

# The Arlington Connection

## Celebrating Small Business

PAGE 3



Columbia

Murat Gozubuyuk,  
owner of Maya Bistro  
at 5649 Langston Blvd.  
in Arlington, on Small  
Business Saturday.

## Holiday Happenings

PAGE 6

SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 5 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

DECEMBER 4-10, 2024

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# NEWS



Sarah Allen, owner of Urban Farmhouse on Wilson Blvd.



Allen points to wooden bowls crafted by a lawyer who lives just down the street.

## A Gift for Everyone at Urban Farmhouse

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

*Arlington celebrated its 15th annual Small Business Saturday, Nov. 30. Small businesses generate local jobs and offer unique products not found in large box stores as well as building community. Arlington's 15,000 small businesses offer everything from gift shops, cleaners, pet stores, architects, ethnic restaurants from around the world to nail salons and cigar stores.*

**S**arah Allen walks around Urban Farmhouse, the local gift shop she bought four years ago located at 5140 Wilson Blvd. Allen says she has always wanted to own a shop, and she bought it from a woman who wanted to sell it during Covid.

Allen says her shop is actually an old farmhouse from 1900 so it has a lot of fun little rooms. "This farmhouse has seen a lot of life; it was a barbershop at one point. In this room we have baby things like these beautiful baby blankets made from recycled fabric from the Italian fashion industry." She walks to another room where she points to a pet section which has cute toy pet gifts. "We try to sell a little bit of everything."

Although candles are always the best sell-



The biggest seasonal seller at Urban Farmhouse is the red & green MERRY sweatshirts.

er all year long, at this time of the year the red and green MERRY sweatshirts filling a large table in front of the check out counter are the seasonal best seller. "We go kind of wild this time of the year on seasonal gifts." As evidence of this, the table right inside the front door is crowded with jingle bell bracelets, Christmas holly plates and joyful towels.

Allen says the shop is focused on local products, original art, handmade ceramics. She says her favorite thing in the shop is the

art by local artists. "I love the art. I work with over a dozen local artists who stop by when they have a new piece. I collect it myself. I admit some of it goes home with me."

She explains Urban Farmhouse is small and local, and she likes to have handmade gifts by local people. "These wooden bowls are handmade by a lawyer who lives down the street. He salvages the wood and hand turns the bowls and signs them on the bottom." In another room the shelves are full of

pottery made by a woman from Frederick, Maryland and a woman from Arlington.

Gina Memmott, a regular customer, points to the small vases on the shelf above the pottery which she bought last year for seven long-time friends for a "favorite things" gifting party. "We all brought our favorite thing and gave it to the others in the group. Besides my vases, I remember someone brought face cream and someone brought chocolate babkas from New Jersey."

Urban Farmhouse is participating in Small Business weekend organized by One More Page Bookstore on N. Westmoreland Street. Allen explains, "If you visit eight out of 21 local small businesses and get your passport stamped this weekend, you are entered into a raffle."

Allen says people come in to look for gifts so "We try to help them. We ask a lot of questions—it's fun to figure out what will work for someone." Although Black Friday was a good business day, Allen says Small Business Saturday will be better. "I think people think about the large box stores on Black Friday but they like to shop in person at a small place which is relaxing. It feels good and makes you happy." She adds, "I think it is more important more now than ever to shop small in person."

## A Taste of Turkey in the Middle of Arlington

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**T**elli Gozubuyuk is in the kitchen at Maya Bistro making falafel. She has cleaned and soaked the chickpeas for 24 hours and will add chopped white onions and garlic, parsley, black pepper and cumin and a little flour to hold it together. Four deep-fried falafel patties will be served on a plate with house made hummus and ezme (gluten-free chopped tomatoes, bell peppers, onions) and with slices of fresh cucumber. "This is a family recipe from Turkey." She says, "I make it the same way every time."

Telli and her husband Imam are the chefs in the small family business owned by their son Murat Gozubuyuk.

"Working with family is the best part," Murat explains. "I run the management side and do whatever else needs to be done to fill in. I am always here. They are always here." And he explains he has a 4-month-old son, the first grandchild, "so they are over at our house every night, too. He is spoiled."

Murat says they opened Maya Bistro a year before Covid hit. "We had a very busy restaurant but we lost 65 percent of our business during that time, and we're still recovering from Covid." He says it can be hectic because there are months with ups

and months with downs, and it is difficult to find waiters who have experience and can do the job.

A customer walks in to order a carry out chicken shish which Murat says is the most popular dish with customers. Telli says she marinates the large chunks of chicken with salt and pepper, saffron and fresh garlic and grills the kabobs for about 15 minutes. "We serve it with rice, bulgur, fries or seasoned vegetables."

Murat says his favorite dish is the beyti, Turkish flatbread stuffed with ground beef and lamb topped with tomato and yogurt garlic sauce. Telli adds that the Turkish piz

SEE A TASTE OF TURKEY, PAGE 4



Murat Gozubuyuk, owner of Maya Bistro at 5649 Langston Blvd.

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

# A Taste of Turkey in The Middle of Arlington

FROM PAGE 3

za (Lahmacun) is very popular, too. It is a crispy flatbread with ground beef and lamb, garlic, onions and bell peppers.

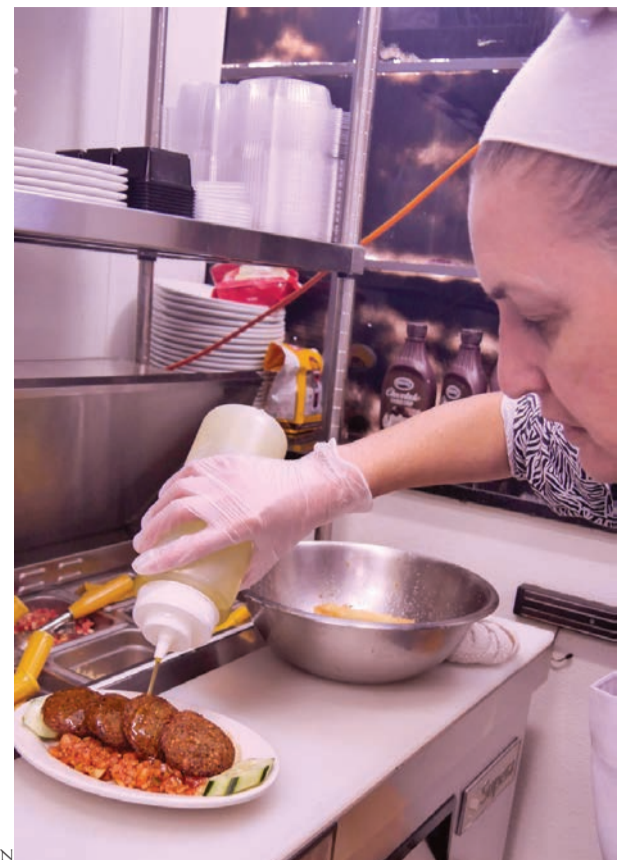
Murat says his father came to the U.S. from Turkey in 1998, first to New York City, then New Jersey and finally Washington in 2002. Murat and his mother and sister came in 2007, and he attended high school in Fairfax. "My father has many years of experience in the restaurant business and co-owned a Turkish restaurant in Fairfax but he found this place and saw the potential for a small business in Arlington and moved here in 2019."



Maya Bistro, family-owned Turkish restaurant in a small shopping center on Langston Blvd.

Telli Gozubuyuk, chef at Maya Bistro, dribbles olive oil on the deep-fried falafel patties.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



## Wreaths Across America Day to be Held at Arlington National Cemetery Dec. 14

### Important Access and Safety Information from Arlington National Cemetery

On Saturday, Dec. 14, the annual Wreaths Across America (WAA) event will be held at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (SAHNC). Visitors will lay wreaths throughout ANC and SAHNC on headstones and columbarium niches to honor the sacrifice of our nation's service members and veterans. ANC will open to visitors at 8 a.m. and SAHNC will open at noon.

"We are honored to host Wreaths Across America Day 2024. This day provides visitors an opportunity to reflect on the importance of service and learn the stories of the men and women who fought for our country," said Executive Director of the Office of Army Cemeteries and Army National Military Cemeteries Karen Durham-Aguilera.

Visitors should anticipate large crowds and difficulty driving vehicles in the vicinity of Arlington National Cemetery due to road closures.

All visitors will be required to pass through the cemetery's security screening process before entering the cemetery. Prohibited items include firearms and weapons of any type, alcohol, fire-

works, tripods and pets of any kind, with the exception of service animals and military working dogs. For a complete list, please visit: [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/visit/security](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/visit/security).

No vehicular traffic will be permitted inside the cemetery on Dec. 14, and there will be no vehicle parking for the public in the ANC Welcome Center parking garage except for those with handicapped plates or placards. We recommend visitors use public transportation or a ride share service for travel to and from the cemetery.

If the volume of visitors into Arlington National Cemetery exceeds our capacity to conduct a safe event, we will suspend entry into the cemetery.

Visitors may wish to consider visiting one of the more than 4,600 participating locations across the country held on National Wreaths Across America Day on Dec. 14 or volunteer to help remove wreaths during our annual "Wreaths Out" event on Saturday, Jan. 11.

❖ We encourage volunteers to use all four entrances to access Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 14. The Memorial Ave. entrance, Ord & Weitzel Gate, Service Complex Gate and Old Post Chapel Gate on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (DoD ID card holders only) will open to the public at 8 a.m.

❖ All visitors must pass through the cemetery's security screening process before entering.

### Metro Access to ANC

❖ We encourage volunteers to use Metro transportation.

❖ To avoid congestion at the Arlington Cemetery Metro stop, we recommend exiting via the Rosslyn and Pentagon stations and walking to the cemetery. It is a short 15-minute walk from these locations to one of the cemetery entrances.

❖ Please look at this map for walking directions from nearby Metro stops.

### ADA Accessibility

❖ Those with handicapped plates/placards will need to go to Pentagon North Parking, where their pass will be verified. They will then be directed to the ANC Welcome Center parking garage. The ANC Welcome Center parking garage will be available for those with a handicapped plate/placard from 6 to 7 a.m. on a first-come-first-serve basis. After 7 a.m., drivers will be directed to other parking options. Please do not arrive earlier than 6 a.m.

❖ The ANC Welcome Center parking garage is reserved for handicapped plate/placard parking from 6-7 a.m. or until full. After 7 a.m., no more vehicles will be allowed to park in the parking garage.

❖ Only those with handicapped plates/placards are permitted to park in the ANC Welcome Center parking garage. All others will be directed to the Pentagon North and South parking lots and the Hayes parking lot.

### Driving/Parking

❖ To ensure a safe and secure environment for our visitors and employees, NO vehicular traffic will be permitted inside the cemetery for the duration of the event on Dec. 14.

❖ Limited public parking will be available

at the Pentagon North and South Parking and Hayes Parking. Wreaths Across America volunteers and signage will be positioned in the parking lots, guiding visitors to walk to the nearest cemetery entrances.

❖ WAA will provide shuttle bus transportation from Pentagon North to drop-off locations east of the Service Complex Gate.

❖ For those parking in Pentagon South Parking, we recommend walking to the cemetery's Service Complex entrance for screening and entry to the grounds.

For those parking in Pentagon North Parking, we recommend walking to the cemetery's main entrance on Memorial Ave. using the Route 27 pedestrian walkway.

❖ Please look at this map for driving/parking directions.

### Ride Share

❖ For volunteers who plan to arrive via a ride-share (e.g., Uber, Lyft), the drop-off location is the Hayes lot in Pentagon City (880 Army Navy Dr.). From this point, volunteers must walk to the cemetery's Service Complex Gate entrance.

### Latest

For the latest information and event details, please visit [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/waa](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/waa) and follow us on social media @ArlingtonNatI for real-time updates on the day of the event. Visitors are also encouraged to download the ANC Explorer mobile app available for iOS and Android.

# 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.

Introduction to basic Spanish begins Thursday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m., virtual. Class meets first and third Thursdays through Feb 20. Taught by Lubber Run 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration #912650-06.

Light up the holidays with a painted wine bottle filled with fairy lights, Thursday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Supplies provided. Registration # 912310-02.

Artificial Intelligence (AI), blessing or curse, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2:30 p.m., virtual. Hear the latest developments, challenges and opportunities from Steve Ruth, retired GMU professor of Public Policy. Registration # 912403-01.

Secret lives of famous fakers, discuss biographies of several well-known forgers and how they were caught, Thursday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m., virtual. Presented by Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen. Registration # 912302-01.

Old-time and string band jam, bring your banjo, guitar, fiddle, mandolin or dulcimer for an open jam, with volunteer Fred Winter, co-founder of NYC Old Time Music Project Thursday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. All skill levels welcome.. Registration # 912304-16.

Winter Piano Lounge with pianist Valerie Welsh and a hot beverage, Friday, Dec. 6, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration #912301-01.

55+ Travel group will visit the Smithsonian American Art Museum to view “Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi and Mine Okubo” exhibit featuring the careers of three trailblazing women of Japanese descent, Friday, Dec. 6. Cost \$11, Arlington resident; \$13, non-resident. Registration # 902412-04.

55+ Travel group will attend the 2024 Holiday Festival at Constitution Hall, D.C. presented by the soldiers of The United States Army Band, “Pershing’s Own,” Saturday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m., registration # 902412-05 or Sunday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m.. registration # 902412-06. [www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

Cost for each, \$11, Arlington resident; \$13, non-resident.

Aurora Hills 55+ Center second-hand jewelry sale, Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Choose from selections of necklaces, earrings, brooches, rings and more. Registration # 912899-01.

Learn how to play Rummikub, a fun tile-based game, Monday, Dec. 9, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Taught by volunteer Jacquie Stead. Drop-in.

Hearing screenings, half-hour appointments beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10, Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons. Registration # 912900-25 through #912900-32.

Name That Holiday Tune, join pianist Ken Schellenberg for a performance featuring lesser-known seasonal tunes, Tuesday, Dec. 10 a.m. Arlington Mill 55+ Center, registration # 912304-22 and Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, registration # 912304-23.

Winter tree identification with Arlington Park Naturalist Rob Barnovsky, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Learn some cool historic facts and folklore. Dress warmly for a short walk. Registration # 912106-14.

New, Five Crowns, a rummy-style card game that uses a unique deck with five suits, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Beginners welcome. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will attend the “Riverside Christmas Spectacular” at the Riverside Center for the Performing Arts in Fredericksburg, Wednesday, Dec. 11. Cost \$104, Arlington resident; \$120, non-resident. Meal included. Registration # 902412-07.

Ugly sweater crafting party, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Bring a T-shirt, sweatshirt or sweater to decorate. Sequins and pom-poms provided. Registration # 912310-03. Cookie swap party bring your favorite homemade cookies and recipes to share, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 3 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 912801-04.

Small steps to health and wealth, 25 strategies presented by Aisha Salazar, associate extension agent for family and consumer sciences with Virginia Cooperative Extension, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1:30

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 8

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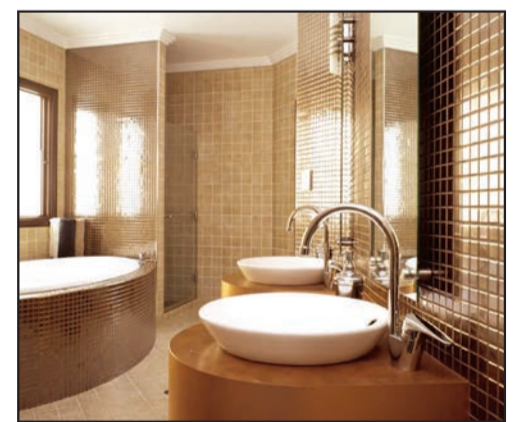
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# Holiday Happenings

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

❖ Letters to Santa may be dropped off at a big red mailbox at Gulf Branch or Long Branch Nature Centers up until Dec. 15. Be sure to put a return address so Santa knows where to send a return postcard. Donations for Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) may be left in a box located near the mailbox where you mail your letter.

❖ Santa's Critters Scavenger Hunt will be held from 11 am-3 pm at Potomac Regional Park on Dec. 14 and 15, 21-23 and 27-29. Each participant will receive a sheet of hints about the critters and where to look around the park with a place to record their answers. At the end of the scavenger hunt a small goody bag will be the reward for the effort. Cost \$5 for each participant. For more information check the Events tab on the Potomac Regional Park website.

❖ Holiday Gift Nook at the Library. The Central Library is offering a free gift shopping experience on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 am-4:30 pm and on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 am-12:30 pm in the Quincy Room. You pick up a free ticket before entering and may exchange it for one item. The gifts have been donated by the community and may be personalized at the gift wrapping station. This event is great for children and people on tight budgets.

❖ Washington-Liberty High School Annual Holiday Bazaar will offer local gifts by artisans including jewelry, housewares, ceramics, and artwork. Students will sell food and drink (cash only please) to benefit school clubs and sports teams. The event will be held Dec. 7 from 10 am-4 pm at Washington-Liberty High School at 1301 N. Stafford Street.

❖ Advent Gift Mart Sunday Dec. 8 from 9 am-12 pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church 2609 N. Glebe Rd.

❖ Lyon Village Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 4-6 pm at the Lyon Village Community House. Activities will include potluck snacks, adult beverage tasting, a brief performance of the Nutcracker from Lyon Village and Innovation ballet students, decorating cookies and/or ornaments. For more information contact LorraineNordlinger@gmail.com.

❖ Pentagon Mixed Martial Arts is holding its annual Holiday Extravaganza on Dec. 7 from 10-12 at 1041 S. Edgewood Street. Bring a dish to the potluck feast, enjoy the giveaways and raffle and get dressed in your holiday best for free professional pictures with Santa.

❖ Shirlington Light Up the Village is being held Thursday, Dec. 5 from 6-8:30 pm. The evening features a musical performance by

Signature Theatre at 6 pm, the tree lighting at 6:30 pm, horse and carriage rides at 6:40 pm and pictures with Santa at 7 pm. Other activities include face painting and strolling entertainment as well as a musical performance by Bishop O'Connell High School.

❖ Order a Free Tree for Spring. Applications are now open through Jan. 7, 2025. Quantities are limited. Apply early to get your preferred tree species. Visit office@eco-actionarlington.org to learn details.

❖ Adopt a Senior In Need This Holiday Season and spread a little joy. Culpepper Garden is launching a campaign to provide local seniors with the essentials they need this holiday season.

You can help by donating winter hats, scarves and gloves; warm blankets; essential household items such as cleaning supplies, toiletries such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste; gift cards for food, winter coats and accessories. Contact Culpepper Garden to donate. (703) 528-0162

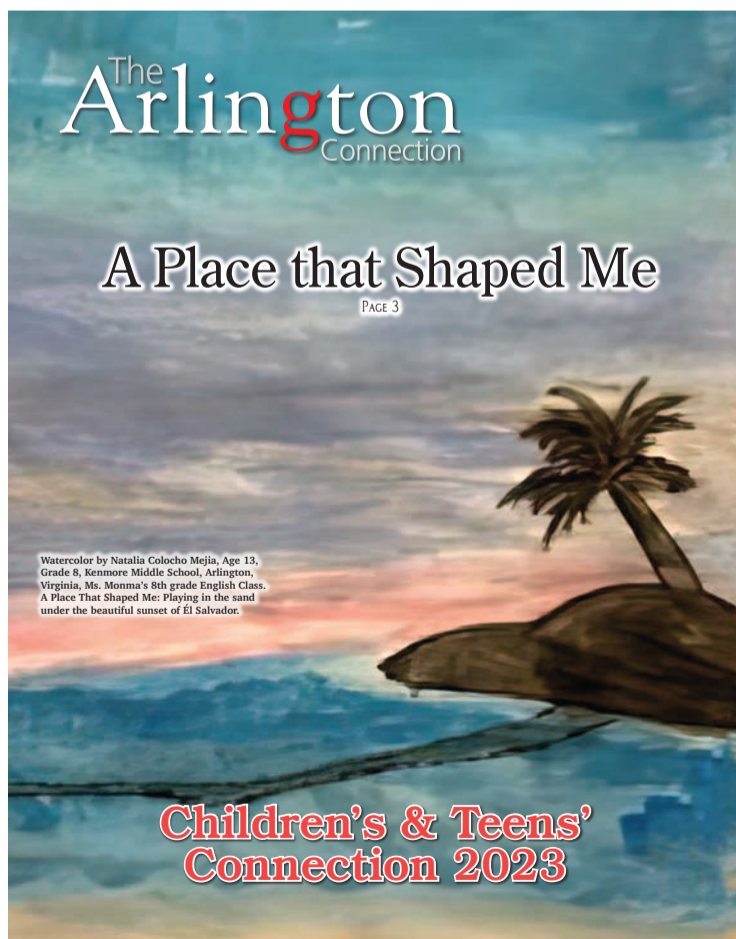
❖ Make Winter Wishes Come True at Doorways for clients in all of the Doorways programs. For each of 170 individuals Doorways has requested one gift of about \$50 value and one \$100 Visa gift card. Doorways was established in 1978 to provide services for survivors of violence and domestic abuse. For more information: doorwaysva.org.



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

**Mail your letter to Santa at Gulf Branch or Long Branch Nature Centers by December 15.**

## Be Part of the Children's and Teens' Edition



The cover of last year's Arlington Children's Connection.

Our annual Children's Connection and Children's Gazette have been a long-standing tradition. We are once again welcoming contributions from children, youth, and teens in public and private schools, as well as homeschool, after-school care, and other programs, art and writing classes, and from individuals.

We publish images of all types of visual art forms, from drawing, painting, printmaking, and graphic design to sculpture, extended media, crafts, and more. We welcome written works such as poetry, essays, opinion pieces, and short stories.

Visit <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/> and scroll down to the Children's Edition to see last year's editions. Our plan is for the Children's Connection/Gazette to publish as part of the edition for the week of Dec. 18, 2024.

### Submission Directions

1. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format. These can be submitted via Google Drive. Writing should be submitted in text format (docx or Google Docs) or pasted in the body of an email. We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email.

2. Identify each submission as follows:

### Artwork example

Sean Murphy, 12, Grade 7, Springfield, Summer Morning, watercolor on parchment | Irving Middle School, Springfield, VA, Elizabeth Carr, art teacher, MS

### Writing example

Martina Alvarez, 17, Junior, Alexandria, I'm Not Just a Teen, essay | Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria, VA, Gratia Rodriguez, English Teacher, HS

3. Please email your submissions by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2023, [Earlier is Better] to Editor Mary Kimm at [kimm.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kimm.mary@gmail.com) and fill in the Subject Line as Children's Connection 2024. If you are sharing via Google Drive, please share to [kimm.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kimm.mary@gmail.com)

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

### LIGHT UP THE VILLAGE AT SHIRLINGTON

The annual Light Up the Village at Shirlington will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Set-up for the event will begin at approximately 12:00 p.m. and clean-up is expected to be completed by 9:00 p.m. The Arlington County Police Department will conduct the following road closures to accommodate the event: From 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.: Campbell Avenue, from Harris Teeter to S. Randolph Street Beginning at 3:30 p.m. Campbell Avenue, from S. Arlington Mill Drive to S. Quincy Street S. Randolph Street, from S. Arlington Mill Drive to the alley behind the businesses on the South side of Campbell Avenue

### DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

# NEWS

## Student Charged after Loaded Gun Found in Backpack

An Arlington Community High School student has been charged after a firearm was located in his backpack on school grounds. Petitions were obtained for the 17-year-old student for Possession of a Weapon on School Property, Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Possession of a Firearm by a Juvenile and Possession of Marijuana by Persons less than 21 Years Old. He is being held in a juvenile detention center.

At approximately 12 p.m. on Dec. 2, police responded to Arlington Community High School, located in the 4400 block of Fairfax Drive, after a school security guard located a loaded firearm with an extended magazine and suspected marijuana inside a student's backpack. Responding officers took the student into custody and took possession of the firearm and marijuana. In the interest of public safety, Arlington Community High School was placed on lockdown during the investigation.

The safe resolution of this incident highlights the collaboration between Arlington Public Schools and the Arlington County Police



ARLINGTON COUNTY POLICE

**Firearm and extended magazine recovered at Arlington Community High School on Dec. 2, 2024.**

Department. Parents and guardians are encouraged to talk with their students about firearm safety, remind them that it is never ok to bring a weapon to school and that the possession of firearms and other weapons on school property is prohibited by law and has serious consequences. Additional gun safety resources are available online.

This remains an active criminal investigation. Anyone with information that may assist the investigation is asked to contact the Arlington County Police Department's tip line at 703-228-4180.

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# Vietnam Veterans Share Holiday Cheer

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227 of Northern Virginia fulfilled their founding principle, “Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another” by providing credit card gift cards to 91 veterans in the highly successful Veteran Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) program and filling the Santa list of three local medically impaired veterans and their families.

For the fifteenth consecutive year, credit card gift cards were provided to 91 veterans in the VASH program which provides stable housing and veteran benefits for homeless veterans and their families. The gift card amounts are from \$100 for a single veteran to \$ 225 for a veteran family with children. The successful veteran assistance program resulted in a 112% funding increase from 2023. The highest category increase was for single veterans from 21 to 64 cases. This year’s program amount was \$10,725. Len Ignatowski, Chapter Vice President, manages the program.

For the thirteenth consecutive year, three wounded warrior families with their Santa List are adopted for the holidays. Carolyn J. Lehowicz provides the names from her volunteer work with veterans and service organizations. Chuck Harris, Chapter Treasurer,

and two of his friends are shopping for the Santa List. \$1,000 is allotted per veteran’s Santa List for a total of \$3,000. The list includes a \$500 gift card and personal items from toys to clothing.

These two veteran outreach programs will make the holidays a bit more cheerful for our country’s heroes. Plus, financial assistance is given during the year for needs from car repairs to rent assistance.

Donations are being accepted to assist the Chapter’s veteran outreach throughout the year for veterans in Northern Virginia. Donations can be mailed to VVA Chapter 227, Attn: Chuck Harris, 44020 Pandora Ct. Ashburn, VA. 20147-3844. Check payable to VVA Chapter 227.

Chapter 227 offers veteran camaraderie and opportunities to assist veterans, active military personnel, and the community. Vietnam and Vietnam Era-veterans, and non-veterans can call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 for additional information or visit the chapter webpage at [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

**Laura Smart, a Northern Virginia VASH Case Manager, (left) accepts the Chapter’s Holiday Gift Cards for needy VASH veterans and families from Len Ignatowski, Vice President, VVA Chapter 227.**



## Giving Season and Your Community Newspaper

Giving Tuesday is almost done, but it is giving season, and The Connection, Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and Potomac Almanac need your help to keep going.

One of the important functions of our weekly newspapers is to highlight the many organizations in the community that work to benefit those in need, people experiencing homelessness and families experiencing hunger and food insecurity.

You can see lists on our website of organizations with missions for the public good in many contexts. Helping hungry people. Providing health care. Helping Veterans. Working for the environment. Protecting animal welfare. Providing access to the arts. And more. These organizations and nonprofits are all addressing critical needs.

For our list for Fairfax County, click here. <https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2024/dec/03/where-to-give-locally/>

For our list for Arlington, click here. <https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2024/dec/03/arlington-nonprofits-need-your-help/>

For our list for Alexandria and Mount Vernon, click here. <https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2024/dec/03/where-to-give-locally-in-alexandria-and-mount-vernon/>

These lists have been developed over years and are updated regularly. If you see something we’ve missed or a listing that needs corrections, contact Mary Kimm, [kimm.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kimm.mary@gmail.com), with Give Locally in the subject line.

We also regularly write stories that feature the

important work of these organizations and stories that show the need. For example <https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2024/apr/10/in-tents-not-by-choice-but-lack-of-choices/>

On a lighter side, calendar editor Steve Hibbard has been expanding our calendars for entertainment and civic events. Right now, the calendars are chock full of holiday events. Here are two examples for the coming weeks, Fairfax County and Arlington.

<https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2024/dec/03/fairfax-county-calendar/>

<https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2024/dec/03/arlington-calendar/>

Newspaper advertising is lagging, leaving our revenue very short. Without getting more help ourselves, we won’t be able to continue to showcase the community. Without help we won’t be able to continue publishing.

We hope to research nonprofit status in coming months. We hope to invest in a more robust online presence, possibly saving some print costs. We hope to expand our coverage and reach. But right now we need help just to continue to do what we are doing. Please extend a portion of your Giving Tuesday generosity for your community newspapers.

You can donate to our GoFundMe campaign. <https://gofund.me/82995c2d>

You can mail a check made out to Local Media Connection or Alexandria Gazette Packet or Connection Newspapers or Mount Vernon Gazette, and mail it to 1606 King Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314. Feel free to contact us with questions.

## “FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

FROM PAGE 5

p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 912500-02.

History roundtable participants to discuss key impact years in world history, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 11:15 a.m., virtual. Registration # 912402-04.

The study of words and the history of the English language, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 912402-09 or virtual, registration # 912402-10.

The Angler’s Corner, share fishing exploits, exchange tackle recommendations and discuss fishing locations, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Join Virginia Cooperative Extension and learn how to become a VCE master food volunteer, energy master or master financial educator volunteer, Thursday, Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 912400-03.

Virtual tour of Costa Rica, first in a series of presenta-

tions on Central America Spanish-speaking countries, Thursday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m. Presented by Lubber Run 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez. Registration # 912400-36.

An epic journey on the river Danube from Prague to Budapest with 55+ volunteer David Young, Thursday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m., virtual. Registration # 912400-42.

Beginner quilting (not quilting) learn to create raised images from paper strips using a few basic tools, Thursday, Dec. 12, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Cost \$18. Supplies provided. Registration # 912310-05.

55+ Travel group will visit the Dutch Village Farmers Market in Upper Marlboro, MD, Friday, Dec. 13. Cost \$13, Arlington resident, \$15, non-resident. Registration # 902412-08.

55+ Travel group is off to the Hollywood Casino, Charles Town, WV, Saturday, Dec. 14. Cost \$13, Arlington resident; \$15, non-resident. Registration # 902412-09.



# ENTERTAINMENT



Jane Franklin Dance will appear on Dec. 14-15, 2024, at Theatre on the Run in Arlington.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCIES

The Friends of Arlington's Planetarium seeks to fill three vacancies on its 2025 Board of Directors. Interested candidates seeking information and an application can find details on the FOAP Elections web page. The deadline for submission is Dec. 31, 2024.

## 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, in partnership with Arlington County and Marymount Univer-

sity, 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 look-



Santa Paws Yappy Hour takes place Dec. 6, 2024 at Central Place Plaza in Rosslyn.

ing for fun and enriching activities in Arlington? Email or call 703-509-8057 and they will connect you with an Ambassador.

## UNTIL JAN. 26, 2025

**Assembly 2024: Horizon Scanning Exhibit.** At the Museum of Contemporary Art, Arlington. 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.

## OCT. 29 TO JAN. 12

**"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."** At Signature Theatre, Shirlington, Arlington. It's a comedy night in Sondheim's zany, hysterical, Tony Award-winning musical romp. In one of the greatest musical comedies of all time, three households reside next to each other in ancient Rome. Just

outside their doors, the exploits of a quick-thinking Roman slave, a braggart soldier, a beautiful courtesan, a lovesick young man and others devolve into uproarious chaos in a fast-paced, witty and monumental escapade. With mistaken identities, wily ruses, madcap chases, a love story, and a happy ending of course, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum's" audacious and irreverent spectacle has something for everyone.

## HOLIDAYS AT AMAZON HQ2

The holiday season is officially here, and Amazon HQ2 in Arlington is kicking it off with exciting, family-friendly events that will bring joy and festive cheer. Here are a few events you don't want to miss:

- MoCA Handcrafted Holidays – Every Wednesday through Dec. 20th: 11:30am-1:30pm  
Get into the holiday spirit by creating unique, handmade gifts at the Museum of Contemporary Art's Innovation Studio. Crafts and dates include:  
Dec. 4: Bottle Cap Ornaments Led by artist, Margaret Jacobson.  
Dec. 11: Festive Candle Decoration  
Dec. 18: Super-Size Snowflakes
- The Lodge at National Landing brought to you by Amazon - Saturday, Dec. 7th, 1pm - 7pm  
Step into a winter wonderland at Metropolitan Park's ski-inspired festival, The Lodge. Celebrate the season with cozy vibes, warm drinks, and plenty of activities for all ages.

- Plants in the Park - Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 11am - 2pm  
Roll up your sleeves and get into the holiday spirit at the Museum of Contemporary Art's winter edition of Plants in the Park. Participants will create their own plant and craft project, perfect for holiday décor or gifts.
- Food Pop-ups in Coordination with Met Park Retailers  
Coordinated with Met Park retailers, these events will feature art, holiday lights, and seasonal promotions to bring the holiday spirit to life in the park!

## DEC. 5-8

**Brighten Your Season.** At Central Place Plaza, Rosslyn. Celebrate the holidays with Rosslyn Cheer! A fun lineup of events and more holiday happenings to get you into the holiday spirit. 1800 N Lynn St, Arlington, VA 22209  
Light the Plaza: Thursday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m.  
Santa Paws Yappy Hour: Friday, Dec. 6, 5-7 p.m.  
Holiday Market: Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

## DEC. 6 AND 13

**Free Classical Music.** 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. The program for December 6 features Karg-Elert's Suite Pointillistique

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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Little 4 Enterprises LLC trading as Yunnan By Potomac, 721 15th St S Unit 150, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia 22202-1659. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, Consumed On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Shao Bruce, Executive Chef & Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

for solo flute and Shostakovich's Piano Trio in E minor. The program December 13 includes a cello solo performance of Boccherini's Concerto in G Major; Schubert's piano Impromptu in B-flat Major, and the virtuoso Fantaisie brillante sur 'Carmen' for solo flute. The one-hour concerts start at noon. Free, no ticket required. Visit [fmmc.org](http://fmmc.org)

## SATURDAY/DEC. 7

**Enchant: A Family Holiday Concert by the Arlington Chorale.** 5 p.m. At Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive, Arlington. Join in an enchanting concert that will warm your heart and spark your holiday spirit! Immerse yourself in the joy and wonder of the season as the Arlington Chorale brings beloved holiday classics to life. From festive carols to spirited sing-alongs, this concert is a celebration of love, togetherness, and the enchantment of the holiday season. Let the music transport you to a world of winter wonder with snow-covered landscapes and the joyous laughter of children. Tickets and more information at [arlingtonchorale.org](http://arlingtonchorale.org)

## DEC. 7-8

**Holiday Gift Nook.** At Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington. Shopping Hours Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. How it works: Pick up a coupon before entering the shop and exchange it for one item. You may return for additional tickets, while supplies and inventory last. Visit the gift-wrapping station to personalize and wrap your gift(s). Check out other Library gift-making and wrapping programs.

## CAPITAL ART & CRAFT FESTIVAL/DEC 13-15

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"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" can be seen Oct. 29 to Jan. 12, 2025 at Signature Theatre in Arlington.

at the Winter Capital Art and Craft Festival. Enjoy shopping for beautiful one-of-a-kind art, jewelry, clothing, furnishings, pottery, décor, and more. [www.capitalartandcraftfestivals.com](http://www.capitalartandcraftfestivals.com)

## SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**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 December's show is the hilarious Lucas Craig.

## DEC. 14-15

**Jane Franklin Dance.** 7 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Jane Franklin Dance will close 2024 at the intimate black box venue Theatre on the Run, with commissioned works by six choreographers. Tickets: \$23

through Dec 13. (\$25 on Dec 14, 15 and at the door). Visit the website: <https://janefranklin.com/performances>.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Holiday Cheer.** 7:30 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. The National Chamber Ensemble returns with their beloved 'Holiday Cheer' concert. This event has become a holiday tradition enjoyed by all faiths and anyone who loves the finest classical and holiday favorites of the season. Star soprano Sharon Christman and the winners of NCE's Outstanding Young Artist Award string competition will captivate the audience with their performances. The concert concludes with a Carols-Sing-Along inviting everyone to join the spirit of music and song.

## DEC. 19 TO JAN. 4, 2025

**"The Little Comedies."** At Theater-on-the-Run in Arlington. Sponsored by Synetic Theater. Expressed through body and facial masks, pantomime, and

dazzling choreography, this reinvention of a Synetic classic, "The Music Box," treats audiences of all ages to a series of enchanting, wordless vignettes set to mesmerizing music. Watch as a janitor and businessman discover a magical mask that transforms their lives and two cowboys in the Wild West who hilariously attempt to tame a loose bull in an unforgettable journey through fantasy and comedy.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 11

### 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 D.C. area's finest comics. The headliner for January's show is the hilarious Umar Khan.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

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.

**Naloxone (Narcan)** can save the life of someone who is overdosing, if given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need is protected from liability by the Good Samaritan Law. Naloxone (Narcan) is available without a prescription for a fee at all pharmacies. Obtain it for free by attending a REVIVE! training. Contact Emily Siqueland at 703-228-0913 or [esiqueland@arlingtonva.us](mailto:esiqueland@arlingtonva.us) or visit [health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/](http://health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/) for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit [www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone](http://www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone) for details.

**Monthly Memory Café.** 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6, Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, virtually. Registration is free and highly recommended to reserve spots, which are open on a first come first served basis. To reserve a spot, please call 571-210-5551 or email [bdesai@seniorhelpers.com](mailto:bdesai@seniorhelpers.com). Visit [www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe](http://www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe) or [www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va](http://www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va) for more.

**Aging Matters.** 2-3 p.m. Tuesdays on WERA 96.7 LP FM on Arlington's community radio station. Each week host Cheryl Beversdorf interviews individuals with expertise about a broad array of aging related topics affecting the lives of older adults and their loved ones. Visit [www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera](http://www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera) to listen to programs. <https://www.mixcloud.com/AgingMatters/>

**Volunteer Bike Repair Night.** First Tuesday of the month, 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Volunteers gather to refurbish bikes, sort parts or help with essential tasks. No experience necessary.

**Public Financial Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline.** Arlington County public hotline that offers a confidential and secure way to report suspected incidents of financial fraud, waste and abuse. Anyone can submit a complaint to the hotline at 1-866-565-9206 or at [arlingtonva.ethicaladvocate.com](http://arlingtonva.ethicaladvocate.com). The hotline website is available in English and Spanish. Phone calls can be taken in many languages.

## A New World Record



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Typically, an in-building task at your local MVA is not grounds for excitement/enthusiasm; you name the positive adjective. And this might apply whether you have an appointment or whether you're taking a number upon arrival and sitting in their ample waiting room. The MVA is rarely described as an in-and-out experience. It's known more as an "in" experience where the 'out' comes much later. To survive the ordeal, aside from being 100-percent sure you have all your documents, all your signatures, all your proofs of identification, bring all your patience, too. Also, it might be further advised that you should pack a lunch, or at least a snack, because the likelihood that you'll be waiting long enough to get hungry is high.

With this opinion in hand – and head, I had reason for an in-building visit recently which didn't offer an appointment: returning license plates for a car we no longer owned and one which, if I understood MVA guidelines, entitled me to a one-year's registration refund: \$67.50. Furthermore, if I wanted to collect, showing up in person was the best way. Going to one of the MVA's self-service kiosks, or to one of their inside-the-MVA-building machines was not recommended. For me especially, the chance for operator error was also high. Therefore, I decided to go to the local MVA office and to quote my old friend and long-ago softball coach, Marty B. who used to implore our team whenever we needed to overcome some game-related issue: "Suck it up, Line." (Our team's name was "The Fine Line." The roster included several architects.) Given the "adult beverages" consumed during these once-a-week games, our team's name should have been "The Blurry Line." There was no avoiding this issue however, I had to show up in person at the MVA and/or suffer the consequences. I could not conduct/complete my business otherwise. But since I was expecting a refund, I figured that in this rare case, the MVA was sort of paying me for my time. I also was hoping, naively, that completing this process in person might result in an immediate refund. Unfortunately, that was not the case. However, it eliminated any delay caused by yours truly attempting to do it myself. This way, I was guaranteed the process was proper and that the refund would be forthcoming. (I have experience in these matters. As such, I've learned, repeatedly, that often it's best left to the professionals.)

Brimming with anxiety and presumptive stress over the time yet-to-be-served, I got in my car and headed down the road. In preparation for the day ahead, I had filled my pockets with some bite-size Dove chocolates. Targeting a mid-morning arrival, thinking that it was off peak, I turned into the MVA lot and ever hopeful I drove to the front of their parking lot hoping for a miracle. And there it was, the closest available space to the building located between the handicapped parking spots and the one reserved for police officers. what my friend Sean describes as "rock star parking." I went in headfirst and didn't look back. Taking a deep breath, I not only parked the car but my patience too; I got out of my car and walked the 10-yards or so to the revolving front door and in I went.

Once inside, I looked around to get my bearings. To my left were several self-service machines already backed up 5-plus deep. Ahead was the information station. There was one person in line and another in conversation with the MVA representative. I walked up to the desk and excused myself as I asked the employee where I go to turn in license plates on a car I no longer own. The man said: Right here." Super. I walked around the security rope and got in line. The person already at the desk finished his business as soon as I got in line. The man ahead of me stepped up to the desk and asked/said something. Whatever it was, it meant that he couldn't get any more help from this MVA employee. Within 30 seconds or so, the man was politely dismissed, and it was my turn. I told my license plate story as I handed them over to the MVA staffer. He took the plates and immediately began typing into his computer. Soon I heard the printer printing. The employee then handed me the receipt for my plates. The same receipt confirmed the refund. It said I would be receiving it in the mail in six to eight weeks. "Is that it, I asked?" "Yes," I was told and likewise politely dismissed. My task completed; I turned around to leave the building. I walked back out through the revolving doors outside to my car.

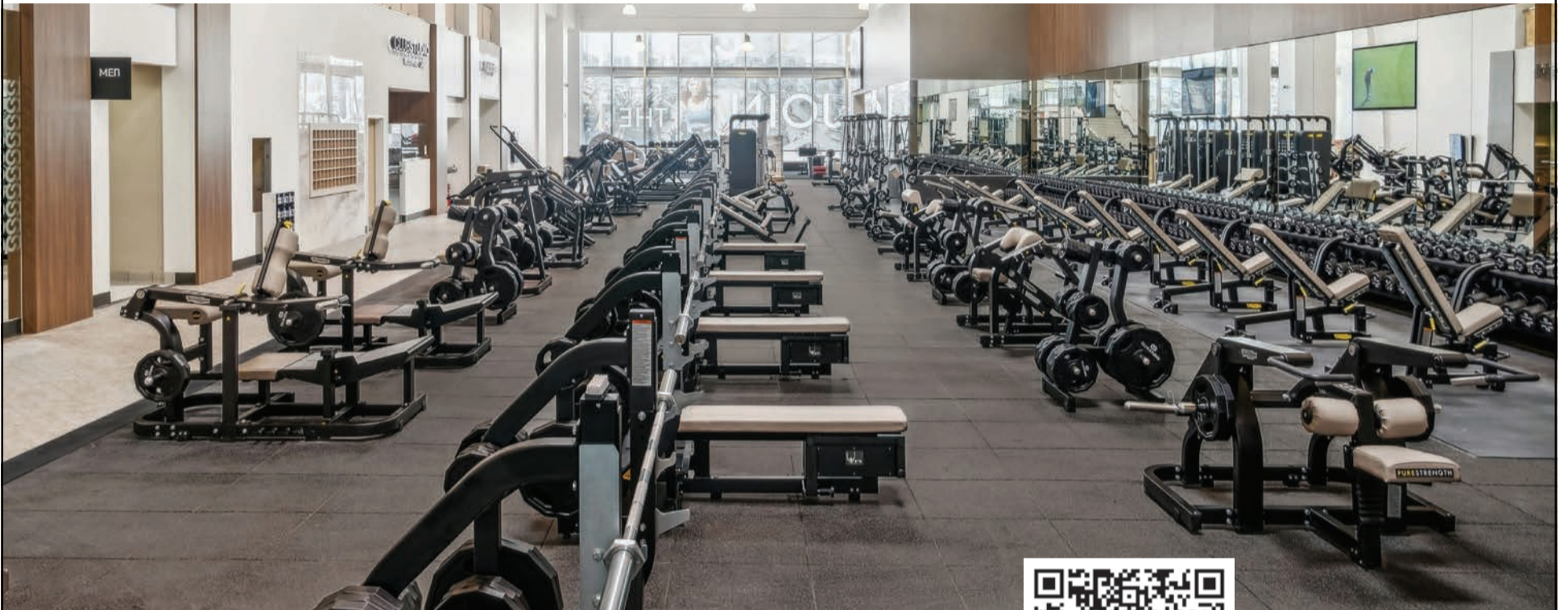
Incredulous at my amazing good fortune to be finished so quickly, I looked at my watch: Five minutes after I had arrived, the deal was done. I hadn't even started on the Dove chocolates yet. I think I'm going to call Ripley's. I need to have this experience documented for posterity. Otherwise, who would believe it?

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



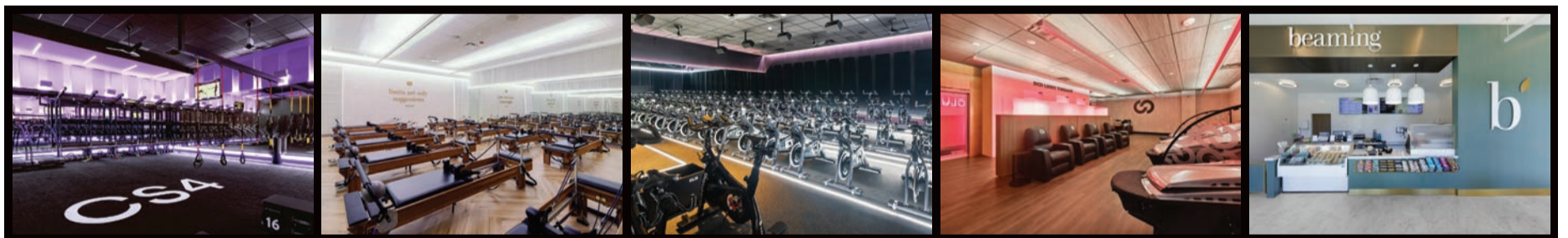
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