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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Egg Hunt Tradition

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Julissa Lopez, 9, and Luisana Bravo, 5, sport their bunny ears at the Easter Egg Hunt at Woodlawn Park on Saturday morning. Mount Olivet United Methodist church volunteers had been at the park for several hours hiding the 3,000 plastic eggs for the annual community Easter Egg Hunt.

Teen Police Academy

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Doorways Operates at Record Capacity

PAGE 3



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Teen Police Academy Reaches Out to Arlington Youth

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) is accepting applications to Teen Police Academy to be held in July and August 2024. Alli Shorb, ACPD Communications Specialist says, “We try to target rising 10-12th grade students to get them early to interest them in a possible career in law enforcement.”

Mateo Otero-Diaz said he attended the one-week session last summer. “To be honest I didn’t have that much going on and wanted to do something else in addition to working. This was unique, not a camp or pre-college course. I’m glad I did it.”

Otero-Diaz says the first day of the academy set the tone. “I got to meet a lot of new people in a warm place setting. They set the expectations for what police do—discipline and taking things seriously.”

The week includes classroom presentations, hands-on learning, scenario training and Otero-Diaz’s favorite part, the field trips. “We went to the National Law Enforcement Museum and also took a rock climbing trip.” Otero-Diaz says, “It was a different environment, and I got to see a lot of the police department.”

“The rock climbing experience was about team building and helping each other.” He explains, “Someone would pull the cord, and one of us would go up the wall with the others cheering them on. It was super

exciting when someone got to the top. The police officers did it, too. It was fun to go with a group as is true with most things.”

He says the most surprising thing for him during the week was learning “they do a lot of stuff. And I thought, wow this is different and definitely a lot of fun.” He continues, “A real world issue involved with the police department is there is a lot of stigma in the Hispanic community who are suspicious of the police. But,” he continues, “the police have a lot to offer them and tell the members of the Hispanic community that they are here to help people and not to be afraid.”

“I think with what I’ve seen that the most difficult thing a police officer does is the de-escalating exercises, what the officer technically does in a high intensity experience. They had two police officers acting out a scenario of what to do when they have a person with a mental health breakdown.” He explains, “the situation can go from 0-100 real quick. The officers have to keep their cool.”

The most difficult thing Otero-Diaz says he did was the obstacle course on the first



Mateo Otero-Diaz

day. It is modeled after the agility course that is part of the police officer training. Otero-Diaz explains it was about a 50 meter ellipse with hurdles and running around cones while wearing weighted vests. “I was able to do it but it’s a lot easier said than done.”

Otero-Diaz says his passion is engineering so he doesn’t think he is headed for a career

in law enforcement. “But I’m happy I did it. I say ‘hey you should do this’ to friends. Of course,” he adds, “it didn’t hurt that they fed us.” But he says the de-escalating technique they learned is especially important and to have a conversation with everyone. “And I learned to respect the police department.”

Online applications for the Teen Academy are due no later than Sunday, May 12. Two week-long sessions are offered from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, July 15 - Friday, July 19; and Monday, July 29 - Friday, Aug. 2 at the Long Branch Aquatics Center. Shorb says the Teen Police Academy has proven to be popular and fills up fast. “We added the second week last year to accommodate more applicants.” Interested applicants must live in or attend school in Arlington County

and be rising 10 - 12th grade students.

For more information, <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Police-Department/Community-Engagement/Community-Police-Academy>

To apply, see <https://us.openforms.com/Form/d4aabe1-3971-4743-aa24-1dc87ee076f8>

Doorways On Track to Break Records Again

Safehouse operated at 211% capacity first quarter 2023.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. According to Diana Ortiz, Doorways President and CEO, the number of survivors and their children sheltered by Doorways has more than doubled in the past five years. Since 1978 Doorways has provided Arlington’s only emergency shelter for individuals and families who are homeless due to fleeing domestic and sexual violence.

According to statistics provided by 18th annual Domestic Violence Report provided by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, 1,786 victims were served by programs participating in the national count of services on Sept. 6, 2023. This report documents the number of people and the kind of services received in a 24-hour period on a national level. Local statistics were included in the national daily count.

The report detailed 1,045 adult and child victims of domestic abuse found in emergency shelters and other housing, 741 adult and child victims who received non-residential supportive services related to transportation, legal services and more.

In addition, domestic hotlines received 464 contacts averaging more than 19 contacts per hour. Programs provided 34 educational sessions and trainings to 558 members of the public focusing on domestic violence and early intervention.

However, victims made 123 requests for services that programs could not provide because they lacked sufficient resources.

In addition, Doorways has provided local statistics for the entire year including 29 hospital accompaniments, answered 1,411 calls to the 24-hour hotline, assisted 360 adults and children through court advocacy, sheltered 212 adults and children including their pets and provided counseling to 236 adults, youth and children.

Ortiz says, “We are on track to break records again this year. Doorways Safehouse operated at 211% capacity during the first quarter of fiscal year 2023 sheltering 61 survivors experiencing homelessness—more than half of the total number sheltered all of last fiscal year.”

She explains, “Sources of funding including the federal Victims of Crime Act, have decreased significantly. But we recently secured \$1.5 million in funding for our SafeStart program from the Community Development Block Grant Program through the Congressional request of Congressman Don Beyer. This will help Doorways secure the additional units we need to continue fulfilling our promise of safe housing for all.”

BULLETIN BOARD

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

LEAH FRALEY IS UNITED COMMUNITY CEO

United Community announces the appointment of Leah Fraley as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective April 1, 2024. Leah brings with her a wealth of experience in nonprofit leadership, strategic planning, and fundraising, making her an ideal fit for guiding United Community into its next phase. Fraley is a seasoned nonprofit leader, having served as the Executive Director of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia for the past six years. Her impressive track record also includes leadership roles at the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children and Holy Cross Health Foundation, where she led successful fundraising efforts.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive

assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteerallexandria.org

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

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EGG HUNT

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PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Senior Pastor Sara Keeling surveys the dots of pink, turquoise and orange scattered around the grass at Woodlawn Park on Saturday morning before the scheduled Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m. Mount Olivet United Methodist church volunteers had been at the park for several hours hiding the 3,000 plastic eggs for the annual community Easter Egg Hunt.

Keeling says it is her second year at Mount Olivet but she understands the Easter Egg Hunt has been a long standing tradition. Matt Voigt, a member of the church youth group, says he has been at the park with his sisters since 9:30 a.m. helping hide eggs and putting up the fences for the different age groups. He remembers when he was just a kid and used to be hunting eggs himself.

Veronika Kokhan and her mother Mariya from Ukraine have been here for a while hiding Easter eggs for the first time. Mariya says, "We have been in the United States a little over two years." She trails off,



Jason Yakencheck and Sarah Kleinfeld with 4-year-old Adam and 2-year-old Nora.



Julissa Lopez (9) and Luisana Bravo (5) sport their bunny ears at the Easter Egg Hunt at Woodlawn Park on Saturday morning. Mount Olivet United Methodist church volunteers had been at the park for several hours hiding the 3,000 plastic eggs for the annual community Easter Egg Hunt.

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"We arrived before ..."

Veronika says they celebrate Easter in Ukraine but they don't have Easter egg hunts. "We don't get a lot of these things. We do have Easter breads—they can have fruit, and we paint hard boiled eggs. You

can go to church before and have the eggs sprayed with Holy water. Then you eat the eggs Easter morning. They're really good."

A group of what sounds like thousands of chattering children

SEE READY, SET, PAGE 8



Mount Olivet United Methodist Church Senior Pastor Sara Keeling with Matt Voigt, member of the church youth group.

ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING

MoCA Arlington's Innovation Studio + Store is now Open. At 525 14th Street South, Arlington. MoCA Arlington's Innovation Studio + Store is the museum's second location and is designed to connect visitors with contemporary art and artists! At this 1,500 sq. ft. retail space, you can shop, attend special programs and drop-in sessions, meet the artist-in-residence working within the studio, and make art of your own! The space complements the work of the flagship museum and will inspire you, while you experience contemporary art in an interactive setting. Visit anytime Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

EVENTS AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Arlington National Cemetery Horticulture Tours. Meet at ANC Welcome Center, Arlington. Join them for spring horticulture tours, where the staff will teach you about Level III Accredited Memorial Arboretum and the plants that inhabit the 639-acre grounds. Learn more at arlingtoncemetery.mil.

SCHEDULE:

April 5 at 9 a.m. -- Memorial Arboretum Walking Tour
April 19 at 10 a.m. -- Spring Plant Tour in Celebration of Earth Day
April 26 at 9 a.m. -- Memorial Arboretum Walking Tour -- Arbor Day
May 3 at 10 a.m. -- Arlington National Cemetery Garden Tour
June 7 at 9 a.m. -- Turf and Trees of Arlington National Cemetery

MARCH 4 TO APRIL 30

Arlington Artists Showcased. At Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, 1100 S. Hayes Street, Arlington. Over 35 local artists will display their work in a new exhibition at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. Over 50 pieces will be displayed in a case located near the Nordstrom store on the lower level of the mall featuring paintings, drawings, sculpture, and mixed media. Featured artists are members of the Arlington Artists Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a vibrant local arts community. All works of art are available for sale, with accessible price points available to local community members starting at \$200 for paintings and drawings, and \$100 for ceramics.

APRIL 2-26

Cindy Donohoe's Inspired by Nature Solo Show. At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Local artist Cindy Donohoe's first solo show, *Inspired by Nature*, captures special moments from nature in her oil paintings. The show, held at the Gallery Underground's Focus Gallery in April 2024, reflects her travels near and far, including several plein air trips to France, Eastern Shore, and Ohio. Cindy is pulled toward water and reflection, finding inspiring color, light, shadow, form, line, and life in nature. Opening Reception: Friday, April 5, 2024, 5-7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

Author Talk: Dr. Arline Geronimus: "Weathering: The Extraordinary Stress of Ordinary Life in an Unjust Society". 6:30 p.m. At Arlington Central Library and Online. Learn how the trauma and stress of structural inequities impact health

outcomes. In her latest book, Dr. Geronimus explores the ways in which systemic injustice erodes the health of marginalized people. The event will be moderated by Library Director Diane Kresh and Arlington County Public Health Director (and AFC Community Council Member) Reuben Varghese.

APRIL 4-6

"Les Misérables School Edition." At Yorktown High School, Arlington. Yorktown High School's Spring Musical will run on April 4, 5, and 6, 2024. Epic, grand and uplifting, "Les Misérables School Edition" is

a true modern classic featuring one of the most memorable scores of all time.

FREE CHAMBER CONCERTS

The Friday Morning Music club will perform two free chamber concerts in April at St. George's Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington, adjacent to the Virginia Square Metro. The April 5 concert will feature works by Chopin, Mozart and Kapralova; the April 12, works by Schubert and Albeniz. The one-hour concerts continue every first and second Friday of the month

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7



The Monumental City Ancient Fife and Drum Corps will perform at the Ball-Sellers House Museum on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION

Pursuant to the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Regulations, Virginia Administrative Code section 9VAC20-160-120, Arlington Ridge (E&A), LLC, 21 Custom House Street, Suite 450, Boston, MA 02110 hereby provides notice of voluntary remediation at the following site:

2901-2955 South Glebe Road
 Arlington, Virginia 22206
 VRP Number 00463

Historical releases of solvents from a former onsite dry cleaner operation have been detected at the site. Analytical sampling conducted at the site of the past eight years indicated chlorinated solvents were present below the property in soil, groundwater, and soil vapor at levels which may pose risk to human health or the environment if left unremediated. To address potential environmental risks, Arlington Ridge (E&A), LLC applied to and was deemed eligible to participate in the Voluntary Remediation Program. To date, the on-site remediation efforts have encompassed several key actions aimed at addressing the contamination issues. Initially, 45.7 tons of contaminated soil were excavated and removed from the area where the solvent release originated. Subsequently, bioremediation techniques were applied to mitigate contamination in both the soil and groundwater within the source area. This process involved multiple rounds of injecting compounds such as EHC® and potassium permanganate into the subsurface. Additionally, a sub-slab depressurization system was installed near the rear of the dry cleaners, targeting the specific location where the dry cleaning machine had been situated. Following the active remediation efforts, a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) has been reviewed and accepted as complete by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The RAP includes use restrictions including (1) groundwater beneath the Site shall not be used for any purpose other than environmental monitoring and testing, or de-watering in compliance with law; and (2) a vapor mitigation engineering control will be installed in any future occupied building, including all commercial, residential, or children's (under the age of 16) day care facilities located within the specific vapor mitigation area designated for the Site and will be operated in accordance with an Operation and Maintenance Plan.

Persons wishing to comment on the voluntary remedial action or request additional information should contact the following person who is familiar with the Site:

JohnRyan MacGregor
 ECS Mid-Atlantic
 14026 Thunderbolt Place, Suite 100, Chantilly, Virginia 20151-3232
 (571) 471-8400
 jmacgregor@ecslimited.com

Written comments will be accepted until 30 days
 from the date of the publication of this notice.

FLOURISHING

Office of 55+ Programs
 Department of Parks and Recreation
 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203
 703-228-4747

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate starting at a \$20 annual fee. To join or register, go to registration.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

Spring ephemeral wildflowers, tiny flowers braving the chilly weather, Wednesday, April 3, 10 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Learn more from Gabby Hrycyszyn, Gulf Branch Nature Center naturalist. Registration # 913400-26.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "The Maid of Orleans" by Russian composer Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky, Wednesday, April 3, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 913300-08.

Bunco games starting up at Arlington Mill 55+ Center, Thursday, April 4, 2 p.m. A dice game of luck where having fun is the number one objective. Registration # 913600-06.

Vinyl records and root beer floats, sip and listen to favorite music, Thursday, April 4, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Feel free to bring records or just come to listen. Registration # 913801-02.

At home with eight Virginia Presidents, Thursday, April 4, 1:30 p.m., virtual. An exploration of their lives and historic sites that shaped them. Presented by Heather Cole, author of "Virginia Presidents: A History Guide." Registration # 913400-33.

Keeping finances organized, presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Financial Educators, Tuesday, April 4, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Learn how to store financial information for easy access during emergencies. Registration # 913404-08.

Five artists, five works, learn about the common themes and symbols of these artists from Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen, Thursday, April 4, 8:30 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913302-03.

First Friday Social with local and organic snacks to celebrate Earth Day, Friday, April 5, 12 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 913801-05.

Repurposing leftovers, Tuesday, April 9, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Learn ways to reduce food waste in recognition of Earth Day. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers. Registration # 913501-05.

Reader's Theater, a form of theatrical performances emphasizing oral interpretation of written texts rather than full fledged dramatization, Tuesday, April 9, 5:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Led by Center Director Jennifer Weber. Registration # 913301-12.

History roundtable group will discuss the impact of inventions, Wednesday, April 10, 11:15 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913402-05.



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ENTERTAINMENT



“Agatha Christie’s Murder on the Orient Express” will be featured March 23-April 13, 2024, at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. <https://thelittletheatre.com/performances/>

FROM PAGE 5

through May. All concerts start at noon.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Vegetable Gardening in a Warming World. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Online. Climate change might mean that we can grow both heat tolerant cultivars of traditional food crops over a longer season but also experiment with more unusual crops like turmeric, agretti, and orach. Kirsten Conrad, Extension Agent for Arlington and the City of Alexandria, will provide tips and tricks for cultivation of food crops in hotter, wetter, and sometimes drier conditions. Free. RSVP at <http://mgov.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Monumental City Ancient Fire and Drum Corps Performs. 1:30-2:30 pm. At Ball-Sellers House Museum in Arlington. The Arlington Historical Society is pleased to announce the beginning of its 2024 season at one of its free museums on Saturday, April 6 at 1 p.m. with performances of colonial music. The Monumental City Ancient Fire and Drum Corps will perform from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., followed by Guillotine Theatre singing colonial songs and leading us in sing-alongs.

- ❖ Bring a chair and enjoy the show as re-enactors help transport you back in time.
- ❖ Tour the house with a docent who can tell you how it was built, how people lived, and trace all of Arlington history in this one house.
- ❖ Taste colonial era sweet treats
- ❖ See a colonial era garden, model bee hives, and a modern rain garden at work.
- ❖ You’ll also see memorials to the three enslaved people who lived and toiled here in the 1800s. These are the first memorials in the county that honor the lives of the enslaved. All ages are welcome.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

2024 Arlington Teen Summer Job Fair. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 2nd Street South, Arlington. Annual employment and volunteer expo serving 14 to 18 year-olds. Hundreds of summer job opportunities and more!

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Free Spring Social. 2-3:30 p.m. At Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 Marcy Road, Arlington. Come out and catch up with old ASNV friends or make some new connections! Live animal guests will include Smoke, an Eastern Screech Owl and Sugar, a Corn Snake. This is a great opportunity for a close-up look at some local wildlife. NOVA Parks Roving Naturalist Matt Felperin will give a brief presentation on Eastern Screech Owls, a beautiful and elusive bird that lives right here in northern Virginia.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Four Mile Run Clean-Up Event. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Help clean up litter along the Four Mile Run stream! NOVA Cleanups provides all the grabbers and gear for the event.

THURSDAY/APRIL 11

No Place Like Home Celebration to Support Mobile Medical Program Expansion. 6:30-9 p.m. Join the PathForward’s 2nd No Place Like Home Celebration at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington. Emceed by Tommy McFly, this event will feature all the hallmarks of a festive evening, plus a live auction and emotional appeal to raise funds to expand PathForward’s crucial Mobile Medical Program (MMP). PathForward’s MMP, the first of its kind in Arlington, advances equity and improves access to health care for those experiencing homelessness or in supportive housing. Visit www.PFVA.org to learn more.

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Thickercloudzoutlet LLC trading as ThickerCloudz, 5021 Columbia PIKE, Arlington, Arlington, VA, 22204-2906. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store license, for off-premises of beer, wine to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Rahul Kataria, President. Suhas Kataria, Vice President. 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.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

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Legals

Notice of Availability: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the 2024 Pentagon Reservation Master Plan Update

Agency: Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services

Summary: It is the decision of the United States Department of Defense (DoD) Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) to implement the Proposed Action: the 2024 Pentagon Reservation Master Plan Update (Pentagon Master Plan) as the framework to guide future decisions regarding land use and infrastructure at the Pentagon site and Mark Center. The Pentagon Master Plan aims to provide an update to the existing conditions at the Pentagon and Mark Center to reflect changes since the 2016 Pentagon Reservation Master Plan Update and presents short-term and long-term projects and revisions to land use categorizations that will address the specific needs to reduce the Pentagon’s environmental impacts and advance sustainability, security, and resilience. The 53 projects (47 at the Pentagon site and 6 at the Mark Center) in the Pentagon Master Plan will further the objectives outlined in the 2016 Master Plan Update, including improving security, enhancing quality of life of employees and visitors, enhancing environmental sustainability, and balancing the various developmental pressures facing the Reservation. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review has been completed through preparation of a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate environmental impacts arising from implementation of the projects. Based on the analysis of baseline conditions and the anticipated impacts described in the EA, WHS has concluded that no significant impacts to the human or natural environment will result from implementation of any projects, and recognized negative effects will be reduced by adherence to standard best management practices, applicable permit and consultation conditions, and standard operating procedures. This decision is further documented in the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which was signed on March 20, 2024.

This notice announces the availability of the FONSI to implement the 2024 *Pentagon Reservation Master Plan Update* evaluated in the EA.

Contact: For further information and to request a copy of the Final EA or FONSI, please contact Brian King, Environmental and Sustainability Program Manager, WHS/Facilities Services Directorate (FSD)/Standards and Compliance Division (SCD)/Environmental and Sustainability Branch (ESB); telephone: 703-614-3658; email: brian.r.king.civ@mail.mil. Please include “Pentagon Master Plan Final EA and FONSI” in the subject line.

Legals

Oh Brother,



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

My late brother Richard attended, along with my wife, Dina, the first Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist back in late Feb. 2009 when we first learned that I had non-small cell lung cancer stage IV. He also attended my first appointment with my endocrinologist 10-plus years later when after a somewhat delayed, but much-needed biopsy, I received an updated/corrected diagnosis: papillary thyroid cancer stage IV. Unfortunately, Richard did not attend last week’s meeting with the nephrologist. If he was alive, he most definitely would have attended. If there ever was an event/situation since his death in Dec. '22, where I felt his loss, it was during this initial meeting with the kidney doctor. The doctor who very well may control what medicines I take, what foods I eat, and what lifestyle I’m able to live for the rest of my life. A ‘rest’ which at present seems unlikely to satisfy my presumptive life expectancy and/or compare favorably to the age when my parents died: age 87 (father) and mother (age 86). I’ll be age 70 this coming Sept.

This first meeting with the nephrologist was extremely informative. It was an opportunity for all parties to get acquainted since it seems, medically speaking, we’ll be somewhat involved from here on out. Never had I quite felt the weight of my brother’s loss than when we’re sitting in an examining room and encouraged to ask the nephrologist questions. Which we (Dina and I) did. Had my brother, Richard, been in attendance, there might have been a few more difficult questions asked of the doctor – by him. Nevertheless, his positive attitude, his encouragement and good humor would have been welcome, especially given the rock (stage IV papillary thyroid cancer) and a hard place (chronic kidney disease, stage IV) where I find myself trapped. It will be very challenging to navigate my future healthcare decisions, more so than ever before. Cancer alone was difficult enough. Now, as if we needed any complications, my health status is complicated by the relationship between my thyroid cancer medicine and my kidney disease: in short treating the thyroid cancer damages the kidney, and not treating the cancer – so as not damage the kidney, allows/enables the thyroid cancer to do what it does when left untreated: grows, moves and m, m, metastasizes.

Given the conundrum of sorts caused by my present conditions, I could use most everything my brother would offer; compassion, understanding, support, keen insights, and love. As my life exists now, with both my parents and my lone sibling deceased, the weight of my situation falls almost entirely on my wife, Dina. Up until recently, she (and I) had my older brother to rely/fall back on when any need might arise. Now we don’t. And as serious as we thought/knew my previous medical history was fraught, this one may be “fraughtier.” Though I may be older and wiser, I may also be sicker, or perhaps I should say, have fewer and more complicated options. The kind of ‘complicated options’ which really spell trouble (with apologies to Robert Preston) right here in Burtonsville, Md. Not everybody outlives a cancer diagnosis. I know of many individuals who have succumbed to this disease since my diagnosis. As for that Feb. 2009 non-small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis, lots of time has passed, but I haven’t. Moreover, fifteen-plus years ago I was originally given a “13 month to two years” prognosis, I was shocked of course, as I was basically asymptomatic. Somehow, I outlived it, but I’m not sure I have as much left in the tank to counter the threat this time around. ‘Wiser’ is helpful, but I don’t think ‘older’ is. Though medical care evolves as well, (back in my early days, there was no such option as immunotherapy), cancer is the big dog on or off the porch. Though being diagnosed with cancer is not the killer it used to be, in some cases; mine in particular, cancer is very much in charge, especially if it’s left untreated.

Still, it’s not as if Dina and I aren’t up to the task, it’s more that a task of this substance and severity require all hands-on deck. Having my go-to resource unavailable permanently presents all sorts of personal, medical, logistical, emotional, financial, and legal issues for us to navigate. And how can we navigate them without the one person who we could depend on and trust to initiate, follow through, and weather any storm, expected or otherwise as this train goes down the track? If Richard were still alive, this train would never run out of track. Without him still alive, I wonder – and worry, how I’ll even make it onto the train – euphemistically speaking (I’m not exactly F.D.R.).

However, we’re still early days. I just hope there’s a few late nights left as well.

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

EGG HUNT

Ready, Set, Fill That Basket as Fast as You Can

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

FROM PAGE 4

are lined up across the park waiting for their starting time. “Good morning. Can you hear me?”

Eyes turn to a woman with a megaphone in the center of the grounds. “We’re going to hunt by ages. We’ll start with the under two crowd. Four and five will hang out.” While they are waiting she explains the three Easter services to be offered the next day and the availability of a special guest petting bunny.

“Ready, set, go.” The toddlers head in all directions, clasping a parent’s hand or crawling toward that colorful object down the way. Some toddlers wander over to the square next door which is waiting for the 2-3 year-old group.

Just like that, an event that took hours to set up is over in 20 minutes. Brightly colored wicker baskets filled with eggs are dumped to be recycled for another year.

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church is located at 1500 N Glebe Road.



It’s a running start for the 4-5-year olds Saturday morning at Woodlawn Park.



Everyone races around at the Easter egg hunt.



The crowd of children lines up along the starting point for the Mount Olivet Easter egg hunt on Saturday morning at Woodlawn Park.



No category for dogs.



Mariya and Veronika Kokhan from Ukraine participate in their first Easter egg hunt.



The 2-3 year crowd gets going for the egg hunt Saturday morning at Woodlawn Park.



The toddler crowd starts first.