

# The Arlington Connection

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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## NEWS

# Local Series on Climate Change

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**B**ill Young, Arlington resident and author, will be teaching a 6-part course called "Understanding the Climate Crisis" for the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. Each of the six classes will be on Zoom. Each class will begin at 7 p.m. (EDT) and last 90 minutes.

Below is a list of the subjects to be covered in the classes:

Tuesday September 19 — Definitions and some of the key players and events in the climate crisis

Thursday, September 21 — Greenhouse gases, alternative energy sources, and proposals to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere

Tuesday, September 26 — The role of fossil fuels in the climate crisis

Thursday, September 28 — Effects of the climate crisis on wildlife and biodiversity

Tuesday, October 3 — Emissions from various economic sectors, and the politics and economics of the climate crisis

Thursday, October 5 — Information about what individuals can do in response to the climate crisis, with a discussion to hear people's ideas and concerns

The course will be recorded, so registrants will be able to watch a replay of any class they miss. The October 5 class will be live-streamed and available at no charge to any-



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**Bill Young, Arlington writer, and co-creator of the NPNature.com website.**

one who wants to participate.

Register for the course at: <https://www.audubonva.org/asnv-events/climate-crisis-1>. I will not be paid for teaching the course. All proceeds will go to the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. Please feel free to pass along information about the course to anyone you know who might be interested.

Young says the course class will be followed on Thursday, October 5 by a free Climate Crisis Action & Advocacy Workshop with Young and ASNV Board Member Tom Wood. Young says the workshop will provide participants with suggestions for actions that we can take to push back on the effects of climate change.

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## Get Dizzy, Get Sick and Have a Great Time

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Arlington County Fair is over for 2023 but some of the participants are still dizzy from The Brute or the Rock Star or the Super Shot. Long lines formed for the most popular rides although some disappointed little ones were turned away to wait until next year when they have reached the yellow 48-inch mark for eligibility to ride.

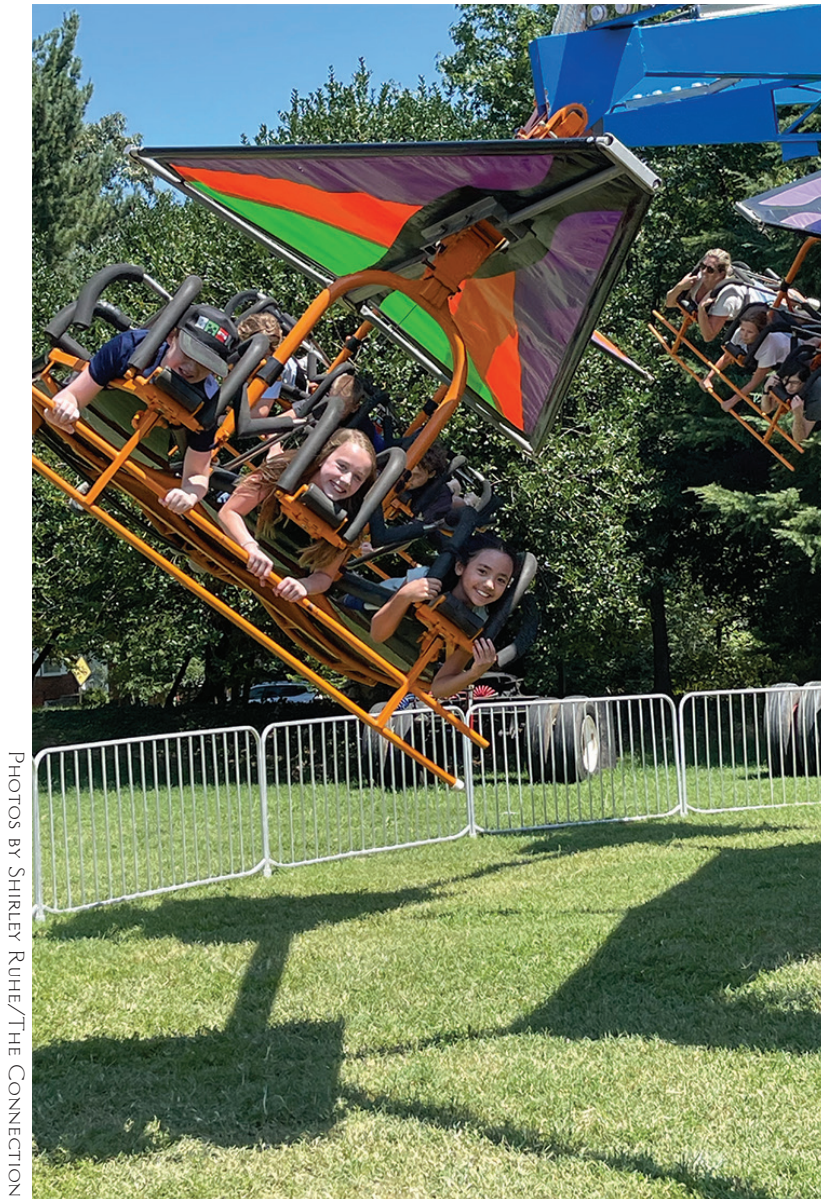
One 11-year-old who had just been to the Montgomery County Fair the night before kept asking for his wrist band which allowed him to ride as many rides as many times as he wanted instead of the tickets required at Arlington. "It's not fair. Your tickets are gone before you know it. It costs a lot more money."

The budding bronco tosses off riders onto a soft balloon floor (it's bucking' fun) while the Super Shot slowly rises into the air with anticipation and then instantly plunges to the ground with shrieks blasting through the air. Fists pumped in the air to the familiar music of the Teriyaki Boyz as the passengers whirled around in cars, slowly at first and then speeding up and then whipping back-wards.

Tiny arms could barely reach the balloons with darts but were handed a tiny green dragon as a prize anyway (instead of the very large stuffed dragon that tantalized contestants of all ages). Close by is an adult trying over and over to toss a ring around a bottle and set it upright.

The familiar funnel cakes offer strawberry and red velvet versions this year in addition

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PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION





# Get Dizzy, Get Sick And Have a Great Time

FROM PAGE 3

to the regular powdered sugar standard. Candy cotton comes in rainbow colors, and “the green really tastes like lime and the colors all taste different.” Large plastic cups of frozen lemonade pucker the mouth but are just right on a hot day.

The Fair offered everyone’s favorite magician, Drew Blue Kids, for kids as well as the free Kids Court activities and stage performances in the Entertainment Tent by local and regional artists throughout the day. You could find everything from a Beer Garden to a Family Dance party.

Uber drivers pulled up in front of the entrance to the Fair and large families spilled out and headed in all directions. “Since the parking is very limited I’ve been doing this all day — back and forth from all over Arlington to the fairgrounds,” commented one driver.

Saturday at noon featured a pie eating contest in the Thomas Jefferson Community Center where contestants were divided into age groups beginning with the 6-10 year old age group. All lined up the table with a multi-berry slice of pie from Living’ the Pie Life on a plate in front of them. Only rule — no hands. The fifth place contestant comments, “My friend came in fourth. She just sucked in the piece and it was gone just like that.”

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION



## BULLETIN

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

### ARLINGTON TRANSIT PURCHASES ELECTRIC BUSES

Arlington’s transit system, ART, is buying four Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) as part of the County’s commitment to sustainable public transportation. These will be the first BEBs in ART’s fleet. The American-made buses by Gillig were chosen after testing and operations by ART staff on a variety of Arlington routes in 2022.

The purchase is part of a proposed larger contract for a total of 19 buses to replace aging vehicles in the ART fleet. The four BEB pilot buses includes three 588 kWh buses and one 686 kWh battery bus. The vehicles will be deployed in late 2024, following the completion of the ART Operations and Maintenance Facility on Shirlington Road.

### CHECK OUT ENCORE LEARNING’S FALL OFFERINGS

Get ready to expand your world during Encore Learning’s Fall 2023 Semester. Choose from among 35 classes which encompass artificial intelligence’s ethical implications to historical events, literature, sciences, and topics like biosecurity, baby boomers, aging, and immigration among others. Classes are offered in-person in Arlington, on Zoom or a combo of both. Meet new friends, learn, have fun...

Tune in on Zoom on Thursday, September 7 at 9:30 a.m. for the popular Fall Preview to find out more about classes and meet the instructors. Browse the course information and online catalog. Fall registration starts at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 11. Classes begin Monday, October 2 and run weekly from 4 to 10 weeks.

Now in its 21st year in Arlington, Encore Learning provides lifelong college-level noncredit educational opportunities for people over age 50. Members can access many Special Events including presentations and local tours, and take advantage of breakfast, cinema, travel and other active clubs. Members are from across the Greater Washington area and with half of the courses virtual, there are a growing number of members from outside the region. Members pay an annual membership fee of \$65 and pay \$55 per course registration.

### COUNTY BOARD GREEN LIGHTS SECOND CRYSTAL CITY METRO ENTRANCE

Arlington’s Crystal City Metrorail station is getting a much-needed second entryway. The new access at Crystal Drive and 18th Street South, approved by the Arlington County Board on July 15, 2023, acknowledges continued growth and redevelopment in Crystal City and the larger residential-commercial community known as National Landing.

The new east entrance will greatly streamline the station’s multimodal hub function as well as provide distinctive street-level access, three new elevators, stairs, a fare vending area and an underground passageway and mezzanine to existing rail platforms. The station primarily serves Metrorail, and riders in the immediate area also have convenient access to Metroway and ART buses and Virginia Railway

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7



# 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 fhgmurph@gmail.com

**WEDNESDAYS, AUG. 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 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.

**WEDNESDAY/AUG. 23 Foraging for Wild Edibles.** 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. There are good things to eat all around you. Learn to identify and prepare safe edibles found in our wild (and not so wild) areas.

**FRIDAY/AUG. 25 Fall Lawn Care.** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. Fall is the BEST time to install or restore fescue (cool-season) lawns, the most common turf-grass grown in our area. Fescue will be the focus of our talk, although other grass types will also be addressed briefly. Extension Master Gardener Joyce Hylton will describe how to improve lawns by tackling the primary issues of soil pH, proper and timely fertilization, watering, and mowing. The emphasis will be on sustainable practices and minimizing any negative impact of our actions on the environment. Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

**SATURDAY/AUG. 26 Butterfly Walk.** 10:00 a.m. At Dyke Marsh, Alexandria. Join Friends of Dyke Marsh for a butterfly and dragonfly walk with Larry Meade. Meet at the south Belle Haven Park parking lot. Limited to 20. Register by sending an email to [info@fodm.org](mailto:info@fodm.org) and put "butterfly walk" in the subject box.



The Pups on the Patio Adoption Event takes place Aug. 26-27, 2023 at The Commentary Social House in Arlington.

**AUG. 26-27 Pups on the Patio Adoption Event.** 5-7 p.m. At The Commentary Social House, 801 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. The Commentary Social House is excited to celebrate National Dog Day with a two-day Pups on the Patio adoption event, featuring adoptable dogs from A Forever Home Rescue Foundation on Saturday, August 26, followed by Rural Dog Rescue League on Sunday, August 27th. Each event will take place from 5-7 p.m. and attendees can enjoy libations and delicious menu items with 20% percent of the proceeds going to the rescue league.

**TUESDAY/AUG. 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. 30 Garden Tool Clinic.** 7 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Your garden tools work better, last longer and are safer with proper care. Learn how from an experienced gardener.

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 2 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 Arling-

ton Planetarium at 15th and North Quincy Streets, in Arlington. Here you'll find over 150 vendors selling a variety of goods ranging from books, clothes, furniture, garden tools, household goods, jewelry, shoes, toys, records, and so much more. One man's junk is another man's treasure so you are guaranteed to find something to tickle your fancy and save you money at the same time.

**FRIDAY/SEPT. 8 Native Ground Covers for Sun and Shade.** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. A variety of native plant species, including perennials, ferns, grasses, sedges, and even some woody plants, can function as ground covers in multiple landscape situations. Join Extension Master Gardener Elaine Mills to learn which native plants may serve as excellent replacements for overused and invasive traditional

ground covers such as English ivy, liriope, and periwinkle, while providing much-needed food and habitat for our local pollinators and birds. Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 9 Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. The Capital City Showcase, which produces some of the best events in the D.C. area, returns with its new one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle. Hosted by Christian Hunt, this amazing experience features comedy from the DC area's finest comics. The headliner for September's show is the hilarious Gigi Modrich.

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 9 Rosslyn Jazz Festival.** At Gateway Park, Arlington. The Rosslyn BID and Arlington Arts are bringing an exciting lineup to the 31st edition of the Rosslyn Jazz Fest: Galactic, featuring Anjelika "Jelly" Joseph (pictured), plus performances from Pedrito Martínez Group, Oh He Dead, and DuPont Brass. At Gateway Park for an afternoon of music, food trucks, yard games, community table experiences, and more.

**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. 25: The Goonies  
Saturdays at Penrose Square, 2200 S 6th St, Arlington, VA Aug. 26: Jurassic World Dominion

## "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

Movie night at Lubber Run 55+ Center, Thursday, Aug. 24, 6 p.m., "The Intern" (2015) (PG-13). Registration # 914804-14.

Line dance practice, must have knowledge of basic steps, Thursday, Aug. 24, 1 – 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center; Friday, Aug. 25, 11:05 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Current events discussion in Spanish, Thursday, Aug. 24, 11:30 a.m., virtual. Must have at least intermediate knowledge of Spanish. Led by Lubber Run 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration # 914402-14.

Dance Bingo, created by Walter Reed 55+ Center Director Jenni-

fer Weber, combines cardio dancing with luck of the draw of Bingo, Friday, Aug. 25, 11:15 a.m. Registration # 914600-16.

55+ Travel group will visit the Museum of Illusions in D.C.'s City Center, Friday, Aug. 25. More than 50 visual and educational exhibits featuring holograms, stereograms and immersive rooms. Cost \$36, Arlington resident; \$44, non-resident. Registration # 902308-05.

Social ballroom dance, spacious dance floor, Friday, Aug. 25, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Music for swing, foxtrot, waltz and tango.

Drop-in.

Movie matinee, "The Fabelmans" (2022) (PG-13), Friday, Aug. 25, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 914804-04.

Crafternoon social group of experienced yarn crafters, Lubber Run 55+ Center, Friday, Aug. 25, 3 p.m. Sip tea, work on crocheting, knitting and needlepoint projects followed by a walk around the Center's indoor track. Drop-in.

Aurora Hills book club to discuss "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer

and Annie Barrows, Monday, Aug. 28, 11:30 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Newcomers welcome. Drop-in.

55+ ice skating, exclusive hour, Monday, Aug. 28, 8:10 – 9:20 a.m., MedStar Capitals Iceplex, Ballston Common Mall, 8th level parking (\$1), skate rental (\$1). Pre-registration required at [www.medstarcapitalsiceplex.com](http://www.medstarcapitalsiceplex.com), senior public skate.

Pinochle, well known card game using a special deck of cards, Monday, Aug. 28, 1 – 3 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 1, 1 – 3 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Newcomers welcome. Drop-in.

QR codes and how to use them, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 6 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Taught by tech expert Nick Englund. Registration # 914403-14.

Croquet games, newcomers welcome, equipment provided, Tuesday, Aug. 29 and Friday, Sept. 1, 2 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center field. Drop-in.

Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteers, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center; Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2 p.m.,

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 6



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**-Werner Heisenberg**

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"**FLOURISHING AFTER 55**"  
FROM PAGE 5  
Aurora Hills 55+ Center; Friday, Sept. 1, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center field. No instruction provided. Drop-in.

Android phone and tablet class, come prepared with device specific questions, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 5:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Taught by tech expert Nick Englund. Registration # 914403-03.

Hearts card games, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Lots of fun and less complicated than most card games. Newcomers welcome. Drop-in.

Learn how to use WhatsApp, a free messenger app for smartphones, Thursday, Aug. 31, 3 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Bring phone to class. Taught by tech expert Nick Englund. Registration # 914403-11.

SAIL, Stay Active and Independent for Life, Tuesdays and Fridays beginning Friday, Sept 1, 1 p.m., 20 sessions, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance. Exercise to improve strength, balance and fitness, Aurora Hills 55+ Center. No fee. Registration # 911502-04.

Spellbinders, oral storytellers who tell folk tales, fables and legends, seeking new members, Friday, Sept. 1, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

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# NEWS

## J.D. Spain Receives Luminary Leadership Award

Local activist ran in county board primary as leader who gets things done.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION



J.D. Spain.

Julius D. (“J.D.”) Spain doesn’t let a lot of grass grow under his feet. After running a hard-fought campaign to take a county board seat, seeking more diversity, affordable housing, and better mental health resources in Arlington, he set about fundraising and campaigning for a local candidate for Virginia House of Delegates, Travis Nembhard, running in the 22nd district.

Spain also has a day job. On July 21, Spain received a Luminary Award from his company, LMI, based in Tysons Corner. LMI is a problem-solving consulting firm with U.S. government clients. “The winners of our 2023 Luminary Awards commemorate the significant accomplishments of the teams and individuals who exemplify our values— leadership, mission focus, and innovation — and recognize the achievements of LMIers who went beyond expectations.” The Diversity and Culture Team Leadership award Spain received with three other members of his “Accessibility Community of Practice Team,” Holly Nixon, Kim Murray, and Ruth Starr, was given, said Tamara Jack, Chief Financial Officer of LMI, “because he and his team truly helped cultivate an inclusive and accessible work environment here at LMI. ... They’re recognized for their hard work enhancing LMI’s accessibility internally and externally by raising awareness, creating resources, and incorporating accessibility remediation across the company. Some of their many efforts include creating guides, workshops and videos to support employees and customers,” said Jack.

Spain spoke on behalf of his team as he received the award: “We are honored to receive this Luminary award for Leadership and Development. Although presented to us as a leadership team, we could not have fur-

thered this important work without the support and many contributions of the community of practice. This community united the efforts of our enterprise services and service delivery teams, showcasing how anyone can be an innovator at LMI. Accessibility is an essential foundation for LMI’s commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity. Moreover, accessibility represents a critical need for the government, and LMI is equipped to help. This community of practice increases knowledge of accessibility across the company and enhances accessibility for our customers. We hope this award bolsters awareness and we are eager to collaborate with LMI’s network of affinity groups, and other communities of practice, to integrate accessibility into all that we do.”

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

Express trains.

The preliminary design incorporates up-grades based on the Americans with Disabilities Act while complementing plans for a nearby pedestrian bridge connection to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, as well as the state’s Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Project.

#### ARLINGTON REVEALS NEW DESTINATION BRANDING: “ALL IN ARLINGTON”

The Arlington Convention and Visitors Service (ACVS), the official destination marketing organization for Arlington, announced the launch of its new tourism brand at an event on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023. Centered on its “All in Arlington” message, the brand aims to inspire awareness and enthusiasm about Arlington among travelers and

meeting professionals located outside the national capital region. It highlights the vast array of visitor attractions and activities throughout this 26-square-mile urban county, from historic discoveries to cultural experiences to unexpected adventures.

#### MOST, A NEW MOBILE OUTREACH TEAM, LAUNCHES JULY 31

The Mobile Outreach Support Team (MOST) is the latest addition to the County’s expanding network of care for people experiencing mental health and substance use issues.

The MOST program is coordinated by the Department of Human Services (DHS), in partnership with the Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Fire Department, and the Emergency

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 8

## 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

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

Each local newspaper’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 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](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

Connection Newspapers— Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac  
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## And So “The Dance Begins”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

So said my roofing contractor when I told him of the total amount my homeowner’s policy/company has agreed to compensate us for the damage to our house caused when a tree crashed onto my roof on July 14. Not that I have much experience with such matters, but even though the adjuster was as understanding and reassuring as a homeowner in distress would hope, I realized after that initial Sat., morning “adjustment” when he arrived at my home and assessed the damage, that it matters less what he says and more what he/the company does (as in valuing the agreed-upon repairs/replacement and compensating me reasonably). At this juncture, all we do is wait and see. However, it doesn’t make it any less frustrating. In fact, it kind of makes it worse. I don’t want to push, or should I pull, or vice versa.

Sure enough, 15 days after filing the claim (Maryland law mandates that claims must be paid/settled within 15 days), I received a phone call from my adjuster (finally) advising me of the settlement. Given what we all had discussed on that first Saturday – and the damage done: one entire roof including gutters and downspouts, two central air-conditioning units, exterior whole house painted, one interior room painted, two rooms of wooden floors refinished, a new chandelier and associated electrical work to install/repair the chandelier and related switches in the den, and a 6 x 9 Oriental-type rug and pad, all adversely affected by the water leaking through the ceiling/electrical fixture – in Montgomery County Maryland in 2023, and \$38,500 “ain’t gonna cut it.” (Exactly what my wife, Dina said to me on concerning our presumptive fancy dinner plans to celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary all those many years ago.)

So now, apparently, the burden falls on me, according to my roofing contractor, to up the ante and present my evidence (estimates, and invoices already billed/paid – by us) to the adjuster/company and hopefully prove my loss. I didn’t think the financial resolution was as simple as the adjuster seemed to indicate/say during his on-site visit on Sat. July 21, but his manner was so matter-of-fact/agreeable that a part of me was fairly hopeful/convinced that what has actually happened: very little, and an awfully low settlement to boot was not inevitable. Live and learn, or buyer beware; I’m not sure which. But I fear I may soon find out.

Though I’m hoping (expecting not so much) that once the company has reviewed the actual estimates and invoices I will have supplied, that all will be right in my homeowner’s policy’s world and the company will have no contractual recourse other than to pay what I’ve been led to believe – by experts, that I’m due. And the process/negotiation likely occurring from now until the damages are fairly valued and settled to my financial satisfaction (as in I and our house are made whole) are likely to be characterized by a series of ups and downs, and fits and starts; all absolutely consistent, as it so happens, with the last 14 and half years of my life as a cancer patient undergoing treatment for an originally-diagnosed-as-terminal, stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer. As such, if anybody can assimilate what I presume lays ahead – with respect to this moving-target-type homeowner’s insurance claim, it would be me, my oncologist’s self-proclaimed “third miracle.” I have not only been there and done that, but I am still doing it going on nearly 15 years. I might even say that this kind of uncertainty is exactly how I roll. Still, I never completely know if I’ll be rolling over a cliff as in cancer patients are rarely given guarantees about their future. In fact, my oncologist is usually hesitant to even discuss scenarios; he’d rather wait and see and then assess whatever presents. It’s not ideal, but as I’ve said many times before: “It’s a living and it sure beats the alternative.”

However, I do have my limitations and the fewer hurdles and blips as possible would be preferred. I don’t exactly have an unlimited capacity for such pursuits. I use most of it to withstand the vagaries of my current thyroid cancer diagnosis. After all, I didn’t cause the tree to fall on my house anymore than I caused my original diagnosis of lung cancer by smoking cigarettes or generally neglecting my health, et cetera. Nevertheless, as much as one must accommodate a cancer diagnosis, I really don’t want to do the same concerning a homeowner’s claim. To the company/adjuster: please don’t make a bad situation worse. Follow the evidence and follow the money. I’m simply a claimant. Don’t make me a victim too.

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



# New Engineering Summer Institute Offers Access

## Marymount University program instills aspiration in students from disadvantaged communities.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

A few high school juniors and seniors had the chance to experience life as engineering students on a college campus this summer. The opportunity was part of the Engineering Summer Institute, a new two-week program developed by professors at Marymount University for students from communities that are typically excluded or underrepresented in engineering fields.

“Many students said it was their first time thinking about engineering, and wanted to experience the field of study,” said Louis Frisenda, Ed.D., program creator and Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Initiatives at Marymount University. “Other students had an interest in mechanical engineering, and that drove their desire to attend.”

The Engineering Summer Institute was made possible by a \$25,000 scholarship gift from Booz Allen Hamilton and a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to enhance undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. This grant included Project DREAM (Diversity Recruited into Engineering through Advanced Making), which



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Students often excluded or underrepresented in engineering fields are offered a new opportunity thanks to professors at Marymount University.

**“Many students said it was their first time thinking about engineering, and wanted to experience the field of study.”**

— Louis Frisenda, Ed.D., Marymount University

aims to improve diversity in engineering fields.

During the immersive two-week program, students designed and printed their own 3D models, worked with electronics and circuitry, and learned about robotics and programming. The focus was on creating virtual reality experiences, using cutting-edge technologies that are currently shaping the

engineering industry.

“I think one of the most significant results was for students to realize the potential to apply the engineering design process to a wide variety of fields,” said Eric Bubar Ph.D., engineering professor. “A lot of the students came in with a negative experience with computer coding and really changed their minds when they were able to assemble a

robot dog and write code to allow it to do backflips within a single day of the course. It was also extremely rewarding to [watch].”

That change in perspective was due in part to the hands-on, project-based nature of the course. “They got to keep physical prototypes that they created over the course of the program,” said Bubar. “They were also very excited when they found out that the Dean of the College was so impressed with their work that she purchased each of them a quite advanced miniature robotic dog of their own to assemble and program.”

During the two week session, the students had an opportunity to explore careers in engineering and dispel stereotypes about the profession.

“I think that students learned how versatile engineering design thinking is, even if they don’t eventually pursue engineering,” he said. “The critical thinking and application of science and math into designing practical solutions to problems is at the heart of engineering and can be applied to any field. Two of our most excited and engaged students are hoping to study fashion and nursing as their future careers and I hope they apply their skills in 3D design, robotics and virtual reality design into those fields.”

The program was open to local high schools whose administrators believed their students would be interested in engineering, but who may not have had the opportunity to explore it.

In addition to engineering, next summer’s institute is expected to include communication, criminal justice, biology, and psychology.

Information on next year’s program can be found here: <https://www.marymountlearn-withpurpose.com> or here: [www.marymount.edu](http://www.marymount.edu)

## BULLETIN BOARD

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Communications Center, which operates the County’s 9-1-1 call center.

MOST launches July 31, 2023, and will operate Monday through Friday, between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The goals of MOST include increasing access to mental health and substance use treatment and decreasing the role of non-clinical first responders in addressing mental health needs. The program also aims to provide alternatives to incarceration for those engaged in “nuisance crimes/behaviors,” and decrease emergency department and psychiatric hospital admissions.

### 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](http://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.ourladyqueenofpeace.org](http://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.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](http://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/](http://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](mailto:esiqveland@arlingtonva.us) or visit [health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/](http://health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/) for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit

[www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone](http://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](mailto:bdesai@seniorhelpers.com). Visit [www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe](http://www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe) or [www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va](http://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](http://topics.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources).

[www.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources](http://www.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources). Arlington Rotary Club Lunches.

Thursdays, 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/](http://arlingtonrotaryclub.org/)

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](http://arlingtonva.ethicaladvocate.com). The hotline website is available in English and Spanish. Phone calls can be taken in many languages.