

April 26 - May 2, 2023

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Public Hearings

/DOT



Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2024-2029 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 millior The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2024-2029 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2023/default.asp before April 20, 2023.

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

Thursday, April 20 Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	Monday, April 24 Richmond District Hawthorne Room 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, VA 23834	Monday, May 1, 5 p.m. *Northern Virginia District Potomac Conference Center NOVA District Office 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 Monday, May 8 Fredericksburg District Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408		
Tuesday, May 2 Culpeper District Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	Wednesday, May 3 Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486			
Monday, May 15 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210	Tuesday, May 16 Salem District Salem Civic Center Community Room 1001 Roanoke Boulevard Salem, VA 24153	Wednesday, May 17 Lynchburg District Lynchburg Grand Hotel 601 Main Street Lynchburg, VA 24504		

*The Northern Virginia District meeting will serve as the required joint public meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the CTB per § 33.2-214.3 of the Code of Virginia. This meeting will also be streamed online at https://www.youtube.com/live/ranpvKJOF74?feature=share.

You can submit comments online at https://arcg.is/Xi1TG0, or by email or mail by May 24, 2023.

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

For rail and public transportation: <u>DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov</u>, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

"Flourishing After 55"

Office of 55+ Programs Department of Parks and Recreation 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203 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.
- Local history group to discuss the 1935 renaming of Arlington streets, Wednesday, April 26, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913402-08.
- Origins of Russia's war on Ukraine, Thursday, April 27, 1:30 p.m., virtual. Presented by Professor Steven Barnes, George Mason University. Registration # 913400-23.
- History discussion led by Dwight Rodgers of Encore Learning, Thursday, April 27, 1 p.m., virtual. Registration # 913402-13.
- Current events discussion in Spanish, Thursday, April 27, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Must have minimum intermediate knowledge of Spanish. Led by Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration # 913402-18.
- Social ballroom dance, spacious dance floor, enjoy tango, waltz, foxtrot and swing, Friday, April 28, 1-3 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. No instruction provided. Drop-in.
- Movie showing at Aurora Hills 55+ Center, "See How They Run" (2022) (PG-13), Friday, April 28, 12:30 p.m.Registration # 913804-02.
- Just beneath the surface, examine the works of three artists including context, history and techniques, Friday, April 28, 10 a.m., virtual. Presented by Community Arts Programmer Jim Halloran. Registration # 913302-03.
- Open art studio for artists who work at their own pace with their own materials, Monday, May 1 and Friday, May 5, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Arlington Mill 55 + Center. Drop-in.
- Reading Buddies, seniors read to preschoolers, Monday, May 1, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Books provided. Registration # 913301-12.
- 55+ ice skating, exclusive senior hour, 8:50 a.m. – 10 a.m., MedStar Capitals Iceplex, Ballston Mall. Skate rental, \$1, garage parking, \$1. Visit https://www.medstarcapitalsiceplex.com to register for senior public skate.
- Physical activity benefits brain health according to Dr. Keith Cole, PhD, DPT, assistant professor of Health

and Rehabilitation Sciences, George Washington University. Presentation Tuesday, May 2, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913500-04.

- Microsoft Excel questions answered, Tuesday, May 2, 6 p.m., virtual. Submit questions ahead of time via email, Q&A with volunteer Benjamin Childers. Registration # 913403-12.
- Ukulele class, learn basic strumming, Tuesday, May 2, 4:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Taught by volunteer Sandy O'Shea. Registration # 913304-05. Limited ukuleles available or bring your own.
- Learn the histories of Chain Bridge, Little Falls, the Potomac Canal and Fort Marcy on a guided hike with National Park Service Ranger Kevin Patti, Tuesday, May 2, registration # 913106-22 and repeated Saturday, May 6, registration # 913106-23. Both begin at 9:30 a.m. Hike designed for physically fit walkers with good balance.
- 55+ Travel group will experience Chanticleer Garden, Wayne, PA, Wednesday, May 3. Often called the most romantic and exciting public garden in America. Cost \$86, Arlington resident; \$99, non-resident. Registration # 902;305-01.
- Learn how to incorporate brain healthy foods into daily diet, Wednesday, May 3, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Presented by Cathy Turner, Director of Health Promotion and Senior Health, Virginia Hospital Center. Registration # 913500-05.
- Trivia challenge, Thursday, May 4, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913600-08.
- Bring healthy and pest free plants or cuttings to trade with others, Thursday, May 4, 3 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913401-03.
- Around the world to South Korea to honor Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Thursday, May 4, 1:30 p.m., virtual. Overview of Korean culture, art, history and U.S. ties, presented by Adam Wojciechowicz from the Korean Culture Center. Registration # 913400-28.
- Create personalized 3D Pop-Up holiday cards, Thursday, May 4, 12:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Materials provided, however, participants can bring additional supplies. Registration # 913310-08. Uber and Lyft, overview of ride

sharing apps presented by tech guru Nick Englund, Friday, May 5, 11 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 913403-14.

STATIONARY ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP



Applications for the IUOE Local 99 Apprenticeship Program will be accepted during the period of May 1—5, 2023, inclusive. Applications must be completed in person by the applicant at Engineer Center 9315

Largo Drive West, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 from 9:30 a.m.

to 3:00 p.m. \$35 application e includes drug screen.

For additional information scan the QR Code.



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News

Is It a Rock Concert or a Book Sale?



Director of the Arlington Public Libraries Diane Kresh with book sales manager Peter Petruski. "He's the man today," she says.

By Shirley Ruhe Arlington Connection

he Friends of the Arlington Public Library Members Night was scheduled to begin Thursday at 5:30 p.m. But the line to attend had started forming at 7:30 a.m. Thursday and snaked all the way around the building. This event was the beginning of a weekend long public book sale held at the Arlington Central Library garage.

It felt more like a rock concert than a book sale as some people stood in line up to 10 hours waiting to get a long sought after special item. "It had a very festive vibe," Peter Petruski, Book Sales Manager said. "It's amazing how people enjoy coming."

Jamie Krovontka, a FOAL Board member, adds booksellers come from out-of-state, and they are there early. She says they bring in a good amount of revenue. One outof-stater left with \$4,000 worth of books. Krovontka adds other customers often come in with a special category they are interested in, like history buffs that are really into the military, and they rush right to that shelf.

Diane Kresh, director of the Arlington Public Libraries, has noticed that people seem to have returned a lot of good fiction, not the usual suspects, but literary books. Kresh says people were probably reading these books during Covid and now they are returning them, and other people are grabbing them up. Kresh says she has been director of the libraries for 17 years, and they were having these book sales well before she came.

Laura Porter, another FOAL Board member says, "I was surprised the first time I did the sale how many niche customers we have at these sales like the person today who left with about 15 books about birds and bird calls." WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Diane Kresh, Director of the Arlington Public Libraries.

And scattered around the ends of the shelfs are rotating displays of "impulse" buying that entice many people. One customer who was riding down to the garage in the elevator confessed, "I'm looking for more books I don't need in my house-anything and everything."

FOAL began accumulating books Nov. 1, 2022 when Marty Pippins, Book Sale Director, says they start at ground zero. He says all books are donated. By the time the sale began April 20, Pippins says they had around 1,500 boxes that translate into close to 50,000 books.

Pippins says the process of setting up the book sale began on Mon-day when they loaded the shelves and tables and set them up. He explains they have 83 book carts with 4 shelves each, double-sided. Tuesday morning they unloaded the books from the cage in back of the garage where the books had been stored. "We had 800 boxes on the floor of the garage."

On Wednesday it took 40-45 volunteers to unpack the books and load them on the shelves in one of the 48 categories ranging from Animals to World Languages. The last category, Valuable Books, was kept in the Quincy Room on the 1st floor of the Library. Once in a while Pippins says they had a tricky book to place. "There is no drama category so where do you put that book?" At the end of Wednesday, he says, they had everything ready



Several customers head across the Central Library garage toward the annual book sale on Saturday, April 22.



Amy Brannan decides not to wait to read her new book, "Little Bear."



Jamie Krovontka (left) and Laura Porter. both Friends of the Arlington Public Library (FOAL) Board Members, are volunteering at the book sale at the Central Library.



Customers browse through the shelves of Travel, Home, World History, Food or Essays at the FOAL book sale in the Central Library garage.



for Thursday. Pippins points out that hardback books are \$4 and soft cover \$2 and children's \$1 but there is a special deal for teachers who get half price. "Teachers come

in and sometimes buy 70-80 books for the classroom." He guesses that routinely people leave with 3-4 boxes of books in the range of \$10-30. So you may have taken home

your neighbor's books this weekend or they may have taken home yours. Kresh says, "We call this the largest running community recycling program in Arlington."

Arlington Connection & April 26 - May 2, 2023 & 3



Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Feasibility Study Arlington County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2023, 6:30 p.m. https://www.virginiadot.org/Route1MultimodalStudy

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) invites you to join a public information meeting for the Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Study. This virtual meeting will provide an update on Phase 2 of the feasibility study, which is identifying enhanced multimodal connectivity and accommodations along Route 1 (from 12th Street South to 23rd Street South) to meet the changing transportation needs of the Crystal City and Pentagon City communities. The meeting will include an overview of the proposed travel demand management (TDM) strategy and an update on the multimodal design.

The purpose of the second phase of this study is to further analyze the feasibility of the at-grade roadway recommended in the first phase. Phase 2 is developing a TDM strategy aimed at reducing vehicular trips through the area, providing additional feasibility analyses and multimodal street design options, and updating the Phase 1 multimodal transportation analyses as needed.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting.** Information for participating in the virtual meeting is available at **https://www.virginiadot.org/Route1MultimodalStudy**. The study team will make a presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer period.

Review study information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2599 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Give your comments during the meeting, or online by **June 9, 2023** via the comment form on the study website, by mail to Mr. Dan Reinhard, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to route1multimodalstudy@VDOT.virginia.gov.

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

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



Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

ach year, the National Association of Letter Carriers dedicates the 2nd Saturday of May to serving communities nationwide by collecting food to be delivered to local hunger organizations. In Arlington County, all food collected by letter carriers will go to AFAC.

Residents should put non-perishable food items into a grocery bag and leave them next to their mailbox by 9 a.m. on collection day. Your letter carrier will pick up the items and deliver them to AFAC. If you live in an apartment building or have a communal mailbox, please consider dropping it off at one of the Arlington Public Library branches or at an Arlington post office instead.

The foods we need most are: Low sugar cereal; Low sodium canned tomato products (diced, paste, or sauce); Low sodium canned tuna; Low sodium canned soups; Low sodium canned beans

No glass, expired food, or household items, please. If you miss your letter carrier or live in an apartment building, please bring your donation to the following Arlington Post Offices and Library no later than Friday, May 12: North Station (2200 N. George Mason Dr.), South Station (1210 S. Glebe Rd), Main Station (3118 Washington Blvd), Preston King Station in Westover (5877 Washington Blvd), Shirlington Post

Office (2850 S. Quincy St), or Central Library (1015 N. Quincy St.) You can also drop off your non-perishable items at AFAC's main Nelson St. Location (2708 S. Nelson St.) starting the Monday after the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive (Monday, May 15) during our food donation hours (Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 4:30pm AND Saturday: 8:30am to 1:00pm)

Doorways: Urgent Needs To Help Families

oorways urgent need list to support families this week includes size 6 diapers, kitchen sponges and Dawn dish soap. Doorways operates an emergency shelter as well as a safe longer-term temporary home providing comprehensive services to help families and youth work toward stability. The capacity is 22 beds and 10 bedrooms that house 6-9 families. Services are available including the customized counseling and support for those experiencing trauma. The next step up is Home-Start Supportive Housing Program that provides rental subsidies and

support services so they can transition into a home of their own when they graduate from doorways.

Doorways collects drive-through donations on Fridays from 11 am-1 pm. to help support their families. To schedule a drop-off during Drive-Thru Deeds contact astewart@doorwaysva.org. You can check the Doorways website each week for that week's suggested donations. See guidelines and a link to the Amazon wish list here: https://www.doorwaysva.org/donate/in-kind-giving/#guidelines

The shelter always needs new sheets, towels and kitchen supplies

as well as children's books.

Financial contributions are needed. https://www.doorwaysva.org/donate/

In 2009 Doorways became the only shelter in Virginia and one of nine in the country to offer safe shelter for survivors and their pets fleeing violence. In addition in that same year they partnered with Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing to launch affordable supportive housing for families who often face barriers to finding permanent housing after leaving the shelter.

https://www.doorwaysva.org/

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4 ♦ Arlington Connection ♦ April 26 - May 2, 2023



CHECK OUT THE PLANT CLINICS

The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St, Alexandria opens Saturday, May 6 at 7:00 - 9:30 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N 14th and N Courthouse Roads opens Saturday, April 22 at 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. The Del Ray Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria opens Saturday, May 6 from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S Stafford St, Arlington, opens Sunday, May 7 at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26,

Expert Garden Speakers. 6:30 - 7:45 pm, Arlington Central Library, 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington. Arlington Central Library Talks. Join Arlington/Alexandria llVCE Master Gardeners and other expert speakers as they provide information on a variety of garden topics each Wednesday. April topics are: 4/26-Container and Balcony Gardening. Programs will continue on Wednesdays through September.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 26 Balcony? Patio? You Can Still Grow

Your Favorites. 6:45 p.m. Meets

at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Part of Garden Talks 2023. You don't need a yard to grow your own herbs and vegetables. Find out how container gardening can work for you.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

AFAC Shining a Light on Hunger. 6:30-9:30 p.m. At Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington. This is AFAC's largest annual fundraising event held on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at Army Navy Country Club. Please join them at the spring celebration for

great food, drink, music, laughter and fun. Your support for this event will help AFAC provide weekly groceries to all families. If you prefer to pay by invoice or check, or have any questions, contact Jolie Smith at Jolie.Smith@afac.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 28

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

Master Gardener Kathie Clements to learn strategies for coping with deer. Deer pressure requires that we think creatively about our home landscapes. She will discuss deer behavior and how it can help you develop ways to better protect your garden. Creative hardscape options as well as resourceful use of shrubs and smart plant placement will be covered. Find out about exclusion tactics such as barriers, repellants, and scare devices. Advice for making wise plant choices and recommended

See Calendar, Page G



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From Page 6

9th Annual Arlington Festival of the Arts. The free event benefitting the Clarendon Alliance takes place in the heart of the Clarendon district with all artists on-site throughout the festival. Presented by Howard Alan Events, producer of the nation's top juried art and craft shows. Visit www.artfestival.com or call 561-746-6615.

APRIL 29-30

Spring Party. Saturday from 5-8 p.m.; Sunday from 2-5 p.m. At Columbia Pike Artist Studios, 932 S. Walter Reed Drive, Sec-

ond Floor, Arlington. Columbia Pike Artist Studios, an artist cooperative, in Arlington, will host an open studio of 19 artists working across media: painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, and sculpture. A group exhibition of member artists will be installed in the gallery and will be open during the open studio event. Participating artists include: Karen Bland, Rhys Conlon, Larry Currence, Helen Ginberg, Anne Hancock, Paula Lantz, Barry Lindley, Sharon Malley, Nan Morrison, Bridget Murphy, Robbie Namy, Morgan Johnson Norwood, Marta Sewall, Margaret Stewart, Monica Stroik, Alice Whealin, Bobbi Wolcott, Vladimir Zabavskiy, and Ghada Zaytoun. Visit the website: www.columbiapikeartiststudios.org

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Free Bike Skills for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At The Woman's Club of Arlington Parking Lot, 700 South Buchanan St. Arlington. Ages: For preschool children and older. Bring your child and their bike to participate in: Safety Helmet Check; Bike Maintenance Check; Games to Teach Basic Biking Skills; Two riding courses of varying levels; and Balancing bikes available for preschooler use. Contact The Woman's Club of Arlington at 703-553-5800 or womansclubarlington@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 30

Glencarlyn Library Community Garden Spring Celebration & Plant Sale. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Glencarlyn Library Community Garden, 300 S Kensington St, Arlington. Join the VCE Master Gardeners of Glencarlyn Library for their annual celebration of all things Spring! Tour the garden in all its Spring beauty, learn what plants will flourish in your garden, sip an herbal drink and munch plant-themed good-



he 9th Annual Arlington Festival of the Arts will take place April 29-30 in Arlington.

ies while shopping at native plant vendors. For more information email to: glencarlynlibrarygarden@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY/MAY 3

Herbs for Health & Flavor. 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Part of Garden Talks 2023. Fresh herbs can take your cooking from good to great. There are herbs for all cuisines and growing conditions. Which will you grow? How do you grow them? Where do they fit with your vegetables?

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Arlington Civitans Open Air Flea Market. 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 4001 15th Street North, Arlington. The Civitan Open Air Flea Market, one of Northern Virginia's largest and oldest public flea markets, is located in the I-66 garage in North Arlington adjacent to Washington-Lee high school and the Arlington Planetarium at 15th and North Quincy Streets, in Arlington. Here you'll find over 150 vendors clothes, furniture, garden tools, household goods, jewelry, shoes, toys, records, and so treasure so you are guaranteed to find someat the same time

p.m. and 3 p.m. At the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. The performance features works by choreographers Sarah J. Ewing, Jane Franklin, Robert J. Priore, Kevin White for Forty+ Project and is directed by Jane Franklin.

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

TRAFFIC ALERT: 2023 ARLINGTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

- The 2023 Arlington Festival of the Arts will take place from Saturday, April 29 to Sunday, April 30, 2023. Set-up for the event will begin at approximately 3:00 a.m. on Saturday, and the event will be open both Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
- The following roads will be closed from approximately 3:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 29 through 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 30:
- Westbound Washington Boulevard, from 10th Street N. to Clarendon Boulevard The left lane of eastbound Washington
- Boulevard, from Clarendon Boulevard to N. Garfield Street (the right lane will be open to motor vehicle traffic)
- N. Highland Street, from Clarendon Boulevard to Washington Boulevard (local traffic will be able to access the parking garage for 3100 Clarendon Boulevard from 11th Street N.)
- 11th Street N., from N. Garfield Street to N. Highland Street (local traffic only)



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nd Poto- al media. de great-	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 for- ward into 2022.
commu- st year's like you g arrived, await a ly Febru- d. But we rutal time	The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2203. Some be- lowed advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fail of 2201 we sum the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the hotizon in sor many ways. Revenue all remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.
pers and d patient	Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countiess residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pic- tures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large na-
iy news- ers con- ost trust- exandria all Con-	tional 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.

Daze of **Future Past**



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I am thinking more presently about my brother's death on Dec. 3rd (see last week's column, "The Dog's Honest Truth"); even though it's been five-plus months since his passing, there's still a part of my brain that keeps expecting an email, especially every morning when I turn on the computer or a phone call - at any time. The calls and emails happened so frequently over the past almost 10 years that receiving them is almost muscle memory, as if it sort of happens on its own, and I can't do anything about it. And when it doesn't happen, I experience that random wave of grief I talked about recently. For no apparent reason and/or no apparent trigger, I'll feel a subconscious punch to the gut reminding me - for the millionth time, that my brother is dead. And believe me, I don't need any reminding. But 'reminding' I get, all the time.

The effect isn't tangible or even describable other than as a vague emotional blip. It almost stops me in my tracks. It is to invoke a quote from a long-ago Seinfeld episode: "Something." Typically, I'll acknowledge it, shake my head in sadness and then return to my regularly scheduled activity. It's not incapacitating or anything. It's simply a moment in time that regularly occurs, morning, noon, or night. I'm sure it's worse for Vanessa however, Richard's widow living in the house they shared for almost 30 years. I can't imagine the daily (probably minute by minute) reminders that Vanessa experiences. When I've asked her about those kinds of feelings and commended her on her wherewithal under such emotionally difficult circumstances, she replies she "has good days and bad days." Though I knew Richard longer than Vanessa did, and have lots of childhood memories, I've never lived with him or been surrounded - as Vanessa is, 24/7, by all things Richard.

A close friend of mine, and fellow cancer survivor, Lynne, said years ago before I started chemotherapy that it would be the hardest thing I've ever done. And I certainly wouldn't want to wish it on my worst enemy but, my brother's dying has given me a new contender: being the lone immediate family member (cousins and all notwithstanding) still alive/last one standing. All that shared DNA gone, but not forgotten, which is the most difficult aspect of the loss. The primary people I would go to/ask for advice, guidance, encouragement, understanding, and compassion are now all gone. And they are not replaceable. When foundational pieces of your life disappear (through death mostly), your life is never quite the same, or as interesting. I feel, with my brother's passing, I have much less to offer; that there are fewer questions people might have for me about my life (which included him). It's not exactly an awkward silence that follows, it's more an abbreviated conversation. I don't take it personally though. I am less interesting without my brother alive. He was an integral part of my life. I don't expect I'll ever get over the loss. In public, to the untrained eye I'll look as if today is just another day. But from now on those days will be less fulfilling and more somber.

"Forest, Forest Gump," knew, even though he was mentally challenged. Invoking his deceased mother: "Mama always said dying was part of life. I wish it wasn't." From the mouths of babes, or in this case a fictional character, comes brilliance, simplicity, and clarity. And though I suppose I understand and appreciate some of the feelings I've described concerning my brother and his semi unexpected passing (he went in septic shock after all; very serious); nevertheless, it's still a bit unsettling when I experience them. I am sort of grateful that I feel what I do. Though my brother may not be alive, fortunately for me, his memory sure is, and I don't expect that to ever change.

Why this whole experience/loss is so hard for me and many others, is that Richard was a big presence. His not being places where he usually was is unnerving. It's obvious that something (someone) is missing. And for the moment, I'm still half-expecting a contact somehow because for almost the entirety of my 68 years. I was receiving them all the time. Moreover, since we lived in the same city ("DMV," actually) not only we were emotionally close, physically we were 30 minutes away. Add in the ease/convenience of communication that has come with a cell/smart phone as well as the instantaneous connection enabled by home computers and the lines of that communication were non-stop (let' say frequent). However close we were in life before these technological improvements took hold, we were that much closer after – because we could be. Losing that connection on Dec. 3rd will haunt me for the rest of my life.

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

selling a variety of goods ranging from books, much more. One man's junk is another man's thing to tickle your fancy and save you money

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Jane Franklin Dance in Creativity in Motion. 2

PUBLIC INVITED TO OBSERVANCE OF

2023 PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

The Arlington County Police Department and

gather to honor and pay tribute to the

memory of the seven law enforcement

officers of Arlington County who made

the ultimate sacrifice in service to our

community. This solemn ceremony is held

each year ahead of National Police Week

which recognizes those law enforcement

officers throughout the United States who

have lost their lives in the line of duty for

invited to attend the Observance of Peace

Location: Arlington County Justice Center Pla-

Road Closure: N. Courthouse Road will be

za located at 1425 North Courthouse Road

Street N. from approximately 7:00 a.m. to

closed between 14th Street N. and 15th

9:00 a.m. to accommodate the event.

the safety and protection of others and

provides support to their survivors.

Members of the public and the media are

Officers Memorial Day.

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Observance of Peace Officers Memorial Day

the Arlington County Sheriff's Office will

News



A variety of booths offering advice on plants, climate, solar energy as well as handcrafted arts line the street in front of the Lee Heights shops at the Earth Day celebration.



The Honey Larks trio entertains the crowd at Earth Day celebration on Saturday.

mate Anxie

Meredith Haines with the Citizens Climate Lobby is letting people know about Inflation Reduction Act incentives to get upgraded appliances and solar energy.

Celebrate Earth Day Every Day

By Shirley Ruhe Arlington Connection

he free Earth Day Festival in front of the Lee Heights shops advertised "rain or shine" and had some of each on Sunday, April 23. The second year of the Festival featured music, booths, composting demos, how to select a plant, a recycled bag lady, as well as plant advice and information on energy tax incentives and a "Count Your Joys" truck.

The Virginia Cooperative Extension table was a busy place. Molly Newling, manning the table covered with information about trees, said people had been coming all day with questions about plant identification, why their tree had died and could it come back to life (probably not) and with inquiries about the spotted lanternfly which is a new invasive coming in. "It's really a nuisance. It sucks the sap out of plants, especially fruit trees." She said right now they are asking people to report where they see the lanternflies to help track the population.

Angela McNamara, another Virginia Extension volunteer, helps a man who has brought several leaves for identification and who wants to know to whether this plant is attractive to butterflies and birds. It is identified as a butterfly bush which will attract adults but will not host the caterpillars. Mc-Namara explains the butterflies will eat the pollen but not lay their eggs on the plant. "It's only one portion of the four-stage life cycle."

At the end of the block a large white art truck is spotted with green, yellow and blue magnets representing a number of joys recorded by an individual on a small red clicker. A nine-year-old sits on a metal chair with his clicker while 8 ARLINGTON CONNECTION APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2023



snake skins and turtle shells draws the attention of all ages.

he punches once for the brownie he just ate, several times for his dog Sophie, again for hockey. When he is finished he will get the color of magnet that corresponds to his number of joys and will find a place to stick it on the Count Your Joys Truck.

The concept of the "Count Your Joys" truck was developed by artist Heloisa Escudero who was looking for something that would encourage people to think positively. She was playing with a clicker one day and thought "why not have people count their joys." She says, "It isn't about the number of joys; it's about the experience."

The truck is sponsored by the Arlington Department of Cultural Affairs according to Cynthia Connolly, Special Projects Curator. She says they have four different projects a year and go to places where people convene like farmer's markets, festivals and parks. Connolly says the project was really designed for adults, people who work along the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor. "It would be a better world if we would all do art. It's easy to get kids to do this but more difficult to convince adults to try it."

Between the booths selling Indian jewelry and hand-crafted pots sits a table advertising "climate anxiety counseling 5 cents." Meredith Haynes from the Citizens Climate Lobby is encouraging people to use the tax credit incentives in The Inflation Reduction Act to get upgrades of electrical appliances. One of the goals of their organization is to urge County Board Members to join local government leaders for electrification.

The music of the Honey Larks trio blasts out down the block-"Tried my hand at the Bible, It's gonna bring my soul to bear."

The Recycled Bag Lady sits at her table piled high with colorful crocheted bags woven entirely out of recycled plastic bags. She says

it takes close to 15 hours and 35 plastic bags to produce one of these crocheted bags. She says people send her bags from all over the country and they come from family and friends "and I rescue them from recycle bins. I just collect them and put different things together. For instance, the turquoise in this bag comes from Walmart and the purple from a family store in Pittsburgh. The white is from Giant."

Celebration of Earth Day Festival April 23 spon-

sored by Langston Boulevard Alliance.

The Langston Boulevard Alliance, which sponsored the event said, "Let's come together as a community to celebrate the beauty and the promise of our local environment and the planet. Every year communities worldwide uplift Earth Day to mark the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. It reminds us all to do what we can, in ways small and significant, restore, conserve and protect our environment."

Arrlington

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