

The Arlington Connection

CELEBRATIONS
& GRATITUDE
THANKSGIVING 2017

Two Syrian women bring their lentil and macaroni dish with fried bread (on the top). It will be squeezed in with the other aluminum-covered dishes covering a U-shaped table at the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) dinner Nov. 19. Hekmatullah Latifi, an ECDC caseworker explains this is a party for families who come from around the world "so we can share our culture and them them how much we love them here." After dinner, popular music from the countries of the people who are attending the dinner will be played.

Sharing Spicy Lentils For First Thanksgiving

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NOVEMBER 22-28, 2017

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Planning for Density New development shifts north from Metro corridor.

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

Neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, the density of the Metro corridor is creeping further and further into the surrounding residential neighborhoods. The latest development frontier is along Washington Boulevard behind George Mason University's Arlington Campus. A corner of the small residential development currently inhabited by a YMCA and an American Legion is undergoing the first stages of redevelopment, and the neighborhood is pushing back.

At its Nov. 18 meeting, the County Board approved a General Land Use Plan (GLUP) to allow greater development at the site, but not until after three hours of public testimony from local residents and representatives from the sites seeking redevelopment.

A GLUP is the primary policy guide for future development in the county. It establishes the character, extent, and location of various land uses. Three individual requests were received by the county to review the GLUP for a corner of a neighborhood tucked away between Virginia Square and Clarendon. The three GLUP requests came in from the YMCA, American



Map of the General Land Use Plan (GLUP) area

Legion, and a development site within the area of the study, to allow for greater density in the area.

The new designations set forward in the GLUP limits building height to six and seven

stories closest to Washington Boulevard, then down to four and three stories on the buildings closest to the residential neighborhood. Future public hearings will consider the redesignation of the three parcels

into new zoning classifications.

Residents of the local neighborhood emphasized their neighborhood's suburban residential lifestyle and said large new developments, particularly the new traffic they would bring, could compromise their way of life.

"Our neighborhood is under pressure from four initiatives," said Michael Levitin, a local resident, pointing to other developments planned around the borders of the neighborhood. "These four collectively could materially and adversely affect our neighborhood. Every part of Arlington must bear its fair share of development, we welcome our new neighbors, but our neighborhood should not be asked to bear more than its fair share. Amendments that would increase density ... would ask our neighborhood to bear more than its fair share."

But others — from the groups requesting the expansions — said they need the added density. Dan Donahue, finance officer with the American Legion, spoke on behalf of the group at the meeting. Donahue said the non-profit organization exists to serve veterans and the community, and said added building space would allow them to continue to

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Spicy Lentils Join Turkey for ECDC First Thanksgiving Dinner



Sarah Zullo, director of the local Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) metro area chapter, welcomes refugees to the 6th First Thanksgiving Dinner for refugees. She says since all of those attending have arrived in the last year, this is truly their first Thanksgiving. They expect between 200-300 refugees, mostly Afghan but from El Salvador, Sudan and other African countries.



A crowd of refugees and immigrants are already seated at brightly decorated tables waiting for their First Thanksgiving Dinner to begin. Others line the wall waiting for their turn to have a seat. Before the evening is over between 200-300 will have tasted their first American turkey, with gravy and pumpkin pie. ECDC is one of the voluntary agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide initial placement and support services to refugees with a special focus on African refugees being resettled in the United States.



A refugee family chooses from among more than 30 dishes at the ECDC annual First Thanksgiving Dinner at the ECDC Community Center on N. Highland on Nov. 19. They examine the traditional corn pudding and head for the spicy red lentils. The dishes range from grilled chicken from Sudan, El Salvadoran pupusas, Afghan rice and lentils and American turkey and mac and cheese.

Trouble Down the Tracks

Regional Metro leadership outlines upcoming crisis

BY VERNON MILES

The good news is there's no planned fare increases or service reductions in the upcoming Metro budget.

The bad news is that without an adequate funding source the Metro system will continue to disintegrate.

At a Northern Virginia Transit Commission public forum on Nov. 16 in its Courthouse area headquarters, representatives of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax updated residents on the precarious situation of the region's rail system.

It's been one year since the Safe Track, a project that implemented systemwide delays to allow for greater maintenance on the aging rail lines. Combined with a fare increase and service reductions, Safe Track had a major impact on the system's ridership. With rising capital costs and dwindling revenue, the Metro system faces a \$7.5 billion funding gap.

"In FY 2017, capital spending was \$1.2 billion," said Paul Smedberg, a City Council member from Alexandria and the city's representative to NVTC. "It was the largest investment in the Metro since its completion. But by FY 2022, the budget will grow to \$1.5 billion."

For the FY2019 budget, Smedberg said the focus of the capital budget is on rehabilitation and maintenance of existing services, with 85 percent of the investments going into existing lines. Arlington County Board member and NVTC representative Christian Dorsey said the \$1.8 billion operating budget includes no service cuts or fare increases, but that the budget still has its share of challenges. The majority of the operating budget, 71 percent, is budgeted for Metro personnel, which meant the new budget reduced Metro staff by 800 employees. Some of those were vacant positions that weren't filled, but Dorsey said that also included employees who were laid off. There could be further Metro employee trouble looming as well. Metro employees are not permitted to strike, but that was adopted as part of a bargain that expired over a year ago. According to James Corcoran, CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Metro is in nego-



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

NVTC leadership, from left: Executive Director Kate Mattice, Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Alexandria City Councilor Paul Smedberg, Arlington County Board Member Christian Dorsey, and James Corcoran, CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

tiations with workers over the next few months to reach a new settlement, but Corcoran said that could change the negotiating power or add costs to the budget.

Corcoran also said there are challenges coming up that the FY 2019 budget does not address. The budget makes no contribution to the Metro's rainy day fund and makes no wage increases for Metro employees. The Phase 2 plan for the Silver Line includes increased bus and rail service, neither of which are covered in the FY 2019 budget. Even beyond what's already noted as unfunded plans coming up for Metro, Smedberg noted that there are costly projects like expanding the Rosslyn tunnel that are looming on the horizon that are vital to the system's long-term survival.

"Our expenses are growing essentially at twice the rate of our income," said Corcoran. "[Without outside funding] that's going to come from higher rider costs or reduced service."

But Corcoran noted those possibilities could also lead to what other regional leadership has called a death spiral, where driving up costs begins to reduce ridership, which continues to force costs for riders higher and higher. Corcoran also noted that revenue from ridership also accounts for a higher percentage than nearly any other Metro system in the country except New

York, whose density puts their subway system on a different economic scale.

The NVTC leadership argues that the Metro needs direct funding, but so far even maintaining existing levels of funding from the federal and state level is proving to be a challenge.

Smedberg emphasized the importance of the reauthorization of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA). PRIIA was first enacted in 2008 and has designated \$1.5 billion in funding to the Metro over 10 years. Maryland, Virginia and D.C. matched that funding with \$50 million each year for capital improvements. However, the transportation spending bill in the House Appropriations Committee would only allocate \$75 million to the Metro each year, a decrease from the \$150 million standard.

In Maryland, the state covers the cost of Metro usage, but in Virginia much of the funding is left to localities. In terms of state funding, Corcoran described 2019 as a fiscal cliff for the Metro system. Funding from Virginia bonds issued in 2009 will run out. In the proposed FY 2019 budget, Virginia and Maryland are hit with pretty heavy contribution increases. Alexandria's contribution to the operating budget, under the proposed FY 2019 budget, would increase from \$40.3 million to \$42.1 million, a 4.5 per-

cent increase. Fairfax County's contribution goes up from \$135.3 million to \$139.4 million, a 3 percent increase. Arlington's increase is slightly less, from \$70.9 million to \$72.8 million, a 2.7 percent increase. Smedberg said the jurisdictional contribution has been capped at three percent growth per year moving forward, but Corcoran noted that without funding from the state, more and more of those costs will begin to shift down to localities. As the bonds expire, the state's funding to the Metro system could start to steadily decline.

Many in the audience were confused by why the state would not put more funding into the Metro system.

"Virginia receives a 250 percent return on investment," said Griffin Smith, referencing an NVTC study. "I don't understand how the state could not fund this."

Dorsey said the main challenge in convincing the state is breaking through the regionalism rife in Richmond.

"To them, it's a [Northern Virginia] thing," said Dorsey. "We have to break through the idea that this just benefits the People's Republic of Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria. We have to make it patently obvious that this is a benefit by focusing on the dollars."

This can be difficult, Corcoran said, when Metro is competing for funding against education, prisons, and healthcare.

"Every official is looking for what's best for their locality," said Corcoran.

Alternatives have been proposed, but each of those have their own challenges. The idea of a regional sales tax was put forward, but was rejected at a state level. State Sen. George Barker, representing Alexandria, Fairfax and Prince William County, expressed concerns at the time that a sales tax across the region would put the financial burden unfairly onto Virginia. Without state approval, Dorsey said the localities also have varying levels of restrictions on whether or not they could implement a sales tax on their own. While Alexandria, as a city, has the autonomy to put a sales tax into place, Fairfax would be required to hold a referendum, which Arlington can't even initiate.

"There's a question of equity," said Smedberg. "One jurisdiction might be putting in more while having less stations. That's something that gives people heartburn."

Currently, much of the jurisdiction funding in Virginia is derived from a regional gas tax. However, no floor was ever set on this gas tax, so as prices on gas have continued to decline over the last few years, so has the revenue.

Al Francis, a Centreville resident, asked about the potential for expanding the Orange Line further into Northern Virginia, but NVTC leadership said that was unlikely in the near future.

"We can figure out how to expand," said Cathy Hudgins, a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, "but the focus right now is on maintaining. It's hard to argue for expansion in our current state."



FILE PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES

Commuters push their way through a crowd to depart train.



West-bound Orange Line train.

THANKSGIVING 2017

It's All About the Potatoes

School children at Hoffman-Boston Elementary School on South Queen Street chatter about Thanksgiving with the common themes being family and mashed potatoes.

Serenity Burs, 3rd grade, says sometimes they drive to North Carolina to see her "ge ge" but this year they will be going to her grandparents and aunt in Baltimore. They will have turkey and mashed potatoes and "mac and cheese, my favorite. There is a lot of food." She says, "I get to spend time with my sister and my dad and mother and we have fun."



Blen Solomon, 2nd grade, says she goes out with her mother to buy the Thanksgiving dinner with cornbread, mashed potatoes, pumpkin and apple pies and a turkey which her mother brings home and warms up a little. She stays home with her sister and mom on Thanksgiving and her favorite "is eating the food."

Obayar Janchiydorj, 4th grade, is Mongolian so "last year we didn't know about Thanksgiving. I think my mom will try to make a turkey this year and we'll probably have salad." He says "I have a lot of things I am grateful for, most of all having the whole family together, my baby sister, older sister, mom and dad."



Josephine Lynn Thomas, 3rd grade, goes to her grandparents in the country in Pennsylvania. "My grandpa hunts turkeys and I help him pick off the feathers." Then they make a little fire pit outside and collect wood from her grandpa's farm and cook the turkey, "oh, about half an hour." They have mashed potatoes and corn

"and my grandma taught my mom to make the old family recipes like lasagna which was my great great grandpa's favorite." Josephine is grateful at Thanksgiving when they pick up her birth mother at the airport "because I don't get to see her very often."



Danny Cushman, 5th grade, drives to Charlottesville "to his stepdad's brother's wife where there is a big crowd with their kids, the cousins and friends. First we talk, then we get our food, then we pray, then we eat and have dessert." He says they make the turkey a special way by putting it in a pot on a fire outside the house. "The fire heats up the water and we boil the turkey and then it cooks inside. And we have a new special way to make mashed potatoes this year in the blender." Sometimes after dinner they build a fort with big sticks or make a huge pile of leaves and hide in them. "I tell the kids to go get my mom; I want to jump out and scare her."



Cyana Still, 5th grade, says her grandmother makes great real homemade applesauce and cherry pie which she serves in a buffet with a tower of three pies including pumpkin and blueberry. She says they have a big dining room table for holidays, and the buffet goes on the kitchen table. This year they have a new turkey pot and, "I take off the skins of the yams and add milk and mash them with a fork and add a lot of cinnamon and sugar." It is special at Thanksgiving when her godmother comes from Texas "where I was born."



Miles McBride, 1st grade, drives with his family to his grandparents in Arlington. He says they have mashed potatoes, his favorite, and macaroni and cheese and ham, and they grill a chicken. He says they have a big round table with enough seats for everyone. His cousins and aunt are there, "a lot of people, about nine." Sometimes after dinner they play sports like tag or basketball or baseball and it's especially fun to play poison frog at the table where everyone closes their eyes and someone gets tapped to become the frog.

Join Us for Falls Church Tree Fest

Pass the love, please.
It's holiday time
at The Kensington!

We've saved a place for you,
at our table and in our hearts.

Come share in the magic of The Kensington holidays
as we gather for festivities, food and fun
with family and friends. Help us make lasting traditions
as we open our doors and spread a little cheer.

To kick off the season, please join us
for our first holiday event, co-hosted with Falls Church Arts.
Support your favorite cause with a donation
or a bid for a chance to win
a beautifully decorated holiday tree.

— Falls Church Tree Fest —

An annual holiday celebration and silent auction
to raise money and awareness for
Falls Church area nonprofits

Thursday, November 30, 2017 from 4:30pm-7:30pm
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OPINION

Shop Locally, Give Locally

Every day is for shopping small and shopping locally.

An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year that is Nov. 25. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is promoted as a day of national zeal for shopping. Presumably the next day shoppers can focus on local shopping.

EDITORIAL There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair. And in this area, there doesn't have to be anything small about shopping locally.

But still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a

variety of places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

The small business owner is often the leader for fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the holiday spirit there.

See Connection's Holiday Calendar for great celebrations near you.

❖ **Fairfax County:**

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/16/holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ **Arlington:**

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/arlinton-holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ **Potomac:**

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/potomac-almanac-holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ **Alexandria:**

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/20/alexandria-holiday-calendar-2017/

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Short Deadline for Children's Edition

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent via email, dropbox or google drive or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg

format.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. To be published, we must have first and last name of the student. Please include the student's age and/or grade, school attended and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Provide submissions by Friday, Dec. 1.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

❖ For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Give Locally in Arlington County

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger for tens of thousands of poor children in our area.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Arlington, about 8,000 (more than 30 percent) of the 23,300 Arlington public school students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals.

The median family income in Arlington rose

to \$140,838. But among families with children, more than 9 percent have income below the poverty level. That's \$20,420 for a family of three. That's about \$1,700 a month. Median rent in Arlington is more than \$1,800, meaning the cost for half the rentals is more than that.

These are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger — a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again after Thanksgiving, so please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

In no particular order:

❖ Arlington Free Clinic provides medical care for low-income, uninsured adults in Arlington. www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org 2921 11th St. South, Arlington, VA 22204, 703-979-1425

❖ Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, 703-525-7177, www.aachhomeless.org

❖ A-SPAN provides services for Arlington's street homeless. Its mission is to secure permanent housing for one of Arlington's most vulnerable

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Christina Eagle, one of the organizers of today's event, has just welcomed the students at the Arlington Public Schools Transition Fair on Nov. 15 and stands ready to answer questions from parents, students and community members attending the fair.



Booths assist students with disabilities by providing information on everything from county and Federal programs to assistance with filling out a job application and therapeutic recreation services.



Transition Fair Offers Empowerment Opportunities

More than 200 students browse through the tables set up in the Eagle Room at the Army-Navy Country Club on Nov. 15 for the third Arlington Public Schools Transition Fair.

According to Christina Eagle, transition and assistance coordinator at the Arlington Career Center, "The purpose is to connect families and students with community resources provided to have positive outcomes post graduation. It carries out the Arlington Public Schools (APS) goal 'to educate the whole child.'" She adds that they know people with disabilities get employment at

significantly lower levels and "we want to empower our students."

One of the tables offers information about Program for Employment Preparedness (PEP). According to Micah Stein-Verbit, coordinator of PEP, this program is a job internship for high school students with mild to moderate disabilities. "They intern three days a week from 1-4 years. They have their first supervisor, co-workers, expectations." He explains PEP helps interns prepare and guides them along the way. "They feel more confident about themselves." PEP had 54 interns this year.

A booth by the door focuses on

ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, Inc. (ECNV) whose goal is "to END dependence by empowering people with disabilities to live independently." Stein-Verbit says one of the programs is Transportation and Mobility where trainers provide individual instruction on using public transportation like buses and Metro. Participants can also receive "guidance in managing finances, food preparation, career counseling, utilizing community resources and other areas related to caring for oneself." The local Center for ECVN serves Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church.

Tables for the Arlington County Department of Disabilities Services and the Social Security Administration also offer printed information. Stein-Verbit says the Social Security table had a lot of questions last year.

Hire Autism, Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), Unlimited Work Opportunities, and Art Stream, which is a non-profit working on skills in the arts, are also represented.

This is the third year for the Transition Fair that is sponsored by the Arlington Public Schools and Special Education PTA (SEPTA).

Planning for Density

FROM PAGE 3

do so. The American Legion is planning a partnership with the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing to bring a new 161 multifamily residential affordable housing building to the site, with American Legion occupying the ground floor.

But even setting aside the benefits to the county from the new developments, County Board members said allowing for greater density on a site so close to the Metro corridor makes planning sense.

"It's really important to keep coming back to this framing: it's not about what's optimal for the program that will come forward, it's about what's good planning," said County Board member Katie Cristol. "In this case, this is based on really sound planning."

County Board member Christian Dorsey agreed.

"As many residents have come before us to testify today, there are other impacts going on in this surrounding area," said Dorsey. "Things developed in the near term and over the long term that could have a huge difference on how this neighborhood works. As we identify how to assess land use plan or this particular block, there's a great deal of anxiety associated with that. I would just like to say generally, our ability

to actually do a GLUP study is a wonderful thing for the community. At some point, these parcels will change, and you have no idea that it will be for the better. The idea that they will stay as is, with that level of impact ... there is absolutely no way that will happen. So the idea that we can manage that change is in all of our best interest."

Dorsey noted that this is the beginning of the development process, establishing the tone and guidelines for developments to come. To the residents that were concerned about the size of new buildings and their impacts on the neighborhood, Dorsey encouraged them to keep an eye on developments and continue to make themselves heard at the County Board if they see anything that doesn't fit with the planning principals of the study.

"We can't keep things the same," said County Board member Libby Garvey. "They are not staying the same. But these two nonprofits on this site are providing incredible services, they are wonderful members of our community, and we are trying to make it possible for that to continue for the next 70 years. This is what we need to do to make that happen."

The County Board approved the GLUP plan in a unanimous 5 - 0 vote.



Langston High School students join community members and senior citizens at the annual Thanksgiving dinner held at Langston-Brown Community and Senior Center on Lee Highway Nov. 17. The line forms out the door of the second floor community room where the ham, turkey, roast beef and the usual mac and cheese and corn pudding fill long tables.

Thanksgiving Gathering

Cleveland Jones, principal of Langston High School, fills up his plate with the Thanksgiving dinner which he started cooking four days ago. He has a carry-out container because he has to get back to the kitchen. Jones says he started this Thanksgiving dinner 15

years ago "because a lot of these kids have to work on Thanksgiving Day. The senior citizens complained so the next year we invited them and then came the firefighters." Now they invite the community to come together and celebrate Thanksgiving. Behind Jones is Charles Meng, executive director and CEO of Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) who donated the turkeys for the dinner. Meng says this is a good event that AFAC likes to support.



ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

“Crazy for You.” Through Jan. 14, various times at the Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. A musical comedy with Gershwin tunes including “I’ve Got Rhythm,” “Someone to Watch Over Me” and “Nice Work If You Can Get It” fuse with tap dancing. Visit www.sigtheatre.org.

Arlington Farmer’s Market. Every Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon at the corner of N. 14th Street and N. Courthouse Road. A weekly celebration of local food including fresh produce, meats, dairy, cheese, baked goods, free range eggs, specialty items, cut flowers, plants and herbs. Email csingiser@cfwdc.org or call 917-733-6402.

FRESHFARM Market. 3-7 p.m. on Tuesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Shop from local farmers and producers with seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh-cut flowers, container plants and herbs, farm-raised eggs, all-natural meats, artisan baked goods, and specialty foods. Visit www.crystallcity.org.

Mobile Bike Repair. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Drop off your bike on Thursday morning and have it tuned up and ready to ride before heading home. Email DC@velofix.com, or phone 855-VELO-FIX.

Food Truck Thursdays. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1900 Crystal Drive and 201 12th St. Actual truck schedules are subject to change so be sure to follow your favorites. Visit www.crystallcity.org.

Healthy Lifestyle Runs. Saturdays, 9 a.m. at Roosevelt Island, George Washington Memorial Parkway. American Cancer Society partners with parkrun USA to promote fitness in the fight against cancer. Free. Visit www.parkrun.us/rooseveltislanddc/.

Friday Night Live. 8 p.m. Fridays at the Church at Clarendon, 1210 N. Highland St., Suite A. Local musicians perform. Free. Visit 1bc.org.

Arlington’s Historical Museum Open on First Wednesdays. The Arlington Historical Museum is open to the public on the first Wednesday of every month from 12:30-3:30 p.m. The museum consists of exhibits chronicling Arlington County’s history from Native American settlements up to the present day. The museum will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is located in the former 1891 Hume School building at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Contact Garrett Peck at 571-243-1113 or at garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Open Mic Comedy. Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. at Ri Ra Irish Pub, 2915 Wilson Blvd. Doors open at 7 p.m. Age 21 and up only. Free show, \$25 cash prize for best joke. Call 703-248-9888 or Visit www.RiRa.com/ Arlington.

Invasive Plants Removal. Work parties are held every month to keep the parks free of destructive invasive plants. Teens, adults and families welcome. Every second Sunday of the month 2-4:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road; call 703-228-3403. Every third Sunday of the month 2-5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road; call 703-228-6535 or Visit registration.arlingtonva.us. Free, no registration required.

Karaoke. 8 p.m. on the first Sunday every month at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Visit



Piotroski New Works

Local artist Stanley Piotroski has art on exhibit for the month of November at Long & Foster, Real Estate’s office, 4600 Lee Highway. Call 703-998-3111 for more.

www.galaxyhut.com or call 703-525-8646.

Pub Quiz. 8 p.m. every Sunday at Whitlow’s on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd. Prizes for first place. Free. Visit www.whitlows.com or call 703-276-9693.

Storytime. Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30-11 a.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Storytime with Ms. Laura. Call 703-527-5929.

Lego Club. Monthly on the first Wednesday. 4-5 p.m. Glencarlyn Branch Library, 300 S. Kensington St. The library provides tubs of legos and a special challenge and after the program the creations are displayed for everyone to see. No registration required. Call 703-228-6548.

THROUGH DEC. 1

Local Artist Exhibition. Various times at Long & Foster, Real Estate’s office, 4600 Lee Highway. Local artist Stanley Piotroski has exhibition titled “Piotroski New Works,” on display at newly renovated office through Dec. 1. Call 703-998-3111.

THURSDAY/NOV. 23

Arlington Turkey Trot 2017. 8 a.m. at Christ Church of Arlington, 3020 N. Pershing Drive. 5K run supports a variety of Arlington nonprofits. \$45/25. Visit www.arlingtonvaturkeytrot.org.

NOV. 24-DEC. 13

Drafthouse’s 2017 Christmas Movie Festival. Various times at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Featuring “Elf,” “It’s A Wonderful Life,” “Home Alone,” “Miracle on 34th Street,” “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation,” “Scrooged,” and “Gremlins.” \$10 for unlimited admission. Visit arlingtondrafthouse.com/ or call 703-486-2345.

SUNDAY/NOV. 26

Opera NOVA. 3 p.m. Arlington Woman’s Club, 700 South Buchanan St. Opera arias, art songs and numbers from popular American musicals. Two young singers will participate as part of the new Young Artists Program. \$10 for adults, \$7 for members and free for children. Email mcdm1@verizon.net or call 703-536-7557.

TUESDAY/NOV. 28

Oh Nuts! 1-2 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Find out why squirrels and chipmunks are so busy squirreling away nuts. Ages 3-5. \$5. Call 703-228-6535 or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

Meet the Artist. 6-8 p.m. at the Courthouse Plaza Lobby, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. A look through the lens of Frank Hallam Day and Anne Rowland. Event sponsored by Arlington Arts and Arlington Transit. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org/ or www.arlingtontransit.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 30

Local Pop-Up Shops. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Plaza Library Shop, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., 1st Floor Lobby. Jules Jewels will be at a pop-up retail market dedicated to, wearable and edible products from innovators and artisans in Arlington. Visit www.arlingtoneconomicdevelopment.com.

Nutcracker Theatre Performances. Thursday and Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 and 5 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. Presented by Ballet Nova. Advanced Sale: \$15-\$38, additional \$3 at the door. Visit www.BalletNova.org.

Toys for Tots Happy Hour. 6-9 p.m. at Tortoise & Hare Bar and Grille, 567 23rd St. S., near the Crystal City

Metro Station. Food, drink and bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots. The toy cannot contain any food item or resemble any weapons. Presented by Le Chic Geek and Tagging Miles. Call 703-979-1872.

Crescendo Concert. 7 p.m. at Washington-Lee Auditorium, 1301 N. Stafford St. Crescendo Concert to celebrate Haydn. Visit www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org.

NOV. 30-DEC. 3

Lions Club Fruit Sale. Various times at St. Mary’s Arlington, 2609 N. Glebe Road. Fruits and nuts for sale. The proceeds from the sale benefit community non profits supported by the Lions Club. Visit www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/arlingtonva or call 703-598-8266 or 703-862-5956.

FRIDAY/DEC. 1

Tongue in Cheek Jazz Band. 7-9 p.m. at Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 South Walter Reed Drive. Listen to roaring ‘20s favorites. Light refreshments provided. Libations available for sale by New District Brewing Company. Proceeds will benefit CPRO’s West End Activation Committee. Call 703-228-5710.

DEC. 1-23

Holiday Hansel and Gretel. Thursday-Friday, 11 a.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. During the bustle of holiday crowds, Gretel tries to keep her brother, Hansel, out of trouble while their unengaged babysitter leaves Gretel to fend for them both. Visit synetictheater.org/.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Holiday Wreath Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S.



Opera

On Sunday, Nov. 26 see Opera NOVA, 3 p.m. Arlington Woman’s Club, 700 South Buchanan St. Opera arias, art songs and numbers from popular American musicals. Biljana (Bebe) Soldo is one of the two singers participating as part of the new Young Artists Program. \$10 for adults, \$7 for members and free for children. Email mcdm1@verizon.net or call 703-536-7557.

Carlin Springs Road. Music, refreshments, basic instruction and enough materials for each participant to make at least two wreaths. Participants should bring hand pruners or wire cutters if available and any extra materials or special decorations needed. \$30. Ages 12 and up. Call 703-228-3403, or email gulfbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

DEC. 2-3

Petite Nutcracker. Saturday and Sunday, 1 and 3 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. Presented by Ballet Nova. Advanced Sale: \$16-\$26, additional \$3 at the door. For 3-5 year olds. Visit www.BalletNova.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

Christmas Party and Open House. 3:30 p.m. at the Arlington Masonic Temple 1 S. George Mason Drive. Bethel No. 1, Arlington of the Job’s Daughters International is a charity organization, and there will be an Ugly T-shirt and Gingerbread Cookie Decorating Contest. Call 703-585-5513.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

Winter Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Stories and signs of winter will be the topic. Free. Ages 2 and up. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Birds of a Feather. 2-3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Learn about birds flocking together. \$5. Ages 6-10. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.
Remove Invasive Plants. 2-4 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N.

ENTERTAINMENT



Crescendo Concert

Crescendo musicians Max Herrmann, Malina Nelson, Billy Holtz, and Christopher Fox are featured in the Crescendo Concert, Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at Washington-Lee Auditorium, 1301 N Stafford St. Crescendo Concert to Celebrate Haydn. Visit www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org for more.

Military Road. Help assist the return of ferns and wildflowers, and the animals that depend on them, in areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. Call 703-228-3403, or email gulfbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

station, 1800 N. Lynn St. Enjoy holiday games, food and special winter drinks in addition to a life-size snow globe that attendees can step into and bring home a holiday picture card. Visit www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-carols-holiday-concert.

Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Celebrate the longest night of the year with candle making and roasting marshmallows for s'mores. Then take a night hike under the crescent moon. \$5. Call 703-228-3403, or email gulfbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

Candlelight Christmas Concert. 7 p.m. at the Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, 1500 North Glebe Road. Featuring the Mount Olivet Choir, Brass and Timpani. Call 540-539-3731 or email cindynewcomb27@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Nutcracker Tea at the Ritz. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City, 1250 S. Hayes St. Presented by Ballet Nova. High tea with pictures with the Sugar Plum Fairy, crafts, raffle prizes and a mini-performance of excerpts from The Nutcracker. Adults: \$75, Children under 12 - \$44. Visit www.BalletNova.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 14

Rosslyn Carols Holiday Concert. 5-10 p.m. at the Central Place Plaza across from the Rosslyn Metro

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

National Chamber Ensemble Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Soprano Rebecca Littig joins National Chamber Ensemble in "Holiday Cheer." Visit www.uucava.org/.

SUNDAY/DEC. 17

Flying Squirrel Lore and More. 5-6 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Learn about these engaging nocturnal acrobats. After an indoor presentation, tiptoe outside to see these little pixies glide in for an evening meal. Free. Ages 6 and up. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

THURSDAY/DEC. 21

Solstice Eve Hike and Campfire. 6-7:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature

SATURDAY/DEC. 30

Winter Bird Walk. 10-11:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. What birds are around in the winter? Some are familiar, year-round friends but others are winter-only visitors such as Winter Wrens and Brown Creepers. Beginners welcome and loaner binoculars are available. Free. Ages 6 and up. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

SUNDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Stroll and Campfire. 6-7:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Explore the park as the full moon rises, then ring out the old and bring in the new by tossing resolutions into a wishing campfire. Bring a flashlight. \$7. Ages 5 and up. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

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The Children's CONNECTION 2017

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.

Be Part of the Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The edition has won many awards. We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens, or other creative efforts. To submit material, identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to editors@connectionnewspapers.com. To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 27.



Publishes December 27 | Ads Due December 15

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Announcements

Legals

ABC LICENSE
Sodexo Management, Inc. trading as Sodexo Management, Inc. 2807 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, Va. 22207. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Caterer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Lorna Donatone, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE
Sodexo Management, Inc. trading as Marymount University WOW Cafe, 2807 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22207. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Lorna Donatone, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE
Big Buns, LLC trading as Big Buns Damn Good Burgers, 4251 Campbell Ave #105, Arlington, VA 22206. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Craig Carey, CEO. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

OPINION

Give Locally

FROM PAGE 6

- populations. P.O. Box 100731 Arlington, VA 22210, 703-820-4357, www.a-span.org/
- ❖ Arlington Thrive provides one-time, same-day emergency financial assistance to Arlington residents facing a financial crisis, and also has programs to help prevent homelessness. 703-558-0035, www.arlingtonthrive.org
 - ❖ Doorways for Women and Families provides services to help women out of domestic violence and homelessness toward safe and stable lives, Arlington, www.doorwaysva.org, 703-504-9400.
 - ❖ The Arlington Food Assistance Center provides supplemental food assistance to Arlington County residents, on average serving 3,500 adults and 1,500 children a week, plus weekend backpacks for about 300 homeless children attending the public schools in Arlington. 2708 South Nelson Street, Arlington, VA 22206, www.afac.org/, 703-845-8486.
 - ❖ Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Arlington, 703-521-9890.
 - ❖ Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, Kim Honor Matkovsky, volunteer chair, APAH Holiday Gift Drive, khonor@macrodg.com, 703-624-9583
 - ❖ Northern Virginia Family Services, 703-385-3267, www.nvfs.org, Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families.
 - ❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182. 703-506-9191, second-story.org. Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children.
 - ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 1100 N Glebe Road, Suite 373, Arlington, VA 22201, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org.
 - ❖ **Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia** offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/
 - ❖ **The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** has launched its Permanent Fund campaign, a community endowment which is a forever source to provide critical support for those in need in the Northern Virginia region; Consider leaving a legacy through a current or planned gift to the Permanent Fund at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. www.cfnova.org/permanentfund.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

TUESDAY/NOV. 28

Giving Tuesday. Starting at 8 a.m., donations made to Arlington Thrive through Facebook will be matched up to \$50,000 per nonprofit. There is only \$2 million available, so make donations early so Thrive can take advantage of this generous match. Facebook is waiving fees for donations made to nonprofits on Facebook this #Giving Tuesday. Visit arlingtonthrive.org.

HELP FILL THE CRUISER

The Arlington County Police Department is asking community members to donate new, unwrapped toys to bring holiday cheer to children ages newborn-17 with the third annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive. Donations will be distributed by the police department throughout the month of December.

Tuesday/Nov. 28, 6-8 p.m. at

- ❖ Lee Harrison Shopping Center, 2425 N. Harrison St.
 - ❖ Shirlington Village, 2700 S. Quincy St.
 - ❖ Our Lady of Lourdes, 830 23rd St. S.
- Drop off donations at Police Headquarters, 1425 N. Courthouse Road until Dec.15.

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Welcome to the Club



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Some club," as my late mother would likely scoff. And the club to which I refer is, to spin an old Groucho Marx joke: a club you'd rather not join especially if they'd have you as a member. This is of course, the cancer club, a club whose membership continues to grow despite worldwide efforts to the contrary. According to Medscope.com, one in two men and one in three women will be affected by cancer in their lifetime. Hardly a statistic to be ignored. And so, even though I had a rather uneventful/healthy upbringing and further on into adulthood, in late middle age, 54 and five months, Feb. 27, 2009, I was impacted and rudely awakened with a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis — out of the blue, and given a "13 month to two-year" prognosis to boot. As a life long non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer, whose parents both lived well into their 80s, I was more inclined to worry about the Boston Red Sox pitching depth than I was about cancer.

But cancer, for the past nearly nine years has been my life and amazingly, so far anyway, not the cause of my premature death (what death isn't 'premature?'). And what brightens my day and lifts my spirits more than anything else (other than a Red Sox World Series Championship) is when I meet a newly-diagnosed lung cancer patient who exhibits the can/will do positive-type attitude necessary to endure the inevitable ups and downs to follow. To be selfish, it empowers me and strengthens my own resolve to live life to the fullest (it's not as simple as saying it) and damn the torpedoes.

Within the last few months, I have met, over the phone, two such individuals. The first man, Lee, I met before he even had his first infusion. The second man, Mark, a bit more experienced, I met a year and a half after his first infusion. Each man was engaging, outgoing, confident, enthusiastic and quite frankly, happy to make my acquaintance. You see, after being given a less-than-desirable prognosis, it's helpful to meet someone who, despite having received a similar diagnosis, has nevertheless managed to live almost nine years post diagnosis. (If he can do it, I can do it kind of feeling.) As for me, the nearly nine-year survivor, meeting cancer patients who are at the beginning of their respective cancer journeys, helps me to reconnect with my roots, so to speak, and share and share alike some memorable experiences, both cancer-related and not. In a way, we get to live vicariously through one another which for me reinforces how lucky I've been to survive for as long as I have.

And not that I need reminding, but it's easy to take for granted one's good fortune and forget — occasionally, the seriousness of my situation and the cloud that hangs over my head. The sword of Damocles has got nothing on me, literally or figuratively. Living with cancer is akin to nothing really. The chance that you'll survive beyond your prognosis, maybe even have your tumors shrink, or see your scans show "no evidence of disease," creates a kind of tease that cause your emotions to run the gamut. The possibility of living after being told you're dying — and vice versa, perhaps more than once, over your abbreviated — or not, life expectancy, is simply too much to handle/absorb sometimes. It's a roller coaster for sure, but one that rarely comes to a complete stop and never allows you to get off. Moreover, it's not multiple rides, it's one long, endless ride with no guarantees about what happens next — or where it even happens.

Meeting people who are ready, willing and able to confront their cancer future is just as important and stimulating as meeting someone like me who hasn't succumbed to this terrible disease. It's a win-win situation. Particularly significant when at date of diagnosis, it appeared to be a lose-lose. I'm proud to be a member of the cancer club, especially so when I meet people like Lee and Mark.

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

11

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