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Arlington
Connection

Children's & Teens'
Connection 2022

Eve Kahle, Second grade, Fall Landscape

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"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

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703-228-4747

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.

55+ Centers will be closed Mondays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

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 Shiekhy. 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.

Acoustic Café, enjoy the vibe of a 1960s coffee

house with performances by local musicians, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Open to all ages. Registration # 912301-01.

55+ Travel Group will visit the National Gallery of Art, D.C., to view "Vermeer's Secrets," an exhibit of the works of the Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer, Tuesday, Dec. 20. Cost \$11, Arlington resident; \$13, non-resident. Registration # 902212-08.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "Daughter of the Regiment" by Gaetano Donizetti, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 912300-04.

Aurora Hills 55+ Center to feature an acoustic hour with music from the 50s and beyond, performed by Carl Gold, Ed Girovasi and Phil Rosen, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m. Registration # 912301-02.

Read and discuss current articles in popular magazines, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Facilitated by librarian Vicky McCaffrey. Registration # 912402-17.

Cooking with sage demonstration, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Maser Food volunteers. Registration # 912501-02.

Winter Solstice, learn all about it from park naturalists from Gulf Branch Nature Center, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Program indoors. Registration # 912400-24.

YouTube Painting class, join fellow artists in a group setting and follow online instructions to complete a beautiful masterpiece, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Materials provided. Registration # 912303-07.

Open art studio to accommodate artists who work at their own pace, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center; Thursday, Dec. 29, 1:30 p.m. -3:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in. Bring your own materials.

Local history discussion, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 9123402-07.

Line dance practice for experienced and advanced dancers, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Morning meet-up at Langston-Brown 55+ Center, casual conversation, BYOC (bring your own coffee), Wednesday, Dec. 28, 9:30 a.m. Drop-in.

55+ walking group will walk along the Falls Church W&OD trail, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 9:30 a.m. Registration # 912106-04.

The Rocking Chairs, a grown-up garage band, open rehearsal, rock and roll hits from the 50s through the 70s, Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Madison Community Center. Drop-in.

Scrabble, friendly competition, coaching available for new players, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center and Friday, Dec. 30, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Trivia Night, test your knowledge and have fun with friends, Thursday, Dec. 29, 6 p.m., Lubber Run Community Center. Registration # 912600-13.

Gyrokinesis class, a movement method that addresses the total body and coordinates movement, breathing and mental focus, begins Thursday, Dec. 29, 8 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Cost \$49.50, 9 sessions. Registration # 912100-02.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' CONNECTION

Second Graders Share Diverse Holiday Traditions

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Six students from four second grade classes at Glebe Elementary School gather on Dec. 12 to share their holiday traditions.



Jackson Stein

Jackson Stein

"My favorite part of the holidays is getting to be with my family — my grandma and grandpa and mom and dad and getting to do special stuff." Jackson says he celebrates Hanukkah and Christmas but they don't do too much for Hanukkah. "We have pork, mashed potatoes and sauerkraut for Christmas Eve dinner because my mom says that is to bring good luck in the new year." He continues that Santa comes during the night and "when grandma and grandpa wake up we look first in the stockings which are downstairs where we live and then we open presents." He says they travel two hours to Pennsylvania where his mom's family lives, "and we might go to Hershey Park."

Margot Sokolow

Margot says she celebrates Hanukkah but her grandma likes to see her and her grandma celebrates Christmas. "So when we go to her house in Pittsburgh they have stockings." Margot says that one night for Hanukkah at home her other grandparents come over and they have latkes, and her parents light the family Menorah. "My sister and I also make Menorahs in Sunday School and each of us lights our own, too." Margot says they also travel to a great aunt at the edge



Jamie Borg, principal at Glebe Elementary in Arlington for 18 years, sports her holiday glasses. "I don't wear the fancy ones until later. I don't want the kids to go crazy too early."



Margot Sokolow

of Pittsburgh, and her great aunt celebrates Christmas, too. "She has a bunch of people over and they bring food. My favorite is the jello with pretzels and a bunch of things."



Elisabeth Sass

Elisabeth Sass

Elisabeth is from Germany and celebrates the Feast of St. Nicholas tradition where they put out boots on Dec. 5 and St. Nicholas comes during the night. "Then I wake up on the morning of Dec. 6 and run like crazy to check what is in the boot. This year I got a little Rudolph pin and a huge chocolate." She says they have an Advent calendar, and every door for December has a chocolate behind it. "I usually eat it in the morning before I come to school." Then on Dec. 24 the Christ Child comes and leaves gifts overnight. "I open them on Christmas morning as well as gifts from my mom and dad." This year she is hoping "for something I saw in a magazine, a pet vet. I think I might like to be a vet someday." Elisabeth says her grandpa comes from Reston and her aunt and they have a crispy meat with gravy — "schnitzel I think. I really like it."

Audrey Lewis

Audrey's favorite thing about Christmas is spending time with her mom and dad and her brother and her dog. "My dog's name is Ellington and he gets presents in his stocking like dog toys." Audrey says every year they get a candy cane shaped bottle of chocolates in their stockings. "And the other thing I like best is the presents! ... I really want a lot of things under the tree this Christmas, Barbies. ... On Christmas Eve we have a brunch. A lot of times we have steak and eggs and broccoli and a little bit of rice." Audrey confesses every year she tries to sneak down to see Santa "but every time I fall asleep. Sometimes I wonder if it is the parents or Santa," but she is guessing it is real because

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Audrey Lewis

there has got to be a Santa. Audrey says this year they are going to London for a vacation over winter break.

Jonathan LeVine

Jonathan says he celebrates both Christmas and Hanukkah so he gets a present every day for 8 days of Hanukkah and then more presents at Christmas. Jonathan says

SEE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS, PAGE 4



Jonathan LeVine

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' CONNECTION

Second Graders Share Diverse Holiday Traditions

FROM PAGE 3

they light the Menorah each day of Hanukkah.” This is to remember when the Jews thought they only had enough oil to last for one day and it lasted six.” For Christmas Jonathan says he goes upstairs on Christmas Eve to get ready for bed. “When I wake up I head downstairs to open the presents.” This year Jonathan is hoping for legos. Jonathan says they don’t have stockings in his house but they do have elves on shelves. “Each day the elf moves to a different spot. He likes causing mischief and messing stuff up, like

unrolling the toilet paper.” Jonathan says sometimes he travels to see his grandparents and cousins.

Isabelle Wang

Isabelle celebrates Chinese New Year. She says because of the calendar the date moves around. Last year was the year of the tiger “but I don’t know what it will be this year.” She says one of her siblings goes to a tennis tournament so they celebrate the Chinese New Year after that. “We don’t really have

presents or parties.” But she adds she likes to eat the bao, fried rice and dumplings. Isabelle says they don’t really celebrate Christmas but they do have a Christmas tree. “It has ornaments and lights, bows and decorations and a tiger for last year’s Chinese New Year.” Isabelle says she likes to make ornaments to put on the tree. “I write words in Chinese on pieces of paper like ‘peace’ and other stuff.” She says she really likes to celebrate with her family, and her grandparents come over from China for a couple of days. They speak Chinese and “we play board games.”



Isabelle Wang

POETRY FROM BROWN ACADEMY, TEACHER DANIELLE GERBER

Ava McCarley, 13

Bowie, Md.
7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Water Glows Under The Moon

Moon covers the sun
Water rushing
The ocean glowing
Night Approaching

Yellow and Red fades to black
Darkness Clouding the sky
Stars appear
The world falls silent
But this silence is one that is replaced by the sweet sounds of the ocean

Water reacts to the glowing sphere
Ocean burns blue
Trees sing a song in unison
Eyes like cameras flash with life
Unreal this feels
Unreal this seems
Once in a lifetime you get to see the moon beam.

How could the Ocean glow so bright?
How does the ocean deepen as you walk through this endless path?
How do the waves never fail to crash in a way that calms me?

My toes sink into the sand
water runs back and forth
Waves bigger than you can Fathom

The water engulfs me
I am dry but
The water engulfs me
Present but
The water engulfs me

Divyaa Srikanth,

Springfield, Va.
7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Water Still

Bright
afternoon sun with
Clear skies
Clear water
still.
Kids play catch

Shade under the generous trees and huts and
Water rushing
And angry waves crashing and
Birds chirping.
Still.
Reggae plays proudly
in the background
There is a shine
in the smile of this moment
The laughing from the daughter
who’s father picked her up,
tossed her in the air,
and caught her.
Water, why are you so clear?
Bird, why do you sing?
Daughter, what if he didn’t catch you?
Will he catch you the next time?
The water takes me under
The music
ashamed while I am under water
It is quiet
I swim back up and the water is still clear
the daughter is still laughing
and the birds are still chirping
Still chirping
Still

Kayla Bridges

Alexandria, Va.
7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Puerto Rico

I watch as the sunrise slowly approaches in the sky
Subtle ocean waves crashing
I hear the sound of Spanish speakers conversing outside
The wind sways in the morning air
As the beach starts gaining more and more individuals

I hear the morning birds chirping
I look out my hotel deck window
And see the clear skies
The waves crashing onto shore
So many people are enjoying the fresh air.

As I walk outside, I see the clear sky
The trees sway and dance
The sound of waves crashing onto my feet
Crash, crash, crash

My ears fill with the uplifting Caribbean music,
Kids yelling,
And the colorful birds chirping

The waterfall slowly spilling into the mini pool.

Oh, Puerto Rico, why do you rain so much?
Oh, Puerto Rico, why does it get so dark here?
I wonder as I stare into the Puerto Rican abyss.

The rain hitting my head
Like a drum
The rain hitting my head
As I walk outside
The rain hitting my head
As I continue to sit on the deck enjoying the Puerto Rican galore.

Sam Biggins

Alexandria, Va.
7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Thumps of Water Amid Fields of Gold

Why do the waves move so predictably?
A thump on the side of the ship,
A slow simple rock of the ship,
Thump, one... two... thump,

The field of reeds is gold in the sunset,
The sun and field so well met upon the eye,
I lean on a rail that holds me still,
Thump, one... two... thump,

I channel out the sounds of the dinner not yet done,
I had but a few bites of my meal,
It still waits upon my tongue,
Amid my annoyance,

The sun is going,
Further away every time,
Every time I look away,
Another inch disappears,

The last birds stop their songs,
They seem done with their mission,
Or perhaps just tired,

Do you think the things of nature tire,
Not of energy,
But the monotony of life?
Do they wish to run away and do something else?

My time to enjoy the world is over,
The sun has almost completely left,
Soon my thoughts will have no light for company,
And I have lived in my mind for long enough to know that isn’t wise.

The Arlington Connection

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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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.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER ARLINGTON BLVD. TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

Engineers are closing the pedestrian bridge connecting North Fairfax Drive to Fort Myer Drive over Arlington Boulevard, effective immediately, as a result of a bridge inspection on December 8, out of an abundance of caution.

Pedestrian access over Arlington Boulevard will be maintained on the Rhodes Street bridge to the west and North Meade Street to the east.

The restrictions will stay in place until further notice. The Arlington Boulevard multi-use trail will remain open on the north side of the bridge.

Crews had been conducting maintenance work on the bridge's surface. An inspection revealed deterioration of the concrete in some sections of the bridge. The bridge will be temporarily closed while crews work on these repairs.

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.

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 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.

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 invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit 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 or visit health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/ for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit 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. Visit www.dementiacare-connections.com/memory-cafe or 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. 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/aging-matterswera to listen to programs. MICHAEL W. SMITH Returns to

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

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December 16th through December 18th

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION, 2022

Alexandria Country Day School



Libby Maglaughlin, 5th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Finn Empey, 7th Grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Jack Moffat, 3rd grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Kaden Campbell, 3rd grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Kathryn Easton, 8th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Elijah Schneider, 6th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



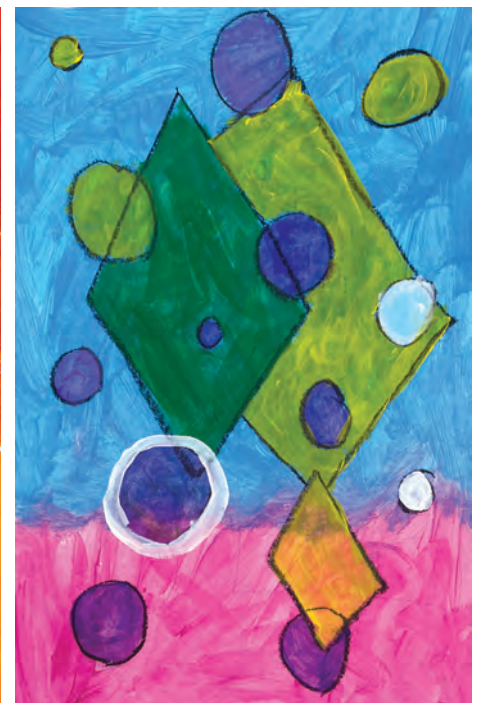
Emmy Cawthorne-Bobadilla, 5th grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Ruhi Gala, 2nd grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Max Ringel, 2nd grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Lily Guder, 2nd grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Vivi Wayland, 7th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Sarah Danshaw, 6th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Chloe Campbell, 8th Grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Fifty Cronin with Wilbur

My Favorite Animal

By FIFTY CRONIN
AGE 8
BARCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ARLINGTON, VA

My favorite animal is a cat because they're so cute and I love their little fur. I have two pet cats. Their names are Abner and Wilbur. They're brothers. Wilbur is striped gray with blackish-kind of stripes and Abner is a black cat. One year when they were really little Abner climbed up the Christmas tree! He also ate a bee that year. Wilbur hides when he gets scared. I love them.



Fifty Cronin with Abner

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.

FRANKLIN	7795	220	V H GOODE HWY/RTE 220	BR. OF BIG CHESTNUT CREEK	11/28/2022
MONTGOMERY	12112	11	ROANOKE RD NBL/RTE 11	BR. SOUTH FORK ROANOKE RIVER	11/28/2022
ROANOKE	15031	632	CRESCENT BLVD/RTE 632	BR BACK CREEK	11/28/2022
DINWIDDIE	5909	1	BOYDTON PLANK SBL	STONY CREEK	11/23/2022
HANOVER	9501	626	ELMONT RD	STONY RUN CREEK	11/21/2022
HANOVER	9478	606	OLD CHURCH RD	MATADEQUIN CREEK	11/21/2022
MECKLENBURG	11848	4	BUGGS ISLAND RD	ALLENS CREEK	11/21/2022
FRANKLIN	7931	722	BEULAH RD /RTE 722	LITTLE DOE RUN	11/21/2022
FLOYD	7513	221	FLOYD HWY/RTE 221 N.	BR. OF LICK FORK	11/18/2022
FRANKLIN	7746	40	FRANKLIN ST /RTE 40	RENNET BAG CREEK	11/18/2022
BEDFORD	2770	654	FELDSPAR RD/RTE 654	NS RAILWAY	11/17/2022
BEDFORD	2816	691	SHEPERDS ST RD/RTE 691	WOLF CREEK	11/17/2022
CARROLL	4530	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	STREAM	11/17/2022
ROANOKE	15070	677	WILLOW BR RD/RTE 677	BR BACK CREEK	11/17/2022
MECKLENBURG	11984	640	E. ORGANSVILLE RD	PECKERWOOD BRANCH	11/16/2022
CARROLL	4529	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	BRANCH SHORTS CREEK	11/16/2022
CRAIG	5510	617	RTE 617	WRIGHTS BRANCH	11/16/2022
FRANKLIN	8026	961	HEDGEWOOD RD/RTE 961	LITTLE CREEK	11/16/2022
FRANKLIN	7972	767	PRILLIMAN SWCH/RTE 767	BRANCH OF TOWN CREEK	11/16/2022
FRANKLIN	8031	1605	WHSPRNG CK RD/RTE 1605	MAGGODEE CREEK	11/16/2022
WASHINGTON	18988	604	MILL CREEK RD	MILL CREEK	11/15/2022
MECKLENBURG	11981	636	BRIDGE RD	MEHERRIN RIVER	11/15/2022
MECKLENBURG	12004	662	WIGHTMAN RD	BUCKHORN CREEK	11/15/2022
NEW KENT	12738	629	BOULEVARD RD	JONES RUN	11/15/2022
BEDFORD	2819	692	COOL SPRINGS RD/RTE 692	CAMP CREEK	11/15/2022
BEDFORD	2879	746	DICKERSON MILL RD/RTE 746	WOLF CREEK	11/15/2022
BEDFORD	2830	698	VILLAMONT RD /RTE 698	BR. SOUTH FORK GOOSE CR.	11/15/2022
CARROLL	4609	100	SYLVATUS HWY/RTE 100	ROCK CREEK	11/14/2022
ROANOKE	15104	758	CARSON RD/RTE 758	BR. GLADE CREEK	11/14/2022
ROANOKE	14980	609	E. RURITAN RD/RTE 609	BR. GLADE CREEK	11/10/2022
ROANOKE	15109	777	FT LEWIS CHURCH RD/RTE 777	STYPES BRANCH	11/10/2022
BEDFORD	2713	628	BISHOPS CR RD/RTE 628	BACK CREEK	11/4/2022
BEDFORD	2730	639	HURRICANE DR /RTE 639	BR. OF OSLIN CREEK	11/4/2022
PULASKI	14592	658	DELTON RD/RTE 658	BR. OF NEW RIVER	11/4/2022
PULASKI	14535	605	LITTLE RIVER DAM RD/RTE 605	CLYBOARD BRANCH	11/4/2022
PULASKI	14580	648	SNIDER LANE/RTE 648	BR. OF PEAK CREEK	11/4/2022
FRANKLIN	7869	641	CALLAWAY RD/RTE 641	BLACKWATER RIVER	11/3/2022
FRANKLIN	7951	739	GAP GATE RD/RTE 739	GREEN CREEK	11/3/2022
FRANKLIN	8011	865	TIMBER LINE RD/RTE 865	NICHOLAS CREEK	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12333	726	GOLD RUSH RD/RTE 726	BRUSH CREEK	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12286	657	MERRIMAC RD/RTE 657	STROUBLES CREEK	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12315	708	NORRIS RUN RD/RTE 708	NORRIS RUN	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12301	675	SPLIT RAIL RD/RTE 675	COOKS BRANCH	11/3/2022
PATRICK	13365	687	MICROFILM ROAD/RTE 687	BLACKBERRY CREEK	11/3/2022
PATRICK	13273	623	UNION BRIDGE	SMITH RIVER	11/3/2022
CULPEPER	5578	15	REMINGTON RD	RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER	11/2/2022
BEDFORD	2861	731	CHESTNUT FORK RD/RTE 731	BR. DIFFICULT RUN CREEK	11/2/2022
BEDFORD	2680	607	MTN VIEW ROAD/RTE 607	GLOVE CREEK	11/2/2022
FLOYD	7590	705	BEAVER CRK RD/RTE 705	BEAVER CREEK	11/2/2022
PATRICK	13276	626	ABRAM PENN HWY/RTE 626	N. MAYO RIVER	11/2/2022
PATRICK	13293	635	GOBLINTOWN CRK/RTE 635	GOBLINTOWN CREEK	11/2/2022
PATRICK	13252	610	HELMS RD/RTE 610	BRANCH DAN RIVER	11/2/2022
WISE	19343	83	CLINTWOOD HWY	POUND RIVER	11/1/2022
WISE	19495	1135	LITTLE LEAGUE RD	TOM'S CREEK	11/1/2022
BEDFORD	2829	698	VILLAMONT RD/RTE 698	S. FORK GOOSE CREEK	11/1/2022
CARROLL	4527	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	SHORTS CREEK	11/1/2022
CARROLL	4528	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	SHORTS CREEK	11/1/2022
FRANKLIN	7922	715	CHESTNUT MTN RD/RTE 715	BIG CHESTNUT CREEK	11/1/2022
FRANKLIN	7936	731	DUGWELL RD/RTE 731	BUCK RUN	11/1/2022
FRANKLIN	7848	629	HATCHETT RD/RTE 629	HATCHETTS CREEK	11/1/2022
GILES	8502	730	EGGLESTON RD/RTE 730	CATTLE PASS	11/1/2022
GILES	8495	724	OLD WOLF CR RD/RTE 724	BR. WOLF CREEK	11/1/2022

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.

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.

Nottingham Elementary School

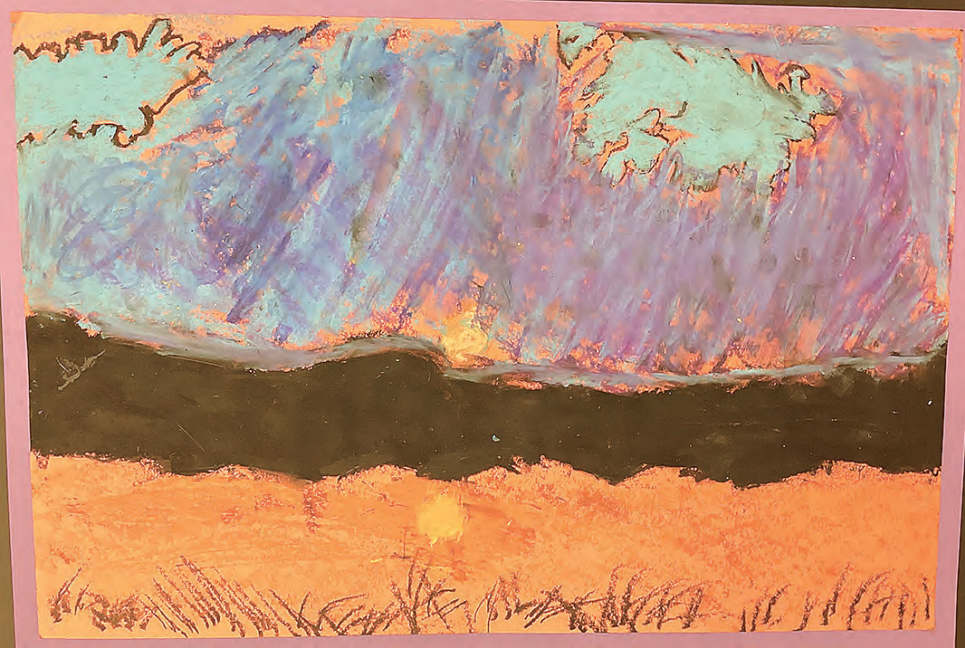
ART TEACHER SARAH ZOLLER



Aanya Gupta, First grade, Sunflower



Andy Grantham Third Grade, Apple Still-life



Fitz Saunders, Virginia Landscape



Flynn Hawkins, Second grade, Fall Leaves



Molly Silva, First Grade, Sunflower



Vera Sherinian, Second grade, Fall Leaves



Mia Siva, Third grade, Apple Still-life



Caroline Chinoy, Self-Portrait



Elliot Bradshaw, Pumpkin Still-life



Eve Kahle, Second grade, Fall Landscape



Henry Camilli, Third Grade, Blue Jay



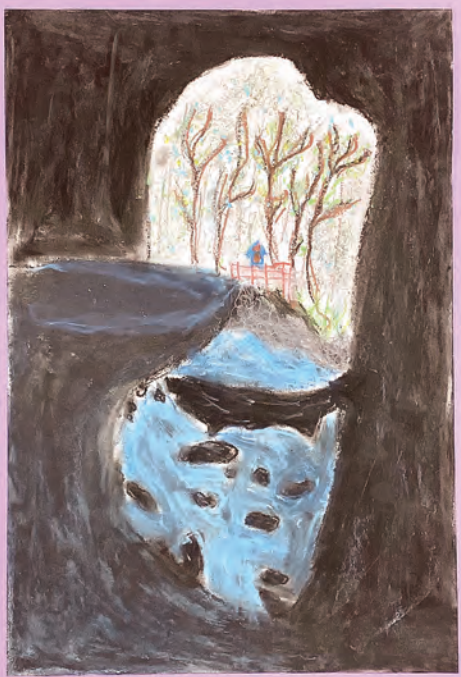
Joshua Huetinck, Second Grade, Fall Landscape



Leila Feden, Self-Portrait



Liliana Haro, Pumpkin Still-life



Piper Kluger, Fourth grade, Virginia Landscape



Sydney Hilburn, Virginia Landscape



Thomas Vogler, Virginia Landscape



Aubrey Quinn, Blue Jay

Opera NOVA Supports Children's Opera

Annual concert brunch helps opera reach 55,000 children since it began.



A crowd of opera lovers and supporters fills the Washington Golf and Country Club on Sunday, Dec. 11 for the annual Concert Brunch. The proceeds are used to support the children's opera performed by Opera NOVA each year for hundreds of Arlington school children. Emcee Bryan Dawson says Opera NOVA has introduced 55,000 children to musical theater since it was formed.



Miriam Miller, president, founder and inspiration for Opera NOVA, listens as Darcy Monsalve performs "Meine lippen" from Judita. Monsalve is a soprano from Venezuela and is a current student of Italian maestro Vincenzo Spatola. The program ranged from Turkish mezzo-soprano and Fulbright alumna Lori Sen to tenor Israel Lozano, born in Madrid, to Sissel Bakken who performs regularly with the Maryland Lyric Opera Chorus.



Grace Gilday Bohlin, a favorite in her D.C. hometown, entertains the audience with Puccini's "Ch'il bel sogno."



The featured Marcolivia Duo perform "Hava Nagila" which Marc Ramirez, violinist and violist, says is traditionally performed to work the crowd into a frenzy. Ramirez, an Arlington native, says "we hope to do that here." The award winning duo, including his wife Olivia Hajioff, perform music of all styles and periods. Their Sunday program ranged from a cradle song in which Hajioff explains, "He has four notes and I have three," to a replication of bagpipes, their arrangement of a couple of numbers from the Magic Flute and an English version of "Away in a Manager."



Violins on display.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION



Miriam Miller acknowledges the tribute from Emcee Brian Dawson for her inspiration and decades of dedicated pursuit of building and nourishing a local opera in Arlington. Opera NOVA was established in 1962 and has evolved as a resource for the arts reaching the community where they live. The organization serves seniors, children and the diverse Arlington population with the opportunity to have the arts as part of their experience. Arlington is the smallest entity in the United States to have its own opera.

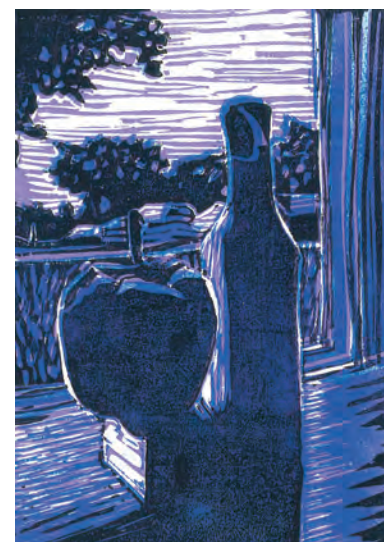


Four performers at the Opera NOVA Annual Brunch on Sunday, Dec. 11 sit at a luncheon table waiting their turn to perform at the Washington Golf and Country Club. Despite the lavish buffet display, most admit they can't eat before a performance. From left: soprano Jenni McGinnis, soprano Elise Jenkins, mezzo soprano Sissel Bakken, and mezzo soprano Lori Sen.

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' CONNECTION

NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE

Connor Pencek grade 7.



Emerson Dufault grade 10.



Margaret Gangi grade 7.

St. Stephen's &
St. Agnes School



Parker Carrington grade 2.



Dempsey McGill 6th grade.



Jacob Wills grade 4.



Lily Gibbons grade 4



Brian Wangel
grade 9.



Willa Johnson grade 8.



Jake Welter grade 10.



Ella Joshi grade 10.



Will Strickland grade 2.



Jesus Collazos delivering the mail in a snowstorm.



Jesus Collazos in his mail truck with his first granddaughter, Juliana Collazos.

FILE PHOTOS BY VANESSA COLLAZOS

Arlington Post Office Will Be Renamed

The U.S. House today passed legislation introduced by Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) to rename the post office in Arlington on George Mason Drive (currently designated "Arlington Post Office") after local letter carrier Jesus Collazos. The bill passed without objection on a voice vote. Collazos immigrated to Northern Virginia from Colombia in 1978 and worked for 25 years as a USPS postal carrier in Arlington. He died of COVID-19 early in the pandemic.

Beyer delivered remarks from the House Floor as Collazos' family looked on from the House Gallery.

Beyer said:

"Madame Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 7082, which would designate the post office on 2200 North George Mason Drive in Arlington as the Jesus Antonio Collazos Post Office Building.

Jesus was the epitome of the American Dream.

He was born in 1953 in Colombia and grew up in a modest, hard-working family.

Even at a young age, he was passionate

Read More

Read the Arlington Connection story about Jesus Collazos from June, 2020, "Jesus Collazos Was More Than Our Mailman." <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2020/jun/24/jesus-collazos-was-more-our-mailman/>

about education and wanted to help his community and did so by helping teach literacy while still a high school student.

After graduating high school, Jesus attended the Universidad de San Buenaventura Cali to pursue a degree in accounting.

In 1978, Jesus immigrated to Washington, D.C. to reunite with his mother and sisters in hopes of seeking a better future.

In 1980, Jesus married the love of his life, Luz Miriam, who is here today with their children, Vanessa and Michael.

After working in accounting positions at various hotels, he applied to the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier, where he would embark on a 25-year career.

He made an impression early on and was given a temporary assignment in leadership which turned into a permanent offer.

He ultimately turned it down to remain a mail carrier.

This turned out to be the right decision as Jesus preferred to spend his days outdoors, building relationships on his route, and connecting with the neighborhood.

He fell in love with that neighborhood so much that he waited patiently for the right opportunity to buy his own family home there.

When the day came, his affable personality gave him an advantage over other buyers. So much so, that the seller accepted his offer despite it being the lowest of all the bids.

In 1999, Jesus and Luz moved their family from an apartment into a new single-family home on his mail route, becoming his own mailman.

Motivated by a desire to spend more time with his family and in particular his grandchildren, Jesus retired in February 2019.

At the start of the pandemic, Jesus discovered a lump on the side of his neck that turned out to be an aggressive cancer.

On a Monday in May of 2020, during his first oncology appointment, he was sent to the emergency room for COVID.

He spent the next two weeks in the ICU, suffered a stroke, and on June 6 at 3:45 p.m., took his last breath.

Jesus was one of millions of Americans taken from us by COVID-19, but he was also a treasure to our local community.

He will be remembered by his infectious personality, outstanding work ethic and loyalty to his loved ones.

After his death, the Collazos family immediately began to receive an outpouring of love via messages, calls, cards, and meals from countless family members and friends.

An outdoor memorial service for Jesus was held June 26, 2020 where many came together to honor his memory.

His U.S. Postal Service coworkers opened his outdoor memorial service with a mail truck parade.

We were lucky to have Jesus Collazos in our community."

Read the Arlington Connection story about Jesus Collazos from June, 2020, "Jesus Collazos Was More Than Our Mailman." <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2020/jun/24/jesus-collazos-was-more-our-mailman/>

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

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.

The hotline website is available in English and Spanish. Phone calls can be taken in many languages. 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 as 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 or call 703-228-5990.

Arlington Rotary Club Lunches. Thurs-

days, 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.

people and their families. Meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Boulevard. Contact arl.pflag@gmail.com for more or go to www.pflagdc.org

Soil Testing. Virginia Cooperative Extension is offering soil testing

services to analyze soil and determine what is needed to condition soil for plantings. The routine soil test is all one normally needs for a fertility evaluation. Pick up soil sampling box at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Arlington office, 3308 S. Stafford St., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Send filled soil sample box with form and fee to the Virginia Tech Lab for analysis. Fees vary, visit www.soiltest.vt.edu/Files.

Alzheimer's Association Support Group has meetings currently conducted online. They are open to people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, family members and

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT 2022



The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Ballet present 'The Nutcracker' on Dec. 17-18, 2022, at GMU Center for the Arts in Fairfax.

THROUGH DEC. 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.

THROUGH DEC. 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.

THROUGH DEC. 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.

THROUGH DEC. 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. 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, Dec. 10 at 12 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 11 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,



Take a Holiday Candlelight Tour of Mount Vernon Estate Dec. 18.

December 18th at 12 p.m., 4 p.m. Visit www.encore-tap.org

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

When Christmas Hurts. 7-8 p.m. At St. John's Lutheran Church, 5952 Franconia Road, Alexandria. This is a service designed for all who may be experiencing this holiday season with hurt, grief, or sadness. All are welcome to attend in-person or virtually on Facebook Live. Visit the website: www.sjlc.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

Appalachian Bluegrass Christmas. 7-9:30 p.m. Music and readings with Shoestring Theatre, Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Visit artsherndon.org. Tickets \$10. Call 703-956-6590.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Open for the Arts – Holiday Open House. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Children's activities with A Thousand Stories, Herndon Books Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Visit artsherndon.org. Call 703-956-6590.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Wreaths Across America. Noon. Volunteer wreath laying ceremony honoring veterans. At Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 831 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Visit herndonwomansclub.org. Call 703-435-3480

DEC. 17-18

"The Nutcracker." 4 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Presented by Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Ballet. The FSO production of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker features live, musical accompaniment by a full orchestra, together with dancers on stage.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Holiday Candlelight Tour. At Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Experience the holidays like George and Martha Washington. Meet Mrs. Washington and 18th-century Mount Vernon residents during a 45-minute candlelit estate tour, see the themed Christmas trees, and shop for holiday gifts.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Home for the Holidays with the Treble Clefs. 5-7 p.m. Join the Treble Clefs and Friends. Includes refreshments and a special visitor. At Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Visit artsherndon.org or call 703-956-6590.

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Golf Tournament. 10 a.m. Shotgun start. Annual four-person scramble. Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, range balls and prizes. Entry deadline December 26. At Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. Cost is \$80 per player. Call 703-471-5769 or visit herdongolf.com.

Wreaths Across America in Arlington

The annual Wreaths Across America escort of handmade, balsam wreaths destined for Arlington National Cemetery will begin arriving in Arlington County on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022. The annual convoy of wreaths, originating in Maine and ending at Arlington National Cemetery, includes over 75 tractor trailers and numerous support vehicles that will reach the Cemetery at various times throughout the day. <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/>

On Saturday, Dec. 17, several thousand volunteers will descend upon the Cemetery and help lay wreaths on every gravesite throughout the property beginning at 8 a.m. The public can anticipate large crowds and heavy pedestrian traffic related to the event. Traffic is expected in and around the immediate area and motorists are advised to allot for extended travel times and seek alternate routes to reduce road congestion.

Road Closures

The Arlington County Police Department and its partnering law enforcement agencies will close roads and monitor traffic conditions in order to accommodate the event. Volunteers and the public should be aware of the following potential disruptions on Saturday, Dec. 17:

From approximately 6 a.m. until 6:45 a.m., Northbound S. Eads Street, between 15th Street S. and 18th Street S.

From approximately 6 a.m. until 2 p.m.:
❖ Marshall Drive, between N. Meade Street and Rt. 110, will be closed and restricted to authorized traffic only.

❖ N. Meade Street will be closed from 14th Street N. to Marshall Drive – local traffic only.

❖ Columbia Pike will be closed from S. Joyce Street to Rotary Road and restricted to authorized traffic only.

❖ Additional road closures will be implemented in locations along I-395, the George Washington Parkway, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, and the Pentagon Reservation by the Virginia State Police, United States Park Police, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Police, and the Pentagon Force Protection Agency.



During the Wreaths Across America event Dec. 16 and 17, Arlington motorists are advised to allow for extended travel times and seek alternate routes.

Other roads not listed may be closed for short durations at the discretion of law enforcement and in the interest of public safety. Motorists are reminded that parking on

the shoulders of Route 110 and Washington Boulevard is strictly prohibited. Any vehicle that is left unattended will be towed at the owner's expense. Stopping or standing in the travel lanes to discharge or pick up passengers is also prohibited, and police officers will be patrolling along Route 110 and Washington Boulevard to address observed violations of applicable traffic laws.

Arriving at Arlington National Cemetery

Attendees are encouraged to utilize multimodal and public transportation options to reduce vehicular congestion. A designated rideshare drop-off and pick-up zones has been established at the Hayes Lot in Pentagon City, located at 880 Army Navy Drive.

Volunteers and attendees seeking additional information should visit the Arlington National Cemetery website <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/WAA>

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

CALENDAR

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22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Nonprofit Holiday Wish Catalog

The third annual Arlington Nonprofit Holiday Wish Catalog features year-end needs of 30 local organizations.

Wishes include cooking equipment for newly-arrived refugees, shelter for animals in need, medical visits for children without health insurance, and helping elderly residents age in place with dignity, regardless of their ability to pay.

The first two years of the Wish Catalog each raised over \$100,000 for local organizations.

For the third year in a row, Arlington Community Foundation is excited to host the Nonprofit Wish Catalog featuring grant ideas of 30 local nonprofits with wishes of up to \$5,000 each. Open through Dec. 31, the public is able to view and 'shop' these nonprofit wishes and donate any amount toward any goal, all in one easy-to-navigate (and easy-to-donate) place. https://arlcfc-suite.com/erp/donate/list/grant?grant_cycle_id=1099

One donor, Patricia Rodriguez, shared, "The Wish Catalog makes it fun to give to nonprofits in our community. We are able to donate to our favorite organizations and to learn about others. The website allows us to easily scroll and click, and then provides us

with documentation of our contributions."

The nonprofits participating in the Wish Catalog reported that the process is easy, and that both the visibility and the extra funding have a positive impact in the lives of our neighbors.

After the inaugural Wish Catalog was fully funded, then-CEO of Bridges to Independence Samuel L. Kelly Jr. said, "The impact of fully funding Bridges to Independence's wish helped empower 134 local youth to break generational cycles of poverty. Additionally, because the community stepped up this holiday season to fund all the projects, families and youth will be fed, housed, educated, and mentored."

Each year so far, select named and anonymous donors have offered matching dollars. In 2021, simply announcing that a donor was providing a \$5,000 match on Giving Tuesday resulted in over \$10,000 in contributions that day alone. These "Wish Maker Matchers" act as a catalyst for others to give.

Arlington Community Foundation welcomes donors to match Wish Catalog gifts this year by contacting Christy Cole, Director of Philanthropy, at ccole@arlcfc.org or by calling 703-963-5737

SoberRide Begins Dec. 16

The 2022 Holiday SoberRide program will be in operation nightly from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. from Dec. 16, 2022 to Jan. 1, 2023 as way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday period.

The program is offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP).

Each evening during this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide code in the app's 'Promo' section to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. A separate Holiday SoberRide promo code will be posted at 9 p.m. on Dec. 16, 23 and 31 on www.SoberRide.com.

Last December and while unquestionably impacted by the then resurging COVID-19 pandemic including the Omicron variant, 461 persons in the Washington-metropoli-

tan area used the free safe ride service rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and Halloween.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2022 Holiday SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation of Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 83,678 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area. www.SoberRide.com

BULLETIN BOARD

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friends. Free. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 703-359-4440 or 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time to verify meeting information, obtain directions or other information about the group. A complete list of all groups in the National Capital Area region can be found at https://www.alz.org/nca/helping_you/support_groups.

Pentagon Legacy Toastmasters meet Tuesdays 5:15-6:30 p.m. in the Pentagon Main Cafeteria/food court, left of Dunkin Donuts. Most clubs are meeting online at this time. Toastmasters is an international organization that helps people speak, think, lead and listen better. Call 703-695-2604 www.toastmasters.org.

The Friends of the Planetarium Visit www.friendsoftheplanetarium.org to find up-to-date show times, a schedule of future events, information about Friends of the Planetarium

membership, astronomy news and events, the history of the David M. Brown Planetarium, a link to the Friends' store, and more.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority announces that cyclists and pedestrians will now have access to the W&OD Trail beyond normal daylight hours. The new W&OD Trail hours are from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., from Shirlington in Arlington County, to the western town limit of Herndon in Fairfax County. Lifeline Personal Alert System. Virginia Hospital Center Senior Health staff locally manage the personal emergency response system. Help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Monthly cost starts at \$42. Call 703-558-6859 for more.

Musical Instruments Wanted. Instruments of any type or size — from a piano to a piccolo, in response to school's needs. Donations are tax exempt. Contact Miriam Miller, Opera NOVA for pick up. 703-536-7557; mcdm1@verizon.net; www.operaguildnova.org.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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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

Alexandria Gazette Packet
 Publishing Since 1784

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Potomac Almanac
Mount Vernon Gazette
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 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 or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>
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Twenty-Five Years Later



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I submitted my first column for publication in early Dec. 2009 after having been hired for an advertising sales position 10 months earlier. Previously, I had been in the insurance business for almost 20 years. I always had a writing urge beginning with a story I wrote in first grade about the day I was born, to a Junior High School experience I had writing a last will and testament-type of compilation for the graduating ninth-graders (myself included) to a series of sports columns for my High School newspaper (the Denebola) and finally to a nearly two-year stint writing a column for the "diamondback," the weekly college newspaper for The University of Maryland. Upon graduation, I submitted writing samples around town and was offered a job at a local paper in Prince Georges County. However, upon my acceptance and return from Massachusetts to fill the position, I was devastated to learn the position had vanished due to weak advertising sales (little did I realize how much of a precursor that difficulty would turn out to be) which caused the publisher to reduce the number of pages it printed and with that page reduction went my column.

My columns written then were a preview to what my columns would become years later. The major difference between then and now, other than age, wisdom, and experience, were the curse words, in college anyway. They came naturally to me then and appeared regularly in my content. The editor never censored me. These columns were not spewing hate or anything, more about a college undergraduate trying to navigate the demands and challenges of college life.

Substance/content-wise, my columns are similar to what they were about then: "Everything in general about nothing in particular." There wasn't much information in my columns. Nor do I suppose there was much journalistic substance to what/how I write either. Nevertheless, I developed my own style which continues to this day. In addition to commenting on the minutiae in life we all must endure; I try to work through the trivialities of the day with a wink and a nod to the hope that what doesn't kill us, makes us stronger. As an example: I handwrite these columns with no fatigue in my arm. And for a man of my age/experience, being able to do anything non-stop for an hour is worth mentioning.

Seriously though, this writing thing must be in my DNA. I don't have to think too much about what I'm doing (it shows, right?). I'm able to, as my brother once said: "Churn out the drive!" without much further ado. And I thank our Editor-in-Chief Mary Kimm for giving me the space/opportunity to explore my passion every week; it was her idea to add a picture.

In my writing career at Connection Newspapers (which was the avocation to my full-time advertising sales vocation), I have won multiple writing awards from the various Press Associations that make up the "DMV," (Maryland, Washington, DC, and Delaware) for my weekly editorial columns. Unfortunately, I've never received a literary call-up to the Majors, so to speak. Occasionally I had a column appear in other print media, but the overwhelming exposure came in The Connection. And though I may have toiled in relative obscurity as a result, I loved being able to express myself so personally. As I have so often said, it's not so important that it's me writing about it, rather it's important that it's being written about. Write on.

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