

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ BUNNEY HOP FOR BRIDGES, PAGE 8



# The Arlington Connection

Park Naturalist Ken Rosenthal hands out nets for Afternoon at the Pond at Gulf Branch Nature Center.

## Catching Tadpoles And More

PAGE 11

## Arlington Art Festival This Weekend

PAGE 2

## Oh, Deer, It's Not Simple!

PAGES 3, 6, 7

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.  
REQUESTED IN HOME 4-21-22

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

APRIL 20-26, 2022

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





## Public Hearings



### Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2023-2028 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2023-2028 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available <https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2022/default.asp> before April 25, 2022.

Public meetings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:  
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

<b>Monday, April 25</b> Fredericksburg District James Monroe High School 2300 Washington Avenue Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401	<b>Tuesday, April 26</b> Culpeper District Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, Virginia 22701	<b>Thursday, April 28</b> Richmond District Richmond District Auditorium 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834
<b>Monday, May 2</b> Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center 1 College Lane Weyers Cave, Virginia 24486	<b>Tuesday, May 3</b> Lynchburg District Virginian Hotel, 712 Church Street Lynchburg, Virginia 24504	<b>Wednesday, May 4</b> *Northern Virginia District Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, Virginia 22030 *meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, May 9</b> Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive, Suffolk, Virginia 23435	<b>Wednesday, May 11</b> Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, Virginia 24210	<b>Thursday, May 12</b> Salem District Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, Virginia 24017

\*The Northern Virginia District meeting will serve as the required joint public meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the CTB per § 33.2-214.3 of the Code of Virginia.

You can submit comments by email or mail by May 23, 2022.

For roads and highways: [Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov), or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: [DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov), Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services 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 these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

## NEWS

# Arlington Festival Of the Arts

The Arlington Festival of the Arts is in Clarendon, the heart of the Arlington restaurant scene, nightlife and shopping. The festival is outdoors on N. Highland Street at Wilson Boulevard. Visitors will have the opportunity to discover handmade-in-the-USA, original works of art across every medium. The careful vetting process ensures the finest and most diverse offerings of sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, mixed-media, painting and more will be available. <https://www.artfestival.com/festivals/arlington-festival-arts>

### When:

Saturday, April 23rd, 2022  
Sunday, April 24th, 2022  
10am to 5pm

### Where:

3003 Washington Blvd.  
in Arlington, VA  
Free Admission



Jennifer Lynn Becker



Alfred Addo  
Addo Contemporary Art



Ryan Curran

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Sign up for **FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
to all of our papers



[www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)



## Oh Deer: Just How Big a Problem Are Deer in Arlington?

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON  
THE CONNECTION

Oh, those white-tailed deer: the wide-eyed, long-legged, forest creatures seem like pets to so many of us here in Virginia – even in Arlington. And, throughout the state, we really kind of have adopted them as our own. In fact, ‘Virginia deer’ is another common name for these plant-eating, non-territorial animals.

This name for them isn’t surprising, either. White-tailed deer are about as native to Virginia as you could imagine, having lived alongside humans on the East Coast for centuries. So, even if you’ve only lived in Arlington County for a short while, you’ve likely seen your fair share of Virginia deer.

To put it into numerical perspective, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources estimates that there is a pre-hunt population of 850,000 to one million whitetails living across the state.

Make no mistake, either. Despite how commonplace they are, white-



Arlington’s deer population is not shy.

conducted the study was comfortable with the overpopulation conclusion, the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation isn’t totally on board – at least not yet.

“The survey found that four out of eight areas surveyed were found to have more than 20 deer per square mile, a number which many experts believe exceeds the ecological carrying capacity for similar urban habitats,” said Alonso Abugattas, the Natural Resources Manager for the Parks and Natural Resources Division of the Arlington County DPR. “However, the carrying capacity for deer can vary between and within communities. That being said, the County believes it is too early to say if we have a deer problem.”

Further research, Abugattas explained, is most definitely required before Arlington County will make any kind of decision or take any kind of action that would affect the local Virginia deer population.

### Animal Welfare League of Arlington: ‘No Scientific Basis’

As a result of local buzz surrounding this survey, animal welfare experts from the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) officially entered the deer conversation in February.

AWLA leaders insist on being a part of the dialogue and decision-making process as to what deer-related measures – if any – that Arlington County will take.

And one potential measure is culling – an official program through which experts lower the deer population in the community with firearms or other weaponry. This is a process that Arlington County has never before pursued.

The AWLA broke its silence on the matter with an official statement that its leaders released on behalf of the whole organization – including Arlington Animal Control, which falls underneath the umbrella of the AWLA.

Published on the AWLA’s website, the statement was written by Animal Control Chief Jennifer Toussaint and AWLA CEO Samuel Wolbert. And, their overarching message was that the DPR’s 2021 deer study had “no scientific basis.”

“Following the concerns of some local citizens, Arlington County recently funded a deer survey to establish a count of our white-tailed deer population,” Wolbert and Toussaint wrote in their joint statement. “You may have heard that the results of this survey suggest that Arlington County has a ‘deer problem,’ with deer levels exceeding higher than healthy amounts. This, however, is far from the truth.”

Toussaint explained that the AWLA was compelled to put out this statement because there simply can’t be a conversation about deer without the organization’s input. The AWLA does, after all, handle thousands of

SEE DEER IN ARLINGTON, PAGE 6



tailed deer can be a strikingly beautiful sight to behold. It’s especially eye-catching – and heartwarming – to see a graceful, protective doe followed by her brood of slightly clumsy, doe-eyed fawns.

Still, regardless of their beauty and non-violent nature, Virginia deer can undoubtedly cause their fair share of damage. An overpopulation of these deer is a recipe for multiple forms of disaster – both environmental in nature, and in terms of safety for humans and other animals.

Last spring, with the potential of a deer overpopulation in mind, the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) decided to pursue a contractor-conducted survey of local deer. It was a drone-based study to determine a more precise number of deer that live across the multiple

sections of Arlington County.

Released last September, the public now knows this study as “The Arlington County Deer Survey and Next Steps.”

### Arlington’s Deer Status, According to Drone Findings

At the conclusion of the survey, the drone contractor stated that all evidence pointed to a number of deer in Arlington County that exceeded the area’s carrying capacity.

In other words, deer overpopulation was confirmed. “Arlington has 290 deer at minimum as surveyed on non-federal properties, [with] 13 per square mile in the County,” according to the report. The study also stated that four out of seven sections of the county had 20 deer per square mile, which is “higher than most experts agree is healthy for re-



generation of native plants.”

The drone study write-up didn’t stop there, either. It went on to say:

“Deer numbers above the biological carrying capacity can affect the ecology of natural lands ... Forests do not regenerate, native plants supporting other wildlife suffer, insects and ground nesting birds decline, invasives spread and prosper, and erosion and compaction may also increase when deer numbers are above what the land can support.”

In addition to the environmental problems cited above, there are also legitimate concerns that too many Virginia deer – which are by no means small in stature – are highly capable of causing serious car accidents and other incidents which can inflict significant harm to humans.

Then there are also the serious and life-threatening tick-borne illnesses like Lyme Disease that have been associated with these East Coast deer.

### Arlington County Parks and Recreation View

Even though the drone contractor who



## Poor Penmanship: What About All Those Vetoes?

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN



The heavy workload of this year's General Assembly session produced some 728 bills from our bipartisan legislature. Though the outcome of some key pieces of legislation and an agreement on our biennial budget remain outstanding, these bills reflect the urgent priorities of lawmakers and those they are elected to represent. With a different party controlling each chamber of the legislature, the only bills which made it to the Governor were the product of bipartisan compromise built on long-standing relationships, intensive stakeholder input, and the shared priority of doing the people's business.

Each year, at the adjournment of session, focus shifts to the Governor's policy team as they review the often complex, diverse slate bills we send them. A new administration often means that aides who were not involved in the crafting and amending of these bills, and who are still honing their subject matter expertise, face a monumental task. The Governor is Constitutionally required to approve, amend, or veto all bills communicated to him within 30 days of the end of session. That deadline was Monday, April 11th.

With no bills possessing a major partisan bent in the mix, Governor Youngkin's team was granted a rather unique opportunity to fully put aside political maneuvering and focus completely on vetting the policies.

Unfortunately, as the clock ticked towards midnight on his last day to act, the Governor squandered that rare opportunity with a flourish of his pen — vetoing 25 uncontroversial, bipartisan bills, all carried by Democrats, in a harried attempt at political retribution. These included nine of the 10 bills I sent to his desk — five which passed unanimously, and four others which passed with more than 2/3rds of both bodies voting in favor. These bills provided real, meaningful change for Virginians, including reducing the backlog for benefits at the Virginia Employment Commission, increasing consumers' privacy over their personal data, providing employment and insurance protections for living organ donors, and reducing overburdensome taxes on growing businesses. In five cases, the Governor signed identical House bills, then vetoed my Senate version. This is an unprecedented practice, devaluing the teamwork and collegiality which allow House and Senate patrons to navigate each other's chambers. The Governor and I have had several congenial, productive meetings since he took office, and though we have clashed over several of his first choices for appointed positions, I was surprised by this rather churlish use of his authority.

Generally, the Governor provides a thorough written explanation for his legislative actions to the Assembly — making his case to uphold a veto or win approval of an amendment. However, despite vetoing more bills than any first-year

Governor since Jim Gilmore in 1998, details on the Governor's reasoning remain sparse. In one case his office pointed out several flaws in a bill, introduced by Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax), regulating cars blocking a right of way. The only problem? The final version of this bill already addressed these concerns — one can only infer that their analysis was based on the unpolished, introduced version. The Governor attributed three other vetoes to "industry opposition" including a bill by Del. Cia Price (D-Hampton) to give localities the ability to sue dangerously negligent landlords, one from Sen. Marsden to reduce high-risk braking by 18 wheelers during snowstorms, and one by Sen. Scott Surovell (D-Fairfax) to index the cost of solid waste disposal. But in all three cases, the industry stakeholders didn't oppose the bill — in fact they had actively supported and collaborated with the patron to improve the bills. The Governor vetoed several bills creating studies stating that we should not waste public dollars on studying issues — "the time for action is now." This stands in clear contrast to the multiple times Youngkin's office offered amendments to bills that changed active policy to studies and workgroups.

This lack of consistency surely leaves Virginians scratching their heads. Is it indicative of a prolonged learning curve, a signifier of priorities focused outside the lawmaking process, or simply frustration boiling over from a session where less than 50% of the Governor's agenda made it to his desk? Whatever the answer, these actions serve neither the deliberative and effective culture of the General Assembly, nor the people of Virginia, well

### "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

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 or call 703-228-4747.

55+ "Tour de Friends" Bike Club members will ride to Reston Town Center and back, Thursday, Apr. 21, 11 a.m. Registration # 913206-07.

Recycling and compost updates presented by representatives from Arlington's Dept. of Environmental Services, Thursday, Apr. 21, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 913400-01. Program will include how to reduce Arlington's carbon footprint and the benefits of keeping food waste out of landfills.

Introduction to line dancing, learn basic steps, Friday, Apr. 22, 10:15 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop in.

EarthFest 2022, virtual presentation

tion, Saturday, Apr. 23 starting at 10 a.m. Learn about recycling, how to make recycled planters and upcycled art. All ages welcome. For registration information, call 703-228-7369.

Rummikub, game combines elements of gin rummy and Mah Jongg, weekdays at Arlington Mill 55+ Center at

11 a.m. Drop in. Rummikub is also a Northern Virginia Senior Olympics event.

Early morning art activity with community arts programmer Jennifer Droblyen, Monday, May 2, 9 a.m. Registration # 913303-13.

Canasta games, Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Instruction available. Drop in.

Mother's Day Music and Tea, packaged assorted sweets, Wednesday, May 4, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Bring pictures of mother, wife, children. Registration # 913890-02.

Local history group to discuss Arlington's parks, Wednesday, May 4, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 913402-15.

Opera appreciation, hear and discuss musical selections from Bellini's "Norma", Wednesday, May 4, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913300-06.

Basic hand crafts, develop skills using silk flowers and bottle cap crafts, Wednesday, May 4, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913310-04.

Aging in Place, find out if your home is suitable and safe to stay long term, Thursday, May 5, 1:30 p.m. Presented by Patrice Winter, associate professor, George Mason University. Registration # 913404-06.

Smart homes, hear a basic introduction to home automation devices such as Amazon Alexa and Google Home, Thursday, May 5, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 913403-07.

Travel Trivia, Thursday, May 5, 11 a.m. Registration # 913601-04.

### Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

#### Send letters

Online [www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter)  
By email: [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

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

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

Never miss an issue, get a free digital subscription,  
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe/>

The  
Arlington  
Connection

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Twitter @ArlConnection

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to [connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
[arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com)

Mary Kimm  
Editor and Publisher  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

Shirley Ruhe  
Contributing Photographer and Writer  
[slrbc@aol.com](mailto:slrbc@aol.com)

Eden Brown  
Contributing Writer  
[arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com)

ADVERTISING:  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

David Griffin  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

Classified & Employment  
Advertising  
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

Publisher  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

Art/Design:  
Laurence Foong  
Production Manager:  
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)





## News

# Bridges Bash

**B**ridges to Independence will hold its annual Bridges' Bash Wednesday, May 4 at Army Navy Country Club. The event begins at 6:30pm with a VIP reception, followed by general admission at 7 pm. This year's Bash theme is "Mardi Gras in May," and will feature live music by Geno Marriott & the Spirit of Jazz, open bar, curated live and silent auctions, hors d'oeuvres and much more. Mardi Gras festive attire is suggested.

The Bash, which was postponed from its original date due to pandemic concerns, will be a chance for the community to come together to celebrate for the first time in more than two years. It is one of Bridges' premier fundraising events that directly supports the organization's housing and stability programs for our neighbors in need.

Presenting sponsor Amazon is joined by other headline sponsors Arlington Strategy, Latham Biopharm Group and National Capital Bank.

In addition to sponsors, Bridges donors, volunteers, community leaders and others will be in attendance to enjoy a high-energy evening of dancing, networking, and connections.

Brian O'Neill, Interim Chief Executive Officer for Bridges to Independence, says the money raised from the Bash is critical to the organization's mission. "Funds raised with the Bash – through tickets sales, auction bids, sponsorship and on-site donations, will directly impact more than 150 families here in our community, 200 youth, and 200 community service center program participants." He went on to say, "Bridges is grateful for the generosity of our event sponsors and the volunteer Bash Commit-

SEE BRIDGES, PAGE 8



ENRICHING  
LIFE'S  
JOURNEY

## REMEMBER PLANNING A HAPPY HOUR WITH FRIENDS?

AT HERMITAGE NORTHERN VIRGINIA, it could be today.

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

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

**HERMITAGE**  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA



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

Past issues of

**THE  
CONNECTION  
NEWSPAPERS**

back to 2008  
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

## Learn About Advertising in the Connection and Digital Options!

Advertising in the Connection  
and upcoming special sections:

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

or call **703.778.9431**

8th Annual

# ARLINGTON Festival of the Arts

**April 23rd - 24th**

**Sat./Sun. 10am - 5pm**

**Outdoors on N. Highland Street at  
Wilson Blvd in the Clarendon Neighborhood (Arlington, VA)**

FREE ADMISSION



Don't miss next weekend's  
show in Chevy Chase!  
April 30th - May 1st at  
The Shops at Wisconsin Place



Sara O'Connor



# How Big a Problem Are Deer in Arlington?

FROM PAGE 3

wildlife calls and concerns every year.

“We really just wanted to join the conversation, because we should be a part of it,” Touissant said. “For decades, the AWLA has been responsible for wildlife management – which includes deer – for all of Arlington County. We know the statistics because orphaned, injured, deceased deer always come to us first. And, simply put, we know how to make the difficult decisions that impact the community as a whole – both for wildlife and for humans.”

The AWLA’s official statement also made the point that there really is no set-in-stone number that automatically equates to an unhealthy quantity of deer.

“The fact is, determining a ‘healthy carrying capacity’ is a political judgment that is not rooted in biology,” Wolbert and Toussaint wrote. “There is no one ‘magic’ number that any community should have. Saying that Arlington County, with 13 deer per square mile, has too many deer is a political determination and not based on the environment in which the deer are located.”

In other words, the AWLA maintains that there is no proof that any form of deer reduction action – namely culling – is necessary in Arlington County.

“There have been no substantiated claims with regard to the deer populations,” Toussaint said. “The multiple articles we saw that were posted on different media outlets made statistically unsubstantiated claims.”

Touissant explained that what likely happened is that people just started seeing more deer than they previously did – before COVID quarantine protocols kept them at home. Then, deer naturally became a greater topic of conversation.

“We understand that, in an urban area like Arlington, a lot of people have no previous history of interacting with native wild animals,” Toussaint said. “What happened during COVID is that people were home at times that they never had been to see animals.”

The real deal, according to the AWLA?

“As a county, we simply don’t know enough whether or not there are more deer than there have been or if there is more of a problem,” Toussaint said. “We don’t have any kind of data that suggests that there has been more damage caused by deer.”

If you do look at the AWLA’s numbers – those statistics that the AWLA keeps meticulous records of – deer don’t seem to be much of a problem at all for Arlington residents.

In fact, in November 2020, the AWLA implemented an online program designed specifically for the community to report wildlife concerns. And, as Touissant explained, less than three percent of the 650 reports were related to deer.

“Similarly, in 2021 AWLA received 2,733 calls for service relating to wildlife, with only 131 calls pertaining to deer (5%),” the AWLA statement read. “Of those 131 calls, nearly half were resolved through education. In fact, the most common concern raised by residents was not about adult deer but, rather, the health of orphaned fawns. If



Deer with unusual markings in the woods.

there truly were ‘too many deer,’ we would have more deer-related complaints.”

## Arlington Naturalists Say: Too Many Deer for a Healthy Arlington

As much as the people on the flip side of the AWLA’s argument appreciate deer and their role in the ecosystem, they see things differently than the animal welfare organization does. And while many of these people in disagreement are also seasoned, highly trained wildlife experts like those at the AWLA, they insist that a passive solution against deer simply won’t be enough to preserve Arlington’s natural areas.

The Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) – a regional chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists – is a leading group behind this educational effort.

The ARMN, by the way, is a non-profit organization made up of rigorously educated and certified “volunteer educators, citizen scientists, and stewards helping to conserve and manage natural resources and public lands in Virginia,” according to the official website for the Virginia Master Naturalists.

“ARMN members serve as Park Stewards for 20 parks in Arlington which contain the most important natural areas,” Marion Jordan, Master Naturalist and former ARMN president, said. “We also support the county in a full range of habitat restoration work throughout the county. On top of that, we serve as Park Stewards and do habitat restoration work in other natural areas in our area. (Alexandria, Falls Church, Arlington, and other nearby areas).”

Like the AWLA, the ARMN works together with the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation through a partnership of sorts. And it has been over the last couple years that ARMN volunteers have urged the Department of Parks to pay greater attention to deer issues.

“We have been talking to members of the community about deer for the last two years,” said Steve Young, Master Naturalist and Arlington Park Steward. “People all over the county understand that the deer are a problem. We helped and encouraged the DPR to pay more attention to the deer is-

sue, and they felt like they needed numbers – hence, the deer survey. We are one of the few organizations who are in the position to shed light on this problem.”

And even though the ARMN may have given the Arlington County DPR a nudge to take a deeper look into deer, the DPR had been hearing similar deer concerns from multiple sources for more than ten years.

“Arlington has a long-standing commitment to our natural resource protection and conservation,” Abugattas explained. “In 2011, the Wildlife of Arlington: A Natural Heritage Resource Inventory Technical Report identified deer as a species of local concern, and recommended a population or browse survey, due to impacts deer can cause.”

However, it wasn’t until last year that the Arlington County DPR had access to funds for the drone technology and contractors that were required to conduct such a survey.

“Recent technological improvements made a drone survey a feasible, accurate way to determine the deer population where our parks are interwoven with residential and urban space,” Abugattas said. “This, combined with staff observations and concerns expressed by some community members, led us to do the survey.”

## Downplayed Deer Survey Results?

The way the ARMN team sees it, the Arlington County DPR’s deer survey understates the severity of the deer overpopulation data that the drones collected.

“The survey did conclude that there are too many deer in natural areas,” Jordan said. “People seem to be talking past this a little bit, and that concerns us. Headlines being communicated mute the issue, and the longer we wait to do something about the deer, the more irreversible harm we will see done to our ecosystem.”

Abugattas understands this point – at least to some degree.

“The results of the survey identified 290 deer,” he said. “This is a conservative number because some deer may have been missed. We could not survey Federal and National Park Service properties within the County,

and we know there are deer there. Also, the surveyors did not count questionable observations, so we believe the 290 deer that were reported is the minimum seen within the County area.”

On top of these roadblocks, Arlington County was not permitted to fly drones at ideal times or during the ideal season for deer sightings.

As both Young and Abugattas explained, the DPR drones could not fly at nighttime when deer would be more visible. Also, the survey was conducted during the spring, when trees were grown out to the point that made it difficult for the drone surveyors to unequivocally confirm the presence of deer.

“Ideally drone deer surveys are performed at night and in winter when there is less activity outdoors by humans and heat signatures show up best,” Abugattas said. “Due to federal permitting restrictions in the National Capital area, the contractor could not fly the drones at night. Instead, the contractor flew as much as possible at dusk, dawn, and on cloudy days... Where thermal images were not clear, the image was not counted.”

Still, the ARMN stresses that, despite the misleading low deer count identified in the survey, the overarching conclusion was clear: there are too many deer in Arlington County – namely in the natural areas.

“Actually, if you look at deer per natural area, it’s a very high concentration,” Young said. “The metrics that the survey used were not representative. The results from urban areas – where naturally there won’t be as many deer, diluted the accuracy of the results.”

As a result, all other plants and creatures who rely on these parks and natural areas for food and habitats are suffering.

## Why Does It Matter? Breakdown of Deer-related Damage

The ARMN team stressed that they are in no way avid proponents of actions like culling. It’s just that, it is their duty to look at the bigger picture – and to not take any options off the table that would protect the ecosystem.

“One of the points that the AWLA made during a recent official gathering is their no-kill policy,” Bill Browning, ARMN Master Naturalist and Arlington Park Steward, said. “We can all respect that. They are totally opposed to lethal measures. I don’t think it’s fair to say that we are advocating for lethal deer control. We don’t want to go out and kill deer. What we are doing is addressing the harm that deer cause to our natural resources. All we are saying is that we should be looking at other counties and see what works — what is safest for everyone.”

And, to reiterate: the environmental and other forms of havoc that deer can wreak on a community is undeniable.

As Young explained, deer are large animals that must consume a lot of plants – often native plants – that other creatures need to survive.

“We like deer — they are part of the ecosystem,” Young said. “But if other organisms



# How Big a Problem Are Deer in Arlington?

FROM PAGE 6

are being harmed – from native plants to the other animals that rely on them – we need to address that. Otherwise, we are giving the deer priority over other organisms like plants and other animals.”

Jordan elaborated on the importance of keeping balance within Arlington’s ecosystem.

“Birds, for example, need shrubs to rest in, and to take care of their young,” she said. “Foliage is the basis for the survival of other animals, and there is no question that deer are wiping these out from our natural areas.”

Browning also gave a data-backed example of deer harm that neighboring Maryland has observed over the twenty years:

“Maryland’s state butterfly has been decimated because deer have been eating the white turtle head plant that these butterflies need to make larva,” Browning explained. “This is just one example of what too many deer can do to the environment, to those living in it, and to the understory of our forests and wooded areas.”

Then there are the trees that Arlington County has spent a considerable amount of funding to plant across the area. And, unfortunately, deer place these trees in jeopardy, too.

“We are planting all these trees that are good for the community, and bucks are ruining them as they rub their antlers against them,” Browning said. “This means that we waste a lot of money on tree planting.”

Then, of course, you can’t discount the potential harm that droves of deer can bring upon their human neighbors.

“Deer are large animals,” Young said, explaining that they can easily weigh close to (or more than) 150 pounds. “Not only do they need to eat a lot of our plants to sustain themselves, but they can easily do damage to humans – both on the roads and in other areas. I have watched them in Glen Carlyn Park become bolder and bolder over the last ten years. I myself as a cyclist have had close encounters with deer on the W&OD trail.”

## Next Steps, According to the Survey

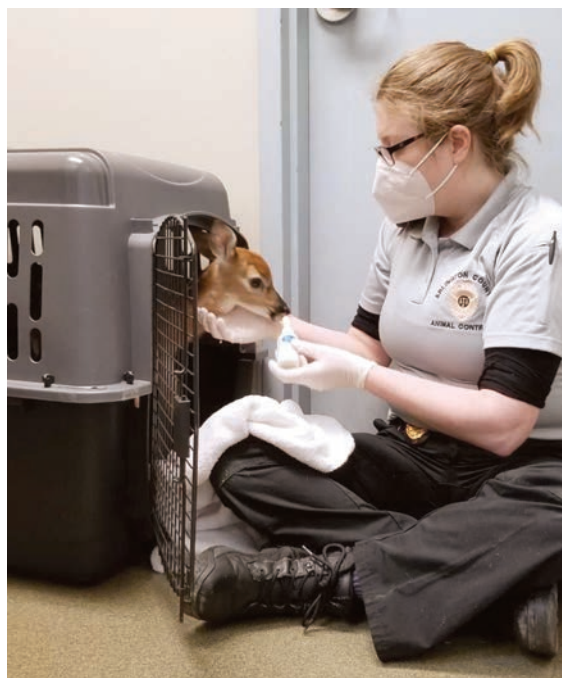
Arlington County DPR is waiting on more data to make any decisions, which means that, for now, Virginia deer can all breathe a sigh of relief.

“The County plans to solicit proposals for a further deer management assessment,” Abugattas said. “The selected contractor will determine current ecological impacts within natural land parks, share those results with the community and engage with them on possible strategies to mitigate impacts where needed. They will then make recommendations on which strategies are best suited to mitigating those impacts while maintaining a healthy white-tailed deer population on our natural lands and protecting and improving the ecological health of Arlington’s natural resources.”

He added that, as many different types of damage and harm that deer can do, the focus of this study was for the purpose of curtailing the environmental impact of deer.

“While all the issues mentioned may have merit and are important (i.e. vehicle accidents, Lyme and other tick-borne illness, potential damage to gardens, etc.), what we are primarily focused on are the ecological damage to the small existing number of natural land parks,” Abugattas said. “This is where most deer are

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



FILE PHOTO

concentrated and where potential ecological impacts are the most likely to occur. As DPR are the stewards of these properties and we have such few left, that is what concerns us the most, and where the contractor will be doing surveys and making recommendations.”

As the deer population will be status quo for the foreseeable future, the master naturalists’ concerns continue to grow. They said that the longer the County waits to act, the worse off the ecosystem will be — and it’s impossible to know now how irreparable the damage will be.

What does the AWLA hope to see for the future of Virginia deer?

Whatever the Arlington County DPR decides to do, the AWLA calls for a plan that is “practical, humane, and sustainable.”

Even now, Toussaint insists that there are plenty of effective, humane, and even cost-effective ways to manage the damage that is potentially caused by deer — and other wildlife.

Just some examples of preventative damage measures that people can pursue on their own property include using harmless plant repellants, and/or noise devices to scare away deer and other wildlife. (Fun fact: she says that large helium balloons of big-eyed cartoon figures also tend to scare animals away, too.)

As for further research that Arlington County said it plans to pursue, Toussaint suggested a more localized, data-driven approach. It would, she explained, involve having experts conduct and analyze detailed, location-specific reports instead of looking at Arlington County as a whole.

“There are different solutions for different problems, as well as for the different areas where they exist,” Toussaint said. “We need data tracking so we can see the different clumps of areas that tend to have consistent concerns. What people will discover is that there are different ways to combat these potential problems that simply do not involve getting rid of natural wildlife.”

## ARMN Suggestions for Arlington Further Research

The ARMN encourages the Arlington County DPR to look at all deer-related actions of neighboring counties to discover what has worked and what hasn’t.

To the ARMN team, it’s all about working smarter, not harder. If something has worked in neighboring counties for example, why not dig into the specifics of those processes and the research that went into them?

No matter the approach that the DPR goes with, only time will tell what the future holds for the Virginia deer in Arlington County.

In the meantime, reach out to any of these organizations for questions or concerns about deer and other wildlife.

## 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).

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

State Project: 0001-000-894, P101  
UPC: 115882  
Federal: NHPP-5B01 (107)

Past issues of

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008  
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>





## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

for the Draft Environmental Assessment and  
Public Open House Meeting for Security Upgrades at  
Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Virginia

Arlington National Cemetery (ANG), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing proposed upgrades to security. ANG proposes to upgrade security measures to meet antiterrorism and force protection (AT/FP) standards for federal facilities. Physical and operational security upgrades have been identified to address security deficiencies and improve the overall AT/FP posture of ANG. These include a security screening memorandum of agreement with Joint Base Myer - Henderson Hall, establishing an on-site flexible operations center, upgrading perimeter fencing, and upgrading interior bollards and barriers.

The Draft EA summarizes the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Action on cultural resources, water resources, biological resources, air quality, utilities, infrastructure, land use, and the surrounding community.

ANC's Cultural Resource Manager assessed the effects of the proposed undertaking using the criteria of adverse effects (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800.5(a)(1)) and determined the project will have No Adverse Effect on the characteristics which qualify ANG, Arlington Ridge Park National Register District, and the Memorial Amphitheater for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

An electronic copy of the Draft EA can be obtained at:  
<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/PublicNotices>

ANG will host a public meeting to provide information and solicit comments on the Draft EA per NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and The Programmatic Agreement with ANG, Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities at ANG.

The meeting will be an open house format with information displays and materials available for public review. There will be no formal presentation. ANG staff will be present to answer general questions on the proposed security upgrades, the Draft EA, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. You may arrive anytime during the open house.

**Tuesday, May 3, 2022**  
**3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Arlington National Cemetery**  
**Welcome Center**  
**1 Memorial Avenue**  
**Arlington, VA 22211**

**Comments may be submitted in writing at the meeting or by email at: NAVFACWASHNEPA 1@NAVY.MIL**

**Comments will be accepted during the meeting or by email during the 30-day public comment period from April 20 through May 20, 2022.**

## News

# Bunny Hop 5K for Bridges to Independence

**C**larendon United Methodist Church will hold its fifth annual Arlington Bunny Hop 5K Run/Walk for Arlington Charities on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 8 am. The event will start at the Church at 606 N. Irving

Street, Arlington, Va. 22201.

For the fifth year, Bridges to Independence, a local leader in housing and support services for families experiencing homelessness, will be the primary beneficiary.

SEE BUNNY HOP 5K, PAGE 10

## Bridges Bash

FROM PAGE 5

tee, co-chaired by Bailey Hamilton and Zakiya Worthey."

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and open bar are included in the ticket price. Tickets are available through the Bridges' website. <https://bridges2.org/event/bridges-bash/>.

About Bridges: Bridges to Independence, founded in 1985 as the Arlington Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, is a local leader in housing and support services

for families and neighbors facing systemic poverty. Its mission is to "lead individuals and families out of homelessness into stable, independent futures." Bridges' operates the largest family homeless shelter in Arlington county, a community services center in Green Valley, a housing program, and workforce development and development programs. Learn more: <https://bridges2.org/>

## CALENDAR

### 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.

### NOW THRU 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.

### 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](https://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](https://www.artfestival.com)

### SATURDAY/APRIL 30

George Washington's Forest History Walk. 1:30 p.m. At Ball-Sellers House, 5620 3rd Street, South, Arlington. Walk in the footsteps of George Washington on a guided walk with a local historian. In 1775, George Washington bought 1,200-acres of forest in what is now Arlington. After the Revolutionary War, he returned home and surveyed his property. On the walk you'll see the Ball-Sellers House (the oldest house in the Washington Metro area), the survey markers used by Washington in 1785, historic springs, the site of a mill built by George Washington's step-grandson and more. Visit the website: [arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events](https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events)

**CALENDAR**

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](https://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

**Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to all of our papers**



[www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)



# CLASSIFIED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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

## Services



**Affordable Quality Roofing & Gutters**  
Repair • Replace  
Thousands of references • Over 25 years  
(Licensed and Insured)  
**703-794-8513**

## Legals

### ABC LICENSE

Foxtrot Retail DC, LLC trading as Foxtrot, 1771 N Pierce Street Suite 100 Arlington, VA 22209. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mike Lavitola, Officer/ The Veritas Law Firm. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

## We Need Your Help Again

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



And affiliated newspapers

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

**Mount Vernon Gazette**  
**Potomac**  
**ALMANAC** **CENTRE VIEW**

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

Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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

## CALENDAR

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

## OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA • VACATION RENTALS



### TOP BEACHFRONT RENTAL

coolest destination, best rates, great value!

Don't miss out on your chance to soak up the sun once quarantining is done.

Over 500 vacation homes in all price ranges!



Call today to reserve your vacation home...

[www.brindleybeach.com](http://www.brindleybeach.com)

**877-642-3224**

1300 TABLES! 100% OPEN! Buy! Sell! Trade! VPN

## NATION'S GUN SHOW

### APRIL 22, 23 & 24

### Dulles Expo

4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, VA 20151

**FRI: 3-8 | SAT: 9-5 | SUN: 10-5**

Expert Professionals, Enormous Selection & Training!

**\$1 Off One Adult Admission**

540-951-1344 | [www.TheNationsGunShow.com](http://www.TheNationsGunShow.com) | [www.ShowmastersGunShows.com](http://www.ShowmastersGunShows.com)

### Upgrade Your Home with a NEW METAL ROOF

Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!



Call today to schedule your

**FREE ESTIMATE**  
**1-844-902-4611**



New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires June 30, 2022. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on [homeservicescompliance.com](http://homeservicescompliance.com). All rights reserved.

### LIMITED TIME OFFER

**60% off**  
YOUR INSTALLATION  
+  
**TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% off**  
Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

**ERIE Metal Roofs**  
Expires 6/30/22

## Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

**\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

### REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

**(844) 947-1479**

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

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



GENERAC

**TRUGREEN**

Get the most out of your lawn this spring.

Save now with **50% OFF\***  
Your First Application

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

**1-855-942-6217**

\*Requires purchase of annual plan. Special price is for first Lawn application only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. \*Purchase of annual lawn plan required for Healthy Lawn Analysis, which is performed at the first visit. \*Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2022 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.

## The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY



**\$500 OFF\***

OR

**No Payments & No Interest for 18 Months\*\***

Military & Senior Discounts Available

OFFER EXPIRES June 30, 2022

**BCI BATH & SHOWER**

**CALL NOW!**  
**(844) 945-1631**

\*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 6/30/2022. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2022 BCI Acrylic Inc.

**Leaf & Filter**  
GUTTER PROTECTION

**BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE**

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

**15% OFF & 10% OFF**

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\*

SENIORS & MILITARY!

**+ 5% OFF**  
TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!\*

**WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!**



**FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!\***

Promo Code: 285

\*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.



CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

**1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\*Offer valid at time of estimate only. \*The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "41 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America". Manufactured in Plainville, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. CSI # 1035795 DQPI #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 WA UBI# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705182153A License# LEAFFW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6975 Registration# IR231804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2205169445 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 0085990 Registration# H-19114



Inside or out...



...Tech Painting's got you covered!



Serving:  
VA  
DC  
MD  
OBX

**703-684-7702**  
**www.techpainting.com**



## NEWS

# Bunny Hop 5K for Bridges to Independence

FROM PAGE 8

Brian O'Neill, Interim Chief Executive Officer for Bridges to Independence, says the money raised from the Bunny Hop is critical to the organization's mission. "The support from the Arlington Bunny Hop will directly impact the housing and stability of more than 120 families here in our community." He went on to say, "Bridges is grateful for the continued generosity of Clarendon United Methodist Church, the event sponsors, runners and volunteers who make this event possible."

People of all ages and runners and walkers at all levels are encouraged to attend this annual event. Put on your favorite costume while you enjoy a fun, healthy, spring weather activity with your friends and family. A family style block party will be featured after the race with characters, free food, costume contests, bounce houses and live music.

Finisher medals will be given to all children crossing the finish line. Medals will be awarded to age group winners and three finishers with the best costumes. The chip-timed 5k course winds through the historic Ashton Heights and Lyon

Park neighborhoods and the Columbia Gardens Cemetery before finishing at the church. Well behaved dogs and strollers are welcome.

"We're really looking forward to this year's race!" says Bunny Hop Director, Denny Edelbrock. "The Bunny Hop gives us all a chance to be a family and give back to our community."

Registration is open. Participants are encouraged to register online before midnight on Tuesday, April 19. Pricing details are available on the website.

If you would rather cheer on the runners, there are also volunteer opportunities. You can find more information about these opportunities through the link below.

For more information about the 5k race, please visit [www.ArlingtonBunnyHop.org](http://www.ArlingtonBunnyHop.org).

About Bridges: "Bridges to Independence (founded in 1985) is a local leader in housing and support services for families or neighbors facing systemic poverty. Their mission is to "lead individuals and families out of homelessness into stable, independent futures." Bridges' programs include a shel-

ter, housing, a community services center, workforce development, and a very strong youth development program. Bridges operates Arlington's largest emergency family shelter at 9th Road and N. Highland Street. Bridges has merged with "Bonder & Amanda Johnson Community Development Corporation" (BAJCDC) which means their outreach now extends to the historically underrepresented South Arlington community of Green Valley and includes a strong partnership with Macedonia Baptist Church. Bridges expanded the youth program to create a mentorship program called Bright Bridges to serve youth living at or below the poverty line. Personally, we are very excited about extending the Hop's impact into South Arlington. Bridges has supported 200 youth this year, which doubled from last year, and programming is occurring at Drew Elementary School. Today, Bridges supports approximately 500 individuals. We believe supporting this initiative clearly helps our community! For more information about Bridges to Independence, visit <https://bridges2.org> or call (703) 525-7177"

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

## Special Connections Calendar 2022

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursdays unless noted.

### MARCH

3/2/2022.....Wellbeing  
3/9/2022.....HomeLifeStyle  
3/16/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools  
3/23/2022.....Senior Living  
3/30/2022.....Spring Family Fun

### APRIL

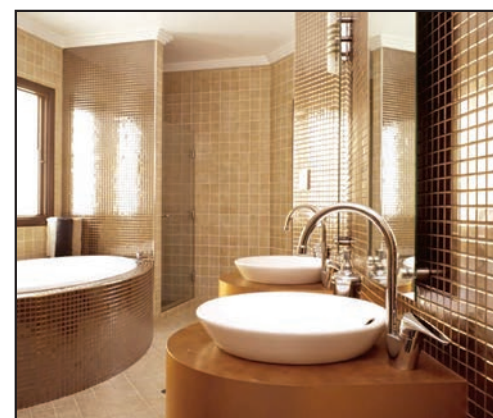
4/6/2022.....Wellbeing  
4/13/2022.....HomeLifeStyle  
4/20/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools  
4/27/2022.....Senior Living

For Print & Digital Advertising Information:  
Please Call 703.778.9431 or email  
[advertising@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:advertising@connectionnewspapers.com)

THE CONNECTION Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette Potomac ALMANAC

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

## TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



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

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed  
Since 1999



**Free Estimates 703-999-2929**

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

**Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)**



# Sunshine Brings Out Kids and Critters

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**"S**tay close to the edge of the pond. Grab your net and dip it into the water to see what critters you can find." Ken Rosenthal, Park Naturalist at Gulf Branch Nature Center since 2015, directs Afternoon at the Pond on Saturday, April 16. It is an invitation to come to find out who is swimming and singing. "And remember to wear your boots."

Rosenthal hands out long-handled orange nets to the 5-8-year-old class to skim the pond for tadpoles, Six-Spotted Fishing Spiders, Damselfly nymphs and maybe some fingernail clams. Rosenthal is collecting a sample of what the kids accumulate in their buckets from all over the pond. He says they probably collected about 100 samples by the time the afternoon was over.

"Look," he exclaims, "Here is a larva of a Predacious Diving Beetle. That is a good find." Rosenthal says spring is a great time for exploring the pond, especially because you can see tadpoles and other critters growing.

Rosenthal walks out on a large fallen tree limb and pulls out large handfuls of Coontail from the pond at the Nature Center. "While it is native, it can grow to 10 feet and may out-compete other underwater plants. This could lead to a loss of biodiversity. I am trying to make sure it doesn't completely dominate our pond." He says Coontail can be found on every continent except Antarctica.

Kids tramp around in the mud in their boots while swinging their nets in all directions. Cries of "I've got one; look at this," ring across the pond. Declyn O'Connor has come with his two sisters to investigate Gulf Branch Nature Center where his grandparents used



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Rosenthal pulls out Coontail from the pond.

to take his parents when they were also eight years old. He is visiting his Arlington grandparents from North Carolina on Spring Break.

Declyn just misses a frog hopping over his net but fills his large white bucket with tadpoles from Wood Frogs and Green Frogs and a large number of Fishing Spiders.

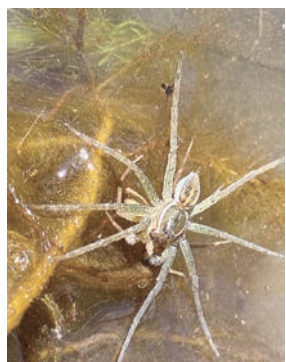


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Six-Spotted Fishing Spider just dipped out of pond on Saturday at Gulf Branch Nature Center.

Rosenthal says the small tadpoles are Wood Frog tadpoles just hatched this year and the larger ones are most likely Green Frogs hatched in the late summer or fall who overwinter in the pond. Rosenthal comments he doesn't expect to see many tadpoles close to the shore for the next few days, depending on how long their memory is.

Rosenthal says that people

see a pond and they think fish, "but we don't have fish which gives us so much more variety."



Declyn O'Connor fills his white bucket with tadpoles and lots of spiders.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004  
FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	<b>ELECTRICAL</b>
<b>K &amp; D ELECTRIC</b>	
<b>COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE</b>	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...	<b>Licensed/Bonded/Insured</b> Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com

<b>LANDSCAPING</b>	<b>LANDSCAPING</b>
<b>Quality Tree Service &amp; Landscaping</b>	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
<b>Expert Tree Work</b>	
Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.	
25 years of experience - Free estimates <b>703-868-5358</b>	
<b>24 Hour Emergency Tree Service</b>	

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

Sign up for  
**FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
to any or all of our 15 papers  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE)

## The Cancer Effect



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

From February 28th until April 9th, approximately 40 days – and nights, I had 19 medical commitments; among them being pre- and post-surgery/procedure, actual procedure and separate surgery, lab tests, infusions, covid tests, diagnostic scans, nuclear medicine; and telephone and video appointments. This was hardly a normal month. It was abnormal and not necessarily cancer related but most likely cancer affected.

As you might imagine, being infused for nearly 10 years with extremely toxic substances will wear and tear the recipient's body, inside and out. Consider further that said recipient (yours truly) began this cancer business at age 54 and a half and over this 10-year period, I have not been getting any younger. And what you end up with is a perfect storm of an age and an immune-compromised patient succumbing to the cumulative side effects of cancer treatment, direct and indirect.

Nevertheless, having some kind of medical appointment every other day – on average, over 40 days is likely to make a Kenny a very dull boy. Not that I wasn't in control of my time or had to adhere to a schedule not of my own choosing; on the contrary, I was very much in control as I set my own appointments and times and places convenient to me. Still, the commitment of time and energy – and the anxiety associated with all these appointments, especially given my underlying medical diagnosis, was unpleasant and unsettling but thankfully very uncharacteristic of my previous cancer life, which was overall, unremarkable medically speaking, other than I didn't die within the "13 month to two years" prognosis I was initially given by my oncologist.

Typically, my cancer life has been very similar to my non-cancer life. There are things I must do, things I can't do, things I wish I could do and finally things that others require me to do. The only difference: the original stage IV non-small cell lung cancer "terminal" diagnosis I received in late February 2009. That kind of news puts a damper on any scenario, real or imagined. Moreover, a scenario which offered no guarantees other than the presumptive normal life expectancy I anticipated was no longer normal. In summary, your future is in doubt, your present is in crisis and your past hopes and dreams are fading fast unless you find a safety valve to help manage the emotional, physical, and spiritual upheaval dominating your life. Or the more likely you are to suffer at the hands of your disease and become another casualty of the cancer wars.

So, I had a lousy month. So what? I'm alive, aren't I? Thirteen-plus years later. Granted, fulfilling all these medical obligations of the last 40 days wouldn't have been my first choice of how I wanted to spend part of my retirement. However, given that I had no choice – after my diagnosis, to live my life as a cancer patient/survivor, as my friend Frank would say: "I'm in pretty good shape for the shape I'm in."

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





**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

**START THE  
SPRING RIGHT  
DURING THIS  
EXCLUSIVE  
EVENT!**

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA  
COROLLA LE SDN**

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$189**  
/MO



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

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA  
PRIUS**

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$269**  
/MO



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

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA  
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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.



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

**Se habla español**



**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

**3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria  
703-684-0700  
AlexandriaToyota.com**