

Migratory Bird Day-Arlington: Wildlife Rescue League provides information to the public about wildlife. "Many wild animals have learned to live with us better than we've learned to live with them," said Carolyn Wilder of the Wildlife Rescue League.

# The Arlington Connection



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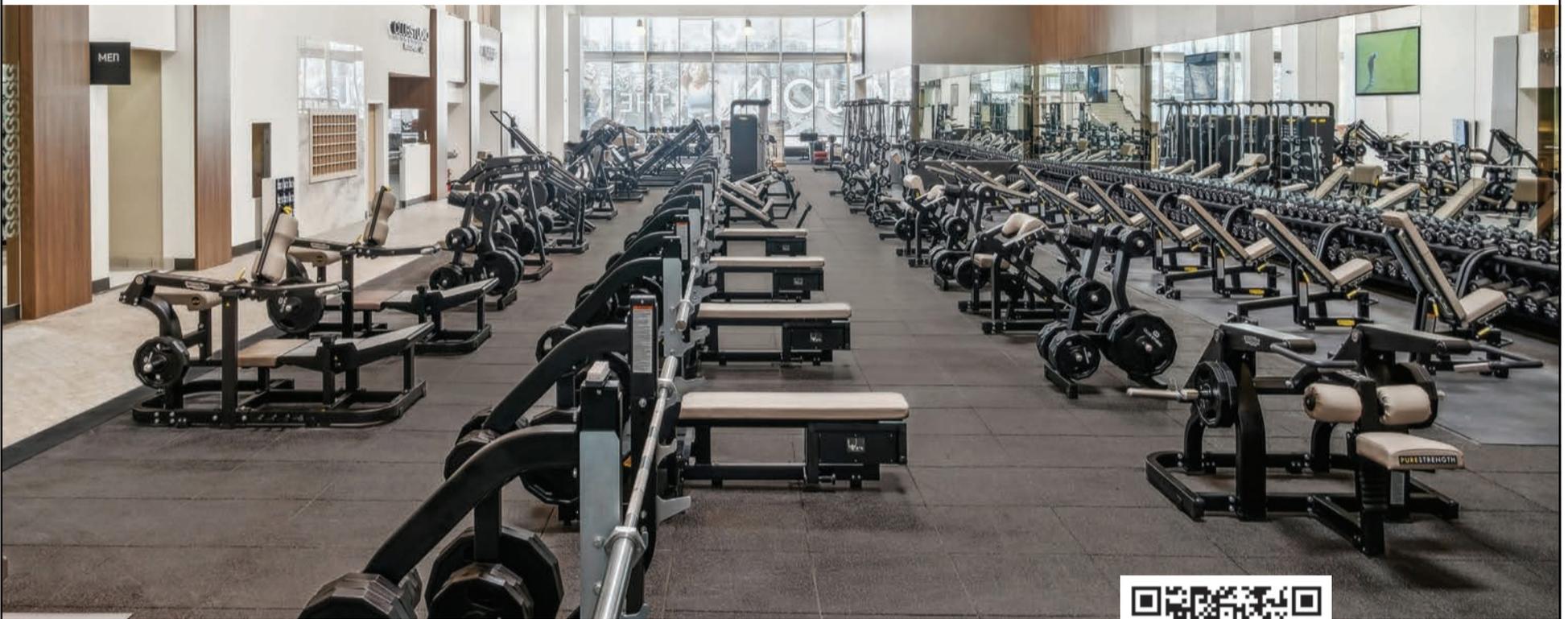
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# Casual Adventure Outfitters Hits Home Runs

Store is nominated as Retail Champion by National Retail Federation.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

It was Small Business Saturday, and the store was empty. Four experienced staff were on hand waiting for the customers to arrive. The store's owner and manager, Eric Stern, wasn't worried. He said, "It was busier earlier, but 'Cyber Week' seems to have combined what used to be several distinct days: Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday. We appreciate the support of our customers locally and nationally (and internationally!) who see the holiday shopping season not just as a time for great deals, but as an opportunity to come by the store to catch up with our staff, often sharing stories of their recent adventures and upcoming journeys. Many of our former staff from over the decades also stop by to reminisce, meet our current employees, and find old photos from their time here."

"The timing and flow has certainly changed over the years, and it is more difficult to anticipate how much staff to bring in to accommodate busy and slow times of day. Sometimes it's slow for an hour, and other times we get crushed with jubilant customers for a few hours. That is all part of the planning process, which, like many other plans around the holidays,



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

Just one piece of "Casual Adventure Americana" at the store.

can sometimes get thrown out the window. The ability to adapt and overcome is imperative in this day and age," said Stern. "In the end, we work on getting base hits everyday, and getting the homeruns when and where we can. During cyber week, we are grateful for everyone who stopped by in store and those who shopped online nationwide."

Casual Adventure Outfitters was named a 2024 America's Retail Champion by the National Retail Federation (NRF) in July, 2024. Now in its seventh year, the program honors small retailers from across the country who speak out on public policy debates affecting the retail industry at the national, state and local levels.

SEE CASUAL ADVENTURE, PAGE 12



PHOTO PROVIDED

Eric Stern stands in front of the mini replica of Mountain 25 Tent from the North Face 1990 Trans-Antarctica Expedition. Members of Congress stopped by to talk to the retailers who had been highlighted by the National Retail Federation and enjoyed the exhibits.

## Notorious Norovirus Stalks Region

Frequent handwashing with soap and water could help avoid the scourge.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

It is winter, and a new strain of norovirus called GII.17[P17] is spreading across the U.S. including the northeast.

MedStar Health Urgent Care in our region is experiencing an uptick in norovirus across its 33 clinics, says its spokesperson. Norovirus is highly contagious, spreading easily from person to person on contaminated surfaces, in food and water, and can be airborne.

The CDC reports that most norovirus outbreaks occur because people do not wash their hands after going to the bathroom. Also, the CDC reports that foods commonly involved in norovirus outbreaks are leafy greens, fresh fruits, and shellfish (such as oysters).

See <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/outbreak-basics/> to learn more about norovirus the geographical source of certain oysters that the FDA is currently warning restaurants and retailers about not serving or selling and consumers not eating.

The virus can cause sudden and severe vomiting and diarrhea, known as "acute gastroenteritis." While not everyone who presents with symptoms is tested, MedStar Health Urgent Care data shows norovirus

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cases are up 5-10 percent over last year as of Jan. 13, according to its spokesperson.

Jon Gonella, a MedStar physician's assistant, has 25 years of experience treating patients with vomiting and diarrhea and diagnosing and managing viral illnesses, particularly norovirus.

Gonella shared details about the incubation period for norovirus, symptoms, duration, virus transmission, and how to prevent exposure. This is important because hand sanitizer alone will not prevent norovirus from spreading. It lives on "fomites," inanimate objects that can transmit disease-causing viruses and germs from one person to another. Examples are doorknobs, countertops, furniture, school desks, phones, clothing, toys and eating utensils.

Gonella explained that norovirus most commonly spreads to these surfaces through the fecal-oral route. "An infected person sheds the virus through their feces," Gonella said. "An example would be someone who has the virus and uses the bathroom, then touches the door on their way out of the bathroom. The next person who comes in touches that door or touches a counter where the virus is, and then they acquire it that way. Then that whole process starts over again."

Norovirus can be airborne to some degree.

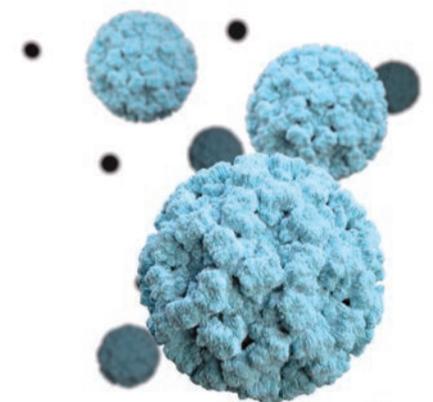
Gonella said that when an infected person is vomiting, the viral particles can spread through the air. For example, a parent holds the basin for the child to vomit. Understanding the airborne spread is important because only a tiny viral particle burden is necessary to transmit the virus.

According to Gonella, the concern with norovirus, or any of the viruses that cause vomiting, is dehydration. The impact can differ among age groups, with children and older people more susceptible to dehydration.

Any changes in mental status, such as the patient becoming lethargic or less alert, are red flags to take the sick person to a medical office or emergency care. "If someone's had repeated vomiting or diarrhea, they may become more pale, more what we call pallor. Their skin color may change," said Gonella.

Asked how people clean up the vomiting and diarrhea mess, Gonella said, "Norovirus is somewhat resistant to our typical alcohol-or chlorine-based sanitizer. A lot of the hand sanitizers that we use are alcohol-based, and norovirus is resistant to that. We recommend washing hands with good old soap and water. We recommend a chlorine bleach water mix to clean up a norovirus vomiting episode." He added that contaminated surfaces should be disinfected with bleach, 5-25 tablespoons of household bleach per gallon of water.

He added the virus's incubation period, is



ILLUSTRATOR: ALISSA ECKERT, MS

Based on electron microscopic (EM) imagery, this illustration provides a three-dimensional (3D) graphical representation of a number of norovirus virions, set against a white background.

24 to 48 hours, and symptoms typically last 2 to 4 days. There is no antiviral treatment for norovirus, and the focus should be maintaining hydration and a bland diet.

Gonella emphasizes the importance of washing fruits and vegetables to prevent norovirus transmission, as well as hand washing.

Individuals suspected of having norovirus should not prepare food for others until at least two days after their symptoms resolve.

The CDC reports infecting someone can take as few as 10 viral particles. Norovirus causes an average of 900 deaths annually mostly among older adults, 109,000 hospitalizations, and 19 million to 21 million cases in the U.S. each year.



PHOTO BY MADELINE LIBRE

Even vultures need our help.



Migratory Bird Day-Arlington: Wildlife Rescue League provides information to the public about wildlife.

# Living Harmoniously with Our Wild Neighbors

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Squirrels, foxes, raccoons, turtles, snakes, deer, bats, birds, they are all around us all the time and we must learn to live with them, Carolyn Wilder with the Wildlife Rescue League told “Zoomers” at the Jan. 11 green breakfast talk sponsored by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. Bats in your chimney? Foxes denning under your deck? “Many wild animals have learned to live with us better than we’ve learned to live with them,” she offered.

Wilder discussed how and when to help wild animals and urged much caution and restraint when dealing with sick, injured or “nuisance” wildlife. She discouraged people from habituating an animal, especially. Animals should not lose their fear of people so she urged, don’t feed them, secure garbage cans and don’t leave pet food out at night.

If you find injured or orphaned wildlife, the first thing to do is call the Wildlife Rescue League’s wildlife helpline, 703-440-0800, or Virginia’s, 855-571-9003.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources website says that usually, handling wildlife “can do more harm than good” and offers detailed advice here: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/injured/>.

If you handle an injured or orphaned animal, wear gloves or use a towel, Wilder stressed. The animal may have fleas or mites and can bite. Put it in a box so it cannot get out and put a heat source under the box, like a sock filled with rice and heated in a microwave oven. Put the box in a quiet dark place and leave it alone. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator and follow their instructions.

## Obey Laws

State and federal laws generally require permits to handle wildlife and clearly pre-

### More Information

- ❖ Wildlife Rescue League, <https://www.wildliferescueleague.org/>, 703-440-0800
- ❖ Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, including licensed rehabilitators, <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife>, 855-571-9003
- ❖ Fairfax County Animal Protection Police, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/specializedunits/animal-protectionpolice> ; 703-691-2131

scribe what people can and cannot legally do. For example, it is unlawful to have, sell or trap wildlife or keep wildlife as pets without a permit. It is unlawful to destroy a nest or den that has eggs or babies.

If you find injured wildlife, you can capture the animal temporarily and keep it as long as it takes to get the animal to a veterinarian or rehabilitator, Wilder said. She recommended trying to keep the animal warm, dry and quiet. “Do not feed it or give it water,” she advised, “unless a rehabilitator tells you that you should.”

On orphaned wildlife, she said that mammals have a good sense of smell and mothers almost always come back to their young. For baby squirrels, she recommended that if you find a baby on the ground, do not feed it; put it in a box under the tree where you found it. If the mother hears her offspring, she’ll retrieve it.

Some people consider the ubiquitous gray squirrel in Northern Virginia a problem, but Wilder said, “We do not know any way to get rid of squirrels. They are way too smart for us. They adapt to anything and everything.”

On rabbits she said, “They are predator to nothing and prey to many.” Their nest is shallow on the ground and covered with

SEE LIVING HARMONIOUSLY, PAGE 5



Jane Copeland teaches students about turtles at Flint Hill School.



PHOTO BY FELICIA SCHWENK

Ducklings, learning to swim before they can fly.

# Living Harmoniously with Our Wild Neighbors



PHOTO BY KAREN LAMB

**Hiccup the Raccoon.** Orphaned baby raccoons grow up to be rambunctious teenagers before release.



Owls have sharp beaks and talons-hence the gloves.



PHOTO BY DR. BELINDA BURWELL

**This baby fox was surprised to find out his fur hat wasn't his mother!**

FROM PAGE 4

grass. Mother cottontails only feed their young at dawn and at dusk. Then she covers them up in the nest and “does not hang around.” She urged people who find a nest to put twigs over it and return later. If the twigs were moved, the mother probably came back. If a dog is carrying a bunny, try to put the bunny back in the nest, but the baby rabbit likely has puncture wounds and

will need a rehabilitator. Check for rabbit nests before mowing your lawn, she urged.

Some mammals (not opossums) are rabies vector species. Raccoons, foxes, groundhogs, skunks, bats and beavers transmit rabies through their saliva. Symptoms of rabies include lethargy, stupor, walking in tight circles, aimless wandering, unexplained aggression, eye or nose discharge, biting and convulsions. If you suspect a ra-

bid animal, she recommended calling your local government’s animal control officers who can conduct a test.

#### Wildlife Rehabilitators

Wildlife rehabilitators are trained and licensed to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured, orphaned and sick wild animals back to their natural habitats and help people learn to coexist with wildlife.

The Wildlife Rescue League, incorporated in 1984, is an all-volunteer group with 140 volunteers and 30 rehabilitators who work out of their homes. They have no building.

Many species of wildlife in our area adapt quickly to living around people. They are resourceful and self-sufficient. It is important to understand when they need human help and when people should leave them alone, Wilder summarized.



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# My 2025 Legislative Updates

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN



**O**ur first full week in session started off with a flurry of snowflakes and bills. The Virginia Senate Privileges and Elections Committee reported out my Marriage Equality Constitutional Amendment with bipartisan support (SJ 249).

I continue in my role as chair of the first Virginia Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology, with over a hundred bills to consider during this 2025 session. My bills include SB 1042, which would make it easier to become a Certified Public Accountant and SB 1043 which would ensure sixty days notice when a landlord does not renew a tenant's lease. Both reported out of the committee. On Friday, the Senate Courts of Justice Committee recommended passage of SB 880- a ban on the public carrying of assault weapons and SB 881, regarding restrictions on 'ghost guns.'

On Monday, Jan. 20, we had a productive day of bills. The Virginia Committee on Justice considered SB 1053, addressing deepfake fraud and SB 1060 which would allow for the confiscation of tobacco and vapes possessed by minors. Also on Monday, the Virginia Committee of Commerce and Labor considered SB 1056, which would increase weekly unemployment maximum benefits and SB 1057, which would raise the limits for unemployment compensation when working a part time job. We also considered SB 1280 in the Gaming Subcommittee of the General Laws Committee. This bill would ensure the posting of the problem gambling help line in places where gambling occurs.

## Full Legislative Agenda

With the support of my two staffers and three interns from Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond, we are running full speed ahead with a full legislative agenda.

First is SB 249, a Constitutional Amendment protecting marriage equality. We are also seeking to amend the Virginia Human Rights Act, SB 1052, to ensure that companies regardless of size, do not discriminate in employment. Next is SB 881, which would ban ghost guns. SB 880 would ban carrying assault weapons in public.

SB 1060 would allow for the confiscation of tobacco and vapes possessed by minors. We are also working on SB 1053 addressing deepfake fraud. SB 1042 would make it easier to become a Certified Public Accountant. SB 879 would help tradespeople get a Career and Technical Education teaching license.

In SB 1043, we are working on more notice to tenants when their lease is not renewed by the landlord. SB 1054 requires the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority to draft regulations for retail cannabis sales. SB 1283 would ban privately run state prisons. We are also working on requiring data center operators to provide more information when applying for siting.

SB 1056 and SB 1057 would increase unemployment benefits. SB 1058 would make it easier for schools to provide solar power to the grid. Providing post-release job placement services to returning citizens is the goal of SB 877. SB 1280 would promote the state's gambling help line.

SB 1051 would allow for the annual inspections of animal boarding facilities. We are working on transparency regarding the use of

deepfakes and technology. I am also working on increasing the penalty for hitting a vulnerable road user in a crosswalk.

## Constituent Visits

We had many productive discussions with constituents last week.

I had a good meeting with Virginia community health leaders, including Dr. Basim Khan, who leads Neighborhood Health Services, to discuss continued healthcare access in medically underserved communities. Serving over 400,000 patients in 2023, Virginia's health centers provide high-quality, comprehensive primary care for 1 in every 21 Virginians.

I was glad to have met with local constituent activists from Students Demand Action and Moms Demand Action for their lobby day. We are working this session to do more to address gun violence.

I also met with the American Association of University Women of Virginia. I appreciate their advocacy and for coming to visit me in Richmond, advancing gender equity in the Commonwealth.

I met with the Virginia Society of Public Accountants for their CPA Assembly Day. I am thankful for all the work CPAs perform and will continue to work with them in the future.

## Upcoming Town Hall Meeting

I'll be hosting a town hall meeting on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 10 am. Please join us at the Minnie Howard Campus of Alexandria City High School, 3775 W Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA, 22303. Also attending will be Delegates Bennett-Parker, Herring and Lopez. Sign up here to attend.

Thanks for the continued opportunity to serve.

# Virginia Legislature Begins Work

## One of the more bizarre starts ever.

BY SENATOR SCOTT A. SUROVELL



**T**he first week of the 2025 regular session of the General Assembly which began on Jan. 7 was one of the more bizarre starts I have ever experienced.

While Fairfax County got around eight inches of snow, Richmond had three inches, but the snow managed to take down the entire public water system for six days. Two backup systems failed along with a switch and several pumps. This forced General Assembly leaders to gavel in on the first day of the session and then recess until Jan. 13.

While the lack of water meant a slow start, we have plenty to do. I am carrying approximately 25 bills and about 30 budget amendments, and have responsibilities as Senate

Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee.

For now, I'll single out several of my bills that have directly impact our area. First, we continue to see many collisions on the south George Washington Memorial Parkway ("the Parkway") at Belle Haven Road and Belleview Boulevard. I have received numerous complaints about excessive speeds and a lack of enforcement by the United States Park Police, especially in the wake of the Bijan Ghaisar shooting. I have introduced a bill to authorize the Virginia State Po-

lice and Fairfax County Police Department to conduct traffic enforcement on the Parkway and to allow those agencies to install photo speed monitoring devices.

A second bill I have proposed addresses access to health care facilities. People entering and leaving a women's health clinic in our community have experienced

significant harassment. My bill requires anyone picketing a health-care facility to stay at least 40 feet away from the main entrance and to refrain from obstructing access or leafleting patients in that zone. This is similar to the state's rules for polling places.

SEE SUROVELL, PAGE 10

## Submit a Letter to the Editor

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Ideally, letters will be original, about local issues and less than 300 words. Please submit letters by noon Friday before publication week, although letters received on Mondays can be considered. Letters must include your first and last name, home address and a phone number. Letters are routinely edited for libel, length, grammar, good taste and accuracy.

Your name and town will be published with your letter, other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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### NEWS DEPARTMENT: [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com)

Mary Kimm

Editor and Publisher

[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

Shirley Ruhe

Contributing Photographer and Writer [slrbc@aol.com](mailto:slrbc@aol.com)

Eden Brown

Contributing Writer

[arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com)

### ADVERTISING:

For advertising information [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) 703-778-9431

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales 703-778-9444

[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431

[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

Classified & Employment Advertising 703-778-9431

### Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm

[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com) @MaryKimm

Publisher

Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004

[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

### Art/Design:

Laurence Foong

### Production Manager:

Geovani Flores

### CIRCULATION

[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)



# SENIOR LIVING

## Flourishing After 55

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

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.

Opera appreciation offered by 55+ volunteer George Cecchetti who sets the stage for each opera including the story line and background on the composer. January's opera is "Rigoletto" by Giuseppe Verdi, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 912300-04.

55+ Travel group to go shopping for essentials at Walmart in Sterling, VA and then explore the Dulles Town Center for more shopping and dining, Wednesday, Jan. 22. Cost \$15, Arlington resident; \$17, non-resident. Registration # 902401-07.

Movie matinee, "The World's Fastest Indian", Wednesday, Jan. 22, 12:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 912804-05.

Learn about Arlington's rich history provided by Ashley Gomez, Director, Lubber Run 55+ Center, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 1:30 p.m. For monthly topics email, agomez@arlingtonva.us. Registration #

912402-07.

Advance care planning, two-part series beginning Wednesday, Jan. 22, 11 a.m. focusing first on planning an advance directive. For your health care. Part 2, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 11 a.m., opportunity to meet one-on-one with a certified volunteer. Both sessions will be held at Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Participants must attend the first session to participate in the second. Registration # 912404-03.

Virginia After the Civil War, a compelling presentation by Outreach Specialist Peter North at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, Thursday, Jan. 23, 3 p.m., virtual. Registration # 912400-18.

Virtual presentation of the country of Peru, Thursday, Jan. 23, 1 p.m. Part of a series of Central American countries presented by Ashley Gomez, Director, Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 912400-39.

Old-time and string band jam, join volunteer Fred Winter (co-founder of New York City's Old Time Music Project) for an open jam, Thursday, Jan. 23, 5 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Bring your banjo, guitar, fiddle, mandolin or dulcimer. All skill levels welcome. Registration # 912304-19.

NASA's shuttle program from its inception to conclusion, Friday, Jan. 24, 2 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Presented by George Ce-

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 9



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
DINWIDDIE	6050	624	HILLS DRIVE	WHITE OAK CREEK	1/3/2025
DINWIDDIE	6025	613	SQUIRREL LEVEL ROAD	HATCHERS RUN	1/2/2025
POWHATAN	13837	603	ROCKY FORD ROAD	BRANCH ROCKY FORD CREEK	12/17/2024
WYTHE	19757	681	BRUSHY MOUNTAIN ROAD	BR REED CREEK	12/10/2024

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit [vdot.virginia.gov](http://vdot.virginia.gov) and navigate to Traffic and Travel/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov) or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota at 804-786-4064.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730 or [corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov).



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## CENTERS FOR OPPORTUNITY ARLINGTON

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

## VOLUNTEER FOR ARLINGTON'S COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Arlington Neighborhood Village, 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.

## THROUGH JAN. 26

**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.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22

**Negar Ahkami Artist Talk @ Innovation Studio + Store.** 6 p.m. At 525 14th St S, Arlington. Join in



Celebrate Lunar New Year on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025 at Central Place Plaza in Rosslyn, Arlington.

a conversation with Innovation Studio Artist-in-Residence, Negar Ahkami, and MoCA Arlington Curator and Resident Artist/Collector Liaison, Amanda Jirn-Murphy. Hear about Ahkami's interdisciplinary process and practice, and the work she is developing during this residency. Tour the artist's studio and the Innovation Store.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 24

**Marisa Stratton Artist Talk @ Museum.** 6:30 p.m. At 3550 Wilson Blvd, Arlington. Join MoCA Resident Artist Marisa Stratton and curator Amanda Jirn-Murphy in a dialogue about You Will Never Be Forgotten. Stratton will discuss making portraits through the mediation of a phone screen, and share her artistic references, process, and unique perspective on the social media landscape. This talk is free; no registration is required.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**AFAC: A Unique Food Pantry,** 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. At Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. Presented by Arlington AAUW. Speaker is Charles Meng, Chief Executive Officer, Arlington Food Assistance Center.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 26

**Northern Virginia Conservation Trust: Read-a-thon.** 5-7 p.m. At Busboys & Poets in Shirlington. Join Northern Virginia Conservation Trust for an event uplifting the voices of conservationists of diverse backgrounds. You'll get to read and listen to passages about and by those who have dedicated their lives to safeguarding nature.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 28

**Celebrate Lunar New Year.** 5-7 p.m. At Central Place Plaza, Rosslyn. Enjoy a performance by the Hung Ci Lion Dance Troupe at 6 p.m. Grab a Rosslyn-themed fortune cookie; sip on warm tea; find your zodiac animal; and add your wishes for



**Location:** Washington-Liberty High School cafeteria  
1301 N Stafford St, Arlington, VA

**Date:** February 2, 2025  
(snow date Feb. 9)

**Time:** 12pm - 4pm

*Refresh your wardrobe sustainably for free!*

**A Free Clothing Pop Up Shop will take place on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025 in Arlington.**

2025 to the Wishing Tree.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 2

**Free Clothing Pop Up Shop.** 2-4 p.m. At Washington-Liberty High School Cafeteria, 1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington. Help your closet and the climate by getting free, gently used clothes. Brought to you by Arlington Students for Climate Action, EcoAction Arlington, Sierra Club Potomac River Group, and Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 6

**State of the Pike.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Virtual. Each year the Columbia Pike Partnership presents a program called the State of the Pike. Learn about all things happening now and coming up along Columbia Pike. Participants from the County include: Arlington Economic Development, Environmental Services Transportation, Community Planning, Housing and Development, Parks and Recreation, the Arlington County Police Department and Arlington Public Schools. You are welcome to participate, ask questions, and propose ideas. Register for this virtual session at <https://columbiapikepartnership.app.neoncrm.com>

## FRIDAY/FEB. 7

**Hydroponics (Vegetables),** 10:00

- 11:30 a.m. Online.

Interested in learning how to grow vegetables year-round? Join Extension Master Gardener Intern Joe Larsen to explore the exciting world of hydroponics, a soil-free method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions in water. Hydroponics has become increasingly popular as a sustainable solution to growing food in urban environments, reducing water consumption, and boosting crop yields. Whether you're a beginner or someone looking to enhance your gardening knowledge, this class will guide you through the fundamentals of hydroponic systems, the different techniques, and the benefits of this innovative growing method. Attendees will leave this class with knowledge of the various hydroponic systems, how to build a DIY hydroponic system, best practices for growing, and how to troubleshoot various issues you may encounter. Free. RSVP at <http://mgvnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 8

**Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Presented by The Capital City Showcase, which produces some of the best events in the DC area. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle! The headliner for February's show is the hilarious Patrice DeVeaux!

## FEB. 11 TO MAY 4

**"In the Heights."** At Signature Theatre, Arlington. The joyous Tony Award-winning triumph by Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton) and Quiara Alegria Hudes (Daphne's Dive). Latin rhythms and hip-hop lyrics infuse "96,000," "Paciencia y Fe," "Carnaval del Barrio" and the title song as this celebration of community and culture energetically bursts off the stage with Signature's trademark immersive style. Lights up on Washington

Heights, NYC where the streets are full of music, and everybody's got a dream. With the neighborhood on the brink of gentrification, and a life-changing winning lottery ticket somewhere in their midst, the vibrant inhabitants share hope, loss and love as they plan their futures while cherishing their home. Specialty Nights: Discussion Nights March 18 and April 9; Pride Night April 25; and ASL Interpreted March 29 (2 PM)

## SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**"Love at the Cinema."** 7:30 p.m. At Gunston Arts Center, Theatre 1, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington. The National Chamber Ensemble (NCE) invites you to an evening celebrating Valentine's and some of Hollywood's most romantic film scores. NCE Artistic Director Leonid Sushansky (violin), Rosanna Butterfield (cello), and Carlos César Rodríguez (piano) - all virtuoso artists - will perform beloved themes from The Wizard of Oz, Ladies in Lavender, Maria, Scent of a Woman, Eyes Wide Shut, The Phantom of the Opera, The Devil's Violinist, other works inspired by or included in romance films and more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**Lesson Zero.** 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The Celtic House, 2500 Columbia Pike, Arlington presents the music of Oasis recording artist LESSON ZERO. 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/FEB. 15

**"Love at the Cinema."** 7:30 p.m. Presented by National Chamber Ensemble. At Gunston Arts Center - Theatre 1, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington. For info: (703) 685-7590.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 8

**Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Presented by The Capital City Showcase, which produces some of the best events in the DC area. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle! The headliner for March's show is the hilarious Winston Hodges!

## MARCH 14-23

**"The Immigrant."** Presented by Synetic Theater. At Thomas Jefferson Theater in Arlington. Synetic premieres "The Immigrant," a new project from Paata and Irina Tsikurishvili based on the 1918 silent cinema classic directed by and starring Charlie Chaplin, which recently entered into the public domain. Blending silent-cinema pathos and techniques with the theater's own unique style, the story of the perils of a young emigre encounters on leaving her homeland for the New World is sure to delight audiences of all ages. World Premiere in Arlington on March 14th, and the show will move to Theater J in Washington, D.C. for 3 weeks in April as Synetic returns to the District for this first time in over a decade!

Dinner proceeds benefit the Youth Mission Trip to do hurricane relief work in New Bern, NC this summer!

# Chili COOK OFF

**SUNDAY, FEB. 2ND  
CANDLEMAS @5PM  
DINNER @6PM**

CHILD/YOUTH DINNER TICKET: \$10  
ADULT DINNER TICKET: \$25  
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\$20 FOR 25 EXTRA VOTES

Several batches of chili, sides and dessert will be served by youth cooking teams. Cast your vote (and purchase extra votes for your favorite) so that we can award a golden ladle to the winning team! Purchase tickets in advance online.

Reserve Tickets today!



St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
2609 N. Glebe Rd. Arlington, VA 22207  
www.stmarysarlington.org

## Candlemas Choral Eucharist

Sunday, February 2 at 5 pm

Chili Cook Off follows at 6 pm



Candlemas is a Christian feast day that celebrates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem.

It is celebrated on February 2, forty days after Christmas, and is also known as a festival of light, with the blessing of candles. The Nunc Dimittis (the canticle sung at Choral Evensong), comes from when Simon's wish was fulfilled when met the Messiah in the temple. (Luke 2:25-38).



Join St. Mary's Arlington on Sunday evening, February 2nd for Candlemas Choral Eucharist. This lovely service will be followed by a chili cook-off dinner that is raising funds for our Youth Mission Trip.  
St. Mary's Arlington, 2609 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22207, 703-527-6800

## FLOURISHING AFTER 55

FROM PAGE 7

cchetti, a former Kennedy Space Center employee. Registration # 912400-33.

55+ Travel group will visit the National Law Enforcement Museum in D.C., Saturday, Jan. 25. The most interactive museum in D.C., 300 years of history, 25,000 artifacts. Cost \$36, Arlington resident; \$40, non-resident. Feel free to bring lunch or enjoy a snack from the museum's café. Registration # 902401-08.

55+ Travel group to visit "The 70's Lens: Reimagining Documentary Photography" exhibit at the National Gallery of Art, D.C., Monday, Feb. 3. Cost \$11, Arlington resident; \$13, non-resident. Registration # 902502-01.

Keeping emergency information current, presented by 55+ staff and Arlington First Responders, Monday, Feb. 3, 11 a.m.,  
SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 11

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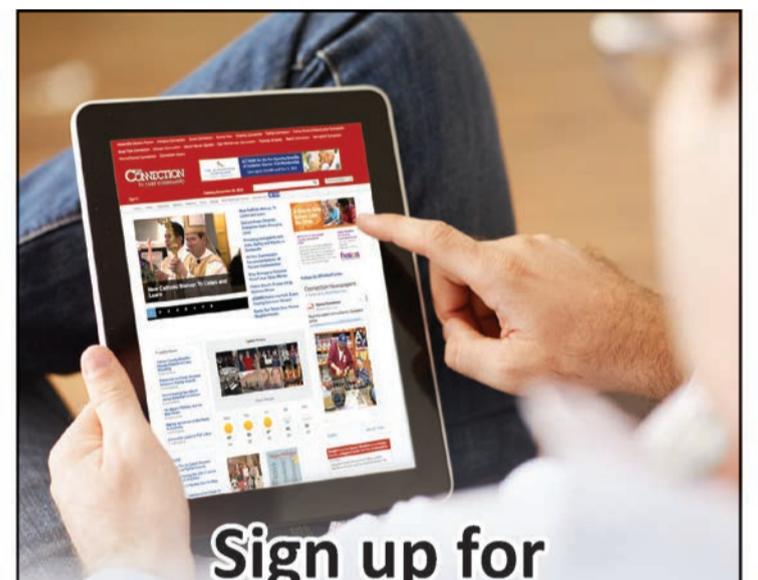
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**OPINION**

**Surovell**

FROM PAGE 6

**Holding the Line on Property Taxes**

In 2016, MGM opened a new casino at National Harbor and announced that one-third of their revenue would come from Virginia customers. I wrote a column in the Richmond Times Dispatch arguing that Virginia needs to embrace casino gaming or else we would be exporting hundreds of millions of Virginia tax dollars to Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee, states that have casinos. Last year, the National Harbor casino grossed \$850 million in tax revenue for Maryland and Prince George's County. One-third of those dollars came from Virginia.

I have introduced legislation to authorize the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to put a referendum on the ballot to allow Fairfax County voters to vote on a casino in Tysons Corner. Experts estimate that it could generate at least \$100 million for Fairfax County which equals about three percent of Fairfax County's current real estate taxes or about \$300 per year Fairfax County household.

For too long, Fairfax County has relied on real estate taxes for revenue and since at least 1970, the county has attempted to diversify its tax base by attracting more commercial office space, but commercial space valuations are cratering due to remote work. This is in part why Fairfax County now has the highest real estate tax rate in all of Virginia (except for Falls Church). This project would take pressure off your real estate taxes.

A casino would be only five percent of the entire floor space because the bill also requires the project to include a 1.5-million-square-foot entertainment complex and convention center. Fairfax County is larger than eight states and does not have a place to host 1,000+ person conventions, events that can also generate significant revenue.

The project will create 2,000 union construction jobs and 5,000 permanent union casino jobs, opening doors for non-college-educated and other workers to both live and work in Fairfax County.

Every year since I was elected in 2009, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has asked for authority to diversify their revenue sources. Two years ago, the General Assembly gave the county the same taxing authority as cities. This bill is one more step to help keep your taxes down.

Please email me at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org) if you have any feedback. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

## OBITUARY

# Oscar Mecklin Johnson, 89

**O**scar Mecklin Johnson, a former senior Capitol Hill journalist and chief adviser to members of Congress who drafted historic legislation, including Title IX, died of natural causes on Jan. 7, 2025, at his Arlington, Va. home with his family. He was 89.

Johnson was born on Aug. 10, 1935, in Tallahassee, Fla. to Oscar Martin Johnson and Janie Mecklin Johnson. He grew up in Green Cove Springs, Fla., although he spent several years in Alexandria while his father served as chief-of-staff to U.S. Senator Claude Pepper. In Alexandria he attended Matthew Maury Elementary School, before graduating in 1953 from Clay High School in Green Cove Springs.

He moved back to Alexandria in 1968 where he and his wife Mary Jo Adams raised their four children.

He attended Florida State University, where he was editor-in-chief of the Florida Flambeau, the school's student newspaper. He graduated in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

Johnson worked for the Atlanta Constitution as a beat reporter covering DeKalb County, Ga. There, he covered the high-profile, national story of a beloved dog enthusiast turned criminal known as Mrs. Gray. His articles were republished by newspapers across the country, from Tulsa, Okla. to Los Angeles.

Johnson left the Atlanta Constitution to serve in the U.S. Army, with a counterintelligence assignment in Korea and later in Washington, D.C. While in Korea, he enjoyed traveling to Japan.

Returning to journalism following his military service, Johnson worked in Washington as a senior editor of Roll Call, a newspaper covering Capitol Hill. He was among the publication's first seven employees and wrote about the inner workings of Congress, causing stir with stories on topics like gender inequalities on the Hill. It was at Roll Call that he met Mary Jo Adams. They married in 1968, moved back to Alexandria — where they raised four children — and later divorced.

Following in his father's footsteps, Johnson served as a legislative assistant to U.S. Rep. Claude Pepper of Florida. Later, he was chief-of-staff to U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink of Hawaii, and thereafter a legislative assistant to U.S. Rep. Dante Fascell of Florida. Johnson played a key role in drafting and passing numerous bills, including Title IX and the Women's Educational Equity Act. In 1972, he helped lead Mink's presidential bid.

After his career on the Hill, Johnson pursued other passions, including renovating townhouses and writing and publishing newsletters on issues of importance to him. In 2000, he retired to Florida and lived in the Tampa Bay area before moving back to Alexandria in 2022 and Arlington in 2023.

Johnson had an extensive lexicon that served him well in his years of writing. He loved song lyrics and musicals, and couldn't resist singing along to "South Pacific" when-



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE JOHNSON FAMILY.

**Oscar Mecklin Johnson was the editor of the Florida Flambeau in 1956 and 1957 while attending Florida State University.**



**Oscar Johnson with his daughter Margaret Johnson in an undated family photo.**

ever he had the chance. He enjoyed sports, in particular the Tampa Bay Rays; politics; and, as he aged, natural health. As a boy, he loved catching crabs in the St. Johns River and swimming in his hometown's natural springs swimming pool. As a young man in the Army, he developed a lasting love of photography, later capturing scenes from his six-month U.S. and Mexico beach-tour honeymoon and time in Acapulco, Mexico. He took pride in thoughtfully selecting gifts for his children and grandchildren, and he found joy watch-

ing sunsets on Florida's Gulf coast, eating ice cream and relaxing in his chair.

He is survived by two sons, Patrick and Christopher (Joy); two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth (Brett); his brother Carl (Susan); nieces Donna Harkness and Lizzy Johnson; nephew Roy Harkness; and grandchildren Matt, Jacqueline, James, Hugh, Byron, Alexander and Josephine. He is predeceased by his nephew, Mike, and his sister, Janie. His daughter Margaret was his favorite.

### FLOURISHING AFTER 55

FROM PAGE 9

Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 912400-07.

Secrets revealed, an exploration of famous artists and their distinctive and sometimes secretive techniques, Monday, Feb. 3, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Presented by

Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen. Registration # 912302-05.

Influential ecological thinkers throughout history and their views on nature, presented by Bill Browning, Arlington Regional Master Naturalist, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6 p.m., virtual. Registration # 912400-21.

## End of an Era



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Sitting at my desk at home with my golden retriever Burton lying at my feet, unwrapping Christmas-colors-wrapped milk Chocolate Hershey's Kisses, I feel compelled to make an admission (not that any of you should care): I don't like Mars M&Ms anymore. And considering I've been eating them my entire life, Mars is losing one of their best customers.

To put this loss in some context, though it's impossible to quantify; let's just say for the sake of this column, I've consumed over a million M&Ms. Almost exclusively the plain M&Ms until the "peanut butter (orange bag) came along. Peanut M&Ms despite their lofty position atop various "most eaten candies" lists never appealed to me. Neither did any of the newer varieties which have appeared on the shelves over the last decade or two except the mint M&Ms. Whenever I see that green bag, I'm buyin'. Delicious but hard to find for some reason. To summarize then the percentages eaten over the years: 97% plain, 2.5% peanut butter, .5% mint. (As the peanut butter and mint flavors are somewhat new creations, comparatively speaking, their newness is reflected in these percentages.)

As to the reason for this rather drastic change in my candy consumption, I can't really remember the "Oh no"-moment when I took a handful, which had not melted in my hand, and tossed them into my mouth where they indeed melted (after I had crunched them all down to more eatable size). Nevertheless, me and my tastebuds have come to the same conclusion: our love affair with M&Ms was over. Though I finished whatever bag I had started, we parted as friends. Never again will I eat M&Ms unless there are extenuating circumstances ("extenuations" you might call them) as in the M&Ms are in plain sight, within arm's length and relatively unguarded. But my days as an intentional buyer are over.

I've had a similar falling out, though not nearly as definitive/life changing, with 3 Musketeers and Milky Way bars. For years, make that decades/half centuries even, these two bars were my go-to preferences (along with the M&Ms); now they're merely memories of a recent past. Unlike my M&M stoppage for which I had no specific event, I do indeed have one sort of, for the end of my similar love affair for 3 Musketeers/Milky Way bars. It was Halloween a few years back. Naturally, I had prepared a bowl of snack-size candies for the year's lucky participants: 3 Musketeers, Milky Way and Snickers. But few trick-or-treaters showed that year, so I was left with an ample-sized bowl brimming with chocolate goodies. And needless to say, or I wouldn't be writing this column, I overwhelmed their defenses and over the next few days (not weeks), rapidly (not slowly) and surely, I emptied that bowl. By week's end, the bowl was a shell of its former holiday self. I wouldn't say I was proud of myself, but other than my brother who could have accomplished what I did? (This was a rhetorical question. Those that know me, know the answer: no one.) To invoke Curly Howard of The Three Stooges: "I seen my duty and I done it." However, my overeating had a consequence that overindulging often has: swearing off of the presumptive cause. For me, it was most definitely the 3 Musketeers and Milky Way snack/fun size bars originally meant for the neighborhood kids. In lieu thereof, I picked up the slack and haven't had a 3 Musketeers or Milky Way bar since. Added to the M&M loss, Mars must be feeling the pinch. One that a smaller company might not have survived.

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

# Casual Adventure Outfitters Hits Home Runs

FROM PAGE 3

“We are honored and humbled to be recognized on a national level among so many of our amazing peers in the retail sector,” said Stern. “This summit provides a platform for our voices to be heard on practices, policy, and future potential in our ever-changing industry.”

“As the fourth-generation representative of a local, family-owned business, I’m constantly amazed that our small footprint can have such a large impact.”

Retailers were nominated by state retail associations and their peers based on engagement in public policy discussions. Forty-four retailers from 27 different states were selected as champions for the program and five were named as finalists. One small retailer, Neil Abramson of ECI Stores in Leominster, Mass. was ultimately named the 2024 “America’s Retail Champion” by the National Retail Federation, during the Retail Advocates Summit, the retail industry’s premier advocacy event, on July 25 in Washington, D.C.

Stern said of the event, “This was an amazing weekend celebrating retailers big and small nationwide. We were able to share our story, triumphs and tribulations, ideas and observations with leaders within our industry to continue to make a difference on a national level. While honoring those who actively advocate for other small businesses in the retail sector, the event also acted as a catalyst for discussions, networking, promotion, and engagement with lawmakers on Capitol Hill. We were proud to display representations of the many facets that make up our business, including a mini replica of Mountain 25 Tent from the North Face 1990 Trans-Antarctica Expedition and a Rawlings baseball autographed by Arlington Little League and Arlington Babe Ruth customers who purchased baseball bats from us that year. These items were on display for

**“As the fourth-generation representative of a local, family-owned business, I’m constantly amazed that our small footprint can have such a large impact.”**

— Eric Stern, Casual Adventure

members of Congress and their staff. Casual Adventure was also nominated for several other national awards in 2024 for its continued success and community involvement.

“Small businesses are the lifeblood of the American economy and are at the heart of every Main Street throughout the country,” National Retail Federation Executive Vice President of Government Relations David French said. “The 2024 America’s Retail Champion honorees represent the breadth and depth that the retail industry offers to millions of customers on a daily basis.”

The overwhelming majority of retailers are small businesses, with more than 98 percent of all retail companies employing fewer than 50 people.

Casual Adventure almost closed a few years ago, but Stern’s adaptability paid off; the store was nominated for several awards in 2024. Devotees of the store, many of whom have been coming for decades, know it for its great selection, personalized and expert service, but also for its sponsorship of events, athletes, scouts, fundraisers, and environmental causes. On any given day, the customers will riff about great hikes they did over the weekend, international adventure travel, or ... sock liners.

For more about Casual Adventures, see their website, instagram, and facebook page at <https://casualadventure.com>, @casual\_adventure, <https://www.facebook.com/casualadventure/>

For more about the NRF, see: <https://nrf.org>.



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

Jena Knaack stands behind the counter on Small Business Saturday, waiting for customers. She is pictured with Peter Carrick (left) and Paul Griffin (right.) As it turned out, this was the slowest moment of the day.

## 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.

### 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/s2FuFdaYWdZm4t-Pw2](http://goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4t-Pw2).

**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 Siqveland at 703-228-0913 or [esiqveland@arlingtonva.us](mailto:esiqveland@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/aging-matterswera](http://www.facebook.com/aging-matterswera) to listen to programs. <https://www.mixcloud.com/Aging-Matters/>

**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.

Created by the Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE) in partnership with the Arlington Public Library, the nation’s First Energy Lending Library made its debut on Earth Day. Meant to resolve energy issues in the Arlington community, efficiency tools can be borrowed, such thermal imaging cameras, energy meters and books play a vital role in achieving a “greener” home. Open Sun-Sat 10 a.m.-9 p.m. 1015 N. Quincy St. Visit [library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library](http://library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library) or call 703-228-5990.