

The Arlington Connection

Sen. Adam Ebbin (D): "Let's send a message to the nation that Democrats will stand up for the environment, protect reproductive freedom, and defend democracy and equality for all."

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SCREENSHOT VIA INSTAGRAM

Million Bazillion
At Dorothy Hamm

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'Grounded' Featuring
NOVA Opera Singers

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What
Happened on
Election Day

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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 Struc Id | Route # | Route Name | Crossing | Posted Date |
|--------------|--------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| GRAYSON | 8797 | 603 | FAIRWOOD RD. | BIG FOX CREEK | 10/26/2023 |
| BUCHANAN | 29763 | 2175 | DOOLEY RD. | STREAM | 10/26/2023 |
| SCOTT | 16776 | 654 | CLIFF MTN. WAY | DRY CREEK | 10/25/2023 |
| WASHINGTON | 18838 | 11 | LEE HIGHWAY | HALL CREEK | 10/24/2023 |
| BEDFORD | 2730 | 639 | HURRICANE DR/RT 639 | BRANCH OF OSLIN CREEK | 10/23/2023 |
| ROANOKE | 14809 | 0F880 | BREThERN RD/RT F880 | BRANCH OF BACK CREEK | 10/23/2023 |
| FAUQUIER | 7359 | 681 | HOLTZCLAW RD. | STREAM | 10/17/2023 |
| HIGHLAND | 10327 | 640 | BLUGRASS VALLEY RD (RT 640) | S BR POTOMAC RIVER | 10/16/2023 |
| ROCKBRIDGE | 15547 | 646 | BIG HILL RD (RT 646) | COLLIERS CREEK | 10/12/2023 |
| BEDFORD | 2823 | 695 | GOOSE CK VLY RT 695 | N. FORK GOOSE CREEK | 10/5/2023 |
| LOUDOUN | 11147 | 600 | NEW RD. | BULL RUN | 10/2/2023 |

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.

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

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

to enjoy games, camaraderie and the mental challenge. Mon., Nov. 20, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Madison 55+ Center. Drop-in.

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

Yarn Crafters, make hand-knit and crocheted items for Arlington charity organizations. Instruction and materials are available. Mon., Nov. 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in.

55+ Centers will be closed on Thurs., Nov. 23 and Fri., Nov. 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Short Story Reading and Discussion, take turns reading aloud from "The Storm" by Kate Chopin and share thoughts and opinions afterwards. Discussion led by 55+ volunteer Bill Turner. Mon., Nov. 20, 1-2:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center; register #911402-21 or virtual, register #911402-22.

Paint & Sip, paint along with Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen and recreate artworks on display at local museums, Thurs., Nov. 16, 10 a.m., virtual. Register #911303-14.

Genealogy 101, meet with other genealogy enthusiasts and experienced genealogist Eileen Bogdanoff to share information and tools and learn about your family's roots. Tues., Nov. 21, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Register #911402-03.

The historical significance of Hiawatha, chief of the Onandoga Nation and subject of Longfellow's poem "The Song of Hiawatha." Presented by Professor Mary McCutcheon of George Mason University. Thurs., Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m., virtual. Register #911400-27.

Join volunteers Linda and Steve Robinson for instruction and practice games of Bridge in a friendly environment. Tues., Nov. 21, 2-4 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Movie Matinee, "The Adam Project" (2022) (PG-13), Thurs., Nov. 16, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration #911804-11.

Discussion group focused on economic, cultural and political history, led by Dwight Rodgers of Encore Learning. Thurs., Nov. 16, 1 p.m., virtual. Register #911402-13.

Join friendly games of volleyball for players of all experience levels. Tues., Nov. 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Walk Your Way to Brain Health, presented by award-winning author Martha Murphy. Walking can improve health, creativity, mood and lower your risk of cognitive decline. Thurs., Nov. 16, 1:30 p.m., virtual. Register #911500-13.

Introduction to Ukulele, join volunteer instructor Sandy O'Shea for a beginner lesson on the ukulele, Tues., Nov. 21, 4-4:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center, register #911304-04. Feel free to stay for the intermediate class afterwards, Tues., Nov. 21, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center, register #911304-08. Limited ukuleles are available.

How to Navigate Social Media, discussion of different social media platforms and how to use them with 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez. Thurs., Nov. 16, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Register #911403-06.

Morning Meetup, start your day off right with great conversation and friends. Bring your own coffee. Wed., Nov. 22, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Beneath the surface and behind the scenes of three artists' techniques, context and history, presented by Community Arts Programmer Jim Halloran. Fri., Nov. 17, 10 a.m., virtual. Register #911302-06.

Play Bunco, a fun dice game of luck, no experience needed. Fri., Nov. 17, 1:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Register #911600-09.

Open Art Studio, bring your own materials and join other artists to work on your projects at your own pace. Wed., Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will enjoy a guided tour of the "Art and Ideals: President John F. Kennedy" Exhibit at the Kennedy Center, Fri., Nov. 17. Cost \$9, Arlington County resident; \$11, out-of-county resident. Register #902311-05.

View feed-good flick "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" with 55+ friends. Wed., Nov. 22, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Register #911804-08.

Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social, shop for unique gifts and support the 55+ Program, Sat., Nov. 18, 2 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Cost: \$3, paid online or at the door. Register #911899-04.

Local History Discussion, join other history enthusiasts to learn about Arlington's rich past. This month's topic is Fort Myer. Wed., Nov. 22, 1:30-2:45 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Register #911402-06.

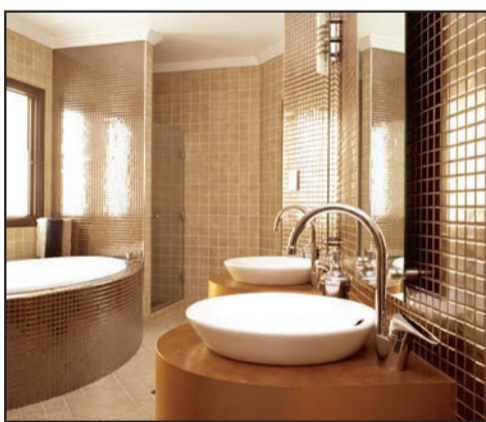
Latte Lounge, enjoy a hot or cold latte made by volunteer barista Ben Childers, Mon., Nov. 20, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Register #911801-04. Chess players of all levels are invited

Enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving buffet lunch at Dutch's Daughter restaurant with the 55+ Travel group. Thurs., Nov. 23, cost: \$71, Arlington resident, \$82, out-of-county resident. Register #902311-06.

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Million Bazillion Live! Brings Financial Literacy to Dorothy Hamm Middle School

Last month, middle schoolers at Dorothy Hamm Middle School learned about financial literacy with Million Bazillion Live! “Who Wants to be a Bazillionaire?” Based on the Webby-winning kids’ podcast Million Bazillion from Marketplace and presented by Greenlight, Million Bazillion Live! brings financial knowledge and empowerment to middle school students.

“We have an exciting event coming to Dorothy Hamm on Monday – a game show assembly called Million Bazillion: Who Wants to be a Bazillionaire,” said Dorothy Hamm’s morning announcements the week before. “It’s all about financial literacy with student and teacher participation. All classes will attend the show during the day, and we have another show in the evening for your families.”

American Public Media’s Marketplace, the most widely consumed business and

economic news programming in the country, partnered with Greenlight Financial Technology on a mission to help parents raise financially smart kids.

Personal finance education still is not a requirement for students to graduate in all 50 states. 27 states don’t require a personal finance course, even though teens score an average of 64% on the National Financial Literacy Test. At the same time, 93% of teens know they need financial knowledge and skills to achieve their life goals — and 97% of parents agree.

Presented in a fun, entertaining game show format, Million Bazillion Live! is an immersive experience with personal finance trivia, challenges, and prizes. During the tour, students cheer on their classmates while learning about real money matters such as budgeting, saving, and investing.

To learn more, visit millionbazillionlive.com.



Million Bazillion Live!

Toys for Arlington Children in Need

This holiday season, consider adding an Arlington child in need to your shopping list.

Beginning in November, the Arlington County Police Department will be hosting the ninth annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive benefiting children in need in the Arlington community. Bring joy to someone’s holiday by donating new, unwrapped toys at one of our collection events or stationary drop box locations.

Collection Events

Officers will collect new, unwrapped toys for children ages newborn to 17 at the following locations:

- Saturday, Nov. 18**
Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Lee Harrison Shopping Center, 2425 N. Harrison Street, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 25**
Arlington Assembly of God, 4501 N. Pershing Drive, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 2**
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 830 23rd Street S., from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street S., from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.



Stationary Drop Box Locations

If you are unable to attend one of our donation collection events, stationary drop boxes will be available at the following locations through Dec. 7.

Lost Dog Cafe, 5876 Washington

Boulevard
Cathedral of St. Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane
Arlington Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Administrative Support Unit, 1425 N. Courthouse Road
Ireland’s Four Courts, 2051 Wil-

son Boulevard
Celtic House Irish Pub, 2500 Columbia Pike
Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Avenue
Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, 333 Long Bridge Drive

Freddie’s Beach Bar, 555 23rd Street S.
Toy Distribution
Toys will be distributed by the Police Department throughout the Arlington community during the month of December.

THE ARLINGTON COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive

Donate new, unwrapped toys to benefit a child in need!

Saturday, November 18

| | |
|--|--|
| Westover Baptist Church 10 AM- 12 PM 1125 Patrick Henry Drive | Lee Harrison Shopping Center 3-5 PM 2425 N. Harrison Street |
|--|--|

Saturday, November 25

| | |
|--|---|
| Arlington Assembly of God 10 AM- 12 PM 4501 N. Pershing Drive | Arlington Central Library 3-5 PM 1015 N. Quincy Street |
|--|---|

Saturday, December 2

| | |
|---|--|
| Our Lady of Lourdes Church 10 AM- 12 PM 830 23rd Street S. | Walter Reed Community Center 3-5 PM 2909 16th Street S. |
|---|--|

Toys may also be donated at our stationary drop boxes available throughout Arlington County from **November 1- December 7**. Scan the QR code for a list of locations.

Tesori and Brant's 'Grounded' Lands at Washington National Opera

BY DAVID RYAN

On Tuesday Oct. 24, 2023, I had the good fortune to attend the dress rehearsal for the Washington National Opera's world premiere of "Grounded," whose music was written by Jeanine Tesori and its libretto by George Brant, who wrote the play the opera is based on. Opera NOVA's Artistic Director Jose Sacin and several singers who sang in its performances (pictured) were in the all-male chorus. Performances started on Saturday Oct. 28 until Monday Nov. 13 at the Kennedy Center Opera House. It is scheduled to be performed at the Metropolitan Opera next year.

The opera, which is about two-and-a-half hours long plus a 30 minute intermission, is about Jess, a female fighter pilot who gets impregnated by her husband, Eric while on leave and is shipped stateside. When she comes back to the military, the world has changed and fighter technology evolves from piloting a jet onsite to controlling a drone from thousands of miles away in a trailer in Las Vegas. Her work and home lives interfere with one other and cause her to descend into insanity.

When I go to the opera, I want that opera to make me think. What is the opera and its plot saying? What are the internal and external dynamics it is describing? How does it relate to current events and current society? How did opera evolve to get to this point, and what is it evolving into?

"Grounded" is no exception to this.

One topic I thought about while watching this opera is the evolution of military technology. In the first scene, it is set in the skies above Iraq in 1991. We see the continuation of war as it has been fought throughout history. The warrior going to the battlefield, putting his or her life on the line for the country or kingdom. In the next scene, we are in the 2000s, only a decade later chronologically, but in a different eon technologically. Our warrior is back in the military, but now that military is completely different. A new fighter system is rolled out, but instead of a fighter jet controlled by a pilot, it is a drone costing \$17 million and controlled by a "video gamer" from thousands of miles away. He or she sits in a chair looking at a screen showing a target that needs to be obliterated at the right moment for 12 hours before being replaced by the next and going home to be with the family. The most dangerous thing this warrior does is commute to and from work.

I have mixed feelings about this new technology. On one hand, it is a massive improvement for our service people. I am old enough to remember those who went to Vietnam young and healthy and returned dead, or with half their bodies missing, or their minds destroyed with mental illness or neurological problems. The new combat, called the "Chair Force" in the opera, eliminates that. On the other hand, it is now



Opera NOVA's Artistic Director Jose Sacin and several singers were in the all-male chorus of "Grounded." From left, Aurelio Dominguez, Jose Miguel Sacin, Nathan Letourneau, Alex Alburquerque, Eduardo Castor and Joseph Baker.

much easier to kill a human being. We need to be really careful that the ones we kill are the real targets and not innocents. The potential for misuse and abuse is great.

Grounded also made me think in an artistic way about what is going on in the world. In the first part of the opera after the opening scene, Jess gets impregnated by her future husband while on leave and is shipped stateside by her commander where she gives birth to her daughter Sam. This reminds me of the first scene of Tannhäuser when the title character goes from the glamorous world of Venusberg to the ordinary world of Wartburg. Substitute the skies over Iraq for Venusberg and Wyoming for Wartburg, and you have this part of Grounded. When the opera shifts to the 2000s and the Chair Force, other burgs start to come in. This makes me think about a very profound event that happened in the music world in the early 20th century. It shifted from a paradigm that lasted for many centuries dominated by a sequential progression of different musical styles to one where many different styles occurred in parallel (e.g., Serialism, Twelve Tone, Atonal, Neoclassical).

In opera, this is best illustrated by the first performances of three operas written in very different musical styles around 1925). These were Puccini's Turandot, the last of the great Italian operas and written in the Romantic style, Leos Janacek's Cunning Little Vixen,

an opera written in a somewhat tonal 20th century style, and Alban Berg's Wozzeck, a severe atonal operatic thriller.

Eventually Jess becomes disenchanted not only with doing the same thing every day but also with killing people so easily. This starts affecting her mental health and dents her car while commuting home from her job. The climax occurs when she has to shoot a high ranking enemy (named Cobra) when he makes a long awaited stop in his car. He gets out, but a little girl (whose name is not revealed in the opera) waiting there comes running up to him. Failing to distinguish between work and home, Jess, thinking the little girl is her daughter Sam refuses to shoot. Another Chair Force fighter (stationed in another trailer not portrayed onstage) is then commanded to shoot, which he does. Jess then sends the drone into a tailspin and crashes and destroys it, costing the Defense Department \$17 million. For this she

is grounded, court martialed, and sent to prison in an ending that is eerily reminiscent of the title character in Wozzeck. Jess is destroyed by her descent into insanity at the hands of the military.

Finally Grounded made me think about Opera NOVA, the company I work for, and how it has evolved and adapted to the changes of the past several years. The pandemic has hit the arts all over the world hard. Arlington is no exception. Opera NOVA evolved in several ways. First, it performed online concerts, which allowed it to get around many of the protocols put in place to prevent the spread of COVID. They were able to perform opera for housebound audiences who could not safely go to the opera – especially those who were elderly or had other medical conditions that could make COVID fatal or extremely disabling. Online concerts also made it possible for artists to perform at a time where work was not possible, making it possible to have an income and improving their mental health.

In addition, the company held meetings over Zoom. This not only made some semblance of a day-to-day world possible but expanded our potential volunteer base. Opera NOVA was no longer limited to the DC area for its volunteers and was able to recruit them all over the country from New England to the Rockies. Furthermore, company management realized that technologies related to Zoom could be used to simulcast performances such as the Children's Opera to remote places. One example would be a school near Pierre, SD attended by Native American school children.

In conclusion, Darwin concluded in his Theory of Evolution that those who are able to find and exploit new niches after a traumatic change in the environment will become those who will survive those changes. Those who fail to do so will die. Grounded illustrated this theory and how its characters were successful and unsuccessful in dealing with change. This will be an overriding paradigm in the 21st century. In addition, Opera NOVA President Miriam Miller said that the opera-going public is tiring of seeing the same thirty or forty operas all the time and is expressing a desire to see new operas. Hopefully we in the operatic community both inside and outside of Opera NOVA will be able to do this evolving and adapting to these changes successfully.

David Ryan is the Treasurer and Admin Officer for Opera NOVA

ENTERTAINMENT

CHECK OUT THE PLANT CLINICS!
The Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic at 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington operates on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N 14th and N Courthouse Roads operates on Saturdays from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. The Del Ray Farmers' Market

Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S Stafford St, Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7
 WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Girls on the Run of NOVA Celebration In November

Girls on the Run® of NOVA (GOTR NOVA) is excited to announce a 5K event on Nov. 19 in Arlington. The 5K in Arlington will be held at Grace Murray Hopper Park and will start at 8:30 a.m.

Girls on the Run NOVA holds the largest youth 5Ks in the area with over 1,400 kids expected to participate this November. These celebrations are the culminating events for Girls on the Run participants and coaches who have spent the 10-week season completing the research-based curriculum, which integrates physical activity to help

increase confidence, create positive connections with peers and coaches, and help students connect with their communities. The 5K provides a tangible sense of accomplishment and demonstrates that with hard work and dedication, you can achieve your goals.

All walkers and runners from the community are invited to join the fun by registering at www.gotrnova.org/5k. Registration is \$45 through Nov. 17 and will increase to \$50 on Nov. 18.

Register to participate or volunteer at www.gotrnova.org/5K.

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ARLINGTON CONNECTION ❖ NOVEMBER 15-21, 2023 ❖ 5

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OPINION

Thanking Del. Hope for Dedication to Animals

This year, as in every election year, animal protection was on the ballot. When we cast our vote at the polls, we decide who makes the laws in our Commonwealth, including legislation that can prevent animal cruelty. Now with election results coming in, multiple animal advocates are returning to the legislature to continue the good fight for our furry and feathered friends. Delegate Patrick Hope is one of those folks.

Endorsed by the Humane Society Legislative Fund, it was clear that Patrick Hope was the humane choice in the selection. Voters agreed. Delegate Hope will be returning to

the Virginia House of Delegates to represent humans and animals alike in District 1. His past leadership on banning wildlife killing contests and continual support of other pro-animal bills demonstrates his commitment to the animal protection cause.

Now, as Delegate Hope returns to Richmond, I want to take a moment to congratulate and thank him for his dedication to animals. Delegate Hope's election is not only a victory for Virginians who care deeply about animals – it is a real win for animals in the commonwealth to have a strong ally of returning to the state House of Delegates.

Diane Pedulla
Arlington, VA

Latinoamérica, Tierra Querida!

An enchanting evening of Latin American music and culture with the Brass Band of Northern Virginia! Under the direction of Dr. Brian Bowman, we invite you to our third concert of the season, "Latinoamérica, Tierra Querida!" (Latin America, the Land I Love). This event will take place on Nov. 18 at 6 p.m., in the serene setting of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 2609 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22207

The concert will feature soul-stirring compositions from Argentina, Mexico, Paraguay, Colombia, Cuba, and beyond, including the world premiere of L-Span-ya by David Rivas

Dominguez.

Patricio Constantino will join us as both a soloist and conductor. Patricio, a trailblazer in the world of brass bands, has been praised as an "evangelical converter" of brass band music, an Argentinian professional tuba player.

This concert is a rare opportunity to witness the U.S. and World premieres of several works, and to experience the passion and expertise of Patricio Constantino firsthand.

Admission is free, but seats are limited. Reserve your spot today for an unforgettable musical experience.

rockspringucc.org

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 29

Holiday Networking Happy Hour. 5-7 p.m. At The Commentary, Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. Register now to join the Ballston BID and Monument Home Loans as they SIP & JINGLE at The Commentary for the holidays. Enjoy festive cocktails and drinks at the Jingle Bar, sing along with live holiday music performances, and try delicious fare from The Commentary at the Westin Arlington Gateway.

POLICE HOST FILL THE CRUISER TOY DRIVE

This holiday season, consider adding an Arlington child in need to your shopping list. Beginning in November, the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) will be hosting the ninth annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive benefitting children in need in the Arlington community. Bring joy to someone's holiday by donating new, unwrapped toys at one of our collection events or stationary drop box locations.

Collection Events

Officers will collect new, unwrapped toys for children ages newborn to 17 at the following locations:

Saturday, November 18

Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lee Harrison Shopping Center, 2425 N. Harrison Street, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 25

Arlington Assembly of God, 4501 N. Pershing Drive, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 4

ground, Crystal City, Arlington. Nataliya Gurshman presents her solo show "Movement & Textures", featuring works in oil that originate from her experiences of winter growing up in Leningrad. These formative years became rooted in her soul and are expressed in her lush and textural pieces. Opening Reception: November 3, 2023, 5-7 p.m.

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

Proving Ground: The Untold Story of the Six Women Who Programmed the World's First Modern Computer. 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. Presented by Arlington AAUW. Speaker is Mark Massey, Chair, ENIAC Programmers Project.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Balalaika's Musical Magic. 3 p.m. At Kenmore Auditorium, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. The Washington Balalaika Society continues to celebrate its 35th year with a wonderful concert, Musical Magic!, featuring new repertoire and old favorites. This exciting new program was created by Conductor and Artistic Director, Svetlana Nikonova. Adults \$30; Seniors/Military \$25; Students \$15; Children 12 & under \$5. Visit www.balalaika.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Inova Bloodmobile. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ, 5010 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Register to schedule your appointment time; donating takes approximately 1 hour. Adults and youth ages 16 and up are eligible to donate. Call 703-538-4886 or email: info@

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We Need Your Help Again

We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784

Alexandria Gazette Packet
Publishing Since 1784

And affiliated newspapers
THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac ALMANAC
CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning of 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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Cause and Effect



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What a pleasure the last few months have been for you Kenny-column readers who aren't particularly interested in cancer. Rarely, if at all, has there been a cancer-centric, dare I admit, self-indulgent column for your tepid perusal. Oh sure, there's been the odd reference here or there, but nothing too intense or the least bit intentional to focus you on the ups and downs of life in the cancer lane. A bumpy road if there ever was one.

In fact, it's been over three months since I've droned on about cancer. An amount of time which coincides with the longest interval between scans that I've ever experienced: over four months. And as much as I would like (Oh, how I would like) to say that this reflects a cancer remission, it does not. Instead, it reflects how slowly my thyroid cancer is progressing, and a modest attempt as well by my oncologist to reduce/manage the amount of radiation I've been exposed to, and likely will continue to be exposed to, so long as I shall live, that is. Granted, from what I've been told, the amount of radiation I'm exposed to during one of my C.T. or P.E.T. scans are modest, in the scheme of things. Nevertheless, in my scheme, considering the number of scans I've had over nearly 15 years, there might be a cumulative – and side, effect: cancer. I guess having one cancer doesn't preclude you from getting another. (I think that's sort of unfair, don't you?)

When my oncologist explained his thinking for extending my scan interval to four months from three months, I was 100% for it. Initially he said that obviously my cancer is slow moving, given the almost 15 years we've been involved, so an additional month between diagnostic scans is reasonable/not likely problematic; especially because, he added, after all these years/scans, it is prudent that we try to minimize my exposure to radiation. One doesn't exactly build up an immunity to radiation. Upon hearing that concern, which I don't recall ever hearing or considering before, I perked up and asked "Really? Why now? What's the risk?" His answer was somewhere between ironic and predictable: "Cancer."

Incredulous, I blurted out: "Cancer? Do you mean to tell me that a side effect of my cancer treatment/diagnostic scanning is more cancer and not simply more of the same cancer?" "Yes, he replied." After all these treatment years of chemotherapy and changing my diagnosis from non-small cell lung cancer to papillary thyroid cancer, and beating all the odds, the (I don't want to say end) result might be that I've possibly caused another set of cancer tumors to take hold and threaten my life? "Cheese and crackers," as my late father said many times when surprised and disappointed by something somebody said to him. Or as I might have uttered, when I heard the oncologist's explanation: "Holy s***!" Seems like a dirty trick. But I imagine the choice at the beginning of my treatment was the here and now, not the maybe later. When you're diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, and given a terminal prognosis as I was, there's often not much talk of a later, so the focus better be on the present. And so, it was. And now, nearly 15 years later, the success of my own unexpected survival has a side effect of its own? As my former co-worker, Monique, would say: "Crazy kookie." Meaning, you can't make this stuff up. How I wish I was.

Well, I'm not going to overreact yet. I'll wait, as my oncologist said, for my late Nov. scan and my mid-November lab work to see if there have been any unfortunate changes. I often joke that the longer I live, the closer I get to the end rather than further away from the beginning. Not that I'm the least bit negative, as you regular readers know, but occasionally when you're aware of your health, as most cancer patients are, you do pay attention to what's happening to your body. And as much as you might want to chalk up any changes to older age, that's probably not the best approach. As my oncologist told me years ago, if I were to experience any new symptoms, particularly ones that persist for a few weeks, please contact him. And over the years, I have gotten better about honestly assessing my situation and making real-time decisions to get medical help, or at least get a medical opinion/evaluation about whatever is happening to me. As much as I'd love to ignore my situation and pretend that it's not as serious as it is, turning a blind eye or a deaf ear to my reality is not likely to solve the problem. Although the cancer I have is "incurable," it doesn't mean that I can't live a relatively normal life. It just means that I'll be undergoing treatment of some kind for the rest of my life. But I can live with that, hopefully. It just requires patience and understanding, and a whole lot of luck.

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

Virginia Dems: Blue Wall in Both Houses

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The morning after the Nov. 7 general election in Virginia, the Republican Party of Virginia had yet to update the tagline on its website. It read: “It’s a new day in Virginia.” The statement is accurate — not how the GOP probably meant it, but for most voters who cast their ballots last week.

Virginia Democrats emerged victorious in Tuesday’s elections, marking a significant shift in the state political landscape just two years after the Commonwealth took a right turn in the 2021 general election. In 2021, Republican Glenn Youngkin secured the governorship and the House of Delegates, propelling his conservative vision for Virginia. Because Democrats still controlled the Senate, much of Youngkin’s agenda hit a roadblock.

Now Democrats maintained control of the Senate and took a majority of seats in the House of Delegates. They will have even greater power over Youngkin’s policy agenda, but will have to work with him to advance their own.

Mark J. Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University, said the issue of abortion rights was key to the most competitive races that the Democrats won, and delivered partisan majorities in both houses.

“The Republicans were hoping that issues such as crime and safety and the economy, where the GOP has advantages, would be foremost in the minds of voters. But ultimately, abortion rights drove the Democratic turnout and helped swing voters to elect Democrats,” Rozell said. “The issue was paramount for many voters in this election cycle.”

While the governor tried to stake a middle ground on the issue with his 15-week ban proposal, according to Rozell, the problem was that voters likely believed that Republican majorities in both houses would pass either an outright ban or a more severe restriction than the governor’s proposal. “And, given that Virginia is the only southern state in the post-Dobbs environment not to have enacted an abortion restriction or banned abortion, this is the issue for this election. It powered Democratic turnout and benefited the Democrats with swing voters,” Rozell said.



Mark J. Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University

Arlington Election Results

<https://www.vpap.org/electionresults/20231107/local/arlington-county-va/>

| Candidate | Votes | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Arlington Sheriff | | |
| Jose R. Quiroz, Jr. | 52,283 | 96.61% |
| Write-In | 1,837 | 3.39% |
| Clerk of Court | | |
| <i>Arlington and Falls Church</i> | | |
| Paul F. Ferguson | 56,612 | 97.38% |
| Write-In | 1,524 | 2.62% |
| Arlington Commissioner of Revenue | | |
| Kim E. Klingler | 51,943 | 97.26% |
| Write-In | 1,465 | 2.74% |
| Commonwealth’s Attorney | | |
| <i>Arlington and Falls Church</i> | | |
| Parisa Dehghani-Tafti | 52,195 | 91.38% |
| Write-In | 4,925 | 8.62% |
| Arlington Treasurer | | |
| Carla F. de la Pava | 52,915 | 97.17% |
| Write-In | 1,541 | 2.83% |
| Arlington County Board | | |
| <i>Top 2 Finishers</i> | | |
| Susan R. Cunningham | 43,634 | 38.60% |
| Maureen E. Coffey | 39,860 | 35.26% |
| Audrey Rose Clement | 14,179 | 12.54% |
| Juan Carlos Fierro | 13,326 | 11.79% |
| Write-In | 2,056 | 1.82% |
| Arlington School Board | | |
| <i>Top Finisher</i> | | |
| Miranda H. Turner | 44,785 | 79.92% |
| James Vell Rives IV | 10,082 | 17.99% |
| Write-In | 1,169 | 2.09% |

Before the polls opened last week, Youngkin reposted @GovernorVA, “Democracy is not a spectator sport.” By late evening on Election Day, most registered voters cast their ballots for the Democratic candidates running for Virginia’s General Assembly seats.

“Governor Youngkin and Virginia Republicans did everything they could to take total control of state government, but the people of the Commonwealth rejected them,” said Susan Swecker, chair of the Democratic Party of Virginia. “Even with tens of millions spent and after every attempt to suppress the vote ... the blue brick wall in Virginia stands.”

The Virginia House unofficially turned from red to blue very late on Election Day, when Democrats took the House majority

with Michael Feggans’ win for District 97, flipping the House to 51 Democrats to 45 Republicans, with four seats undecided.

In the Senate, Democrats won by a narrow margin, 22 Democrats to 18 Republicans. The double setback denied Youngkin the critical advantage he sought to attain.

Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria) said on election night that despite breaking spending records, “Governor Youngkin was just served the biggest political rejection by voters of any Virginia governor in over three decades. Virginians sent Youngkin a message loud and clearly: Virginians don’t want the government banning books and interfering with their personal freedoms – whether it’s their reproductive rights, the right to breathe clean air, the safety of our communities from gun violence, or the sanctity of our democracy.”

Youngkin’s stand on those issues mattered to many, as Ebbin said, as did respect for trans students in public schools, and Virginia remaining in the Regional Greenhouse Initiative (RGGI).

In December 2022, with Youngkin’s nod, the State Air Pollution Control Board vot-

Unofficial Election Results Nov. 7, 2023

Virginia Senate

Democrats Hold the Majority with 21 of 40 Seats.

Unofficial Results Reported by Virginia Public Access Project
<https://www.vpap.org/electionresults/20231107/senate/>

Arlington Connection Coverage Area

| Candidate | Votes | Percent |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| <i>* Incumbent</i> | | |
| SD 39 (Alexandria/Arlington) | | |
| Adam Ebbin* (D) | 39,139 | 78.35% |
| Sophia Moshasha (R) | 10,816 | 21.65% |

SD 40 (Arlington County)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Barbara Favola* (D) | 46,127 | 80.68% |
| David Henshaw (R) | 10,872 | 19.02% |

Virginia House of Delegates

Democrats Take the Majority with 51 of 100 Seats.

Unofficial Results Reported by Virginia Public Access Project
<https://www.vpap.org/electionresults/20231107/house/>

Arlington Connection Coverage Area

| Candidate | Votes | Percent |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| <i>* Incumbent</i> | | |
| HD 1 (Arlington County) | | |
| Patrick Hope* (D) | 23,584 | 95.46% |
| HD 2 (Arlington County) | | |
| Adele McClure (D) | 16,542 | 95.24% |
| HD 3 (Arlington/Alexandria) | | |
| Alfonso Lopez* (D) | 16,837 | 81.45% |
| Mike Webb (I) | 3,582 | 17.33% |



SCREENSHOT VIA INSTAGRAM

Sen. Adam Ebbin (D): “Let’s send a message to the nation that Democrats will stand up for the environment, protect reproductive freedom, and defend democracy and equality for all.”

ed to begin withdrawing Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative “despite overwhelming support for the program from Virginian voters. The public comment period leading up to the vote resulted in over 90 percent of comments vehemently opposing a repeal of RGGI,” according to the Virginia Conservation Network.