

# Battle of Iwo Jima 80th Anniversary

PAGE 2

## Energy at Arlington Town Hall

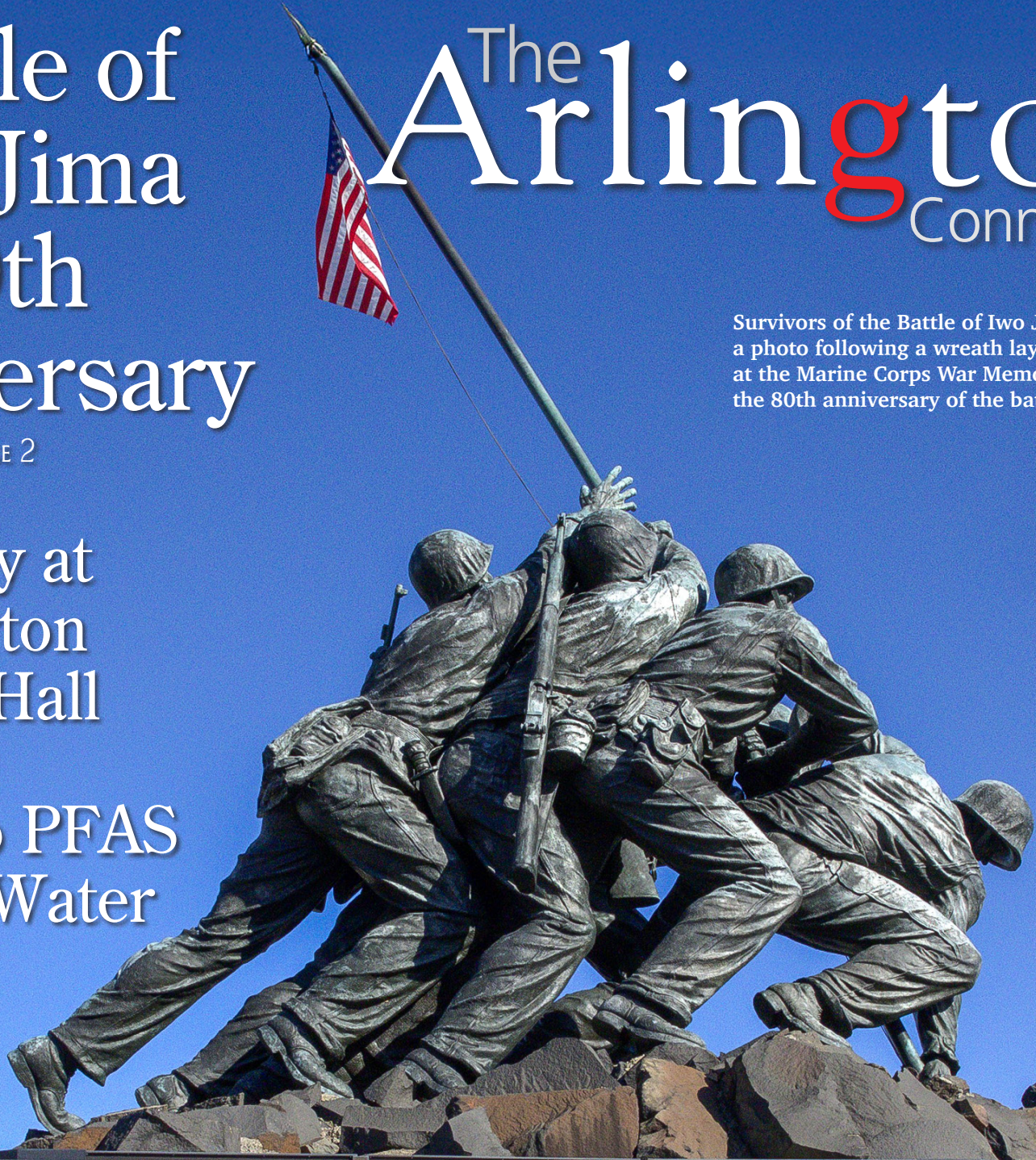
PAGE 3

## Say No to PFAS In Your Water

PAGE 6

# The Arlington Connection

Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima pose for a photo following a wreath laying Feb. 21 at the Marine Corps War Memorial to mark the 80th anniversary of the battle.





# Uncommon Valor

Survivors gather to mark 80th anniversary of Iwo Jima.



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima pose for a photo following a wreath laying Feb. 21 at the Marine Corps War Memorial to mark the 80th anniversary of the battle.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/THE CONNECTION

Sailors from the USS Iwo Jima pose for a photo with dignitaries and veterans of the WWII battle following a survivors panel discussion Feb. 22 at the Crystal City National Landing Hilton.



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Battle of Iwo Jima veterans Louis Bourgault and Frank Wright speak with visitors to the Marine Corps War Memorial Feb. 21 in Arlington.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

They are part of the Greatest Generation and survivors of one of the bloodiest battles in U.S. history. As their numbers diminish with each passing year, eight veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima gathered in Arlington to remember the 80th anniversary of the landmark battle of World War II.

"I fought like hell," said retired Marine Raider Frank Wright when asked what he did during the Battle of Iwo Jima, which became a

major turning point in the war. He was among the veterans participating in a weekend of events sponsored by the Iwo Jima Association of America Feb. 20-24 at the Crystal City National Landing Hilton.

"Five years ago we had more than 50 Iwo Jima survivors gather at the 75th reunion," said David Fields, a board member of the Iwo Jima Association of America that sponsored the gathering. "This year only eight veterans were able to return."

The battle of Iwo Jima began

SEE SURVIVORS, PAGE 8



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Arlington Police officers escort survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima to the wreath laying ceremony Feb. 21 at the Marine Corps War Memorial.



## ‘It’s Going to Take All of Us’

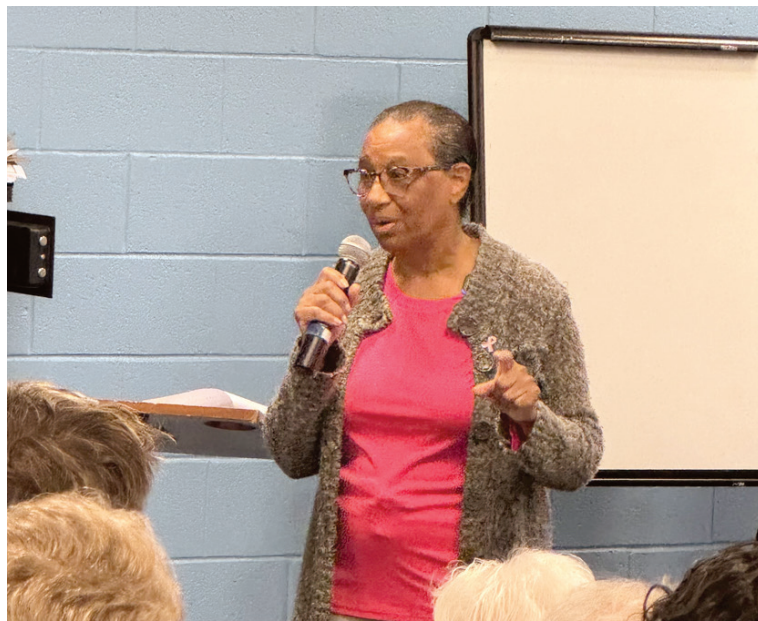
BY EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The atmosphere in the packed Yorktown High School hall was intense. As people lined up to ask questions during Virginia Del. Patrick Hope’s Town Hall meeting on Saturday, they talked about not wanting their names used or a photo taken of a speaker who worked in the federal government. They talked about oligarchs, not just in Washington, D.C. but in Arlington. There was anger and there was fear. But there was also a sense of community and resolve. Spontaneous applause erupted for many of the speakers, including Hope.

Margarite Gooden, of Hall’s Hill, stole the show. One of the last people to speak at the meeting, she got up, looked around the room and announced, “I don’t see a lot of people that look like me in this room.” But that was exactly why she and a few friends came. She had something important to say: “Ever since Trump was elected, we hear a lot about ‘DEI and wokeism’.. We Black people had no idea what wokeism was! But now we understand. I’ll tell you what

this talk about DEI is. It means Black people. It’s discrimination. We need to get our young people involved in fighting back against what is going on in Washington right now. People who don’t vote need to vote. Because, I don’t know if you need to be reminded . . . Arlington County has always been known for changing things. It was in Arlington where desegregating schools in Virginia started, kids in my neighborhood, right down the street, broke that barrier. It was in Arlington that the first black firefighters south of the Mason Dixon Line were paid to fight fires. We black people are used to fighting for our rights here in Arlington. We’ll be okay. But y’all aren’t used to this kind of treatment, and now we are going to have to pull together. It’s going to take all of us to take our government back.” Gooden got a standing ovation for a long minute. Patrick Hope applauded and said, “Margarite, I just hope you don’t ever run against me!”

Mike Ingram, an energy auditor, got up to ask a question of Hope. “I’m 75,” he said. “And my lineage goes all the way back to the ‘Arlingtonians for a Better County’ (ABC) which heralded the ‘Arlington



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

**Margarite Gooden tells the crowd getting rid of D-1 means one thing to her: going after Black people.”**

Way” concept. Well, the Arlington Way is no more. But my question is, in addition to making sure we don’t pay the bill for the data centers’ increased energy cost, Dominion Power is asking for more money when homeowners connect their solar energy installation to the grid. It acts as a disincentive

for solar power and stifles our efforts to lower energy costs and make energy more renewable. I want to know what the Democrats in Richmond are doing to stand up to Dominion. What are you doing?” Hope, who stopped accepting campaign funds from Dominion in 2019, told Ingram the State

Corporation Commission (SCC) which regulates the energy industry in Virginia was looking into it. Ingram indicated later he did not really get an answer to his question, particularly since the SCC was cited. Dominion Energy has a reputation for strategic campaign donations aimed at influencing lawmakers who choose the SCC members.

One longtime Arlingtonian who also works with the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) said the attitude towards federal workers was shocking. In one phone-in talk show, someone said it was about time feds got laid off and that “Now these federal employees who have never had to worry about job security will know what it is like to get laid off.” The NARFE member took note of the direct impact on federal workers in Arlington and advised residents to check out the website <https://www.narfe.org/federal-benefits-institute/> for guidance on cuts. This recurring theme at the town hall of “don’t just sit there and take it” and “we are here to help” was perhaps an indication that the Arlington Way is not dead after all.

## Town Hall Crowd Clapping for Compassion

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Constituent concerns at Del. Patrick Hope’s Town Hall meeting on Saturday ranged from the current composition of the Arlington County Board to Dominion Power paying their fair share to the fate of the Medicaid program.

But most of the meeting was focused on the impact of Federal budget cuts on Virginia programs and the recent massive reductions in the Federal workforce. The group engaged in cheering and applause as the stories and comments unfolded.

Hope explained that one-third of Virginia’s budget comes from the Federal government: \$14.6 billion in Medicaid, \$1.4 billion each for highways, social programs and transportation. “Virginia is also the largest recipient of Federal contractor funds with \$13.5 billion in Arlington and over \$40 billion in Fairfax.”

Many of those who asked questions were, or are, currently Federal workers who shared their



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

**Del. Patrick A. Hope (D-47) at a Town Hall meeting March 1 at Yorktown High School’s Patriot Hall.**

concerns about the impact of the recent reductions in the Federal workforce, with more to come. But as one of the final speakers, a 30-year resident of Arlington, expressed her extensive pain, “I’m concerned we’re preaching to the choir in this room. How do we tap into the people who must be having buyer’s remorse?”

Sarah Scheening, a former

USAID small business contractor spoke to the group about her business which she lost in two weeks. She and the cofounder of their business loaned \$380,000 in personal savings to pay their employees their salaries and their severance but are owed hundreds of thousands of dollars from the government for work performed in 2024. The crowd gave her a loud



**Del. Patrick Hope discusses a constituent concern before his Town Hall meeting March 1.**

round of applause. She said she is concerned about the reckless Federal backsliding and what’s coming for other agencies. She has a petition with almost 700 signatures that she sent to the Governor expressing their concern about the impact of the USAID reductions.

Another man asked the audience to forgive his emotion as he broke down in tears. “I hate what’s hap-

pening. I find myself sending letters to my Senators who agree but to the others, the letters just go in the waste can. To be told you can’t do your job is horrible.”

A native Arlingtonian who grew up in Halls Hill and whose father is the only remaining firefighter in the original Black fire station on Lee Highway said, “I don’t see

SEE TOWN HALL, PAGE 4



# Town Hall Crowd Clapping for Compassion

FROM PAGE 3

too many people who look like me here. One of my four kids voted for him. I had to give them some history. What is happening to you masses has happened to my folks for years. We talk about this in the Black community. We've been there; I'm prepared but it will take this hurt for you to rise up."

Hope explained that there had been a really good legislative session this year in Virginia but because of the current Federal actions, things are out of control. He said, "Everybody has a role to play — Congress, state, local and you being here today. You are as much of a public servant as I am."

Hope explained that they just finished a 46-day session of the Virginia legislature but will probably reconvene. Hope says that if the Virginia budget is \$200 million in the red that the Governor is required to put together a new budget in 20 days for reconsideration. Right now, Virginia has a substantial budget surplus.

Hope listed legislation that had been passed by the legislature and sent to the Governor raising the minimum wage, the assault weapons ban, the boyfriend loophole and legalizing retail marijuana as well as lifting the ban on collective bargaining by public employees. "But the governor is likely to veto all of them. This governor's legacy is that he has vetoed more legislation in two years than any other governor in four."

Hope says the state has set up a special bipartisan committee on workforce reduction and has already had a hearing. "We are monitoring the situation because we want to know what we can do to support one another. My office has a special page on resources available, and we are helping process unemployment claims." He said in addition there is state revenue that can be directed to businesses hir-



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

**Arlingtonians express concerns about recent Federal cuts in workforce and proposed budget reductions.**



ing former Federal employees.

One of the questioners who works in the legislative branch offered the information that there are some jobs available at Congressional Research Service, Congressional Budget Office, and the Library of Congress. Another newly retired employee of 51 years at the Library of Congress commented she hopes Trump doesn't discover legislative branch agencies.

There was a lot of discussion about how to turn the current discontent into actionable steps. Several people asked, "How did we get here and how do we reach people who just don't want to listen and who don't know what's going on right now." One person mentioned being more aggressive and another that "we shouldn't be so nice."

Another suggested there was a lot of energy in the room and hav-

ing a large group of people like the ones in the room strategically call the same representative or delegate on the same day with the same message. Another suggested pressuring the Governor and Lt. Governor. "I don't see them having town halls."

Another questioner, a former employee of the National Park Service now with his own business, shared that they fought a previous freeze by "beating up the Secretary of the

Interior in the press. It worked."

A retired Arlington County worker said, "We are communicating with 19th century tools; we need to combat what the Republicans are pushing out with social media, etc."

Hope concluded by saying, "We've got to keep fighting. Consider this a contact sport. I want to hear from you. Let's continue this conversation on my website."



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# SENIOR LIVING

## Flourishing After 55

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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](http://registration.arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747.

Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL), exercise classes to improve strength, balance and fitness, Mondays and Thursdays, March 3 – May 22, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 913502-01 or Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 4-May 22, 10:30 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, registration # 913502-02. No fee.

55+ Travel group will attend the bio-musical “Heartbreak Hotel” at the Performing Arts Center in Fredericksburg, Sunday, March 2. Cost \$104, Arlington resident; \$120, non-resident. Meal included. Registration # 902503-01.

Environmentally sound yard cleanup, Monday, March 3, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Learn how to do it in a way that supports wildlife and is aesthetically pleasing. Presented by Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. Registration # 913401-01.

Preparing to sell your home, join licensed realtor Philippa Main for a session on what to expect plus valuable tips, Monday, March 3, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913404-01.

Fitness room equipment orientation, Monday, March 3, 1:30 p.m., Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Learn how to use fitness equipment. Registration # 913100-20.

Generative Ai: Every day possibilities explained by Barbara Phillip, technology consultant and former GMU professor, Tuesday, March 4, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Participants will learn how Gen Ai can enhance daily activities, spark creativity and support lifelong learning. Registration # 913403-01.

Haiku, learn how to use this Japanese poetry form used to treasure and share life experiences, Tuesday, March 4, 2 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Workshop presented by award-winning haiku poet Rick Black. Registration # 913300-07.

Langston-Brown 55+ Center’s book club will discuss “Lula Dean’s Little Library of Banned Books” by Kirsten Miller, Tuesday, March 4, 1 p.m. Drop-in.

Luck of the Irish sing-along with pianist Valerie Welsh Wed., March

5, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Clapping, stomping and hand jive are encouraged. Registration # 913304-14.

50 Famous Firsts for American Women, from serving in the military to winning Olympic Gold, extraordinary achievements of trailblazing women, Wednesday, March 5, 2 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Presented by Cory Cox, 55+ Operations Supervisor. Registration # 913400-29.

Learn to ride a bike, indoor class led by staff from BikeArlington, Wednesday, March 5, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Bikes and helmets provided. Registration # 913400-20.

Opera appreciation for lovers and learners of the art and drama of opera, Wednesday, March 5, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti accompanying a video of Richard Wagner’s “Siegfried,” the third opera in his “Ring Cycle. Registration # 913300-01.

55+ Travel group will journey to Philadelphia for the annual Flower Show, the nation’s largest and longest-running horticultural event, Wed., March 5. Cost \$120, Arlington resident; \$138, non-resident. Meal on your own. Registration #902503-02.

Paint & Sip along with Community

Arts Programmers Jennifer Droblyen and Jim Halloran to recreate art works on display in area museums, Thursday, March 6, 10 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913303-01.

Game night, Thursday, March 6, 4 – 7 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Join 55+ volunteers for an evening of various table games. Registration # 913600-02.

Introduction to basic Spanish, six sessions beginning Thursday, March 6, 1 p.m., virtual. This is a series of classes that build on each other. Must pre-register for each class. Taught by Lubber Run 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez.. Registration # 913650-01.

A new Memory Café in a comfortable and supportive environment where people with dementia and family caregivers can enjoy meaningful dementia-friendly activities together, Thursday, March 6, 1:30 – 3 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Led by Arlington Adult Care and Library staff. For more information and to sign up, call Zoe Mann at 703-228-5193 or email, [zmann@arlingtonva.us](mailto:zmann@arlingtonva.us). Open to all ages; 55+ Pass not required.

55+ Travel group will visit the National Museum of Women in the Arts to view photographer Samantha Box’s Confluence exhibit capturing race, gender, class and sexuality Saturday, March 8. Cost \$28, Arlington resident; \$32, non-resident. Regis-

tration # 902503-03.

Timeless Mucha: The Magic of Line, take a virtual tour of the exciting Mucha exhibition at the Phillips Collection gallery, presented by art historian Joan Hart, Monday, March 10, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913302-03.

Painting demonstration, step-by-step with a Community Arts Programmer, Monday, March 10, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Picture and supply list sent prior to class. Registration # 913303-03.

New, Qigong, an ancient Chinese healing art involving meditation, controlled breathing and movement exercises, Mondays, March 10-May 19, 8:30 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center, registration #913100-10. Cost \$60.50, 11 sessions. Or start Monday, March 10- May 19, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 913100-11. Cost \$60.50, 11 sessions.

Tai Chi for beginners introduces the 24 simplified Yang style Tai Chi positions. Mondays and Wednesdays, March 10-May 14, 3:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Cost \$110, 20 sessions (Mondays and Wednesdays). Registration # 913105-01.

Baby birds of prey, spring is nesting season for birds of prey, learn

SEE SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 7



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## General Assembly Proposed Budget Differs from Governor's

### End of session report

By SEN. ADAM EBBIN

The 2025 General Assembly session concluded in February. We are scheduled to meet again on April 2 when we will reconvene to act on vetoes and amendments from the governor on legislation that we passed during our 46-day session.

Governor Youngkin received 1,895 bills from the General Assembly this year. The governor must act on all bills by midnight on March 23, which is 30 days after adjournment of the General Assembly.

I am happy to have worked with a diverse group of stakeholders, constituents, and subject matter experts to navigate nineteen of my bills and one constitutional amendment through both chambers of the General Assembly, a majority of which received bipartisan support. Except for the Marriage Equality Constitutional Amendment, which he has no role in, the

nineteen other pieces of my legislation head to Governor Youngkin for his consideration. Here I have linked the status of the bills that were sent to the governor.

In our budget, we are providing \$1.1 billion for immediate and ongoing tax relief to Virginia's families. Virginians will receive a \$200 rebate for individuals and \$400 for joint filers by Oct. 15, 2025.

In addition, \$686.1 million is appropriated over the biennium to fully fund Medicaid and the children's health insurance forecast. We are also increasing state funding for public education by \$728.4 million over the biennium as we strive to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. The budget fully funds support staff with \$222.9 million to provide critical resources for students and educators. The budget also includes \$310 million in school construction grants over two years — an additional \$150 million to modernize and repair school buildings.

The General Assembly's bud-



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get would also invest \$134.4 million for a \$1,000 bonus for our hardworking instructional and support personnel in June 2025. We voted to boost special education funding by 10% with a \$52.8 million increase to provide resources to students with disabilities. This budget would also expand access to early childhood education with a \$25 million public-private partnership to set children up for success from the start.

We also voted to dedicate \$12 million to initiatives that improve student achievement and close learning gaps.

In higher education, we would invest \$55 million to maintain affordable access to public colleges and universities, and would continue our commitment to Virginia's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with \$20 million in funding.

Finally, we voted to invest in public employees and working families by appropriating \$83.1 million to fund a 1.5% bonus for state and state-supported local em-

ployees — recognizing the essential work of public servants across Virginia.

Our total General Fund Budget will be just north of \$69 billion for FY25 and FY26.

The General Assembly's priorities differ from the Youngkin administration. The General Assembly has appropriated more for K-12 Education, VA Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program, disaster funds for Hurricane Helene Victims, and community violence intervention programs than the Governor.

#### Resources for Federal Workers

Many of you join my concern for the cuts to federal workers by the Trump Administration. I have put together a resource page for federal workers here. Please share this page with anyone you know that is affected by these cuts.

I have worked this session to pass legislation to help out my constituents with unemployment benefits, and will continue to use my voice to speak out against cuts to the federal budget.

Thanks for the continued opportunity to serve you in the State Senate.

## Oppose Release of PFAS In Virginia Waters

Join Wild Virginia for an online program this Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 7 p.m. to oppose permits drafted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that would allow releases of dangerous per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to state waters. We will be calling on DEQ to hold public hearings to give residents and water users a better chance to share their opinions and concerns about these threats to our environment and our communities. And we will insist that the permits include monitoring for PFAS and limitations to stop known PFAS releases.

One permit under review is supposed to control polluted stormwater from Fort Belvoir that is discharged to Accotink Creek and other tributaries to the Potomac

River. The U.S. Army has found serious contamination of land and water by PFAS in and around its facilities. Those findings make it essential that DEQ impose stringent requirements to protect Virginians. So far, DEQ has failed to even address the known PFAS sources in its draft permit - let alone enforce the law to stop the discharges.

The other permit would allow pollutants to be discharged from a municipal wastewater treatment plant owned by the Arlington County Water Pollution Control Bureau. Data collected by the plant's owners show that dangerous levels of PFAS have been discharged to Four Mile Run, another tributary to the Potomac River. As with the Fort Belvoir permit, DEQ has refused to acknowledge the problem or live up to its legal duty to stop the pollution.

RSVP:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/commenting-writing-party-oppose-permits-allowing-discharges-of-pfas-tickets-1247356790739?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

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# SENIOR LIVING

## Flourishing After 55

FROM PAGE 5

about local hawks owls and eagles, what to do if you find a baby bird from Arlington Park Naturalist Gabby Hrycyshn, Tuesday, March 11, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 913400-10.

Celebrating women chefs in honor of Women's History Month, Tuesday, March 11, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Cooking demonstration of a recipe by a famous chef, presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers. Registration # 913501-07.

Reader's theater, enjoy interactive reading of vintage radio plays with sound effects, Tuesday, March 11, 5:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Everyone will have a chance to act. Registration # 913301-10.

New, cardio kickboxing, total body workout utilizing multiple muscle groups, Tuesdays, March 11-May 27, 6 a.m., Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Center. Cost \$60, 12 sessions. Registration # 913100-12.

New, Unwind and Stretch, designed for all fitness levels, deep mindful stretches, participants should be comfortable getting up and down from floor (bring your own mat), Tuesdays, March 11-May 27, 3:15 p.m., Long Bridge Aquatics

& Fitness Center. Cost \$60, 12 sessions. Registration # 913103-01.

New, advanced Mat Pilates for experienced practitioners Tuesdays, March 11-May 27, 8:45 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Intense, low-impact workout to boost strength, balance and functional movement. Cost \$55, 11 sessions. Registration # 913103-19.

Pre-St. Patrick's Day lunch at the Celtic House Irish Pub and Restaurant, Wednesday, March 12. Special custom menu. Cost \$11, Arlington resident; \$13, non-resident. Registration # 902503-04.

House Cats: Friend or Foe, hear Arlington Regional Master Naturalist Bill Browning discuss how to manage cats' environmental impact, Wednesday, March 12, 6 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Open to ages 18 and over; no 55+ Pass required. Registration # 913400-11.

History round table participants will discuss the historical impact of migration, Wednesday, March 12, 11:15 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913402-06.

The Angler's Corner, share fishing exploits, exchange tackle recommendations, discuss fishing locations, Wednesday, March 12, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Fabric stars workshop, enhance holiday decorations and gifts by making fabric stars, no sewing required, Wednesday, March 12, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. All materials and instructions supplied. Registration # 913310-04.

Create a paracord friendship bracelet, Thursday, March 13, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Supplies and instruction provided. Registration #913310-05.

Bootcamp begins Thursdays, March 13-May 29, 9 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Certified Personal Trainer Shanan Knox offers total body workout using HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training). Cost \$60, 12 sessions. Registration # 913100-01.

Movie and munchies, "Conclave" (2024) (PG), Thursday, March 13, 2 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 913804-07.

Diabetes nutrition, hear the latest science-based recommendations for better blood sugar control and weight management, Thursday, March 13, 11 a.m., virtual. Presented by Lisa Muras, certified diabetes care and education specialist from Virginia Hospital Center. Registration # 913500-01.

Traveling on a budget, hear tips and tricks from Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Financial Ed

SEE SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 15

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# Survivors Gather to Mark 80th Anniversary of Iwo Jima

FROM PAGE 2

the morning of Feb. 19 and continued for 36 days. The raising of the American flag on Feb. 23, 1945, atop Mount Suribachi was immortalized in a Pulitzer-Prize winning photograph by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal.

Several of the survivors recalled vividly the moment when the Marines raised the flag atop Mount Suribachi.

“The flag wasn’t victory, it was hope,” said Nils Mocker, a Marine combat intelligence scout during the battle. “I was as far away from the flag as you could get – on the other side of the airfield. But at that moment everyone had stopped moving and just looked up at the mountain. There was still shelling going on all around but the ships began sounding their sirens and we felt hope.”

Approximately one-third of all Marines killed in action during World War II were killed on Iwo Jima. More than 100,000 Americans fought there and 6,821 died as a result — 5,931 of them Marines.

The four-day series of 80th anniversary events included a veterans panel, a visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico and wreath-laying ceremonies at the WWII Memorial and the Marine Corps War Memorial.

U.S. Naval Academy midshipman Preston White attended the weekend of events with fellow classmate Kekoa Alexander.

“This is a wonderful opportunity and a great experience,” said White, who has attended the gathering for three years. “It is a great tie back to our history and a way to feel a connection to those who have served before us.”

Also in attendance were sailors from the USS Iwo Jima, an amphibious assault ship named for the battle. Among them was Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Isaac Rodriguez.

“You can always learn from older generations and people who have more experience than you,” Rodriguez said. “I’ll take what I learned from them into my future missions – to persevere and never give up.”

Also in attendance to commemorate the battle was the Japanese embassy’s Defense and Naval Attaché Rear Adm. Takaai Hayamizu, who spoke at the symposium on the alliance between the U.S. and Japan.

“The relationship between the U.S. Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force is very strong,” Hayamizu said. “We conduct many joint exercises. One plus one equals more than two where our relationship with the U.S. is concerned.”

Delmar Beard, a Navy veteran who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, was on the USS-715, one of the first Tank Landing Ships to land on the island’s Green Beach.

“We were the first ship next to Mount Suribachi,” said Beard, who was 18 at the time. “We had to unload all the ammunition and high-octane gas and bulldozers. You couldn’t drive a jeep on the volcanic ash of the island.”

Beard narrowly missed being wounded in the battle but remembers seeing those that were left behind.

“You saw a lot of Marines — I’m sorry to say — dead on the beach because they couldn’t get them off the landing craft fast enough,” Beard recalled.

SEE UNCOMMON VALOR, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima pose for a photo at the display of the original flags raised on the Japanese island Feb. 21 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico.



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Members of the Arlington County police department pose for a photo with survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima Feb. 21 at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington. The officers provided a motorcycle escort for the veterans during their visit to the memorial, which marked the 80th anniversary of the battle.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen Kekoa Alexandria and Preston White speak with Battle of Iwo Jima survivor Delmar Beard at a gathering marking the 80th anniversary of the battle Feb. 22 at the Crystal City National Landing Hilton.



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Iwo Jima veteran Delmar Beard, left, is escorted by his son David at the Iwo Jima Association of America gala Feb. 22 in Arlington.



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Iwo Jima veteran Frank Wright with an escort at the Iwo Jima Association of America gala Feb. 22 at the Crystal City National Landing Hilton.





PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
Iwo Jima veterans are greeted by well wishers at the Marine Corps war Memorial Feb. 21 in Arlington.



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/  
IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Iwo Jima survivor Louis Bourgault, right, with an unidentified guest at the Iwo Jima Association of America gala Feb. 22 at the Crystal City National Landing Hilton.



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/  
IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Paula Davis, right, was among the Gold Star family members attending the Iwo Jima Association of America Gala Feb. 22 in Arlington.

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
Iwo Jima veteran Frank Wright is introduced at the Iwo Jima Association of America gala Feb. 22 at the Crystal City National Landing Hilton.

# Uncommon Valor

FROM PAGE 8

Beard provided a bit of levity when he was asked what he did once he returned home after the war.

“We were a bunch of high school dropouts – 16, 17, 18 years old,” Beard said. “As soon as we got home we had sex for the first time – that was the best.”

The culmination of the weekend was a gala, where Tower to Tunnels Foundation CEO/Chair Frank Siller was presented with the IJAA’s Woody Williams Award, named in honor of Herschel Wood-

row “Woody” Williams, a Marine survivor of Iwo Jima and the last living Medal of Honor recipient from WWII prior to his death in 2022.

“We are in their debt for the life we live today,” said Dean Laubach, a 28-year-old historian who traveled from his home in Pennsylvania to honor his great uncle, who was a colonel in the 5th Amphibious Corps. “My life has been forever changed because of these veterans, for having shared their company.”



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/  
IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Japanese Embassy’s Defense and Naval Attaché Rear Adm. Takaaki Hayamizu speaks at the Iwo Jima Association of America’s symposium Feb. 22 at the Crystal City National Landing Hilton.



PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Tunnel to Towers Foundation CEO Frank Siller, center, is presented the Woody Williams award by Maj. General David Bice (USMA ret), right, president and CEO of the Iwo Jima Association of America.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION  
Historian Dean Laubach stands among his collection of WWII artifacts at the Iwo Jima Association of America symposium Feb. 22 at the Crystal City National Landing Hilton.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/THE CONNECTION  
Navy Lt. Jennifer Bowman, right, greets veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima following a survivors panel discussion Feb. 22 in Arlington.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/THE CONNECTION

Marine Corps veteran David Fields, standing, leads the Iwo Jima veterans panel Feb. 22 at the Crystal City National Landing Hilton.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



From left: Jazz Buitrago, Annika Kurnavova, and Maya Duoretzky take a break from working on “Flip the Script” to get a quick hot drink from Rossana on Sunday, Feb. 23.

## ‘Flip the Script’ Pairs with Community Food Culture

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Rossana food trailer is parked in front of Thomas Jefferson Community Center on Sunday, Feb. 23 while Encore Stage and Studio’s “Flip the Script: Jamila’s Table” plays at the theatre inside. This is an original play about a young African American restaurant owner on Columbia Pike in Arlington. She is trying to expand her family’s generational soul food restaurant to incorporate the foods of other diverse cultures along the Pike including Vietnamese and Hispanic.

According to Madaline Langston, Director of Programming for Encore, the play was envisioned about three years ago “but it took the entire team of student writers as a collective to write such an amazing story.” The Encore plays have travelled from Halls Hill to Green Valley to Columbia Pile as part of their Flip program.

In order to make this truly a community event, local food trucks were invited to participate in the theatre experience by offering multi-cultural food for theatre goers during intermission and after the show. Rossana is parked right beside La Raza, offering Hispanic food, while inside the lobby Rosa’s Baking Company is selling homemade cookie sandwiches filled with dulce de leche.

Randi Milton, co-founder of Rossana with her sister Maria, braved the weekend cold to warm up customers with the special of the day, the honey-apricot thyme latte. Hot chocolate is also popular with the kids in line. “The salt and pepper cappuccino is probably the best seller although all of our flavors are popular. We make the cappuccino with simple syrup boiled with Szechuan peppercorns for 12 minutes and steeped overnight. Then we add two shots of espresso and steam sea



Marie Milton and Randi Milton man the Rossana trailer with Marie making the specialty coffee and Randi taking the orders.

salt in the milk. Finally we sprinkle a little salt on top.”

Both Randi and Maria are trained baristas. They rotate flavors with the seasons and make their own syrups that are added to the lattes or cappuccinos. One of the favorites last summer was peach-basil latte. “We’re going to bring it back. It’s delicious. I like using citrus and herbs. We try things out and see how they work.”

Randi says she and her sister started the business in May 2023. “We had both been



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

### 100th Birthday for Pam Henriksen

Armed with a decorative hat, a basketful of cards and large golden balloons spelling out 100, Pam Henriksen celebrates her 100th birthday at a Mardi Gras get-together at the Metro Diner in Arlington on Tuesday, March 4. Keeping with the Lenten tradition of Shrove Tuesday she orders pancakes for dinner. To what does she owe her longevity? “Well, I really don’t know. I just keep moving forward. I’m having a good day.”

in the hospitality business and decided we wanted to work for ourselves — you know, time for no boss. When we brainstormed a business model, the idea of something mobile appealed to us because of the initial investment, and there wasn’t this type of thing already in the area.”

They named the restaurant after their mother Rossana “who taught us hospitality, kindness and inclusion. So we named it after her, a reminder every day of what we want it to be and a tribute to her.”

Today Randi and Maria have the trailer but usually they have their food truck which is currently being converted into an electric vehicle. “it’s very exciting.”

She said they are usually located in the

Virginia Square area and sometimes Courthouse. “We are out six days a week, and sometimes we do special events like today.” The next special event is a Women’s Day celebration on March 8 at the Museum of Contemporary Art at 3550 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington. “We are pairing with Chiboo Bakery and making a special orange latte to pair with their macarons.”

Randi says they try to bake as much as they can and offer scones, cake, muffins and cookies and always have croissants on Friday. “About thirty percent of our customers are repeat with some coming weekly and others several times a week. We really enjoy the people doing their happy little coffee or tea routine; it’s a special thing.”



# LETTER

## Menhaden Study Fails to Advance in Virginia Budget

SUBMITTED BY THE  
CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Despite mounting troubling signs about the health of the Chesapeake Bay's menhaden population, this legislative session Virginia lawmakers failed to approve three separate efforts to fund a study intended to answer long-standing questions about the Bay's menhaden.

The Commonwealth's long wait for the necessary science into the Commonwealth's largest fishery and most important fish in the Bay persists.

Atlantic menhaden are the target of Virginia's largest commercial fishery, run by a company called Omega Protein, and its affiliates. Typically turned into fishmeal and fish oil products in a process known as "reduction fishing," the small schooling fish also are a key food for iconic predators like striped bass, bluefish and ospreys.

All other states have banned the practice of reduction fishing.

After thousands of menhaden and gamefish washed up on Virginia shores during high-profile fish spills by Omega Protein, the Gen-

eral Assembly passed legislation in 2023 requiring plans for studying menhaden populations in Virginia waters. This was backed by Omega Protein. But in early 2024, Virginia lawmakers failed to pass a bill that would have funded this necessary research.

This year, Del. Paul Milde spearheaded one effort for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) to complete the \$3 million three-year study of the ecology, fishery impacts, and economic importance of the menhaden population in Virginia. That House Bill 2713 and the accompanying budget amendment Item 148 #4h failed to advance from the House.

Another effort by Delegate Betsy Carr slotted the first year of funding for the study in the state budget to VIMS, but this measure was killed during budget negotiations.

The study would address critical data gaps, including the menhaden population within the Bay and the impacts of reduction fishing.

In large part due to reduction fishing, more than 70 percent of all commercial menhaden harvest lands in Virginia. But menhaden management continues to rely on coastwide data that doesn't paint

a full picture of how the fishery affects fish in Virginia. A lack of Bay-specific data hinders effective management decisions and jeopardizes the health of this keystone species and renowned estuary.

Robust menhaden populations are essential to Virginia's \$980 million recreational fishing economy, supporting valuable sport-fish like striped bass. Yet troubling signs continue to mount, including starving osprey in areas of the Bay where they depend on menhaden for food.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Virginia Executive Director Chris Moore released the following statement:

"This is not just bad news for fishermen, but bad news for a Chesapeake Bay ecosystem that continues to scream warnings about menhaden. For years, we've lacked the baseline knowledge we need to establish robust and lasting sustainability for menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, one foreign-owned entity continues to stand in the way of good science — Omega Protein, the largest harvester of menhaden

SEE MENHADEN, PAGE 14



McLean Community Center  
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FACEBOOK, POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER

FBI and Alexandria Police told Dean Naujoks, Potomac Riverkeeper, he could go out on the river if he stayed away from the crash site. He headed down river toward Alexandria, finding debris fields and parts of the plane in an area most boats don't go or know how to access on the Maryland side. Everything reeked of jet fuel, he said.

## Potomac Riverkeeper Collected Air Wreckage Debris

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Jan. 29 around 9 p.m., Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks was relaxing at home watching a movie on Netflix when Betsy Nicholas, his organization's vice president called and said, "Turn on the news." The news kept him up all night.

American Airlines flight 5342 from Wichita, Kansas, preparing to land at Reagan National Airport, collided with a southbound Army Black Hawk helicopter over the Potomac River near the airport in 35-degree weather. Both plummeted into the icy waters. Around 11:30 p.m., Naujoks heard that no one had survived. That night, he debated with himself about what he could and should do.

In a Feb. 19 online talk, Naujoks told participants that the next morning at sunrise he decided to try to help. He went to the Daingerfield Island Marina, where his boat is kept, within sight of the airport, and met Alexandria police officers. "It was eerily calm, a quiet, gray, cold day," he recalled. A man who docked his pontoon boat there had found some airplane debris on the river so the police called the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to retrieve it.

"I was there to help and provide assistance," Naujoks stressed. He got permission from the FBI to go out on the river, as long as he stayed away from the crash site. Having intimate knowledge of the river, Naujoks surmised that based on the outgoing tide and wind direction, debris would likely collect in Oxon Cove and Smoot's Cove two miles down river near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, places where most boaters rarely go.

Navigating in these coves is "tricky," he said. An inexperienced boater could run aground easily in Oxon Cove and a rock jetty in Smoot's Cove "can rip your prop off."

### What Did He Find?

There was debris "all over the place," he said. "It was eerie." He collected items like yellow foam from the airplane, a metal

handle that probably came from an emergency exit and a sweater. The largest pieces he snagged were a seat and a window. He found packets of sugar and a shredded landing gear manual. Bags of chips "perfectly intact" were floating in the water. Everything was coated in jet fuel.

Once back at the marina, he put it all in a cart and contacted the Alexandria Police Department who turned it over to the FBI. Later, others also spotted debris near Maryland's National Harbor.

On his experience, he said that "driving the boat, retrieving wreckage and dodging ice floes, it was a hectic day on the river. It was very intense and I was terrified I'd come across something I did not want to see."

On the Sunday after the Wednesday crash, FBI officials called Naujoks because of his knowledge of the river. They wanted to go into Oxon and Smoot's Coves so he guided them there by phone using visual landmarks.

### Jet Fuel Everywhere

Everything was covered with jet fuel, Naujoks told listeners. WTOP radio reported that many of the 300 first responders were covered with jet fuel and some developed rashes and lost their sense of taste and smell temporarily from the exposure.

Two days after the crash, people observed a fuel sheen and fish kills near Alexandria's waterfront, Naujoks said. He contacted several academic experts to learn about the fuel's chemical components and the risks of exposure to the fuel. He believes that much of the jet fuel volatilized into the air and some came down on Alexandria rooftops as atmospheric deposition.

He is hoping that a state agency or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will take some water samples, testing that he described as very expensive. And while his network has a water testing program, they do not have the resources to do this kind of testing.

"No one knows how far south the jet fuel went," he said. To be safe, PRKN cancelled their annual "polar bear plunge" at National Harbor the weekend after the crash.



US COAST GUARD

A temporary safety restriction zone depicted here was established due to possible contamination from fuel and other chemicals after the Jan. 29 plane crash.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

National Airport's control tower and terminals, view from an arriving airplane.

Asked if it is safe to eat fish caught in the Potomac, he recommended following the states' fish advisories. He does not know the true impact of the fuel on fish. Long-term exposures to pollutants are typically more dangerous than pollution from a one-time event, he maintained.

"I would never tell anyone to stay away from this amazing river," he said, and summarized, "I was grateful for the opportunity to help and to experience what was happening in the river. You serve as a witness to what's happening to the river, the good, bad and ugly. We are the watchdog and defender."

### The Collision

The collision was the deadliest airplane crash in the country since 2001, many media outlets reported, when a jet slammed into a New York City neighborhood after take-off, killing all 260 people on board and five more on the ground. A region-wide alert for the Jan. 29 Potomac River collision brought

in 300 first responders from the District, Virginia and Maryland, as far away as Baltimore and the Eastern Shore.

"It was a horrible tragedy, one of the saddest days on the Potomac River ever," Naujoks said.

The Potomac Riverkeeper Network's mission is "to protect the right to clean water for all communities and all those who live in and rely upon the Potomac and Shenandoah watersheds by stopping pollution, making drinking water safe, protecting healthy river habitats and enhancing use and enjoyment for all." Visit [www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/](http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/)

### If You See Debris

If you see suspected debris from the collision, do not touch it, Naujoks advises. Call 911. Photographs of visual evidence and GPS coordinates are helpful to authorities. The network's hotline is 336-809-6041 or [www.waterreporter.org/](http://www.waterreporter.org/).



# ENTERTAINMENT

## LADIES TENNIS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**The Glebe Ladies Tennis Club (GLTC) is now holding its annual membership drive open to all women in or near Arlington who enjoy playing tennis.** This is a congenial group of women tennis players of all levels. They currently have over 100 members who participate in a variety of tennis social events scheduled throughout the year. Members pay a small annual fee which covers the cost of reserving courts for Wednesday drop-in, the annual directory, and many other events. For more information or to join the club please visit our website at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/glebe-ladies-tennis-club/home> Those who join by March 1, 2024 will be included in the Annual Directory.

## 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.

## NOW THRU MAY 25

**A Passage of Force Through Matter: Current Painting.** At Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (MoCA). Chairmen's, Meyer, & Smith Galleries, Main Level. Featured artists: Tom Bunnell, Asha Elana Casey, Claudia Aziza Gibson-Hunter, Matthew Mann, Mag-



**A Passage of Force Through Matter: Current Painting can be seen at the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (MoCA) now through May 25, 2025.**

gie Michael, and Marisa Rasum. A Passage of Force Through Matter asserts the ongoing vibrancy painting within contemporary art and considers the role it can play in navigating and destabilizing our overburdened image landscape.

## NOW THRU MAY 25

**Joshua Challen Ice: Something to Do With My Hands.** At Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (MoCA). Experimental Gallery, Lower Level. Installation view of Joshua Challen Ice: Something to Do With My Hands. Joshua Challen Ice creates sculpture, kinetic, and light-based installation art to explore ideas related to architecture and philosophy. Drawing on his background in lighting design and technology for the stage, he creates fully immersive artworks. In Something to Do With My Hands, Ice presents a new installation created for SOLOS 2025 that explores issues of care, maintenance, and creation.

## NOW THRU 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)

## NOW THRU MAY 25

**Brandon Morse: Gradually, All at Once.** At Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (MoCA). Truland Gallery, Lower Level. Brandon Morse, Continental Drift, 2025, Generative video, sound, mixed media. Brandon Morse works with generative systems in order to examine the poetic and metaphorical

potential of physical phenomena such as entropy and emergence. Through the use of code and the creation of custom computer software, he builds simulations of seemingly complex systems. The resulting videos and video installations seek to draw parallels between the ways these systems work and the ways in which we, both individually and collectively, navigate the world around us. Brandon Morse: Gradually, All at Once takes place as part of MoCA Arlington's SOLOS 2025, part of the Museum's long-running SOLOS exhibition program.

## MARCH 7 AND 14

**The Friday Morning Music club will perform two free chamber concerts in March at St. George's Church, 915 N. Oakland St., adjacent to the Virginia Square Metro.** The March 7 concert will feature works by Loeffler, Farrenc, Saperton and Godowsky; the March 14, works by Handel, Lazarus, McDonald and Ravel. The one-hour concerts continue every first and second Friday of the month through May. All concerts start at noon.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 7

**Landscape Design: Form Follows (Multi) Function.** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. ONLINE. How can you transform your outdoor space into a welcoming haven while being a champion for your local ecosystems? Join Extension Master Gardener Lynda Ramirez-Blust for an exciting journey into the art and science of landscape design! Discover the foundational principles and step-by-step process for creating vibrant, multifunctional landscapes that improve water and soil quality, reduce stormwater runoff, restore and support pollinator habitats, enrich the tree canopy, and provide sanctuary for wildlife, all while creating a joyful, functional space for you and your family to enjoy. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned gardener, this session will equip you with the confidence you need to craft thriving, sustainable landscapes that nurture both nature and your outdoor experience. FREE. RSVP online at <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive the link to participate.

## MARCH 7 AND 14

**Free Classical Music Concerts.** At Saint George's Church, 915 N. Oakland Street, Arlington. The Friday Morning Music Club invites everyone to free classical music concerts the first and second Fridays of the month. The program for March 7 features five songs for mezzo-soprano, viola, and piano by Loeffler; Trio for clarinet, cello, and piano by Farrenc; and piano solo selections by Saperton, Gershwin, and Godowsky. The March 14 program features selections by Mozart, Lazarus, and Ravel. The one-hour concerts start at noon. Free, no ticket required. Visit <https://fmmc.org>

## SATURDAY/MARCH 8

**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 new headliner for March's show is the hilarious Umar Khan!

## SATURDAY/MARCH 8

**"We're Expecting!" Kitten & Wildlife Shower.** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Animal Welfare League of Arlington, 2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr., Arlington. The Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) is celebrating the arrival of kitten and wildlife baby season with a special "We're Expecting!" Kitten & Wildlife Shower. This interactive event invites the community to help AWLA prepare for the influx of tiny, vulnerable animals by donating much-needed supplies, learning about wildlife and kitten care, and meeting adorable foster kittens. Each year, AWLA takes in hundreds of orphaned kittens and injured or displaced baby wildlife. This event helps ensure AWLA has the supplies and resources needed to give these fragile animals the best chance at survival. Attendees can contribute by bringing donations from AWLA's wish list, purchasing supplies through an online registry, or making a financial gift.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 8

**Arlington Choral Presents Enchant!** 5 p.m. At Westover Baptist Church, Arlington. An evening of moving poetry and music awaits you as the Arlington Choral presents

Enchant! This concert features the second performance of We Are the Lucky Ones by Jocelyn Hagen, this new commission by the Choral is set to poems by Julia Singer and Freya Manfred, exploring the roles of fortune and desire in our lives. Alongside Hagen's masterpiece, the choral will perform Gustav Holst's The Cloud Messenger, a lush, evocative work set to an ancient Sanskrit poem about married love that transports listeners to mystical realms with its storytelling and lush harmonies. You'll also hear a new poem by Bahir Nasiri, a poet laureate of Afghanistan, that offers his perspective on the themes explored in the concert. Come and experience the power of music to communicate deep emotions, connect us to the ethereal, and reveal the enchantment in the world around us. Tickets start at \$25, with free admission for children ages 17 and under. Visit [arlingtonchorale.org](http://arlingtonchorale.org)

## 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.

## MONDAY/MARCH 10

**Annual Prayer Breakfast.** 10 a.m. The Woman's Club of Arlington will have its annual Prayer Breakfast on Monday, March 10 at 10 a.m. at the club house-lower level. (700 S. Buchanan St.) Guest speaker is Father Timothy Hickey, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) Catholic Church, Arlington, VA. Full Breakfast served. Admission: canned goods, cereal or peanut butter for OLQP food pantry. RSVP to Pat Fisher 703-751-3442 or [pat.fisher510@gmail.com](mailto:pat.fisher510@gmail.com) NLT March 7th. Men are welcome as well as ladies!

## 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 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!

## FRIDAY/MARCH 14

**Full Moon Salamander Search.** 6-7 p.m. Explore the park at night when the moon is full! We will search for salamanders along Long Branch Creek. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight if you have one! Event will take place rain or moonshine! Long Branch Nature Center. Registration Required.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15



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**NEWS**

**EcoAction  
Arlington  
Volunteer  
leadership  
Training**

March 19, 6-8 p.m.

Help steward our environment in Arlington. Join EcoAction Arlington for our Volunteer Leadership Training on March 19. It is the perfect opportunity to gain the skills to lead service projects, advocate for environmental policies, foster the stewardship of Arlington County, and represent EcoAction Arlington in the community. Care for our environment. Lead for Arlington.

Sign up today: <https://ecoaction-arlington.app.neoncrm.com/.../event>

**Menhaden Study**

FROM PAGE 11

on the Atlantic Coast.”

“We are deeply disappointed that once again Omega Protein and their lobbyists have thwarted the good faith efforts to develop the necessary science

LETTER for the Chesapeake Bay. Perhaps even more frustrating is the fact

they twice previously supported the proposed approach to studying many of the most pressing questions related to the Commonwealth's menhaden resource. This delay will not be received well by the public, who has long supported better menhaden science for the region.”

**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/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.ourladyqueenof-peace.org](http://www.ourladyqueenof-peace.org) for more.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## MARCH 15-16

**Jane Franklin Dance Farewell at Theatre on the Run.** 7 p.m. Saturday at 7 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Tickets: \$23 through Mar 13. ( \$25 starting Mar 14 ) \$28 at the Door  
**Sunday Mar 16 Family Ticket \$70** (2 adults/2 children under 10) till Mar 13  
 Info: <https://janefranklin.com/performances>

## SATURDAY/MARCH 15

**Spring E-CARE 2025.** 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Wakefield High School, 1325 S. Dinwiddie Street, Arlington. The Arlington Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE) is a biannual environmentally friendly drop-off event where residents can safely dispose of old electronics and household hazardous materials (HHM). Arlington residents can drop off the listed materials during Spring E-CARE 2025, including:  
 ❖ Paint Products (25-can limit)  
 ❖ Old Electronics/Batteries  
 ❖ Garden Chemicals  
 ❖ Fire Extinguishers  
 ❖ Household Cleaners  
 ❖ Petroleum Products  
 ❖ Flammable Solvents  
 ❖ Automotive Fluids  
 ❖ Small Metal Items

## SUNDAY/MARCH 16

**11th Annual Nowruz Festival.** 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Hilton Washington Dulles Airport. Join in a vibrant celebration of Nowruz, the Persian New Year, and the arrival of spring! This event is free and open to the public, so bring your friends and family for a day of fun, culture, and community. What to Expect: Live music and dance performances by talented local artists  
 DJ music to keep the energy flowing all day long  
 Fun and exciting kids' activities  
 A grand Nowruz Bazaar featuring amazing art & craft vendors, delicious sweets, and a variety of services to explore

## MONDAY/MARCH 17



"In the Heights" can be seen now through May 4, 2025 at Signature Theatre in Arlington.

**Safe at Home Community Engagement Forum on Aging.** 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Macedonia Baptist Church, 3412 22nd Street S., Arlington. Featuring speakers from True Ground Housing, Arlington Fire, Child and Family and RAFT. Hosted by the Commission on Aging and the Arlington Agency on Aging.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 19

**Early Spring Wildflower Walk.** 5:30-6:30 p.m. At Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington. Adults. Spring beauties, bloodroot, trout lilies! Even before the last frost, some of our spring wildflowers brave the cold to put on a show. Come take a walk and we'll discuss the fascinating lifestyle and ecology of these plants. Teens ages 12 and up welcome to attend with a registered adult. Long Branch Nature Center. Registration Required.

## MARCH 20 TO MAY 4

**A Brighter Light.** At Arlington Artists Alliance Galleries, 2700 Clarendon Blvd., Suite R330, Arlington. Alliance Gallery is pleased to present A Brighter

er Light, an Arlington Artists Alliance member juried show exploring themes of hope, clarity, renewal, and optimism. The exhibition seeks to present light in a new way through artists' use of color, shadow, and texture to convey emotions of optimism during times of uncertainty or darkness. How can light change our perspective? A Brighter Light aims to celebrate resilience and beauty in ordinary, everyday life. Opening Reception: Thursday, March 20, 2025, 5-7 p.m.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 22

**"Profile in Courage: Kathryn Stone vs the Byrd Machine and the Massive Resistance Movement against School Integration in the 1950s"**, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. Presented by Arlington AAUW. Speaker is Vivian Kallen, former president, AAUW-Arlington.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 5

**National Chamber Ensemble.** 7:30 p.m. At Marymount University-Ballston Center, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington. On

March 3, 2025, The National Chamber Ensemble (NCE) celebrated Marymount University's 75th Anniversary and brings the combined talents of two extraordinary musical artists in a program featuring works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms and Lowell Liebermann. NCE Artistic Director and violinist, Leonid Sushansky and pianist Thomas Pandolfi were classmates, graduating from the famed Juilliard School of Music. They went on to establish themselves as Virtuoso solo artists and chamber musicians, performing in world-famous concert halls and venues in the U.S. and abroad.

The program for the evening includes:

Johann Sebastian Bach - Sonata No. 3 in E Major  
 Lowell Liebermann - Sonata in G Major Op.46  
 Johannes Brahms - Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Op 108

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

**5th Annual First Responders BBQ.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 4435 N Pershing Drive, Arlington. Sponsored by Culpepper Garden community.

## Not About The Beatles



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It was not 20 years ago today (it was only 16), and there was no Sgt. Pepper teaching a band how to play (only an oncologist to share a very unexpected initial non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis), and certainly there was no Billy Shears to introduce and/or sing (only Team Lourie to absorb the devastating news. Moreover, the oncologist had said in his presentation to us that he could treat me, but that he couldn't cure me. It seemed simple enough to hear but oddly enough, it was puzzling in a way). It was, as we realized a few minutes later, a "terminal" diagnosis. And a "terminal" diagnosis/prognosis like that kind of takes the bounce out of your step. It may not keep you from singing; well, maybe the infused chemotherapy does a little bit physically, and emotionally, the hills are not exactly "alive with the sound of music." Remembering some of those early, heavy-duty chemotherapy days, getting out of bed and onto the living room couch was as much as I could muster. And singing? Maybe in the shower if I could ever gather the strength to get there - which I rarely could. And when I did manage to get in the shower, I barely felt like standing, let alone singing. That was then. This is the next paragraph:

Now there's a Beatles channel on Sirius XM Radio and televisions in the Infusion Center. In addition, my chemotherapy these days is "targeted" and treated at home where I take five pills a day. Also, a few years ago my cancer diagnosis was changed from non-small cell lung cancer to papillary thyroid cancer, a much better scenario, generally. Unfortunately, when all my things are considered however, not so much. Instead of quarterly CT Scans, I'm now getting a PET Scan every four months or so. (A PET Scan provides more/accurate detail of what's happening in my lungs.) And most importantly, I have a new oncologist who I see at a different facility. One that I hadn't ever been to all those previous years dating back to Feb. '09 when this cancer business first began.

It would be naïve to say one is happy to see their oncologist. Because if one is seeing an oncologist, it's not what you'd call "a pleasure trip," as the late, great, Henny Youngman joked repeatedly, about "taking his mother-in-law to the airport." It likely means there's a cancer diagnosis that needs treating. And cancer is the medical version of a four-letter word and likewise one you'd rather not hear said in your direction. Nevertheless, the oncologist we're now seeing/being treated by has made a difference in our lives. And to invoke "Forrest, Forrest Gump," "That's all I want to say about that."

My perspective has also changed. When I was first diagnosed, my future was behind me, sort of. All I had was the present. Statistically, according to what my oncologist had said, my best days were behind me. He said there was a two-percent chance I'd survive beyond five years. Hardly was I the kind of horse you'd bet to win. Probably not one you'd bet on at all. No doubt I was a long-shot. But here I type, 16+ years later. Now that's something to sing about. But since I rarely sing, I'm left to toot my own horn (and I don't even play any instruments).

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

## SENIOR LIVING

### Flourishing After 55

FROM PAGE 7

Education Volunteers, Thursday, March 13, 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 913400-23.

55+ Travel group will journey to Thurmont, MD to the annual Maple Sugar Festival, Saturday, March 15. Cost \$14, Arlington resident; \$16, non-resident. Bring extra \$5 cash for donation. Registration # 902503-06.

Open Office Hour with Ashley Gomez, Lubber Run 55+ Center Director, Monday, March 17, 1:30 p.m. Discuss ideas for center programs, ask questions about current programs. Registration # 913801-01.

Bridgette Game Day, celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing green and playing an Irish trick-taking card game called Bridgette, Monday, March 17, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. No experience necessary; instruction provided. Registration #913600-03.

Women of Jazz, learn about and listen to music from a genre which originated in the African American communities in New Orleans, LA in the 19th and early 20th centuries discussed Monday, March 17, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Presented by Cory Cox, 55+ Operations Supervisor. Registration # 913400-32.

You can't take it with you, join

AARP's Community ambassador Suba Saty and hear easy-to-follow tips on downsizing and decluttering, Monday, March 17, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913404-02.

Community Engagement Forum on Aging Issues, Monday, March 17, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Macedonia Baptist Church, 3412 22nd Street South. Agenda includes a panel on what it means to be "Safe at Home", a resource fair, an update on Age Friendly Arlington initiative plus opportunities to share personal concerns. Open to all ages; 55+ pass not required.

55+ Travel group will travel to the MGM Casino and Tanger Outlets, National Harbor, MD, Monday, March 17. Cost \$12, Ar-

lington resident; \$14, non-resident. Registration # 902503-07.

Learn about E-Bikes, Tuesday, March 18, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Presented by Mary Dallao from Bike Arlington. Registration # 913400-21.

Acoustic Café to feature performances by local musicians-The Calico Cloggers and The Mandoleers, Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Open to all ages; 55+ Pass not required. Registration # 913301-01.

Women's Suffrage Movement, presented by Cory Cox, 55+ Operations Supervisor, Wednesday, March 19, 2 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913400-30.



# Arlington Philharmonic Exceeds Expectations

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

## Guest soloist Akemi Takayama featured

BY EDEN BROWN

I never paid much attention to the Arlington Philharmonic, oddly. I love the Ninth Street Quartet, I go to the National Symphony occasionally, and I support WETA. But February 23rd, I felt like filling my afternoon with music, and saw they were playing a Brahms Symphony, and it was free. I drove over to Washington-Liberty High School hoping to hear a decent rendition of that symphony, and heard much more. As a bonus, the concert featured Japanese violinist, Akemi Takayama, the soloist in Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto, op.14. She performed it beautifully, and that is no easy task, because when Barber says, "Presto in moto perpetuo" (very fast in perpetual motion) he means it.

One of the prettiest pieces of the concert was Antonin Dvořák's "In Nature's Realm", evoking spring, which was a good thing, given the temperature outside. Music Director, A. Scott Ward was not only fun to watch conduct - he almost leaped into the orchestra at one point - he also offered commentary which helped those attending relate to the music. He noted Brahms and Dvořák were contemporaries, and Brahms served as a mentor to Dvořák; they became close friends, travelling together and performing their work for each other for feedback.

The audience, nearly overflowing the auditorium, included children, which is one of the great benefits of a free concert. After the intermission, the orchestra played Johannes Brahms' "Symphony No2, op.73 in D Major. One of Brahms very melodious symphonies, with "Brahms Lullaby" at the center of the first movement, it has one of the greatest finales in a long list of symphonic finales, and the APO did not disappoint, with a display of what a well-run orchestra can



The fundraising raffle included three large baskets. This one had APO themed sugar cookies and amazing chocolate truffle balls from Sweet and Sassin, a local bakery.

do, resounding percussion and heraldic horns joining strings in an impressive crescendo.

The concert was put on in partnership with Encore Learning of Arlington. The APO receives generous support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Arlington County through the Arlington Cultural Affairs division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts. Many other local businesses supported the concert and the program also mentioned a specific bequest from Alan Herman.

The concert was so good, I donated to the APO, in the hope of attending more like this.

To donate, or to find out when the next concert is, see: [www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org](http://www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org)



Guest violinist Akemi Takayama received strong applause and three huge bouquets of flowers.

# Hispanic Community in Today's Political Whirlwind

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Alvaro Alacon lives in Fairfax City but has worked with Arlington youth for many years including the Second Chance program. This was developed a number of years ago to give students who are found with drugs or alcohol the opportunity to attend Second Chance instead of being suspended. In addition, Alacon's company, Impel, operates a program to mentor, provide after school activities, life skills and a model for a positive future for Arlington youth and their parents.

He knows inside the families in the community, their challenges and what is behind the statistics. Alacon says due to the current political climate the habits and patterns of everyday life in the Hispanic community have been replaced by fear of the unknown.

"It used to be that the family would go to a bunch of different stores to save money because everything is so expen-



Alvaro Alacon

sive. Now a lot of families are avoiding going out, and it's having a negative effect on an already low-income family on a tight budget." He says, maybe before they would take the whole family to help carry groceries and do the shopping but now only the one

green card holder will go and leave the mom at home who doesn't have papers.

In addition, he explains, It is even having an impact in church, and some people are afraid to go. They have heard that ICE plans to implement their arrests at churches and schools. "Some of the Hispanic outlets are using scare tactics about the Executive orders on immigration, and they aren't getting the full story."

He says a family will hear free lunch and Head Start programs were cancelled, and the mom is worried. "My kids have lunch there; I don't have enough money to provide stuff. What will I do? Then Alacon says the mom learns it is all a process and this won't take effect."

"But imagine their thought process. Schools are supposed to be a safe environment but they imagine ICE teams coming in, their kids are crying and holding onto desks. This is a part of their day to day."

He says on a regular day there are a variety of reasons kids don't go to school, and they aren't held accountable for not showing

up. Now the fear of encountering ICE at school has given them one more reason to avoid attending classes.

"It is a hostile environment. A team of ICE is sent out, all in uniforms with their radios going off, using the numbers game to intimidate. Most of the Hispanic community don't know their American rights and feel they have to cooperate."

Alacon says there is a lack of education around what is going on. "It is chaotic." He explains there are active efforts being made by community groups and churches to distribute "Know Your Rights" cards and other information to immigrants. "But that process works for an established community of people you know but many of these people are not engaged in any of these community groups so they don't get the information."

"They are intimidated. Agencies and churches are trying to help but there are a lot of skeptical people saying to each other 'there is a catch.' The best way to reach these people is by word of mouth from someone they know and trust who has had a positive experience."