

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION
FLOURISHING AFTER 55, PAGE 5 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

Little monsters on
Little Falls Road
in Arlington.

The Arlington Connection



Halloween Decor

PAGE 3

Diwali, Bringing Out the Best

PAGE 4



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ARLINGTON HALLOWEEN 2022

Ghouls, ghosts, And goblins – oh my!

The days are growing shorter, the temperatures are dropping, and the leaf trucks are gearing up to start their collection – another spooky season is here in Arlington.

With Halloween creeping around the corner, here are some ways to make the most of your trick-or-treating, frightening fun, and safe spookiness in Arlington.

Trick-or-Treating

While Arlington doesn't have set hours for trick-or-treating, you should expect the candy crusade to coincide with sunset, which is just after 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022.

As Arlington's younger population takes to the streets, keep in mind these trick-or-treating tips from Arlington County Police Department:

- ❖ See and be seen! Select bright costumes, add reflective tape and/or carry flashlights and glow sticks.

- ❖ Plan your trick-or-treat route in advance. Stick to familiar neighborhoods and well-lit streets.

- ❖ Never send children out alone. Younger children should be with a trusted adult. Ensure older children take friends and stay together.

- ❖ Walk on sidewalks and cross at corners, using traffic signals and/or crosswalks.

- ❖ Motorists are encouraged to slow down, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn on your headlights earlier in the evening to spot children from greater distances.

tances.

Events:

- ❖ Howl-O-Ween: The Rosslyn BID and the Rosslyn Dog Owners Group (R-DOGS) are teaming up for a Halloween-themed evening of dog-friendly activities, treats, and fun at the Gateway Park Interim Dog Park on Friday, Oct. 28, from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

- ❖ Dracula at Syntetic Theater: Bram Stoker's classic tale rises again in Syntetic's bold and bloody adaptation of the world's most iconic horror story. Event page; Oct. 13-Nov. 6

- ❖ Día de los Muertos: Celebrate Día De Los Muertos at an evening picnic at one of Arlington's venerable cultural institutions recently renamed Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (formerly Arlington Arts Center). Nov. 1, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

- ❖ Monstergrams: Get Instagram-spooky this Halloween season (if you dare)! Check out the Monstergrams mural at Lubber Run Park featuring your favorite spine-chilling monsters made especially for you and your social media friends by the Parks and Recreation's Community Arts team. Take a photo and post on Instagram with #ArlMonstergrams.

- ❖ Virginia Ghosts Campfire: The whole family is invited to the Fort C.F. Smith Park fire ring for old-fashioned fun and of course, S'mores. Thursday, Oct. 27, and

SEE GHOULS, GHOSTS, PAGE 3

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SoberRide for Halloween

A local nonprofit organization will make free safe rides available to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this Halloween weekend.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) the, 2022 Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation from 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29 through 4 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 30 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's

2022 Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29 on www.SoberRide.com.

"Halloween is of particular concern for younger drivers as 2020 NHTSA data shows that 68-percent of drunk driving deaths on U.S. roadways during the fall holiday involve drivers ages 21 to 34."

During the 2021 Halloween period, 700 (777) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide program rather than possibly driving home impaired.

The charity also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the winter holidays. Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 82,735 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

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Halloween Around Arlington



North George Mason Drive.



Little Falls Road.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION



North Woodstock Street. This 20-foot high skeleton was “the” item at Home Depot this year according to an employee. “They are impossible to get now and some people bought up a bunch of them at the beginning of the season and are selling them for hundreds of dollars.”



40th Street.

Ghouls, ghosts, and goblins – oh my!

FROM PAGE 2

Friday, Oct. 28., 5 p.m.-6 p.m.;
Registration required.

❖ Nature Spooktacular: Join a ‘Spooktacular’ evening of fun learning about nighttime animals and cultural festivities surrounding nature this time of the year. Saturday, Oct. 29 at 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. and 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

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A Spooky—and Safe—Halloween

Over the past two-plus years, we’ve learned new ways to enjoy pandemic holidays – from the CDC, here are some more tips for staying COVID-safe this Halloween:

Stay home if you’re sick. Skip the Halloween party if you aren’t feeling well.

Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19

Take precautions in crowded or indoor events as informed by your county’s COVID-19 Community Level, like wearing a high-quality mask (and Halloween masks don’t count).

Consider making the mask part of the costume—like a doctor, nurse, ninja, or cowboy.

If you’re hosting celebrations, review options for improving ventilation in your home. This can help you reduce virus particles in your home and keep COVID-19 from spreading.

Keep your hands clean. If you’re out trick-or-treating, bring hand sanitizer. If you’re giving out candy, wash your hands frequently.

And of course, the best way to protect yourself and others from severe illness from COVID-19 on Halloween (and every day) is to stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccinations.

Diwali, Festival of Lights

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Diwali is the Indian “Festival of Lights” celebrated by about one billion Hindus worldwide. Increasingly, the holiday is becoming integrated into the American calendar. New York City has added it to holidays, and the federal government is considering it. And why not? It’s all about the triumph of good versus evil, light over dark, and family. It’s fun. Games are played, fireworks are set off, gifts are exchanged. People who have spent time in India can’t get it out of their systems, such is the magic of Diwali. When my third grader was asked what special celebration takes place in late Autumn, all the other kids said “Thanksgiving” and she replied, “Diwali.”

The Indian grocery store at 4815 Langston Boulevard was packed with South Asians last week preparing for the festival, which has some fairly standard requirements: mithi (sweets) like Soan Papdi and Motichoor Ladoo, Barfi, and Jalebi. Oil lamps or candles lit in the home and outside, decorations like rangoli (stenciled chalk designs), and the most important: family.

For some expatriate Indians, though, family is far away. This was the case for Babar, originally from Nepal, who is the cheery face behind the counter at India A1 Grocery on Langston Boulevard. Asked what he was doing for Diwali this year, he answered sadly



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

Oil lamps or candles lit in the home and outside, and decorations like rangoli (stenciled chalk designs). Plus sweets and family.

that he’d be working in the store because he doesn’t have family here and others do.

Two women from South India originally and Washington, D.C.

now, said they would have a low-key Diwali — just light a lamp and eat well, spend time with friends and family. And why come all the way to Arlington for Indian grocer-



Babar, originally from Nepal, is the cheery face behind the counter at India A1 Grocery on Langston Boulevard.

ies? “This is the best,” they said. And they were so pleased to be asked about Diwali they followed me into the grocery store and presented me with a box of lamps and

sweets. Why? “Because you were interested in Diwali,” they said, smiling.

Diwali is like that: it brings out the best in all of us.

“FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

Office of 55+ Programs

Contact: Judy Massabny, 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 or call 703-228-4747.

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 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), 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 Stamps 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, SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 5

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NEW - ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

If you missed the October 17 voter registration for the November 8 election, you could still register and vote. Starting with the November 8, 2022, General Election, Virginia residents will be permitted to register and vote a Provisional Ballot at their polling location on Election Day, and at in-person voting sites during the Early Voting Period and after the registration deadline. The Provisional Ballot will be counted as a regular ballot after the newly registered voter's local registrar is able to review available lists to confirm the voter's eligibility to register. Again, this must be done only at the voting sites during the early voting period or at your designated polling place on Election Day, November 8, 2022. To find your polling place go to the League of Women Voters' nonpartisan voting information site. <https://vote411.org>.

Early Voting Sites:

Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 311
Nov 5 - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

Saturday, October 29 and Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, October 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Extended Weekday Hours on: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, October 25-27; November 1-3, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Madison Community Center, 3829 Stafford Street

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

FROM PAGE 4

to meet, Friday, Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. New-comers 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.

Morning get-together with other 55+ friends, BYOC (Bring Your Own Coffee), Monday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, drop-in. Also Wednesday, Nov. 9, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Informal current events discussion about local and world news, Monday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Volunteer led. Registration # 911402-24.

Morning art activity with Community Arts Programmer Jen Droblyen, Monday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m., virtual. Be prepared to paint and draw using materials found around the house. Registration # 911303-18.

55+ Travel group to visit the "Cheers, Virginia!" exhibit at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond, Monday, Nov. 7. Cost \$37, Arlington resident, \$43, non-resident. Registration # 902211-02.

Singles night to celebrate National Singles Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Lots of music and games in a casual environment. Registration # 911890-03.

Saturday, October 29 and Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, October 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, October 25-27; November 1-3, 2 p.m.-7 p.m.
Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 - 16th Street South
Saturday, October 29 and Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, October 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, October 25-27; November 1-3, 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

Indoor Air Quality, learn about mold, pollutants, and healthier cleaning products, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by a Virginia Cooperative Extension Natural Resource volunteer. Registration # 911401-03.

How to register for 55+ programs, Wednesday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by a 55+ Center Director, Jennifer Weber. Registration # 911400-01.

History roundtable discussion about the impact of the 1929 world depression, Wednesday, Nov. 9, 11:15 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911400-17.

Study of words, discuss the history of the English language, phrases, expressions, Wednesday, Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 911402-33 or virtual, registration # 911402-34.

Hearts Club, a fun, less complicated card game to play with 55+ friends, Wednesday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Beginners quilling, use strips of paper, rolled and glued together to create decorative designs, Thursday, Nov. 10, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Supplies provided. Cost \$18. Registration # 911310-06.

Ballroom bootcamp for beginners, learn common steps for a different dance each week, Thursdays, 2:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop-in.

The Arlington Connection

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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 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.

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 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 Shorter.

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR



The 47th Annual Marine Corps Marathon takes place Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022 in Arlington.

47th annual Marine Corps Marathon (MCM).

The MCM 50K, and the MCM 10K will take place on Sunday, October 30, 2022. The 50k will begin at 7:15 a.m., followed by the wheelchair/hand cycle division at 7:50 a.m., and the Marathon at 7:55 a.m., all on Route 110 in Arlington County, Virginia. The Arlington County Police Department, Virginia State Police, United States Park Police, and Pentagon Force Protection Agency will close numerous roadways in Arlington in support of these events. Additionally, the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and United States Park Police will close roadways in Washington, D.C., in support of race operations.

FROM PAGE 6

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>

FRIDAY/NOV. 4

Lesson Zero. 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. At 2500 Columbia Pike, Arlington. The Celtic House presents the music of Oasis recording artist Lesson Zero for a free show. For additional information see: www.youtube.com/lessonzero or www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero.

SATURDAY/NOV. 5

Woman's Club of Arlington Fall Craft Fair. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 700 S. Buchanan Street, Arlington. There will be over 20 vendors with a wide variety of gifts to buy and choose. Good time to do your Christmas shopping. Lunch, beverages, and bake sale items will also be available to purchase. Proceeds go to help pay for a scholarship to a graduating Wakefield H.S. woman to attend a Virginia college. Scholarship is \$2,500 for 4 years. For more information contact Womansclubarlington@gmail.com or call 703-553-5800.

SATURDAY/NOV. 5

National Chamber Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. At Gunston Arts Center, Theater One, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington. The National Chamber Ensemble (NEC) opens their 16th season with Jewish Musical Treasures, celebrating the extraordinary music of Jewish culture. The program coincides with the 84th anniversary of Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, when German Nazis destroyed Jewish homes, businesses, synagogues, and properties. While the program marks this

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

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/s2FuFdaYWDZm4tPw2. Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South 19th St., is seeking

tragic November date in history, it will also celebrate the brilliant contributions of Jewish music and composers that live on to this day and continue to enrich our lives. Tickets: <https://www.nationalchamberensemble.org/tickets.htm>

POLICE HOST FILL

THE CRUISER TOY DRIVE

Help spread joy this holiday season by donating new, unwrapped toys during the Arlington County Police Department's eighth annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive. Your generosity helps ensure the holidays are bright for some of our most vulnerable community members – children in need.

Donation Locations

Officers will collect new, unwrapped toys for children ages newborn to 17 at the following locations:

Friday, November 4, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

830 23rd Street S.

Wednesday, November 9 at Arlington Assembly of God, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

4501 N. Pershing Drive

Tuesday, November 15 at Walter Reed Community Center, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

2909 16th Street S.

Wednesday, November 23 at Westover Baptist Church, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

1125 Patrick Henry Drive

Sunday, December 4 at Ballston-Virginia Square, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

10th Street N. at N. Pollard Street

Wednesday, December 7 at Ballston BID Day, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

4035 Fairfax Drive

Those wishing to donate toys, but unable to attend the Fill the Cruiser events can drop off donations at Police Headquarters, located at 1425 N. Courthouse Road, through Friday, December 9 at the 2nd Floor Administrative Support Unit Front Counter from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

ing 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.ourladyqueenofpeace.org for more.

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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 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.

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Burton Lourie. A Golden Moment



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And a complete surprise, too, from my wife, Dina, who got up at 6 am on a Saturday morning no less to initiate the ruse. She said she was getting up so early to help a neighbor (Kathy) on a pickup she was making for her business four hours away in Lexington, Virginia. This neighbor is in the buying and selling business – from home, and as a former truckdriver, driving distances to conduct her business was hardly off putting, so the storyline seemed plausible – to me. And I knew nothing more than that as I was led down the garden path, totally clueless.

Later that morning I called Dina on her cell phone to check on their progress. She answered normally enough and said that she was on her way back. I asked her if she could talk (about what Kathy had purchased); she said, "Not really." I replied: "Passenger safely, and I'll see you in a few hours." (I later learned that at the very moment I called, the "Light Golden Retriever" puppy she had gone on this excursion to buy from a breeder whom she had heard about three-months ago while "day-tripping" in Harpers Ferry, was in a kennel in the back of the car and beginning to fuss/bark. If he had, it might have ruined the nearly four-months-in-the-planning surprise.)

Since Dina said she couldn't talk (ostensibly about the fake reason for this trip: Kathy's business), I politely hung up to not disturb their girls-type day. Little did I know. A few hours later, I knew all too well.

About 2 pm, I see/hear Dina's car coming down our driveway. After she parks, I can't exactly see her getting out of her car, but I'm not the least bit concerned/curious. She's an adult; I don't need to watch her get out of a car. Within a few moments I hear her walking toward our front door. A front door whose top half is glass so I could see if she was carrying anything. She turned her back as she backed in through the door and I could sort of see that she looked as if she was carrying something. As she entered the house and faced-me forward, I saw/asked: "Is that a dog?" What is she doing with a dog, I thought to myself. Maybe she's helping Kathy? Kathy has dogs.

She took a few steps towards to her left where I was sitting on our living room couch and says to me: "Here's your new puppy." I was momentarily stunned and soon started laughing (even though we had previously owned two Golden Retrievers; with five cats in the house, a dog was not necessarily our next step.) Stammering, I ask: "Dina, what did you do?" "I got you a puppy." She says: Then she adds: "That's what this whole trip was about. Kathy did me an amazing favor driving us down there. Are you surprised?" Then she carried him over to where I was sitting and placed him in my arms. I laughed again as I cuddled him and looked into his eyes, speechless as I gently rubbed his coat. "Yes. I'm surprised!" I garbled.

It took us a couple of days to name him. For years, when the subject (never a serious discussion) had come up about a new puppy, I had regularly said I liked the name Shemp. But when I started using it for the new puppy, it didn't sound right so I stopped calling him that and began referring to him as my little buddy (which I definitely needed after Twinkle's unexpected passing). The next day, while Dina was online going through dog names, my father-in-law texts me from New York out of the blue (he knew about the puppy; everybody knew): "How about how naming him Burton?" I looked at my cell phone and saw the text, read it and immediately smiled as I looked up and said to Dina: "Your father has just texted the perfect name for the puppy: Burton." (Our two previous Golden Retrievers were "Brandy" and "Bailey," so we were thinking of a name beginning with the letter "B," which Ernest didn't know and yet, he suggested the perfect name). She immediately agreed. As an underling fact, we happen to live in the historic/registered "Isaac Burton House," a 250-year-old-plus converted log cabin, in Burtonsville. After approximately 14 years, since I was diagnosed with cancer, we're back in the dog business. It couldn't have happened at a better time. We needed something to fill the void left by Twinkle's passing.

"And now you know," as Paul Harvey said for so many years, "the rest of the story. Good day!"

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

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