

The Arlington Connection

Ewa Fraszczyk with her completed order of six pierogies with caramelized onions and her mother's recipe for pickled cabbage.

In the [Polish] Kitchen For Pierogies

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/CONNECTION

AUGUST 9-15, 2023

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Green Valley Residents Sign Anti-Violence Pledge

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

On Sunday, July 30 at John Robinson Town Square, more than 200 people signed pledges to stop the violence in the Green Valley community. According to Portia Clark, President of the Green Valley Civic Association, there have been a number of serious incidents in Green Valley recently including a report of a gun fired and a stabbing as well as a recent mob of 25 people fighting that led to a police response of more than 20 police vehicles.

“So [the Stop the Violence] event was a way to help build relationships across the community and to get the community to pledge that they would not use weapons like guns to solve any disputes.” She says community partners worked with T.K. Harris and Javan “Blue” Harris, coordinators of the event, to make a difference in the community.

The pledge:

“I love my community and want it to flourish, so:



Stop the Violence Event Sunday, July 30 at Robinson Town Square.



Set up and clean up crew for the Stop the Violence Event Sunday.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

I pledge to resolve conflicts without violence; and when a problem is bigger than I can handle, I am not “too cool” to ask for assistance. I pledge to be a critical thinker

and because it is my right to have the best life I can, I will have the courage to do the right thing always, even when it’s not the most popular choice. I will be the ex-

ample for my peers and encourage resolution without violence. And most importantly, I pledge to love and respect myself. I value my future more than pride or street cred.

I know that gun violence leads to jail, death or disability so I owe it to myself to make sound decisions and hang around people who want the best for me.”

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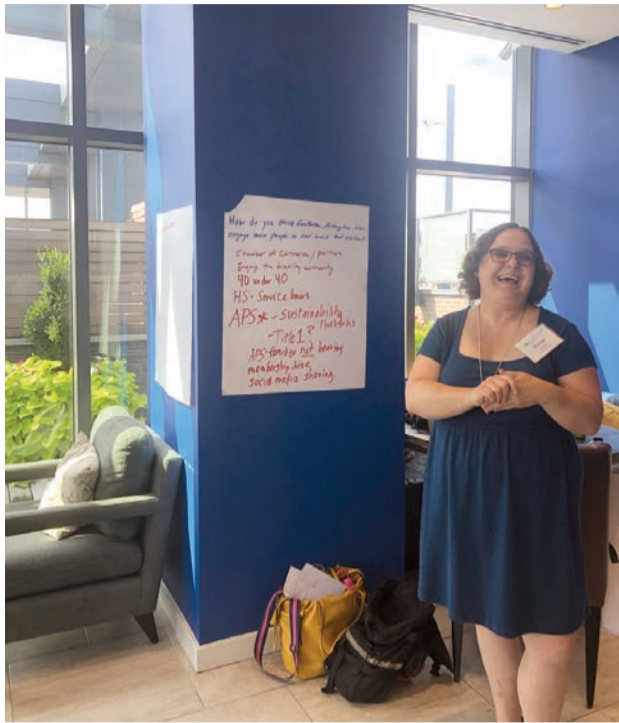
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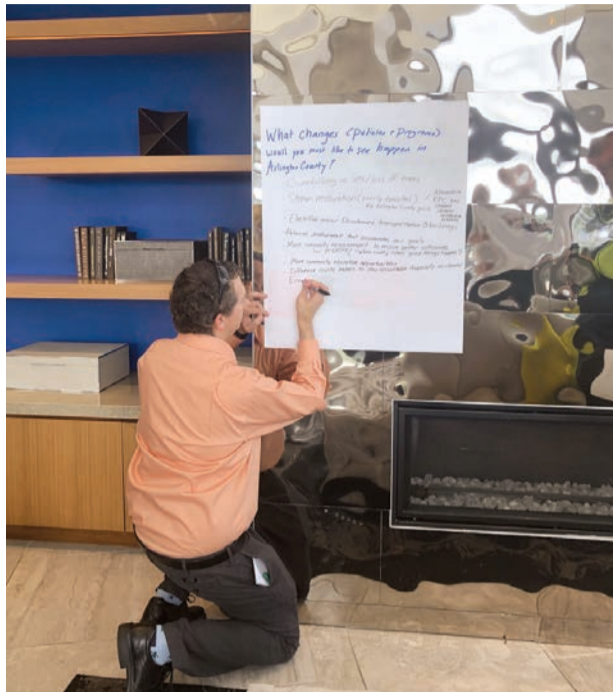
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Elenor Hodges asks participants how they think we can engage more people in the work and vision of EcoAction Arlington? Schools, students, and community leaders need to be part of this effort.



EcoAction asks: What can government do? What policies need to be put in place? That was the subject for one group of participants. Be more strict about lot coverage and taking down trees unnecessarily for stream restoration was a major topic.



Break-out groups were informal but passionate: too many people are wasting food, using Round-up, cutting down canopy trees, overbuilding lots, and putting plastic bags in their recycling. What to do? <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/>

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

EcoAction Arlington Seeks To Get Residents Involved

Getting Arlington residents to take responsibility for climate is focus.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

You can't save a planet without a little help from your friends: that is the thinking behind Arlington's EcoAction group, a non-profit that seeks to help residents recycle better, clean up streams, compost, and take care of its trees, to name a few major goals. And that is why EcoAction Arlington met

with donors and activists on July 21, taking over the classy 11th floor reception-room-with-a-view at Marymount's Ballston campus, to brainstorm and come up with ways to realize strategic goals for 2023-2025. Their strategic plan states:

"The environmental issues facing our planet are vast, serious, and growing. In particular, climate change presents an urgent and existential global crisis, with its

impacts already being felt in our community. While environmental issues are shared across the globe, our focus as an organization is intensely local. We believe that Arlington should be a leader in sustainable living, meeting our responsibility to leave to future generations a county that is cleaner, greener, and healthier than the one which we now inhabit. We aspire for Arlington to be a model for other communities, demonstrating

that sustainable living is both possible and desirable. Our vision can only be realized through a 'whole of county' approach – through the collective actions of the county government, schools, companies, restaurants, citizen organizations, visitors, and residents. We envision EcoAction Arlington as a facilitator of that collective action. Moreover, we have become increasingly aware that environmental degradation disproportionately impacts

low/moderate income and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) communities. We are therefore committed to ensuring that future environmental engagement is done with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion."

Board members of the non-profit asked residents who have already shown an interest in preserving our environment to gather and

SEE ECOACTION, PAGE 7

Feedback On Study

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is seeking feedback on a study assessing potential safety, bicycle, pedestrian and transit improvements for three-quarters of a mile of Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) between Fillmore Street and North Pershing Drive, and about a mile of Route 27/Washington Boulevard between Columbia Pike (Route 244) and North Pershing Drive in Arlington.

See the study <https://vapipeline.org/studies/nova/nv-23-06.asp>

VDOT invites residents and travelers to take an online survey that has a translation tool for other



languages through Aug. 15. Community input received through this survey will help the study team identify existing issues along the study corridor and develop recommendations for potential improvements that will be evaluated and presented during the next phase of the study.

In addition to the online survey, comments can be emailed to meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov or mailed to Mr. Khalil Minhas, PE., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

This study is being conducted as part of the Project Pipeline pro-

gram, which was created by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

Project Pipeline is a performance-based planning program to identify cost-effective solutions to multimodal transportation needs in Virginia.

This study is expected to be

complete in summer 2024; it does not set construction dates for any improvements. The final plan will provide a multimodal investment strategy that can be used to seek and secure funding through programs including Smart Scale, Revenue Sharing, interstate funding, and others.

IN THE KITCHEN

Order Your Pierogies Early Before They Disappear



Fraszczyk has let the dough sit about 30 minutes before rolling out and then rise on a tray for 2-3 hours before cutting out the circles for her pierogies.

Ewa Fraszczyk has rolled out the dough for her pierogies. She says it took about a year to get the dough the way she wanted it. "It's about the temperature in the communal kitchen." The dough has flour, water and oil—no dairy so she says vegans love it.



Fraszczyk carefully folds over the circle of dough and pinches the edges carefully to make sure the filling doesn't fall out.

Fraszczyk puts a scoop of potato-cheese filling on each circle of dough. She has cooked and mashed Idaho potatoes, added sage, rosemary and thyme and shredded Gruyere.



Pierogies are cooked in boiling water for five minutes, then boxed in an order of six with caramelized onions and pickled cabbage. Fraszczyk has three six-gallon roundels of caramelized onions on the stove at the same time. She uses about 50 pounds a week and cooks the yellow onions slowly in canola oil because it avoids people's allergies. "Mostly chefs do a lot of things at one time but not with these onions. I have to watch them all the time so they don't burn."

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Ewa Fraszczyk fills a circle of home-made dough with a scoop of potato-mushroom filling. She works in a communal kitchen on Columbia Pike producing her Polish pierogies using her mother's recipe. "Sorry, can't tell you all of the details."

Fraszczyk had been working at Tiki on the Wharf in D.C. and then the epidemic hit. "I was at home and didn't know what to do. I had always been going, going, going working so many hours."

The months went by and then they called her back. While she liked her job there, something had changed during Covid and "I thought I don't know if I can do this. I decided to do something for myself."

She started searching for a communal kitchen and found the space at Kitchen of Purpose on Columbia Pike. But then she faced the bureaucracy of all of the county regulations and the health department. "I thought 'so this is what it is all about. Everything is so expensive. How are you going to do it?'" She says her fiancé supported her dramatically "and we say I can do it."

Her concept was fine dining "to go" dinners but the timing was wrong. She says Covid was over and people wanted to go out. "No one wanted food in boxes anymore. I came at the wrong time."

So she switched her idea. "I thought 'I have what I need so okay. Ewa do something close to your heart.' So I decided to look for outdoor farmer's markets." She says it was difficult to find a space since the number of vendors had been limited during Covid and the markets were giving preference to their old vendors.

But she did research and luckily a woman decided to help her out, and she started at a Farmer's Market in Shady Grove, Md.

"And then more people started hearing about me. And thankfully Eastern Market in D.C. welcomed me."

She says it wasn't easy. "I thought, 'I am a chef but how do I do this outside?'" The first time I made \$236.00, and I knew I could



Ewa Fraszczyk with her completed order of six pierogies with caramelized onions and her mother's recipe for pickled cabbage. She uses about 40 pounds of cabbage a week which is cut very precisely and then pickled for a week in a sweet brine of sugar, vinegar, salt and caraway. Shredded carrots and extra virgin olive oil are added a day before serving.

make it happen."

Now Fraszczyk goes to the Eastern Market Farmer's every week; "I know people now and if I don't show up, they email to find out when I'm coming." She makes her sauerkraut and mushroom pierogies as well as her potatoes and cheese. "I use Gruyere. I have stopped making my meat dumplings in the summer because they are too heavy when it is hot and people don't want them."

She says that since she makes all of her pierogies fresh and doesn't freeze them that she needs to be careful not to make too many so she has limited her sales from the communal kitchen in Arlington and concentrates on the Farmer's Market. "I have pre-orders for 350 for tomorrow." She also sells pork and rice in cabbage. She tries to spell the name in English but finally gives up. "In Polish we have this mark over the letter and this little twist down here."

Fraszczyk is also working on a catering order for tomorrow for a Polish family who like her roasted chicken and potatoes with fresh summer salads. She says the family had this meal once a long time ago and now order a catered dinner for birthdays and other special events. "And as word gets out, I'm asked to give Polish cooking classes or cater private dinners. There isn't any other Polish food around."

Fraszczyk says there are so many international people in the area, "and when they see my Polish flag, they know what they are getting." She says in time she may expand to have another location but for now "I want to be at the market myself. I want people to know me. I love to make the pierogies; this is where I find my peace."

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

ENTERTAINMENT

YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973 IS HOLDING ITS 50TH REUNION Scheduled for Oct. 6-8, 2023, at Westin Arlington Gateway. Contact: John Murphy at fhogmurph@gmail.com

NOW THRU AUG. 13
“Cyrano De Bergerac.” At Synetic Theater, Arlington. Cyrano has a larger-than-life personality...and a nose to match. He’s a man who has it all—except for the confidence to win the heart of his beloved Roxanne. This timeless tale features mistaken identities, breath-taking sword fights, unrequited love and acts of heroism – all expressed through Synetic’s signature wordless style, with a commedia dell’arte twist, in a production that earned an astounding nine Helen Hayes nominations. Check www.synetictheater.org for dates and showtimes.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9, 16, 23, AND 30 Central Library Wednesday Talks. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Arlington Central Library, 1015 N Quincy St., Arlington. Join Friends of Urban Agriculture, Arlington/Alexandria Extension Master Gardeners and other expert speakers as they provide information on a variety of garden topics each month. Topics in August include Vegetables for Fall and Winter Harvest on Aug 2, Cover Crops for Healthy Soil on Aug 9, Extend Your Growing Season on Aug 16, Foraging for Wild Edibles Aug 23, and Garden Tool Care on Aug 30. Free. No registration required. For more information call 703-228-5940.

TUESDAY, AUG. 15, 22, AND 29 Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, Tuesdays @ 10, 10-11:30 a.m., Simpson Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe Ave. Alexandria. Join Extension Master Gardeners in the Simpson Demonstration Gardens to learn their techniques and strategies for discouraging pests of all kinds while protecting beneficial insects and animals and the quality of the soil and water. Free.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 9 Cover Crops for Healthy Soil. 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Cover crops protect, nurture and add structure to your soil. Learn the what, when and how of using cover crops to bring your garden to a whole new level.

FRIDAY/AUG. 11 The Hospitable Gardener: Welcoming Fire-



The Arlington County Fair takes place Aug. 16-20, 2023 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington.

Arlington County Fair

At the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 2nd Street South, Arlington. The Arlington County Fair is so much more than rides and food! Gardeners, cooks, and bakers start planning for your entries in the County Fair Competitive Exhibits. Blue ribbons are in your future with prize-winning vegetables and flowers, breads, baked goods, and preserves. And when the Fair opens, drop by the Virginia Cooperative Extension booth for information and answers to your questions. Entry information is available at <https://www.arlingtoncountyfair.us/>

Arlington County Fair Hours

- ❖ Wednesday, Aug. 16, 5-10:30 p.m.
- ❖ Thursday, Aug. 17, 5-10:30 p.m.
- ❖ Friday, Aug. 18, 2-10:30 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- ❖ Sunday, Aug. 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

flies and Other Creatures to Your Yard. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. Are you charmed on summer evenings by the tiny bobbing lights of amorous fireflies? Many non-human creatures share the property we call our own, and we can improve the quality of their lives and support the environment by the way we garden. This talk by Extension Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Alyssa Ford Morel looks at fireflies, hummingbirds, lady bugs, and other creatures with whom we share our yards, and suggests practices to welcome and support them. You will learn ways to start addressing the biodiversity crisis at home. Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/to-receive-a-link-to-participate>.

MONDAY/AUG. 14

Blood Drive. 12:30-4:30 p.m. At Fire Works American Pizzeria, at Clarendon Blvd. and North Adams Street, Arlington. An INOVA Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile will be parked in front of Fire Works. Blood donations to INOVA Blood Donor Services are desperately needed due to critical shortages of blood products for patients throughout Arlington County and surrounding communities in Northern Virginia. Visit <https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/donor/schedule/drive-schedule/33342> to schedule your appointment, or call 1-866-BLOODSAVES (1-866-256-6372) and use Sponsor Code 8629 or contact Jessica Willis-Schnitz at jessica.willis@inova.org.

willis@inova.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

Extend Your Growing Season. 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Protect your crops from the chill with hot caps, cold frames, row covers and other techniques.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Lesson Zero. 5:30-6:30 p.m. At Thomas Jefferson Community Center, Arlington. The Arlington County Fair presents the music of Oasis recording artist Lesson Zero for a free show, Saturday, Aug. 19, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, Arlington. For additional information, see: www.youtube.com/lessonzero and www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero.

LATE NIGHT AT THE MILL

Saturday, Aug. 12. From 8-11 p.m. At Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St., Arlington. Middle and high school teens, join in on the fun at Arlington Mill Community Center for six great nights of dance, sports, art activities, snacks and more! The center will reopen after hours from 8-11 p.m. for you to hang out with friends, meet new ones and have some fun. The last night, Aug. 12, will be a pool party at Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center.

COLUMBIA PIKE PARTNERSHIP

2023 MOVIE NIGHTS

The Columbia Pike Partnership is pleased to announce the full list of movies for its popular Summer Movie Nights series returning to Arlington Mill Community Center Outdoor Plaza and Penrose Square Outdoor Plaza in August. Enjoy free movies this summer on Friday and Saturday nights with a selection of 16 family-friendly films from animation, adventure, comedy, musicals, and more. All movies start at sunset (between 8 and 8:30 p.m.) and are shown in English with Spanish subtitles.

Fridays at Arlington Mill, 909 South Dinwiddie St, Arlington, VA

Aug. 11: Raiders of the Lost Ark

Aug. 18: Lightyear

Aug. 25: The Goonies

Saturdays at Penrose Square, 2200 S 6th St, Arlington, VA

Aug. 12: Top Gun: Maverick

Aug. 19: The Woman King

Aug. 26: Jurassic World Dominion

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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.

Registration for 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, is open, online only at www.nvso.us. Registration fee \$20 for unlimited events. For more information, email nvso1982@gmail.com.

An in-depth discussion of inheritance issues including family heirlooms and pre-planning the recipients of personal belongings, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+

Center. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Financial Education Volunteers. Registration # 914404-04.

Current events discussion in Spanish, Thursday, Aug. 10, virtual. Participants must have at least an intermediate knowledge of Spanish. Led by Lubber Run 55+ Center Ashley Gomez Figueredo. Registration # 914402-13.

History discussion group led by Dwight Rodgers, Encore Learning, Thursday, Aug. 10, 1 p.m., virtual. Topics include cultural, economic, artistic and political histories. Registration # 914402-07.

Movie matinee of “The Banshees of Inisherin” (2022) (R), Thursday, Aug. 10, 2 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-11.

Bilingual Bingo in English and Spanish, Thursday, Aug. 10, 3:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registra-

tion # 914600-11.

Beginner quilting, create raised images from coils of paper strips, Thursday, Aug. 10, 1:30 – 3 p.m. \$18. Supplies provided. Taught by Joni Leonardo. Registration # 914310-03.

Navigating the “55+ Guide,” published by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of 55+ Programs, Friday, Aug. 11, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Volunteers will help in finding programs based on personal interests plus the process of registering. Registration # 914400-32.

Cribbage, a classic yet challenging card game, Friday, Aug. 11, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center, drop-in. Practice for 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in September

Bingo at Aurora Hills 55+ Center, win prizes, Friday, Aug. 11, 1 p.m.

Registration # 914600-15.

Filmmaker interest group to meet Monday, Aug. 14, 4:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Learn how to do more with film whether in front of or behind the camera. Led by video expert Nick Englund. Registration # 914403-08.

Chess games with players of all levels plus newcomers welcome, Monday, Aug. 14, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Madison Community Center. Meet Chess Master Macon Shibut and discuss strategies and famous moves. Drop-in.

Escape Room at Walter Reed 55+ Center. After the 55+ Center Director has finished a presentation, no one can exit the conference room, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 6 p.m. 7:15 p.m. Registration # 914600-07.

Genealogy 101, led by genealogist Eileen Bogdanoff, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+

Center. Learn how to use the free Familysearch.org website. Registration # 914402-03.

Reading Buddies, seniors pair up with preschoolers to read stories from books provided by preschool teachers, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m. Lubber Run 55+ Center. To volunteer as a reader, registration # 914301-13.

55+ Travel group is headed to the Grounds for Sculpture Museum and Gardens in Hamilton, N.J. Tuesday, Aug. 15. View nearly 300 sculptures on 42 landscaped acres. Cost \$93, Arlington resident; \$107 non-resident. Registration # 902308-03.

Until help arrives training, taught by a volunteer from Arlington County’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Wednesday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 914400-06.

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Notice of Public Meeting for Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and Section 106 Public Consultation Regarding Removal of the Confederate Memorial from Arlington National Cemetery Department of the Army

The Department of the Army has published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and to conduct the Section 106 public consultation process under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to address potential environmental effects associated with the congressionally-mandated removal of the Confederate Memorial from Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). The purpose of the proposed action is to remove from ANC a monument that commemorates the Confederate States of America. The need for the proposed action is to comply with non-discretionary congressional direction. The EIS will look at the impacts of removal of the statue atop the monument, disassembly of the bronze elements, and disposition of both. The Army intends to leave the granite base and foundation in place.

The NOI, published August 4, 2023, initiates a 30-day public scoping period, during which the Army will solicit comments on the proposed action. The NEPA scoping process is meant to identify factors that will influence the NEPA analysis, including alternatives and mitigation. Public scoping comments can be submitted via a website form located at: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Confederate-Memorial-Removal>.

A virtual public scoping meeting will take place August 23, 2023, to cover both the NEPA and NHPA processes. The meeting time, instructions on how to access the meeting, and more information on the proposed action and how to participate in the EIS process will be posted on the ANC webpage: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Confederate-Memorial-Removal>.

ABC LICENSE
 Compass Group USA, Inc trading as The Centurion Lounge, 2401 Smith Blvd. Terminal B, Arlington, Arlington VA 22202. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Mixed Beverage Carrier - Airplane license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jennifer McConnell, EVP and Secretary. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

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Human Trafficking? NOT ON MY ROUTE

Let's keep Virginia safe. If you see signs of human trafficking abuse, just call #77, and you can be a human-traffic hero!

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2024 Juror Qualification Process Begins Now

The Arlington Circuit Court, which includes the City of Falls Church, will soon begin its annual juror qualification process. Juror questionnaires will be mailed in early August to approximately 35,000 randomly selected residents of Arlington County and Falls Church City. These questionnaires are used to qualify residents for jury duty which begins Jan. 1, 2024 and ends Dec. 31, 2024.

In accordance with State law, questionnaires are distributed annually to a random selection of residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. Recipients are selected from registered voter rolls provided by the State Board of Elections. If you do not receive a form in the US Mail, there is nothing you need to do. Jury Commissioners appointed by the Court review the questionnaires in the Fall, to determine eligibility for service according to criteria established by the General Assembly.

For more information about jury duty, including a list of individuals who are exempt from serving, please visit the Courts & Judicial Services page.

Not everyone will receive a Juror Questionnaire via postcard in the US Mail; If you do not receive a postcard there is nothing further to do.

If you DO receive the postcard, please follow the steps below:

Read and carefully follow the instructions on the postcard. Using your Candidate/Juror ID# printed on the postcard, visit the secure Juror Website at <https://ejuror.arlingtonva.us/> to complete and submit the form online. If you cannot logon to the Website, please try again later or try another browser.

If you do not have a computer, to have a paper copy of the form mailed to you, call 703-228-3123 and provide: 1) Candidate/Juror ID# (without leading zeros), Pool # beginning with the #8 (ex: 801); 2) first

and last name. The Court strongly encourages online submission to save time and resources.

Some questions on the form require submission of documents as proof of hardship (i.e., doctor's notes, travel documents, military orders) and/or detailed explanations in the Remarks section. All information is kept confidential and destroyed after use. Please email your documentation after submitting your questionnaire to CCTJury@arlingtonva.us

If you no longer live in Virginia or have moved out of Arlington County or the City of Falls Church, there are questions on the form that will disqualify you. You must complete the form to be disqualified due to moving.

You are required to complete and return the questionnaire within 10 days of receipt. Completing the form online saves resources. Once submitted, your completed questionnaire will be processed by the Court. There will be nothing further you need to do. If you are qualified by the court to serve, you could receive a summons in the mail next year with detailed reporting instructions.

The questionnaire is not a summons to appear so please do not call the Clerk's Office asking to be excused from jury duty. Excuses will be considered if you receive a summons in the mail. Failure to respond to the questionnaire or providing incomplete information may result in your being summoned to Court to complete the form in person.

Quick facts about jury service
Normal term of service is one day or one trial.

The average length of a trial is 1 or 2 days, but trials can last longer.

Jurors must be available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. during their period of service (subject to change by the Court).

Jurors receive \$50 each day they report for reimbursement of expenses.

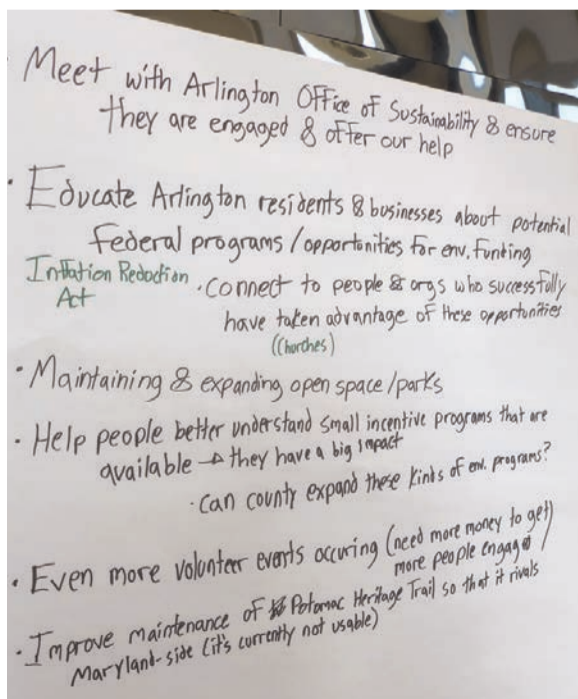
EcoAction Arlington

FROM PAGE 3

talk in three separate break-out groups to brainstorm ideas for how we can get more people to take action in Arlington. There was no shortage of ideas.

The EcoAction calendar is dynamic: check out the Sept. 23, 2023 Annual Cleanup and Trash Tally to remove trash and debris from Four Mile Run. "This is exactly what Eco-Action Arlington does best," said one participant. To get details, and see what other weekly events Eco-Action Arlington has arranged, and/or to donate to this non-profit, see <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/events/>

The to-do list was long for each of the break-out groups held during the hour. <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/>



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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

And affiliated newspapers:
THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac Almanac
Centre View

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

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

Please, help save these historical papers.

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

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

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

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now ominous 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, neighbor, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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Not a Fan of Humidity



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, through no fault of our own, we have been without central air-conditioning on our first floor, non-sleeping space. While we were out of town on vacation, we suffered an unexpected property loss to our home caused by a particularly bad, typical Washington DC summer rain event on Fri., July 14. Since we were on a cruise out to sea, we had no cell service, so it wasn't until we arrived back in port on Sun. July 16 that Dina retrieved a text message from Robert, one of our many super-friendly/helpful neighbors. The message simply texted: "Call me." Which we promptly did once we got settled in the car heading south from New York on I95.

Dina calls Robert, who was also collecting our mail while we were gone. Robert picks up immediately. Dina asks, "What's up? I just got your text." To which Robert responds: "Not horrible. But a tree has hit your house. We had a bad storm here Fri. night. I went inside and checked on the cats (being cared for by another neighbor); they're fine." The tree that fell, not the one you might have expected (he tries to explain which one), crashed onto the back of the house. It broke a window, and it looks like you suffered some water damage inside your house too. I just wanted to let you know before you came home and saw it for yourself."

Dina stammered a "What!" and a "Thank you" before she ended the call. Since she was on the speaker through the car, I heard the entire conversation. After which, we looked at each other and said something like "Yikes!" Over the next four hours or so until we got home, our attitude went from let's wait and see (me) to know what are we going to do (Dina)? Call the insurance company, that much I know.

Being that this would be my first real experience making a home-insurance-policy claim, I proceeded with extreme caution. What little I know of this process came from my years attending continuing education classes required to maintain my Life and Health Insurance License. And what I learned/retained, other than the Property and Casualty (home, car, et. cetera) world is excruciatingly complicated, is that the claim process, communications, timeline and so forth is fraught with misinterpretation, disagreement, and disappointment. To that end, I figured I needed to file a claim as soon as possible, especially since the event had occurred almost two days prior.

Even though it was early afternoon on Sunday, I surmised that since P&C claims don't just happen during the week, I called the company expecting to talk with an actual person. Sure enough, I was able to connect with a claim's specialist. I filled the claim and listened as the process going forward was explained to me. It all sounded reasonable and so we continued our drive home secure in the knowledge that we had fulfilled our initial filing-a-claim responsibilities.

After silence on Mon., on Tues. I called the 800 claims number for a status. Needless to say, the hole in my roof - which I couldn't see since the tree limbs and all were draped across it, was not getting any smaller, and its existence was making me nervous since I was told that there was rain in the forecast for later that day. Moreover, the downstairs central air conditioner was dead as the water from the storm had seeped through the roof into its electrical circuit and tripped the breaker thereby shorting out the circuit and burning out the motor of the air conditioning unit for the downstairs (where we live, mostly) as well as the light switch in the den. (When I saw we had no power, I immediately checked the fuse box and sure enough, a breaker had been tripped. When I flicked it back on, the air handler for the downstairs air conditioner restarted but only for a second and then stopped, never to restart again. Additionally, the den chandelier never came back on as its light switch was on the same circuit and thus was compromised as well.)

The following week has produced record-shattering heat and humidity. It has hardly been the ideal weather conditions to have had two-thirds of your house unair-conditioned. To add insult to perspiration, though we were able on Tuesday to get a water mitigation team to attend to our interior and sop up the moisture still in our house - and check for mold, and then on Wednesday (July 19) have a tree service contracted to remove the tree from atop our house, it wasn't until Sat. July 22 in the morning, nearly a week later, that we actually had an adjuster finally come by the house to "adjust" our claim. As Paul Harvey never said: Now you know the beginning of the story. Good fortnight! (To be continued next week.)

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

Arlington County Sheriff's Office Initiates Biometric Monitoring of Inmates

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Arlington County Sheriff's Department has initiated the Custody Project, a pilot to electronically monitor the jail inmates "because no one wants a loss of life." Sheriff Jose Quiroz says the project will begin with the most vulnerable inmates in the 12 cells of the medical unit.

The hardware is expected to arrive around the end of August, and the project will cost \$51,000. Quiroz explains each of the inmates in the program will be given a thick wrist strap, which is more rugged than an Apple watch, to withstand someone trying to rip it off. The sensors will capture oxygen, pulse and heart rate as well as movement. "A lot of what we do is to make sure a person is alive."

Signals are sent to the I-pads of the deputy sheriff and nurse supervisor. If everything is ok, the signal is green; if it is yellow, it means they need to check. If it is red, it is an emergency.

Quiroz says what they do now is 15 minute rounds. "If you've seen the size of the medical unit, it's a lot of walking. He adds, "It takes 2-3 minutes to walk between cells. We're trying to capture that time. Minutes and seconds count." Inmates have chronic heart disease, diabetes or may be in withdrawal. He says if an inmate is in withdrawal or has a preexisting condition, the nurse checks every 4 hours — unlocks the door, asks how they are doing and maybe takes vitals.

OPINION/LETTER

There Is No Budget Surplus

Letter to Del. Barry Knight, Chairman, House of Delegates Appropriations Committee; Sen. Janet D. Howell, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee; Sen. George Baker, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee is shared with the Connection.

Dear Del. Knight, Sen. Howell, and Sen. Barker:

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, I am writing to you with respect to the recently released JLARC report on state funding of the public-school divisions in the Commonwealth. The Commission is a Council of 13 local governments representing more than 2.5 million residents.

As you are aware, the JLARC

He adds that "emergencies aren't planned and we don't want to be caught off guard." Quiroz explains they wanted an innovative device.

The motivation for this pilot project came as a result of seven deaths in the Arlington County jail in the last seven years with the last one in February 2022. Quiroz says two of these were suicides with one inmate cutting his wrists with a tamperproof razor that the inmate took apart. "The Sheriff's office employee was terminated who didn't check properly." The other suicide was a person who had gone on furlough and ingested drugs before he came back to jail. "Now we urine screen everyone coming into the jail and use a body scanner."

Quiroz says these deaths also really have an impact on the staff. Quiroz says the Arlington number compares to other jurisdictions with D.C. having seven deaths last year, Fairfax three, and there has been one already this year in Alexandria.

He explains the other five deaths in Arlington were in the medical unit where inmates were sick, with one on withdrawal and others with chronic health conditions. "They live in the jail. It is our job to take care of them while they are here. The new system makes me feel better."

Quiroz adds that the current system also causes PTSD on the staff who are all public servants working 12.5 hour shifts. "This is a 24/7 operation, and the new system could also help ease the burden on the staff." Amy Meehan, PIO for

report surfaces issues that local governments not only in Northern Virginia, but throughout the Commonwealth have raised for decades related to the underfunding of our public-school divisions by the Commonwealth. As you know the report states, "School divisions in other states receive 14 percent more per student than school divisions in Virginia, on average, after normalizing for differences in cost of labor among states. This equates to about \$1,900 more per student than Virginia." Northern Virginia this past school year had 409,999 full time enrolled students as such that equates to a shortfall in state funding of \$778,998,110 in our region alone. And, as the report highlights, the shortfall in state funding for our public-school divisions burdens all local governments in the Commonwealth.



Arlington County jail cell.

the Department says, "It's a stressful job; we don't want anyone to burn out.

Quiroz adds, "We want high quality staff taking care of the vulnerable but staffing shortages are an issue." He says that pay parity is an issue with police making \$10,000 more a year on average than a sheriff employee, and D.C. has a hiring bonus of \$25,000. They could go there."

This is a one-year pilot project and when it is finished, the results will be assessed and a decision made whether it is worth the dollars and whether to implement it in other areas of the jail. Quiroz explains, "We have a severe mental health issue in the jail with 253 of 343 inmates in the jail with mental health issues."

Suzanne Somerville, Clinical Bureau Services Chief for Jail Based Mental Health Team, says the number of mental health cases didn't increase during Covid but the acuity of the symptoms increased dramatically. The number of individual inmates in the jail was 1,044 in 2019, 940 in 2020,

The report highlights what our local governments have been raising:

1. State SOQ formula yields substantially less funding than actual division spending and benchmarks.
2. Total statewide staffing needs calculated by SOQ formula are less than actual employment levels and workgroup estimates.
3. SOQ formula systematically underestimates division compensation costs.
4. Formula still uses Great Recession-era cost reduction measures.
5. Formula does not adequately account for higher needs students; methodology for at-risk students undercounts students in poverty.
6. Formula does not adequately account for local labor costs.
7. Formula does not adequately account for small divisions' inability

959 in 2021 and 976 in 2022. "The increase in behavioral health needs and the jail were definitely impacted by this."

Quiroz says when they started looking at improvements in the current operation of the jail they brought in the company who toured the Arlington jail facility. "We are high rise so the makeup is different than many jails. We told them what we're looking for, and they met with us and the medical team. Then they gave us a demonstration of a working system close to us in Charles County, Md. "My staff toured their facility."

Quiroz is a 21-year-employee of the Sheriff's Department, named acting sheriff succeeding Sheriff Beth Arthur at the end of 2022. Arthur announced her retirement after 22 years in the job as the first female Sheriff of Arlington County.

Quiroz is running for Sheriff in the 2023 fall election and won the Democratic primary in June.

The Custody Protect initiative is part of his focus on staff wellness and development and on running a progressive jail.

ty to gain economies of scale.

We appreciate the ongoing discussions related to FY24 budget amendments. We would respectfully suggest that with so many unfilled needs there is no budget surplus until such time that the Commonwealth addresses its commitment to invest in our public-school systems to be able not only to compete with our immediate neighbors, but nationally and internationally.

John Chapman

Chaman, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

A regional council composed of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William counties, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park, and the towns of Dumfries, Herndon, Leesburg, and Vienna

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