

The Arlington Connection

Christopher Griesedieck II and Christopher Griesedieck III get ready for barbecue season at Bill's Hardware at the grand reopening Saturday, May 4.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 2 ♦ SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 5 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

9th Street Quartet 9SQ

PAGE 3

Bill's Reopening

PAGE 8

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU JULY 7

“HAIR”. At Signature Theatre, MAX Theatre, Arlington. The sensational, groundbreaking rock musical bursts with the jubilant spirit, raging rebellion and psychedelic color of the 1960s. A company of long-haired bohemian hippies on the cusp of adulthood champion freedom, pacifism, and joy, but confront a world thrown into chaos when one of their own receives a draft notice for the Vietnam War. Visit <https://www.sigtheatre.org/events/202324/hair/>

EVENTS AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Arlington National Cemetery Horticulture Tours. Meet at ANC Welcome Center, Arlington. Join them for spring horticulture tours, where the staff will teach you about Level III Accredited Memorial Arboretum and the plants that inhabit the 639-acre grounds. Learn more at arlingtoncemetery.mil.

SCHEDULE:

June 7 at 9 a.m. -- Turf and Trees of Arlington National Cemetery

APRIL 4 TO NOV 21

Ballston Farmers Market Returns.

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

MAY 1-31

Together We Rise: United Exhibit.

At Gallery Underground Arlington in Crystal City Shops, Arlington. The nonprofit organization Arlington Artists Alliance continues their partnership with Uniting US, presenting a new exhibit entitled Together We Rise: United. This group show features 18 military, veteran, and family member artists at the Gallery Underground in National Landing. The show features 2D and 3D works that celebrate the benefits of individual choice, freedom of speech, and the right to vote. Show attendees will experience the veterans' allegiance to our nation discovered through service, loss, and life after military service.

RANKED CHOICE

VOTING EVENTS

The League of Women Voters of Arlington & Alexandria City (LWVAAC) will be hosting three Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) training/educational events, as follows: Wednesday, 8 May, 6:30-7:30pm; Lubber Run Community Center (Hickory Room), 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington, VA

Sign up link here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ranked-choice-voting-rcv-educational-event-tickets-894054159057>

Wednesday, 15 May, 6:30-7:30pm; Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA

Sign up link here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ranked-choice-voting-rcv-educational-event-may-15-tickets-896735769827>

Saturday, 1 June, 1:30-2:30pm; Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street S., Arlington, VA



The McLean Art Society Spring Art Show and Sale will take place May 10-12, 2024 in Arlington.

McLean Art Society Spring Art Show and Sale

At the Exhibition Hall of Church of the Covenant, 2666 N. Military Road, Arlington. Sponsored by McLean Art Society and featuring works of over 20 talented local artists. Attendees can participate in a free raffle to win an original work of art, jewelry or fine art note cards, with hourly drawings throughout the week-end. A reception is planned for Friday, May 10 from 5-8 p.m. with the announcement of awards juried by acclaimed oil painter, Kurt Anderson, whose own works are featured in many of the leading galleries and museums in the country. Guests can enjoy an array of refreshments and meet the artists and the jurors. Hours of the show are Friday, May 10, 5-8 p.m., Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday, May 12, 12-3 p.m. Free to the public.



The National Chamber Ensemble “Concerto Celebration” will perform on Saturday, May 18, 2024 in Arlington.

Sign up link here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ranked-choice-voting-rcv-educational-event-june-1-tickets-896747063607>

The training is identical for each session and is being provided by the Arlington Office of Voter Registration and Elections. (Read about RCV here: <https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Elections/Ranked-Choice-Voting>).

Free parking is available at all three locations.

Direct questions to League of Women Voters of Arlington & Alexandria

lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 8

Coffee and Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Village. 10-11 a.m. Via Zoom Link. Road Scholar. Not-for-profit Road Scholar is the world's largest and most innovative creator of experiential learning opportunities, offering thousands of learning adventures in more than 100 countries and throughout the United States. Kelly Espy, a Road Scholar Ambassador, will talk about their unique programs and inspire you to get

National Chamber Ensemble “Concerto Celebration.”

7:30-9:30 p.m. At Marymount University's Ballston Auditorium, 1000 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. Featuring Beethoven's dramatic Piano Concerto No. 5 “The Emperor” with piano virtuoso Carlos César Rodriguez and the popular Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E Minor, one of my all-time favorite works. The National Chamber Ensemble provides a unique way to experience exceptional music that enriches our cultural life. From classical to contemporary compositions, internationally acclaimed musicians provide outstanding performances creating an environment that is warm, welcoming, and engaging.

out and see the world! This is a don't miss presentation for those planning their next vacation.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

The Friday Morning Music club will perform free chamber concerts in May, at St. George's Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington, adjacent to the Virginia Square Metro before taking a four-month summer break. The May 10 concert will feature works by Higdon, Podowski, Hahn, Debussy, Faure and Ravel. The concerts start at noon.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

LESSON ZERO. 9 p.m. to midnight. At Celtic House, 2500 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Admission is free and street parking is available. For more information see www.youtube.com/lessonzero and www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 15

Coffee and Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Village. 10-11 a.m. Via Zoom Link. Savvy Ladies is a unique volunteer organization that provides financial education to women to help them build the knowledge and confidence they need to thrive and develop a financially stable future. Tracie Wheeler, Director of Operations and Client Experience, and Chris Blakely, CFP, ChFC, will introduce us to Savvy Ladies, and address some of the financial challenges seniors may face as we age, regardless of your sex.

MAY 21 TO JULY 7

“Where the Mountain Meets the Sea.” At Signature Theatre, ARK Theatre, Arlington. A poignant, beautiful musical of parallel journeys from the writer of Apple TV+'s The Morning Show and directed by Timothy Douglas (Signature's The Color Purple). After he learns of his estranged father's death, a son recreates the cross-country trip his Haitian immigrant parents took before he was born. As he traces their journey across America, and bonds with the music his father adored, time blurs and erases the distance between them. Lyrical storytelling and an evocative folk score drive father and son to rediscover love, each other and their everlasting bond. Visit the website: <https://www.sigtheatre.org/events/202324/where-the-mountain-meets-the-sea/>

JUNE 1-2

Armed Forces Cycling Classic. Saturday, 7 a.m. – 2 p.m., Sunday, 7:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. At National Landing/Crystal City and Clarendon. The Armed Forces Cycling Classic (AFCC), presented by The Boeing Company, celebrates its 26th Edition as the DMV region's most prestigious cycling event when it returns to Arlington, the weekend of June 1st and 2nd. Saturday's Challenge Ride, for cyclists of all abilities, will kick off the weekend's cycling events, followed by the Crystal Cup Men's and Women's Pro/Am races. Sunday's Clarendon Cup will cap off the competition. The weekend's action begins early on Saturday, June 1 in Crystal City / National Landing with the Armed Forces Cycling Classic's Challenge Ride. The ride is a closed course open to cycling enthusiasts of all abilities, from casual amateurs to serious competitors as well as Corporate Challenge teams. Saturday will continue with the Women's Pro/AM race, as they begin their hunt for the weekend overall Omnium Prize (most consistent finisher over the two days), the Kids Race (9 and under), and concludes with Day 1 of the Men's Pro/AM. The 26th Clarendon Cup will take place on Sunday, June 2, and feature day two of the Women's and Men's Pro/AM races, where the talented winners will be declared on the iconic 1km course around the Clarendon Metro. Visit cyclingclassic.org.

Arlington's 9th Street Quartet Wows Crowd at St. George's Church

... and manages to tie in Jane Austen to Schubert.

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

When the 9th Street Quartet (9SQ) says their season finale will be “vibrant,” they mean it. Many Arlingtonians willingly gave up the first warm Sunday in a long time for a concert given by the Quartet, a concert which promised to link Franz Schubert with Jane Austen. Expectations were heightened when Violinist Matt Richardson described Schubert’s Cello Quintet in C Major as one of the most beautiful pieces of chamber music in the world, one which had set him on the path to life in a string quartet. Expectations increased when guest cellist Benjamin Wensel was introduced. And as Richardson said, “Once we put Schubert on the program, the hard question was: what to put with it?” The answer was “Visions and Miracles” by Christopher Theofanidis. And then Richardson, as he so often does, foreshadowed some of the highlights of the first piece, alerting the audience to the possibility of imagining trajectories, visions, ashes, space capsules and joy.

Richardson pointed out there were small children in the audience, and that they were most welcome (most of them belonged to the performers). It was, after all, Sunday



Wensel’s eyebrows as he communicated with members of the quintet or otherwise concentrated on the music were worth the price of admission.



Wensel was feeling the music.



Cellist Benjamin Wensel

afternoon. Richardson told the crowd there were “no applause shamers here at 9th street quartet. If you applaud in between movements we won’t mind. We’d rather you not stress over when to clap.” Very 9SQ.

The first piece, “Visions and Miracles” by American composer and Professor of Composition at Yale University, Christopher Theofanidis, was very modern, with plenty of the minor notes that are edgy but then assuaged by more color chords and even the occasional familiar “Do Re Mi Fa So La” scales or an old melody. “Visions and Miracles” was, as promised, full of images

and emotion. Theofanidis’ work is known for its exploration of dreams, visions, and metaphysics. He has told people he turned to the reflective influence of poetry in order to compose new works of a more sanguine nature after writing some pretty dark pieces. This piece is magical.

Schubert’s works, bridging the Classical and Romantic compositional styles, are famous for their lyricism, inventive textures and harmonic expression. The addition of a second cello to the traditional string quartet was an unusual thing for Schubert to do. The resonant second cello added depth and

texture and the second cellist was clearly having a great time playing it. Completed just two months prior to Schubert’s untimely death at the age of 31, the cello quintet remained unpublished for nearly 30 years, but once out in the public, became celebrated.

Schubert’s quintet required some vigorous playing and listening. It was the soundtrack to falling in love, flirting, a lover’s quarrel, and a kiss. The pizzicato from both cello and violin were evocative; the second, adagio movement is pure emotion. A lovely resolution at the end of the second would-

SEE ARLINGTON’S 9TH STREET, PAGE 4



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Arlington’s own 9th Street Quartet — with cellist Wensel — in an official portrait.

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Allison Otto, of the local Jane Austen Society told the crowd there was no certainty Austen ever heard Schubert, but they were contemporaries. From left, Andrew Rammon, Otto, Richardson, Stahr, and Alice Moore of Arlington.



Allison Otto, O’Hara Stahr, Matt Richardson and Dr. Michelle Richardson talk about the convergence of Schubert and Jane Austen in a post-performance chat.

ARLINGTON CONNECTION ❖ MAY 8-14, 2024 ❖ 3

Arlington's 9th Street Quartet Wows Crowd

FROM PAGE 3

have been enough to call it a great piece of music. The third and more turbulent movement puts all of that emotion in question, and the fourth returns to a happier place, with a Gypsy-like folk song melody, intensity and crescendo, and then, an amazing, joyous, triumphant ending, as though the musicians had done battle and at last run their épée through to victory ... the five musicians playing frantically and then pulling their bows together for one long final chord of relief.

Cellist Benjamin Wensel has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Syracuse Symphony, and has been a member of The U.S. Army Orchestra, Strolling Strings, and String Quartet since 2003. He earned degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Eastman School of Music. At Eastman, he served as assistant to renowned pedagogue Alan Harris.

So where was Jane Austen in all this? 9SQ was joined by members of the local chapter of the Jane



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

This young concert-goer was brought by his mother because "ever since we saw a string quartet in the Houston airport, he has been enthralled by string quartets and we try to take him whenever we can."

Austen Society of North America. The post-concert chat

revealed there was no reason to believe Jane Austen heard Schubert and no

reason to believe he read her books, but they were contemporaries for about ten years



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Jane Austen Society get-together in 2023.

And had similarities: both died young, both broke barriers with their writing and

composing, both lived in an era where music was extremely intimate and important,

Both were romantics and both remained unmarried.

Allison Otto, of the local Jane Austen Society, told the crowd there was no sheet music easily available, no internet, no recordings. A Schubert piece might reach the U.S. thirty years after it was

first played in Europe. Austen may have heard Mozart and Haydn thanks to her brother in London, but otherwise her sphere of music depended on friends to hand-copy music she could play on her piano-forte at home. Dr. Michelle Richardson, who has a PhD in music, said the crossover of the simple folk music Jane Austen danced to, and Schubert built into his cello quintet, was frequent. Several folk tunes possess the distinctive characteristics heard in the melodies of

Haydn; Beethoven arranged Irish airs.

To read more about and support the Saint George's Music program see:

<https://saintgeorgesmusic.org>

To learn more about and join the Jane Austen Society regional chapter, see:

<https://jasna.org>

To learn more and support the 9th Street Quartet,

see:<https://www.9thstreet-chambermusic.com>

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Virtual Center for Active Adults (VCAA), free, virtual programs five days a week includes fitness classes, lifelong learning programs and interactive games. For more information email, sashon@arlingtonva.us.

Drop-in fitness classes are offered at Lubber Run Community Center, total body fitness, Mondays, 10 a.m., Fridays, 10:15 a.m.; full fitness, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.; strength training, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. Cost \$4 per class or \$60 for a 15 sessions punch pass. Pay at Lubber Run's front desk.

Billiards, casual games, players of all levels are welcome, equipment provided, weekdays at Walter Reed 55+ Center, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Drop-in.

Volleyball, friendly games provide fun and exercise, beginners and experienced players welcome, Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Dance Party to celebrate Older Americans Month featuring music from different eras, Wednesday, May 8, 10:30 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Email favorite dance party songs to cconley1@arlingtonva.us. Dress up in an outfit from your favorite decade! Registration # 913899-02.

Mother's Day craft, create a unique card, Wednesday, May 8, 12:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Materials provided. Registration # 913310-09.

Mother's Day Music and Tea, music by pianist Valerie Welsh, Wednesday, May 8, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Bring photos of your mother, wife or children to share. Registration # 913890-03.

History roundtable group to discuss the impact of required primary education, Wednesday, May 8, 11:15 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913402-06.

The study of words and the history of the English language plus other items of linguistic interest, Wednesday, May 8, 10:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Facilitated by 55+ volunteer Steve Shapiro, Registration # 913402-21 or virtual, 913402-22.

Community Connections at Arlington Mill 55+ Center to hear about Aspire Afterschool Learning, Wednesday, May 8, 5 p.m. Part of a new initiative to learn about 55+ programs at the Center. Registration # 913400-05.

A Caregiver's Guide to Medicare, presented by Arlington's Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP), Wednesday, May 8,

10:30 a.m., virtual. Call to register, 703-228-1725 or email, MedicareHelp@arlingtonva.us.

Services for the blind and vision impaired, presented by Virginia Dept. for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), Thursday, May 9, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913400-08.

How to navigate social media, Thursday, May 9, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Bring your device and questions. Presented by 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration # 913403-05.

Butterflies and blossoms at Lubber

Run Community Center, leisurely walk to admire spring wildflowers, led by Long Branch Nature Center naturalist Rob Barnovsky, Thursday, May 9, 10 a.m. Meet at Lubber Run Amphitheater. Registration # 913106-19.

Beginner quilling, create delicate raised images on note cards using paper strips and a few basic tools, Thursday, May 9, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Cost \$18, supplies provided. Registration # 913310-06.

Homemade Mother's Day cards created
SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 7

CIVIL WAR BOOKS, RELICS & MEMORABILIA SHOW

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 – 4:00

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Step Up and Stamp Out

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Join the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) to Stamp Out Hunger on May 11 at the 32nd annual NALC Stamp Out Hunger food drive. The annual event is held on the second Saturday of May and traditionally falls just before Mother's Day.

Leave your non-perishable food donations outside your door before 9 a.m. on Saturday, and your local postal carrier will pick them up on their regular mail delivery route. All of the food collected in Arlington will be donated to AFAC, an independent community-based non-profit organization established 35 years ago.

In the April monthly newsletter, CEO Charles Meng says last year AFAC served 140,835 families, 30 percent more than in 2022. As of March 1, 2024 AFAC had already served 135,376 families, 25 percent more than last year. "If we continue at this rate, sometime during the week of June 2 AFAC will have served two million family visits throughout the 35 years since it was established." AFAC had served 3,781 families the week of mid-April.

AFAC receives about 40 percent of the groceries it distributes through food donations such as those received during the Stamp Out Hunger Drive, and the other 60 percent is



AFAC food delivery truck. AFAC delivers to 172 sites in Arlington and two new sites outside the county.

purchased on the wholesale market, mostly from funding received from donors.

"AFAC receives no Federal or state funding and only a small percent of our \$4.6 million budget from Arlington County," Meng explains. He says these county funds were depleted on Oct. 3, 2023 which is three days after the first quarter of the new year, and at the current rate of client visits and rising cost of food AFAC will be faced with raising roughly one million dollars over the annual budget to cover the anticipated costs for this year.

AFAC's most requested items are: low-so-

dium tuna, canned beans, canned soup and tomato products (including diced, paste and sauce) and low sugar cereal. Each family in need receives supplemental groceries including milk, eggs, fresh protein and fresh produce as well as a choice of non-perishable items. The goal is to collect 15,000 pounds of food during the food drive for AFAC's families.

AFAC also has food collection boxes scattered across the county in businesses, faith-based organizations and the Central Library for collection of donations year round. For more information: afac.org.

FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

The Doggone Truth



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When your computer is incapacitated because your golden retriever-puppy regularly lays himself down under your desk smack dab in the middle of all the jumbled computer/cable wires and inadvertently disconnects something and you can't figure it out, it's easy to blame the puppy; after all, that's what they do. However, the owner not being able to reconnect the wires/determine the reason for the loss of power; that's operator error - meaning yours truly. And though I may sound a bit amused now after the fact, for the three days I was disconnected from the world until my neighbor Robert returned home from North Carolina (who spent less than five minutes assessing and reconnecting my computer), I was most definitely at a loss of awareness and access, a pretty uncomfortable position.

A little background: my wife, Dina, is fond of saying about Burton (the golden): "Daddy's dog." Which means Burton is, generally speaking wherever I am. The reason being that goldens usually bond with one person in the household and I am his 'one.' Even though Dina and a neighbor drove four hours-plus to Lexington, Va. to meet up with the breeder, and then once home, Dina spent the next few months sleeping on the living-room couch next to Burton (in his crate) in order to take him outside multiple times during the night, (as puppies require to house-train as quickly as possible while I slept uninterrupted upstairs) didn't have an effect on Burton. Dina's over-night walks with him were a major commitment on her part and typically, the most arduous and hands-on task of puppy-hood. Once trained however, the joys of dog ownership increase exponentially. Despite Dina's months-long effort, Burton seems to have chosen me as "the bondee."

As such, often when I am sitting at my desk working on the computer, Burton is "denning" underneath, curled up with his head resting on the floor/wires. (Although I do cover the wires with an apron to minimize his direct involvement. Still, with miscellaneous dog and owner movements, invariably the wires and all get exposed.) I wouldn't want him any other place though. It's a great comfort to me - especially as a cancer patient, to have Burton at my feet/by my side/on the couch, et. cetera, to lessen the fear, anxiety, and occasional loneliness of a "terminal" diagnosis. (My original prognosis was "13 months to two years" in late Feb. 2009.) Having another life to take care of (Burton's) is a huge distractor and super positive reinforcer. And most importantly - and effectively, the presence and responsibility of owning a dog is a tremendous decompressor in my life, especially given the emotional demands of a cancer diagnosis.

Nevertheless, a cancer diagnosis plays havoc with your emotional state and your priorities. It's been my experience, (and I think 15+ years of gives me credibility), that your life changes after a cancer diagnosis (Duh!) But it's not as simple as that is obvious. Cancer takes over your life in numerous ways, some of which are top of mind, and others which are subconscious. Decision making, prioritizing, allocating, bucket-listing (if you're so inclined), what you want to eat, what you drink, what television shows you watch, what clothes you wear, what activities you engage in, and on and on and on. Cancer takes hold and without you realizing it, something or other matters for some reason - for which you have no substantive explanation except one: the cancer made me do it.

Moreover, your reactions, your mood, your tolerance (to people, places, and/or things), your inclinations, maybe even your instincts, become like those computer/cable wires: a jumbled mess. And just as I have no interest in unjamming those wires, even with Burton's current location (at my feet, laying on the wires) endangering my connections to the world, a recurring thought I have is: "I don't care. Life is too short. I can't be bothered." When Robert suggested that he could arrange/wrap the wires and cable so that Burton is less of a threat, I shrugged my shoulders. In many instances, cancer makes you stupid. Your brain reorients your thinking/problem solving in unfamiliar ways and the outcome in some cases, is not you - or not as you remember yourself. You don't exactly get lost in your cancer-affected world, but you definitely get somewhere different than you had been your entire pre-cancer diagnosis life.

Someplace where I had been in my pre-cancer life was with our second golden, Bailey, and so it only seems fitting and helpful to be back in the dog business. If there are computer problems because of it, so be it. It's not worth the aggravation. "Life's too short" (Don't I know it!)

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

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

FROM PAGE 5

ed with preschoolers, Friday, May 10, Lubber Run 55+ Center. Supplies provided. Registration # 913310-10.

Puzzle Mondays at Langston-Brown 55+ Center, May 13, 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Lots of puzzles on hand or bring one of your own. Drop-in.

Reader's Theater (new), a form of theatrical performance that emphasizes oral interpretations of written texts without sets, costumes and memorization, Tuesday, May 14, 5:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Led by 55+ Center Director Jennifer Weber. Registration # 913301-13.

Ukulele Fever Concert, presented by the 55+ ukulele class taught by Sandy O'Shea, Tuesday, May 14, 4 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center, registration # 913301-08 or virtual, registration # 913301-09.

The Hollywood Casino in Charles Town, WV is on the agenda for the 55+ Travel group, Wednesday, May 15. Cost \$13, Arlington resident; \$15, non-resident. Registration # 902405-07.

Give line dancing a try, lots of fun, easy to learn and a low impact exercise, Wednesday, May 15, 10:15 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Try this before joining a beginner's class. Drop-in.

Tracking spring bird migration with volunteers from Arlington Regional Master Naturalists and the Audubon Society, Wednesday, May 15, 4 p.m., Arlington

Mill 55+ Center. Learn how to support migratory birds. Registration # 913400-27.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "Lucrezia Borgia" by Gaetano Donizetti, Wednesday, May 15, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Commentary by volunteer George Cecchetti. Registration # 913300-11.

Open art studio for artists who work at their own pace, Wednesday, May 15 and Friday, May 17, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Supplies and instruction not provided. Drop-in.

Piano lounge and sing-along with pianist Valerie Welsh, showcasing movie themes and hits, Wednesday, May 15, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913304-17.

Cooking demonstration of food for a healthy heart, Thursday, May 16, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers. Registration # 913501-09.

Paint along with Community Arts Programmers Jennifer Droblyen and Jim Halloran and recreate artworks on display at area museums, Thursday, May 16, 10 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913303-13.

Bilingual trivia in Spanish and English, Thursday, May 16, 1 p.m., virtual. Basic knowledge of Spanish is needed. Beginners welcome. Registration # 913600-11.

Bilingual Bingo in English and Spanish, Thursday, May 16, 3:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913600-02.

Word games, Thursday, May 16, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Some games available including Scrabble and Banagrams or bring a favorite one to share. Registration # 913600-23.

Matinee movie, "The Boy and the Heron" (2023) (PG-13), Friday, May 17, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 913804-10.

Talons to Bills: Birds' Adaptations, learn how birds survive, presented by Rob Barovsky, naturalist at Long Branch Nature Center, Friday, May 17, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913400-28.

Acoustic Hour in Virginia Highlands Park, Friday, May 17, 1 p.m. Live music by PhEd Up with Phriends.

Bring a blanket or chair. If inclement weather, event will be held indoors at Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration #913301-07.

Walter Reed 55+ Center's sensory garden of plants and herbs, Friday, May 17, 1 p.m. Tour with volunteer Wendy Sparrow. Registration # 913106-16.

Just Play'n Country, bring an instrument and join the band or sing-along and listen to music with roots in Irish, folk and blues, Friday, May 17, 1 p.m., Madison Community Center. Drop-in.



Christopher Griesedieck II and Christopher Griesedieck III get ready for barbecue season at Bill's Hardware at the grand reopening Saturday, May 4.



Over the weekend, customers stop in to check out the new look for Bill's Hardware during reopening festivities.

Bill's Hardware Reopens Reimagined

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Bill's Hardware had a grand reopening over the weekend. As a matter of fact, it was grand enough that one customer said, "I've been coming here for years and when I walked in I wondered where I was."

Brandon Williams stands outside the door of Bill's Hardware demonstrating the merits of a Big Green Egg barbecue with covered metal trays lined up and ready for tasting. "I started off with smoked meat with Kentucky barbecue sauce, then some meatballs and then boneless, skinless chicken thighs with our citrus herb seasoning. Now I'm making flank steak." He says, "Big Green Egg grills started in Atlanta 50 years ago with grilling on the side of the street just like we're doing today."



Brandon Williams demonstrates the virtues of the Big Green Egg grill at Bill's Hardware on Saturday, May 4.

Bill's Hardware has been at its location on Buchanan Street since 1979. Locals were used to wandering down narrow aisles and searching crowded shelves for their particular bungee cord, Phillips screwdriver, mousetrap or toilet valve. The hardware store has now joined the nationwide Ace Hardware store network and replaced the former Tru Value products, adding Milwaukee and Craftsman power tools and Benjamin Moore paints as well as a number of

other new items. The walls have been painted, the floors redone and the product selection rearranged and broadened.

Customers each received a big red Ace's shopping bag with the instruction that they could take 20 percent off the price of whatever fits inside. One customer put his can of specially mixed "Weathered Oak" Minwax stain in his bag while another speculates how he could stuff a new Big Egg Green grill into his bag. Meanwhile four-year-old Christopher Griesedieck III wrestles with a big box for the grill at home.

In 15 minutes the line has grown from one customer to a queue snaking around the snack food display and down the aisle. One customer peers through the door and comments, "I think maybe I'll come back tomorrow." But that's ok. Sunday will offer more coupons, special deals and giveaways.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 5K

The Arlington County Police Department will conduct road closures in order to accommodate the 2024 National Police Week 5K on Saturday, May 11, 2024. The race begins at approximately 9:00 a.m. and the following roadways will be closed in order to accommodate the event:
From approximately 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Army Navy Drive, from 12th Street S. to S. Eads Street

Southbound Route 110 ramp to Army Navy Drive From approximately 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Army Navy Drive, from S. Eads Street to S. Joyce Street
S. Joyce Street, from Army Navy Drive to Columbia Pike
Southgate Road, from S. Nash Street to Columbia Pike
From approximately 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
S. Eads Street, from Army Navy Drive to 12th Street S.
11th Street S., from S. Eads Street to Army Navy Drive
Columbia Pike, from S. Joyce Street to the Washington Boulevard Ramp
Southbound Washington Boulevard, from Memo-

rial Circle to Columbia Pike
Southbound Route 110, from I-66 East and Wilson Boulevard to Army Navy Drive / I-395 North ramp
Northbound I-395 ramp to Army Navy Drive (Exit 8C)
Ramp to Army Navy Drive from exit 8A / Arlington Ridge Road/ Washington Boulevard

DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal

is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYwDZm4tPw2.
Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South 19th St., is seeking to replenish its food pantry. Particularly needed are rice (large bags appreciated, the pantry will rebag), dry beans, canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org for more.