

The Arlington Connection

Barry Keith, painter. His paintings will be featured at Gallery Underground in October.

The Road from Recovery To Art

PAGE 4

Stand Up for [Banned] Books

PAGE 3

NVSO Wrapping Up Record Year

PAGE 6

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ OPINION, PAGE 10 ♦ ADOPT WILBUR, PAGE 12

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

21st Annual
ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL
 An Outdoor Art Festival on John Carlyle Square

SEP 30 - OCT 1
 Sat/Sun 10am-5pm

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- FREE ADMISSION -



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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.

Photographer Mac Cosgrove-Davies will discuss his photographs of volunteers working for Arlington now on display at the Central Library, Thursday, Sept. 28, 11 a.m. Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911400-06.

Mastering interview skills, taught by experienced trainer and career counselor Sallie Wiley, Thursday, Sept. 28, 6 p.m., registration # 911400-10 and repeated Friday, Sept. 29, 10:30 a.m., registration # 911400-11. Both at Lubber Run 55+ Center.

Discovering the overlooked history of segregated public libraries in Northern Virginia, Thursday, Sept. 28, 11:30 a.m., virtual. Presented by Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne LaPierre, authors of "Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries." Registration # 911400-25.

The Virginia State Fair in Doswell is on the agenda for the 55+ Travel Group, Friday, Sept. 29. Cost \$25, Arlington resident; \$29, non-resident. Registration # 902309-08.

Movie matinee, "Air" (2023) (R), Friday, Sept. 29, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 911804

Secrets revealed, an exploration of famous artists and their sometimes secretive techniques, Monday, Oct. 2, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Presented by Jennifer Droblyen, Community Arts Programmer. Registration # 911302-01.

55+ Travel group is off to Bally's Casino, Dover, DE, Tuesday, Oct. 3. Cost \$14, Arlington resident; \$17, non-resident. Registration # 902310-01.

Calling all thespians and playwrights to help form a theater collective to put together plays and performances, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 6 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911300-08.

Movie matinee, "Father of the Bride" (2022) (PG-13), Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911804-03.

Find out more about the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) provides work-based job training to low-income, unemployed seniors, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by Linda Siam, SCSEP director. Registration # 911400-03.

The history of Crystal City including the 14th Street Bridge and Ronald Reagan National Airport, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Presented by Charles Clark, author and historian. Registration # 911400-20.

The basics of genealogy, helpful hints and tips for starting your research, presented by experienced genealogist Eileen Bogdanoff, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911400-28.

Piano lounge and sing-along with Valerie Welsh, featuring Latin rhythms and Halloween, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911304-11.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "Madama Butterfly" by

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 9

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NEWS

Celebrate Banned Books Week

Read one ... or more ... banned books.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Arlington library warmed up for Banned Books Week, Oct. 1-7, by holding a public conversation with Art Spiegelman on Sept. 22. Spiegelman is a well known cartoonist and author best known for his novel “Maus” which won the Pulitzer Prize for his graphic depiction of his conversations with his father who survived the Holocaust. Jews were depicted as mice and Nazis as rats. A Tennessee school board voted 10-1 in January 2022 to ban “Maus” from school libraries based on the use of eight curse words and the portrayal of a nude woman.

In Kansas a group of parents sought to ban “Charlotte’s Web,” a children’s story of friendship and devotion, on religious grounds because there were talking animals, and because they assert it has a theme of death.

Diane Kresh, Director of Libraries for Arlington County and moderator for the panel discussion pointed out that while Arlington is a pretty open minded community and there hasn’t been a move to ban books here yet doesn’t mean it won’t happen. She says there is occasional pushback and there was something on Next Door a week ago about what books shouldn’t be on the shelves in Arlington.

“We read about it happening in different places in the paper every day. Closer to home two members of the Spotsylvania County School Board in Virginia advocated for burning certain books. And in Front Royal the Samuels Public Library has had its funding threatened due to its



Diane Kresh, Director of Libraries for Arlington County

policies on LGBTQ books for young readers. There is a real threat to defund libraries in Virginia.”

Kresh says for the first time in years of keeping data the American Library Association has indicated the book challenges to books by authors of color and LGBTQ are off the charts and on a path to bust last year’s statistics at mid-year. Librarians are fired, directors sued.

She says we need to stand up for books and talk about it. “We need to make sure we have a multiplicity of books in our collection. Books are transformational. They challenge our beliefs and biases, expose us to different experiences and cultures.” She says it is a fundamental right to read and, “We need to stand up and say it, not from a position of fear but strength. This is what we stand for.”

She says she and the staff believe people have the right to read what they want, when they want and however they want.



Arlington Central Library on Quincy Street

Kresh says there is a misconception that libraries are only for people who are educated. “We try to blow up these perceptions. We try to make the libraries open and light and the staff look like those who are coming to America. We continue to encourage conversations. What does a library mean?”

Kresh says that immigrants who come to America don’t even have the concept of a public library as a part of the government and a place that is welcoming. In her remarks at a recent immigration ceremony held at the Central Library, Kresh told the group from 39 countries that “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.”

Kresh will be focusing on Banned Books Week in Arlington Oct. 1-7. She plans to have events in all eight of the Arlington locations. Last year she recalls they had a table of banned books on display in the Central Library and invited readers to help themselves to a copy. The authors that were featured were all different. They had coffee and conversation around the books. She says there will probably be more of the same this year.

Her advice to others is to stand up for books and talk about it and to make sure you have banned books in your collection. Focus on an awareness campaign:

- Always free.
- Always open.
- Always for everyone.
- Let the ruckus begin.

Fire Station No. 8 Replacement

Call for historical donations by Oct. 15

Construction of the new fire station, replacement for Fire Station No. 8 is expected to be complete in early 2024. Work hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday to Friday, and some Saturday work from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The brickwork on the exterior of the building is complete. In the next few weeks, crews will install the exterior metal panels, water main, the gas line, and work on the stormwater vaults and traffic signal. Inside the building, crews are installing the ceiling grid, lighting, mechanical grilles, sprinkler heads, and flooring.

The County is developing a small-scale historical exhibit which will be displayed

in the lobby to convey the personal contributions, stories, and human connections of the members of Fire Station 8 from its origins in 1918 through the present day. If you, your family, or friends have historical artifacts such as photographs, awards, mementos, and more that you would like to donate, we would love to display them. Items can be donated permanently or on a “temporary loan” basis.

As a participant during the process of compiling, illustrating, and honoring the rich and vibrant history of Fire Station #8, Arlington residents played an integral part in shaping the construction of the new building. Residents shared memories, stories, an-

ecdotes, and most of all, the love and respect that flourished between neighbors, and the dedication of the firefighters who worked, overcame, and achieved so much for and on behalf of the Halls Hill community.

In anticipation of the unveiling of the new fire station, planned for early 2024, the Fire Station #8 History & Legacy Working Group, in partnership with Arlington County’s Center for Local History, is asking for help to collect and compile historical artifacts to be featured in the display cases and public lobby exhibition at the new fire station. Perhaps you, your family members, and friends have items that could be used to share the compelling story of Fire Station #8. We would love to display your photographs, awards, artifacts, mementos, and more.

Understanding how invaluable and important these cherished artifacts and items are to you, the Center for Local History commits to maintain all donations with care, due diligence, and utmost concern for their safekeeping. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this effort. We never would have been able to have accomplished the work we’ve achieved thus far without your assistance, and we look forward to continued partnerships as we go forward. To make or discuss a potential donation, please contact Fire Station 8 construction project manager Maire Bourque at mbourque@arlingtonva.us. To help us plan for the new exhibit, please express interest in donating by Oct. 15, 2023.



Landscape by Barry Keith featured at Gallery Underground in October.



Barry Keith, painter.

The Road from Recovery to Art



Landscape by Barry Keith.



Landscape by Barry Keith.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

It all started when someone gave him a crayon at 4 years old. Now Barry Keith is a rising painter with a show called “The Pluviophile” opening at Gallery Underground in Crystal City on Oct. 3 and running through Oct. 28. Keith is prolific and has had 21 solo shows around the area including other solo shows at Gallery Underground.

Keith says this show is dedicated to his older sister. “I was very close

to her, and she died just a month before her 65th birthday. She used to tell me how much she loved the rain because it calmed her. The day I gave her eulogy it rained so I took a lot of pictures and created this show for ‘one who loves the rain.’” He says the show is very colorful

“One thing I love is translating the beauty of the world. I never took notice until I got into recovery.”

— Barry Keith, painter, 31 years sober

with different palettes representing a lot of emotions.

When he isn’t painting, Keith is an elementary teacher at Matta-

poni Elementary in Prince George’s County and has an art club for 100 students ages 7-12 years old. “We paint. I take them outside to draw nature; we play with clay and do crafts. We even had a dance party, they loved it.” He says, “Some kids are so articulate. When you see kids with interest at this age, it can be amazing.”

Previously Keith taught high school students at Suitland High School for 15 years.

But Keith tells his students that when they are just getting off the bus, he is at home in Accokeek putting on his apron. And he tells them that’s

when his day starts. “It takes a lot of energy after all day with kids that age.” On the weekends he will paint outside. “I have a lot of images to work with.”

Keith considers himself an en plein air painter which is a French expression for painting in the open air where the artist has a better ability to see the light and color. However, Keith comments it has

been too hot to paint outside much this summer. “Now the weather is getting better for me.”

En plein air has been used for centuries but was popularized by the French Impressionists, and Keith says his love of Impressionists forced him to paint outside. Keith began drawing Marvel car-

SEE THE ROAD, PAGE 5

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The Road from Recovery to Art

FROM PAGE 4

toons for the other kids in the class when he was in grade school in Alexandria where he was born and grew up. By the time he was at the University of Delaware he was taking graduate art and design courses in his sophomore year. "Sometimes I was the only one in the class."

He says in the beginning they would paint abstract objects and bring them to class to critique for light, shade and color. "But these had no meaning. Once I got outside and started to paint landscapes I developed the real idea of painting." He started using his materials in a different way, using transparent glazes and learning how to manipulate materials instead of just straightforward. "I grasped the form." Keith says his goal is to become a great American painter who is considered on the level of someone like Edward Hopper.

But his experience at the University of Delaware was mixed. "I felt a sense of inadequacy. It was 98 percent White, and some teachers were really hostile. One teacher gave me a D because he thought I knew the material too well, and thought I must be cheating." Keith started to drink, and by the time he graduated he says he was smoking weed and then went to hard drugs. He was working to fuel his habit.

But Keith says eventually he was forced into treat-

ment by the State of Virginia. Keith explains he was caught by the Alexandria police and they put him in a program which required him to report to the courthouse. "But I kept coming up dirty and they said they were tired of this." They put him in detox at Phoenix House in Arlington where he spent 90 days. "It was May 5, 1993.

"I was lucky to get help. I realized when I got to Phoenix House that I hadn't slept for 10 years." He says Phoenix House made him focus on himself "to get to the bottom of why I felt inadequate. You step outside yourself to see where everything is going."

He remembers when he was ready to leave Phoenix House, "They looked at the 75 of us there and said 'only 2 of you will be sober next year.' I got so angry. He was speaking of statistics. I didn't want to be one of those." Once Keith left the program he never drank again and has been 31 years sober.

Keith reflects, "Sometimes it will click that I've gone from a drug addict to someone who values life and art." Keith is also writing books and currently has four on the market.

"The power of living reflects my relationship with my family and friends. One thing I love is translating the beauty of the world. I never took notice until I got into recovery."

Now he thinks, "Who am I when no one is looking? It is the solitary pursuit of crafting things alone."

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.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Expungement Clinic. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Arlington Presbyterian Church, 918 S. Lincoln Street, Arlington. The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, together with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, is hosting their second annual Expungement Clinic. The Expungement Clinic will be a "one-stop shop" for those with expungement eligible charges to have them expunged. A fund is available to cover the cost of expungements (\$91) on a first-come, first-serve basis making the expungement application free to Clinic participants. If you would like to apply for an expungement during the Clinic, please bring the Warrant of Arrest or Final Disposition for each charge that you wish to have expunged. Please note that charges must consist of Arlington County/City of Falls Church arrests to be eligible for expungement in this jurisdiction. Pre-registering is advisable no later than September 28, 2023. If you have not pre-registered by this date, you may still participate, but arrive no later than 10:30 a.m. to complete the initial paperwork required and expect to wait up to two hours for your application to be processed.

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURES FOR SEPT. 30
The Arlington County Police

Department will conduct road closures in order to accommodate three upcoming events taking place on Saturday, September 30.

Clarendon Day

The 2023 Clarendon Day will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30 and will begin at approximately 11:00 a.m. The following roadways will be closed from approximately 3:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.:

Wilson Boulevard, from Washington Boulevard to N. Highland Street
Clarendon Boulevard, from Washington Boulevard to N. Garfield Street
N. Highland Street, from 11th Street N. to Wilson Boulevard

N. Herndon Street, from Wilson Boulevard to the alleyway behind CVS
N. Hudson Street, from Wilson Boulevard to the alleyway behind CVS
Beckett's Celtic Festival

The 2023 Beckett's Celtic Festival will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30 beginning at 12:00 p.m. The following roadway will be closed from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.:

Campbell Avenue, from S. Randolph Street to the parking garage entrance in front of the Shirlington Harris Teeter

National Landing Oktoberfest

The National Landing Oktoberfest will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30 beginning at 1:00 p.m. The following roadway will be closed from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:

22nd Street S., from S. Fern Street to S. Eads Street

2023 NATIONAL COFFEE WITH A COP DAY EVENTS

In honor of National Coffee with a Cop Day on Wednesday, Oct. 4, the Arlington County Police Department's Community Engagement Division is inviting the public to two events to celebrate community/police

relations. These morning and afternoon events are welcome to all and are a great informal engagement opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, get to know neighbors, interact with the Community Engagement Division and meet officers from different sections of the department.

The Arlington County Police

Department is committed to developing and maintaining strong relationships with those we serve as a vital component to ensuring the public's trust. We work proactively to engage with all who live, work or visit Arlington County and Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity to build these partnerships, one cup of coffee at a time.

National Coffee with a Cop Day will be celebrated at the following locations and times on Wednesday, Oct. 4:

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Compass Coffee – 4100 Wilson Boulevard
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Idido's Coffee and Social House – 1107 S. Walter Reed Drive

OCTOBER IS URBAN AGRICULTURE MONTH

Urban Agriculture Month shines a spotlight on the significant role urban agriculture plays in our local food system. They'll be kicking off the month with a celebratory event on Sunday, Oct. 1 from 1-3 p.m. at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, with speakers, demonstration sessions, free seeds and seedlings,

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

North Old Glebe Road over North Glebe Road Bridge Replacement Arlington County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 7 p.m.
<https://www.virginiadot.org/OldGlebe>

Find out about plans to replace the North Old Glebe Road bridge over North Glebe Road (Route 120). The bridge was built in 1964. The new bridge will feature a wider sidewalk on the eastern side and a new sidewalk on the western side.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/OldGlebe>. The project team will make a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions after the presentation.

Review project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2429 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **November 1, 2023** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Ms. Dipali Patel, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "North Old Glebe Road over North Glebe Road Bridge Replacement" in the subject line.

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

State Project: 6743-000-914, B610, P101, R201

UPC: 119204

Federal: NHPP-5B01 (257)

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at the same time.

Past issues of

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>



Herb Levitan competing in bocce ball at Fairfax Green Acres several years ago.



NVSO horseshoe competitor at Fairfax Green Acres.



NVSO croquet match at Walter Reed Community Center.

FILE PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

NVSO Reaches Record Participation

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) was scheduled to begin Saturday, Sept. 9 and to conclude Sunday, Sept. 24 ... and then it wasn't.

NVSO did begin on a bright sunny day with opening ceremonies followed by nine track events and with a record enrollment of 924 people. This was an increase of 11 percent from 2022 and the largest participation in its 40-year history. But then the rains hit and the final events were postponed the weekend of Sept. 23-24 along with a number of other events around Arlington.

Herb Levitan from Arlington, coordinator of the NVSO events, said he thinks the primary reason for the increase in participation this year was word of mouth. Forty-one percent of the participants were first timers. "Participants and volunteers shared positive experiences. Multiple people told me they were told by their spouses or friends."

Levitan says the biggest increase was in Falls Church which nearly doubled its participants. "Arlington increased by 14 percent, Alexandria by 7 percent and Loudoun by 20 percent. Only Fauquier decreased by almost 17 percent." NVSO is sponsored by the coun-

ties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church.

Levitan says the greatest percentage of men were in the 70-79 year age group, and the biggest percentage of women were 75-84 year group with an equal number of men and women registered in the 50-54 year and the 95-99 age groups. Participants may register for NVSO at age 50.

The oldest participant was 100-year-old Eva Sorenson who competed in cribbage, dominoes, Rummikub and 10-pin bowling. A 90-year-old participant, Alease Brooks competed in mixed doubles and women's doubles pickleball events and several field and track events. Alease competed against younger participants since there were no others in her age category. It's easy to spot Brooks on the court in her colorful outfits that her grandchildren give her each year for the competition.

NVSO offered 76 events including corn hole, croquet, tennis, field and track, horseshoes, diving, basketball and football toss. Levitan said table tennis and Wi bowling had a 50 percent increase this year. New this year were disc golf, 9-hole golf (3 par), synchronized diving and advanced sudoku.

Levitan said NVSO complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and will



Mexican train dominoes competition at Goodwin House.

accommodate the needs of participants if requested. For instance, this year a legally blind individual competed in three race walking events with the assistance of two individuals who assisted as guides. He says in the past individuals who use wheelchairs have participated in the softball throw.

Levitan has been participating in the NVSO since 2005 and has been a member of the NVSO Board for over a decade. This year

he was temporarily sidelined due to Covid and did much of the early organizing from home but was able to participate in several outdoor events once he left quarantine.

It is a massive organizational effort to manage the events at over 20 venues located in the various Northern Virginia schools, community centers and other local venues. Levitan said this year more than 250 volunteered to assist with the events.

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NEWS

Arlington Thrive Welcomes New Executive Director Melanie Anderson

Arlington Thrive, a local nonprofit organization committed to providing timely assistance to neighbors in need for the past 48 years, has appointed Melanie Anderson as its new Executive Director effective Oct. 16.

Melanie Anderson is currently the Executive Vice President of the

National Association of Workforce Boards and has previously served as Director of Government and External Affairs at Opportunity Nation, roles which have inspired her to seek opportunities to connect more directly to communities and the critical work happening on the ground every day.

Board President Karen Daniel welcomes Melanie's experience and collaborative approach. "Melanie brings over two decades of strategic and collaborative nonprofit leadership experience, and a track record of innovation and partnership," Daniel said. "Her leadership is rooted in active listening, teamwork, and forward-thinking strategies. Melanie is committed to elevating the voices of all Arlington Thrive stakeholders and focusing our work to best serve evolving community needs."

"I am deeply impressed by Arlington Thrive's unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of those facing economic challenges," Anderson said. "Together, I believe we can create a more resilient and supportive community for all."

FY23 Achievements: A Record-Breaking Year

Thanks to the generosity of the community and



Melanie Anderson

partnership with Arlington County's Department of Human Services, Arlington Thrive provided a record-breaking \$7 million in direct assistance to Arlington households in need, including a total of 1,673 children in fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

This direct assistance helped alleviate poverty and prevent short-term crises from escalating into long-term instability.

Arlington Thrive's new Childcare Navigator program is making strides in addressing one of the biggest obstacles faced by the families Thrive serves -- accessing quality, affordable childcare. Thirty-two families have already benefited from this initiative and four new childcare providers opened their doors to subsidy recipients. Strategic partnerships with APAH, Bridges to Independence, and Doorways amplified this work to make quality childcare a reality for more Arlington residents in need.

Arlington County Board Member Matt de Ferranti said, "Arlington Thrive has been a nimble partner for the County, responding swiftly to critical needs. I'm excited about the next chapter and the positive impact we can make together."

Arlington Thrive is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing timely assistance to neighbors in need. Its mission is to help individuals and families facing economic challenges develop the capacity to be stable, secure, and thrive in their jobs, health and homes.

Urban Agriculture Month

Urban Agriculture Month shines a spotlight on the significant role urban agriculture plays in our regional and local food system. This event will feature discussions on maximizing food produc-

tion in an urban setting, demonstration sessions, and a reading of a proclamation naming October Urban Agriculture Month in Arlington County. We hope you'll get inspired to garden and get involved.

Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 from 1 pm – 3 pm at Arlington Central Library

Including: Arlington County Urban Agriculture Month Proclamation; Northern Virginia Conservation Trust & new Plot Against Hunger garden; School Gardens; Garden spotlight – Walter Reed Garden; Indoor Farming Update; Headwinds Developing; Educational tables, free seeds and seedlings, other giveaways and activities.

Register for free here. <https://tinyurl.com/4bxwvtbx>

3 Oct. 7:30 am-11 am Gleaning at area farms with Plot Against Hunger. Log in to sign up.

4 Oct. 9 am-12 pm Harvest and garden work day at Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild (DC). Produce will be donated to Plot Against Hunger. Log in to sign up.

6 Oct. 10-11:30 am VCE – Putting Your Garden to Bed (Zoom)

10 Oct. 7:30 am-11 am Gleaning at area farms with Plot Against Hunger. Log in to sign up.

13 Oct. 10-11:30 am VCE – Soil Building for Healthier, Happier Gardens (Zoom)

13 Oct. 1-3 pm VCE Partners of the Americas Caribbean Conservation Conversation

15 Oct. – Area 2 Open House

17 Oct. 7:30 am-11 am Gleaning at area farms with Plot Against Hunger. Log in to sign up.

20 Oct. 10-11:30 am VCE – Succulents and Cacti 101 (Zoom)

22 Oct. .Ribbon Cutting at new Plot Against Hunger garden with NVCT

24 Oct. 7:30 am-11 am Gleaning at area farms with Plot Against Hunger. Log in to sign up.

24 Oct. Causes & Cocktails with Volunteer Arlington

25 Oct. Charity night at Sushi Zen

27 Oct. 10-11:30 am VCE – Science & Mythos: Plant Names & the Science Behind Them (Zoom)

31 Oct. 7:30 am-11 am Gleaning at area farms with Plot Against Hunger. Log in to sign up

The Plot Against Hunger program collects fresh produce from gardens at homes, faith-based organizations, schools, and community gardens, and gleans produce at local farms to donate to local food pantries for our neighbors in need of supplemental groceries. Our Produce Bagging Center accepts your garden produce, prepares it for food pantry clients, and delivers th

e same day. Plot Against Hunger cultivates a community of gardeners, supporting gardeners with seeds and seedlings and technical assistance.

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ENLISTED PERSONNEL HOUSING AT JOINT BASE
MYER-HENDERSON HALL, ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH) hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Environmental Assessment (EA), Building Disposition Report (BDR), and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the construction of two Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing (UEPH) barracks and associated habitat restoration at Fort Myer which is part of JBM-HH. The Proposed Action involves the construction of two equal size, new UEPH barrack buildings and the restoration of approximately two acres of existing grass and scattered tree landscape to natural habitat. The Proposed Action would also include the construction of a parking lot with capacity for 65 vehicles. Additionally, the Proposed Action would include the realignment of Schoolhouse Road; extension of the pedestrian corridor; construction of new access roads, fire lanes, equipment pads, and walkways; new utilities; and landscaping. Construction of the proposed barrack buildings and the parking lot would require demolition of seven existing Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) duplexes, two residential garages, one swimming pool (abandoned/not operational), and one swimming pool house (abandoned/not operational). The existing seven NCO duplexes are family units that are in failed or poor condition, contain hazardous materials (lead-based paint and asbestos), and do not meet Army Standards or base programming needs.

The new UEPH barracks will provide additional, updated housing for Fort Myer. Currently, existing historic barracks are in failed and failing condition, are insufficient to support active-duty military, and do not meet Army Standards. Fort Myer has a current deficit of 200 beds needed for personnel. The consolidated housing on the Installation would support a more cohesive Army unit for training, mission readiness, and mobilization. Additionally, many of the personnel that would move into these barracks are currently housed off-base, competing for space within the local housing market. This EA has been prepared to identify, evaluate, and consider the environmental consequences of the proposed demolition of seven existing NCO duplexes, two residential garages, swimming pool, and one swimming pool house; construction of the UEPH barracks and habitat restoration in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations.

JBM-HH is located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and composed of Fort Myer, Henderson Hall, and Fort McNair. JBM-HH was created from the administrative reorganization of the Fort Myer Military Community (Fort Myer and Fort McNair) and the Marine Corps installation at Henderson Hall as part of the Congressionally mandated DoD Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act of 2005. Fort Myer and Henderson Hall are contiguous and located in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Fort McNair is located in southwest Washington, D.C., on the peninsula of Greenleaf Point (in the neighborhood known as Buzzard Point), at the confluence of the Washington Channel of the Potomac River and the Anacostia River. JBM-HH encompasses approximately 380 acres (152 hectares) including Fort Myer at 243 acres (97 hectares), Henderson Hall at 29 acres (12 hectares), and Fort McNair at 107 acres (43 hectares). Installation management responsibilities for all three sites is the responsibility of U.S. Army Garrison JBM-HH headquartered in Building 59 on Fort Myer, and integration of functions and services between all three sites has occurred to provide more efficient support of the on-installation and regional populations.

The EA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and the Army's Implementing Regulations (32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions).

The NCO duplexes, swimming pool/pool house, and residential parking garages proposed for demolition fall under the recently executed Program Comment: Department of the Army Program Comment for Inter-War Era Housing, Buildings and Structures, and Landscape Features 1919-1940 (Program Comment/PC, enacted September 2020). The BDR has been completed in accordance with and as defined in the Program Comment's Appendix A Design Guidelines for Army Inter-War Era Housing (1919-1940). A BDR is prepared when it is determined that there are no prudent and feasible alternatives to demolition. Comments received from the public during the public comment period should identify if the commenter believes there is a major deficiency in following the Program Comment Demolition Procedures.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation on the appearance of the new replacement UEPH barracks and the habitat restoration area is ongoing with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office and other consulting parties.

The Draft EA and BDR are available to view in printed form at the Arlington Central Public Library and the D.C. Southwest Neighborhood Library. It can be viewed/downloaded electronically at <https://home.army.mil/jbmhh/teamJBMHH/about/Base/environmental-management-division-website>. Comments or questions on the Draft EA/FNSI and BDR may be directed in writing to: Directorate of Public Works - Environmental Division, 111 Stewart Road, Building 321, Fort Myer, VA 22211 or by email to: JBMHH_NEPA@usace.army.mil. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA.

ENTERTAINMENT

MONTH OF OCTOBER

"The Pluviophile" Exhibit. At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Crystal City, Arlington. Artist Barry Barnett Keith's art exhibit in honor of his older sister's recent passing. Keith is a graduate of Alexandria City School (T.C. Williams) and a native Alexandrian with a good following in the area. He is an educator and mentor (21 years teaching art and design) in Prince George's County Schools. A reception will be held Oct. 6 from 5-7 p.m.

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.

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

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

Garlic - Plant it Now! 6:30 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, First Floor, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Are you a garlic lover? Learn about how to plant and when to harvest garlic, plus the history and many types of garlic to choose from.

SEPT. 29 TO NOV. 5

"The Tell-Tale Heart." At Syntetic Theater, Arlington. Step into the eerie world of Edgar Allan Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart, where madness takes hold and the boundaries of sanity blur. In this twisted tale, an eccentric old man and his caretaker embark on a lethal dance that spirals into madness and murder. With dark humor and a haunting atmosphere, Syntetic invites you to question: who is the crazy one? Visit www.syntetictheater.org for dates and showtimes.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Paws on the Pike. 1-5 p.m. Penrose Square, 2501 9th Road South, Arlington. Featuring free pet portraits, dog cake, goodies and pet vendors. Meet with your local veterinarians, trainers, pet-sitters, boarders, dog walkers, groomers, and more! Discover the best pet-friendly activities and services in your community. Whether you're looking to adopt a new furry friend or just stock up on homemade



Paws on the Pike will be held Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023 at Penrose Square in Arlington.

treats, there's something for every pet parent at our event. Be sure to sign up for free pet portraits to capture the special moments with your furry friend. You won't want to miss the Blessing of the Animals at 1:00 p.m. and the Arlington Animal Hospital's 85th Birthday Celebration at 3:00 p.m. There will also be a DJ on site, free goodies, and other exciting activities to enjoy throughout the day.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Expungement Clinic. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Arlington Presbyterian Church, 918 S. Lincoln Street, Arlington. The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, together with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, is hosting their second annual Expungement Clinic. The Expungement Clinic will be a "one-stop shop" for those with expungement eligible charges to have them expunged. A fund is available to cover the cost of expungements (\$91) on a first-come, first-serve basis making the expungement application free to Clinic participants. If you would like to apply for an expungement during the Clinic, please bring the Warrant of Arrest or Final Disposition for each charge that you wish to have expunged. Please note that charges must consist of Arlington County/City of Falls Church arrests to be eligible for expungement in this jurisdiction. Pre-registering is advisable no later than September 28, 2023. If you have not pre-registered by this date, you may still participate, but arrive no later than 10:30 a.m. to complete the initial paperwork required and expect to wait up to two hours for your application to be processed.

SUNDAY/OCT. 1

Urban Agriculture Month Activities. 1-3 p.m. At Arlington Central Library, Arlington. Urban Agriculture Month shines a spotlight on the significant role urban agriculture plays in our regional and local food system. This event will feature discussions on maximizing food production in an urban setting, demonstration sessions, and a reading of a proclamation naming October Urban Agriculture Month in Arlington County. We hope you'll get inspired to garden and get involved!
Tentative Program Schedule:
Arlington County Urban Agriculture

Month Proclamation
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust & new Plot Against Hunger garden School Gardens
Garden spotlight - Walter Reed Garden
Indoor Farming Update: Headwinds Developing
Announcements
After the program ends, you can visit and chat with partner organizations at educational tables, pick up some free seeds and seedlings, and check out other giveaways and activities. Register for free here. <https://tinyurl.com/4bxvwtbx>

TUESDAYS, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, Tuesdays @ 10. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Simpson Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe Ave, Alexandria. Meet and talk with Extension Master Gardeners in the Simpson Demonstration Gardens to learn the best uses for fallen leaves and other organic garden waste. Free.

FRIDAY/OCT. 6

Putting Your Garden to Bed. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. It may be autumn, but it's not time to abandon the garden! This class offers easy tips for onsite composting, providing winter habitat and food for wildlife, and end-of-season care of tools and equipment. Did you know that fall is the ideal time to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials? We'll help you identify opportunities to learn from this year's successes and failures (we all have them) to lay the groundwork for next year. Speakers are Extension Master Gardeners Joan McIntyre, who leads the VCE-MGNV Neighborhood Champions program that supports Extension Master Gardeners as they offer gardening expertise to their neighborhoods, and Molly Newling, who excels at teaching the fine points of pruning. Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. 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 experience features comedy from the DC area's finest comics. The headliner for October's show is the hilarious Dom Grayer.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

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.

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

FROM PAGE 2

Italian composer Giacomo Puccini, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 911300-03.

The U.S. Army and the Trail of Tears, history of relocating the Cherokee Nation to Oklahoma and its lasting impact, Thursday, Oct. 5, 1:30 p.m., virtual. Presented by Jen Dubina, National Museum of the U.S. Army. Registration # 911400-21.

How to assess retirement preparedness, Thursday, Oct. 5, 6 p.m. Presented by Sallie Wiley, certified federal coach and career counselor. Registration # 911404-03. Repeated Friday, Oct. 6, 10:30 a.m., registration # 911404-04. Both at Lubber Run 55+ Center.

Learn how to use your phone or personal device to identify music heard in real time, Friday, Oct. 6, 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Both iPhones and Androids will be discussed with Jennifer Weber, 55+ Center Director. Registration # 911403-04.

Step-by-step painting demonstration with Community Arts Programmers, Monday, Oct. 9, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Picture and supply list sent prior to class. Registration # 911303-15.

While Medicare can be complicated and confusing, Dr. Salama Freed, assistant professor of Health Policy and Management at George Washington University, will break it down, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911503-01.

History roundtable participants to discuss the impact of mandatory school systems, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 11:15 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911402-08.

Energy Bingo in English and Spanish, presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Energy Masters, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Celebrate Energy

Awareness Month and get tips on reducing energy and water bills. Registration # 911401-05.

The roles of executors, agents and trustees defined by Elder Law Attorney Ed Zetlin, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911404-05.

Introduction to the ins and outs of PayPal, Wednesday, Oct 11, 12 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez Figueredo. Registration # 911403-08.

Calico Cloggers will perform Wednesday, Oct. 11, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Repertoire includes traditional and modern clogging plus Irish and Canadian step dancing and more. Registration # 911301-01.

Beginner quilting class, Thursday, Oct. 12, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Learn how to create beautiful, raised images from paper coils. Supplies provided. Cost \$18. Registration # 911310-05.

New, Spanish discussion group led by Ashley Gomez Figueredo, Lubber Run 55+ Center Director, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2 p.m. Participants must have an intermediate knowledge of Spanish. Discuss food, travel, current events and more. Registration # 911650-02.

Favorite music on vinyl records plus root beer floats, Thursday, Oct. 12, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911801-02. Bring records to share or just come to listen.

Movie matinee showing of "Living" (2022) (PG-13), Thursday, Oct. 12, 2 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911804-13.

Why get an appraisal of personal property is answered by experienced retired appraiser Jean Jackson, Thursday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911400-12.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

and a reading of a proclamation naming October Urban Agriculture Month in Arlington County. Visit the website: <https://arlington-urbanag.org/2023-urban-agriculture-month/>

DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYwDZm4t-Pw2.

Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South 19th St., is seeking to replenish its food pantry. Particularly needed are rice (large bags appreciated, the pantry will rebag), dry beans,

canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit www.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.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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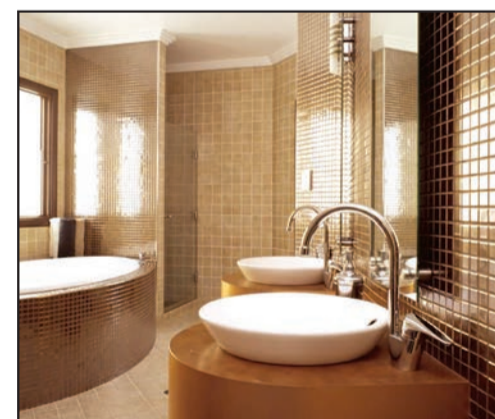
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Legals

ABC LICENSE

Ocean Shack LLC trading as Ocean Shack, 2163 N Glebe Rd., Arlington, Arlington County, VA 22207-2248. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application - Restaurant Wine, Beer, Mixes Beverages, Consumed On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Yicheng Zhou, owner/partner. 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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Food Security Mini-Grants

The Arlington County Department of Human Services (DHS) on Monday, Sep. 25, 2023, launched a \$150,000 grant funding program to support local organizations' efforts to address food insecurity in the community.

"We are excited to launch this new funding opportunity for community organizations to develop creative solutions to food insecurity in Arlington," said DHS Director Anita Friedman. "The Strategic Plan identifies a number of broad strategies, and we look forward to seeing innovative proposals that support those strategies."

Arlington adopted a Food Security Strategic Plan (Executive Summary PDF) in Oct. 2022 and identified 28 strategies in five categories that would support the improvement of food security in Arlington.

Funding is available to local organizations implementing selected aspects of the Strategic Plan. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) or faith-based organizations.

Grants can range from \$2,500 to \$25,000. Organizations may apply for up to three projects with a total grant request totaling no more than \$60,000. A separate application must be submitted for each project proposal. A total of \$150,000 in one-time funding is available.

Applications are now open and are being accepted until Monday, Oct. 30, at 5 p.m. Funding awards will be announced in December 2023, and recipients will be re-

quired to sign the FY 2024 Food Security Mini-Grants Program Grant Agreement with the County. Funds must be spent by organizations before June 30, 2024.

View the full notice of funding availability for eligible activities, reporting requirements, and additional grant guidelines.

Questions about this NOFA should be directed to Stephanie Hopkins, Food Security Coordinator, at shopkins@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-1065 before the application deadline. A summary of questions asked, and the County's responses, will be posted by Oct. 16, 2023.

Arlington Food Security Coalition

Arlington's Food Security Coalition oversees the implementation of the Food Security Strategic Plan that was developed in 2022 and serves to coordinate, collaborate, and share information about food security activities occurring in the county. It is a continuation of the work the Food Security Task Force did in 2021-22, including pursuing the mission and vision that the Task Force developed:

Vision: A community where all have enough healthy food to feed themselves and their families.

Mission: To create an interconnected food security system in Arlington that works together to meet its residents' need to feed themselves and their families, healthy and culturally appropriate food, in an affordable and dignified manner.

OPINION

Recycling Plastic Film Shopping Bags?

To the editor:

The recent article, "10 Things You Can Do to Sustain Arlington" correctly points out that proper recycling is an excellent way to keep the community clean.

LETTER However, it misses a key detail regarding the plastic retail bags shoppers rely on every day to get their groceries home.

While not generally accepted in the curbside recycling program, plastic film shopping bags continue to be easily recycled through the industry-pioneered store take-back program. Usually located at the front of the store, these bins found at retailers like Harris Teeter, Giant, and Safeway can help ensure a circular end life for bags and other stretchy plastic film products.

Through the use of this program, recycling rates for plastic bags and similar films continue to trend upwards. In 2021, over 1.1 billion pounds of plastic film were collected for recycling. Of that total, over 264 million

pounds of plastic retail bags and film were collected through the store takeback program, a 7.9% increase from the year prior.

At more than 340 locations across the country, including at a large facility just outside Richmond, more than 30,000 Americans are hard at work each day manufacturing and recycling the bags families in Arlington rely on. In turn, these bags and film products can be recycled into materials like composite lumber and decking, playground equipment, railroad ties, and much more.

When you ask for plastic at the checkout counter and then return them to the store for recycling, you're not just choosing the product with the fewest environmental impacts, you're helping support Virginia workers and making a sustainable choice for the planet.

Zachary Taylor, Director
American Recyclable
Plastic Bag Alliance

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1/ for more.

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

Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone for details.

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

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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.

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.

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Stanley Herwitz



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

He was once a close friend of mine: in 9th grade. Then, in high school we veered off in different directions, apparently (I can't remember exactly what happened). Besides, his home was on the other side of Newton Centre (where I grew up) in a section known as Waban so we rarely would bump into each other to facilitate any kind of relationship. Why I am writing about him now is that my long-standing best friend from high school Cary called me from his home in Needham, Ma. the other day to tell me that Stanley had died. As my closest friend, Cary was familiar with the occurrence/dynamic I'm about to share – and had been present at its occurrence, and thought I'd want to know about Stanley's passing, especially since Stanley and I lived 500 miles apart and hadn't spoken in 40+ years. As such, my likelihood of having seen or spoken to Stanley since was almost zero. In fact, Cary would have more than likely than I, since he still lived in the area, to have heard something about Stanley. (And since 1969 when we first met and instantly became best friends, and from 1972 on when I attended college in Maryland, he's been my eyes and ears up there. He has always been well connected and full of lots of local who, what and where's.)

Stanley was a big part of my life in junior high school. I can't recall if we attended one another's Bar Mitzvahs, but 1967 was a long time ago. What I do remember, generally, are the many nights a group of us teenagers would spend playing pick-up basketball (keeping stats as well: rebounds, points, et cetera) at Stanley's house and then afterward sit in his room and listen to music. And it's the music he introduced me to, years ahead of its generally accepted time, as it so happened, that ultimately became the basis and foundation of my musical awareness and interest. In 1969-ish, Stanley introduced me – musically, to Frank Zappa, Steve Miller, John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers featuring Eric Clapton and one other band, The Allman Brothers Band, who specifically, became the center of my musical universe forever more. (Previously my musical taste had included bands like The Beatles, The Turtles and The Association.) And who, by the way, were the performers at the first rock concert I ever attended. It was at "The Boston Tea Party" in Kenmore Square near Fenway Park in Boston, Ma.

And what precipitated this literary journey down memory lane was news of Stanley's death and a reminder of the last time I saw him. It occurred in the fall of 1982 at the Newton South High School's 10-year class reunion, the first such occasion since we all had graduated. It was held in Copley Square at some hotel I can't recall, and we were all assembled in an appropriate-type ball room for the gathering. I can sort of remember standing around talking to some friends when I first saw Stanley as he slowly walked in my direction. I smiled when I saw him, and as we soon got close enough to engage verbally, Stanley spoke up. He was rather aggressive - and unpleasant, accusing me of something or other I had said or done to him in the past (high school presumably). He was openly hostile over the incident, an incident for which I had no clue or recollection - or context even. Whatever little we talked after his initial salvo, my sense was the damage – whatever it was, was irreparable, and we didn't talk anymore that evening. I was and have remained totally perplexed about Stanley's anger. That's the extent of the last interaction I had with him. And over the ensuing years, during the ongoing bi-weekly phone calls – and occasional visits, I had with Cary, I don't really remember Stanley's name ever coming up too much, and now it's too late.

I was then and now bewildered, disappointed and a bit despondent over the perceived slight that I had, unbeknownst to me, inflicted upon Stanley. Who knew Stanley had such intense feelings that the first thing he says/does when he sees me after 10 years is to mention/refer to some hurt I had caused him. Moreover, being that he still lived in Newton, Ma. and I lived in Bethesda, Md., eight hours away by car, it's not as if I could have transgressed much in the subsequent 10 years. If I had committed some figurative crime against Stanley while I was living in Maryland, I didn't exactly have means or opportunity to "faux pas." Still, Stanley was mad about something.

And now it's unlikely I'll ever know. I would however, like to reach out to someone who knew Stanley and hear how he lived his life, whether he had family, children, career, success, and so forth. It might lesson my guilt – about what I don't know.

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

Meet Wilbur, AWLA's Deaf and Definitely Adored Canine Resident

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

One of the AWLA's longest-standing residents, Wilbur – a roughly five-year-old neutered male dog – is craving a forever home.

Wilbur – a 60-pound “goofy, cuddly” Pitbull mix – came into the AWLA's care on June 12 and has since been in and out of short-term foster care with AWLA volunteers. According to AWLA Senior Communication Specialist Chelsea Jones, each of his foster families has noted all the qualities that would make him a great forever companion.

“He does really well every time he goes to foster, but this time of year, most people can only foster for short-term stints,” Jones said. “He just came back to the shelter from his most recent foster family, who reiterated everything we've heard about him when he's in a home: that he is just a complete and utter goofball and you never have a day where you don't laugh with him in your house. He's convinced he's 20 pounds because he wants to be on top of you all the time, he's so snuggly.”

He is so generous with cuddles that, as his last foster wrote, “everyone who has come in contact with him has adored him.”

Wilbur has also demonstrated other qualities that would make him a desirable permanent companion.

“We've confirmed that he's fine being left in the house by himself and he is pretty much house trained,” Jones said. “He gets the zoomies once or twice a day, which is one of the best things to watch. In his most recent foster home, he has met some kids and other dogs and has done very well.”

Initially, the AWLA thought Wilbur would be best suited in a one-dog household, but the team now would be open to a home with other dogs if it seems like a good fit.

If you look at Wilbur, you – like his former fosters and AWLA staff members – just might be taken by his oversized, rabbit-like ears.

“He likes to burrow under blankets, and we've seen pictures where he's so far under the covers but his ears are still sticking out,” Jones said. “It's irresistible.”

And while his ears may be irresistible, they serve no function beyond the aesthetic: Wilbur is com-



pletely deaf, making him the only deaf dog that the AWLA has had in years.

Still, this doesn't stop Wilbur from living life as a normal dog – either at the shelter or in foster homes. Humans working with him just need to communicate with hand signals instead of their voices.

“He is learning sign language,”

Jones said. “We and our fosters have been using American Sign Language (ASL) for him to sit and follow other commands, and he's working on those and doing very well.”

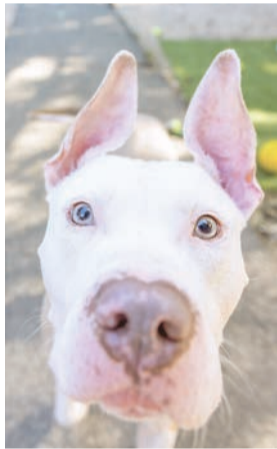
Jones emphasized that people should not shy away from adopting a deaf dog.

“It's the same as teaching a non-deaf dog tricks – you just don't use words,” she said. “Actually, we often tell people that dogs do better with hand signals than words. You just have to get used to not expecting them to respond to sounds. It's getting accustomed to using hand cues for him to tell him that he has done something correctly or incorrectly.”

Whoever Wilbur's lucky adopter will be will also benefit from the work he's been doing with a professional trainer.

“He has already been working with a trainer who specializes in deaf dogs and whoever adopts him will have some funds from AWLA to continue that work,” Jones said.

While his forever family will get the enormous amount of love that Wilbur has to give, they will have to be patient with him – as any dog requires weeks, and sometimes



even months, to settle into a new home. This is especially the case, as Jones said, for dogs like Wilbur who have been shuffled around so much.

“He has been in and out of shelters, which is normal when you've been with us for this long [nearly four months] and with fosters being only available for short

periods,” Jones said, “There is a lot of disruption in his daily life. He has to get used to one routine, and then another. Getting people to understand that any dog will need a couple weeks or even longer to settle into a new home, there are a lot of unrealistic expectations. A dog needs time to adjust and I think he's just going to need a little bit of time to settle into a new home and get into a routine. He's going to settle in really nicely when that happens. In no time, he'll want to sleep in the bed under the covers with you. All he needs is understanding – not only that he needs some time, but also that, because of his deafness, there is more we as people need to do to connect with him.”

She added that Wilbur's future owner should not have any cats.

Wilbur is currently being housed at the AWLA's shelter, and everyone is hoping that his next placement will be the place he ultimately calls home.

“He is a really nice, special dog; he's just been through a lot and needs someone to give him a chance,” Jones said.

To learn more about Wilbur, visit <https://www.awla.org/pet/wilbur/>.

