

The Arlington Connection

Scouts will leave a flyer in some places on Saturday, Oct. 28 and pick up food a week later on Nov. 4, for AFAC. Residents can drop off food at the locations listed on page 4. Or make a donation on the website, www.afac.org

CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 5 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6
SCREENSHOT

Looking at How the 'Middle' Is Filling In

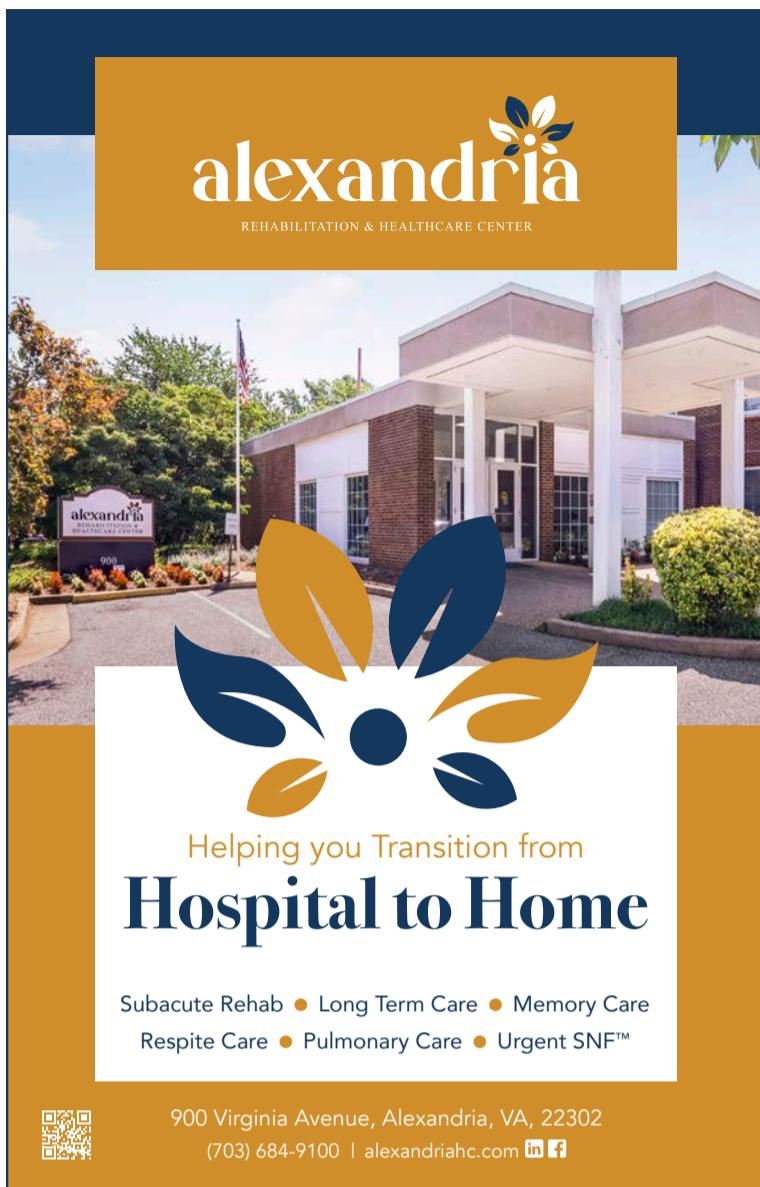
PAGE 3

Audubon Volunteer Of the Year

PAGE 5

Scouts Collect For Hungry Neighbors

PAGE 4



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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.

Smart money management presented by Sallie Wiley, career counselor, Thursday, Oct. 26, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 911404-08; repeated Friday, Oct. 27, 10:30 a.m., registration # 911404-09.

World-wide history discussion group to meet Thursday, Oct. 26, 1 p.m., virtual. Led by Dwight Rodgers from Encore Learning. Registration # 911402-10.

Writing the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, pre-recorded Supreme Court Historical Society lecture by Georgetown University law professor John Mikhail who discusses Founding Father James Wilson's important role, Thursday, Oct. 26, 1:30 p.m., virtual. Registration # 911400-19.

Stroke prevention and management session with Christine Crawford, certified brain injury specialist, Friday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911500-04.

Beneath the surface and behind the scenes of three artists, Friday,

Oct. 27, 10 a.m., virtual. Presented by Community Arts Programmer Jim Halloran. Registration # 911302-05.

Coffee House Live! An evening with the musical group DEMZ, Friday, Oct. 27, 7 - 9 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Enjoy music from the 60s and 70s. All ages welcome, 55+ Pass not required. Registration # 911301-08.

Halloween evening social, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 6 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Spooky games, ice breakers, candy and fun. Costumes are welcome. Registration # 911890-03.

Spooky trivia, ghoulish snacks and frightfully good coffee, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Dress in costumes for a special treat. Registration # 911890-02.

Is your jewelry box a treasure chest? Jamie Grosso, certified gemologist with JG Jewelry and Estates LLC, will discuss how items are valued and options to sell, Wednesday, Nov. 1, Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Bring one item for a free evaluation. Registration # 911400-13.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "Jenufa" by Leos Janacek, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 911300-05.

Piano lounge and sing-along with

Valerie Welsh, Broadway and movie musical hits, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 911304-12.

Name that Song and sing-along, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Music from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Registration # 911304-14.

Dealing effectively with change, presented by Sallie Wiley, career counselor, Thursday, Nov. 2, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 911500-08; repeated Friday, Nov. 3, 10:30 a.m., registration # 911500-09.

Learn about Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Thursday, Nov. 2, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Presented by Meredith MacKay, LSNV managing attorney. Registration # 911400-04.

History discussion group led by Dwight Rodgers from Encore Learning, Thursday, Nov. 2, 1 p.m., virtual. Focusing on cultural, economic, artistic and political history. Registration # 911402-11.

Name that Tune led by musician Carl Gold, Thursday, Nov. 2, 2 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Songs from 1950s through 1970s. Prizes awarded to winning team. Registration # 911304-15.

Trivia games, Thursday, Nov. 2, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911600-12.



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Panel Looks at Arlington's Expanded Housing Options

Meanwhile, Arlington Circuit Court says lawsuit challenging the zoning change can move ahead.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Just as the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors was holding its annual briefing discussing the status of Arlington's Missing Middle proposal, a judge was issuing a ruling that may affect its fate. The judge ruled a group of Arlington homeowners can sue their county over the controversial Missing Middle rezoning plan. This Arlington Missing Middle initiative has taken place amid a nationwide focus in major metropolitan areas to address housing affordability and scarcity of options.

In 2019 Arlington began a process to address shortfalls in housing supply and types and the rising cost of housing. The County announced a framework for a Missing Middle housing study "to explore if and how missing middle housing could help address Arlington's limited housing supply and inadequate housing choices." At the time the announcement indicated the process would start with a blank slate with no proposed policy or zoning changes.

The County's staff report to the County Board in December 2019 indicated that neither an across-the-board rezoning nor elimination of single family zoning would be the right fit for Arlington. Thus there was surprise and opposition when the County Board announced its decision on April 28, 2022. It said the results of the study and lengthy community input and hearings recommended the Board approve a countywide change from single to multi-family zoning, allowing 8-plexes in all residential areas that do not currently permit it. This was later revised to allow no larger than 6-plexes.

Opponents argued this decision had been sprung on them and had broken promises. In addition, residents in opposition stated that the County had not done the background studies on parking, schools, storm sewers, tree canopy and other infrastructure that would provide sufficient evidence that the multiplexes could be accommodated.

On the other hand, during the study period a group of strong supporters had also emerged explaining the housing inventory available precluded a number of public servants such as teachers and firefighters from living in the county where they worked and that the current single family zoning had systemized racial inequity. The two sides became more polarized during the decision making process.

On April 21, 2023 a group of Arlington-
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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Northern Virginia Association of Realtors panel Oct. 19 from left: Nicholas Lagos, Realtor, Broker of Century 21 New Millennium Arlington and past NVAR President; Charles Taylor, Acquisitions Manager Classic Cottages, Alexandria, Va.; Matt de Ferranti, Arlington County Board Member; Terry Clower, PhD, Director, George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis; Ryan McLaughlin, CEO NVAR.

ton residents filed suit in Arlington Circuit court alleging the Missing Middle zoning ordinance (now called Expanded Housing Options, EHO) had not properly studied the impact of increased density on single-family residential lots, and is thus illegal. State law requires that zoning ordinances consider needs for transportation, schools, parks, recreation and public spaces as well as the conservation of natural resources. The lawsuit also claims EHO is arbitrary and capricious and bears no reasonable relationship to public health, safety, morals or the general welfare as required by state law.

DURING THE NVAR panel presentation on Oct. 19, moderated by CEO Ryan McLaughlin, Terry Clower, Director of George Mason Center for Regional Analysis, presented statistics about the progress of EHO housing in Arlington. The numbers indicate projects under Expanded Housing Options approvals of 60 units to date with 79 percent in R-6, single family zoning, and 21 percent in R-5, single family with some duplexes allowed. The average approval time was 68 days, ranging between 40 days and 101 days. Many of those approved were six units and were in zip codes where there is already some density around transit routes. The zip code with the largest number of units was 22204 with 14, followed by 12 in 22203 and 11 in 20001. Seventeen applications have

been rejected or are under review.

Board Member Matt de Ferranti explained that Missing Middle wasn't meant to mean income level, a common misunderstanding, but housing types. "We felt we wanted more supply and options." He distinguished between housing affordability which is not the same as affordable housing. "Affordability is about the broad community—can folks afford to stay over time?"

Charles Taylor speaking from the perspective of Acquisitions Manager of Classic Cottages, Alexandria, said, "Things have been moving pretty quickly. I've been surprised. We have five EHO approved as of yesterday but the process is more complicated; we need three permits now. But from a developer's point of view, the more density, the more profit."

Nicholas Lagos, Realtor and broker commented, "This is still too new to see the effects. We're hoping it will expand the housing options available. There are shortages of rental and quality housing but people want to live and work here but have to go further out. People make six figure salaries but there isn't housing available, and it's way too high." He said people don't mind multiple levels if they can get more than one bedroom and other things they need. "One home we did expanded for three families."

De Ferranti said it is important to really hear people's fear and anxiety. "If you

grew up in Colonial Village or Fairlington and spent your entire life saving to buy a detached home and you have a 6-plex next door, you have reasonable concern." De Ferranti says when he grew up in McLean he thought single family was the way to go. But he explained, "Things have changed, and we need a place where my daughter who will be born in December will be able to afford a place to live in Arlington." He said if we don't change the status quo, it will be unaffordable for Federal workers, teachers, and firefighters.

Lagos added that he looked for a place in Arlington with his son but his son couldn't afford it.

De Ferranti said if you look at an economic analysis, you can see that if both partners earn what an average firefighter or teacher makes, together they could rent or buy an EHO. The median household in Arlington is \$120,000. De Ferranti continues that there won't be 4 and 6-plexes on every street. "There is a cap for five years, and I wouldn't be open to change for several years until we see how this works."

Clower pointed out that Arlington is a small area and, "Let's see what happens. It's a pretty limited approach. Let's work with what we have." He explains this EHO approach won't shift the entire market, and it's

Food Needed for Hungry Arlingtonians

Help 'Scouting for Food'.

The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) is pleased to partner with the Chain Bridge District of the National Capital Area Council of Boy Scouts for the 2023 Scouting for Food food drive campaign. This annual event aims to not only collect essential food donations but also raise awareness of the issue of food insecurity. Since its inception in 1995, Scouting for Food has made a significant impact by gathering more than one million pounds of food for AFAC.

Arlington residents who receive a notice from a Scouting Troop on Saturday, Oct. 28, are encouraged to participate in the food drive. On the morning of Saturday, Nov. 4, place your non-perishable food contributions in a bag by your front door no later than 8 a.m. Local scouts will collect the donations to be delivered to AFAC for distribution to Arlington neighbors in need.



Scouts will leave a flyer Saturday, Oct. 28 and pick up food a week later on Nov. 4. Or drop off food at the locations listed below. Or make a donation on the website, www.afac.org

Preferred food donations include low-sodium canned goods, low-sugar cereals, cooking oil, and peanut butter. Please do not donate expired foods, open packages, glass containers, or household items.

In the event you miss the scouts or do not receive a notice to participate, we welcome you to bring your non-perishable food donations to the following locations:

- ❖ AFAC Warehouse (2708 S. Nelson St)

- ❖ Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St)

- ❖ Arlington Mill Community Center (909 S. Dinwiddie St)

- ❖ Arlington Public Library Branches:

- ❖ Central Library (1015 N.

Quincy St),

- ❖ Cherrydale (2190 Military Rd),

- ❖ Shirlington (4200 Campbell Ave), or

- ❖ Westover (1644 N. McKinley Rd)

Donations can be dropped off during the regular operation hours at each of these locations. Together, we can make a substantial impact and combat hunger in our community.

ABOUT AFAC: The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) is an independent, community-based nonprofit food pantry that provides dignified access to nutritious supplemental groceries to neighbors in need. Over 3,300 families are coming to AFAC each week at 21 distribution sites throughout Arlington County, Alexandria, and Falls Church to access fresh and healthy supplemental groceries, freeing up tightly stretched funds for child and health care, rent, and other financial demands. For more information, visit www.afac.org and follow @afacfeeds on social media

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William Young: Audubon Volunteer of the Year

Volunteers with Audubon Society of Northern Virginia gathered on Sunday for a trash clean-up at Glencarlyn Park and to announce their Volunteer of the Year Award. Bill Young, a well-known local birder, writer, teacher and volunteer, received the award.

In accepting the award, Young said, "I deeply appreciate that ASNVA has given me a platform to teach courses and has trusted me enough to stray outside the range of the typical offerings of an environmental organization. Some of the courses I've taught are about subjects such as birds and culture and birds and language and birds as symbols."

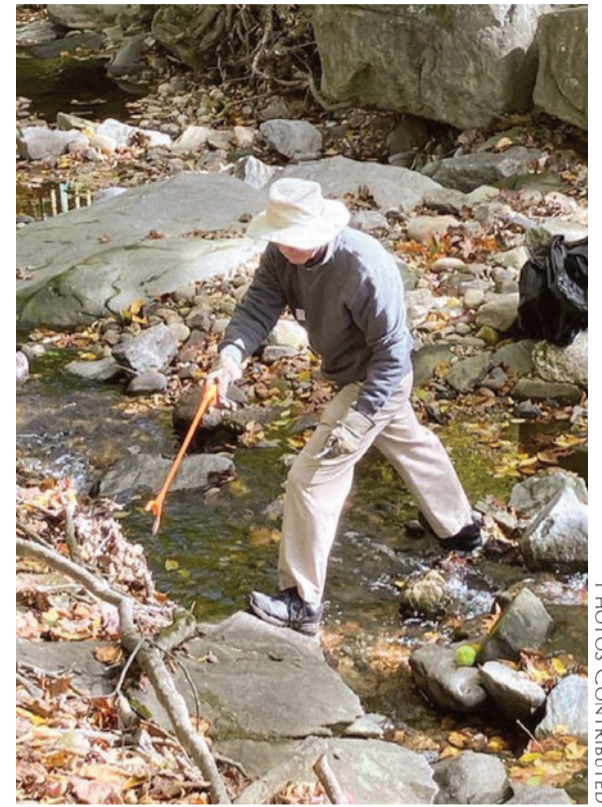
He quoted the writer A.S. Neill, who wrote a book about an experimental school he started called Summerhill. Neill said, "Love and hate are not opposites, The opposite of love is indifference." Young said the purpose of all of his activities has been to try to help people "to better understand the natural

world and to move them from indifference about the natural world to love of the natural world."

He concluded, "The environmental challenges we all face are very steep, and at times seem impossibly steep. But it's important that we keep working together to try to move people from indifference to love."

Young, an Arlington resident, is the author of "The Fascination of Birds: From the Albatross to the Yellowthroat." His wide travels have taken him to birding hot spots around the world and provided the background for his many presentations around the area. Young is also the co-creator of MPNature.com website which is a comprehensive source of information for those who visit Monticello Park in Alexandria.

William Young with his Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNVA) Volunteer of the Year Award Sunday Oct. 22 at Glencarlyn Park.



Volunteers clean up trash in stream at Glencarlyn Park on Sunday, Oct. 22.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

ENTERTAINMENT

MONTH OF OCTOBER

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.

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/4bxwvtx>

DATES AND TIMES

25 Oct. Charity night at Sushi Zen
27 Oct. 10:00-11:30 a.m. VCE – Science & Mythos: Plant Names & the Science Behind Them (Zoom)
31 Oct. 7:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Gleaning at area farms with Plot Against Hunger.

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

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"The Tell-Tale Heart" will be performed now thru Nov. 5, 2023 at Synetic Theater in Arlington.

"The Tell-Tale Heart."

At Synetic 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, Synetic invites you to question: who is the crazy one? Visit www.synetictheater.org for dates and showtimes.

Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N 14th and N Courthouse Roads operates on Saturdays from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. The Del Ray Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market

Plant Clinic at 3308 S Stafford St, Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Event. 7 p.m. At 3451 Washington Blvd., Arlington. Hosted by Casual Adventure Outfitters. Casual Adventure, Arlington's oldest outdoor outfitting store, is holding a free, in-store

event featuring the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Speakers for this special event will include Jim LaTorre ATC Board Chair, and Aaron Troncoso ATC volunteer, who will share their experiences as long-distance A.T. hikers, including tips and tricks they've learned, how to enjoy the A.T. in the Mid-Atlantic - whether backpacking or day hiking - and how to volunteer on the Appalachian Trail. Visit <https://appalachiantrail.org>.

THURSDAY/OCT.26

Rosslyn Live: Spooky Queens Drag Show. 6:30-8 p.m. At Gateway Park, Arlington. Head to Gateway Park for this fa-boo-lous 90-minute show that will transport you to a magically spooky world of illusion and mystery. Enhance your experience by coming dressed in your favorite Halloween costume — the top three contestants will receive a prize. Tickets are on sale now! General admission is \$10, and park seating is first-come, first-served. Pub in the Park will also be on-site with a cash bar, including beer and wine.

OCT. 27-29

Fall Book Sale. At Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington. Friends of Arlington Public Library Fall Book Sale. The semi-annual sale returns to the Central Library parking garage and features thousands of books, games, puzzles and other items for all ages and interests at incredible bargains with proceeds supporting library programs such as Arlington Reads author series. Join on Friday, October 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, October 28 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, October 29, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m (half-price day).

FRIDAY/OCT. 27

Science & Mythos: Plant Names and the Science Behind Them. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Online. What's in a name? Join Extension Master Gardeners Rebecca Secula and Evin Morrison as they discuss just that. A rose by any other name might smell as sweet, but knowing and understanding the scientific nomenclature of your favorite plants is not

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 5

only interesting, but a necessary tool in your garden toolkit. Follow along as they discuss the difference between common and scientific names, where plant names come from, and just how much you can glean from the name of a plant alone. And when you start to think, "it's all Greek, to me", enjoy a few Greek myths that have given their names to some of our favorite fall-planted bulbs. Hyacinths, crocus and daffodils have a little more in common than you might have once thought. By the end of this session, you'll be ready to jump start your fall and spring plantings with plenty of planting tips, growing information and a better appreciation for how much really goes into a name. Free. RSVP at <http://mgvnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Scouting For Food Drive. The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) is teaming up with the Chain Bridge District of the National Capital Area Council of Boy Scouts once again for the 2023 "Scouting for Food" Food Drive. Since 1995, this annual nationwide food drive has collected more than one million pounds of food for AFAC. If you receive a notice from a Scouting Troop on Saturday, Oct. 28, to participate in the food drive, you can leave your non-perishable food contributions in a bag by your front door no later than 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 4. Your donations will be collected by local scouts to be delivered to AFAC to feed our neighbors in need this fall. Visit www.afac.org/volunteer/scouts/

OCT. 28-29

Howl-O-Ween Celebration. At The Commentary Social House 801 N. Glebe Road Arlington. The festivities will begin on Saturday with a "Howl-O-Ween Pups on The Patio" adoption event from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., featuring adoptable pups from Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation. Twenty percent of the proceeds made during the event will be donated to the rescue league. Contestants and spectators alike will not want to miss The Commentary's Costume Contest on Sunday during their "Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Garden Soirée" from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. The "cutest," "scariest," and "funniest" dogs will be offered an opportunity to win exciting prizes, including free cocktail tickets. Guests can also book pup portraits with Bright Eyes Photos DC and explore the beautiful Autumnal bouquets provided by Calluna Flower Truck. Chef Fran's delectable shareables, including her house-made doggy dishes, paired with festive Fall cocktails, will be available all weekend long

OCT. 30 TO NOV. 24

Movement & Textures. At Gallery Underground, Crystal City, Arlington. Nataliya Gurchman presents her solo show "Movement & Textures", featuring works in oil that originate from her experiences of winter growing up in Leningrad. These formative years became rooted in her soul and are expressed in her lush and textural pieces. Opening Reception: November 3, 2023, 5-7 p.m.

TUESDAY/OCT. 31

Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens. Tuesdays @ 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.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 1

Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II. 11:30 a.m. At Arlington Central Library Auditorium. Discover the untold story of the 600,000 African American Rosie the Riveters who worked in factories, shipyards and government offices during World War II through this documentary film, "Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II." Filmmaker, historian and

retired professor Gregory S. Cooke will join us to introduce his film and take questions afterward.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

Dominion Hills Fall Craft Show. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Dominion Hills Area Recreation Center, 6000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. The Dominion Hills Fall Craft Show celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Twelve fine art and craft vendors will offer holiday shoppers the best in local art including jewelry, pottery, glass, abstract and landscape paintings, polymer clay, artisan chocolates, wood working, handknits, bookmaking, bath and body products, coiled baskets and much more. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/dominionhillsfallcraftshow/> for more details and artist information.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

2nd Annual Holoku Ball. At Westin Crystal City Hotel in Arlington. The E Ala E Hawaiian Cultural Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit Hawaiian cultural organization headquartered in Alexandria, is hosting its 2nd Annual Holoku Ball in honor of Hulu Kūpuna (Precious Elders). A "holokū" is a long dress worn by ladies when attending formal events. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.ealaeccc.org>.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

Diva's Night Out. 7:30 p.m. At Marymount University Ballston Center Ballston Auditorium (Lobby Level), 1000 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. Featuring the National Chamber Ensemble. The National Chamber Ensemble (NCE) is thrilled to open their 2023-24 season, "New Perspective: Exploring Diversity in Music" with "Divas Night Out with Schubert." This evening marks the beginning of the ensemble's 17th season and will feature renowned soprano Sharon Christman who will perform songs by Franz Schubert, Leonard Bernstein, Fanny Mendelssohn, (sister of Felix Mendelssohn) Richard Strauss, some thrilling instrumental music by Brahms and Kreisler and one of Puccini's most famous and popular arias "O Mio Babbino Caro". Program/Ticket info: (703) 685-7590.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

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. The headliner for November's show is the hilarious Kandace Saunders. Tickets: \$10/\$15 at capitalcity-showcase.com. Call 202-235-4311.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

Jane Franklin Dance Presents Big Meow & Forty+Project. 2 p.m. At MoCA, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Featuring the family friendly show The Big Meow and dance performed by Forty+ Project, you'll experience lively performances and have the option to try out some of the moves. The afternoon includes food and drink refreshments. This is a free program for all ages to attend.

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Publishing Since 1784

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POTOMAC ALMANAC CENTREVIEW

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 our onerous cloud 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.

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Forgive Me As I Wax Poetic



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you are of the "Jewish persuasion" ("who persuaded you"?), as asked by Hawkeye Pierce in a long-ago M*A*S*H episode, you've been lighting a memorial candle known as Yahrzeit candles (evidence suggests as long as 2,000 years ago) to honor the deceased your whole life – or your parents have, particularly for family members. The candles are lit at sundown on Yom Kippur ("Day of Atonement") and as well on the deceased's date of death on the Jewish calendar (presently year 5,784) cross-referenced to a corresponding date on the Gregorian calendar – with which we're all familiar.

And for 14 years this Yom Kippur's eve, I have been lighting two candles, one each for my father (deceased Dec. 2006) and mother (deceased Dec. 2008). This year I will be lighting three candles: father, mother and new this year: for my recently deceased brother Richard. (I still can't get used to writing it, let alone saying it; he died Dec. 3rd last year, a few months after Yom Kippur.) And when the real-time anniversary date of his actual death occurs, (Dec. 3) it's not exactly candle-appropriate to light the memorial candle on that date; as it happens, the proper date I'll be lighting candles for Richard and for my mother (she also died on Dec. 3rd) will be Nov. 21.

I can remember growing up in my parents' house with the Yahrzeit candles being lit every year on Yom Kippur and watching them flicker all night long and for the next 24 hours as they sat on the kitchen stove remembering/honoring their parents/my grandparents. But I can't remember lighting my first Yahrzeit candle on the Yom Kippur following my father's death in early Dec. 2006. I do imagine however, it was weighty, as he was my first parent to die. And likewise, when my widowed mother succumbed on Dec 3rd, 2008, in effect, making Richard and myself orphans. I imagine lighting two candles then is like how I feel lighting three today, except as I said last week, I have no backstop anymore. Moreover, being alive still without my older brother's wit and wisdom is a position I never thought I'd be in – given my diagnosis, as I've described in previous columns. I'm alone now (Dina notwithstanding) and it makes the finality and inevitability of my own mortality even more obvious. I only wish there was someone close with whom I could share my feelings and anxieties. Oh, yeah, there used to be, but there isn't anymore. That's the problem. Damn. This makes you readers, like it or not, a resource for me. I talk/write, you listen. It could work. In fact, it probably already has worked for me for years; I was just too fortunate elsewhere to realize it. Not anymore. And it will be painfully obvious to me as I say the prayer, and then light three candles, one each for my mother, father and brother, all deceased – for the first time together. I don't exactly have survivor's guilt, but I have something, and it's something I never thought I'd have, survivor's remorse.

To me, survivor's remorse' means being sorry about surviving – without a hint of guilt. But rather with a generous heaping of being sorry to find yourself in a predicament you had never anticipated, but of course did nothing to cause. Nevertheless, the problem exists. It's sort of like outkicking your punt coverage. The players get to where they're going before all parties intended. Oddly enough, there are negative consequences to being first on the scene; just as there are unintended consequences to being last on the scene. And I'm last, and I'm running into unintended consequences every day. My go-to person is gone. My best friend is gone. My business advisor is gone. My hand-me-down giver is gone, and I'm left, to my wife Dina's chagrin, with a very tired wardrobe with little chance of an upgrade. And as important as all these losses, I've learned that life indeed goes on. It may not mean that much to you, but if I ever thought about what my life would be like if my brother died before me; now I know. As Shakespeare would say: "It sucketh." But as any lifelong member of Red Sox Nation knows there's no time like the present when you're down and out. There may be challenges ahead but there's no going back.

This is just the kind of talk I could have with my brother if I was in any kind of funk. And invariably, with his encouragement and positive reinforcement, I would see the error of my ways and once again, take advantage of my opportunities. I feel better already. Thanks for listening.

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

Consider Dog Rescue: Arlington is full of Rescued Doodles

Adopt don't Shop: too many dogs can't find homes.

BY DIANE ALLARD
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

We are dog people. Our rescued labradoodle brought us joy for more than 13 years — losing him in 2021 was gut wrenching. By late 2022 we felt ready to adopt another doodle, because we loved our labradoodle's personality and the low-shedding bonus. We considered going directly to a breeder, but we wanted to at least try to find our buddy through rescue. The experience was eye-opening. Here is some of what we learned:

You can rescue Any Dog Breed You Want: There is an astounding number of adoptable animals available through breeders, pet stores, shelters, and rescues in this country. Popular breeds, like doodles and others, land in rescues or shelters because of circumstance and economics. Animals arrive at shelters for a range of reasons: unanticipated litters, adopter allergies, owner health challenges, life status changes, and pandemic pets whose humans have resumed travel or long workdays away from home. The supply side is what pet adopters rarely see. This is not about a neighbor whose pet had a surprise litter, or reputable breeders who allow potential adopters to meet the parents and see the environment where your pet starts its life. Volume and profit drive the puppy mill business. Many animal lovers are aware of them, but this part of the supply side is shrouded from buyers. Our puppy was rescued from a puppy mill, so we learned more about them.

Breeding does not make you rich (in fact it might make you poor) unless you are only in it for the money, in which case volume and

profit drive the business. Think of any item from a production angle: to meet the demand for something, suppliers generate what the market wants. Lots of it. Often. Except this is not about widgets, corn or cotton, it's about living, breathing animals. When an animal doesn't sell quickly enough, gets sick, is the wrong "look," gets too old or too big for the cute little puppy stage, the supplier moves on to a more profitable option, the next litter. One of the dogs we applied for was in rescue because the litter came down with lice — highly transmissible, treatable, but time-consuming and costly to resolve. Out to a rescue they went, presumably to prevent cross infection with other dogs on the "farm." (We didn't hear back on this one.) Glad they were not euthanized, not glad they became someone else's problem.

This is just one example of why there is a flood of puppy mill animals in America's rescues and shelters. Puppies, including many purebred and popular breeds "designed" for profit but not sold quickly for one reason or another often land in a rescue organization. If they're lucky.

According to the Humane Society, there are more than 10,000 puppy mills in the United States. There is a lack of enforcement in shutting down puppy mills that allow their animals to exist in filth, malnourished, with limited or no medical care. The Humane Society is doing what it can to expose the worst ones. That said, there are many reputable breeders who do a good job of keeping their lines healthy and would never put profit before the welfare of a puppy. If rescuing a dog isn't possible, breeders should be thoroughly checked to make sure they are accredited, do health testing, and only do occasional litters.

Follow the Money Trail. Where your money goes matters. Not financially contributing to a puppy mill supplier and accepting one of the "discards" means one animal is saved from often abysmal



PHOTO BY DIANE ALLARD

Jojo as a well established member of the family.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Walden is a 4 month old rescue pup. His sister has already been adopted. He is being fostered now but is ready for his new home. To adopt Walden, or another dog, see: <https://www.homewardtrails.org/>

How It Works: rescues monitor a USDA website for available dogs. Rescuers literally go fetch them, get them vetted, spayed, dewormed, and even micro-chipped, and post them on websites such as PetFinder, Petango, or AdoptAPet. It pays to be cautious — keep your guard up and consider establishing a relationship with a couple of rescues and put an application in as soon as you can when you are serious. Persistence pays off. Like all things on the internet, beware of scams.

How to Find Your Match

Consider your lifestyle, including whether you have a suitable indoor/outdoor area for a dog, whether you like the behavior or personality of a particular breed. Knowing what you want will help narrow your search so you can act quickly for the right match.

Consider how far you are willing to travel to look for the right addition to your household.

Set up specific searches for your desired pet using search engines, such as Petfinder, Petango, and Adopt-A-Pet.com. Local shelters and rescues post their animals on these sites, sometimes before they post on

their own site. If you don't have breed, size or shedding preferences, your local shelter is the easiest and best place to adopt a rescue, especially mixed breeds. In Arlington, the shelter is Animal Welfare League of Arlington at AWLA.org

It is possible to find a specific breed, from Australian Cattle Dog to Yorkshire Terriers via breed-specific groups who rescue and post on Facebook and Instagram daily, even hourly. Many are volunteer-run. Stay on top of new listings.

Line up a personal reference or two, a veterinary reference, and maybe a statement on why you want a particular animal. Seems like a lot, but the rescues/shelters who can do this level of due diligence are doing their best to place animals in safe homes.

Be nimble and ready to act quickly.

If it feels wrong, move on. Trust your instincts.

If you can't adopt, consider donating to a shelter, or sponsoring a service dog. Service dogs require extensive training, which costs a ton of money. They can make the life of a disabled person change for the better.

conditions or an early end. That's enough for us for now. The rescuer who saved our dog's life has saved more than 2,500 animals since her retirement 17 years ago. We are grateful for her, and the efforts of small and large rescue organizations and shelters seeking to give a better life to these animals. Paying a rescue for their efforts felt right to us, and there was a bonus: it

cost about one-third what breeders were charging.

When searching for a specific breed, finding the right match for your family takes resilience and persistence. Expect to try more than once to get the "one". We put in a handful of applications. Be flexible and ready to act when the stars align. Picking up the phone and having a conversation with a rescue

can be worthwhile, too. Rescuers have a pipeline of incoming animals that are not yet posted online.

Diane Allard is an Arlington resident who has written for the Connection before. She and her husband, Hunt, are active in many aspects of the community, and Diane sings in the band "Soulfire" in addition to myriad volunteer activities.

Panel Looks at Arlington's Expanded Housing Options

FROM PAGE 3

only one of 30-40 answers to the problem of housing shortage. "I applaud Arlington. It's not an easy process but Arlington is a thought leader."

De Ferranti added the status quo wasn't working. "This is not the Arlington we want." He points out other jurisdictions are facing similar problems but "Arlington challenges are different than Alexandria or Falls Church. They need different solutions. Alexandria is up to 4 units. California and Massa-

chusetts have not done this well."

Taylor said the politicians should set policy and the staff make the decisions on housing units.

"It is simplistic and not true that we are beholden to developers, that we get sweetheart deals." He adds, "Single family housing restricts who we can serve."

Taylor added that developer interest was a flurry after the Arlington Board decision was announced on July 1 but has tapered off. "A lot of people are waiting to see what

will happen with the litigation." The judge's decision to allow the court case to proceed was just being announced during the panel presentation. It will allow their argument to proceed to a three-day bench trial the date of which will be decided on Nov. 16.

Nichols said the issue is just about affordability. "We need to be able to adapt to multi-generational. Expanded options can only help the market. We need to have our young to be able to have those opportunities or they will leave to other jurisdictions

along with businesses." He added, "There is a capital limit; we can't have every home with 5-6 units because of plumbing, parking, overloading schools. The cap is important." And he added, "We won't see any of these completed for another year due to the time for permits and the 6 months to build a new housing unit."

De Ferranti summed it up, "It's going to get worse if we don't do anything. Arlington will become a place where only rich people can afford to live."