

The Arlington Connection

Maria Chuchvara lives off Columbia Pike and has worked at Harris Teeter for two months. The flowers are arranged on site.



New Harris Teeter Welcomes Shoppers

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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.

Caregivers: You Need Care, Too! Learn ways to avoid burnout, manage expectations, maintain balance, lower stress and more, Thursday, April 11, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 913500-05 and repeated Friday, April 12, 10 a.m., Lubber Run, registration # 913500-06. Presented by experienced trainer and career counselor Sallie Wiley.

Energy Bites in honor of Earth Month, learn energy tips while discovering an energizing recipe, presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers and EcoAction Arlington, Thursday, April 11, 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 913501-06.

Disappearing glaciers discussion with a Park Ranger from Glacier National Park in Montana, Thursday, April 11, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913400-24 at the Center via Zoom or virtual, registration # 913400-25.

Artist's Cookbook, recipes for art materials made from household items, Thursday, April 11, 8:30 a.m., virtual. Presented by Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen. Registration # 913303-10.

Beginner quilting, use a few basic tools to wind paper strips into coils to create various shapes to embellish note cards, Thursday, April 11, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Fee \$18; supplies provided. Registration # 913310-05.

Bunco Bunch at Walter Reed 55+ Center, Friday, April 12, 1:30 p.m. Dice game of luck where the #1 objective is to have fun. Registration # 913600-04.

EarthFest 2024, enjoy variety of earth-friendly crafts, demonstrations and more while learning how to keep the planet safe, Arlington Mill Plaza and gym, Saturday, April 13, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Open to the public; 55+ Pass not required.

Painting demonstration, step-by-step with a Community Arts Programmer, Monday, April 15, 10:30

a.m., virtual. Picture and supply list will be sent prior to class. Registration # 913303-15.

Celebrate intergenerational art activity with preschoolers, Monday, April 15, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913310-08.

Living happy and healthy in retirement, lecture and slide show by Brad Bickford, licensed clinical social worker, Tuesday, April 16, 2 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. He will discuss exercise, nutrition, relationships and more. Registration # 913500-07.

Arlington County recycling made easy, in recognition of Earth Day, Tuesday, April 16, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Do's and don'ts presented by Dept. of Environmental Services staff. Registration # 913400-06.

Genealogy 101 led by experienced genealogist Eilen Bogdanoff, Tuesday, April 16, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913402-02.

Introduction to ukulele, Tuesday, April 16, 4 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Taught by Sandy O'Shea.

No experience required; limited ukuleles available. Registration # 913304-04.

Piano lounge and sing-along with Valerie Welsh, Wednesday, April 17, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. April's theme is folk and folk rock. Registration # 913304-16.

Spring ahead hike with Gulf Branch naturalist Rachel Joffey, see the signs of spring from wildflowers to frogs, Wednesday, April 17, 11 a.m. Meet at Madison Community Center, 3839 N. Stafford Street. Wear appropriate shoes for hiking. Registration # 913106-18.

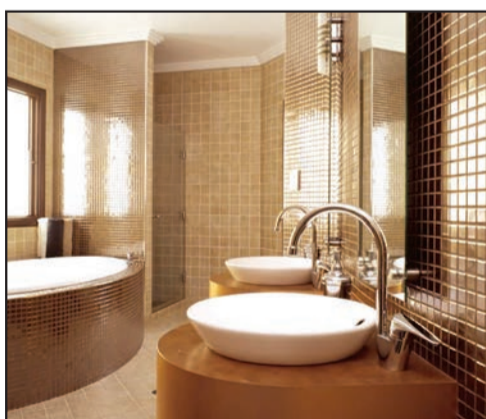
The responsibilities of an executor, presented by Elder Law Attorney Ed Zetlin, Wednesday, April 17, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913404-09.

55+ Travel group will return to the Riverside Center for the Performing Arts in Fredericksburg, VA for a matinee performance of "They're Playing Our Song," Wednesday, April 17. Cost (includes meal) \$102, Arlington resident; \$117, non-resident. Registration # 902404-06.

iNaturalist App and trail walk, learn how to use the app plus information about the 2024 City

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Just Follow Your Daughter to an Eclipse

By Shirley Ruhe
Arlington Connection

It's the Friday before the eclipse. Bob and Judy Johnson from Arlington are on Interstate 70 headed for Columbus, Ohio where they will spend the first night with their daughter who teaches astronomy.

"Then we'll have much discussion about where to drive on Monday. It's up in the air. They're still forecasting totality across Ohio. Cincinnati is in the zone. We may drive as far as Indianapolis if that looks better for seeing the eclipse. It is totally dependent on cloud cover. There's a bit of serendipity."

The Johnsons know another couple who are on a Smithsonian Journey trip in Texas and another who are in Mexico City and headed to Mazalan in Mexico to see the eclipse on Monday. "Ours isn't that exciting."

But they will have their own

personal guide, daughter Jennifer, who teaches astronomy at Ohio State. "She has always been interested in this area since she was a kid." Judy says they don't have solar protective glasses because Jennifer has been charged with all of the protective gear. "Glasses on now. O.K. to take them off."

Judy says that they aren't eclipse chasers but they did go to the 2017 eclipse in St. Louis. "We have a daughter there, too. We watched it with her on the banks of the Mississippi." She said everyone had their cell phone out checking where the the cloud cover is least. "It's sort of a moving feast kind of thing."

"Bob, I forgot my map of Ohio." She explains, "We have a navigation system in the car but there is some concern that the navigation systems might become overloaded because of the number of people. I always liked maps."



PHOTO BY BOB JOHNSON

Bob Johnson's remarkable photo of the sun just emerging from the moon's shadow at 3:20 Monday afternoon seen from a park in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, in the path of totality.

SEE ECLIPSE, PAGE 5

New Harris Teeter in Arlington Emphasizes Customer Experience

Store offers upgraded shops and a bar in the heart of Ballston.

The new Harris Teeter opened last week in Arlington and it defines the "super" in supermarket. Next door to the old Harris Teeter in Ballston, the new, bigger Harris Teeter features expanded meat and seafood



Paige Hamer, Harris Teeter's communications specialist, loves to show people the new Harris Teeter.

departments. Geared to people who like to cook but don't have the cooking skills or time, the markets

SEE HARRIS TEETER, PAGE 7



The New York-famous Murray's Cheese shop is central to the store.



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN

Maria Chuchvara lives off Columbia Pike and has worked at Harris Teeter for two months. The flowers are arranged on site.



The walk-in beer cooler is one enhancement of the store. Hamer said grabbing a beer or a coffee while shopping is fairly common in other Harris Teeter stores.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

"We're passionate about enriching our customers' lives by providing high-quality food at a great value, and we're eager to bring that passion to our new Ballston location."

— Danna Robinson, Harris Teeter's Director of Corporate Affairs.

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/>



The 2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm takes place April 12-13, 2024. <https://ahsgardening.org/about-river-farm/events-programs/springgardenmarket2024/>

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.

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.

APRIL 4 TO NOV. 21

Ballston Farmers Market Returns. Thursdays from 3-7 p.m. At Welburn Square, near Ballston Metro, Arlington. This year, more than 20 vendors available in Ballston – both fan-favorites and newcomers alike. This year also sees the return of the Mega Markets – sponsored this season by VIDA Fitness. Mega Markets feature the same great produce and vendors with the addition of live music from local musicians and a Beer and Wine Garden – beginning May 2nd.

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

Free Chamber Concert. The Friday Morning Music club will perform a free chamber concert at St. George’s Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington, adjacent to the Virginia Square Metro. The April

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 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.

COLUMBIA PIKE ARTIST STUDIOS

OPEN STUDIOS

Saturday, April 20, 5-8 pm • Sunday, April 21, 2-5 pm



* Saturday only
** Sunday only

You are cordially invited to the Spring Open Studios at Columbia Pike Artist Studios. Visit the studios of 20 Arlington visual artists. This is your opportunity to discover unique works of art in a variety of styles and media including oil, acrylic, watercolor, printmaking, pastel, and clay. Find some great art for Mother’s and Father’s Days or for that spring/summer birthday or anniversary! See and purchase original art, enjoy some refreshments, speak with the artists, and meet with friends old and new. Before or after, check out some of the great neighborhood restaurants – just steps from the studios.

The Columbia Pike Spring 2024 Open Studios and Exhibition Event takes place April 20-21, 2024 in Arlington. www.columbiapikeartiststudios.org

12 concert will feature works by Schubert and Albeniz. The one-hour concerts continue every first and second Friday of the month through May. All concerts start at noon.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

Fruit Trees for the Urban Gardener. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. Who says you need an orchard? Join Kirsten Conrad, Extension Agent for Arlington and the City of Alexandria and Extension Master Gardener Nicole McGrew to learn the basics and joys of growing your own fruit. They will cover trees planted in the ground and in containers, so there will be something for everyone.

It promises to be a sweet class! Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

APRIL 12-14

Spring Artful Weekend. At Hendry House at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 North 24th Street, Arlington. Spring is the perfect time to refresh and revitalize your home or office with art from local artists! Over 30 members of the Arlington Artists Alliance present original works for every budget and occasion (great for Mother’s Day), featuring paintings, mixed media, glass and ceramics, jewelry, shrink-wraps, notecards, and magnets. Opening

Reception: Friday, April 12, 2024, 6-8 p.m.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

SALT Richmond Legislative Wrap-Up. 1-3 p.m. at Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Room 119 (Oak Room), Arlington. Social Action Linking Together (SALT) will be hosting a Richmond Legislative wrap-up. All SALT advocates and friends of SALT are invited to hear from our state legislators regarding the successes and failures that happened during the 2024 General Assembly session. Keynote Speaker: Kim Bobo, Executive Director VICPP; How Faith Informs Positive Public Policy.

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Eclipse

FROM PAGE 1

“In 2017 it was crowded, not cheek-to-jowl but you spend a lot of time waiting for the eclipse to happen so you go early to stake out your spot and you take along your picnic and books.”

Judy says her husband brought along his camera for the last eclipse and has it again.

“A Canon with telephoto lens,” Bob interjects from the driver’s seat, and a tripod.

“He took fantastic photos,” Judy says.

Judy remembers in 2017 when the eclipse got close, it got very quiet. “It was very dark. I was glad to see the sun start opening again.”

The rare total solar eclipse appeared locally between 2-4:30 pm on Monday with an estimated nearly 90 percent occlusion here in the Washington Metro area. It did not disappoint.

The **Arlington** Connection

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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Applications for the IUOE Local 99 Apprenticeship Program will be accepted during the period of May 6-10, 2024, inclusive. Applications must be completed in person by the applicant at Engineer Center 9315 Largo Drive West, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$35 application fee includes drug screen.

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NEWS

**Spring
 Book Sale**

Friends of the Arlington Public Library (FOAL) invite you to the 2024 Spring Book Sale.

The much-anticipated 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 the Arlington Reads author series.

Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., parking garage

❖ Thu., April 18, 5-8:30 p.m. (Members Only Night)

❖ Fri., April 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Public)

❖ Sat., April 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Public)

❖ Sun., April 21, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Public, Half-Price Day)

Major credit cards, checks and cash will be accepted.

Please bring your own bags or boxes.

Teachers and librarians with school IDs enjoy a 50% discount on purchases Friday and Saturday, while everyone saves 50% on Sunday.

Harris Teeter

FROM PAGE 3

offer seasonings, recipes and garnishes so the fish or meat can be cooked professionally — at home. It also features enhanced organic and specialty produce, store-made pizza, subs, and a hot bar. Central to the market is a large cheese selection.

Harris Teeter has taken items like hand rolled sushi, which are popular in their markets in Charlotte and Raleigh and brought them to Arlington, according to Paige Hamer, Harris Teeter's communications specialist. "The customer experience is why people are loyal to Harris Teeter," said Hamer. And while the store is not necessarily catering to the Gen X or Z residents in Ballston, many will like the upstairs bar, increased wine selection, and prepared food.

Harris Teeter asked themselves, and customers, "How can we improve, what do customers need now that they didn't need ten years ago," Hamer said. Customers want the convenience of grabbing a beer or coffee while they are shopping, having all the ingredients for making an upscale cheese plate right above the cheese. "Bars have been popular in other locations. They are almost always busy. We like to be part of our community so it's nice to have a community gather-

SEE HARRIS TEETER, PAGE 7

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New Harris Teeter in Arlington

FROM PAGE 6

ing point. Customers can grab food from the two hot bars with rotating menus, and come upstairs for a drink and eat dinner.”

It also has an expanded pharmacy. Hamer said the store also offers “Harris Teeter plus” for \$59 a year, which includes free delivery and double fuel points. Gas stations which take fuel points from Harris Teeter in the area are listed on the website. There is a parking garage in the store.

Harris Teeter works hard to employ people who are part of the community, said Hamer. “We are proud to create an inclusive and diverse work environment that celebrates the unique abilities and talents of all our associates.”

Harris Teeter isn’t offering compostable bags for produce but they have plastic recycling boxes at each store. They also have a robust food rescue program to ensure food (and other items) are kept out of the landfill. Eligible items are first donated to feed people in the community as part of Harris Teeter’s Perishable Donation program.

Harris Teeter partners with Feeding America agencies. If items cannot be donated, the Food Waste Recycling program recycles food scraps and other non-donatable organic matter to create biofuel/clean energy.

Also available in the stores are: cardboard recycling, plastic film recycling, used cooking oil recycling, meat rendering and hazardous material disposal.

For more information, visit harristee-ter.com



Irma Calizaya stood in line for the taco bar: “I’ve lived in Arlington for 30 years, and I love Harris Teeter.”

Fresh, handmade sushi is an enhancement of the new store.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN

Driving Home a Point



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I’ve had very few car accidents in my life, a fender bender or two but nothing approaching totaling a car – even in high school, when such incidents seemed common. I’ve certainly gotten my share of speeding tickets and a few moving violations: rolling through stop signs, “running” a red light, et cetera. In general, very rarely have I been exchanging insurance information with another driver as we both considered the accident that brought us together.

Nevertheless, I have developed a car-driving reputation among my family and friends (presumably those who know me/my tendencies best). Regardless of the pavement, either driving through neighborhood streets or on highways, I have often heard – and the opinions are always the same: “Kenny, you’re a lousy driver.” And my wife, Dina, a constant passenger who admittedly knows me best, takes an additional pot shot at me when she says: “Even your brother thinks you’re a lousy driver.” (After 45 years of marriage – and having spent multiple hours together in the car, Dina has often invoked a family member of mine, particularly my late brother Richard, as a further reinforcer of her opinion/my below-average driving skill. If my brother said it, it must be true; that’s the argument.)

Disputing this negative description of my driving skill (or lack thereof) has been a recurring conversation between Dina and me. As often as we have discussed – both while we drive and/or while we don’t, this driving issue, this topic, has failed to disappear into the ether. It is as common today as it has been for decades and has spawned many an argument. Unfortunately, I see no sign of relief as I have few defenders or any credible evidence to the contrary. Perhaps it’s time to embrace the problem.

Since I can’t do much, apparently, about my driving, especially since I don’t agree with much of their criticism, I thought maybe I could take a pro-active approach to other drivers – and to satisfy Dina’s regular rants and warn the other drivers. How, you ask? The solution is simple. I saw it yesterday. It was a bumper sticker stuck on the back of a car I’m sure many of you drivers have seen. It said: “Student Driver. Please Be Patient.” Perfect, I thought. I’ll place it on the back of my car. Thereby giving my fellow drivers a heads-up that yours truly, an allegedly poor driver, is behind the wheel. With this warning, I might get a wider berth on the road or be given more time to parallel park – as but a few examples, because the driver is a student/novice. Who’s going to know the truth that I’m just a bad driver? It’s not like I’m advertising it. I’m simply trying to avoid meeting by accident. When another driver sees that bumper sticker, you would think – for his own safety, he would pull back on the throttle some and/or manage his aggressive driving. No driver wants to be the victim of his own stupidity. I can hear it now: “Didn’t you see he’s a student driver. Give him some room/time.” And he’d have no defense. After all, he was warned.

All of the above being said, I have been reminded recently by some friends who think they know me and my driving, of a few incidents when my driving has come into question: when, as an example or two: while backing up the car, my rear bumper hit and dented the downspout on Martha’s garage, when I destroyed a fancy decorative bush when backing out of John and Lynne’s half-circle driveway and another when I nearly backed into a ditch while reversing out of Cherril’s elevated driveway. Yes, I’ll admit, there’s been a few incidents. Fortunately, nobody got hurt, and respectfully, the damage was minor. (You’ll notice, all the examples I gave were when I was backing up the car. Let me digress: you’ll never see me backing my car into a parking place. It would take me too long, and besides, I just don’t see the advantage of going to all the trouble to back in. I’ve spent too many minutes sitting in my car, idling my time away while watching the driver twist and turn and attempt to look at all their car’s mirrors simultaneously while attempting to fit in between two parked cars. Way too much trouble and effort – from my perspective.)

I think I may have stumbled onto a solution/compromise here: the bumper sticker. Without directly admitting/agreeing with the Kenny’s-a-lousy-driver premise, and without giving in to these “nattering nabobs of negativism,” to quote Spiro Agnew, the one-time governor of Maryland and also our 39th vice president, I might be able to preempt some of the inevitable/occasional questions/situations when my driving might come into play. Nevertheless, consider yourselves warned.

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

“FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

FROM PAGE 2

Nature Challenge, Wednesday, April 17, 4 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Presented by Arlington Regional Master Naturalists volunteers. The trail walk follows lecture. Registration # 913400-29.

Caregiving 101: Creating a Plan, Wednesday, April 17, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Presented by AARP Community Ambassador Katherine Ponds. Exchange tips and advice and learn about available resources. Registration # 913404-10.

Explore mixed media art with a Community Arts Programmer, Wednesday, April 17, 1:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Learn various techniques using unconventional

materials. No art experience required. Materials provided. Registration # 913303-05.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from “Falstaff” by Giuseppe Verdi, Wednesday, April 17, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 913300-09

Manage stress or it will manage you, Thursday, April 18, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration #913500-08 or Friday, April 19, 10 a.m., Lubber Run, registration # 913500-09. Presented by experienced career counselor Sallie Wiley.

Chat GPT and AI, Thursday, April 18, 3 p.m., virtual. Presented by David Herlihy and Holly Hartell, Arlington County’s Dept.

of Technology Services. Learn how to use AI, followed by Q&A. Registration # 913403-02.

Calico Cloggers, a percussion dance group based in Northern Virginia will perform, Friday, April 19, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913301-10.

Just beneath the surface, an exploration of famous artists and their distinctive techniques, Friday, April 19, 10 a.m., virtual. Presented by Community Arts Programmer Jim Halloran. Registration # 913302-08.

Movie showing of “Creed” (2015) (PG-13), Friday, April 19, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 913804-09.

Local Park Hosts ASNV Conservation Event



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

NOVA Parks Roving Naturalist Matt Felperin explains this screech owl recognizes his face but he can't tell if he really has an attachment.

NOVA Parks Roving Naturalist Matt Felperin gently strokes the head of his tiny screech owl at the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia Spring Social event on Saturday.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

A tiny screech owl stares intently at NOVA Parks Roving Naturalist Matt Felperin as Felperin stands in front of a crowd at Potomac Overlook Regional Park on Saturday. “I know he recognizes my face. I wish I could say we have an attachment, but how do you really know?”

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) has sponsored a free Spring Social event. Stations are set up all over the park featuring native plant garden talks, children’s birdathon bingo, birds of prey and screech owl talks and plenty of snacks.

Dr. Thomas Wood who teaches several courses at George Mason and is a member of the ASNV Board, gives a brief explanation

about the local buteo, the red shouldered hawk located in the Birds of Prey House. The bird is smaller than the red-tailed hawk but has a wingspan of 37-50 inches. “Have any of you heard the hawk? They are hot and heavy in breeding now, selecting mates.”

Wood explains when a cold front comes, the migrating birds fly behind it. “Look up. Thunderstorms are full of accipiters.” He says the birds lay down and then get up and soar, taking advantage of the thermals in front. “If you haven’t been, you should go to Hawk Mountain for the migration in the fall.”

Tina Dudley is in charge of or-

ganizing today’s event. She walks through the park checking the stations and stops at a table with a large book of song birds complete with a link to their sounds and pictures of local birds. “Here is a stack of habitat bingo sheets for the kids.” Inside the building nearby is a bingo game for adults. “First one successful wins a hat.”

It’s 2:30 pm, and a group leaves the Birds of Prey house to head back to the stage area at the front of the park for the screech owl talk. The crowd of about 60 watches as Felperin explains this ambassador screech owl was the victim of an auto strike and can’t fly functionally. He says screech owls love tree

cavities and can eat even small fish or frogs in water but eat rodents primarily.

“People ask me if he gets bored alone in his cage. But his cage is just the right size for him, and he has all he needs. Screech owls want to be solitary; they don’t want a friend.”

Felperin gently strokes the owl’s head. “I can’t let anyone else touch him. It does relax him; I can’t tell if he likes it but he does close his eyes.”

“He is about 12 years old. Screech owls generally live to about 10 in the wild but can live up to 20 years in captivity. I hope he breaks a record. I’m very attached to him.”



Tina Dudley, organizer of the ASNV event at Potomac Overlook Regional Park (left) and volunteer Hanna Tudor.



Elizabeth (Libby) Lyons, President of the ASNV sports her purple plumage for the day as she pauses with a group attending the Spring Social event.



Dr. Thomas Wood, professor at George Mason and ASNV Board member, discusses bird migration at the Birds of Prey House at Potomac Park.



The Birdathon Bingo kid’s station at the Spring Social.