

The Arlington Connection

On the Horns Of the Deer Dilemma

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On the horns of the deer dilemma, Arlington County orders a more extensive study.

Old Instruments, New Friends

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Stopping opioid overdose deaths, hour long training includes how overdoses happen and how to administer naloxone, how to respond to an overdose, Monday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Presented by staff from Arlington County's Dept. of Human Services. Registration # 912400-02.

Habitat for Humanity's new Home Repair Program for lower income individuals, Monday, Dec. 12, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 912400-03.

Line dance practice group for experienced and advanced line dancers, Monday, Dec. 12 and Wednesday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Winter piano lounge featuring pianist Valerie Welsh, plus hot cider, Monday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 912301-05.

Step-by-step painting demonstration by community arts programmer, Monday, Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Picture and supply list will be sent before class. Registration # 912303-12.

Identity theft, how to avoid becoming a victim and steps to take if one becomes a victim, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Financial Education volunteers. Registration # 912400-05.

Google Drive 101, a personal cloud storage service, learn how to use and access with Jennifer Weber, Walter Reed 55+ Center director, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m., virtual. Registration # 912403-03.

55+ Travel group to tour DEA Museum in Arlington, Wednesday, Dec. 14. See new interactives, artifacts and displays about the history of drug misuse prevention. Valid photo ID required. Cost \$7, Arlington resident; \$8, non-resident. Registration # 902212-06.

Services for the blind and vision impaired, presented by Alexander Castillo from the Virginia Dept. for the Blind and Vision Impaired, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m. Registration # 912500-06.

History roundtable discussion to focus on U.S.-Mexico relations, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 11:15 a.m., virtual. Registration # 912402-10.

Study of words and the history of the English language, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 912402-26 or virtual, registration # 912402-27.

Recreate artwork on display at

area museums with community arts programmers, Thursday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m., virtual. Registration # 912303-09.

Holiday charcuterie ideas, Thursday, Dec. 15, 11a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Demonstration by Virginia Cooperative Extension volunteers. Registration # 912890-05.

Holiday karaoke, fun sing along, all languages and traditions welcome, Thursday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 912890-06.

Movie showing of "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) (G), Thursday, Dec. 15, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 912804-06.

Stay in the game injury free, learn how to enjoy exercising safely, Thursday, Dec. 15, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Presented by physical therapist Dr. Jahan Shiekhly. Registration # 912500-07.

How local wildlife survives in the winter, Thursday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m., virtual. Registration # 912400-23.

Love furry friends? Discuss opportunities for volunteering and how to adopt or foster a new pet, Friday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by a representative from the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. Registration # 912400-04.

55+ Travel group to visit "Matisse in the 1930s" exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Saturday, Dec. 17. Over 100 paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings. Cost \$44, Arlington resident; \$51, non-resident. Registration # 902212-07.

Creating 3-D holiday cards, Sunday, Dec. 18, 1:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Some materials provided or bring your own. Registration # 912310-03.

Filmmaker Interest Group, all levels of experience welcome, Monday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Led by video enthusiast Nick Englund. Registration # 912403-12.

Short story reading and discussion of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas, Monday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, registration # 912402-20 or virtual, registration # 912402-21.

Current events discussion about local and world news, volunteer led, Monday, Dec 19, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 912402-15.

Remote care technology explained by Anthony Nunez, CEO, INF Care, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Hear the pros and cons of various remote care options. Registration # 912500-08.

Ukulele Class, learn basic strumming, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 4:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 912304-02.

Genealogy 101 led by experienced genealogist Eileen Bogdanoff, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Share information and research tools. Registration # 912402-04.

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CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

On the horns of the deer dilemma, Arlington County orders a more extensive study.



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

As Arlington studies the problem, some say the deer problem is getting worse.



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Arlington will take both the study findings and the community's response into consideration when it comes to deciding next steps.

“We would hope for a robust community engagement plan that would be inclusive and broad – one that offered humane varied solutions.”

— Jennifer Toussaint, Chief of Animal Control at the AWLA

All the while, following the survey, the county wasn't quite ready to take any action, nothing that would impact the number of deer in the area, anyway.

New Study of Deer in Arlington

This summer, the Department of Parks and Recreation announced that Arlington County would pursue further evaluation of deer in county-owned parks. And in September 2022 – a full year after releasing the results of the April 2021 drone survey – Arlington County officially hired White Buffalo, Inc., a wildlife management and research organization with experience analyzing deer around the region.

The current study is different than the drone survey, though. While the purpose of last year's evaluation was to count the number of deer in specific areas of Arlington, White Buffalo's study is focused on the impact the deer have on the land.

“The drone survey only captured the amount and locations of deer,” Alonso Abugattas, Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County Parks, said. “This second study provides direct observation and measurement of potential deer impacts that couldn't be captured by our initial aerial survey. White Buffalo Inc. will be looking

On the Horns of the Dilemma

**Is deer management needed?
What would it entail?**

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

White-tailed deer have been a source of concern and contention in Arlington County for quite some time. For more than a year, there has been intense dialogue among different community groups over whether or not the current deer population in Arlington poses a significant ecological problem.

While some residents – like members of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA), for example – don't see the numbers of white-tailed deer in the area as an issue, others see droves of deer as a multidimensional threat to the local environment. These people – like members of the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) – argue that the overpopulation of white-

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tailed deer results in serious, irreversible damage to Arlington's natural areas.

“As Master Naturalists, our focus is the natural areas,” said Steve Young, Master Naturalist and Arlington Park Steward. “The question isn't whether or not the deer belong here; we understand that they aren't an invasive species. It's about whether or not they are out of balance and are harming natural areas. There are plenty of indicators that there is an overpopulation of deer and it is having negative impacts on the environment, other species, people, and even deer themselves.”

The ARMN is a regional chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists, 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.

The local chapter works closely with the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation and was one of the drivers behind the Department of Parks' 2021 deer assessment study, “Arlington County Deer Survey and Next Steps.” This was a study that did, in fact, state that the number of deer in Arlington “likely exceeds” carrying capacity. See previous coverage at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2022/apr/20/oh-deer-just-how-big-problem-are-deer-arlington/>

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington, which is a government-contracted organization that provides animal shelter, animal control, and educational services across the county, disagreed with the survey's conclusions and maintains that deer do not have an unmanageable, negative impact on Arlington's natural lands.

SEE DEER MANAGEMENT, PAGE 4

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Is Deer Management Needed?

FROM PAGE 3

at the overall deer browse and whether it is ecologically sustainable. They will document species affected by deer browse as well as the height of woody plants and damage to woody plants as an indicator of browse intensity.”

Deer browse occurs when deer feed on the leaves, soft shoots, flowers, new growth, or fruits and seeds of high-growing, generally woody plants such as shrubs and sapling trees.

Abugattas added that White Buffalo will also be looking at other metrics, too, whatever it takes to paint a full picture of white-tailed deer in Arlington County-owned parks.

The White Buffalo team certainly has their work cut out for them. Unlike the contractors behind last year’s drone study, White Buffalo will be conducting research for months.

“They are now compiling field data, interviews, literature review, and regional benchmarking, to draft an initial report,” Abugattas said. “This report will inform the public engagement portion of this project, which should occur during the first quarter of calendar year 2023.”

Then, after getting community feedback, White Buffalo will provide a comprehensive report on Virginia deer for Arlington County.

“Based on what they hear from staff and community, White Buffalo will provide a written report that may include recommended short- and long-term strategies to achieve stewardship goals and ecological carrying capacity in designated natural lands in county parks,” Abugattas said. “Recommendations may differ by location and level of impact.”

Arlington County insists that it will take both White Buffalo’s findings and the community’s response in consideration when it comes to decision-making time.

“Public feedback will be one of many factors that the county will consider when deciding whether to actively manage deer and what management strategy to pursue,” Abugattas said.

And this opportunity for collaboration with the county is exactly what the AWLA and its allies have been hoping for, according to Jennifer Toussaint, Chief of Animal Control at the AWLA.

“My greatest hope is that all of the stakeholders involved are given equal opportunity for input and outreach,” Toussaint said. “Additionally, we would hope for a robust community engagement plan that would be inclusive and broad – one that offered humane varied solutions by neighborhood or region of the county instead of issuing a blanket policy.”

No Sense of Urgency?

The Arlington Master Naturalist’s position is that the Department of Parks has not acted with the level of urgency that matches the deer crisis.

“The county has never denied anything we’ve said about the damage that deer are causing,” Bill Browning, ARMN Master Nat-



ARLINGTON COUNTY

A buck in Arlington County

“I love deer, but I also love song birds, snakes, and all these other animals are suffering, dying, and not able to raise their young because their homes are being taken away by deer.”

— Marion Jordan, Master Naturalist and former Arlington Regional Master Naturalists president

uralist and Arlington Park Steward, said. “To say we are satisfied with the pace of things, no. But it is what it is. The urgency is the issue here. The first contractor, which was done over a year ago, called for an aggressive deer management plan. And here we are in Arlington continuing to study it. We’ve got to show a little more urgency than we are.”

On the other hand, the AWLA, which provides the county’s animal control services, isn’t even convinced that overpopulation exists. The organization appreciates that the county is doing its due diligence before taking any official action to reduce the number of deer in ways AWLA would see as inhumane.

“I greatly appreciate the county’s thorough assessment on all matters, including considerations for if deer are having an impact on natural preservation areas and what concrete steps could be taken to minimize the effects,” Toussaint said. “We support Arlington County adopting a practical, humane, and sustainable deer management plan. As the county’s animal resource center, we will continue to work with anyone in the community to create humane deer management solutions that keep our citizens, ecosystem, and wildlife healthy and safe.”

Unfortunately, though, according to the master naturalists, the longer the county and the Department of Parks waits to take action, the worse the situation gets.

“It’s clear that we don’t share a sense of urgency with Arlington County about addressing this,” Marion Jordan, Master Naturalist and former Arlington Regional Master Naturalists president, said. “The deer are still here, they are still increasing. Everything we talked about after the last survey is still present. The county is going at a very slow pace. While we can’t influence the pace of it, we can say how important it is to keep moving forward to take steps to protect our forests.”

Why the Delay in Action?

Despite their desire for more urgency, the ARMN team does believe they understand why the county is moving slowly.

“The county is so concerned about the reaction from the community that they are moving so slowly,” Young said. “They are expecting this to continue to be controversial and if the county were to propose implementing a deer management program, there would be a lot of pushback. After all, this whole time, you’ve had AWLA is saying there isn’t a problem. They are naturally going to feel like they need evidence to support decision-making.”

Jordan agreed, noting that there will be no shortage of resources for Arlington County to make the right decision when it comes to white-tailed deer management.

“By hiring not one but two contractors, Arlington County is taking extraordinary measures to make sure they have outside experts providing what they need to inform decision-makers,” she said. “I see this as trying to be so careful so that they can gather enough information to explain to the public what they need to do.”

Jordan also encourages Arlington County to look strictly at scientifically-based facts – and not to emotional appeals or unsupported claims – when making deer-related decisions.

“As this conversation moves forward, we need to explore why people are throwing things – facts, statistics that lack the full truth – out there,” Jordan said. “In general, we need to have a further examination of the statements being thrown out there, and digest them for what they are.”

In response to assumptions that the county isn’t being decisive or making swift moves in efforts to please everyone, Abugattas said it’s just not that simple.

“Every jurisdiction must determine the appropriate amount of data required to make deer management decisions,” he said. “This second study provides direct observation and measurement of potential deer impacts that couldn’t be captured by our initial aerial survey. It also leverages the deep subject matter expertise of established deer management researchers and consultants. The two studies complement one another to provide a more robust dataset to inform management decisions. While some decision makers may be comfortable acting on the aerial survey data alone, others will appreciate the more complete picture provided by this complementary study.”

Abugattas added that the county is prepared to make deer-related decisions that are in the best interest of Arlington and its citizens – but reiterated that it won’t be without involving Arlingtonians.

“The county and DPR will be prepared to implement the management strategy that is determined to be the best course of action for Arlington,” Abugattas said. “Arlington County is always open to community engagement throughout our processes and will continue to work with the community if and when any management strategies are implemented.”

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT 2022



The Traveling Players presents "Commedia Christmas Carol" now thru Dec. 11 in Tysons Corner.

DEC 1-23

"Snow Maiden." At Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St, Arlington. In a frozen forest, a lonely boy builds a girl from snow. When she mysteriously comes to life, mischief, laughter, and enchantment abound. But what will happen when the ice begins to melt? Told through dazzling movement, dance, and acrobatics, Snow Maiden is a magical tale of hope, friendship and the transformative power of dreams. Based on the beloved folktale Snegurochka, Snow Maiden is a holiday treat for friends and fans of all ages.

DEC. 1-31

Home for the Holidays Art Show. At Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Works by local artists on display the entire month of December. Visit www.artsherndon.org. Call 703-956-6590.

DEC. 2-17

The PARC at Tysons Holiday Market. Fridays and Saturdays. Celebrate the holiday season with local makers, crafters, and artisans from the Fairfax County area! Visit the holiday market at The PARC at Tysons on the first three Fridays and Saturdays of December for a pop-up shop of local artisans and small businesses offering holiday-inspired goods. The PARC will be transformed into a festive indoors and outdoors winter village, featuring a local holiday market and (free!) snowtastic activities for the whole family to enjoy! Food and beverages can be purchased onsite from local businesses as well.

DEC. 2-11

Traveling Players presents "Commedia Christmas Carol." Tickets are now available for "Commedia Christmas Carol," which runs Fridays-Sundays, Dec. 2- Dec. 11 at Traveling Players Studio in Tysons Corner Center. Performed by Traveling Players middle and high school students, the play is a new imagining of Dickens' classic ghost story, a perfect holiday treat for the whole family. Visit <https://www.travelingplayers.org/performances/>

DEC. 2-18

Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans 27th Annual Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus 2023 wall calendars to support Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. Free admission. Market is the first three weekends in December (Dec 2-4, Dec 9-11, Dec 16-18). Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

DEC. 2-11

Fairfax City Holiday Market. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Fairfax City Downtown Holiday Market will be open the first two

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weekends of December on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Shop at the market of craft vendors as you enjoy Old Town Square in the heart of Historic Downtown Fairfax covered in holiday lights. The festival will include live holiday music, hot drinks, heated tents and gourmet treats, and more!

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Saturday/Dec. 10. 3 p.m. Holiday Afternoon Tea. Sunday/Dec. 11. 4:30 p.m. Amadeus Presents Sounds of the Season.

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SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Wintermarkt. 12-7 p.m. Bringing the Old World charm of Christmas in Europe to Herndon. Family-focused events, entertainment, and items for all members of the household. Downtown Herndon, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Visit Herndonwintermarkt.com or call 571-323-5300.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Christmas Around the World. 4-8 p.m. At Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Road, Annandale. "Christmas Around the World," celebrating Jesus' birth features concerts, costumed reenactors, live animals, biblical stories. Tickets at www.parkwood.org/registration beginning Nov. 28. Free parking. Visit the website: www.parkwood.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Holiday Cheer. 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. Presented by the National Chamber Ensemble. This program brings the finest classical masterpieces and traditional holiday favorites together for a fun and memorable evening for the entire family. Festivities begin with a "Sleigh Ride" - Leroy Anderson's classic and "Chanukkah Festival". Soprano Nancy Peery Marriott (soprano), a long-time NCE favorite, will perform seasonal favorites and lead a Carol Sing-along that will have the entire audience joining in the spirit of the holidays. Tickets: <https://www.nationalchamberensemble.org/tickets.htm>

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Christmas Carol Sing-Along. 3-5 p.m. Historic Pleasant Grove is holding its annual Christmas Carol Sing, followed by cookies and hot cider, at our quaint historic site. Free community event at 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Christmas Calamity Improv. 7-9:30 p.m. Come ring the bells! Improv with a seasonal twist! At Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Visit artsherndon.org. Tickets \$15. Call 703-956-6590.

SEE HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7

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THE CONNECTION
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CALENDAR

DEC. 10-11

More Than I Should. Saturday at 7 p.m.; Sunday at 5 p.m. At Theatre on the Run 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Jane Franklin Dance returns to Theatre on the Run with More Than I Should exploring themes of vulnerability, balance and control, progression, self-awareness and passion.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Christmas Concert. 5 p.m. At Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive, Arlington. Presented by the Arlington Chorale and featuring John Rutter's Magnificat and Kirke Mechem's Seven Joys of Christmas, some familiar Christmas carols, as well as beautiful music with hints of tango, musical theatre, and jazz. Accompanied by a chamber orchestra of local professional players, the Chorale's concert will also highlight the talents of soprano Helena Colindres and two Youth Community Council students. Get tickets at this link: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTcwNjY2

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

FOUA Annual Meeting. 9:45 a.m. At Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington. All are welcome to join this free in-person or on-line (hybrid virtual) event. This event will offer participants a summary overview of 2022 FOUA programs including: Gardeners, gleaners and distribution within Plot Against Hunger Educators, students and APS School Gardens Coordinators Successful second season at Highlands Urban Garden Collaborative partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Additionally, County Board Members Libby Garvey

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT 2022

FROM PAGE 5

DEC. 10-11

"The Nutcracker." 4 p.m. At Centreville High School, Centreville. Presented by the Mia Saunders School of Ballet. Tickets available at the door or online for Saturday and Sunday shows for \$10 for children under 5 and \$12 for ages 6 & up. Proceeds benefit CVHS Drama Scholarships and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. More info at MiaSaundersBallet.com.

DEC. 10-18

"The Perfect Christmas List." At Richard J. Ernst Theater, NOVA Annandale Campus. Encore Theatrical Arts Project (ETAP) presents a glamorous and dazzling holiday musical that features 30 performers, creative choreography, elaborate sets, stunning costumes, and 20 musical numbers. Show dates: Saturday, December 10th at 12 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 11th at 12 p.m., 4 p.m.; Friday, December 16th at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 17th at 12 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, December 18th at 12 p.m., 4 p.m. Visit www.ensemble-tap.org

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Toys for Tots Concert. 6 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. The Vienna Community Band is partnering with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to celebrate 75 years of giving! There's no charge for admission. They ask you to bring a new unwrapped toy to the concert. All collected toys are distributed to children in Fairfax County. Visit <https://www.viennacomunityband.org/>

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Celtic Holiday Concert. 4-5 p.m. At St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Join in this annual concert by Karen Ashbrook and Friends. The popular duo (Karen Ashbrook & Paul Oorts) will be joined by cellist Sophie Chang featuring carols and music from Belgium, France, England and Germany. Paul Oorts, Belgian multi-instrumentalist, will share delightful childhood Flemish traditions of the season. The shimmering

and Matt DiFaranti will offer remarks on the state of urban agriculture, food security and goals for our local food economy in 2023. Additional zoom meeting participation will be available at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461614484>

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30 p.m. at Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. The Capital City Showcase, the variety show that features the DMV's best performing artists and hosted by Christian Hunt, returns with its new one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle! To purchase tickets, visit funtimeshowdmv.eventbrite.com

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: Wednesday, December 7 at Ballston BID Day, 5 p.m. – 7 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 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday thru Friday.



The Mia Saunders School of Ballet presents "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 10-11 at Centreville High School.

strings of the hammered dulcimer, harp guitar, cello, and the reeds of the accordion, ring in the holiday time of year! Funds collected from this concert will be split between ECHO and the FACETS Hot Meals program. Website: www.standrews.net

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Brunch with Santa. At The Watermark Hotel, 1825 Capital One Drive South in Tysons Corner. Enjoy a bountiful and delicious brunch buffet with the season's most popular celebrity, Santa. Guests are invited to enjoy a jolly brunch including signature favorites like scrambled eggs, bacon, breakfast potatoes, sausage, and other delightful bites. During brunch, guests are invited to share their holiday wishes with Santa, take a photo with him, and enjoy the hotel's festive holiday decor. Seatings are available at 11:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:15 p.m., and 1:45 p.m. and pricing is \$49 for Adults, \$29 for children age 6-12. Children age 5 and under are complimentary.

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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

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CENTREVIEW

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 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 or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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"IN THE GRASP"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

(Recent emails have prompted this column.) "In the grasp" is a football expression most often associated with quarterbacks being "sacked," (a defensive player having a secure hold of the quarterback). This basically means that the play is over/"the play is dead." It could also characterize an online scam. (I should know.) It occurs when you are speaking with someone at the end of an 800 number who is asking for remote control of your computer to install, upgrade, download, upload, and/or fix whatever computer problem precipitated this call. You're asking/need help and consequently, you might be putting yourself at risk.

I experienced this circumstance one time and it nearly cost me \$3,000. I responded to an online solicitation that seemed to offer a reward/payout for something. It seemed harmless enough, so I made the call. Given how our consuming patterns have evolved with the internet, responding to emails from mostly familiar brands and buying some of what they're selling, "cyber-Monday" comes to mind, is how much of our consuming is done these days. And of course, you pay with a credit card to complete the transaction. However, sometimes the solicitations/sites are not what they purport to be. It's difficult to discern, occasionally, whether "it's live or if it's Memorex." Sometimes, it's hard to tell fact from fiction/to know what's real or what's not (dangerous). (Beginning in the 70s, Memorex advertised Ella Fitzgerald "scatting" into a microphone, live, and showing a glass breaking from her sound. Then they played their recording from the performance and again the wine glass shattered. And then the voice-over asked: "Is it live or Memorex?")

I think this is what happened to me when "I was in the grasp" after multiple hours on the phone. My innocent inquiry into the "real" offer lead me down more than just a garden path. Instead, it led very nearly to my bank – to pay the piper. It all started innocently enough (so I thought) with me giving control of my computer to this voice on the other end of the phone to process the purchase/payment due me. The payment was made to my bank, and I was told to go online and check my account. When I looked, I noticed a \$3,000 (not \$30) deposit. They made a mistake or so it seemed. Still on the phone with this far-away person, he admitted they made a mistake and to receive my real reward, I needed to repay them the \$3,000. I suggested that they simply retrieve the money the same way they deposited it. He said they couldn't do that - for whatever reason, and that I needed to repay them, this time said with a bit more urgency. I began to sense that I was being manipulated and slowed my roll accordingly.

Unfortunately, they sped up their roll and said if I didn't repay them, blah, blah, blah. I didn't agree and then their grip/manipulation got tighter. Having control of my computer, he deleted all my icons. I couldn't quite figure out what they were doing. Then when I asked for the icons to be returned, the scam took a nastier turn. He said, he was going to "lock" my computer unless I repaid the \$3,000. Being into the second hour of this negotiation, I began to get nervous – and flustered, realizing that unless I paid this ransom, my computer and all its memories would be gone, and since my computer is my business (and I have minimal computer skills/knowledge), I acquiesced and asked how what I should do to resolve this matter. He said I need to go to my bank and get a certified check (payable to whom I don't remember) and then go to a local Western Union office near me home and wire them the money. Now I officially realized that I was in a trouble/at risk of losing this \$3,000. With no alternatives, so far as I knew (which wasn't very far), I went outside and got into my car and started driving to my bank, while still on the cell phone with this "solicitor." About halfway there, I decided I didn't want to be a victim and so I told the man I was not going to pay him. He got mad and said he "was going to lock my computer," (I determined that the \$3,000 payment would be more harmful to me than the computer lock). I turned the car around and returned home to find out if I had suffered any consequences for not paying. Sure enough, when I got home, I tried to turn on the computer, but I found it impossible to do so. Apparently, this man was indeed a man of his word, as far as locking my computer is concerned anyway. Now, whenever I receive emails from unfamiliar sites, they remain unseen. I learned my lesson, very nearly the hard way (unlocking the computer simply required a trip to Best Buy, computer in hand and to pay a fee for unlocking services rendered). I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer but thankfully I'm not the dullest, either.

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

Old Instruments, New Friends in Arlington

Quartet Salonnieres hosted at Norwood.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Salons, the kind 18th century French ladies hosted, are a thing of the past. Or are they? Who in this day and age invites people to sit in their living room, enjoy music and conversation over a glass of wine and a plate of french hors d'oeuvres? Who does it for the love of good music, good conversation, and good food? Beth Lewis does. She renovated her husband's childhood home in 2006, designing it to serve his profession in myriad ways. For 10 years her husband, Reilly Lewis, a prominent musician, would utilize the space for rehearsals, concerts and special events for his organizations. Beth put his piano in the bay window, pushed out the rear of the room to a beautiful garden, and bought some folding chairs.

On Oct. 22 the "salon" held about 28 guests who came to hear the Quartet Salonnieres, a New York City based group which plays period instruments, now on tour to raise money for its upcoming international trip to Tanzania. It was one of many concerts she has hosted over the past 5 years.

Lewis envisioned just this kind of event when she rebuilt the Arlington house; she just didn't expect her husband, Reilly Lewis, not to be there. In 2016 he died suddenly, at 71. He had been an organist at Clarendon United Methodist Church, and conductor of the Cathedral Choral Society and the Washington Bach Consort. He was a beloved figure in Washington's classical music circles. And the house Beth Lewis renovated played an important role in his musical life, even back in the 1970s. Lewis and several friends from the National Symphony began meeting at his mother's house in Arlington to play the music of Bach. That group became the Washington Bach Consort in 1977, and is now recognized as one of the country's premier baroque-music ensembles, with an emphasis on historically authentic performances on instruments from Bach's era. So Reilly Lewis would have loved hearing the Salonnieres, particularly when the quartet's special guest, Dominic Giardino, played Mozart's Clarinet Quartet in A Major on a historical clarinet from that era ... in his living room.

Beth Lewis has been doing these concerts at the rate of about one every other month for the past five years. She felt the house needed to reverberate with music to preserve her husband's memory. His piano, his harpsichord, his organ all sat in the house in need of playing. And so, through word of mouth, Lewis opened up her home to musicians. For what is now known as Concerts at Norwood she invites neighbors, friends, and acquaintances, cooks up an amazing array of hors d'oeuvres and occasionally dinners. She glows with the sense that her house is doing what it was meant to do: give musicians a place to be heard. It doesn't hurt that she



Beth Lewis's spread reflects her French culinary background. The Quartet in full concentration.



PHOTOS BY DON LASSELL



A portrait of Reilly Lewis hangs in the study.



The Quartet Salonnieres preparing to play.

attended French culinary school and loves to use those skills.

The Salonnieres formed their quartet about four years ago. Aniela Eddy, Natalie Kress, Rebecca Nelson, and Cullen O'Neil met during their studies in the Historical Performance program at The Juilliard School. Their quartet's name comes from the fact that women were often denied the opportunity to play in public during the male dominated Baroque era, and the only way they could be heard was in small salons not unlike Beth Lewis's.

The Quartet Salonnieres has toured nationally and internationally, performing on stages across New Zealand, and with Les Arts Florissants in Paris, Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, Apollo's Fire in Cleveland, Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, and Pacific Baroque Orchestra in Vancouver, Canada.

Playing with the old instruments is harder, they noted, munching on the macarons. The cello O'Neil plays has no pin, so it is harder to control, and the gut strings on the violins and violas have a completely different



Dominic Giardino plays the old clarinet.

sound. The clarinetist required great skill to play notes which sought the right pitch, but were more haunting and emotional than a newer instrument would produce.

Lewis said she feels good about her "Concerts at Norwood" because, for instance, during the pandemic, when most performing venues were shut down, she was able to

help a young man, who could not perform publicly, by allowing him to use her home to video record his performance, which he could then share digitally.

Lewis, who has had some very interesting roles in life herself, including becoming one of the first professional women firefighters in the country, is now using her skills as a rare book conservator at the Bishop Payne Library at Virginia Theological Seminary.

The Quartet Salonnieres is looking for donations to help defray the costs of their upcoming tour to Tanzania. The trip was organized in 2020 but postponed twice due to COVID. The month-long trip was made possible by funding from the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania which awarded the group its presti-

gious Artist Grant. They will be collaborating with local artists, workshops, performances, schools, and universities, and holding free public concerts. The Quartet still has to raise funds for airfare and equipment. To make a tax-deductible donation, see:

see: ci.ovationtix.com/35560/store/donations/35887

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