

# The Arlington Connection

Two brothers find it takes concentration to write their names with a quill pen, at the Gulf Branch Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 15.

## Visiting Arlington's Heritage

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## Missing Answers On Missing Middle

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## Great Pumpkins

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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## 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
GILES	8517	643	GRAY SULPHUR SPG/ 643	SULPHUR BRANCH	9/27/2022
POWHATAN	10136	684	BELL RD	STEGERS CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	13259	626	CASTLE ROCK DR	DOE CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	2918	623	RIVER RD/ 623	NEW RIVER/NS RWY	9/26/2022
GILES	10171	635	BIGSTONEY CR RD/ 635	WHITE ROCK BRANCH	9/22/2022
GILES	12345	623	CASCADE DR/ 623	LITTLE STONEY CREEK	9/22/2022
MONTGOMERY	13414	616	DOBBINS HOLLOW RD/ 616	BRUSH CREEK	9/22/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13413	0	SHERROW AVENUE	TRIPPS RUN	9/21/2022
SCOTT	13290	617	SHELLEYS RD	BRANCH	9/20/2022
ROANOKE	13269	864	OLD CATAWBA RD/864	MASON CREEK	9/19/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13283	0	S. OAK STREET	TRIPPS RUN	9/16/2022
ROANOKE	2782	637	BOTTOM CREEK LANE	LAUREL CREEK	9/16/2022
FRANKLIN	3455	757	SKILLET RD/ 757	STORY CREEK	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13396	777	FTLEWIS CHURCH RD/ 777	STYPES BRANCH	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13392	1662	MCVITTY RD/ 1662	MUDLUCK CREEK	9/15/2022
BOTETOURT	13410	615	CRAIG CREEK RD/ 615	DUTCHMAN BRANCH	9/14/2022
CARROLL	14974	747	PINE GROVE RD/ 747	BRANCH SHORTS CREEK	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5503	623	FAIRYSTONE PK RD/ 623	RYANS BRANCH	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5556	825	HILLOCK RD/ 825	RENNET BAG CREEK	9/14/2022
ROANOKE	10147	696	APPLE GROVE LANE/ 696	BACK CREEK	9/14/2022
BOTETOURT	10152	616	BLUE RDGE SPGS/ 616	BRANCH OF GLADE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13278	919	GRASSY HILL RD/ 919	LITTLE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13337	688	POTEET RD/ 688	GILLS CREEK	9/13/2022
BEDFORD	13317	695	GOOSE CK VLY R/ 695	N. FORK GOOSE CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13336	639	HURRICANE DR/ 639	NORTH OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13303	680	MURRELLS GAP RD	SHEEP CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	3387	680	PATTERSN MILL RD/ 680	LITTLE OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
ROANOKE	12355	666	BANDY CREEK RD/ 666	BACK CREEK	9/12/2022
BOTETOURT	12304	606	GROVE HILL RD/ 606	CATAWBA CREEK	9/9/2022
FRANKLIN	18127	697	BRICK CHURCH RD/ 697	LITTLE CREEK	9/9/2022
BOTETOURT	18065	737	HOGAN HOLLOW RD/ 737	CATAWBA CREEK	9/6/2022
DINWIDDIE	14789	709	SHIPPINGS RD	BUCKSKIN CREEK	9/2/2022
BOTETOURT	14773	1324	PATTONSBURGLA/ 1324	PURGATORY CREEK	9/1/2022
BOTETOURT	14801	764	SPEC MINE RD	BRANCH OF BACK CREEK	9/1/2022

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.

## "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

### Office of 55+ Programs

Contact: Judy Massabny, [jmassa@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jmassa@arlingtonva.us)

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers, unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate (starting at a \$20 annual fee). To join or register, go to [registration.arlingtonva.us](https://registration.arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747.

Line dancing, easy for beginners, Thursday, Oct. 20, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Drop in. Also Friday, Oct. 21, 11:05 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop in.

Cooking with raspberries demonstration and recipes by Master Food Volunteers from Virginia Cooperative Extension, Thursday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911501-05.

"Madame Secretary: Madeleine Albright," presented by Ann DeLong, U.S. State Department, Thursday, Oct. 20, 1:30 p.m. View the presentation on screen at Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 911400-14 or virtual, registration # 911400-15.

Paint along with community arts programmers and recreate artworks on display at area museums, Thursday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911303-12.

Social Art Swap, create your own artwork to exchange with 55+ friends, Sunday, Oct. 23, 1 – 3 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 911300-16. Details, 703-228-7369.

Sketching famous artworks at the National Gallery of Art, Sunday, Oct. 23. First of four-part series, designed for all artistic levels. Cost \$11, Arlington resident; \$13, non-resident. Registration # 902210-09.

Orchid Do's and Don'ts, presented by gardening expert Pete Jones, Monday, Oct. 24, 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911401-04.

Community arts programmer Jennifer Droblyen will discuss contributions of famous artists and methods used to make their work so special, Monday, Oct. 24, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911302-05.

55+ Travel group to visit "Beyond King Tut: The Immersive Experience" exhibit at the National Geographic Museum, Tuesday, Oct. 25. Cost \$24, Arlington resident; \$28 non-resident. Registration # 902210-06.

Making the most of Medicare's open enrollment, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Presented by a representative from Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP). Registration # 911503-01 or virtual, registration # 911503-02.

Local history discussion noting the boundary stones that mark D.C.'s 1791 borders, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911402-13.

Why Are Health Directives Necessary? Find out Wednesday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m., presented by Elder Law Attorney Ed Zetlin. Virtual. Registration # 911404-06.

Reading library books using the Libby app. Demonstration by Arlington Public Library associates, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1:30 p.m., virtual. Registration # 911403-07.

55+ Travel group to visit "Baseball: America's Home Run," exhibit at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Wednesday, Oct. 26. Cost \$11, Arlington resident; \$13 non-resident. Registration # 902210-07.

Smartphone Photography, learn how to maximize your use of the camera, Thursday, Oct. 27, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911403-08.

Library of Virginia's Genealogy Series to cover researching cemetery records, Thursday, Oct. 27, 2 p.m., virtual. Registration # 911400-40.

Movie at Aurora Hills 55+ Center, "Dream Horse" (2020) (PG), Friday, Oct. 28, 12:30 p.m. Registration # 911804-05.

History and techniques of three artists, presented by Community Arts Programmer Jim Halloran, Friday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911302-02.

55+ Travel group to visit Dutch Country's Farmers Market, Laurel, MD, Friday, Oct. 28. Cost \$8, Arlington resident; \$9, non-resident. Registration # 902210-08.

Aurora Hills Book Club members to review "The Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tan, Monday, Oct. 31, 11:30 a.m. Drop-in.

Pickleball for beginners, volunteer led instruction, Monday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Vision boards for the new year, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 6:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Presented by realtor Madeline Caporiccio. Registration # 911890-02.

Saving tips to avoid financial stress and debt during the holiday season, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Presented by a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Financial Education volunteer. Registration # 911890-07.

Ukulele class, learn basic strumming, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 4:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911304-05.

Langston-Brown 55+ Center book club members will discuss "A Woman is No Man" by Etaf Rum, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 1:30 p.m. Drop-in.

Start with a picture you want to make into a drawing or painting and recreate it with instructions by artist George Ziobro, Wednesday, Nov. 2, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911303-09.

The Rocking Chairs open rehearsal of music from the 50s through the 70s, Wednesday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m., Madison Community Center. Drop-in.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections and professional commentary of Wilhelm Richard

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 5

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# Community Engages in Controversial Housing Proposal

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Missing Middle debate continues to intensify in Arlington. Blue “Yes to diversity” signs collided with yellow “No Missing Middle zoning” signs on the sidewalk outside the County Board meeting Oct. 15. They filled the room during the public comment period before the meeting.

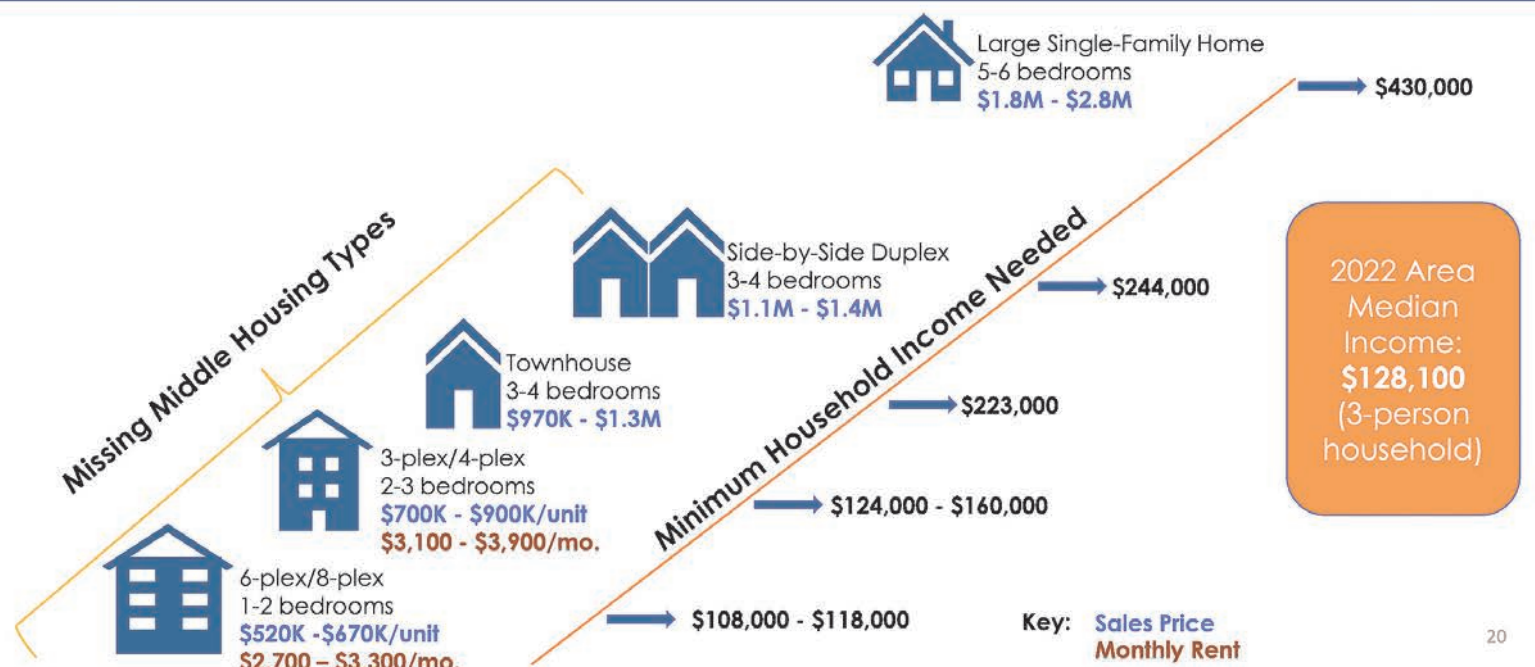
“Missing middle” is a commonly-used term that refers to the range of housing types that fit between single-family detached homes and mid-to-high-rise apartment buildings. The efforts to study missing middle housing options as a solution to Arlington’s housing shortage began in December 2019 with the county announcement of a three-phase study with public engagement to create recommendations for the County board to consider. The County staff report at that time indicated “neither an across-the-board zoning or elimination of single family zoning would be the right fit for Arlington.”

Then on April 28, 2022 Arlington County released its Missing Middle Housing Study Phase II that recommended the board approve a countywide change from single to multi-family zoning allowing a wider range of housing types (the missing middle) to be built on all residential areas that do not presently allow it. This would allow 20 duplexes, 4-plexes or 8-plexes to be built each year on single family lots. Currently 79 percent of Arlington’s residential land is zoned for single detached housing.

So what happened? Opponents cite broken promises. Katie Cristol, current chair of the Arlington County Board, explains this isn’t really a rezoning which would be, for instance changing from residential to commercial. Critics complain it doesn’t matter what you call it; the result is the same.

At the public comment period before the Arlington County board meeting on Saturday, Oct. 15 Cristol said that 700 Arlingtonians had participated to date in small conversations with the board about the missing middle proposal. The board has extended their original schedule for voting on the missing

## Expected Housing Costs for New Construction



Housing costs for new construction paired with minimum household income needed to afford each housing type (p 20)



Opponents of Missing Middle Housing Proposal hold signs before a County Board meeting: “No upzoning; no duplex here.”

middle proposal until early next year to allow for community input.

In one of these community conversations on Oct. 3 board member Takis Karantonis said, “We will move forward when we have heard as many voices as possible. There won’t be action this year. We won’t vote on something this doesn’t feel right.”

At Saturday’s board meeting, Brian Casabianca, a Hispanic Arlington resident, appeared in opposition to the missing middle proposal. “It is unlikely it will create housing for low-income residents. We need facts.” He said he believes the proposal would replace the current options with high end housing. Casabianca presented a

petition opposing the current proposal signed by 4,200 Arlington residents. “I urge you to drop the proposal and look for better solutions.”

Charles Day appeared on behalf of VOICE in favor of the missing middle proposal. “Couples like us are taking up apartments that low-income might need because

we don’t have a missing middle housing option available.” He points out his wife is an Arlingtonian whose parents were able to move here into single family housing. Day cites a friend who lives in a studio apartment and would like to adopt a foster child but doesn’t have the space or the option available to move to a larger apartment.

In the community conversation on Oct. 3 neighbors from around the county including Belle View Forest, Westover, Douglas Park, Bluemont and Rock Spring gathered for an online discussion. The question was raised about why there couldn’t be a vote by Arlington citizens on an issue this controversial.

The answer was that it reflects the type of government Arlington has based on state law. “The only referendum we vote on is bonds.” Karantonis said, “Zoning decisions can be very controversial. I don’t think it is wise to have a referendum. Zoning decisions are why you elect the board countywide. We have very big ears.”

There are a number of complicated issues surrounding the middle middle proposal which could

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Yard signs in support of Missing Middle housing.



Yard signs in support of Missing Middle housing.

# Community Engages in Controversial Housing Proposal

FROM PAGE 3

cause widespread change, both good and bad, depending on your point of view. There are a lot of questions still waiting to be answered.

Is there really a lack of middle housing available? Residents who have been searching for housing for a long time say “yes.”

On the other hand, Diane Duston, an Arlington resident since 1986 and a former realtor for 14 years says “no.” In an Arlingtonians for Upzoning Transparency press release on Sept. 12 she says, “In Arlington on Sept. 5 the Multiple Listing Service had 77 detached, semi-detached or town houses on the market with three or more bedrooms ranging in price from \$554,000-\$999,000.” She says that in any one day there are from 50 to more than 100 homes for sale in this price range. She explains that buyers always have demands that cannot be met. “Buyers who want to live in Arlington need to be realistic about what they can afford and choose a home that fits their pocketbook. It may not be as large or as new as they had

hoped.”

What would be the impact of the 20 new housing units a year that would be allowed under the current missing middle proposal? For some at the Oct. 3 conversation this doesn’t go far enough to make a measurable impact in what they perceive as the current housing shortage.

For others the build up of 20 units a year is a gradual increase that gives time to see how the infrastructure absorbs it. For others 20 units is too many when it threatens to disrupt their neighborhood without sufficient evidence of the benefits or the potential impact.

The argument is often made that people who work here can’t afford to live here including our public servants such as police officers, fire personnel and teachers. But the question is raised about whether they would be able to afford these new units which are projected to start at \$520,000-670,000 with a monthly mortgage of \$2,700-3,300. The cost of units is projected to rise to \$1.1

million for a duplex. One participant pointed out that public servants won’t be able to afford these new units but Federal employees will. Another one suggested the county should target the cost to 60 percent of the median income which is \$146,000. “That is affordable. This will be less affordable.”

Would it increase diversity? The county presentation accompanying the announcement of the proposal indicates “new housing types would be attainable for households with income of \$108,000-\$200,000 a year. They estimate the missing middle could be attainable for 39 percent of Black or African American households and 39 percent of Hispanic or Asian households. A participant in the conversation pointed out zoning hadn’t been changed since the 1930s when single family housing was put in place as a way to reinforce segregation. “It’s time we made a change.”

How would the proposal impact the tree

canopy, the schools, the parking along already overcrowded streets?

It also concerns citizens who complain the necessary studies on the impact of multi-unit options on the infrastructure haven’t been done. They explain that the missing middle concept is a current nationwide trend and that many other cities who have gone that direction have taken the time to produce extensive studies on the potential impact on their sewer and water systems, transportation and schools. “Arlington is rushing into it. Why not wait until we know the impact on our neighborhoods?”

There will always be questions. The issue is when there are enough good answers to move forward.

For more information or to sign up for a community conversation, visit the Arlington County Board Missing Middle website, <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Housing/Housing-Arlington/Tools/Missing-Middle>

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### NOW THRU NOV. 17

The Ballston Farmer’s Market returns to Welburn Square near the Ballston Metro stop. Visit the Mega Markets on the first Thursday of each month, 3 - 7 p.m., with live music, local vendors, and the return of the beer and wine garden. The market

offers conventional and certified organic fruits and vegetables, grass-fed meats and pastured eggs, organic milk, yogurt, ice cream, sweet and savory baked goods, Virginia-made wines, cold-pressed juices, handmade soaps and lotions, wood-fired pizza, hot-pressed sandwiches, and more.

### DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial

obstacles have on a pet owner’s ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program’s goal is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit [goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4t-Pw2](http://goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4t-Pw2).

Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South 19th St., is seeking to replenish its food pantry. Particularly needed are rice (large bags appreciated,

the pantry will rebag), dry beans, canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit [www.ourladyqueenof-peace.org](http://www.ourladyqueenof-peace.org) for more.

### ONGOING

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW’s

research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit [salary.aauw.org](http://salary.aauw.org). Create a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners in restoring their home’s natural habitat by providing information on sustainable gardening practices. These practices include using native plants, removing inva-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6





Jake Thompson, 3, points to the pumpkin he will take home from his neighbor's impromptu pumpkin patch, as Chisholm looks on.



The potentially prize-winning pumpkins on Gail Chisholm's front lawn.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

## It's the Great Pumpkin, Jakie Thompson

### Impromptu pumpkin patch delights neighbors.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

Gail Chisholm wasn't expecting pumpkins this year. She certainly wasn't expecting huge, Cinderella's coach type pumpkins to sprout all over her front lawn. But that is exactly what happened. She wasn't sure WHAT was growing, at first, but when the little globes started to look like something other than zucchini,

ni, she was amazed at the sight of her unintended crop of perfect picture book pumpkins. Chisholm had mulched her front garden with Arlington's free leaf mulch, which is supposed to be weed and seed-free after brewing at a high temperature for months.

That is the only explanation, other than elves or leprechauns, for the sudden appearance of a long vine of pumpkins so big she can't lift one. Pumpkins can grow

up to thousands of pounds, but these probably weigh in at about 60 pounds or so. Chisholm's neighbors have told her she could've won a prize with the beauties in her yard.

She has offered them to families with young children, and several have been by to take one, with only three remaining.

The children are delighted. They will need a little help getting them home though.

### "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

FROM PAGE 2

Wagner's "Siegfried", the third opera in Wagner's Ring Cycle, Wednesday, Nov. 2, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911300-07.

The Secrets of Fort Hunt during WWII, presented by National Park Service Ranger Scott Hill, Thursday, Nov. 3, 1:30 p.m. The Fort is near Mt. Vernon and was used for prisoner-of-war interrogations and more. Virtual. Registration # 911400-21.

Library of Virginia's Genealogy Series continues with how to research the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA),

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Thursday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m., virtual. Registration # 911400-41.

History discussion group covers cultural, economics, artistic and political issues, Thursday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m., virtual. Presented by Dwight Rodgers from Encore Learning. Registration # 911402-18.

Rubber Stampers workshop open to newcomers Thursday, Nov. 3, Madison Community Center. Drop-in.

Smart Home, tech guru Nick Englund will present an overview of how to use automation devices work such as Amazon's Alexa, Thursday, Nov.

3, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911403-09.

Introduction to line dancing, Friday, Nov. 4, 10:15 a.m. and 11:05 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Learn basic steps. Drop-in.

Arlington Spellbinders, volunteer storytellers, to meet, Friday, Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Newcomers welcome. Drop-in.

Just Play'n Country, traditional mountain music with roots in Irish, folk and blues, Friday, Nov. 4, 1 p.m. Drop-in.

## Starry Nights

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PHOTO BY SUE GRACE

The entry of the MOCA features writing backwards so that it is reflected on the floor as one enters.

# Arlington Art Center Gets a Name Change

**“Being a Hidden Gem is not a compliment.”**

BY SUE GRACE  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ike much of the conversation swirling around Arlington these days, Arlington Art Center’s new identity is all about change and growth. Beginning in October 2022, Arlington Art Center, “steps into its new identity,” said Katie Cristol, County Board Chair. Arlington Art Center will change its name to the “Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington” (MOCA Arlington). “Arlington is becoming more and more urban” says MOCA Arlington’s director, Catherine Anchin, “and changing our name to include ‘museum’ is a reflection of that.”

A lot of conversation in Arlington these days touches on housing density, the new Amazon headquarters, rising property taxes, traffic and construction congestion – more and more of the daily concerns of city life. With that urban character comes the benefits of public transportation, good schools, top hospitals, restaurants, fantastic libraries and quality cultural attractions. Census

data from 2020 “make a slice of Ballston the highest-density residential neighborhood in Greater Washington,” according to Greater Greater Washington ([www.ggwashington.org](http://www.ggwashington.org)), a website that reports on census data and urban trends. According to the 2020 Census Report, there are areas of Arlington where the per capita density is approaching that of certain areas in the U.S.’s biggest cities and outstrips D.C. “Most large cities have museums, and now Arlington has its own,” says Anchin, “With all the change and growth and diversity that Arlington is enjoying, we want Arlington to be proud to have a museum of its own and we are one of the highly acclaimed art institutions in the region.”

More and more people from all over the world are making Arlington their home,” Anchin points out, “by changing our name to museum, people will be clear that this is not just a place with art studios and classes. There will be no confusion: this is a place they can come to see art and the admission will always be free.” MOCA has been able to help launch many emerging and midcareer artists as well as attract talented artists from around the world for its exhibits. “By changing our name to museum, people will have a sense of the quality of the work that is on

exhibit here too,” Anchin adds.

So what has remained the same with this new identity for MOCA Arlington? It is still the treasured local venue with a suite of resident artist studio spaces, events, and art classes for adults and kids. And with its nine galleries on three levels, MOCA Arlington is able to average 12 exhibits a year.

The museum is housed in an historic school building dating back to 1910, so sig-

nage is restricted at the front of the building. As Catherine quips, “being called a hidden gem is not a compliment!” To get a better acquaintance with the space, an excellent way to enjoy the current exhibit is to attend the museum’s free curator led tour every Friday at noon.

For more information on MOCA Arlington’s hours, exhibits, events and classes, visit their website <https://mocaarlington.org/>



PHOTO BY SUE GRACE

The entry of the MOCA features writing backwards so that it is reflected on the floor as one enters.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

sive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit [audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1/](http://audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1/) for more.

Naloxone (Narcan) can save the

life of someone who is overdosing, if given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need is protected from liability by the Good Samaritan Law. Naloxone (Narcan) is available without a prescription for a fee at all pharmacies. Obtain it for free by attending a REVIVE!

training. Contact Emily Siqveland at 703-228-0913 or [esiqveland@arlingtonva.us](mailto:esiqveland@arlingtonva.us) or visit [health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/](http://health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/) for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit [www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/](http://www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/)

naloxone for details. Monthly Memory Café. 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6, Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, virtually. Registration is free and highly recommended to

reserve spots, which are open on a first come first served basis. To reserve a spot, please call 571-210-5551 or email [bdesai@seniorhelpers.com](mailto:bdesai@seniorhelpers.com). Visit [www.dementiacareconnect.com](http://www.dementiacareconnect.com)

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# HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

## NIGHTLY IN OCTOBER

Alexandria Colonial Tours' Ghost & Graveyard Tour. Fridays and Saturdays in October from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m. Admission: \$15 for adults; \$10 for children; free for children under 6 years old. Tours meet at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street, Alexandria. Follow a colonial-costumed guide by lantern light for an engaging history tour on Alexandria's original Ghost & Graveyard Tour. During this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends, folklore, unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge.

## OCTOBER THRU DECEMBER

Nightly Spirits. Thursdays through Sundays from 7:30 to 10 p.m.; 8:30 to 11 p.m. Admission: 21 and over at \$25 plus tax. Tours meet at The Alexandrian, 480 King Street, Alexandria. Sip a local beverage and listen to the secret and spooky lore of Alexandria's haunted past. Hear tales of the ghosts that wander the streets of Alexandria and haunt local establishments. These tours are for individuals ages 21 and over. Haunted private tours are also available for all ages.

## NOW THRU NOV. 5

The Little Theatre of Alexandria Presents "Design for Murder." Wednesdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. Admission: \$21 to 24 per person. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Murder, romance and comedy are the three best ingredients for a fun, suspense-filled evening of theatre. This fast-moving, highly tense whodunit treats the audience to a remote mansion, a sleazy blackmailer, a trench coat-clad detective and even a dark and stormy night. A once-wealthy mother and son struggle to keep up appearances at the old mansion, but when a maid is murdered, everyone becomes a suspect.

## OCT. 21, 30

Poison Specialty Tour at the Apothecary Museum. October 21 from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.; October 16 and 30, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Admission: \$15 per person, \$12 for OHA members. At Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Explore the sinister side of medicine on the Apothecary Museum's Poison Tour. This tour explores several different types of poisons, their historic uses at the Apothecary and what we know today. The event is recommended for ages 18 and up.

## OCTOBER 21 AND 28

Death Comes to Carlyle House. 6 to 8 p.m. Admission: \$12 per person. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N Fairfax St., Alexandria. Carlyle House presents an exhibit on mourning practices in the 18th-century through the experiences of those who occupied the Carlyle household, mourning the death of Alexandria's co-founder, John Carlyle, in September 1780. Reservations are required as space is limited.

## OCT. 21, 22, 28, 29

Grief and Ghosts Tour at Lee-Fendall House Museum. 7 to 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per person. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Explore Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of tragic deaths and mysterious occurrences at the Lee-Fendall House. Customs such as draping the mirrors after a death, funeral practices, hair jewelry, mourning clothing and séances will be explored. These tours offer a rare opportunity to see the house after dark. Tours will be offered every half hour from 7 to 9 p.m.

## OCT. 22

Fall Frolic at Lee-Fendall House Museum. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$15 per children ages 2-12, Accompanying adults \$5 each, Infants under 2 are free. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Enjoy some fall-themed family fun in the garden during Lee-Fendall House's Fall

Frolic event. Activities catered to children ages 3-12 include a "ghost" hunt, crafts, a costume parade and more. Timed tickets must be purchased in advance. Sessions start on the hour between 10 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and are limited to 20 children each. Tickets are \$15 per participating child ages 2-12. Accompanying adults are \$5 each and infants under the age of 2 are free.

## OCT. 27

Sleepy Howlow at Barkhaus. 7:30 to 10 p.m. Admission: \$40 for members, \$55 for the public. At Barkhaus, 529 E. Howell Ave., Alexandria. Barkhaus, the D.C. Metro area's first dog bar, invites you for an enchanting evening in the woods of Sleepy Howlow. This private haunted-themed event includes admission for one per person, beer, wine, candy, snacks and puppuccinos. Costumes are required. Must be 21 and over.

## OCT. 29

Raven's Night at the Birchmere. 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$35 per person. The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. In its 10th year, Raven's Night creeps, slithers, and slinks its way back to The Birchmere. Mark your calendars and dress up to spend Halloween weekend with The Birchmere for a unique event featuring fusion belly dance, live music, a costume contest and a pre-show carnival. This year's theme, "Underworld," brings the most iconic demons, witches and wizards to the stage—a magical night and a feast fit for all fandoms.

## OCT. 29

Old Town Family Trick or Treat. 12 to 4 p.m. Various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in the various shops and restaurants in Old Town. Bring your own "boo bag." Maps will be provided.

## OCT. 29

Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon. 2 to 6 p.m. Admission: General public: \$25 per adult; \$15 per youth; Members: \$17 per adult; \$9 per youth. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Mount Vernon. Celebrate Halloween with 18th-century entertainment and activities. Visit Mount Vernon in costume, watch Halloween-themed Punch & Judy shows, see 18th-century chocolate-making demonstrations and more. Trick-or-treating at Mount Vernon takes place rain or shine.

## OCT. 29

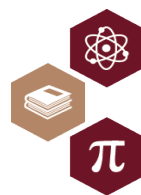
Old Town Family Trick or Treat. 12 to 4 p.m. Various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in the various shops and restaurants in Old Town. Bring your own "boo bag." Maps will be provided.

## OCT. 29

Nightmare at Barkhaus. 5 to 8 p.m. At Barkhaus, 529 E. Howell Ave., Alexandria. Get ready for the spookiest night of your life as Barkhaus celebrates All Hallows' Eve with the living and the dead. It's your pup's favorite season, and Barkhaus dares all four-legged friends and their parents to join the 3rd annual Halloween party. The event will include a costume contest and spooky food and drink specials. Costumed are highly recommended for both humans and pups.

## OCT. 29

2nd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede. 2 to 6 p.m. Admission: \$10 per person. At Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. The 2nd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede features all-day festive cocktails, signature party favors, costume contests, photo ops, giveaways and more. Guests can start the crawl at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna's, Tequila and Taco or Lost Boy Cider. Costumes are recommended. There will be costume prizes and a Dog Costume Contest.



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## Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Feasibility Study Arlington County

### Virtual Public Information Meeting

**Monday, November 14, 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 meeting will also include an overview of multimodal traffic analyses, potential bus stop relocations and status of grant funding.

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 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 **December 5, 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)

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are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

## NEWS

# Arlington Celebrates Its Heritage

**G**ulf Branch Fall Festival took a walk back into local history on Saturday, Oct. 15 at Gulf Branch Nature Center and Park in Arlington. Gulf Branch was established in 1966 and the first facility in Arlington dedicated to the study and conservation of nature.

Andrew Acosta music set the atmosphere with old time tunes as families wandered between the butter making table, the apple cider mashing machine, the cauldron bubbling with hot wax for candle making, and the table piled high with corn husks for making dolls.



Two brothers find it takes concentration to write their names with a quill pen at the Gulf Branch Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 15.



Mashing the large slice of apple just added to the cider press. Two young boys stop counting at 25 times around in a circle until their cider is finished and ready to drink.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

Learning the six steps to finger knitting that can produce a bracelet, a belt or a pair of suspenders.



Churning a pint of heavy whipping cream into butter. "It takes less than 5 minutes. Then you can add salt or honey or herbs to make it what you want."



Animal pelts are on display with handmade soap, several axes, and different coinage at a simulated trading post inside Walker Log Cabin.





# Arlington Celebrates Its Heritage



Andrew Acosta music takes you back, way back, on Saturday afternoon at the heritage festivities.



Making a doll out of cornhusks, a popular pastime for girls.

Mid-afternoon a log collapsed into the 4-room historic Robert Walker Log Cabin fireplace, and the old fireplace couldn't accommodate the amount of smoke. A small fire temporarily cleared out the house.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
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## CALENDAR

### NOW THRU NOV. 6

"Dracula." At Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. Blood-sucking temptresses, creeping mists, and a chill up your spine . . . Bram Stoker's classic tale rises again in Synetic's bold and bloody adaptation of the world's most iconic horror story. This sensuous and terrifying thriller arrives just in time for Halloween. Check [www.synetictheater.org](http://www.synetictheater.org) for dates and showtimes.

### OCT. 14 TO DEC. 3

Cast/Recast. At Mason Exhibitions Arlington, 3601 Fairfax Drive, Arlington. George Mason University's College and Visual and Performing Arts and Mason Exhibitions is honored to present Cast/Recast, a group exhibition of photography, video, sculpture, painting, site-specific installation, and live performative work for select programs. The exhibit is curated by Alissa Maru in collaboration with Hannah Barco and Sue Wrbican. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### OCT. 17-24

Arlington Restaurant Week. At various restaurants in Arlington. During this week, diners are able to enjoy food at various restaurants throughout Arlington at special prices. Arlington Restaurant Week highlights the region's hospitality industry and encourages the community to explore new dining options close to their homes and businesses. Currently, 31 restaurants are signed up to participate in the event, and new restaurants are being added daily. Visit: <https://www.arlingtonchamber.org/arlington-restaurant-week.html>.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Author Event with George Saunders. 7 p.m. At Arlington Public Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. For the last twenty years, George Saunders has been teaching a class on the Russian short story to his MFA students at Syracuse University. In "A Swim in a Pond in the Rain," he shares a version of that class with us, offering some of what he and his students have discovered together over the years. Paired with iconic short stories by Chekhov, Turgenev, Tolstoy, and Gogol, the seven essays in this book are intended for anyone interested in how fiction works and why it's more relevant than ever in these turbulent times.

### FRIDAY/OCT. 21

Native Grasses, Sedges and Rushes for the Home Landscape. 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Online. Native grasses, sedges and rushes can add structure and beauty to your garden all year long while also playing an important role in supporting our local wildlife. Join Extension Master Gardener Elaine Mills to explore how to use these plants in your home landscape and how to maintain them. Elaine researches and writes the resources for the Tried and True Native Plant Selections for the Mid-Atlantic at <https://mgmv.org/plants/>. Free. RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Live In Arlington Information Fair. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Walter Reed

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Recreation Center, 3009 16th Street S., Arlington. Free workshops, access to industry experts. Celebrating Affordable Housing Month. Visit [www.laif.mycaf.org](http://www.laif.mycaf.org).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 23

Japanese Tea Ceremony. 2-5 p.m. At First Presbyterian Church of Arlington, 601 N Vermont Street, Arlington. With three seatings at 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Guests will be able to participate in the tea ceremony as a guest, eat a Japanese sweet and enjoy a real bowl of ceremonial matcha. Children under 10 must be accompanied by a parent and every person (adult and child) must be signed up. If you prefer to observe and not drink tea, register for a standing ticket. Registration is available at [Sjastudy.org](https://Sjastudy.org).

## OCT. 24-26

Business Book Summit. Business Book Summit will be held October 24-26, 2022 as a virtual conference aimed at teaching business owner authors how to transform their published business books from a dust magnet to a client magnet. Business Book Summit is ideal for business owners who have written a business book, or those aspiring to write one. It features 16+ business strategy experts leading daily presentations, workshops and trainings offering proven strategies to business owner authors. Visit <https://businessbooksummit.co>.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 25

Simpson Park Demonstration Garden. 10 – 11 am, Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, 420 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria. Rake in the good vibes, leave the leaves! Extension Master Gardeners will share ideas to create habitats for pollinators and other insects for a protective overwintering environment. Be a pollinator hero! #Leave the Leaves

## FRIDAY/OCT. 28

Browsers of the Garden Buffet: Strategies for Dealing with Deer. 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Online. Do you feel like deer consider your landscape to be an all-you-can-eat buffet? These beautiful but ravenous creatures are

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

tions.com/memory-cafe or [www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va](http://www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va) for more.

Arlington County, in partnership with the Human Rights Commission's Equality Task Force, has launched a web page with resources for the LGBTQ community. The new webpage compiles LGBTQ resources on a variety of topics, including homelessness and housing, domestic violence and sexual assault, and health. There are also topics specifically for teens and youth — such as scholarship opportunities and school clubs — as well as ones targeted at seniors and older adults, such as SAGE. Visit [topics.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources](https://topics.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources).

Aging Matters. 2-3 p.m. Tuesdays on WERA 96.7 LP FM on Arlington's community radio station. Each week host Cheryl Beversdorf interviews individuals with expertise about a broad array of aging related topics affecting the lives of older adults and their loved ones. Visit [www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera](https://www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera) to listen to programs. MICHAEL W. SMITH Returns to The Birchmere, May 19, 2022, 7:30pm, Alexandria, VA.

Volunteer Bike Repair Night. First Tuesday of the month, 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Volunteers gather to refurbish bikes, sort parts or help with essential tasks. No experience necessary.

Public Financial Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline. Arlington County launched a new public hotline that offers a confidential and secure way to report suspected incidents of financial fraud, waste and abuse. Anyone can submit a complaint to the hotline at 1-866-565-9206 or at [arlingtonva.ethicaladvocate.com](http://arlingtonva.ethicaladvocate.com). The hotline website is available in English and Spanish. Phone calls can be taken in many languages.

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a problem in many of our gardens. Join Extension Master Gardener Kathie Clements to learn strategies for coping with deer including understanding deer behavior; use of fencing and other barriers, deer repellent substances, and scare devices. Kathie will share advice for landscaping with smart plant choices and recommend “deer-resistant” plants. Free. RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 29

The Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle. Hosted by Christian Hunt. October's headliner is the hilarious Chelsea Shorte.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Bee Day at Ball-Sellers House. At 5620 3rd Street S, in Glencarlyn, Arlington. The Ball-Sellers House is celebrating its history of beekeeping at the oldest house in Arlington. There will be a dedication of a life-size replica of a colonial era bee skep built by an Arlington Eagle Scout. Keynote Speaker: Virginia Johnson, author of “Virginia Honey: A Sweet History” on the history of beekeeping in Virginia. Northern Virginia Beekeepers Association will offer tips on beekeeping today. Honey-based sweet treats served and free tours of the c.1750 farmhouse. (For more details: go to <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>)

## OCT. 31 TO NOV. 25

Offbeat: Mixed Media Art. At Gallery Underground, in Crystal City Shops, 2120-A Crystal Plaza Arcade, Arlington. The Focus Gallery presents Offbeat: Mixed Media Art from artists Steena Fullmer and Anna Nazaretz Radjou during the month of November. The works from Ms Fullmer and Ms Radjou deploy glass, found objects, stenciling, fabric, embroidery, acrylic, and printmaking in creating patterns, symbols, and unleashed statements. For more information about the gallery: <https://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org/gallery-underground>

Created by the Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE) in partnership with the Arlington Public Library, the nation's First Energy Lending Library made its debut on Earth Day. Meant to resolve energy issues in the Arlington community, efficiency tools such thermal imaging cameras, energy meters and books play a vital role in achieving a “greener” home. Open Sun-Sat 10 a.m.-9 p.m. 1015 N. Quincy St. Visit [library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library](http://library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library) or call 703-228-5990.

Arlington Rotary Club Lunches. Thursdays, 12 - 1:30 p.m. now on Zoom. Organization brings together political and business leaders for humanitarian services. Listen to guest speakers on various topics of interest. Visit <https://arlingtonrotaryclub.org/>

Job Seeking Help. 5-9 p.m. at Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Receive job-related help from the staff and volunteers with applications. Free, but requires registration. Visit [www.arlingtonva.libcal.com](http://www.arlingtonva.libcal.com).

Arlington PFLAG Community Group. 7:30-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, PFLAG promotes the equality and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and their families. Meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Boulevard. Contact [arl.pflag@gmail.com](mailto:arl.pflag@gmail.com) for more or go to [www.pflagdc.org](http://www.pflagdc.org)

Helmetsmen Toastmasters meet Thursdays, 7:30-8:45 a.m. at Pentagon Library and Conference Center. Toastmasters is an international organization that helps everyone speak, think, lead and listen better. Most clubs are meeting online at this time. Contact Carl Sabath [carl.e.sabath.civ@mail.mil](mailto:carl.e.sabath.civ@mail.mil) or 703-695-2804 or Elizabeth Femrite [elizabeth.m.femrite.civ@mail.mil](mailto:elizabeth.m.femrite.civ@mail.mil) or 571-256-8674.

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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.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

May she rest in peace. Our 10-year-old, white domestic short haired cat was euthanized on Thurs., Sept 29. A month or so prior, after not eating for a few days, we took her to the emergency veterinarian near our home. (As you may or may not know, it's nearly impossible to get a time-sensitive appointment with a veterinarian. They're all either too busy or short-staffed and moreover, many are not even taking new clients. And this often applies to the emergency veterinarians as well.) And so, it was for Twinkle. Fortunately, we were existing clients. Otherwise, we would have been turned away, as the sign posted on their day informed, referring us to other emergency veterinary practices, all of which were hours away and who were totally unfamiliar to us and with our animals. Twinkle was admitted that first day and the evaluating process began. A few days and a few thousand dollars later, we received the very distressing news: cancer. Twinkle had a tumor near her heart. Her prognosis was not very encouraging.

Nevertheless, we took her home and for the next week or so and followed the pill regimen as directed. For a few days, there was marginal improvement, but soon thereafter, Twinkle reverted to her non-eating ways, even though she was on an appetite stimulant and was receiving steroids as well to treat her tumor. (Steroids have a side effect of increasing appetite.) If this combination didn't cause Twinkle to improve/eat, we were advised that Twinkle's survival was very much in doubt and perhaps we might be considering her quality of life at that point. We couldn't believe what we were hearing. It all happened so fast, and so unexpectedly. The three of us returned home and then began to organize and plan for Twinkle's next week – or less.

After another few days of Twinkle's continued decline at home despite following doctor's orders – and then another interim visit to the emergency vet. for a B-12 shot (to try again to boost her responses which ended up not helping), we decided that this situation/deterioration wasn't fair to Twinkle and so we made the difficult decision to end her suffering. I spent the last few hours of her life lying in bed with her reassuring and comforting her as best I could. Eventually, Dina came upstairs and suggested that it was probably time to go; that the waiting was too difficult, and that somehow, we needed to move forward, for all our benefits, especially Twinkle's.

We called ahead to the emergency veterinarian to let them know our decision and that we were on our way and that we lived five minutes away. Sure enough, they were ready for our arrival and quickly escorted all of us into an examining room. The vet. was kind and caring and couldn't have been nicer as she explained the process to us. Dina and I both held Twinkle as the vet injected the two medicines that would gently put her to sleep and ultimately end her life. When it was over, the vet. asked if we'd like some time alone with Twinkle, which of course we said we would. After we got our bearings and the vet. returned, she took Twinkle away to “prepare” her. At that point, we went back out to the waiting room, sat down, and waited to take Twinkle home.

Within 15 minutes or so, the vet. came out carrying a cardboard box – with Twinkle inside. It had her name on it and some pretty artwork as well. We took her home and kept her in the house that first night. We didn't want to leave her alone outside or in the car. We wanted her to spend her last night in the house with us. During that night, we decided when and where to bury her.

Twinkle was buried the next day on our property, “Beliacres” next to her two older siblings, Biscuit and “Chino” who preceded her in death. They're all buried close to the house so we can visit them often, which we do. Their graves are marked with stones. I miss Twinkle terribly. She had bonded with me alone as white cats do, according to an article Dina had read; and soon we were inseparable; during the day in my home office and at night, in bed. She was my cat, just as “Chino” (her brother) had been.

The last three weeks have been difficult for me. I feel cheated by her premature death. The loss is palpable. Something (Twinkle) is most definitely missing from my life.

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



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