



Owen, 1, digs in as his parents pick up useful recycling tips at Rock n Recycle on Saturday, Sept. 14.

‘Sanity Prevails’  
Or Does It?  
PAGE 3

## Record Turnout

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6  
PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION



Dr. Reverend DeLishia Davis at Calloway United Methodist Church (UMC) Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 28.



Bernard Carpenter whose great great grandfather founded and helped build Calloway UMC.



DJ Aaron Carpenter is an “open format” which means he plays everything depending on the audience.



Alex Mondae has just helped herself to a blue puff of cotton candy at Family Fun Days.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

# Family Fun Day Returns at Calloway UMC

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

It is the season for fall festivals in Arlington including Clarendon Days, St. Ann’s Fall Festival and Calloway United Methodist Church Family Fun Days on Saturday, Sept. 28.

The yard outside Calloway on Langston Boulevard is full with the BBQ grill full of burgers and dogs on one side of the church and the moon bounce and crafts for the kids on the other side with the DJ.

Bernard Carpenter flips over a grill full of burgers one by one and adds them to the aluminum foil covered pan with the hot dogs. “I

have been a member of this church since I was born. My mother and grandfather were members. In fact, my great great grandfather JJ Carpenter founded and helped build this church right here. He is buried right over there in the yard — along with other historic people who founded Halls Hill.” Halls Hill was a tight knit Black community in Arlington that emerged from a former plantation in 1881. Remnants still remain today in the form of a crumbling wall that was built to segregate the area from a new subdivision in the adjoining white neighborhood.

Alex Mondae comes by with her cotton candy and adds that she has

also been a member of the church since she was born, “And I am currently the Treasurer.”

Music signals to passersby on Langston Boulevard that something is happening. Bernard Carpenter’s son, Aaron Carpenter is manning the DJ station for today’s event. “I work with Arlington County DJs although today is a private event.” He says when he was in 7th grade at Williamsburg Middle School his friend said maybe it would be cool to be a DJ. “I was a little shy and I wasn’t too out there but later I took a class offered by Arlington County at the Community Center, and it just stuck.” So after college, he came back and be-

came a DJ. Aaron says he assesses the audience and modifies what he plays. For instance, at today’s event he will play clean hip hop “because of the kids.” Sometimes he mashes up the vocals with different instruments and comes up with a completely different song on the fly. He says he is always surprised at what kind of music people are into.

Rev. DeLishia Davis, who has been lead pastor at Calloway for 8 years, says the church used to have Family Fun Day but this is the first one since Covid. She said they have been planning it for the last three months. “We have been organizing vendors, hiring the DJ, getting the raffle stuff and working on the spir-

itual side. We reach out to the community and bring the family together that may not be part of the church and invite the relatives of the early leaders of Halls Hill who are buried in the yard surrounding the church to join us.” She says this is part of a celebratory weekend which includes a joint church service on Sunday at Calloway with Rock Spring UCC on Little Falls Road followed by a breakfast. “We have been partners for 54 years.”

Calloway Methodist Church began as a prayer meeting in an Arlington home in 1866, and later the church building was erected on the current site at 5000 Langston Blvd. in 1904.

# \$1M Grant to Grow OAR Diversion Program

The U.S. Department of Justice awarded a \$1 million grant to the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney to grow the OAR Diversion Program. The OAR Diversion Program was created in 2022 in partnership with OAR of Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church (OAR) through the Vera Institute for Justice’s Motion for Justice Program (MFJ).

MFJ brings together prosecutors’ offices and system-impacted communities to design and pilot diversion programs that promote community safety by centering racial equity. The Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls

Church was the first MFJ pilot site.

The Department of Justice issued five awards nationally under the FY24 Second Chance Act Pay for Success Program. The Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington and the City of Falls Church was the only prosecutor office to receive this grant award, which is the maximum awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Second Chance Act Pay for Success Program.

The Pay for Success grant will allow OAR to grow their diversion program staff and provide services (directly or through referral) to program participants including mental health and substance use disorder

treatment, procurement of vital documents, housing, job and vocational training, fitness and physical wellbeing support, and expanding participants’ pro-social support networks.

“This grant is a monumental step forward in our work to create a better, more humane, and more cost-effective model for improving public safety,” said Commonwealth’s Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti. “Our collaboration with OAR to create this diversion program is an evidence based, cost-effective approach to prosecution for people who suffer from mental illness and substance use disorder.”

The grant funds project activities from FY 2025 through FY 2030. The Director of Restorative Justice and Diversion, Grace Woodward, was instrumental in obtaining this grant and will oversee performance aspects.

“We have long known that jail and prison do not address the reasons that many people find themselves caught in the criminal legal system,” stated Elizabeth Jones Valderama, Executive Director of OAR. “And yet there has been such limited funding for alternatives that address a person’s underlying needs and address personal and systemic racism, which together help make the community safer.”

# Judge Declares EHO Policy Void on Four Counts

Startling decision seen as step to reset drastic housing policy changes.

BY EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**A**rlington County Courtroom 11A was packed as Circuit Court Judge David Schell issued his judgment in the case Marcia Nordgren et al vs Arlington County Board. It was, as one observer said afterwards, truly a David and Goliath story. It was also an issue on which candidates for the Arlington County Board had sparred. Elections were won and lost on the zoning changes the County put forth allowing multiplex buildings to be built on single family lots. Those who disagreed were called NIMBYs and racist; those who ran on the idea of expanding the housing inventory were called YIMBYs and pro-builder. Many thought it was rushed through, would not accomplish its stated goal, and would only benefit builders. Most residents thought it couldn't happen to their neighborhood or weren't even sure what the EHO (Expanded Housing Option) was, even when hundreds of protest signs erupted on medians.

**“Sanity prevails. This seminal decision allows Arlington to reset and get it right.”**  
— Natalie Roy

But ten homeowners, representing many more, weren't having it. They sued Arlington County last year for approving the EHO zoning policy and asked the Judge to declare the EHO zoning invalid based on each of six counts in the complaint. The suit alleged, among other things, that Arlington violated the Virginia state code by failing to conduct increased-density impact studies on schools, stormwater, sewers, transportation, the environment, and other critical areas. There was a sense, as articulated during debates, that the old “Arlington Way” of consensus and community was taking back seat to developers' hunger for building plots or, conversely, that lower and middle-class county workers, police and fire personnel, and teachers could no longer afford to live in the county because rich, entitled people didn't want them there.

The battle began. When Arlington County made a motion to dismiss the suit based on lack of standing, the judge ruled that the plaintiffs did indeed have standing as landowners. The County hired the Richmond law firm of Gentry Locke to defend its policy, with the price tag of more than \$1,011,733.67 (so far). Arlington taxpayers footed the bill. Marcia Nordgren and neigh-



Opponents of Missing Middle Housing Proposal hold signs before a County Board meeting in 2022: “No upzoning; no duplex here.”

bors cobbled together over \$100,000 to hire a lawyer to state their case, using their own money, time and contributions from Neighbors for Neighborhoods. They are still paying the bills.

County Board Chair Libby Garvey told civic associations in September before the ruling, “Our lawyers said they don't have a leg to stand on. It's a really thin case. Zoning is one of the few things we can do. We can't have people pushing us around.”

But who was pushing whom around? Dan Creedon, who heads Neighbors for Neighborhoods, said the County Board issued him a subpoena to seek information from him about who was supporting the lawsuit to overturn the EHO policy. Defense lawyers tried to dismiss the case more than once and tried to discourage the plaintiffs by asking for multiple depositions.

**BUT ON FRIDAY** morning, the residents who had battled a policy they knew was poorly planned, were vindicated when the Judge ruled in their favor. As he went through each count, the crowd began to look around in a mixture of disbelief and joy. On four counts, the judge agreed the Board failed to adhere to Virginia Code and unlawfully delegated legislative authority in granting a special exception for by-right EHO development, ceding too much authority to staff. But perhaps more egregious was what came out at trial, that the County had tried to bar important testimony that explained why the EHO policy could be a disaster in terms of stormwater and sewage management, and tried to delete from the record a comment made during a meeting “because residents would FOIA the transcript and find out.” Finally, the permits

**“Our lawyers said [plaintiffs] don't have a leg to stand on. It's a really thin case. Zoning is one of the few things we can do. We can't have people pushing us around.”**

— Libby Garvey,  
Arlington County Board Chair

that had already been approved revealed that tear-downs of homes costing well under a million dollars would be replaced by three or more homes costing well over a million dollars each. In other words, the EHO policy appeared less likely to provide affordable housing stock and more likely to increase the tax base.

If civic associations were upset about the EHO policy to begin with, they were increasingly alarmed at the County's attitude during the trial and at the possibility the County would appeal. After the judge's ruling on Friday, Kathy Siebert, a longtime community activist, said the County Board should have to pay back the legal bill taxpayers footed in a tight budget year when schools and other services will have less as a result.

Natalie Roy, who fought EHO twice during her runs for County Board, told supporters, “Sanity prevails. This seminal decision allows Arlington to reset and get it right. It is an opportunity to do the requisite studies and conduct a robust public engagement

process that should have been done from the beginning with stakeholders from across the County. It means we can stop wasting taxpayers dollars on expensive law firms and anti-neighborhood schemes and find real housing solutions. Most importantly this ruling speaks volumes about governance. The County Board and staff work for the citizens of Arlington, not the other way around. Today's decision is a turning point where we can join together to find common sense solutions.”

In reaction, Arlington County released a statement on the ruling: “Arlington County is disappointed in the judge's ruling today in the Expanded Housing Option (EHO) Development trial (Nordgren v. Arlington County Board). We are reviewing the decision and determining the appropriate next steps to properly adhere to the ruling. The County Board remains committed to ensuring Arlington has housing options that meet our community's diverse and growing needs. The Board is exploring potential options moving forward, including appeal.”

Numerous civic organizations have commented on the ruling and the path forward. For more, see:

Arlingtonians for Upzoning Transparency (AFUT) <https://afut.org>

Arlingtonians for a Sustainable Future <https://www.asf-virginia.org>

Neighbors for Neighborhoods <https://www.gofundme.com/f/suit-re-end-of-singlefamily-zoning-in-arlington>

Arlington County Civic Federation <https://www.civfed.org> - for background on the “Arlington Way”

# ENTERTAINMENT



Synetic Theater presents "Hamlet" now through Oct. 13, 2024 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre in Arlington.

## 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](mailto: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!

## 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.** 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>

## NOW THRU OCT. 13

**Synetic Theater: Hamlet...the rest is silence.** At Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre | Arlington Heights. The one that started it all. Synetic Theater's haunting and wordless adaptation of Shakespeare's iconic masterpiece, first performed in 2002, returns for a limited engagement, laying bare the tormented soul at the heart of one of literature's greatest achievements. Synetic burst onto the theater scene with this movement-based, Helen Hayes Award-winning spectacle, reimagining the tragic tale of a prince's journey through vengeance and loss. Vato Tsikurishvili steps into the role of Hamlet as the great story unfolds once more, promising a visceral and unforgettable theatrical experience.

**SEPT. 28 TO JAN. 26, 2025**  
**Assembly 2024: Horizon Scanning Exhibit.**

At the Museum of Contemporary Art, Arlington. With Art After Hours, the opening celebration is Saturday, Oct. 5 from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. The exhibition is organized by MoCA Arlington Curator of Exhibitions Blair Murphy and guest curator Jared Packard. Launched in 2019, Assembly highlights current material and conceptual trends among contemporary artists. Since 2022, the exhibition has had a national focus, showcasing work by some of the country's rising stars and giving them a platform on the doorstep of the nation's capital. Assembly 2024: Horizon Scanning opens on the eve of the presidential election, four miles from the center of Washington, DC. In this time of multiple, overlapping, and seemingly perpetual crises, and with that proximity in mind, the exhibition brings together artists whose work can help us grapple with our tumultuous present by offering strategies to navigate and reimagine the future.

## FREE FALL MOVIES

**Wednesdays at The Plaza at Westpost, 1201 South Joyce Street, Arlington.**

Looking for a fun way to spend your autumn evenings? Look no further than outdoor Movies On The Plaza at Westpost at National Landing! Bring your blankets and chairs and settle in for a night of entertainment under the stars.

Dates: Wednesdays, September 18 and 25 and October 2 and 9  
Time: 8 p.m.-10:30 p.m. ET  
Movies:  
Oct. 2: Inside Out 2 Hosted by Nando's Peri Peri  
Oct. 9: Flubber Hosted by Nighthawk

## OCT. 3-6

**Fall Book Sale.** At Arlington Library, Arlington. Visit the Fall Book Sale to support library programs and find thousands of books, games, puzzles and other items at incredible bargains. Looking for signed books, first editions, full sets and other rare finds? They have plenty for you to peruse inside the Specialty Books Room on the first floor!

❖ Thu., Oct. 3, 4-8:30 p.m. (Members Only Night)  
❖ Fri., Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Public sale)



Fall Horticulture Tours take place at Arlington National Cemetery starting on Friday, Oct. 4, 2024.

❖ Sat., Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Public sale)  
❖ Sun., Oct. 6, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Public sale, Half-Price Day)  
Please bring your own bags or boxes. Teachers and librarians with school IDs enjoy a 50% discount on purchases Friday and Saturday, while everyone saves 50% on Sunday.

## FREE CLASSICAL MUSIC - FMMC

**The Friday Morning Music Club invites everyone to classical music concerts the first and second Fridays of the month at Saint George's Church, 915 N. Oakland St., one block from Virginia Square Metro Station, Arlington.** The program for October 4 will feature a bass-baritone solo by Sunizi; Clarinet Sonata by Stanford; and piano solo selections by Granados. On October 11, the program includes Mozart's piano Sonata No. 4 in E-flat major; Sonata No. 1 in D minor by Saint-Saens; and selected songs for soprano by Linnane. The one-hour concerts start at noon. Free, no ticket required. Visit the website <http://fmmc.org>.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 4

**Redesigning Flower Beds.** 10-11:30 a.m. Online. Do you have a space in your garden that you'd love to make new and maybe even a bit whimsical? Join Extension Master Gardeners Evin Morrison and Rebecca Secula as they demonstrate how to design beautiful, themed gardens that incorporate perennials, natives, and even edibles. From the basics of garden design to finding inspiration, they will cover the whole process of creating beautiful gardens of all shapes and sizes. Enjoy seeing six fully designed examples using their tips and tricks, and then head out into your own space to implement what you've learned. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

## FALL HORTICULTURE TOURS AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Friday, Oct. 4, 9-11 a.m. – Memorial Arboretum Walking Tour  
Friday, Oct. 11, 9-11 a.m. – Memorial Arboretum Shrub and Perennial Tour  
Friday, Oct. 18, 9-11 a.m. – Memorial Arboretum Fall Color Tour

Friday, Oct. 25, 9-11 a.m. – Plant Health Care Tour  
Friday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Memorial Arboretum Shrub and Perennial Tour  
Visit <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Media/News/Post/13751/Fall-Horticulture-Tours> to learn more about each session.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**2024 Arlington Art Walk.** 4-7 p.m. At Multiple Locations in Clarendon/Virginia Square/Ballston. The third annual "Arlington Art Walk" welcomes back galleries, artist studios and Public Art between Clarendon and Ballston. This year, look for more exhibits, workshops, an artisan market, music and celebration of the 40th anniversary of Arlington Public Art. Be sure to check out a tour of Arlington Public Library's makerspace "The Shop" from 4 to 5 p.m., make and take a Kitchen Lithograph with artist Fleming Jeffries at Mason Exhibitions Arlington, see live painting, live music and local wine tastings at Northside Social, enjoy receptions at WHINO and MoCA Arlington, and much, much more!

## SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**Preschooler Nature Explorers.** 2:30-3:30 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington. Ages 3 to 5. Preschoolers can actively explore their natural world with programs that build the foundation for a lifetime of wonder, appreciation and discovery. Hands-on interactive learning, mini hikes and nature play provide a fun and engaging experience for children. Caregivers must stay with their child during the program. \$6.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**Acorn Collection at Arlington National Cemetery.** 10:30 a.m. At Arlington National Cemetery, 1 Memorial Ave., Arlington. To support local reforestation programs to alleviate stream pollution and impacts of the climate crisis. Potomac Conservancy's Tomorrow's Trees program is hosting volunteers for a fun, 100-person acorn collection at Arlington National Cemetery. Community volunteers must register for the event online at <https://tomorrows-trees.org/>.

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[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# Arlington Program Focuses on Fathers

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**S**ilbert Harrison Grant is passionate about fathers. “When you help the father, you are also helping the mother and the kids — the whole family, and that helps the community.” Grant is Coordinator of Fatherhood Enhancement with Child and Family Services for the Arlington County Department of Human Services (DHS).

“You hear about the mother, the aunt, the grandmother but we need to make sure the father is involved in the family.” Grant says he works with fathers on what it means to be a man and to be a father and to help them to identify, understand their own emotions and how to communicate. Grant says, “You only know what you know. A lot of men haven’t had a positive father figure. They don’t know their own value, and if you give them a blueprint, give them the steps on what to do, they love it.”

He uses the word RESPECT to illustrate his points, saying:

“R is for a healthy relationship.

“E is for emotions — understanding that men have emotions and how it affects behavior. Any man who says he doesn’t have emotions and gets angry about it illustrates that he really does have emotions.

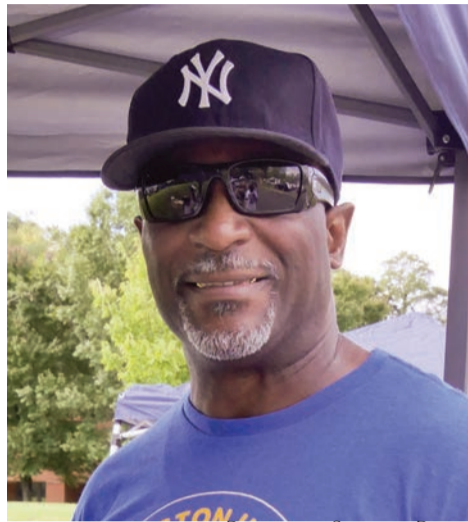


PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**Silbert Harrison Grant, Coordinator Arlington County Fatherhood Enhancement.**

“S is for sex to illustrate there is a very big difference between sex and intimacy which is what it takes to build a healthy relationship. Everything is sexualized but it doesn’t hold.

“P is for the importance of being physically, mentally and spiritually fit. You can do a lot of push ups but what about your mental health. They don’t think about that. A lot of fathers have a life issue; they think their kid would do better without them.

“E is for education. To be a critical thinker you have to know where you are getting your information when you are intaking it into your thoughts.

“C is for community. You can build it up or take away. Anybody can add something to the community.

“T is for teaching. Everybody can teach. I look at the value of everybody, not that I know more than you, and everyone has something to give.”

Grant says he made a number of mistakes in his life and he tells them, “If I can make a turn, you can do it, too.” He says sometimes people say they had no choices; maybe it’s systemic or generational. They believe things were supposed to go the way they did. “But my job is to get them to say, ‘I never thought of it that way.’” And most kids don’t care what their father does; they just want to know who he is. In addition, he says the mothers want the fathers to be involved; they feel it’s unfair to be a single parent carrying all the weight when they could get a hand.

Grant works with fathers every day in a number of different capacities. He assists other DHS team members with child support cases and foster care. In addition, he teaches several classes every week, one in the Arlington Detention Center where he has a fatherhood class focusing on how to keep a relationship with your child while you

are in prison and how to continue it when you get out. He also teaches a 12-week evidence-based class for high school kids. As he got more involved with helping case workers with children who came to DHS in crisis he says they realized they needed to take more time to work more on education and prevention. “The best time to reach these kids is before they become a dad.”

And he also has a teen parent group at the Career Center because he says, “Imagine being a teenage dad still living at home and trying to get through school. It is important for the parents to learn to work as a team so the child can have a brighter future despite what the relationship of the parents may be. A lot of people don’t understand we’re here to help.”

Grant has been working at DHS for two years but he realizes he has been counseling someone for most of his life. He was a child and family counselor in the military at Quantico for 5 years and before that a substance abuse counselor in the Marines. “It’s difficult to be in the military and not be focused on others.

“Somewhere along the line I fell into the counseling thing.” He started off as a truck driver in logistics and says he thought he was going to be a truck driver when he retired but somehow he always came back to helping people improve their lives.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 4

## SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**AHS-Sponsored Appraisal Roadshow.** 11 a.m. At Carlin Community Hall, 5711 4th Street, South, Arlington. The Arlington Historical Society is hosting an Appraisal Roadshow. This puts the "FUN" in this fundraiser for the Ball-Sellers House, a c.1750 farmhouse and now a free museum run by the Arlington Historical Society. Come and enjoy appraisals and expert advice on items such as jewelry, gems, coins, time pieces, porcelain, artwork, glass, historic memorabilia, and any other heirloom you choose to bring. The Appraisal Roadshow delivers a treasure hunt experience that is fun, educational, and rewarding. It's a great show where you learn not just about your stuff but everyone else's, too. Tickets and details: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events/appraisal-roadshow/>

## SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**Fall Fest.** 1-6 p.m. At Gateway Park, Arlington. Hosted by Rosslyn BID.

**Rosslyn BID.** Join in a variety of fall-favorite activities for all ages, including yard games, inflatables, live music, and more. The highly-anticipated pie eating contest will be back, so be sure to register on-site for your chance to claim neighborhood bragging rights! Those 21 and older can also try out a variety of hard ciders from local breweries! Tasting tickets are available for \$15 in advance online, or \$20 at the door, and general admission is free.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**Fall E-CARE.** 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (rain or shine). At Wakefield High School, 1325 S. Dinwiddie St., Arlington. The Arlington Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE) is a biannual environmentally friendly drop-off event where residents can safely dispose of old electronics and household hazardous materials (HHM). Arlington residents can drop off

the listed materials during Fall 2024 E-CARE, including: Paint Products (25-can limit), Old Electronics/Batteries, Garden Chemicals, Fire Extinguishers, Household Cleaners, Petroleum Products, Flammable Solvents, Automotive Fluids, and Small Metal Items. Note: Bicycle donations will not be collected at Fall 2024 E-CARE.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 6

**Candidate Forum.** 1:30-4 p.m. At Walter Reed Rec Center, 2909 16th Street South, Arlington. The League of Women Voters is hosting a candidating forum in Arlington. Each candidate will sit at a separate table, and voters will have 10 to 15 minutes with each candidate to ask questions. Once the 15 minutes is up, voters will rotate to a new table until all voters have had a chance to meet the candidates. This means you'll have direct access to the candidates to talk about the issues you care about the most. Questions? Email at [lwvarlington@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarlington@gmail.com).

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 9

**Governing in the 21st Century: Are Local Governments in Sync with their Constituents?** A Conversation with Libby Garvey and Justin Wilson. Begins at 7 pm. At George Mason University's Arlington Campus, Mason Square, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington. Hosted by Advance Arlington, Agenda Alexandria and George Mason University's Schar School and Office of Community and Local Government Relations.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 11

**Composting.** 10-11:30 a.m. Online. So, you want to grow bigger blooms, nutrient packed, disease-free vegetables, that require less watering? Start composting! Listen in to Extension Master Gardener Nina DeRosa as she discusses easy ways to use organic waste, including kitchen scraps, yard waste, and ash from backyard fires to make black gold for your soil that will then feed your plants. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

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## FRIDAY/OCT. 11

**Lesson Zero Performs.** 9:30-12:30 p.m. At The Celtic House, 2500 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Admission is free and street parking is available. For more information see [www.youtube.com/lessonzero](http://www.youtube.com/lessonzero) and [www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero](http://www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 12

**Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. 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 amazing experience features comedy from the DC area's finest comics. The headliner for October's show is the hilarious Umar Khan!

## SATURDAY/OCT. 12

**Annual 5Dollar5K and Fun Run.** 8:30 a.m. At Bluemont Park, 329 N Manchester St., Arlington. Registration is now open for the Annual 5Dollar5K. The event is organized by Comunidad, local nonprofit organization that equips and engages locally-rooted community leaders in the Seven Corners community in Falls Church. Comunidad offers reading and mentorship opportunities for children, as well as community food distribution and leadership training for community members. The non-timed 5K and 1k fun run provide an opportunity for runners of all ages to join. Registration is \$5 for runners aged 13 and up. Children aged 12 and under are invited to participate in the free 1K that starts prior to the 5K. There will be light refreshments and lawn games to follow the run, along with Comunidad swag giveaways. Registration and details are at <https://www.comunidadva.org/5dollar5k>

## MONDAY/OCT. 14

**Jane Franklin Dance Presents:**

## Ruff the Runway – A Tail-Wagging Fashion Fundraiser!

4 p.m. At Snouts & Stouts Indoor Dog Park and Bar, 2709 S. Oakland Street, Arlington. Get ready to unleash the fun! Jane Franklin Dance is thrilled to announce Ruff the Runway, a paw-some event that will have tails wagging and fashionistas howling with delight. Strut your mutt down the runway and compete for fantastic prizes, including gift certificates to Seamore's Sustainable Seafood, doggie toys and treats, bottles of bubbly, and more! Whether your pooch is polished, pampered, or just plain adorable, this is their time to shine! No mutt to strut? No worries! You'll also get to see repertory excerpts performed by JFD company members to usher in the new 2024-25 Season! All are encouraged to attend.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 18

**Putting Your Garden to Bed.** 10-11:30 a.m. Online. It may be autumn, but it's not time to abandon the garden! This class offers easy tips for onsite composting, providing winter habitat and food for wildlife, and end-of-season care of tools and equipment. Did you know that fall is the ideal time to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials? They'll help you identify opportunities to learn from this year's successes and failures (we all have them) to lay the groundwork for next year. Speakers are Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) Joan McIntyre, who leads the VCE-MGNV Neighborhood Champions program that offers gardening expertise to neighborhoods, and Molly Newling, who excels at teaching the fine points of pruning. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 26

**Lesson Zero Performs.** 8-11 p.m. At The Mussel Bar, 800 Glebe Rd., Arlington. Admission is free and parking is available. For more information see [www.youtube.com/lessonzero](http://www.youtube.com/lessonzero) and [www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero](http://www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero).

## Brotherly Love



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Even though it's my birthday (9/30)- or will have been by the time this column publishes, it is my late brother Richard's birthday (10/28) that I'm thinking about. Unfortunately, as the surviving Lourie of the Athelstane-Road-Louries, birthdays now are much less celebrations and more so recollections.

A little context. My brother and I had been living in the same area (the Metropolitan Washington DC Area) since I matriculated to the University of Maryland in late August 1972. Richard, being five years older than me, had already under-graduated from American University and was planning on attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fl. to earn a master's in criminology - which he did. However, Florida didn't take, and Richard returned to Washington DC after graduation where he lived until his extremely unexpected death in early Dec. 2022. Vanessa, his widow and I will never be the same. Richard was so much more than merely a husband and a brother, he was, as we say in the Jewish faith (Yiddish actually), a mensch. There is no higher praise. In short (very short) it means the best of the best. His death is not simply a loss, it's closer to a devastation. It's almost two years since his passing and Vanessa and I are still regularly exchanging memories of him for any number of unforgettable reasons.

As for the substance of this column, I mention Richard - aside from a thousand other reasons, because my birthday is in nine days and Richard won't be here to celebrate it. And that rarely happened while he was living because Richard was a great celebrator of other people's birthdays. Typically, we'd all (Dina and Vanessa of course) go out for a nice dinner with dessert and generous gifts to follow. Whichever date suited me, suited him. He was always available for me. Without my brother alive to share my birthday anymore, it's slowly becoming just another day, or if not just another day, then a very somber one. I used to look forward to my birthday, now I look backward.

And given that I've been a stage IV cancer patient since Feb. 2009 - which calculates to the last 13 years and 10 months of Richard's life, he always made an extra effort to understand, encourage and accommodate the demands of my diagnosis. He was certainly a part of Team Lourie and often attended my infusions (6+hours per treatment) and regularly attended doctor's appointments, especially when there was likely to be a discussion of changing medications, treatments, et cetera. He wanted to be a part of it all and I certainly welcomed it and appreciated his input. He was the type of support system every cancer/seriously ill patients need. He would liaise with the doctors and staff to make sure I was receiving the best care anywhere. If he couldn't attend my appointment, he was to be my first call after to provide any and all details. As much as anything, it gave him an opportunity to reassure me and infuse me with as much positivity as was appropriate. He made a difference in my life, and when you're a "terminal cancer" patient sitting in an infusion center for six to seven hours per treatment, having someone to count on is crucial. I was lucky to have him in my corner. Not having him there anymore is a huge loss.

As difficult as it was for Richard when he was diagnosed with cancer, it gave me the opportunity to help him navigate what was an unfamiliar path form him, but a very familiar one for me. Now he was living the cancer life as I had, and he had questions. As an experienced cancer patient, I had answers. And now I could help him - as he had so often helped me. The juxtaposition brought us even closer together.

The last time I saw my brother alive was on his birthday on Oct. 28, 2022. He had been home about a month after being hospitalized the entire summer. Now, he was rehabbing at home. He wasn't quite ready for prime time, but he was happy for the company at home - and the cake. I tried to be as encouraging and positive as he had always been to me. We had a great evening together. Five weeks or so later, around eight o'clock on a Saturday morning, Vanessa called me in tears. Richard had died sometime during the night. We'll never forget his death. But more importantly, we'll always remember his life.

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

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## POLICE HOST 2024 NATIONAL

### COFFEE WITH A COP DAY EVENTS

On Wednesday, October 2 is National Coffee with a Cop Day and the Arlington County Police Department's Community Engagement Division is hosting two events to celebrate community/police relations.

These morning and afternoon events are welcome to all and are a great informal engagement opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, get to know neighbors and meet officers from different sections of the department.

The Arlington County Police Department is committed to developing and maintaining strong relationships with those we serve as a vital component to ensuring the public's trust. We work proactively

to engage with all who live, work, or visit Arlington County and Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity to build these partnerships, one cup of coffee at a time.

National Coffee with a Cop Day will be celebrated at the following locations and times on Wednesday, October 2:

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Idido's Coffee and Social House - 1107 S. Walter Reed Drive

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Compass Coffee - 4710 Langston 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](http://goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYwDZm4tPw2).

Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South 19th St., is seeking to replenish its food pantry. Particularly needed are rice (large bags appreciated, the pantry will rebag), dry beans, canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit [www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org](http://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org) for more.

## ONGOING

Create a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners in restoring their home's natural habitat by providing information on sustainable gardening practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit [audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1/](http://audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1/) for more.

# Accessibility Improved at State Park

## Mason Neck adds all-terrain wheelchairs.

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ason Neck State Park was the scene of a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 25th to showcase the park's new all-terrain wheelchairs. The new chairs are expected to benefit park guests with mobility issues by allowing access to trails they couldn't access before.

Arrival of the Trakmaster S2 all-terrain powered wheelchair, was heralded by park management, and State Delegates Rozia Henson (D-19) and Kathy Tran (D-18), before a demonstration of the equipment. Director of State Parks, Dr. Melissa Baker said the accommodation will allow "escape into nature with more access for people with limited mobility; to more primitive trails for greater immersion." Going where normal wheelchairs cannot, use of the equipment is without charge to adults and children, but must be reserved 48 hours in advance.

Part of a two-year pilot program, the Mason Neck special purpose chair is the first of six being deployed at State parks; one within each region. Capable of handling extreme surfaces for "life off the sidewalk", the chair can reach speeds of 5.5 miles per hour, and ten plus miles distance on one battery charge. The \$20,000 chairs were funded through revenues from specialized Virginia State Park license plates. The funding



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation director Matt Wells heralds the addition of all-terrain wheelchairs saying "the outdoors are for everyone."



Department of Conservation & Recreation director Matt Wells, State Parks director Dr. Melissa Baker, Del. Kathy Tran, accessibility advisor Kris Gulden, and Del. Rozia Henson, symbolically cut the ribbon on the all-terrain wheelchair program.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

program, started in 2019, directs \$15 from the specialized plates to parks, and has resulted in over \$192,000 going to state parks.

The wheelchair caps off an extended effort by the park staff and their support group, Friends of Mason Neck State Park, to review and improve accessibility of the park for all. The Friends of Mason Neck State Park, with help from accessibility advisor Kris Gulden, were instrumental in bringing this and other accommodations to the park. Friends president and founding member Hilary Clawson tells of meeting wheelchair user Kris Gulden on the trail. Gulden became an advisor to the Friends board of directors and an inspiration to adding additional accommodations to those the park

staff had already implemented. They were aided park officials and Tran, whose district included the park before the recent redistricting. Tran and her family have long been Mason Neck park users and champions. Clawson shares, "The biggest change is the greater awareness and conversations we're having about improvements we want to make in the future."

Recently, the staff improved the handicapped parking space at the Osprey View Trailhead; installed a wheelchair accessible path to the accessible picnic tables; and added a second wooden rail along the Osprey View trail. The Friends of Mason Neck State Park covered the cost of the rail and path materials, and assisted in the installation of

the railing.

The park now has three accessible picnic tables with accommodating paths. The park also installed an Enchroma viewer behind the Visitor Center for people with color vision impairments. The viewer supplements the Enchroma glasses previously purchased by the Friends. Accessible kayak equipment, which includes a transfer board, stabilizing pontoons, paddle grips, and a trailer, allows greater water access.

Members of the Friends of Mason Neck State Park, with assistance by Gulden, recently created a trifold brochure that highlights the Mason Neck State Park's accessibility features. It was distributed to recreation and physical thera-

pists at Inova's Mount Vernon and Fairfax hospitals, and to a spinal cord injury support networking group. The brochure, available at the park visitors' center, is another part of the Friend's continuing efforts to improve accessibility at the park. The park hosted an event for International Adaptive Activity Day on Aug. 1, and holds an annual Eagle Festival held each May.

Wheelchair accessible trails include: Osprey View, High Point Road, Dogue, and Marsh View. There is an ADA-compliant observation deck planned for which design, planning, and fund raising are in progress. For more about the Friends work, see

<https://friendsofmasonneck-stateparkinc.wildapricot.org/>



Kris Gulden demonstrates using a transfer board to move from a typical wheelchair to the special all-terrain chair.



Working together for common cause created a friendship for Kris Gulden and Friends of Mason Neck State Park's president Hilary Clawson, who meet on the trail.



Those documenting the first official use of the new equipment had to hurry to keep up.