

# The Arlington Connection

Amazon's Met Park, certified butterfly garden, has plenty of birds and bees but monarch butterfly migration is yet to come.

## Amazon Brings Native Horticulture

PAGE 3

## Deer Management Debate

PAGE 4

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 5 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

# Abdingdon Street Parade in Arlington is Annual Event

**A new old car featured this year.**

BY EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Avery Santo, Ellen Ferguson, Avery Krill, Emily Krill, Charlotte Nowak, and Addie Santo dressed in red, white and blue, headed for the end of the parade where refreshments awaited.



After the kids on bikes speeding down Abingdon Street, the parents carrying flags and babies came marching along in the annual parade.



A black poodle named Minion watches the fireworks above the Washington Golf and Country Club.



If it's an antique Porsche rolling down Abingdon Street in the red, white, and blue, with patriotic music blaring from a speaker on its luggage rack, it must be Country Club Hills.

# Tour of Amazon's New Butterfly Garden



Amazon headquarters (HQ2) located at 510 14th Street S in Arlington.

## Butterfly Garden added to 2.5 acres of Amazon Met Park.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**I**t is a hot July day, and the new Amazon certified butterfly garden is full of the birds and the bees but not a butterfly in

sight. But Dillon Clark, Amazon's lead horticulturist explains he saw a monarch just last week and that the butterfly migration generally starts a little later in July, and they like swamp milkweed. "We have plenty of that here."

Clark's job is to maintain the 2.5 acres of external landscape in Met Park surrounding the new Amazon building (known as HQ2) as well as the 19 landscape terraces located in the building and several special displays. And now there is the newly installed certified butterfly garden rimming the daycare play area next to the building. The inspiration for the design of the

original landscape of Met Park was based on a trip to the Smithso-  
SEE BUTTERFLY GARDEN, PAGE 8

PHOTOS BY  
SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION



Dillon Clark, lead horticulturist at Amazon HQ2.

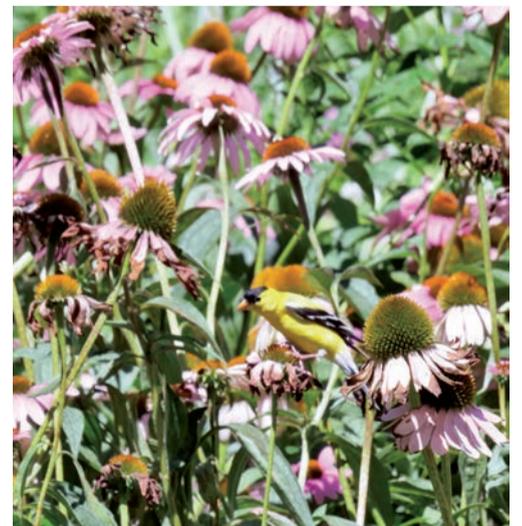
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Clark points to one of his favorite plants, the carnivorous tropical pitcher plant.



Clark points to the ripe persimmons in the community edible garden.



Met Park has plenty of birds and bees but butterfly migration is yet to come.

# Deer Must be Managed in Arlington: Residents Asked to Weigh In

## To Kill, Sterilize, Repel, or Contain?

BY EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**Y**ou may enjoy the natural beauty of seeing a doe leap across the lawn, showing off her white tail, or a spotted fawn trembling on rickety legs, or the three-point buck raising his fine rack, but the reality of the deer overpopulation in Arlington is not pretty. With 124 deer per square mile in 2021 (and sometimes as many as 339), when the correct density is about 15-20 deer per square mile, the natural woodlands and forests of the area are being eaten away. The deer themselves are at risk for weakened health in herds, disease and bacterial infections, and motorists at risk because deer have to seek habitats, often driven out of hunger to eat newly planted native trees, expensive landscaping and gardens across highways and streets. We are at the point where the deer have to be managed.

Enter Arlington County's deer management proposal. Similar programs have already happened in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Montgomery counties. Since the options don't allow for a price comparison, one can only speculate on what each option costs in relation to the other.

Residents have a chance to weigh in on the options at a town hall meeting on July 11 or on line.

Here are the options, in layman's terms:

❖ **Professional Sharpshooter deployment:** it has advantages such as taking place at night, using sound muffling of shooting, and non-lead bullets. The county does not mention the cost, but presumably it is not cheap to hire the professionals. Food from the hunting is provided to area food banks. Deer are immediately taken out of the area in one season.

❖ **Sterilization:** Using wildlife biologists to shoot darts to put female deer to sleep, surgically sterilizing them, and supervising the doe's reentry into the forest, it costs about 1200 dollars a doe. It has advantages of not killing the deer, but takes about four years to actually reduce the population of



PHOTO BY YOUSSEF THOMAS

**A deer in the headlights: this three point buck came by in the winter to nibble on plants and ate this resident's peaches when he returned in the spring.**

deer to 45 percent of the original herds. Presumably other healthcare could take place to make sure the herd is healthy. This is an experimental program which has not been State approved.

❖ **Voluntary archery hunting of deer.** Some of this is already going on, with residents shooting deer in back yards with bow

and arrow. While there have been no safety incidents, it may be difficult to isolate deer in places where no residents are using the park at the same time. Hunters must qualify and license. Meat is provided to food banks. Although the county doesn't say so, presumably a less accurate arrow could cause the deer more pain by not killing it immediate-

ly, but this is already the case for permitted hunting through the decades.

❖ **Deer repellent:** it works but has to be reapplied to plants and trees after every rain and does not solve major problems of deer overpopulation: diminished health of the herd, tick borne illness, collisions, etc.

❖ **Fencing:** fences work but are prohibitively expensive and interfere with the natural movement of other animals through the forest. Deer aren't reduced, just prevented from entering certain areas.

Animal Welfare League of Arlington argues that a humane solution is possible.

"Last month, Arlington County Parks and Recreation recommended establishing a sharpshooting program to reduce the deer population by culling," AWLA said in a post <https://www.awla.org/wildlife-animal-control/wildlife/virginia-white-tailed-deer-copy/>

"While the County's deer project team has done a thorough job addressing this issue, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington disagrees with the project team's recommendation to sharpshoot up to 125 deer in Arlington's parks professionally [Parks and Recreation, Deer Management Project Online Engagement #2].

"Our goal throughout this process has been to provide context and an additional perspective to an incredibly complex and controversial issue, knowing that reasonable minds can differ.

To that end, AWLA firmly believes that sharpshooting 125 deer, which would account for over 40% of the latest deer population, is a disproportionate and excessive measure given the number of reported deer and the browsing levels in Arlington County."

Deer have been part of the environment for centuries. Without natural predators and hunters, they will continue to populate geometrically. The County is doing what it needs to do: seek residents' views on how to manage this problem. For more information, or to weigh in on this plan, see:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Parks-Projects/Deer-Management-Project>

And: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/62c66ebaa3c84c5e91bab3a8cf1f1c70>

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### ARLINGTON VISITOR SPENDING HIT RECORD \$4.5 BILLION IN 2023

Arlington welcomed 7.1 million visitors in 2023, according to a study released by the Arlington Convention and Visitors Service (ACVS). Prepared by Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics Company, the study shows that these visitors spent a record

\$4.5 billion in Arlington County on transportation, food and beverage, lodging, recreation and retail. The visitors' total economic impact supported nearly 27,600 jobs and generated \$341 million in state and local tax revenues.

Tourism Economics cites greater consumer confidence combined with traveler preferences to return to urban areas as two key reasons for an additional 600,000 Arlington visitors

over 2022. Although visitation to Arlington hasn't yet reached the 2019 level of 8 million people, visitor- and travel-related spending in the County surpassed pre-COVID levels by nearly \$90 million.

#### DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration

of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit [goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4tPw2](https://goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4tPw2). Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South

19th St., is seeking to replenish its food pantry. Particularly needed are rice (large bags appreciated, the pantry will rebag), dry beans, canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit [www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org](http://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org) for more.

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Registration opens Monday, July 1 for 2024 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics to be held Sept. 14-29. Register online at www.nvso.us. Cost \$20 for multiple events. For more information, email nvso1982@gmail.com.

Cooking demonstration with fruit, Wednesday, July 10, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, registration # 914501-05. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers.

Brain health as you age, tips for healthy practices to keep the brain sharp, Tuesday, July 9, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center, registration # 914500-11 and Wednesday, July 10, 6 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, registration # 914500-12. Presented by Nina Davis, Insight Memory Center.

History roundtable participants will discuss the impact of the Mexican and Canadian borders on U.S. history, Wednesday, July 10,

11:15 a.m., virtual. Registration # 914402-05.

Introduction to basic Spanish, second of five classes, vocabulary, grammar and conversational phrases to start, Thursday, July 11, 12:45 p.m., virtual. Taught by Ashley Gomez, Lubber Run 55+ Center Director. Registration # 914650-02.

55+ Travel group will celebrate Bastille Day with an early dinner at Bistro LHermitage in Occoquan, Thursday, July 11. Cost \$117, Arlington resident; \$135, non-resident. Pre-fixed menu. Registration # 902407-05.

Records and root beer floats, Thursday, July 11, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Bring records to share. Or just come to listen. Registration # 914801-05.

Understanding Medicare enrollment presented by Angela Windett of Steinlage Insurance Agency, Thursday, July 11, 11 a.m., virtual. Hear latest regulatory changes that may impact your Medicare enrollment. Registration # 914503-01.

Tech Tunes, celebrate the universal language of music while enhancing tech skills, Thursday, July 11, 11 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Bring your smartphone to learn how to use music apps. Presented by tech savvy students from Aspire Afterschool Learning Academy. Registration # 914403-02.

Trivia games, fun-filled challenges,

Thursday, July 11, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 914600-11.

Fitness equipment orientation presented by Michelle Atkin, Fitness Program Manager, Friday, July 12, 10:30 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Learn how to use equipment safely and effectively. Registration # 914100-07.

Cancer prevention 101, strategies for mitigating cancer risk, Friday, July 12, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Explore the 10-step prevention approach outlined by the American Institute for Cancer Research with Bianca Cali, MASM, CDP. Registration # 914500-17.

Games, music and ice cream to celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month, Friday, July 12, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 914899-06.

New, Crafting Corner with fellow craft enthusiasts, some supplies available or bring your own, Monday, July 15, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Absolute beginner pickleball with volunteers to answer questions, limited paddles and balls available, Monday, July 15, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will embark on an exciting trip to the Hollywood Casino in Charles Town, WV, Monday, July 15. Cost \$13, Arlington resident; \$15, non-resident. Registration # 902407-07.

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**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

**Legals**

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Trip Hospitality Virginia, LLC trading as Capital One Landing, 2401 Smith Blvd., #NH-09, Arlington, Arlington County, VA 22202.

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The **Arlington** Connection

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mary Kimm**  
Editor and Publisher  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Shirley Ruhe**  
Contributing Photographer and Writer  
[slrbc@aol.com](mailto:slrbc@aol.com)

**Eden Brown**  
Contributing Writer  
[arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Publisher**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong

**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**CIRCULATION**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)



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## CENTERS FOR OPPORTUNITY ARLINGTON

The Centers for Opportunity Arlington is a safe, stigma-free place to spend time for those recovering from homelessness, substance use, and mental illness. It has a donation closet that needs adult clothing and shoes. Some participants at the Center are looking for jobs and need the proper attire. Located at 3219 Columbia Pike, Suite 101, Arlington. Contact Greg the Program Coordinator at 703-567-1346.

## 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.

## MAY 17 TO AUG. 23

**Mason Exhibitions Presents A Closer Look: Conflicted Art from Ukraine.** At Mason Exhibitions Arlington, 3601 Fairfax Drive, Arlington. Curated by Sophie Bae with Conflicted Art's Yevgen Nemchenko, the new exhibition offers a nuanced exploration of the impact of war through the lens of contemporary Ukrainian artists. In an era saturated with media coverage of conflict, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and detached from the deeper questions surrounding the persistence of war in the 21st century. A Closer Look: Conflicted Art from Ukraine seeks to bridge that gap by showcasing the work of 13 Ukrainian artists who confront head-on the experiences of direct conflict. Through photography, video, painting, sculpture, literature, and installation, these artists offer a multifaceted perspective from the fringes of this conflict. Their works invite viewers to engage in dialogue beyond statistics and headlines and to examine core issues of existence distorted by violence and uncertainty.

## JULY 3-27

**Arlington Artists Alliance: Oh, You Paint: Soul.** At Gallery Underground | National Landing, Arlington. This July, Gallery Underground presents Oh, You Paint: Soul, a debut solo show by LaPrea Rich. The exhibition invites you to delve into the complexities of life, where every canvas becomes a mirror into the artist's soul. LaPrea's collection offers a glimpse into personal journeys, universal truths, and the beauty that is found within life's most poignant moments. She captures and translates her most formative life experiences and raw emotions into a mesmerizing blend of colors, textures, and forms. Join on Friday, July 5 from 5 to 7pm for an opening reception.

## JULY 5 TO AUG. 23

**Fridays at the Fountain.** At the Water Park | National Landing, Arlington. Step into the rhythm of summer every Friday from July 5 to August 23 at Water Park. This free concert series features a range of musical talent from all around the region. Feast on food and drink at one of the area's best new outdoor food halls as you groove to soul, salsa, and more!

## SATURDAY/JULY 13

**Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Sponsored by the Capital City Showcase. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle! The headliner for July's show is the hilarious Dee Ahmed.

## ROSSLYN LIVE THIS JULY

Tickets are on sale now for the annual summer performance series, Rosslyn LIVE! To be held Thursdays at Gateway Park and featuring music from local groups, plus drinks, food

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The seventh Arlington Visual Art Studio Tour takes place Sept. 21-22, 2024 at 59 art studios in Arlington.

## 59 Arlington Art Studios to Open to Public

This year will mark the seventh Arlington Visual Art Studio Tour, which is a joint effort of independent artists and volunteers, supported by contributors including Schneider Investment Group and Dominion Lighting, and in cooperation with Arlington's visual art organizations. The Tour is a community-building event that allows visitors to discover the artists who are also their neighbors. The Tour will publish names, locations and opening hours of participating artists, so that anyone can create their own itinerary to meet the artists in their maker spaces and see their work. Studios in South Arlington will open Saturday Sept. 21, and those in North Arlington, on Sunday Sept. 22. This year, the assortment of artwork includes painting, assemblage, collage, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, weaving and fiber, drawing, papercutting, glass, metalwork, calligraphy and jewelry. Visit <https://www.arlingtonartstudiotour.org>.

trucks, and more show-themed fun.

### SCHEDULE:

**July 18 | Love Story: A Taylor Swift Tribute**  
If you couldn't attend the Eras Tour or just want to relive the fun all over again, shake it off to your favorite hits from the iconic pop star with covers led by husband and wife duo Beau and Blair. We know all too well that it's more fun to bring your squad, so make the friendship bracelets and take advantage of our Bestie Package (BOGO free ticket) for the ultimate Swiftie experience.

**July 25 | 90s & 00s Hits with Uncle Jesse**  
Oh snap! Relive your favorite hits from the 90s and 00s with a nostalgic performance by cover band Uncle Jesse. Whether you're a spice girl, NSYNC fan, or a sk8er boi, all are welcome to raise the roof. For this blast to the past, it's more the merrier — check out the Full House package for BOGO free tickets. Admission to each show is \$5 per person, and children under 10 are free. Costumes and themed apparel are highly encouraged! Stay tuned on social @RosslynVA for additional details (and some exclusive surprises) leading up to the events.

### JULY 19-28

**Encore Stage & Studio: The Sound of Music.** At Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre | Arlington Heights, Arlington. The beloved story tells the tale of young postulant Maria Rainer, whose free spirit has trouble fitting into the rules of Nonnberg Abbey. She is commissioned by the Mother Abbess to serve as the governess of seven children. She transforms the Von Trapp home from a place of rules and regulations to one filled with joy, laughter, and music. Over time, Maria wins over the love of the children and the children's father, Captain Von Trapp.

### FRIDAY/JULY 26

**Insect Heroes.** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE.  
Learn about the Insect Heroes in your garden, who work tirelessly throughout their lives to create the serene beauty of the garden you

enjoy every day. All you have to do is invite the "right" kinds of insects to your garden and most insect problems will be solved. Extension Master Gardener Beth Buffington will help you find the best ways to encourage these beneficial insects that will control many of the perennial pests in our gardens without the use of pesticide. Really it is that easy! Free. RSVP at <http://mgvn.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

### SATURDAY/JULY 27

**Wine Tasting Benefit.** 2-4 p.m. At Pirouette Restaurant & Wine Shop, 4000 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite C, Arlington. To benefit PathForward; Pirouette will donate 15% of wine and ticket sales. \$25 ticket to a wine tasting, which includes tasting of 9 different wines one 5 oz. glass of wine from the tasting. All wines from the tasting will be available to purchase by the bottle or glass (5 oz.) Food may be purchased from the happy hour menu

### SATURDAY/AUG. 10

**Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Sponsored by the Capital City Showcase. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle! The headliner for August's show is the hilarious musical comedy duo B.U.S.S.I.!

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

**Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. The Capital City Showcase, which produces some of the best events in the D.C. area, returns with its new one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle. Hosted by Christian Hunt, this experience features comedy from the DC area's finest comics. The headliner for September's show is the hilarious Jenny Questell.

## Karma is a B\*\*ch



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A few weeks back, in the second half of a column titled "Diversion Before Immersion," I went off topic and finished that initially cancer-centric column on a lighter note: back-in parking verses front-end parking. Let me state for the record, I will never back into a parking space unless there's a compelling reason to do so, the likes of which have not occurred since April-ish 1970 which was six months or so after my 16th birthday which then in Massachusetts made me eligible to apply for a driver's license.

This test required a written, multiple-choice exam followed by a driving test. The driving test involved using my car but with an MVA examiner sitting in the passenger seat directing me here or there. I believe my aversion and contempt for backward driving began on my driving test. I remember the fear circulation among us 11th graders concerned about the possibility of us novices having to parallel park without hitting the curb and/or much worse, having to perform a backwards 180 degree /three-point turn likewise without hitting a curb. The fear of successfully completing this element of my driving test has stuck with me all these many years.

Incredibly, amazingly, fortuitously - if that's even the correct word, it seemed the driving instructor who sat next me during my driving test had very little interest in requiring this brand-new-driver-to-be do anything behind the wheel of my car other than drive around a crowded parking lot and return it, headfirst, to its previous parking space. No backing up, no parallel parking, no three-point turn, nothing. The driving test was as easy as any 16 1/2 years old rookie driver could hope/imagine. Before I could even wipe the sweat from my brow, I was standing in line inside the MVA waiting for my new driver's license to be printed (no picture back then).

The reason I led you regular readers on this jaunt down my memory lane is as context for what just happened to me (while behind the wheel), in my local Giant Food parking lot. Naturally I head-first parked opposite another car - so I couldn't pull through, nevertheless I parked and went about my business. When I returned, I immediately noticed that there was no longer any car in front of me blocking my forward exit. I eagerly opened my car door and quickly sat down in the driver's seat. I then buckled my seat belt and looked up as I pressed the start-engine button. At that very moment of anticipation of being able to drive forward and not have to back up to leave, another car began backing into the space opposite me preventing me from driving forward to exit, number one; and number two, doing so by backing in, the nerve. All I could do was sit and watch. Though I wasn't hurt in the incident, it definitely felt like insult was being added to injury. All I could do was shake my head and say for the millionth time how much I don't get the whole backing-in thing. What's the benefit, exactly? The extra time it takes to back in is equivalent to the time it takes us head-in parkers to back out (no empirical study, just anecdotally) so where's the advantage I've been told exists by backers in? I was never more convinced of this folly then I was as I sat in my car and waited/watched for this driver to carefully back in while not touching the three cars that surrounded his space. Maybe if my driver's license test had been a bit more vigorous, I wouldn't have such disdain for back-in parkers? No. I still would.

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

# Butterfly Garden Added to 2.5 Acres of Amazon Met Park

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 3

nian's Botanical Garden.

The idea for the butterfly garden originated about five months ago when Tricia Wine, an Amazon staffer and the horticulture staff discovered that the North American Butterfly Association certifies butterfly gardens and that HQ2 already had a number of the native plants that could attract butterflies. Early in June volunteers and staff planted the butterfly garden including swamp and butterfly milkweed, coreopsis, asters, phlox and penstemon digitalis. Amazon planned a grand opening of the butterfly garden for June 20. Although the community event was postponed until fall due to the heat, the butterfly garden opened on schedule and is available to the public.

We begin the tour of the Mets Park area as Clark points to the tropical pitcher plants, which look a bit like a mushroom on a stem and is one of his favorites. He explains there are three different types of this carnivorous plant which digests insects. We walk past the large glass mushroom sculptures. "These light up at night."

Clark explains the Amazon garden concentrates on native plants which they buy from family-owned local nurseries. Clark grew up in the area and remembers as a kid catching butterflies. "I'd come inside with my hands covered with butterfly dust from the wings." He always thought he would end up working in Virginia somewhere but he had no idea he would become a horticulturist at Amazon.

The fence along the park area is rimmed with colorful metal butterflies. As we walk along the path through the garden, large swaths of coneflowers blend in with the black-eyed susan and the bee balm in the sunny spots. A bright yellow male goldfinch buzzes around the coneflowers and in a while is joined by a muted brownish female. If you bend over and listen carefully, you can hear the chirping of a grasshopper rubbing its hind legs against its wing casings in the middle of a bush nearby.

Clark says it is a challenge to keep native plants in a public setting alive and beautiful. "Weekly the weeds are pulled by hand. We don't use any pesticides." He explains Amazon is very environmentally conscious, and they have an irrigation system which is tailored to the needs of each plant. It uses the gray water leftover from the building and, "all trees are on an underground bubbler individually timed and controlled with my



Colorful metal butterflies line the fence around the Amazon garden.

watch."

He bends over. "See the leaf cutter bees and the tiny wasps. We have so many different kinds of bees if you pay attention."

Clark explains that the garden was designed to reflect the local geographical area we live in. "This is the meadow area and this represents the fall line between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plains." A mother and her small child sit at the edge of the garden in a shaded alcove.

Across the sidewalk we enter the community edible garden. Clark pulls back the heavy branches of a tall healthy tree. "See the persimmon tree is loaded with fruit." The ripe fruit will soon fall off and cover the ground and be devoured by a variety of local critters. He points to the serviceberry tree that produces purple berries attractive to birds. "Over there are blueberries. Back in the corner is a hazelnut tree and over there is the sassafras bush which used to be used to make root beer."

Clark arrived at Amazon a little over two years ago "at the tail end of construction." He says he had bounced around to a number of different areas like residential and business "but they don't focus heavily on horticulture like they do at Amazon." Clark adds that he has one other horticulturist assisting him now at the Arlington headquarters. But he says the Seattle location has 22 horticulturists to support the greenhouse and



Amazon Met Garden is open to the public including nature-loving bulldogs.

rare tropical plants, the special displays and a live feed of the rare corpse plant which blooms only 2-3 days every couple of years. Its name derives from the odor of the plant which many compare to the smell of death.

He says all displays in Seattle are open to the public, and adds when they open the next expansive area in Arlington he is hoping to bring similar displays and events here as well.

"We love to have people come

and enjoy the garden." The current Amazon Met Park in Arlington including the butterfly garden is open to the public. Met Park is located on the grounds of the building located at 510 14th Street S.