

The Arlington Connection

From 39 Countries, Now American Citizens

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Firefighters To the Rescue

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New citizens celebrate by waving the American flag after taking the oath of allegiance on Aug. 24 at Arlington Central Library.

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

3 Shot, One Arrest; Arlington Swat Team Responds

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Violent Crimes Division, with the assistance of the Arlington County Robbery and Homicide Unit, executed a search warrant and arrested Jorge Armando Melendez Gonzalez, 25 of Falls Church, late Sunday night. The Arlington County SWAT team took the suspect into custody on multiple warrants and detectives collected evidence related to the shooting that left three men wounded.

At 1:51 a.m. on Aug. 26, officers responded to the 7700 block of Lee Hwy in Merri-

field, for a shot persons call. Officers found two victims, both adult men, in the parking lot suffering from gunshot wounds. One victim suffered from a gunshot to the arm and the other victim suffered from a gunshot to the abdomen. Officers provided aid until fire and rescue personnel arrived. Both victims were taken to a local hospital and treated for their injuries.

At 3:39 a.m. a 911 call was made advising a man walked into the hospital with a gunshot wound to the arm. Officers were able to determine the victim was related to the

earlier shooting. The victim's injuries were considered non-life threatening and he was treated and released from the hospital.

Investigators determined that a male, later identified as Jorge Armando Melendez Gonzalez, 25 of Falls Church, approached a group of men who were standing in front of a business. During the encounter, the suspect was assaulted by one of the men and the suspect opened fire into the crowd of people who were standing in front of the business. The suspect then fled the area on foot.

Jorge Armando Melendez Gonzalez has been charged with three counts of Felony Malicious Wounding and three counts of Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony. He is being held at the Adult Detention Center on no bond.

Detectives continue to investigate the circumstances that led to the shooting. Anyone who may have information about this shooting is asked to call 703-246-7800, option 5. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Police to Investigate Death of Woman in Jail

Abonesh Woldegeorges, 73, died on Aug. 27, after she was found unresponsive in her cell at the Arlington County Detention Facility.

Deputies found Woldegeorges unresponsive in her cell at approximately 7:02 a.m. and began resuscitation efforts before Arlington Fire & Rescue units arrived on scene at 7:10 a.m. Woldegeorges was transported to Virginia Hospital Center and subsequently pronounced deceased.

Woldegeorges was arrested and charged with Trespassing by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority on Aug. 13, and

was being held at the Arlington County Detention Center awaiting transport to Loudoun County for a Failure to Appear charge in relation to a prior Trespassing incident with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

Woldegeorges' family was notified of her death.

The Arlington County Police Department is conducting a death investigation and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine cause and manner of death. Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact ACPDTipline@arlingtonva.us.

"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.

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.

Learn how to use WhatsApp, a free messen-

ger 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.

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

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

Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteers, Friday, Sept. 1, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center field. No

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 5

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PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



A short but emotion filled ceremony takes place on Thursday morning Aug. 24 complete with the Star Spangled Banner, Pledge of Allegiance and oath of citizenship.



New citizens celebrate by waving the American flag after taking the oath of allegiance on Aug. 24 at Arlington Central Library.



Each new citizen marched across the stage of Central Library auditorium and received a long awaited certificate of citizenship. Some stopped at the edge of the stage and held up their certificate so that relatives in the family section could record the event.

Northern Virginia Welcomes New Citizens from 39 Countries

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America <https://tinyurl.com/5yznhtys>

It is a full house at Arlington Central Library auditorium on Aug. 24 with the first three rows filled with fifty people from 39 countries, each person clutching a small American flag. You can see the excitement on the faces; some have been waiting 20 years for this moment. They have all been interviewed by an officer, demonstrated they can read, write and speak English and demonstrated a knowledge of American history.

Behind the faces there are many stories.

Jovan Todosijevic from Serbia has been here 11 years and met his wife Victoria here. "I had to go through all the steps and they took a long time but it was worth it. It is exciting." He finds there are a lot of cultural differences between Serbia and the United States, "but at the same time America is able to function like that. There is no other place where it works." He says he is a limousine driver as a full time job and now has his own business.

Cheikh Lioussi from S. Morocco has a different story. He is younger than most of the others in the room. Lioussi says he came at 25 and has only been here 6 years. "I had my green card in 11 months. I am the first in my family to come here. I just wanted a new experience." He likes the diversity of food in America. "It is amazing; you can get anything you want ... Chinese, Ethiopian. ... But one of the best things about America is this beautiful lady I met here who is my wife." Lioussi is a journalist for Al Jazeera.

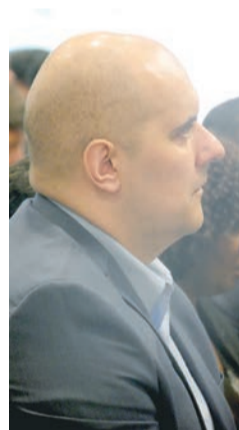
Anik Byanju from Nepal sits on a bench in the library after his citizenship ceremony with Anita Shrestha and eight-month-old Aakanshya Shrestha who is sampling bites



New citizen Anik Byanju (right) from Nepal with Anita Shrestha share bits of a red, white and blue cupcake with eight-month-old Aakanshya Shrestha. They live in Woodbridge where he is a hotel employee.

of the red, white, and blue cupcakes offered after the ceremony. Byanju says he lives in Woodbridge where he is a hotel worker. Shrestha remembers when they first arrived it was difficult to know whether you could use the language and the food in America wasn't flavorful. "We eat everything spicy in Nepal," Shrestha explains. But now they have become fond of pasta and most American food although they still cook Nepalese at home.

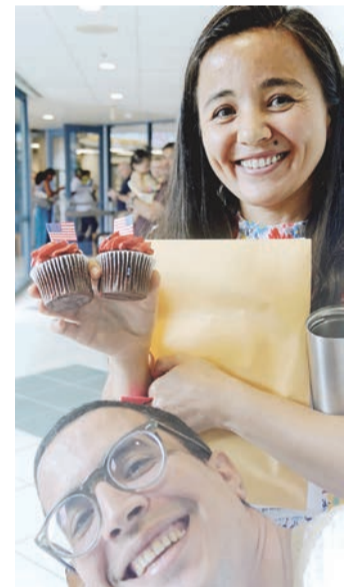
All three agreed one of the biggest differences that took some adjustment is the weather in northern Virginia. Shrestha says,



Jovan Todosijevic from Serbia received his citizenship after 11 years in the U.S.



Tannia Talento, Arlington County Board interim chair and the daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, shared her experience and urged new citizens to embrace the responsibilities that accompany their new role and particularly to vote.



Cheikh Lioussi, from Morocco, with his wife Guinoza Yakubova, "my beautiful wife, one of the best gifts from America." Lioussi became a citizen Aug. 24 but his wife is still waiting with her green card.

"You can't exist without air conditioning here; nobody needed it in Nepal."

Todosijevic adds, "the humidity—not like Serbia."

Lioussi says in S. Morocco it is dry and hot. When he arrived in April it was nice, but a few weeks later the hot humid weather hit.

Diane Kresh, Director of Libraries at Arlington County, opened the ceremony: "It is with great pleasure to host you on this very special day.

"You left behind families and friends, cities, farms and villages. It has taken you

patience and diligence to get here today." She says the new citizens have been granted rights but with that comes responsibilities. "A representative government depends on the active engagement of all citizens." She explains that's where libraries come in. "Everyone has a right to know, to have access to information. That's what makes a democracy work."

Ron Rosenberg, District Director of USCIS says he is pleased to be the one to administer the oath. Those assembled have

SEE NEW CITIZENS, PAGE 8

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



Fifth grade “helping hands” take down the flag at Jamestown Elementary after the first day of school Aug. 28. “I think you fold it first and then you have to make it smaller. It’s supposed to end up like a triangle I think.” Their teacher explains each fifth grader has a task and the putting up and taking down the flag is the job of these fifth graders every school day. He says, “They only watched the practice video once.”



Off to First Day of School in America

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

It is 8:30 am on the dot. Joshua Hennessy-Davis is headed for the first day of school on Aug. 28 at Jamestown Elementary.

Joshua is from Australia and would be headed to school in Australia with a two-toned blue uniform and a hat. “No hat, no outside play,” his father Darryl explains. But today Joshua wears his American 70s punk rock band shirt to start the year.

Joshua confesses he feels nervous although his parents explain he loved kindergarten last year at Jamestown and did well. Still this is something different with a new teacher and new things to learn.

It is a short walk down the street where he meets other kids waiting with parents, and they all head to the traditional ten-minute shortcut through a wooded neighborhood to the school. Darryl has Joshua’s backpack slung over his shoulder, and his mother Siobhan is along as well. She says usually she is off to work at the Australian Embassy but, “I’m here for



SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Joshua Hennessy-Davis with his mother Siobhan and his father Darryl on the way to first grade at Jamestown Elementary.

the first day of school.”

Joshua takes his lunch “unless he sneaks a school lunch once in a while.” Siobhan says she packs a vegemite sandwich, an Australian yeast-based spread with veggies and spices. “Americans don’t like it too much. It’s an acquired taste,” Siobhan says. His father adds, “It’s just a thin layer.” But Joshua explains he also has a patty with peppermint inside for a treat.



A student holds the bus route 605 sign high, and the students follow him down the sidewalk and up the steps of the bus at about 4 pm on their first day of school.



The bus driver for route 905 is first in line at Jamestown Elementary after school. Charles Smith says his bus today only had about 10 students but will be filled tomorrow when the preschool begins. Smith has been an Arlington school bus driver for 8 years.

Back to School Event Gives 130 Children a Jump Start

The Green Valley Civic Association hosted community partners at their Back to School Rally. Partners included Firefighters from Arlington County Fire Department who provided and stuffed backpacks, then escorted children to select the backpack of their choice. Apple Federal Credit Union, CYEP and Willie Bailey, retired firefighter, were responsible for bringing this resource to Green Valley. Other partners included Arm & Arm who did Narcan training for high school students and parents.

Parents completed a needs survey for CARE, Inc. and Arm & Arm services. Partner Apple Federal Credit Union supported the event and provided all who received backpacks with a chance to get a matching \$50 for opening a sav-

ings account. On hand was a black panther and Ember the rescue dog of K-9 Angel's. Vendors shared programs for mentoring, tutoring and after school enrichment. Arlington Independent Media shared videos of Green Valley residents and Lomax A.M.E. Zion provided the children with books. Backpacks were given to 130 children that attended the event on Saturday at the Charles R. Drew Elementary School.

Portia A. Clark
CARE, Inc. & GVCA.

Arlington County Firefighters filled backpacks for Drew Elementary school children and presented them at the Green Valley Back to School Rally on Saturday, Aug. 26.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

FROM PAGE 2

instruction provided. Drop-in.

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.

Just Play'n Country, sing along, play or just listen to traditional mountain music with roots in Irish folk and blues, Friday, Sept. 1, 1 - 3 p.m., Madison Community Center. Drop-in.

Movie matinee, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, "Ticket to Paradise" (2022) (PG-13). Registration # 911804-02.

Langston-Brown 55+ book club will discuss "The Paris Library" by Janet S. Charles, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1:30 p.m., newcomers welcome. Drop-in.

Encore Chorale rehearsals begin Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1 p.m. at Lubber Run 55+ Center. Beginners and experienced singers welcome, no auditions required. Led by a professional conductor. Fee for 15 sessions: \$165 plus \$25 materials. For more information, call 301-261-5747. Registration #

911300-07.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "Sophie's Choice" by Nicholas Maw, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 911300-01.

Piano sing-along with pianist Charlotte Lindsay, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 911304-09.

Piano lounge and sing-along with Valerie Welsh, folk and soft rock favorites, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911304-10.

55+ Travel group will visit the Ladew Topiary Gardens, Monkton, MD, Thursday, Sept. 7. Stroll through 15 thematic garden rooms and tour the historic manor house. Enjoy lunch in the Ladew Café. Cost (includes lunch): \$56, Arlington resident; \$65, non-resident. Registration # 902309-01.

Plants and cuttings swap, Thursday, Sept. 7, 3 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Bring cuttings and whole plants to trade with others and learn about new-to-you plants. All plants and cuttings must be pest-free and healthy. Registration # 911401-01.

White House historian Sarah Fling will explore the history of state dinners and give an inside look at the preparations, Thursday, Sept. 7, 1:30 p.m., virtual. Registration # 911400-18.

Learn all the ins and outs about the

55+ Travel Program, Thursday, Sept. 7, 11:15 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 911899-01 or virtually, registration # 911899-02. Presented by Sheila Budoff, 55+ Travel program assistant.

Chronic disease self-management, six week program of interactive workshops begins Thursday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by Gelareh Bassiry, Stanford University. Registration # 911500-01.

Acoustic Hour at Aurora Hills 55+ Center, Friday, Sept. 8, 1 p.m. Enjoy great music, coffee and fellowship. Registration # 911301-05.

55+ Travel group heads to Kennett Square, PA for the annual Mushroom Festival, Saturday, Sept. 9. Sample a variety of mushroom-centric foods, visit craft vendors and boutiques. Cost \$25, Arlington resident; \$29, non-resident. Plus a \$5 cash entrance fee. Registration # 902309-02.

Opening day ceremonies for the 41st Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Saturday, Sept. 9, 9:30 a.m., Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Welcome remarks, Color Guard, National Anthem sung by the Arlingtonges, Torch Bearers and acknowledgement of VIP's and Patrons. Nine track events follow. All events through Sept. 24 are open to the public. For more info, check the website at www.nvso.us or email, nvso1982@gmail.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

POLICE CONDUCT 2023 BACK-TO-SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY CAMPAIGN

With students returning to the classroom on Monday, Aug. 28, 2023, there will soon be an increase in children walking, bicycling, and riding the bus to schools throughout Arlington. Transportation safety is a shared responsibility and it is up to all of us to keep our students safe by following the rules of the road. The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) will conduct a high-visibility transportation safety campaign in and around school zones and bus stops to ensure the trip to class is as safe as possible.

Variable message boards will be placed along roadways in Arlington to raise awareness about the start of the school year and to share important safety messaging. With a little awareness and prevention, all travelers can arrive at their destinations in a timely and safe manner.

Transportation Safety Tips Drivers are reminded to: Obey posted speed limits which may change during school zone times. Avoid distracted driving and keep your attention on the road.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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Legals

ABC LICENSE
Thai Select, LLC trading as Thai Select, 1713 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia, 22209 + 2503. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer - Privilege/Classification Change - Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, Consumed On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Thitima Piamsuk, Owner. Date notice posted at establishment: 8/21/2023. 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.

Legals

ABC LICENSE
GCO-Crystal City, LLC trading as Good Company Doughnuts & Cafe, 1350 South Eads Street, STE 80, Arlington, Arlington County, VA 22202. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Charles Kachadorian, Co Owner. 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. Objects should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Past issues of THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008 are available at
http://connectionarchives.com/PDF

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

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 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. 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 Arlington 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.

CHECK OUT THE PLANT CLINICS!
The Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic at 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington operates on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 am. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N 14th and N Courthouse Roads operates on Saturdays from 8:00 - 11:00 am. The Del Ray Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11:00 am. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S Stafford St, Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

WEDNESDAYS/ SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27 Central Library Wednesday Talks.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Arlington Central Library, 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington. Join Friends of Urban Agriculture, Arlington/Alexandria VCE Master Gardeners and other expert speakers as they provide information on a variety of garden topics each month. Topics in September include: Garden Herbs for Teas on 9/6, Fruits for you Taste Buds and Landscape on 9/13, Microgreens for Your Indoor Garden on 9/20, Garlic - Plant It Now on 9/27 Free.

ENTERTAINMENT



The Arlington Civitans Open Air Flea Market will take place Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023 in Arlington.

No registration required. For more information call 703-228-5940.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 6

Garden Herbs for Teas, Flavor and Health.
6:30 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, First Floor, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Your herb garden offers a bounty of flavorful enjoyment. Sample the tastes and learn the benefits of herbs.

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://mgvnv.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 amaz-

ing 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. 1-7 p.m. At Gateway Park, 1300 Langston Blvd., 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.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 15

The Cutting Garden. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. Do you love having fresh flowers in your home or giving them as gifts? Do you have a sunny spot in your garden or outside your home? If so, then perhaps you'd like to start a cutting garden – your own private source of flowers for bouquets and arrangements. Join Extension Master Gardener Nicole McGrew to learn about creating your own cutting garden to grow fresh flowers across seasons. Free. RSVP at <http://mgvnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

MONDAY/SEPT. 18

AI/Chat GBT 101. 7-8:30 p.m. at Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. Presented by Arlington AAUW. Speaker Jennifer Swann, Director of Information Security at Bloomberg Industry Group. Open to the public.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

- Holding a hand-held communication device while driving is illegal in Virginia. Violations could result in a fine of up to \$125 for a first offense.
- Watch for students walking and riding bikes to school.
- Do not pass a stopped school bus loading or unloading passengers.
- On a two-lane road, vehicles traveling in both directions must stop.
- On a multi-lane paved road, vehicles traveling in both directions must stop.
- On a divided highway, vehicles behind the bus must stop. Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction may proceed with caution.
- When approaching from any direction at a 4-way intersection, vehicles must stop for school buses with flashing red lights and an extended stop sign.
- Have all vehicle occupants wear their seatbelts.
- Pick-up and drop-off students in designated locations.
- Pedestrians are reminded to:
 - Cross the street at marked crosswalks and never against a red light.
 - Look before you cross and follow the direction of school crossing guards and/or Arlington Public Schools staff members.
 - Always walk on designated sidewalks or

paths, never along the side of a road. Bicyclists are reminded to: Wear your helmet. Helmets are required for riders ages 14 and younger but are recommended for all. Keep right and ride with traffic. Secure your bicycle with a lock when not in use.

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/s2FuFdaYwDzm4tPw2.

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,

SEE HELPING, PAGE 8

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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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

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 omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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

Connection Newspapers... Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac
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Our Daily Diversion, Unfortunately



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I imagine you regular readers have noticed that this column has veered away of late from cancer-centric subjects. I wish I could say it was because they rang the bell (a world-wide acknowledgment that a patient has successfully completed their chemotherapy regimen) at the Infusion Center, but "Alas, poor Yorick ... Unfortunately, I did not hear any bells.

What I did hear was how understanding and concerned and willing to help everybody at my homeowner's insurance company's claims department were, everyone except the actual claims adjuster. And that omission is particularly important because it seems – from what little I know/have observed, he releases the money that satisfies (I can dream, can't I?) my claim and ultimately, he's the one who will determine my future fate: whether it's miserable or rewarding. I just hope his finger is not too fickle.

To this hopefully fairly and reasonably compensated end, I have been preoccupied. Not in the way that prevents me from living my life in any sort of normal/functioning way. Hardly. More that it is a recurring subject of disappointment and bewilderment that something we had absolutely nothing to do with/contributed to in any way, a tree crashing into and onto our house thereby poking a hole in the roof (yes, where the water comes in) is the cause of this consternation. It was that water that shorted out one central air-conditioning unit rendering it useless, seeped into the chandelier in the den and then soaked the 6 x 9 Oriental-type rug on the floor, its pad, and the wood floor underneath, a wood floor dated back probably 100 years. The other damage – aside from now needing an entire roof replaced, was a broken window from where a limb from the tree that fell hit a window and shattered it and finally, damaging the other central air-conditioning unit. Which, due to the force of the tree hitting it, was nearly knocked off its cement pedestal. In addition, all its connecting wires to the house were nearly pulled away from the house. The total repair/replacement cost we estimated for all damages at maybe \$60,000. However, the insurance company estimated our damage differently. So different in fact that not only are we not in the same universe, but we also don't even speak the same language.

Consequently, no repairs/replacement have commenced unless we commit to pay the miscellaneous contractors ourselves and hope we're reimbursed at 100% or so when the process finally inches forward. And since we can't afford, literally or figuratively, to assume any possible financial discrepancy, we are currently in "no man's land," stuck between a repair/replacement that's needed and one which has received money/commitment from the insurance company insufficient to do the job at hand/return our house to its pre-July 14th status.

And while Rome burns, so to speak, "Belly Acres," as I named our designated-as-historic (according to the Office of Historic Preservation for Montgomery, County, Md.), "log house" – as its described, its occupants (me, Dina, four cats and one dog) are forced to twiddle our collective thumbs and/or pant non-stop. Given the financial constraints of our reality, all we can do is wait for the powers-that-be to come to their senses and allocate appropriate funds to make us whole again (no pun intended). I would guess all homeowners with similar policies would expect to be covered completely. We don't want more than we deserve. We just want what contractors are telling us we need. Call me naive but I was thinking the \$212.25 I pay monthly – and have paid since May '92, would provide some reassurance that if a tree hit the fan, the fan would be replaced/ fixed. And until there's a resolution/agreement here, "Belly Acres" and the Louries are going nowhere slowly. Consequently, this subject is the last thing we think about/discuss at dinner and likewise the first thing we mention at breakfast as well.

You bet we're talking about it. At the expense of everything else. Cancer? I can't be bothered. I need a new roof/downspouts/gutters, two central air-conditioners, a chandelier, a rug, its pad, a replacement pane of glass, and refinish the wood floor in two rooms. I need to finish all this stuff so I can get my life back to normal, for a cancer survivor, anyway. I can't have all these issues dragging me down. Cancer is enough of a challenge. I don't need another one. That would be piling on.

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

Northern Virginia Welcomes New Citizens from 39 Countries

FROM PAGE 3

come from all around the world but he says he lives in Arlington just down the block. "Please stand." The Space Force color guard from an Arlington Career Center ROTC class marches down the center aisle and lines up in front of the group.

"As your country of nationality is called, please stand up. Argentina, Bolivia ..." and on down the list to Zambia.

The group recites the oath of citizenship in unison.

Rothenberg pronounces, "You are all American citizens." A loud cheer reverberates around the room.

Hands over your heart. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America."

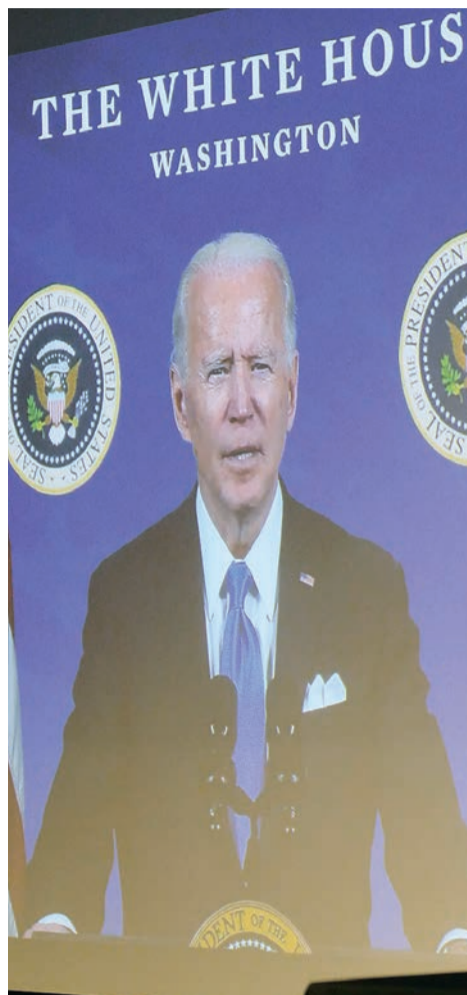
Tannia Talento, Arlington County Board interim chair and daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, shares her own perspective. "My dad was a cabdriver, my mom a cook. Both rose in their professions. I have family in Guatemala who died in protests.

"I know how hard your journey has been, how hard it is to leave your home, language, culture. You don't have income and don't even know if anyone will understand you." She says you don't have to forget where you are from to experience being a new citizen. "You can be both."

She adds that we are still fighting social justice issues in America but you can give back to the community. "Please register to vote. This is one of the few countries in the world where our voice has an impact.

It is truly an honor to be here. I know how special it is."

The ceremony ended with a video message from the President of the United States. "What you all have in common is courage. We are founded on the idea of everyone created equal, of possibility."



A message from the White House concludes the citizenship celebration.

Sharon Scheidhauer, USCIS Public Relations Officer, says in FY 2022 USCIS welcomed 974,000 new citizens, the highest number in almost 15 years. In 2023 as of June 7 USCIS has given the oath of allegiance to 588,900 new citizens.



The Space Force color guard from the ROTC program at the Career Center marched down the aisle in a display of the colors to open the immigration ceremony.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUBE/THE CONNECTION



Red, white and blue cupcakes are spread out to welcome the new citizens and their families after the ceremony.



Diane Kresh, Director of Arlington County Libraries, welcomed the group on their way to American citizenship.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit 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.

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.

Create a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners in restoring their home's natural habitat by providing information on sustainable gardening practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1/ for more.

Naloxone (Narcan) can save the life of someone who is overdosing, if given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need is protected from liability by the Good Samaritan Law. Naloxone (Narcan) is available without a prescription for a fee at all pharmacies. Obtain it for free by attending a REVIVE! training. Contact Emily Siqveland at 703-228-0913 or esiqveland@arlingtonva.us or visit health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/ for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone for details.

Monthly Memory Café. 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6, Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, virtually. Registration is free and highly recommended to reserve spots, which are open on a first come first served basis. To reserve a spot, please call 571-210-5551 or email bdesai@seniorhelpers.com. Visit www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe or www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va for more.

Arlington County, in partnership with the Human Rights Commission's Equality Task Force, has launched a web page with resources for the LGBTQ community. The new webpage compiles LGBTQ resources on a variety of topics, including homelessness and housing, domestic violence and sexual assault, and health. There are also topics specifically for teens and youth — such as scholarship opportunities and school clubs — as well as ones targeted at seniors and older adults, such as SAGE. Visit topics.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources.

Aging Matters. 2-3 p.m. Tuesdays on WERA 96.7 LP FM on Arlington's community radio station. Each week host Cheryl Beversdorf interviews individuals with expertise about a broad array of aging related topics affecting the lives of older adults and their loved ones. Visit www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera to listen to programs. MICHAEL W. SMITH Returns to The Birchmere, May 19, 2022, 7:30pm, Alexandria, VA.