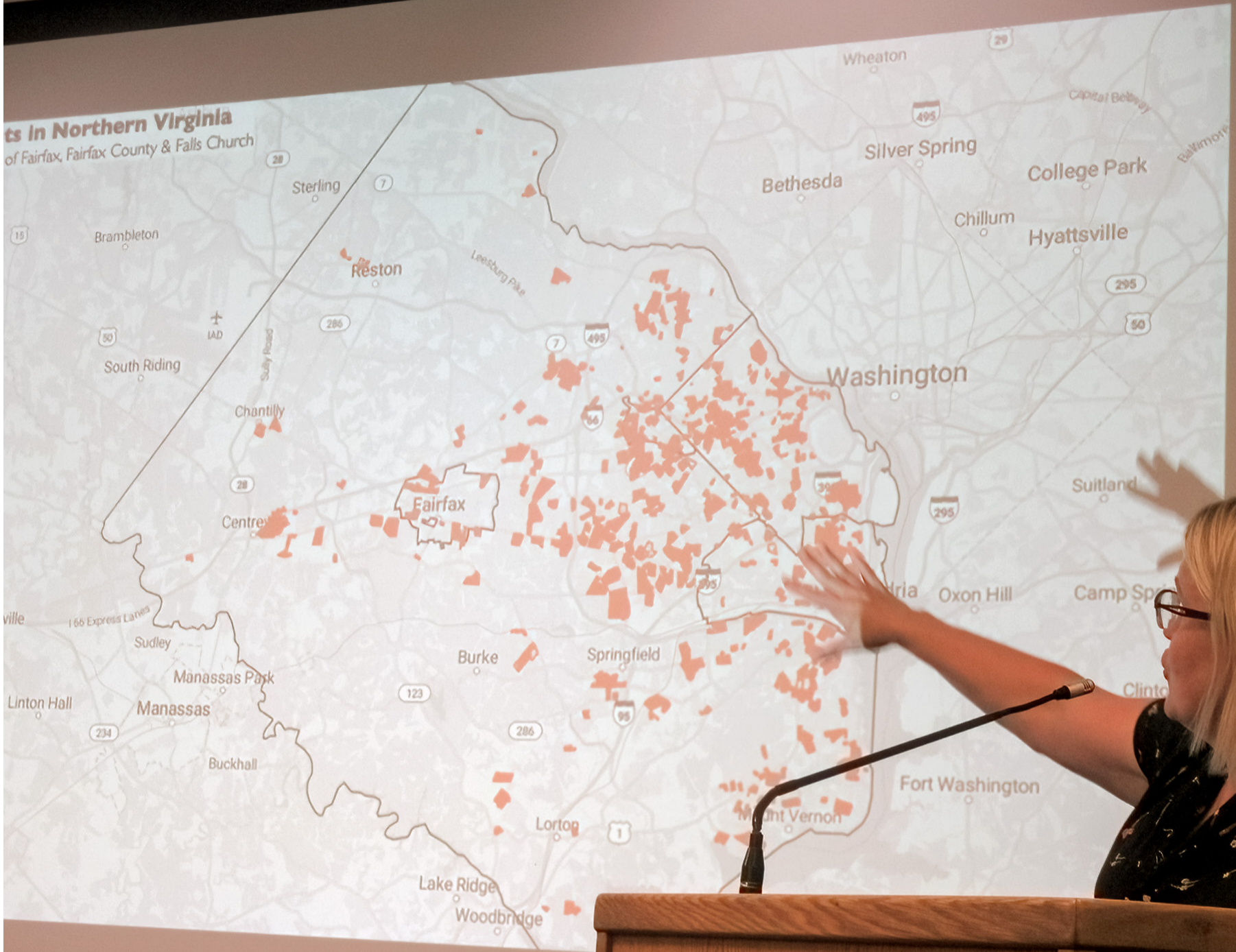


SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 2 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 4 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH/THE CONNECTION



Dr. Krystyn Moon showed a map of racial covenants in Northern Virginia.

Hope Advocating
for Prison Reform
PAGE 3

Housing Inequality, Anchored by Deeds

PAGE 7

SENIOR LIVING

“Flourishing After 55”

Office of 55+ Programs
Department of Parks and Recreation
300 N. Park Dr.,
Arlington, VA 22203
703-228-4747

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.

Registration is open for 2024 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics to be held Sept. 14-29.

Register online at www.nvso.us. Cost \$20 for multiple events. For more information, email nvso1982@gmail.com.

55+ Travel group will travel to the Barnes in Philadelphia to visit the “Matisse & Renoir: New Encounters” exhibition, Thursday, Sept. 5. Cost \$110, Arlington resident; \$127, non-resident. Registration #902409-02.

Election 2024 and what you need to know, Thursday, Sept. 5, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Presented by Gretchen Reinemeyer, Director of Elections at the Voter Registration Office. Registration # 911400-10.

Walk Fit, free weekly walking program offered by VHC Health, Thursday,

Sept. 5-Nov. 21 8:30 a.m., Lubber Run Community Center. 45-minute walk on indoor track and 15-minute guided stretching to promote balance, flexibility and mobility. Open to all ages; 55+ Pass not required. Registration # 911106-14.

Fitness equipment orientation to learn how to use equipment safely and effectively at Madison, Thomas Jefferson and Lubber Run Community Centers, Thursday, Sept. 5, 11 a.m., Madison Center. Registration # 911100-11.

Retro fun and games social to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Arlington’s 55+ Program, includes snacks and games from the past, Friday, Sept. 6, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 911899-03.

Traveler and 55+ volunteer Lowell Nelson will discuss his recent trip to Nepal and physical challenges to trekking, Friday, Sept. 6, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 911400-27.

55+ Travel group will visit the Mushroom Festival at Kennett Square, PA, the Mushroom Capital of the World, Saturday, Sept. 7.

55+ Travel group will journey to Ronks, PA for the Fall Doo Wop Cavalcade at the American Music Theatre, Sunday, Sept. 8. Music from the 50s and 60s. Cost \$173, Arlington resident; \$199, non-resident. Registration # 902409-04. Lunch included.

Original Medicare versus Medicare

Advantage, Monday, Sept. 9, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., virtual. Presented by counselors from Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP). Register by calling 703-228-1725 or email, MedicareHelp@arlingtonva.us.

Advanced care planning 101, two-part series presented by the Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC), Mondays, Sept. 9 and Sept 16, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Learn the process of communicating your healthcare wishes in an advance directive. Led by Kathleen Garcés-Foley, PhD, director of CIAC. Must attend first session to attend second. Registration # 911404-02.

Memoir writing with writer Mim Placke, informal, exchange ideas, share memories, Mondays, Sept. 9 through Nov. 18, 10:15 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911300-06.

Mosquito and tick management presented by Regional Master Naturalist Kasha Helget, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m., virtual. Registration # 911400-39.

Performance parking with Parking and Curbside Manager Melissa McMahon, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 11:15 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Hear options to find available parking and the most affordable parking options. Registration # 911400-08.

Haiku workshop to learn the basics of Japanese poetry, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 12 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center.

Presented by award winning haiku poet Rick Black. Registration # 911300-07.

Socializing as you age, presented by Insight Memory Care team, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 911500-07.

Cooking with the power out, presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Maser Food Volunteers, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 911501-01.

Learn about owls that call Arlington County home, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 4 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Take a short walk to meet a live owl. Presented by Gulf Branch Nature Center naturalist Gabby Hrycshyn. Registration # 911400-40.

History roundtable participants will discuss the impact of famines in history, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 11:15 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911402-04.

Join Energy Masters for a fun bingo event focusing on energy and water efficiency, Thursday, Sept. 12, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Energy Masters is a joint program with Virginia Cooperative Extension and EcoAction Arlington. Registration # 911401-01.

The art of downsizing, interactive course with licensed realtor Philippa Main, Thursday, Sept. 12, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center.

Registration # 911404-03.

A Day in Annapolis for the 55+ Travel group, Thursday, Sept. 12. Visit historic sites, stroll the City Dock, dine at a popular restaurant. Cost \$12, Arlington resident; \$14, non-resident. Registration # 902409-06.

55+ Travel group will attend the Maryland Seafood Festival in Annapolis, Saturday, Sept. 14. Cost \$33, Arlington resident; \$38, non-resident. Registration # 902409-07.

“Saving Claire: The Story of Denying Gravity,” a documentary film that explores the complexities of aging, Friday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. View the film and listen to an expert panel discussion afterwards. Presented by VHC Health. Registration # 911502-01.

Senior Olympics social and pep rally for participants and supporters, open to all ages, no 55+ pass needed, Friday, Sept. 13, 11 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911899-04. NVSO opens Saturday, Sept. 14, 9:30 a.m., Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Open to the public.

The Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs (AASP) is sponsoring a BBQ picnic to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Arlington County’s 55+ Program, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 12-3 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Deadline to register is Friday, Sept. 13. Cost \$10. Check with local 55+ centers for details. Registration # 911899-10.

22nd Annual

ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL

An Outdoor Art Festival on John Carlyle Square

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Prison Reform Takes Long, Tortuous Path

Del. Hope advocates for more humane conditions for incarcerated people.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Del. Patrick Hope (D-47) spearheaded legislation this session that creates a state ombudsman over the Department of Corrections. “I hope this will allow us to go in and inform us of what is going on so we can independently discover violations on best practices. They will go to every facility and file a report. We know a lot is going on so we need a neutral, objective party to go in. We’ll make sure it is funded.”

Hope says civil rights violations could be things like not allowing a prisoner to use a Bible, not allowing a prisoner to get a haircut, or inadequate food, denying weekly mental health checks or out-of-cell-time activity. “A little sunshine can’t hurt.”

This is one step in the long road to change the conditions at state prisons including solitary confinement practices, now referred to as restricted housing. Hope says he first got involved in 2010 when the Legal Aid Justice Center came to him. He led a group of legislators to visit Red Onion, a supermax prison located in Pound, a remote part of southwestern Virginia. “I decided to go visit and talk to inmates.” They told him it wasn’t easy but he was welcome to talk to people. Hope talked to anyone in



Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), champion of Virginia prison reform,

“A little sunshine can’t hurt.”

— Del. Patrick Hope

solitary confinement who would speak to him.

“When we talked through a cell, it was a difficult conversation. The prisoners would often say, ‘I don’t know why I’m here.’ It was a hard conversation to have through glass and bars.” Hope says some people go in for a short time with the average stay 11 days but he is much more concerned about people who are in solitary confinement long term.

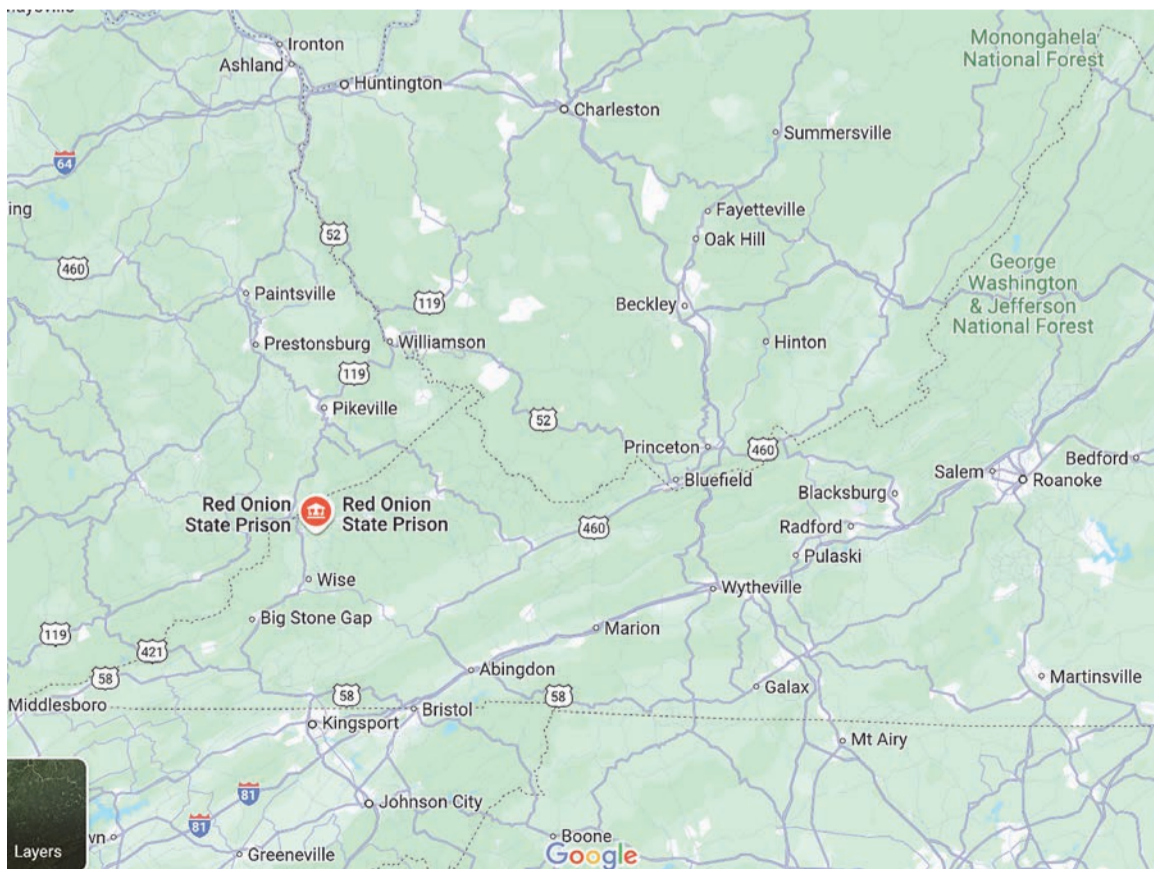
The impact of the effects of isolation, which studies indicate exacerbates a prisoner’s bad behavior and mental illness, has caused a number of states to scale back its use and to look into reforming the system.

Hope says the culture at the Department of Corrections is to use isolation as punishment. But he added that some prisoners want to be in solitary confinement because they are afraid. “I went to Red Onion which is a maximum security facility where a prisoner could have name recognition and want to be in solitary confinement until the threat of harm from other prisoners goes

away.”

Virginia is one of 44 states that use solitary confinement. According to the Virginia Department of Corrections, more than 7,000 people incarcerated in Virginia prisons were placed in solitary confinement units (about the size of a parking space) at some point

SEE PRISON REFORM, PAGE 7



Location of Red Onion state prison.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Maryland’s Dale Rogers uses steel along with an incredible imagination to weld and hand-finish larger-than-life whimsical, outdoor sculptures.

Alexandria Old Town Art Festival

The Alexandria Old Town Art Festival returns to John Carlyle Square for the 22nd year. The popular, free showcase featuring thousands of fine art works from local and national artists happens Sept. 14 - 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Presented by Howard Alan Events, the Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival throughout the decades has become a hallmark staple event for residents and visitors alike. Local and national artists will display their works in a show encompassing fine jewelry, exquisite works of art and handcrafted apparel and decor. Art enthusiasts discover spectacular paint-

ings, life-sized sculptures, jewelry, glasswork, photography, ceramics and more. All artists will be on site for the duration of the festival, allowing visitors to discover the inspiration behind each original piece. Admission for patrons is free, and ample parking is available.

Once again, The Art League brings back its popular “Ice Cream Bowl” Fundraiser on Saturday, September 14. Patrons can visit their booth and select from hundreds of handmade bowls lovingly created by the talented artists of The Art League’s ceramics department — and enjoy an ice cream treat, all for only \$15 per bowl. Proceeds benefit the League’s ceramics department.



Fairfax painter Jill Banks uses daily life as inspiration for her breathtaking impressionistic oil works.

ENTERTAINMENT

CENTERS FOR OPPORTUNITY ARLINGTON

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

VOLUNTEER FOR ARLINGTON'S COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM!

Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV), in partnership with Arlington County and Marymount University, has started the Community Ambassador Program (CAP). CAP is a volunteer fueled system that identifies "Ambassadors" connected with civic associations, faith communities, senior centers, apartment buildings, etc. These individuals will be trained to be a reliable source of information about the many opportunities available to older adults in Arlington.

Ambassadors will spread the word about programs and support services, opportunities for social and civic engagement, and educational and enrichment activities for older adults in their own neighborhoods. They are actively recruiting ambassadors to act as a bridge between their community and the Arlington safety net, providing information and soliciting feedback to improve offerings that help older adults remain safe, independent, engaged, and connected to their community.

Contact cap@anvarlington.org if this is something you are interested in or want to learn more. Let's work together to create a supported and connected community for all ages!

Receive Support Services
Are you a senior in Arlington? Do you need support services but don't know where to look? Are you looking for fun and enriching activities in Arlington? Email or call 703-509-8057 and they will connect you with an Ambassador!

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

Quiz the Candidates Night. 7 p.m.

At Lubber Run Community Center, Arlington. Get your questions answered by both County Board and School Board candidates during a moderated Q&A session. County Board candidates Audrey Clement, Juan Carlos Fierro, Madison Granger, and JD Spain, Sr. and School Board candidates Kathleen Clark, Zuraya Tapia-Hadley, James Vell Rives, and Paul Weiss will engage on local issues as they seek to fill open seats in the November 2024 election.

THURSDAYS THRU NOV. 21

Ballston Farmers Market, Thursdays from 3-7 p.m. At Welburn Square, near Ballston Metro, Arlington. More than 20 vendors in Ballston – both fan-favorites and newcomers. This year also sees the return of the Mega Markets – sponsored this season by VIDA Fitness. Mega Markets feature the addition of live music from local musicians and a Beer and Wine Garden.

NOW THRU OCT. 6

Locally Sourced Arlington Artists Alliance Member Juried Show.



The Rosslyn Jazz Fest takes place Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024 at Gateway Park in Rosslyn.



The Close Encounters Solo Show by Jessica Mickey will be held Sept. 4-28, 2024 at 2100 Crystal Drive in Arlington.



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



Volunteer for Arlington's Community Ambassador Program.

At The Crossing Clarendon, 2700 Clarendon Blvd., Suite R330, Arlington. Locally Sourced spotlights Arlington artists and fosters a sense of pride and appreciation for our local creative community, in this new pop-up boutique gallery space. The exhibition showcases a curated selection of artworks that speak directly to the essence of our local identity. Juried by Yigit Cakar, commissioner for the Arlington Commission for the Arts. Opening Reception: Thursday, August 29, 5-7 p.m.; Gallery Hours Thursday to Sunday 12-6 p.m. Visit <https://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org/events>

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 4

Overdose Awareness Candlelight Vigil. 7 p.m. At Courthouse Plaza, Arlington. The third annual overdose awareness Candlelight vigil – come together as a community to remember those who have lost their lives to overdose and honor the family, friends, and first responders impacted by overdose.

SEPT. 4-28

Close Encounters Solo Show by Jes-

sica Mickey. At 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Close Encounters is a vibrant exploration of the personal, the up close, and the crowded. Jessica's oil paintings radiate calculated energy and love, and her beautiful imagery of people, places and objects enthusiastically invites the viewer to be a part of each specific encounter. Opening Reception: Friday, September 6, 2024, 5-7 p.m.; Closing Reception: Saturday, September 21, 2-5 p.m.; New Gallery Hours WED-FRI 11 a.m.-6 p.m. | SAT 12-6 p.m.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Rosslyn Jazz Fest. 1-7 p.m. At Gateway Park, Rosslyn, Arlington. Jazz is back for the 32nd Annual Jazz Fest! Rosslyn Jazz Fest is free and registration is not required, but strongly encouraged, as there are capacity limits at Gateway Park. Join up at Gateway Park for an afternoon of music, food trucks, yard games, community table experiences, and tons of fun!

SCHEDULE:

1:00 p.m.: Cecily
2:20 p.m.: Ranky Tanky

3:45 p.m.: The Rumble Ft. Chief Joseph Boudreaux Jr.
5:30 p.m.: El Laberinto del Coco

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Let it FLOW! by Scott Pennington.

1-7 p.m. At Gateway Park, Rosslyn. Match and toss bean bags with images of cotton swabs, dental floss, cat litter, human waste, toilet paper, cigarette butts, "flushable" wipes, etc. with the proper disposal vessel: sink, toilet, trash can or the food scraps collection bin. This colorful carnival game built specifically for Arlington by artist Scott Pennington is designed to accommodate two to three players at a time making it fun for friends and family! Learn how household waste impacts the County's wastewater collection and treatment systems and how you can help. Let it FLOW! runs through October 26.

SEPT. 8 - 17

CANstruction Exhibit. Visit the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City (1100 S Hayes St., Arlington) to witness the annual CANstruction structures, larger-than-life creations built completely from canned goods! The installations, designed by local DMV architectural firms, will be open to the public until Sept. 15, when all the canned goods will be donated to food insecure Arlingtonians this fall.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 13

Summer Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. The U.S. Air Force Band returns to the Air Force Memorial in Arlington. Free and open to the public.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 13

VHC Health Workshop. 2-3 p.m. Improve Mobility, Gain Strength & Prevent Falls. At Arlington Central Library, Auditorium, Arlington. In this free workshop, Cathy Turner, VHC Health Director Health Promotion & Senior Health, ACE certified fitness instructor and Active Aging instructor, will provide participants with exercises and stretches to help strengthen the muscles in their arms, legs, back, and hips. These exercises help with maintaining muscle mass, improving mobility and reducing risk of falls. Register at: seniorhealth@vhchealth.org or 703-558-6859.

SEPT. 13-15

It's a Steal! Art Show. Sponsored by Arlington Artists Alliance. At Church of the Covenant, 2666 Military Road, Arlington. This favorite community event offers real

art from local artists at affordable prices! Find hundreds of works for art for sale under \$150 that will include original paintings (framed or ready for hanging), sculpture, pottery, glass, note cards, prints, matted--unframed--originals, and much more, all created by artist members of the local nonprofit Arlington Artists Alliance. Opening Reception: Friday, September 13, 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, September 14: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, September 15: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit <https://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org/events>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Girls Try Hockey for Free Day. Registration is now open for the NHL's Washington Capitals DMV Girls Try Hockey For Free Day, taking place at 18 rinks across Virginia and Maryland on Saturday, Sept. 14.: Participating clubs in Virginia include: Arlington, Va. - Caps Academy (at MedStar Capitals Iceplex in Arlington, VA)

Haymarket, Va. - the Piedmont Predators (at Haymarket IcePlex in Haymarket, VA),
Leesburg, Va. - the Loudoun Knights (at Ion ITC in Leesburg, VA)
Reston, Va. - the Reston Raiders (at Skatequest in Reston, VA)
Richmond, Va. - the Richmond Generals (at Richmond Ice Zone in North Chesterfield, VA)
Springfield, Va. - The St. James (at The St. James in Springfield, VA).

Virginia Beach, Va. - the Hampton Roads Junior Admirals (at Iceland in Virginia Beach, VA)
Woodbridge, Va. - the Potomac Lady Patriots (at Prince William Ice Center in Woodbridge, VA)

About the Initiative:
DMV Girls Try Hockey for Free is a program that provides local girls ages 4-9 the chance to try hockey during a one-to-two-hour ice session at no cost.

Required equipment is loaned to participants through the local youth hockey organization. Interested families can register at capsyouthhockey.com/girlsthff Try Hockey for Free days also provide local youth hockey associations with a platform and opportunity to acquire new players locally and engage interested families into youth hockey programs across the region.

Last year, more than 300 girls ages 4-9 tried hockey for the first time through the event, and more than 30% of girls registered to continue to play.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14 Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime

www.connectionnewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

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

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Rock-n-Recycle Open House. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Arlington County Trades Center, 4300 29th Street S., Arlington. Explore the world of composting, recycling, trash-to-energy and other key environmental services. See the big work machines (The Rock Crusher! The Tub Grinder!) up close, sit in the driver's seat and meet the experts who keep Arlington clean and sustainable. Visit arlingtonva.us/Rock-n-Recycle

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Shredding for Hunger. Support AFAC at the annual Shredding for Hunger Free Community Drive-In Shredding Event, sponsored by Ann Wilson Homes. Just drive up to Arlington Church of the Brethren (300 N. Montague Street, Arlington) with documents to be shredded anytime between 10 a.m.-1 p.m., pop the trunk, and they'll do the rest! All non-perishable food and monetary donations brought to the event will benefit those coming to AFAC for free weekly groceries.

MONDAY/SEPTEMBER 16

Tenth Annual Golf Tournament. Tee up at AFAC's Tenth Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, September 16 to take a swing at hunger! Located at Army Navy Country Club (1700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington), the tournament begins with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. and features a variety of golfer perks, including auction items that both attendees and non-attendees can bid on. Sponsorships are limited. Visit givebutter.com/AFAC-Golf

MONDAY/SEPT. 16

Eliza Scidmore: The Trailblazing Journalist behind Washington's Cherry Trees. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. At Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. Presented by Arlington AAUW. Book talk with author Diana P. Parsell who will discuss Eliza Scidmore, the American woman who fought to bring the Japanese cherry trees to Washington, D.C., in the early 20th century.

MONDAY/SEPT. 16

AFAC Golf Tournament. At Army Navy Country Club, Arlington. Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Don't miss out on the opportunity to play this award-winning course, enjoy a day filled with amenities at the exclusive ANCC Clubhouse, and fight hunger in Arlington - all at once! Golfer perks include:
--18-hole game at Army Navy Country Club Golf Course Lunch provided by Sloppy Mama's (beer and soda provided too)
--Complimentary beverage cart options provided on the golf course
--Dinner provided by ANCC which

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includes a full open bar
--\$50 gift card to spend at the ANCC Pro Shop (expires 12/31/2024)
--Professional exterior car wash while you golf
Sponsorship only packages are available now! If you have questions, contact Jolie Smith at 571-384-1443 or email jolie.smith@afac.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

Alzheimer's & Caregiving Conference. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington. The free conference sponsored by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America is open to everyone and will allow participants to learn from experts in the field of Alzheimer's disease, brain health, caregiving, and self-care. To register, go to www.alzfdn.org/tour. Advance registration is highly recommended. Free, confidential memory screenings will be conducted throughout the day.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Travel Writer Barbara Noe Kennedy. 7 to 9 p.m. At NRECA Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. The Arlington Sister City Association invites you to a presentation by renowned travel writer Barbara Noe Kennedy on her new book: 100 Things To Do In Arlington Virginia Before You Die. Tickets \$30.

SEPT. 21-22

STUDIO TOUR, 59 Arlington Art Studios to Open to Public. This year will mark the seventh Arlington Visual Art Studio Tour, which is a joint effort of independent artists and volunteers, supported by contributors including Schnider Investment Group and Dominion Lighting, and in cooperation with Arlington's visual art organizations. The Tour is a community-building event that allows visitors to discover the artists who are also their neighbors. The Tour will publish names, locations and opening hours of participating artists, so that anyone can create their own itinerary to meet the artists in their maker spaces and see their work. Studios in South Arlington will open Saturday Sept. 21, and those in North Arlington, on Sunday Sept. 22. This year, the assortment of artwork includes painting, assemblage, collage, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, weaving and fiber, drawing, papercutting, glass, metalwork, calligraphy and jewelry. Visit <https://www.arlingtonartstudiotour.org>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

2024 American Horticultural Society Gala. 6-10:30 p.m. At River Farm, Alexandria. The annual soiree not only highlights the vibrant culture of gardening and horticultural practices but also raises vital funds to support AHS's outreach and educational programs and the stewardship of River Farm, headquarters of the AHS. The gala will feature cocktails, dinner, dancing and mingling set amongst River Farm's stunning gardens on the Potomac River. Complimentary valet is also included. Attire is black-tie. Individual tickets are \$375 each, and sponsorships start at \$1,250. Visit www.ahsgardening.org/2024gala to purchase tickets and sponsorships.

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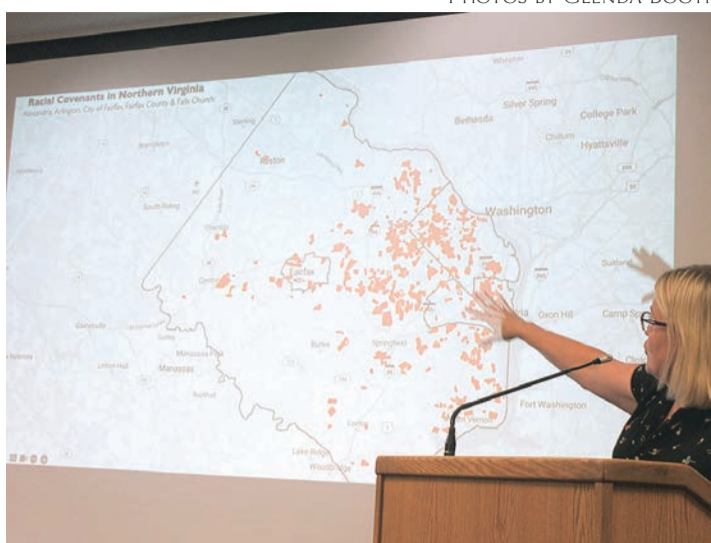


HISTORY OF RACIAL COVENANTS

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Dr. Krystyn Moon covered the history of racial discrimination in housing in Northern Virginia.



Dr. Krystyn Moon showed a map of racial covenants in Northern Virginia.

Really Dina? Part II



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After finishing yet another piece of Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devils Food Iced Cake," one described on the Entenmann's website as a "sinfully good cake with a "Heavenly Marshmallow Frosting," Dina says to me: "That's pretty good cake" in her usual underwhelming way.

Really Dina? I've only been obsessing over locating this particular cake item for years while complaining how its availability locally is inexcusably limited - as in zero. "You're telling me?" The last time I found this cake, other than a week or so ago at my local Safeway (miracles do happen), I found it, actually good friends found it their local supermarket in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania a year or so ago. The purchase of which spawned two Kenny-columns which discussed in excruciating detail the exact circumstances surrounding this momentous occasion.

However, this random-type purchase is hardly sufficient to keep my "sweet teeth" satisfied. As such, I regularly stop at away-from-home supermarkets in search of this non-buried treasure. And though I can semi find, generally speaking the location of items within a certain radius on the Entenmann's site, it doesn't give me chapter and verse (address and phone number) so I can confirm the cake's presence and secure its purchase. Moreover, having called supermarkets before attempting to locate and confirm an item's availability, I have realized that searching in person is more reliable. Inventory control isn't quite up to the task, in my experience.

Therefore, when convenient, I will walk into a store unannounced and "spy with my little eye" where the Entenmann's items are displayed and keep my fingers crossed. I've had some success finding this object of my desire. So, when away from home, I "stop and pop," to invoke a basketball play-by-play expression, and walk into supermarkets wherever and whenever.

Amazingly however, twice in the last month, out of the blue, at my local Safeway, I saw - and of course purchased, multiple "Marshmallow Devils Food Iced Cakes." I couldn't believe my eyes. After years of walking by the Entenmann's display and seeing the same old selections, there the cake was, as if it was waiting for me. I did a double take. After the second take, the cakes were still there and so I grabbed them, giddy in my good fortune. Unfortunately, I was alone at the point of purchase, so I had no one with whom to share my extraordinary find. I did so when I got home as I told/showed my wife, Dina; and I do so now with a somewhat larger audience, and one quite frankly, that's semi interested in what I have to say/write.

Perhaps you might understand the great pleasure I experienced when later that evening after dinner, Dina and I had the cake for dessert, and Dina uttered her assessment of the cake. It's almost akin to Mikey in the old Life cereal television ads in which Mikey was offered the bowl of Life cereal by his brothers who weren't interested in trying it, and voila: "He likes it." Mikey was a fussy eater which added an extra layer of doubt to the outcome. Dina is the opposite: not a fussy eater but rather one with a sophisticated palate (lamb kidneys was a particular family favorite growing up, which of course, I wouldn't touch or try) though somewhat worn-down over years of sharing meals with yours truly.

This cake comment was an example of Dina entering my food wheelhouse and agreeing with me. Not a common occurrence. In fact, hardly an occurrence at all. That's why it's so memorable - to me, anyway.

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

The Legacy of Race-based Covenants

3 practices that created housing inequity: racial covenants; zoning; and limited access to mortgages based on race.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Some real estate developers and others selling property in Northern Virginia from 1900 through the 1960s used race-based, restrictive covenants to maintain segregation, and Virginia's state and local governments were enablers at times, Dr. Krystyn Moon, University of Mary Washington history professor told a packed room of 120 on August 27 at the Sherwood Regional Library.

In a talk titled "A History of Fairfax County's Racial Covenants in Property Deeds," she presented her research on the history and locations of racial covenants in Fairfax and Arlington counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. She has identified and geo-located racially-restrictive covenants across the region.

In introductory remarks, Lydia Lawrence, Nature Forward's Director of Conservation, noted that with EMBARK's redevelopment coming to U.S. 1, investments should be made "in an equitable way. We cannot treat

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something unless we understand the underlying cause," she said, adding, "We must understand the intentional actions that shape the community in a particular way."

Typical racial covenants were put into property deeds to prevent people "not of the Caucasian Race" from buying or occupying the land, Moon said. The covenants could have time limits or some would "run with the land," extend beyond the original owner.

Some covenants restricted sales to Jewish people.

"We built a system for privileged whites to come to Fairfax County and covenants are part of that," Moon maintained. She cited three practices that created housing inequity, "why things are the way they are": racial covenants; land and aesthetic zoning; and limiting access to mortgages based on race.

Suburbanization and Jim Crow came together like a "perfect storm" in Northern

SEE THE LEGACY, PAGE 8

COURTESY OF KRISTYN MOON

Ad touts: "Restricted to the Caucasian Race"

Prison Reform Takes Long, Tortuous Path

FROM PAGE 3

between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. About one in 20 of the prisoners in Virginia is held in solitary. Most of these prisoners are located at the supermax prison Red Onion located in a remote pocket of southwest Virginia where over two-thirds of its 800 prisoners are held in solitary confinement.

Poor and incomplete data collection has made it difficult to accurately assess the number of prisoners held in solitary confinement nationwide. A report released by a non-profit watchdog, Solitary Watch, and an advocacy group, Unlock the Box, found about 122,840 people in federal and state prisons were placed in solitary confinement in mid-2019. This report is a first of its kind analysis with the objective to serve as a benchmark moving forward.

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Current procedures which went into effect in 2020 in Virginia were codified in 2023 allowing prisoners at least four hours outside of their cells each day and requiring regular mental health checks. Examples of out-of-cell activities are reading, recreational activities and small process groups. Hope says, "Some say it isn't happening. It was important to codify the practice because now if DOC doesn't comply they can be sued and held liable. This means now it is open to litigation if the law is not followed." He says the Department of Corrections opposed codification because "it meant we were taking away their power."

In 2022 the Virginia Senate passed legislation that would limit how long prisoners could be held in solitary confinement to 15 days in any 60-day period. But the Virginia

House of Delegates rejected this language and instead added an amendment directing prison officials to study the issue. Many legislators thought the issue had been studied enough and were impatient for action.

In 2023, in addition to codifying the required four-hour out of cell time, debate continued over whether to eliminate solitary confinement or to include the 15-day limitation that had been rejected in 2022. This time the bill passed both Houses with the 15-day limitation but Governor Youngkin vetoed it.

As Hope looks ahead he says, "If we want to get this enacted we'll need a new Governor. The landscape hasn't changed, and the same thing will happen again. He's supposed to be a Christian. He's not listening to what they say, is he?"

HISTORY OF RACIAL COVENANTS

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Dr. Krystyn Moon described the legal and legislative steps that made housing covenants illegal.



Around 120 people attended the Aug. 27 presentation.



Senator Scott Surovell and Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck attended and will act.



Dr. Krystyn Moon discussed her findings with Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk.



Ron Chase and Audrey Davis commended the presentation.

The Legacy of Race-based Covenants

FROM PAGE 7

Virginia, she asserted. Jim Crow refers to laws that legalized racial discrimination in the American South. In the 20th century, as roads and vehicles exploded and the state and federal governments encouraged road building, selling farmland to developers was more lucrative than farming and developers started converting farms to subdivisions. Also, in the 1940s, housing demand increased as people moved to the area for federal jobs.

In 1924, the National Association of Real Estate Boards adopted an “ethics” policy, declaring that Realtors should not introduce “into a neighborhood ... members of any race or nationality, or any individuals whose presence will clearly be detrimental to property values in that neighborhood.”

Advertisements often included coded language, Moon said, terms like “fully restricted,” and “fully state of the art covenants,” which euphemized the practice as “modern.” Subdivision names today like “estates” or names of former plantations could be coded language as well, she suggested.

Covenants in Hybla Valley Farms

Moon highlighted developer V. Ward Boswell who in 1935 bought 125 acres along U.S. 1 next to the historically-Black Gum Springs community and built a subdivision called Hybla Valley Farms. She shared his 1935 deed for the lots which included this language: “No part of the said land shall be

granted, leased, sold or conveyed to a person or persons of African descent, nor for the use and/or occupancy of a person or persons of African descent; and if any attempt to grant, lease, sell or convey any part of said land to a person or persons of African descent, the deed of said land shall revert to the grantor as though said deed or leased had not been made; and adjoining property owners may eject such person or persons of African descent from said property or cause them to be ejected by the proper actions in the courts of Virginia.”

Citing a 1970 census of Hybla Valley Farms and nearby communities that included property owners’ race, Moon concluded, “The restrictions had an impact.” A street today ending on the east side of U.S. 1 still bears Boswell’s name.

State Action

In 1912, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that allowed cities and towns to establish “segregation districts,” to designate specific neighborhoods for Black or White people. “A year after the maps were created, no Black individual or family could move into the white section of the town/city and vice versa,” she explained.

In 1924, the Virginia Racial Integrity Act categorized people as “colored” or white, “the most extreme in the U.S.,” charged Moon. “This informed racial covenants in Fairfax County,” she contended, adding, “This room would be illegal in 1926.” In

1928, the Board of Supervisors created a process to review plats for developing subdivisions.

Removing Covenants Today

Several court decisions and the federal Fair Housing Act eventually made using racial covenants illegal. Some Northern Virginians sued to remove them and organized pickets and petitions to promote desegregation and fair housing. In 1968, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved an “open occupancy” ordinance, designed to protect housing rights.

Though illegal, some covenants are still in legal records. In 2020, the General Assembly passed a law to provide a simplified process for homeowners to remove racial covenants from their chain of title. The state Supreme Court has created a form for landowners to prepare deeds at <https://www.vacourts.gov/forms/circuit/cc1508.pdf>.

Virginia Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Paul Krizek will hold a workshop to help people who want to remove these covenants. “We intend to work with a local real estate closing company, title researchers and others to provide homeowners with the information and resources necessary to prepare and file these deeds in less than 30 minutes,” Surovell said.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk attended the meeting and will propose that the Board of Supervisors remove or redact racial cove-

nants language from County property deeds. “While the covenants are not applicable, we recognize the importance of removing this legacy,” Storck said.

Storck continued, “It was wonderful seeing so many residents engaged with our county and Mount Vernon history. I look forward to learning more and leading the county in updating our property deeds to remove or redact these racial covenants.”

Ron Chase said, “It was an excellent introduction, describing the obstacles African Americans face and so many nuances. This is an introduction to the trials and tribulations people experienced in our evolving culture.” Chase is president of the Gum Springs Historic Society and Museum.

Audrey Davis remarked, “The presentation shows us the many lessons we need to talk about. Most young people have no idea of this history. We still need to get some covenants removed.” Davis is Director of the African American History division of the Office of Historic Alexandria.

Moon’s book, “Proximity to Power: Rethinking Race and Place in Northern Virginia,” will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2025.

Cosponsors were Nature Forward, the South County Task Force, Fairfax NAACP, Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society and the Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum.

Information: <https://documentingexclusion.org>

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