklin Dance Presents Forty+ Project.** 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. At 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Featuring: Choreographer Emily Crews. Enroll: \$160. Forty+ Projects explore movement and performance technique within a creative premise. Get invaluable health benefits from exercise including improved strength, physical function. Each project celebrates the collective creativity of people past the age of 40 and each project is directed by a different choreographer. This project culminates with performances at Theatre on the Run in June. Call 703-933-1111.



**Jane Franklin Dance Presents Forty+ Project from April 19 to May 31 in Arlington.**



**The Arlington Festival of the Arts Springtime Showcase will be held April 23-24 in Arlington.**

## APRIL 20 AND APRIL 28

**Washington-Liberty PINK Games.** 5:30-9 p.m. At Washington-Liberty High School, 1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington. W-L girls' soccer is turning PINK for Doorways! Join the players in supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence as well as families and youth experiencing homelessness. Give the gift of safe harbor, healing, and hope in honor of the amazing ladies of the W-L Generals! #GeneralsLead. Pink Games will help raise money for Doorways.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 23

**Earth Day Cleanup.** 9 a.m. to noon. At Bon Air Park, 850 N. Lexington Street, Arlington. Celebrate Earth Day. Register for the Earth Day Cleanup to keep our environment healthy. Register at [EcoactionArlington.org](http://EcoactionArlington.org).

## APRIL 23-24

**Arlington Festival of the Arts Springtime Showcase.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 3003 Washington Boulevard in Arlington. Over one hundred local and national artists are set to display their original works from across the country in a prestigious show encompassing fine jewelry, exquisite works of art, and hand-crafted apparel and decor. Whether your passions run to sparkling jewels and one-of-a-kind paintings, masterfully crafted glasswork, or an art deco sculpture, you are sure to find it during the free, two-day event. Visit the website: [www.artfestival.com](http://www.artfestival.com)

## SATURDAY/APRIL 30

**ECO-ART.** 5-6:30 p.m. At Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. An exciting evening exploring art and creativity at the Arlington Arts Center. Light refreshments provided. Price \$35. For registration and more information, visit [www.ecoactionarlington.org](http://www.ecoactionarlington.org).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
SCOTT	16685	619	BIG STONY CREEK ROAD	BRANCH	3/30/2022
BLAND	3048	604	WALKERS CREEK ROAD	BIG WALKER CREEK #3	3/28/2022
WASHINGTON	19036	616	WALNUT GROVE ROAD	NORDYKE CREEK	3/28/2022
SMYTH	17394	16	B.F. BUCHANAN HIGHWAY	WHITE OAK BRANCH	3/23/2022
WASHINGTON	18891	58	GATE CITY HIGHWAY	BRANCH	3/23/2022
CRAIG	5503	615	CRAIGS CREEK ROAD	MILL CREEK	3/11/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.*

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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

**SATURDAY/APRIL 30,**  
Wakefield Senior High's PTSA annual plant sale, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Wakefield High School, 1325 S. Dinwiddie Street Arlington, VA 22206. Wakefield Senior High's PTSA is holding its annual plant sale on Saturday 4/30, from 11am - 3pm, at Wakefield (along Dinwiddie St). This is Wakefield's biggest fundraiser of the year. Support the school while preparing your community garden plot. In addition to what is available from our commercial grower/vendor, a Wakefield parent grows outstanding vegetable seedlings for sale to further support the PTSA. This year, Walter expects to have around 400 seedlings, including over 40 varieties of tomatoes, over 30 varieties of peppers, and 8 varieties of eggplants. A community yard sale is being held at Wakefield as well, so stop by Wakefield Sr High on 4/30 for seedlings and other treasures.

**FRIDAY/APRIL 22**

The Farallon Recorder Quartet concert, St. Georges Church, 915 N. Oak Street, Arlington, 8 p.m. "There and Back Again: music from the Middle Ages to our time by the renowned West Coast based Farallon Quartet. Details and Tickets at capitollearlymusic.org.

**SATURDAY/APRIL 23**

The Farallon Recorder Quartet workshop, St. Georges Church, 915 N. Oak Street, Arlington, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Performers and teachers extraordinaire, Miyo Aoki, Letitia Berlin, Frances Blaker, and Vicki Boeckman lead classes exploring the vast and wondrous repertoire of recorder music. Open to intermediate, upper intermediate, and advanced recorder players. There is a workshop/concert special for those attending Friday's concert as well as the workshop. Details and Tickets at capitollearlymusic.org.

## "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

FROM PAGE 6

Consumer scams targeting Medicare beneficiaries, Tuesday, Apr. 19, 10 a.m. Presented by Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP). Register by calling 703-228-1725 or email MedicareHelp@arlingtonva.us.

55+ Live! Talk Show on YouTube channel, Tuesday, Apr. 19, see recordings of favorite programs, hear updates on 55+ activities. Visit YouTube.com/virtualprograms.

Save or shred certain papers, Tuesday, Apr. 19, 1 p.m. Learn how to manage, prioritize, organize from Kay Blansford, pres., MemoryBanc. Registration # 913404-01.

Acoustic Café, live, unplugged music from the 50s to today, Tuesday, Apr. 19, 7 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 913301-02.

Travel to Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond with 55+ Travel, to view "Whistler to Cassatt: American Painters in France," Wednesday, Apr. 20. Cost \$37 county resident; \$39 non-resident. Masks required. Registration # 902204-04. Leave from Madison Community Center, 7:40 a.m.; Gunston Middle School, 8 a.m.

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## NEWS

# Lunchtime TED Talks And Discussion

**T**ake a break at the Shirlington Library and watch a TED Talk. Have you ever wondered what animals think and feel? Do they experience grief? How can a farmer work with nature to be kinder to both animals and the planet? How does a village create a harmonious relationship with the massive elephants who share their space?

April 13: Barbara J. King: Grief and love in the animal kingdom (14:42)

April 20: Seth Watkins: Farming evolved: Agriculture through a different lens (14:04)

April 27: Lucy King: How bees can keep

**TED** Ideas worth spreading

the peace between elephants and humans (13:23)

Celebrate Earth Month. Join us at the library for these brief and thoughtful videos and discuss afterwards over coffee and cookies.

For our current policies on masking please see our website. (link: Library Operations Update) <https://library.arlingtonva.us/library-operations-updates/>

Register on our website for a reminder email.

Event link:

Lunchtime TED Talks and Discussion - Events Calendar - Home (libcal.com) <https://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/8999110>

For more information, contact [vdale@arlingtonva.us](mailto:vdale@arlingtonva.us)

# Limited Opportunity to See Washington DC Temple

**F**or the first time in nearly 50 years, the Washington DC Temple will be open for public tours. This is a rare opportunity to come inside this holy building. Visitors will discover how the members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints view the Temple as sacred, as a sanctuary from the tumultuous world, and as a place to become more like our Savior.

Visitors will experience the beautiful architecture, art, and a feeling of peace, purpose and hope. Three quarters of a million people visited the original open house in 1974. During that Special Preview Week, the Temple was visited by the First Family, the US Vice President, White House staff, most of the members of US Congress and Supreme Court, Cabinet officers and thousands of state and local government officials, judiciary, international officials and clergy. During the weeks that followed, hundreds of

thousands of people from the general public went through the Temple. Soon, for a limited time, people will have the same opportunity. Hundreds of thousands of visitors are expected to visit this iconic location during this open house.

People of all ages, faiths, and no faith are welcome to come inside the Temple between April 28 through June 11, 2022, Mondays-Saturdays (no Sundays) 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Entrance is free and does not require a ticket to enter. A free timed parking ticket (one per vehicle) is needed to park a car. If coming by Metro to the Forest Glen Station, a free shuttle ticket is needed from the station to the Temple. Groups should make special reservations. For information and tickets: [www.dctemple.org](http://www.dctemple.org)

After June 11 the Open House will conclude and the Temple will again be closed to the general public.

# Designers Share Tips for Combining Style and Effective Organization

FROM PAGE 7

home a dining room table must be used for completing homework or playing family games, someone with ADHD might allow the space to become overrun with clutter unless a designated storage is conveniently located. "A low cabinet in a color and style that is consistent with the decor of the rest of the room is the perfect storage space," said Lord.

For someone with ADHD, returning household items to their appropriate location is necessary for maintaining organization. "For example, in addition to having a space for papers in your home office, you have to set aside a specific time each day to clean up those papers and return them to that space," said therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW.

A white box in the home of designer Anne Walker is an elegant, but understated source of storage.



PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## Going, Going, I Wish They Were Gone

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



All those Charmin and Cottonelle television commercials for "the go"/"down there care." As my late mother used to say about so many nauseating subjects: "It's enough already." I realize toilet paper is a staple, especially during a pandemic, but is it necessary that there are so many television advertisements? They're appearing so often that I've even seen these competing companies/products advertise during the same commercial break. Not exactly back-to-back, but very nearly so. Talk about overkill. If these brands aren't careful, they're going to kill the goose that laid ply at their doorstep.

I mean, how much prodding/encouragement do I need every day to assist me with my toilet paper decisions? Not nearly as much as I'm getting, that's for sure. How many more times must I see that adolescent bear wiggle his butt? And how many more times must I hear about treating "the skin that I don't see as well as I treat the skin that I do see?" No more, please? I have enough visuals of forearms being wiped to last me a lifetime. I know that toilet paper sales are a huge business with endless repeat customer buys, but I've reached my point of no return. As in there's no more return on their advertising investment in my household. We have been saturated with toilet paper problems/solutions so much so that if I never see another television commercial, funny or not, it will be soon enough for me.

Besides, I'm a grown man. I know what works for me – and what doesn't. And that awareness most definitely includes toilet paper and all its features and benefits – and innuendos. I may be stubborn or a creature of consumer habit – or merely protective of my privacy, but all this recurring toilet paper market penetration/saturation is becoming too much to bear. I'm not a prude in the least, but I do feel as if there are certain subjects/descriptions which are off limits – or rather should be. However, the recent spate of toilet paper verbal and visual manipulation has crossed the line I never thought needed to be drawn because it was clear to everybody that it already existed. Apparently, the rules of advertising aren't aware of these lines.

I understand that market share and profit are crucial to a commercial ventures/success/viability. But to invoke a famous question from the 1954 McCarthy hearings: "Where's your decency?" Gone. That's where if the frequency and substance of these toilet paper advertisements are allowed to continue. Enough is enough, which for Scott brands is 1000 sheets. For me however, it's really none of anybody's business what I do in the privacy of my own bathroom. Whether I use an off-brand, single, double, or triple ply or paper infused with aloe. I'm happy to be left to my own devices. I'll figure it out and the less the advertisers have to do with it, the better.

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





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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  
CAMRY LE SDN**

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$269**  
/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  
HIGHLANDER**

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$359**  
/MO



MODEL# 6948. MSRP \$40,220. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$3999 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 04/30/22.

**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 04/30/22.

**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 04/30/22.

**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 04/30/22.

**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 04/30/22.

**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 04/30/22.



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

**Se habla español**



**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

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