

Aleezah Washington works in Reston and came to Rosslyn to see the eclipse.

Communal Awe

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Love Fest; Stop the Hate

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STATIONARY ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP



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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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.

Artists' secret techniques and methods revealed that made their works so special, Monday, April 22, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Presented by Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen. Registration # 913302-06.

Rock music legends, the Beatles and the Grateful Dead will be discussed Tuesday, April 23, 1:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Volunteer musicians Carl Gold and Rob Sprouse will play songs in person, registration # 913400-44 or virtual, #913400-45.

Arlington's rich history to be discussed Wednesday, April 24, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913402-08.

Read and discuss current articles in popular magazines, Wednesday, April 24, 11 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Facilitated by librarian Vicky McCaffrey. Pick up articles at the 55+ center. Registration # 913402-15.

Acoustic afternoon with live music performed by Arlington residents Phil Rosen, Ed Girovasi and PhEd-Up with Friends, Wednesday, April 24, 2 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Music to feature classic pop, folk and blues. Registration # 913301-06.

General history discussion group to meet Thursday, April 25, 1 p.m., virtual. Presented by Dwight Rodgers, Encore Learning. Registration # 913402-13.

Friendly no stakes poker games, all levels of expertise welcome,

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 11

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Freddie's Beach Bar Threatened with Bomb Scare

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Freddie Lutz opened an email bomb threat just minutes before the children's drag story hour performance was set to begin at Freddie's Beach Bar & Restaurant on S. 23rd Street on April 6. The email also included a threat to his nearby house and his other restaurant at Rehoboth Beach.

He quickly moved the full house crowd outside of Freddie's to the outdoor space back of the restaurant and called the Arlington police. "They were wonderful. They came with a dog and swept the whole restaurant for a bomb."

Lutz said in the 23 years that he has owned Freddie's this has only happened once before back in the beginning. But he said Tara Hoot, who was the drag performer for the story hour, warned him it could happen based on past experience.

Lutz said there were two protestors out in front of his business yelling things about going to hell. "I didn't pay too much attention. But I thought 'here are two Black people protesting a drag story hour, and Blacks have been persecuted for hundreds of years and there is no more marginalized group than yourself. And now you are doing this.' I'm trying to wrap my head around it. How did we get to this point?"

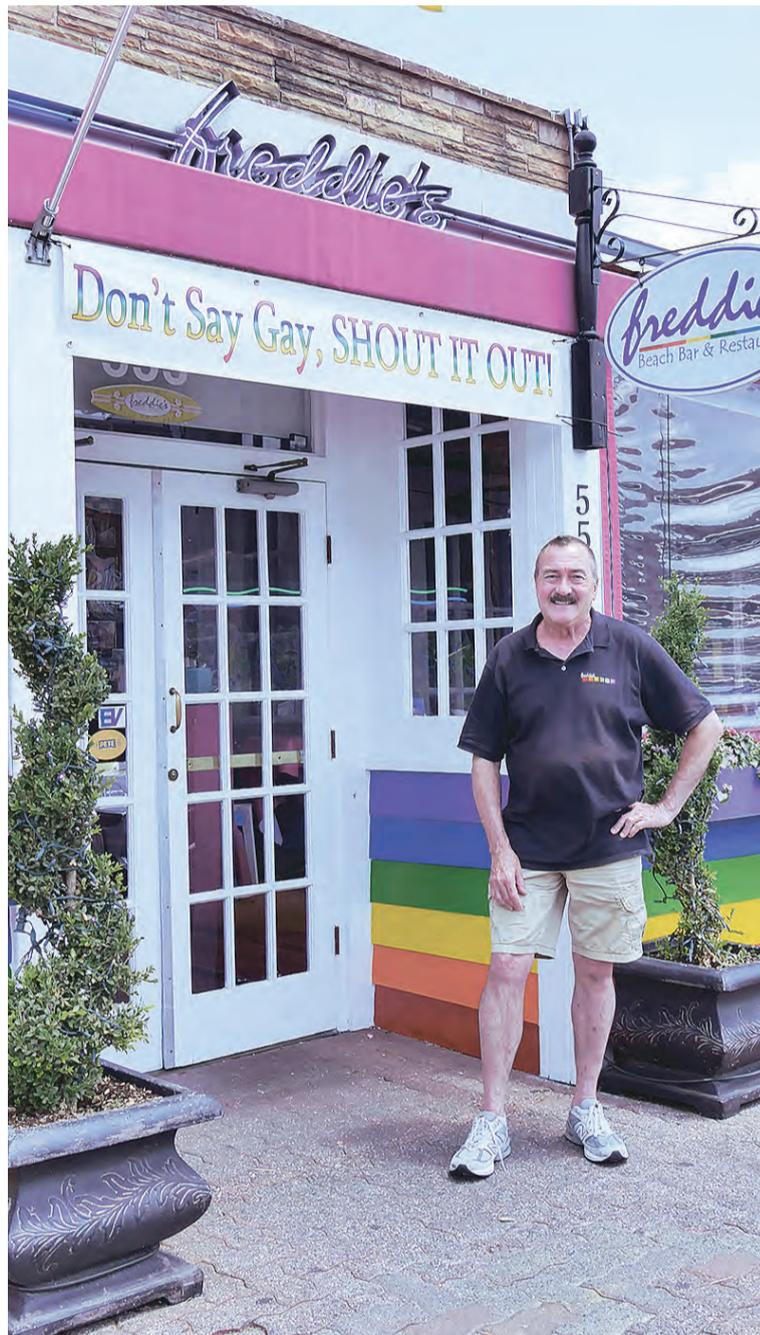
Lutz says he thinks the political climate has given permission to people to come out of the woodwork and act like this. "They have always been there but they didn't have the audacity."

Lutz said parents often bring children to Freddie's for the regular weekend drag brunch, and the first Saturday story hour was a sellout occasion with babies, many children and even a grandmother.

Lutz said the show was very entertaining with Tara Hoot handing out rainbows and twizzly things and singing cheerful songs. He says it was a nice event with soft lighting across the room dusting the tables with a pink glow. Bubbles floated through the air and burst as they were caught by tiny hands.

Tara Hoot, decked out in a blond wig styled in a flip, flapped her butterfly wings as she sang "sunshine, lollipops and rainbows are sure to come your way ..."

Lutz says he has had an outpour-



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION
Freddie Lutz in front of his Crystal City beach bar & restaurant

ing of love and support from the community in response to the protestors. Lutz grew up in the neighborhood just blocks from Freddie's and has been involved in Arlington organizations and community activities for many years. The Arlington County Board released a statement April 9 affirming support of the LGBTQ+ community. The Board, like Freddie's, "remains committed to ensuring Arlington remains a safe, welcoming and inclusive place for our LGBTQ+ community."

Just a couple of days later Lutz received a third email, this one with a death threat. "It was a little unsettling. They are trying to

scare us but I can't allow that to happen." He explains, "Apparently people heard we had the story hour and had a problem with that. It is a little misguided. The presentation is very innocent. I'm not trying to turn your children gay. I don't think the protestors have even seen it."

"It is an unfortunate thing that has happened but we are going to have another drag story hour brunch event May 4 which I am hoping will create support for the gay community. We'll give the profits to a good cause. I'm hoping to have a line down the block. I want to make something positive come out of this."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Freddie Lutz, owner of Freddie's Beach Bar & Restaurant with drag queen Tara Hoot who presented the first drag story hour performance April 6..

LOVE FEST

On April 6, 2024 Freddie's Beach Bar received a **BOMB THREAT** due to the **FAMILY FUN Storytime BRUNCH**

HELP US STOP THE HATE
Join us for our next storytime brunch, dressed in your favorite **RAINBOW / HIPPIE** outfit

MAY 4, 2024 @ 11AM
SHOW UP & SUPPORT
Carry your homemade signs of support

A portion of the proceeds will benefit local **LGBTQIA+ Chartisties**

555 S 23RD ST ARLINGTON, VA 22202

Upcoming story hour May 4 planned to create support for the gay community..

Arlington Crime Survivors Advocate Candice Lopez Awarded

Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) presented the bipartisan Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus' Allied Professional Award to his constituent Candice Lopez of Arlington. The award recognizes the efforts of individuals, organizations, and/or coalitions that directly benefit crime victims.

Candice Lopez, MPA, is an employee of Arlington County and Coordinator for Project PEACE, a county-wide effort to prevent, identify and respond to domestic and sexual violence. She is a Partner/SHIFT (Shaping Healthy Interactions For Tomorrow, a Virginia State Certified Batterers Intervention Program) and co-chair of Continuum of Care's Unlocking Doors – Domestic Violence (DV) Survivors and Housing subcommittee. She previously worked at Doorways for nearly a decade.

"I believe that survivors deserve the support and the resources that they need when they need them," said Lopez. "Domestic and sexual violence is preventable – that is why I do this work. I want to thank my husband, my daughter, my family, and all those who have supported me in this work for my amazing community of Arlington which I am proud to call home."

"Candice Lopez is a strong advocate for victims and survivors in Arlington County, where her work is a cornerstone of community-wide efforts to respond to and prevent domestic and sexual violence," said Rep. Beyer, who nominated Lopez for the award.



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer presented the bipartisan Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus' Allied Professional Award to his constituent, Candice Lopez, of Arlington.

"Candice has dedicated the better part of her life to supporting survivors and victims of violence, the prevention of violence, and engaging a wide range of partners required to make this work successful. I thank her for



Beyer and Lopez with Reps. Jim Costa (D-CA) and left- Anthony D'Esposito (R-NY) Lopez is Coordinator for Project PEACE, a county-wide effort to prevent, identify and respond to domestic and sexual violence.

her inspirational example, and Representatives Jim Costa and Anthony D'Esposito for recognizing Candice and those like her who are working to make a positive difference in

this important area."

The bipartisan Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus was founded by Reps. Jim Costa (D-CA) and Anthony D'Esposito (R-NY).

Church Devotion to Affordable Housing Comes to Unity

On Monday, April 15, Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) and Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) marked the grand opening of Unity Homes at Ballston, a new mixed-use development located at 4201 Fairfax Drive in Arlington. The occasion was celebrated among project partners and local officials, including representatives from Arlington County Board, Virginia state legislature, and the offices of U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, and U.S. Rep. Don Beyer. The new, eight-story property replaced the former CUMC church building with 144 affordable homes co-located with a modernized church sanctuary space, Kinhaven School daycare serving approximately 90 children, and Provision Church Catering's commercial kitchen space. This project adds needed affordable housing in a high-opportunity, transit-accessible location in the heart of Ballston.

APAH President and CEO Carmen Romero expressed, "We are proud that Unity Homes at Ballston is finally here — this project encountered multiple obstacles on the path to redevelopment, but together with our partners at CUMC, Arlington County, and so many others, we pressed forward. It's an honor to partner with CUMC to bring their calling to life, transforming the site and co-locating their new space with affordable housing."



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING PHOTOGRAPHY

From left: Steve Smith, Truist; Rich Jordan, APAH Board of Directors; Rev. Sarah Harrison-McQueen, CUMC; Tammy Neale, Virginia Housing; Jeanne Butler, Unity Homes resident; Chair Libby Garvey, Arlington County Board; Maureen Coffey, Arlington County Board; Susan Cunningham, Arlington County Board; Carmen Romero, APAH.

PROJECT DETAILS

Unity Homes at Ballston serves residents earning between 30-60% of the area median income (AMI) and features 108 one-bedroom apartments, 24 two-bedroom apartments, and 12 three-bedroom apartments. Fifteen units are deeply affordable to residents earning 30% or less AMI.

Residents will enjoy 5,000 square feet of

amenity space, an outdoor courtyard with a green roof, and multiple community rooms and flex space for regular activities. It features energy-efficient building techniques. APAH's resident services program provides a full-time coordinator to connect residents with local resources, provide individualized support, and organize resident-centered programming onsite.

Unity Homes at Ballston is notably transit-accessible, located directly across from Ballston-MU Metrorail station and multiple Metrobus stops. A new commercial kitchen space, occupied by Provision Church Catering, will provide onsite meal distribution and mission-minded catering services. This prime location is within walking distance of multiple universities, grocery stores, retail and recreational amenities, and ample employment opportunities.

The new CUMC sanctuary space features 11 stained-glass windows from the original church building and streaming technology to meet the congregation's current needs and goals.

PUBLIC ART

A Louis Comfort Tiffany stained-glass window, Christ in Blessing, that was previously in the Abbey Mausoleum in Arlington is located in the new church narthex. This piece is the largest of 13 windows reclaimed from the mausoleum by Arlington Public Art in partnership with the Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development Historic Preservation Program. Christ in Blessing is available for public viewing on Sundays 10 a.m. to 12 noon and Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Public Art in Arlington

View the newest artwork in Arlington's Public Art Collection, Louis Comfort Tiffany's Christ in Blessing.

The Central United Methodist Church of Ballston, in collaboration with Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, continues its mission in the new Ballston Station building, a mixed-use project

with 144 affordable apartments. A Louis Comfort Tiffany stained-glass window, Christ in Blessing, that was previously in the Abbey Mausoleum in Arlington is located in the new church narthex. This piece is the largest of 13 windows

reclaimed from the mausoleum by Arlington Public Art in partnership with the Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development Historic Preservation Program. Christ in Blessing is available for public

viewing on Sundays 10 a.m. to 12 noon and Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See page 4

The largest in a grouping of thirteen stained glass windows that once ornamented the Abbey

Mausoleum at the east end of Columbia Pike, Christ in Blessing, portrays Jesus Christ extending his hand in benediction. It was dedicated to E. St. Clair Thompson, a Mason, interred there in 1933.

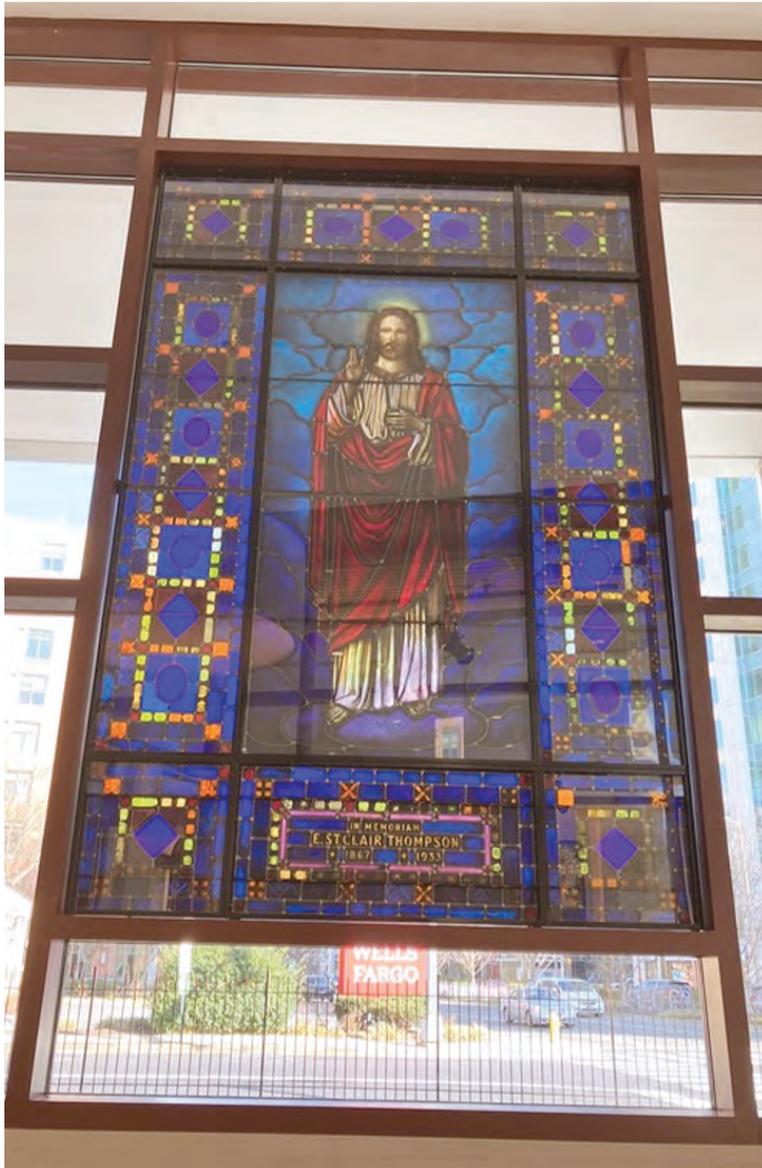


PHOTO COURTESY OF ARLINGTON ARTS

Louis Comfort Tiffany stained-glass window, Christ in Blessing, was previously in the Abbey Mausoleum in Arlington.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

LT. SPENCER NAMED VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Lieutenant Henry Spencer of the Arlington County Fire Department has been named the Virginia Firefighter of the Year as part of the 2023 Governor's Fire Service Awards. The Governor's Fire Service Awards, established in 2002 as

a formal recognition of excellence in Virginia's fire service, are facilitated by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, in collaboration with the Virginia Fire Services Board. Lt. Spencer has demonstrated an ability for complex problem-solving, unwavering commitment, and a passion for the community throughout his seven-year tenure with the Arlington County Fire Department. His diverse background encompasses specialized operations, continuous professional advancement, and active community engagement.




Public Hearings



Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2025-2030 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2025-2030 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available <https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2024/default.asp>.

Public meetings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

Thursday, April 18 Richmond District Hawthorne Room 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, VA 23834	Wednesday, April 24 Staunton District Laurel Ridge Community College 173 Skimisher Lane Middletown, VA 22645	Thursday, April 25, 5 p.m. Northern Virginia District Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., 1st Floor, Leesburg, VA 20175
Wednesday, May 1 Lynchburg District Lynchburg District Ramey Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	Thursday, May 2, 5 p.m. Hampton Roads District James River Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	Monday, May 6 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210
Tuesday, May 7 Salem District Salem Civic Center Community Room 1001 Roanoke Boulevard Salem, VA 24153	Wednesday, May 8 Culpeper District Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission Water Street Center 401 East Water Street Charlottesville, VA 22902	Thursday, May 9 Fredericksburg District Fredericksburg District Auditorium 86 Deacon Road Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Additionally, DRPT will host its own public meeting on Thursday, May 16 at 4 p.m. Individuals may participate and provide comment either virtually (register here: <https://bit.ly/3Q7UqM7>) or at the following locations: 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219 or 1725 Duke Street, Suite 675, Alexandria, VA 22314.

You can submit comments online at <https://bit.ly/SYIP2024>, or by email or mail by May 20, 2024.

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@dprpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).



Bethany Good and Will Mead in Texas watching the recent total eclipse.



Doug and Amy Bergner in Mexico City before the eclipse.

Eclipse Watching Can Be Habit Forming

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

This total eclipse is over but it's not too early to start planning the next one.

Two Arlington couples headed for different destinations in the path of totality to experience their first total eclipse. Bethany Good and Will Mead headed for Texas while Doug and Amy Bergner took off for Mazatlán, Mexico.

Since the local partial eclipse in 2017, Bethany Good has known she wanted to see the full solar eclipse in 2024. "I've been thinking about it all this time. I had the illusion I would take the whole family, and we would be in a big house and watch the eclipse. But then I realized they weren't really interested, and they had school and work."

So she says she looked for a group trip. Bethany says her husband Will Mead wasn't too interested either but agreed to go, and in the end was glad he did. "I did a lot of research on what area was most likely to have sunny skies along the path and settled on the hill country of Texas.

"It's ironic that it clouded over in the middle of the eclipse," Bethany says. "Why didn't I decide to go to Burlington, Vermont or Indianapolis?"

Good says that she settled on a Smithsonian Journeys trip, and the Smithsonian had so many people signing up that they had to keep adding buses and ended up with 300 at the event.

Bethany and Will left Arlington on the Friday before the eclipse, and the trip included several days of prior events including astronomy lectures, a visit to a ranch



Photo of total eclipse taken in Fredericksburg, Texas at 1 p.m.

owned by the former owner of Church's Chicken franchise and now devoted to conservation and one night at a Honky Tonk dive bar with live music. "I had a really, really good time."

She says, "On the day of the eclipse we all set out early about 7 a.m. because we weren't sure of the gridlock. We headed to Decker Vineyards in Fredericksburg, Texas which had been taken over for eclipse day. It was an elegant place already set up with tables and chairs.

The eclipse was set to begin at 1 p.m. "While we waited they served us a three-course meal with wine

pairings starting with gazpacho blanco and then Texas ragu beef. We just finished in time for the beginning of the eclipse."

She remembers, "When the eclipse began the sun was out with some wispy clouds. People were spread out all over the space and some were lying on the grass staring up with their eclipse glasses on."

"It was fine until totality when the clouds just came over everything." She says it went pitch black, and the birds quieted. "People were disappointed at that but we still had four minutes of totality and people were still excited.

"I knew in advance what the

forecast was. I didn't think it would be clear but still. ... My relative in Dallas had the opposite experience. She said it was clouded over in the morning but when totality hit the sun came out."

Now it's over and not too early to start wondering about the next total eclipse.

Doug and Amy Bergner from Arlington had also seen a partial eclipse in 2017 but in California, sort of a random occurrence at the time, but neither had seen a total eclipse. So they signed up last year for a Carleton College alumni tour combining Mexico City with

Mazatlán where they planned to see the total eclipse. "It just seemed like something you should do once in your lifetime," Doug says.

Bergner says they added a couple of days in Mexico City for exploring the historical district and the ruins as well as the massive archaeological museum. "One day we saw the Diego Rivera murals — fantastic; I've never seen anything quite like it. And then we just like to wander around when we're in a new city."

Bergner said the day of the eclipse the group of 30 left their hotel in Mazatlán and basically just walked around the street to the golf club which had been reserved for the event. He recalls there was a big spread of food where breakfast evolved into lunch. "They had all kinds of stuff like Mexican style tacos but I mostly ate the paella because I hadn't had it for quite a while."

The eclipse was predicted to be in totality from 11:04-11:09 am, and as it got closer he says you could feel the build up. The birds got quiet, and the temperature dropped 10 degrees or more. It kept getting darker but never quite middle of the night dark because of a yellow-orange all around the horizon in a 360 degree loop. It was a powerful color that hugged the horizon that you could associate with sunrise or sunset."

Bergner says It had just been cloudy the day before but was clear the morning of the eclipse. By early afternoon it was socked in again. "We had a gap in the clouds, a perfect window."

"The whole thing was very exciting. It was a vaguely spiritual moment in time. A lot of us joke about trying to see the next total eclipse in Spain. I've become a believer in eclipses."

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Aleezah Washington works in Reston and came to Rosslyn to see the eclipse. Even though she arrived at 1:15 pm, the last pair of protective glasses were handed out to the two people right before her. She was okay just enjoying the sense of community. Aleezah works in Human Resources. She is hoping to do some creative writing about the eclipse.



Dee Bennett and Rose Mary Romano both work in global public health and live in Alexandria and Arlington respectively. They bought their protective glasses online at Amazon, but were kind enough to lend them to an unprotected journalist. Romano has lived in Arlington for 40 years. She remembers a sleeper Rosslyn where the Orleans House was the only nice restaurant. Tom Sarris' Orleans House was a landmark in the Rosslyn neighborhood for about 50 years before closing to make way for high rises.



Jen Houser, Gus, and Lisa Carome came to the event without glasses but they were just enjoying the social vibe. The two women are personal fitness trainers in the Rosslyn gym Training Ground. Gus is a part-Dachshund, part mini-Doberman rescue pup from Puerto Rico; he was adopted through the Lost Dog organization - and is an extrovert who loved the party atmosphere of the eclipse-watch. He's a bit of a personal trainer himself.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN



Marge Signer and friend Danielle Wineman were in a festive mood. Signer is a Master Naturalist and activist in Arlington, with a long history of community involvement. Wineman is a transplanted Canadian now living in Clarendon. Both women were happy to have Scott Dineen, lead singer of The Bob Band, playing and singing Bob Dylan, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Lady Gaga covers. The band was provided by Rosslyn BID.

Julio Hernández was wearing a Keffiyeh, the Palestinian shawl, and when asked why, he explained his wife is Syrian, and as a pastor, he has been involved in Arab Christian churches, particularly dealing with desecration of churches in the DMV just because they had Arabic script on them announcing services. He said a group called Churches for Middle East Peace would have an important Advocacy Summit from April 9-11, 2024 as they mark Four Decades of Pursuing Peace. CMPEP has a 40 year history of work to achieve peace and justice for all in the Middle East. For more information see: <https://cmep.org/summits/>



Danielle Wineman was amazed by the eclipse.

Arlington's Gateway Park Supported Eclipse Viewing

Eclipse was met with communal awe.

There's nothing like a solar eclipse to make everyone feel human, homogenous, and humble. There was a buzz of excitement at the Gateway Park in Rosslyn as about 800 people gathered to experience the solar eclipse. At the same time, there was a buzz of community, as though people were just happy to be out on a nice day with other humans — as

though we were all made of the same stuff: curious earthlings, children at heart.

Even though the event, sponsored by Rosslyn Business Improvement District ran out of eclipse viewing glasses early, most of those who attended were just happy to bask in the (partial sun) and chat. The vibe was happy, courteous, and generous, as though you were immediate friends with hundreds of people you'd never met before.

People lent each other the viewing glasses to see what started out as a sun from which Pacman seemed to have taken a bite. The crowd liked it, and oohed and aahed. But when the eclipse was nearly total — it reached about 89 percent in Arlington, and the street lights came on — people clapped, yelled, cheered, cried, and marveled at the proof that we are very small fish in the celestial sea, indeed.

With support from NOVAC, the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club, the Rosslyn BID provided residents help to experience the eclipse: glasses while they lasted, a variety of telescopes and monitors, and the opportunity for viewers to make their own eclipse viewing devices. The Rosslyn BID used the event to poll residents on the capital improvements project the county is undertaking, including a renovation of Gateway Park.

NOVAC strives to provide enjoyment and education to the public through amateur astronomy and is one of the largest clubs in the United States with over 1,100 members.

For more about Rosslyn BID, see: <https://www.rosslynva.org>

For more about CMPEP, see: <https://cmep.org>

For more about NOVAC, see: <https://www.novac.com/wp/>

In Tents Not by Choice, But Lack of Choices

Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Johnson v. Grants Pass*. on April 22, 2024 with consequences for people experiencing homelessness.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Coming to the Supreme Court

The 2018 decision against the City of Boise, Idaho, in *Martin v. Boise*, by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, found that when there is no option of sleeping indoors, “the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise they had a choice in the matter.” The court based its decision on the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

Local governments appealed, arguing that it undercut their ability to maintain public spaces and enforce public health and safety laws.

The groundwork for a future where everyone has a place to call home could hinge in part on the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Johnson v. Grants Pass*. The court will hear oral arguments on April 22, 2024, and render a ruling by June 1.

The National Homeless Law Center describes the case as the “criminalization of homelessness.”

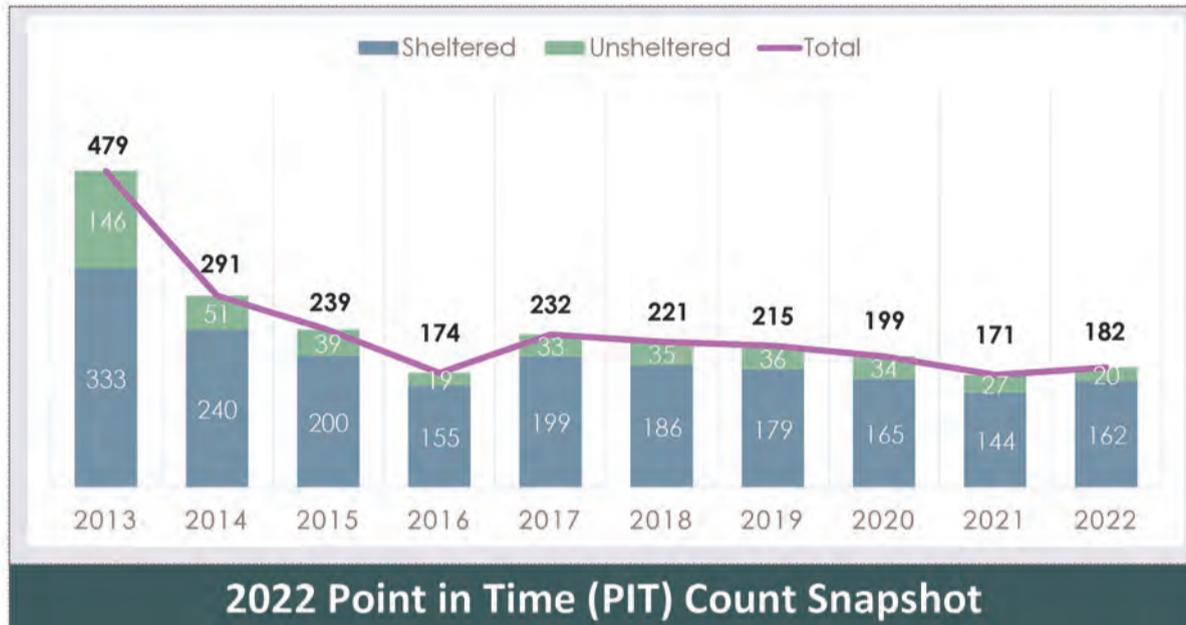
Funders Together to End Homelessness calls *Johnson v. Grants Pass* “the most significant Supreme Court case in four decades about the rights of people experiencing homelessness.”

The current U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Point-in-Time Count (PIT), a snapshot of people experiencing actual homelessness on one day, has limitations. Nationwide, including in Fairfax and Arlington counties and the City of Alexandria, challenges with the annual HUD-administered PIT in January underestimate the extent of the crisis, especially for unsheltered homeless people. Unsheltered people are different than people experiencing homelessness. These are people who are not just homeless, they are unsheltered.

The National Homeless Law Center says in a report the true scale of homelessness falls between 2.5 and 10.2 times what the PIT count suggests. To count people experi-



Arlington County Continuum of Care



2022 Point in Time (PIT) Count Snapshot

ARLINGTON 2022 POINT IN TIME COUNT

Arlington 2022 Point in Time Count

encing homelessness, volunteers from local organizations and staff must have their eyes on them, according to HUD.

Unsheltered homeless people often become invisible and are undercounted. They can be transient and opt to sleep in areas “not designed for human habitation,” wooded areas, cars, parks, campgrounds, makeshift tents, abandoned buildings, for example. They might risk violating codes but are unwilling to enter a shelter. They might have concerns about their health and safety in shelters. They desire autonomy and privacy and, from past experiences, may harbor a protective distrust of the system.

But first and foremost, unsheltered homeless people opt to sleep in areas not designated for human habitation because of a lack of affordable housing, especially for those whose income is below 30 percent of the Area Median Income. They cannot find affordable and available housing for which they qualify.

HUD Funding to Serve the Homeless Is Data-Driven

To better understand homelessness, HUD mandates the Point In

Time count “to serve the homeless population through its Continuum of Care program.”

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that CoCs conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. CoCs also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.

The PIT Count offers insight on unsheltered homelessness in local jurisdictions. It helps determine the need for housing and supportive services and the level of awards from HUD. According to HUD, the Continuum of Care is “a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness.”

In 2023, HUD announced \$3.2

billion in CoC Competition Awards for thousands of local homeless service and housing programs across the United States. Locally, for example, Arlington County’s Pathforward, Inc. Turning Keys received \$683,202 from HUD in 2023 to provide direct services to homeless people in their communities, according to the FY 2023 CoC Awards.

Current PIT methodologies miss some unsheltered people who sleep in areas not visible on the night of the count. People who shift from one locality to another to evade laws that criminalize public activities like sleeping and living in vehicles could lead to inaccurate community records. Yet, while “complete, accurate, real-time data is vital to prevent and end homelessness, even with the limitations, ... we know many people are suffering,” states the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Police Encounters with Unsheltered Homeless People

Data on the manner and how frequently local law enforcement agencies interact with the unsheltered homeless population matters, especially given the fact that

the U.S. Supreme Court is poised to hear opening arguments in *Johnson v. Grants Pass* on the criminalization of homelessness on April 22.

For example, when Arlington County park rangers or police officers encounter unsheltered individuals violating Arlington County Park Rules and Regulations, sleeping in tents or encampments, Ryan Hudson, spokesperson for the Arlington County Manager’s Office, says that their goal is to connect the unsheltered people experiencing homelessness “to available support services in the county, typically the Homeless Services Center and/or the Mobile Outreach Support Team (MOST).”

When asked about enforcement, Hudson replied, “When we encounter individuals sleeping in tents or encampments, we request that they move off park property; we will revisit the area until the individual(s) moves on.”

All Virginia municipal codes derive their authority from the state code.

- ❖ Virginia Code, § 18.2-119. Trespass after having been forbidden to do so; penalties

- ❖ County Code, Section 82-5-42 Habitation in vehicles parked in public right-of-way

- ❖ County Code, Section 82-1-32 Supplemental enforcement of parking

- ❖ County Code, Section 5-4-1 Trespassing after having been forbidden to do

The Code of Virginia defines penalties for all class 1 Misdemeanors, such as trespassing, as up to a \$2,500 fine and up to one year in jail. What to do if the unsheltered homeless people refuse to leave the area in which they are sleeping presents a challenge to law enforcement. Criminalization makes it more difficult for individuals to find work, receive public benefits such as federal housing assistance, and obtain a lease.

Shelter Availability

When asked what year-round shelters are currently open and which have available beds, Alison Coleman, the City of Alexandria’s

SEE HOMELESSNESS, PAGE 10

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



The St. Andrew's Players will present "The Secret Garden" from April 19 to 28, 2024 in Arlington.

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.

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 18

AFAC Shining a Light on Hunger.

6:30-9:30 p.m. At Army Navy Country Club, Arlington. Join the Arlington Food Assistance Center as they Shine a Light on Hunger and honor those in our community – the many individuals, families, corporations and community partners – who contribute to AFAC's success. Help celebrate over 35 years of fulfilling our mission and feeding neighbors in need. For more event information and sponsorship details, contact Jolie Smith, Director of Development, at jolie.smith@afac.org or (571) 384-1443.

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

Container Gardening: Big Impact in Small Places.

10-11:30 a.m. Online. Part of the Virtual Classroom Series with Extension Master Gardeners. Tight on space but itching to grow something? Gardening in containers may be a solution for you! Gardening in containers is a great way to grow both ornamental and edible plants even if you don't have a few acres. Extension Master Gardener Benton Murphy will cover the basics of container gardening, including raised beds, selecting the right container, suggestions on plants well-suited for containers, care tips

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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.

APRIL 2-26

Cindy Donohoe's Inspired by Nature Solo Show. At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive,

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed. Route #	Span	Structure Name	Location	Effective Date
BLAND	3099	617	WADDLETOWN ROAD	BIG WALKER CREEK #3	4/4/2024
GIIES	8514	772	SINKINGCREEK ROAD 772	SINKING CREEK	4/2/2024
SCOTT	16685	619	BIG STONY CREEK ROAD	BRANCH	3/21/2024
RICHMOND (M)	21531	161	NORTH BOULEVARD	CSX RAILWAY	3/19/2024
DINWIDDIE	6046	622	BALTIMORE ROAD	GEORGE'S BRANCH	3/19/2024
WAYNESBORO	22301	0	HOPEMAN PARKWAY	CSX RAILWAY	3/14/2024
BEDFORD	2834	699	BORE AUGER ROAD 699	BORE AUGER CREEK	3/13/2024
SMYTH	17395	16	B F BUCHANAN HWY	WHITE OAK BRANCH	3/6/2024
TAZEWELL	18583	631	INDIAN CREEK ROAD	INDIAN CREEK #2	3/6/2024
BEDFORD	2879	746	DICKERSON MILL ROAD 746	WOLF CREEK	3/4/2024

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

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NEWS

Homelessness

FROM PAGE 8

director of the Office of Community Services Department of Community and Human Services, named two: "Carpenter's Shelter and Alexandria Community Shelter are open and [are] at full capacity." According to their jurisdictions' spokespersons, similar shelters in Fairfax and Arlington counties are likewise open and at full capacity.

Coleman added, "Additionally, the City of Alexandria has a seasonal winter shelter, open overnight from 11/1 to 4/15, and bed spaces are available nightly for families and single adults experiencing homelessness." Similar hypothermia shelters in Fairfax and Arlington closed on March 31.

With the lack of space in the local year-round shelters and the closing of the seasonal hypothermia shelters, individuals who are unsheltered and homeless are more visible where they choose to sleep to the public and law enforcement.

According to "Housing Not Handcuffs," the Denver Police Department conducted thousands of "street checks" related to law violations. Advocates say this practice amounted to police threats to ticket or arrest homeless people unless they dismantled their camps. It is impossible to ticket or arrest people out of homelessness, and it puts law endorsement in a compromising position, said Eric Tars and his colleagues at the National Homelessness Law Center.

Housing First Approach: Best Practice

One response to addressing homelessness is the Housing First approach, which provides homeless people with permanent housing first, along with long-term wrap-around support services from teams to prevent them from becoming homeless again.

Fairfax County hopes to follow the best practice approach with approximately 40 individuals camping in Reston Town Center, making use of new state-funded housing vouchers. They hope those encamped will inquire about the vouchers through Cornerstones, whose staff will operate the new temporary shelter next to the encampment. The shelter is planned to open in the coming weeks or thereabouts on a date yet to be determined. In the meantime, Cornerstones' staff is engaging with residents of the encampment face-to-face. They hope to entice those encamped to look into services at the new temporary shelter next to the encampment, which could help them transition into permanent housing through the new voucher program.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

for your pots, planters and raised beds, ways to create seasonal interest with containers, and more! Free. RSVP at <http://mgmv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

APRIL 19 TO APRIL 28

“The Secret Garden” Play. Presented by St. Andrew’s Players at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington. A time-honored classic, “The Secret Garden” is the story of two indulged and neglected 10-year-olds. They are miserable souls from different worlds who are lonely, self-pitying, and demanding. Eventually, the children discover each other and the value of friendship, compassion, and hard work from the humble folk with whom they share their “secret.” Yet, it is the garden itself — positively growing and changing thanks to the care they provide — that allows them to “blossom” as well.

Performance Schedule:

Friday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m.

APRIL 20-21

Spring 2024 Open Studios and Exhibition

Event. Saturday, April 20, 5:00–8:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 21, 2:00–5:00 p.m. At 932 S. Walter Reed Drive, Second Floor, Arlington. Columbia Pike Artist Studios, an artist cooperative, in Arlington, will host an open studio of 20 artists working across media: painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, and sculpture. A group exhibition of member artists will be installed in the gallery and will be open during the open studio event. Visit the website www.columbiapikeartiststudios.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

Glencarlyn Spring Celebration and Plant Sale. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Glencarlyn Library Community Garden, 3000 S. Kensington St., Arlington. Come for a day chock full of activities for the whole family! See the garden in the height of Spring, participate in tissue paper crafts 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m., take an Educational Tree Walk at 1:00 p.m., and shop for native and locally propagated plants with an Extension Master Gardener to help you in your selection! MGNV T-shirts, floral boxes and cards and more will be available for purchase. A portion of the proceeds will support the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. For more information email glencarlynlibrarygarden@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

Del Ray Garden Fest. Noon to 4 p.m. At Colasanto Park Baseball Field, Commonwealth & Mt. Vernon Aves., Alexandria. GardenFest is a fun, free, educational afternoon of garden-centric demonstrations, informational booths, and interactive activities. Gardening topics include at-home composting, growing native plants, beekeeping and will feature an Extension Master Gardener Plant Clinic. Giveaways will include over 100 native tree seedlings and 400 packets of organic, non-GMO

fruit, veggie, and herb seeds to anyone who wants them! GardenFest is hosted annually by the Del Ray Citizens Association (DRCA).

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

Langston Blvd. Earth Day Every Day Festival. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 4500 Langston Blvd., Arlington. Join Extension Master Gardeners at Langston’s 3rd annual Earth Day Every Day Festival! This family friendly event has something for everyone! There will be live music, art vendors, local food and more. There will be a host of educational programming, as we all learn how to better take care of the beautiful planet we call home. For more information go to: <https://www.earthdayon-langston.com/>

THURSDAY/APRIL 25

EcoAction Arlington. Celebrate our connection to water, the magic of beaches and oceans, and our amazing environmental community. At Clare and Don’s Beach Shack, Falls Church. Focus on how everyone can help protect our precious water resources while enjoying the relaxed, fun, and beachy vibe of Clare and Don’s Beach Shack. Purchase tickets at <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/sixth-annual-ecoextravaganza/>

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

Celebrating Native Trees. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Online. Arbor Day, the annual day in April dedicated to tree planting, is a good occasion to discuss the importance of planting trees and the many reasons for choosing native tree species. Join Extension Master Gardener Elaine Mills to learn details on the characteristics and attributes of 20 native trees with suggestions on their uses in the home landscape. General information on planting, care, and other helpful resources will be provided. Free. RSVP at <http://mgmv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Native Plant Sale in Northern Alexandria. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Largest native plant sale in D.C. Metro Area hosts 11 vendors from three states and D.C. selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. This event is free. 1701 N. Quaker Lane in Church of St. Clement parking lot, Alexandria. Call 571-232-0375 or cscottknudsen@gmail.com or www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Free Bike Skills for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At The Woman’s Club of Arlington Parking Lot, 700 South Buchanan St. Arlington. For preschool children and older. Bring your child and their bike to participate in: Safety Helmet Check; Bike Maintenance Check; Games to Teach Basic Biking Skills. Sponsored by velocity bicycle cooperative. For additional information contact The Woman’s Club of Arlington at 703-553-5800 or womansclubarlington@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Live in Arlington Information Fair. 11 a.m. At Walter Reed Recreation Center, 2909 16th

Street, South, Arlington. LAIF, Live in Arlington Information Fair, aspires to be a gateway to critical community services and information to those who need it the most. This event is brought to you by Centro de Apoyo Familiar or Center for Assistance to Families (CAF) in partnership with Arlington County Housing Division. CAF is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that provides access to equitable housing services to underserved communities through its foreclosure prevention, rental and homeownership counseling, and educational workshops as well as a series of other community empowerment programs.

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

iNaturalist Bioblitz on the Mount Vernon Trail. Starts in Arlington. Sponsored by Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail. Have you used iNaturalist before? Want to learn how to use it? Join them for an iNaturalist Bioblitz on Sunday, April 28. Starting at National Landing, they will walk along the Mount Vernon Trail documenting different species. This is a kid friendly event. Visit MountVernonTrail.org

THURSDAY/MAY 2

ANV’s 10-Year Anniversary Celebration. 5:30-7:30 p.m. At National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. The party—and parking—are free, but RSVP to the office by April 22 so they can have an accurate headcount. This is the founding principle of Arlington Neighborhood Village. In the decade since they began services, ANV has become a critical part of Arlington’s senior safety net with hundreds of volunteers helping more than 400 older adults age well.

MAY 4-5

Jane Franklin Dance “On the Run”. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 4 p.m. Jane Franklin Dance performs “on the Run” with a concert that features award-winning choreographers and performances by Forty+ Project. Enjoy movement and dance in the heart of Arlington’s industrial district at Four Mile Run.

SATURDAY/MAY 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. Hosted by Christian Hunt, this amazing experience features comedy from the DC area’s finest comics. Our headliner for May’s show is the hilarious Kyle Cromer. Tickets: \$10/\$15 at capitalcityshowcase.com

SUNDAY/MAY 5

Harmony for Hope Concert. 3 p.m. At Rock Spring United Church of Christ, 5010 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Concert to Benefit the children of Ukraine. Among the singers will be Eduardo Castro, who has performed many times for Opera NOVA in recital concerts as well as children’s operas. In addition, Frequent Opera NOVA singers such as Israel Lozano, Darcy Monsalve, Alex Alnurqueque, and our Artistic Director Jose Sacin will perform.

Diagnosis to Date



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have been lucky – and/or terribly diagnosed, so that my story/diagnosis has been all wrong. Originally diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer stage IV, I was given a “13 month to two-years” prognosis in late Feb. 2009. I was treated with all manner of conventional – and mostly unpronounceable chemotherapy infused every three weeks for years. Occasionally, depending on the chemotherapy I was getting, and on what my monthly lab work was indicating, my medicine was changed, and the infusion schedule was even extended as well. Despite the mortality statistics, I continued to survive this “terminal” diagnosis leading my oncologist to boast that I was his “third miracle:” a lung cancer patient who didn’t die within the expected – according to the hypothetical book I often refer to, time frame.

As the years passed, my continued survival became even more incredible/rare. Why? Because lung cancer is a killer. Based on easily found statistics, lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer deaths annually. In fact, more people die from lung cancer than the combined totals of the next three cancers. Yet, I lived, and the longer I lived, the more invested I became in my survival and prouder of it too. It was a “Star Trek” kind of adventure: I had gone where few men had gone before.

For nearly 10-plus years I was able to live my life reasonably well until I noticed a jaw-breaker-sized growth above my Adam’s apple. Certainly, I pointed it out to my oncologist (those days appointments were in office – not on zoom). He took note of it, even measured it, but said it was a clone of the lung cancer and because of some skin fact, was basically inoperable. This non-action continued for almost a year. Eventually, he felt compelled to refer me to an endocrinologist, across the hall no less. When she saw me, she immediately asked what that was on my throat. I gave her the short story which ended with a “No. Dr. (name withheld) never recommended it.” She said, “we’re doing a biopsy right now.” I asked if I needed to make an appointment. She said “No.” After the needle biopsy, she said she’d have the results in a few days and would call me. The next day she called and told me. I had “papillary thyroid cancer, stage IV,” she said, not the lung cancer with which I had been unexpectedly living. Not sure if it was a relief, given this new unknown diagnosis, but I was grateful nonetheless that there seemed to be an updated diagnosis (and from I had learned over the years as a cancer patient, almost any cancer other than lung offered a better life expectancy).

In communicating the results to Team Lourie, the endocrinologist felt that papillary thyroid cancer is what I’d had all along, not lung cancer. Moreover, we learned that thyroid cancer is often curable and has earned the nickname “the friendly cancer” because often when treated properly, lives are saved. And “treating properly” is not what I had experienced for the past 11-plus years. I had been treated for non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. I was told, unfortunately, that receiving the wrong kind of chemotherapy/targeted and/or immunotherapy as I had for lung cancer would have minimal effect on my actual thyroid cancer. Apparently, what I had for 11-plus years was a very slow-moving type of thyroid cancer which had been basically untreated since 2009. Finally, it manifested as a lump on my throat.

Here I thought I was superman, having survived lung cancer well beyond my doctor’s original prognosis/expectation, but it turns out I was more like mistake man. I didn’t have a terminal form of cancer after all. I had a curable form that had been untreated. My entire narrative changed that day. I went from beating the odds to what were the odds of misidentifying a tissue sample as lung cancer when it was actually thyroid cancer?

From here my care changed. Within the next few months, I had a thyroidectomy to remove my thyroid and the para thyroid. Going in for the operation, I was hopeful that this recent biopsy had discovered the answer to my prayers: normal life, free of cancer. “But alas, poor Yurick,” it was not to be. When I woke up from my two-hour outpatient surgery, it had actually been a seven-hour surgery as the cancer had spread and embedded itself under my collarbone. The surgeon spent the extra five hours attempting to “get” all the cancer. As much as he tried, ultimately, he was unsuccessful, and I’ve been treated for papillary thyroid cancer ever since – until three or four months ago. That’s when it was determined that the side effects of the thyroid cancer medicine were damaging my kidneys. So much so in fact that I stopped that medicine and have been unmedicated ever since. Here I am, 15-plus years into thyroid cancer during which I’ve been on medicine for only three years and now I’m forced to stop. Comparatively speaking, I had only recently started. Now what? Apparently there is no “what.”

It was slow moving to begin with; I must hope it will be slow-moving to end with (prepositions notwithstanding).

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

“FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

FROM PAGE 2

Thursday, April 25, 2-4 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. No instruction available. Registration # 913600-17.

Plants and cuttings swap and learn about new-to-you plants, Thursday, April 25, 3 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Please ensure all cuttings and plants are pest free and healthy. Registration # 913401-03.

Getting your home market ready, Thursday, April 25, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown. Presented by Nancy Murphy, licensed realtor with Weichert Realtors. Registration #

913404-11.

Retirement: more than the numbers, presented by certified federal coach Sallie Wiley, Thursday, April 25, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 913404-12 and Friday, April 26, 10 a.m., Lubber Run, Registration # 913404-13. Learn how to assess your preparedness.

Don’t be a financial crime victim by mail. Learn how to avoid being a target from Beth Peter, senior financial crimes analyst with the U.S. Postal Service, Thursday, April 25, 1 p.m., virtual. Registration # 913400-14.

Movie matinee showing of “Tar” (2022) (R), Friday, April 26, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913804-05.

Annual Trash and Treasure Sale, Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hill 55+ Center, 735 S. 18th Street. Items for sale are small appliances, decorative items, games, toys, jewelry, luggage, craft supplies and more. Donated items welcome Wednesday, April 24 and Friday, April 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the center. For more information, call 703-228-5722.

Groups Urge the General Assembly to Reject Youngkin's Metro Budget Amendment

Gov. Glenn Youngkin slashed the General Assembly's additional funding for Metro by 76%, allocating no money in FY25 and just \$35 million in FY26 (Amendment 179 of Item 433).

The General Assembly had committed \$65 million in FY25 to match \$65 million from Northern Virginia localities, and \$84.5 million from the state in FY26, which would also be matched by Northern Virginia. These additional funds were the minimum additional funding needed to help close WMATA's operating funding gap and were necessary to match formula commitments by DC and Maryland.

Failure to provide additional state funding will have dire consequences for the workforce and economy of Northern Virginia and the DC region. It would mean massive service cuts and

fare hikes at Metro, higher transportation costs for workers, and more congestion on the roads, and discourage next generation companies and workers from locating in the DC region.

The groups signing onto this press statement urge the General Assembly to reject Youngkin's budget amendment and restore the funding the General Assembly agreed to. They should also reject the Governor's budget language requiring a redundant set of studies of WMATA. The General Assembly has already passed SJ28, which establishes a comprehensive study of transit in Northern Virginia including WMATA.

The General Assembly recognized the critical value of Metro to the economy, workforce, and transportation system of Northern Virginia and the over \$1 billion per year in tax revenue that Metro-generated economic ac-

tivity provides to the state (NVTC analysis). We thank the legislators for their support for Metro and urge them to reject the Governor's amendments regarding Metro.

Coalition for Smarter Growth; Sustainable Mobility for Arlington County; Washington Area Bicyclist Association; Greater Greater Washington; Sierra Club - Virginia Chapter; Active Prince William; Grassroots Alexandria; CASA; Clean Fairfax; Piedmont Environmental Council; Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke; Southern Environmental Law Center; RVA Rapid Transit; Nature Forward; Virginia League of Conservation Voters; Friends of Dyke Marsh; Virginia Bicycling Federation; Chesapeake Climate Action Network Fund; Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets; Fairfax Families for Safe Streets; Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.

LETTER

Arlington's Expanded Housing Option Ordinance Leaves Neighbors No Rights and the County No Wiser

At the outer edges of Arlington County — in the Arlington-East Falls Church area — a three-story monolith housing six dwellings and providing three parking spaces has been proposed for an R6 treed lot where a 1925 house now stands. The developer can get away with only three spaces by right because of the proximity of the lot to the East Falls Church Metro. This is not a walkable neighborhood and especially so if someone is disabled. Every one of the six new neighbors will need a car — at least one. So that means at least three cars will be parking permanently in front of neighbors' homes and along our narrow 2300 block of North Tuckahoe Street. It is only 17 feet wide. Will fire trucks be able to get by in an emergency? That's a question being assessed by the County's Office of the Fire Marshall.

Below is a list of objections to this particular Expanded Housing Option project — objections not taken into account or even invited from the neighborhood by the County because of the by right design of the ordinance. The list was developed before it was learned that the public had no right to comment on the permit request

and thus no place to send it.

REASONS TO REJECT THE EHO PERMIT REQUEST FOR 2315 N. TUCKAHOE ST. (ZEH024-00003)

The developer could not have designed a project more antithetical (completely opposite) to this neighborhood, comprising a small — roughly three-block historic area — into which he proposes to shoe-horn six dwellings where there is currently a single house built in 1925. In addition, his proposal has several serious environmental and design drawbacks. They are the following:

1. The property is environmentally sensitive because it backs onto a moist, fertile, habitat area of the County's Tuckahoe Park that is particularly beneficial to native plants and wildlife. Either the historic home should be preserved (recommended option) or at least the current building footprint should be preserved so as not to adversely affect the restored natural habitat and its inhabitants.

2. The property is located at the bottom of a hill and thus deluged with storm water runoff from the properties and street above it. Therefore, the current proportion

of impervious surface area to absorptive surface area should be preserved, not expanded and thus to adversely affect the contiguous parkland and houses.

3. The property is currently the site of mature canopy trees, which absorb excess water, prevent erosion, and provide food and shelter for wildlife. See especially the large, decades-old, slow-growing American holly in the front right corner. Expanding the building footprint would lead to the further destruction of our mature tree canopy — as was done to the extensive tree canopy to the right of 2315 when it was clear cut to accommodate three new houses where there was one.

4. To insert a 6-unit dwelling on this property would necessitate siting it sideways, contrary to the orientation of all the rest of the homes and destroying the char-

acter and charm of this neighborhood, which is generously sprinkled with historic homes. These homes represent an important period in the community's history from the era 1890-1920, much of which was already destroyed to make way for I-66. Must we — and Arlington County — lose all connection with our history and heritage?

5. A 6-unit dwelling would generate the need for quite a lot of parking space, as our narrow North Tuckahoe Street could not — and should not be expected to — accommodate any spillover.

In light of these five significant problems with the developer's proposal, please continue to deny the permit request for such an out-sized, outlandish project.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Sasser
Arlington

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Your name and town will be published with your letter, other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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