

# The Arlington Connection

Smiles at the rally following Board passage of its long-awaited Climate Resolution.

## Fostering a Sustainable Future

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PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

MARCH 19 - APRIL 1, 2025

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PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Arlingtonians and others gathered around signs for their Representatives in anticipation of going to their offices after the rally to protest the Continuing Resolution.

# Arlingtonians Show Up to Protest Congress' Inaction

Groups of citizens met on the Hill to lobby their representatives to fight.

BY EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**T**hey drove in from the suburbs or took the Metro to downtown holding placards for their representatives who, they hoped, would stand up for their constituents, not simply “take it” as the Trump administration chipped away at Democratic norms, firing the lawyers, withdrawing support from long-

time allies, allowing personal data to be accessed by people without clearances. U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-8 MD) was applauded for his call to fight the invasion of privacy by the DOGE team, gaining access to Americans’ social security, tax and other sensitive information.

Raskin encouraged everyone to submit a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request to find out what the DOGE team has acquired about them. Raskin cited Tom Paine’s

book “The American Crisis” with quotes like,

“These are the times that try men’s souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. And ...

“Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the

triumph.”

Common refrains of several speakers were, “Representatives don’t report to Donald Trump or Elon Musk but to US!!!!”

One impressive speaker told the crowd, “All federal workers have a problem but we need the rest of America to understand this is their issue too. It scares me that people on the Metro act normal, people in coffee shops act normal.

“This is not normal. My father

was in the Navy, my grandfather was in the army, and my son is a U.S. Marine. There is a reason they fired the Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAGs), which are sometimes referred to as “the military’s conscience.” They don’t want any limitations on what they can do and the JAGs would stand in their way.”

Mark told the crowd he had been fired from work with a US-

SEE ARLINGTONIANS, PAGE 12

## Hope Backs Changes in County Board

Bill could allow expansion up to 11 board members, and possible creation of districts.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**D**el. Patrick Hope is pushing legislation to change the current Arlington County governance structure which he says was set up in the 1930s to disenfranchise Blacks and when Arlington’s population was 25,000. “It has grown to over 240,000, and the current structure is no longer relevant.”

HR 2768 has passed the House of Delegates and Senate and is sitting on Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s desk. Youngkin has until March 24 to sign or veto it.

“I haven’t had any indication of which way it will go,” Hope says.

The Arlington County Board has not supported the legislation stating, “This

bill was not solicited by the Arlington County Board. The County Board believes there should be a thorough and inclusive public process, led by Arlington County, on our form of government. The County Board has not reached a sufficient threshold or completed the necessary due diligence on behalf of our community to support this bill at this time.”

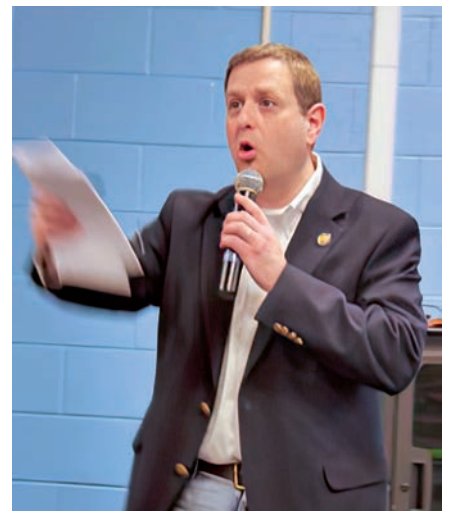
The legislation would allow several changes in the current structure and operation of the board including expansion of the current board of five members to include up to eleven members. In addition, it would allow some or all of the board members to be elected by district within Arlington instead of the current process of all members elected at large.

Hope says that “If your major issue was

speeding on Langston Boulevard and I was your district representative, I would put this at the top of my list and I would talk about it at every single meeting whereas it might not get much attention for a board member who had been elected at large to represent all the constituents across the county.” He adds, “For many years S. Arlington thought they were underrepresented —schools and roads not as good, mail delivered more slowly. They could feel this would give them a stronger voice.” But he says if we were to elect some board members by district, “Cross your pearls; some are afraid we could elect a conservative or Republican.”

In addition, the legislation would allow the Board chair to be elected for a four-year period instead of the current rotating one-year

SEE HOPE BACKS CHANGES, PAGE 9



Patrick Hope at recent town hall in Arlington.





Mike Lowe, an EcoAction Arlington member, at the rally organized by EcoAction Arlington with support from Defensores de la Cuenca, Elders Climate Action Virginia Chapter, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, Sierra Club Potomac River Group, and Third Act Virginia.



Alexa Newman, student member of EcoAction Arlington and a senior at Yorktown High School, said she was speaking as a representative of Gen Z and as one of the many young people in this country deeply concerned about the impact of climate change on our future."



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION  
Gary and Jamie Usrey of "Elders for Climate Action" one of the non-partisan community groups active in the effort to improve Arlington's sustainability profile.

# Climate Resolution Adopted by Arlington County Board

Environmental activists and students praise step in the right direction.

BY EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**A**rlington County adopted its long-awaited Climate Resolution on Saturday. It was a big deal, based on the smiles around the crowded county board hearing room. As Executive Director of EcoAction

Arlington, Elenor Hodges, noted, "The Arlington County Climate Resolution recognizes the threat of climate change to the planet and the need to develop effective, just, and equitable policies to combat the climate crisis. This bold and reassuring step forward for climate action at the local level is more important than ever recog-

nizing the current federal administration. The Arlington County Climate Resolution will pave the way for whole-of-government, whole-of-community actions to accelerate Arlington's 2050 goal toward carbon neutrality, address the root causes of the crisis, and create solutions that secure a livable future for all."

But as several speakers noted, implementation of the resolution is key, and citizens of Arlington are on the hook to do their part. As board members said, "If you aren't weather stripping your home or solar paneling your home, are you doing enough?"

Speakers at the board meeting were largely upbeat. Gary Usrey, of

the Virginia chapter of Elders Climate Action, a national, non-partisan group concerned about a warming planet, said, "The Resolution's 'whole of community' and 'whole of government' approach is exactly the right strategy to ensure climate resilience mitigation and adaptation are woven into all as-

SEE CLIMATE, PAGE 11



Jim Lyons of the EcoAction board. "I'm not doing this for myself, I'm doing this for kids and grandkids. We need to work together, and work with the county's staff which is so impressive now."



Students at the rally following the resolution.



Kate Beyssellance, who described herself as a "Sustainability manager in construction," letting people know where she stands.



# SENIOR LIVING

## 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.

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.

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

Women's culinary stories, Wednesday, March 19, 6 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Celebrate Women's History Month with Sushmita Mazumdar, author of "Columbia Pike Recipes for Recovery" which tells stories about how food connected a community when they needed it the most. Registration # 913400-31.

What is a living trust? Join Elder Law

Attorney Ed Zetlin as he explains the benefits of having a trust, Wednesday, March 19, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913404-03.

Opera appreciation a video "Siegfried," the third opera in Richard Wagner's "Ring Cycle," from the New York Met, Wednesday, March 19, 1:30 p.m., with professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913300-02.

Piano Lounge and Sing-Along with Valerie Welsh playing songs from the Golden Oldies of the early 1960s, Wednesday, March 19, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Lyrics provided. Registration # 913304-23.

Spring emergence, join Arlington Park Naturalist Bobbi Farley for a presentation and hike to learn about animals emerging in the spring, Wednesday, March 19, 11 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Wear walking shoes. Registration # 913106-15.

New, Memory Care Café for people with dementia and family caregivers, Thursday, March 20, 1:30 – 3 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Experience meaningful dementia-friendly activities together. Led by Arlington Adult Day Program and library staff. To sign up call Zoe Mann at 703-228-5193 or email, zmann@arlingtonva.us. Open to all ages; 55+ Pass not required. All participants with dementia should be accompanied

by their Caregiver.

Cooking demonstration of heart healthy recipes by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers, Thursday, March 20, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 913501-01.

Uber and Lyft tips from Tech Guru Nick Englund, Thursday, March 20, 10 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913403-02.

55+ Travel group will visit the retrospective exhibition of "Elizabeth Catlett: A Black Revolutionary Artist and All That It Implies" at the National Gallery of Art, D.C., which highlights the artist's impact, Monday, March 24. Cost \$11, Arlington resident; \$13, non-resident. Registration # 902503-09.

Early wildflowers, join Arlington Park Naturalist Simon Willig for a walk-through wooded trails to discuss the ecology of these plants, Tuesday, March 25, 10 a.m., Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. Registration # 913106-25.

Movie matinee, "Hidden Figures" (2016) (PG), Tuesday, March 25, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913804-01.

Preparing your home to sell in today's market, Tuesday, March 25, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Insider tips and strategies by Karen Close and Candee Currie at Century 21 New Millennium Real Estate.

Registration # 913404-04.

55+ Travel group will enjoy an afternoon tea at Reynolds Tavern Tea Room in Annapolis, MD, Wednesday, March 26. Cost \$80, Arlington resident; \$ 92, non-resident. Registration # 902503-10.

New, Spring Supper Club for 55+ participants at Arlington Mill 55+ Center, Wednesday, March 26, 6 p.m. Bring your own dinner; beverages and dessert provided. Registration # 913899-03.

Meet the Cherrydale Library staff, sign up for an Arlington Public Library card, learn how to access free e-books and audio books and check out books for spring reading, Wednesday, March 26, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 913400-03.

Travel Guru Susan Court shares her experiences exploring Alsace, the Germanic region of France, Wednesday, March 26, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913400-28.

Book exchange at Lubber Run 55+ Center, Thursday, March 27, 6 p.m. Bring books in good condition to swap with fellow readers. Registration # 913801-04.

VHC Health Auxiliary vice president Mary Gleason will discuss volunteer opportunities at the hospital and how to become a volunteer, Thursday, March 27, 11 a.m., Langston Brown 55+ Center. Reg-

istration # 913400-04.

Exploring Arlington's Tree Canopy with an in-depth overview by Arlington's Urban Forest Manager Vincent Verweij, Thursday, March 27, 3 p.m., virtual. Registration # 913400-12.

History discussion group led by Dwight Rodgers from Encore Learning, Thursday March 27, 1 p.m., virtual. Topics will be emailed to participants prior to meeting. Registration # 913402-11.

Artist Cookbook, learn "recipes" for making art materials out of household items, Thursday, March 27, 9 a.m., virtual. Techniques and tricks on how to use the materials by Jennifer Droblyen, Community Arts Programmer. Registration # 913302-06.

Fortunes in the Attic, a chance to have an item you own researched to determine its worth by Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen plus learn how to identify antiques Friday, March 28, 9 a.m., virtual. Send photo by email to sashon@arlingtonva.us. before the program. Registration # 913302-07.

Spring Fling, celebrate the start of spring with fellow 55+ friends with games, snacks and fun, Friday, March 28, 1-3 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration #913899-04.

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# Kitchen of Purpose Trains Bilingual Culinary Students

**Wins Jacques Pépin \$50,000 grant.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Culinary students wearing black “Kitchen of Purpose” aprons have just completed their risotto made with chicken broth and a little Parmesan. Chef Martha, the Culinary Manager and instructor, inspects one dish and remarks, “Not enough salt. You used the wrong broth; you used fish stock instead of chicken stock.”

Kitchen of Purpose is the only dual language culinary institute in this area outside of New York City, and recently received a \$50,000 Jacques Pépin Partnership (JFP) Circle Grant. It will be used to develop an alumni network and support a food incubator as well as incorporate community service into the curriculum.

Rollie Wesen, Executive Director of the Jacques Pépin Partnership says, “For over a decade Kitchen of Purpose has championed the transformative power of food, not just as nourishment but as a vehicle for opportunity, empowerment and community building. They equip underserved immigrants, people of color, and women with the skills, confidence and connections they need to build meaningful careers in the food industry.”

Brian MacNair, CEO of Kitchen of Purpose, known in the beginning as La Cochina, said it was opened in 2012 by Paty Funegra who wanted to start a job training program for Latinos. Originally the program ran out of the basement of Mt. Olivet Church. But several years ago when the buildings on the block of Columbia Pike were demolished and the block was



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Three culinary students at Kitchen of Purpose show off their Parmesan risotto, today's recipe.

rebuilt, Kitchen of Purpose was offered space. It allowed them to have 5,000 square feet to include a kitchen for culinary training as well as a kitchen for rental space by individual businesses as well as office space and a small cafe which is currently closed for renovation.

MacNair had helped Funegra set up the original program in 2012 and then spent 10 years as Director of Development for D.C. Central Kitchen, traveling the world with Chef José Andres and growing the organization from \$1 million to \$11 million while he was there. Then a year and a half ago when Funegra wanted to retire she asked MacNair to take over Kitchen of Purpose.

He says although the building includes a kitchen for rental space, the culinary training is the core of what they do. “We have eight week classes of 16 students and graduate 12-to-14 each time. Not everyone makes it through. We tell them if you're here for job training, this is not for you. But if you have a passion for cooking ... some people are just born to cook.” MacNair

says in a year they enroll 80, graduate 70, and 60 get jobs.

MacNair says the graduates go on to get positions in the corporate world, casual restaurants and a few at high quality restaurants. They make an average of \$18.50 an hour when they graduate.

“We have a graduate who just got hired by the Amazon headquarters in Arlington; they have a lot of cafeterias there. They go to Marriott, Wegmans, Wagamama, and we have a bunch of students at Goodwin House.

“More than half of our students want to start their own business.” He says it costs \$15,000 to train one student. Kitchen of Purpose raises money for their \$1.2 million budget from grants and fundraisers but worry in today's climate about the approximately \$500,000 that comes from the government.

The \$50,000 Pépin grant spread over two years will be used to support an internship that focuses on alumni. “We currently do follow up at 3, 6, 9 months with alumni to get their feedback and to tell their story about what they experienced



Brian MacNair, CEO of Kitchen of Purpose.



Kitchen of Purpose along Columbia Pike at 918 S. Lincoln Street.

and their challenges. The students will listen to others who have been in their shoes.”

In addition to tapping the alumni, MacNair hopes to build on the current excellent curriculum to develop the food lab as a small busi-

ness incubator. “We also want to incorporate our students into service in the community by having a three-course meal for disadvantaged families twice a month and making the students part of that.”

<https://www.kitchenofpurpose.org/>



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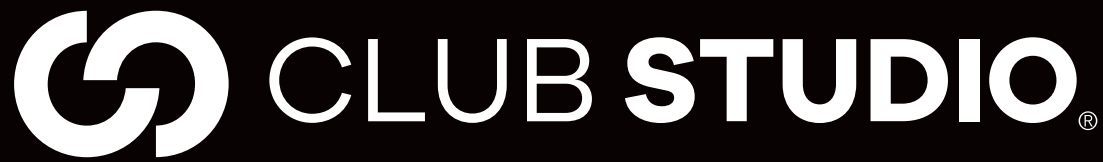
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Chain Bridge Bank, N.A.



\*The Downpayment Assistance Grant is offered through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. Household income restrictions and other requirements apply. Please see Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta's Affordable Housing Program Implementation Plan at [www.fhlbatl.com](http://www.fhlbatl.com) for complete product requirements. Must be 18 or older to apply. Loans and grant subject to credit and property approval. This is not a commitment to make a loan. Rates and specifics subject to change without prior notice. Exclusions apply. Contact a Chain Bridge Mortgage Loan Officer for details. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.





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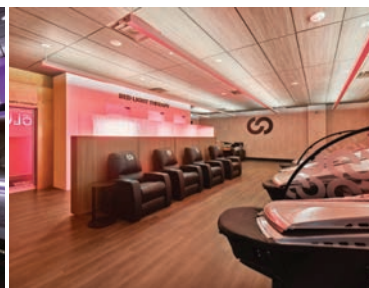
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# ENTERTAINMENT



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



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

## 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 MARCH 23

**Synetic Theater Presents “The Immigrant.”** At Thomas Jefferson Theater, 125 S Old Glebe Road, Arlington. Synetic premieres “The Immigrant,” a new project from Paata and Irina Tsikurishvili based on the classic 1918 silent comedy. It is a simple, comedic story about the arrival of a new immigrant in turn of the 20th-century New York, with all the trials, adventure, mishaps, and high hopes of the American immigrant journey. As a theater founded, led, and populated by immigrant artists, Synetic considers this the perfect time and opportunity to adapt, expand, and develop its own version of story, bringing its adept physical comedy, innovative style, and great heart to the legacy of this cinema classic.

## 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, Maggie 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 Alegría 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 14-23

**“The Immigrant.”** Presented by Syn-

etic 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!

## 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.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 19

**EcoAction Arlington Volunteer Leadership Training.** 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>

## MARCH 20 TO MAY 4

**Arlington Artists Alliance Presents A Brighter Light: An Alliance Member Juried Show.** At Alliance Gallery, Clarendon, Arlington. Alliance Gallery is pleased to present A Brighter 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. Join on Thursday, March 20 for an opening reception from 5 to 7pm.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 21

**St. Andrew's Players Present “Oliver!”** At 4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington. Take part in the classic tale of a young lad struggling to survive the London streets while encountering Charles Dickens' most colorful characters. Suggested Donation: For Just the Show: (All Performances) Adults: \$15, Children (Age 12 & Under): \$7.50; For Dinner + Theater (March 22 Only) Adults: \$25, Children (Age 12 & Under): \$15. Visit the website: <https://standrewsarlington.org/st-andrews-players-oliver/>

## SATURDAY/MARCH 22

**Women's Maker Fair.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. At Central Library, Virginia Square, Arlington. Share the Love during Women's History Month with an arts and crafts fair! Support local, woman-owned businesses at a pop-up fair in Central Library! Visit any of the vendors to learn about their craft and artistic process. Their products will be available for sale. Registration recommended for event updates.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 22

**Artist Talks: Brandon Morse and Joshua Challen Ice.** Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington. 3-5 p.m. At MoCA Arlington, Virginia Square, Arlington. Join SOLOS artists Brandon Morse and Joshua Challen Ice to learn more about their SOLOS 2025 exhibitions, Brandon Morse: Gradually, All at Once and Joshua Challen Ice: Something to Do With My Hands. Brandon Morse's talk will begin at 3 p.m. and Joshua Challen Ice will speak at 4 p.m. Admission is free. Talks will take place in the galleries, on the lower level of the museum.

## 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.

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



# Hope Backs Changes In County Board

FROM PAGE 3

process. "This would give the chair more power when dealing with regional issues with Fairfax, Loudoun and Alexandria who all have elected chairs serving multiple years. Currently we have less power in these situations. Everyone knows that."

Julius (JD) Spain, Sr. disagrees. "I am liaison to a number of regional boards. We have a lot of leverage." Spain, who points out he is speaking on his 77th day as a new board member, says he supports a robust community conversation about changes in the board. "This deserves a conversation with community and business leaders, faith-based organizations. I seem to encounter the same 500 people who make things happen. I'd love to know what a young family with school age kids knows about Arlington government — the roles and responsibilities and what they might think about these issues."

A group of neighborhood ladies meeting at a monthly get together respond they don't really know anything about the county government and don't really care. "We've always done pretty well here, haven't we?" However, as the discussion continues they do admit they care about certain issues like property taxes but don't relate it to personalities or the position of individual board members.

Spain says as a leader he doesn't want to tell people what is appropriate, to get out in front of his constituents. Spain would like to see a blue ribbon commission talk about the pros and cons, the history of our government. But he says there are other pressing priorities right now with what's going on in government.

A Democratic precinct captain from the Crystal City area agrees, wondering why we are spending time on this when there are so many more important issues out there now that need addressing.

Board Chair Takis Karantonis says, "This conversation is running parallel with serious Federal events that will change Arlington as we know it. What is at stake is the function of our republic, the division of powers. We are witnessing a clash with an Administration that doesn't obey the rule of law and uses methods of political change that infringe on the Constitution."

He continues Arlington has a lot to be concerned about with funding reductions as well as 30,000 Federal employees and a significant number of very highly skilled people prepared for public service

who work as contractors. "In addition, we have unprecedented conflict right now, and we are at the brink of a constitutional crisis."

Arlington Board Member, Matt de Ferranti, says, "I do believe we need to have a broader conversation about these issues. But we need to ask when is the appropriate time for this conversation. I think later this year due to the challenges facing the Board right now posed by the new Administration with all of the funding cuts and the ways they are impacting our community," de Ferranti adds, "We are super busy trying to figure it all out."

"We want to be sensitive and caring when things are happening so fast and furious — how do we respond to do the right thing?" He adds, "We don't want a food fight right now with the anxiety and depression in our community. We need to look at this but know when and how best to go about it."

If the bill gets signed into law, it still has a ways to go before implementation. The changes don't automatically go into effect. The voters have the option, but not the obligation, to change the current operating procedure. Hope says in order to give the County Board flexibility and direction from the people, the legislation builds in a referendum. But if the County Board doesn't act, 10 percent of registered voters (16,000) could petition the courts to call for a referendum.

One other hitch in finalizing the legislation is a current Senate amendment which adds a reenactment clause to the legislation. Hope says it means that if you like the bill you have to come back and pass it again next year for it to go into effect. Hope says this amendment was added by one Republican who was opposed "because we generally don't change governance structure without the local jurisdiction's support. I have asked the governor to remove this provision."

Karantonis says we need to have a process of asking people what they think about changing the current board. He says he has been knocking on doors and this doesn't emerge in the community conversations.

"I would support providing a forum later in the year to discuss a task force to consider these issues. Arlington is in crisis right now so discussions on changing the county board need to be secondary. It should be seen in the context of what is broken or not working in Arlington....fill in the blank."

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## 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	6048	623	SUTHERLAND ROAD	WHIPPONOCK CREEK	3/1/2025
LOUDOUN	11147	600	NEW ROAD	BULL RUN	2/25/2025
BLAND	2942	42	BLUE GRASS TRAIL	BIG WALKER CREEK	2/19/2025
BUCHANAN	3949	651	OLD LESTERS FORK ROAD	LESTER'S FORK	2/19/2025
SCOTT	16802	665	MANVILLE ROAD	BLACK OAK BRANCH	2/13/2025
LEE	10977	764	ROUTE 764	CANE CREEK	2/13/2025
CHESTERFIELD	4993	1	JEFF DAVIS HIGHWAY	TRIB ASHTON CREEK	2/10/2025

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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**May 1st** - deadline for insurance companies to file.

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### Legals

### Legals

### ARLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD

**Public Hearing on the  
School Board Proposed FY 2026 Budget**

**April 3, 2025 at 7 p.m.  
2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA  
School Board Room (254-258)**

- Details on how to participate will be posted on the Arlington Public Schools website at [www.apsva.us](http://www.apsva.us) on March 28.
- Meetings are livestreamed on the APS website and broadcast on Comcast Cable Channel 70 and Verizon FIOS Channel 41.
- For more information, please call 703-228-6015.

\*Paid for and published by the Arlington School Board in the public interest\*

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# Climate Resolution Adopted By Arlington County Board

FROM PAGE 4

pects of the County's planning and budgeting."

Several board members commended Jennifer Fioretti, Assistant County Manager of Climate Policy, who shepherded the resolution and put together metrics and action items. "Jenn means business and will follow through on actions."

Others noted the landscape has shifted over the last few months. "Federal support for climate change actions, which had been so strong, is now likely on the wane. Well, we are going to do the work no matter what. Climate change won't stop just because the Feds don't fund."

Julie Rosenberg who leads the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) Arlington Hub noted the presence of Arlington students at the meeting and applauded them for forming clubs to tackle problems. Helen Hass, who has been active in the Students for Climate Action effort to bring food scraps composting in school cafeterias, said, "This year I started a climate action club at my school."

At first I didn't think it would attract much interest, especially given competing demands on our time ... Instead I found that my climate members are eager to help and excited to roll up their sleeves in the hopes of creating a more sustainable future."

J.D. Spain, the newest member of the board, said he was glad to see the Arlington Public Schools and community NGOs involved, but added, "Environmental policy, environmental justice, is like civil rights. ... I think about places like Flint, Michigan and Cancer Alley down in Louisiana. ... There's a trend, and I'm not saying that's happening so much in Arlington, but in some communities where we see a lot of our under-represented folks there are those who are more



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

**James D. Spain Jr. addressed the county board meeting, noting the importance of the climate resolution since it is often the underserved who feel the impact of climate change the most.**

greatly affected by failure to put in good policies. ... There are a lot of voices not being heard here today and I know how much the impact of environment and climate justice affects them each and every day."

Audrey Clement raised doubts about the county's "greenwashing." She called into question the reduction in tree canopy over the past two decades, the county's cutting of over 1,000 trees on public property and the Expanded Housing Option (EHO) zoning ordinance adopted in 2023 and overturned in 2024 on environmental grounds, adding, "The county is appealing the ruling that it violated state law in failing to study the environmental impacts of the EHO ordinance."

To learn more about sustainability efforts, see: <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org>



**Julie Rosenberg of Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions has been a steady contributor to improving climate policy in Arlington. "It's on us now," she said.**

## ACPD Stands Firm on Immigration Policies

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**P**resident Donald Trump campaigned on a pledge of mass deportation of immigrants and quickly acted to fulfill this promise. During a seven day period in February arrests averaged 787 each day compared to 311 daily arrests during President Biden's last year in office.

The Arlington immigrant community has reacted with fear of the unknown and the possibility of ICE arrests even when immigrants are in the country legally. Mostly everyone has family or knows someone who is in danger of suddenly disappearing.

While the fear of the unknown was causing fear in Arlington neighborhoods, ICE had not been arresting immigrants in Arlington. Then on March 4 ICE took 32 people into custody in Arlington and Falls Church according to FBI Director Kash Patel. One of those arrested in Arlington was seen hand-

cuffed and taken away at an apartment complex on 4th Street N. in the Buckingham Apartments.

ICE arrests have continued since then including one the morning of March 18 in the Ballston area.

In late January the Arlington community reacted swiftly to provide information about the potential response to an ICE arrest. Arlington Public Schools and the Arlington County Police Department provided extensive online information stating their positions and plans ahead of any ICE arrest. Faith-based groups and organizations assisting immigrants with legal issues handed out Know Your Rights cards at apartment buildings and public places to help prepare people ahead of time.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order #47 issued on Feb. 27 directing state law enforcement officials and state corrections officers to assist in the identification and apprehension of criminal illegal immigrants

who pose a risk to public safety throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia has added to uncertainty and concern.

However, ACPD Chief Andy Penn said the Arlington police were not involved in these arrests, and the role of the ACPD has not changed. He cites ACPD's policy 523.04 "Immigration Status and Access to Police Services."

"The role of the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) is to keep our community safe, not to enforce federal immigration laws. APDC does not conduct immigration enforcement investigations."

Penn continues, "An individual's right to file a police report, participate in police-community activities, or otherwise benefit from police services is not contingent upon citizenship or immigration status." He urges residents to visit the resources for immigrants webpage for more detailed information.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Resources-Immigrants>

## Less About Me Than It Used to Be



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having been a cancer patient now for 16+ years, I speak with some experience on the subject. Though hardly an authority on the matter, I have been there and done that, including surgery in my many years living on the presumptive edge/slippery slope that comes with a "terminal" diagnosis. For me, that diagnosis was originally heard at the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist when I was given a "13 month to two years" prognosis, "non-small cell lung cancer stage IV." As Maurice Chevalier so famously sang – and I invoke it here: "I remember it well." And as much as I've tried to make light of it, make a joke about it, compartmentalize it/lock it in the vault, the reality is that cancer is the opposite of the gift that keeps on giving. It is in fact the bomb that keeps on ticking. (With apologies to John Cameron Swayze.)

How you adjust/react/respond to all that ticking is quite simply, the rest of your life. You must take the highs and the lows and the in-betweens in some kind of stride. A stride which enables you to still put one foot in front of the other, literally and figuratively, and "get busy living," to quote Morgan Freeman from the Oscar-nominated film of his: "Shawshank Redemption," and live as if you have a future rather than bemoaning that you don't. As my close friend Lynne advised me at the beginning of this journey: "Being a cancer patient is the hardest thing you'll ever do." Of course, she was right. Moreover, one can never be prepared for being a cancer patient. The real problem is that your brain has a mind of its own and once cancer infiltrates your conscience – and/or sub conscience, it is, as we say in Boston: "Katie bar the door." Which means – in effect: Look out. Trouble is coming. And cancer is trouble with a capital "C."

Aside from the obvious physical toll cancer inflicts on your body, it is the unseen and nearly unpredictable effect it has on your brain. Suddenly, or so it seems, you become a different person. Familiar certainly, but one whose opinions, interests, tolerances, initiatives, and follow-throughs change compared to the person you used to be. And its way more complicated than a bucket list that now takes on more of an urgency to complete. It's more about your attitude.

For me, at least, it became very difficult to do things I didn't/don't want to do. That includes being told what to do and/or being motivated to do things that don't benefit you (household/domestic-type-should-be-shared-responsibilities). When you're told you're "prognosed" to die in two years – or less, your focus in life narrows to include what you want to do, not what others want you to do. It's not exactly being stubborn but certainly you become set in your ways. And really, how do deny a dying man his last wish – or a reasonable facsimile thereof? This attitude/lack of tolerance permeates your brain. It's as the cancer has completely rewired your brain – without your permission.

Fighting back against this self-preservation type instinct is the parallel, but not nearly as obvious, universe, that cancer patients – certainly ones with "terminal" diagnoses including me, inhabit. Like it or not. It's an emotional reaction as instinctive as the knee-jerk when your pediatrician hit you in the knee with the mallet thing when you were a kid. I imagine it applies to similarly diagnosed non-cancer patients as well. When your world/mortality shrinks, it's impossible to act normal. ('Normal' left the barn when the doctors told you the tumors biopsied were malignant.) When this news is finally absorbed/processed/understood – and it doesn't quite happen at moment of impact, the three most important people in your life become me, myself and I. Maturing beyond this narrow but inevitable perspective is as much the goal in one's treatment as is the reduction in your cancer markers as measured by your monthly lab work. And not that you can necessarily feel a decrease in those markers, but if they come down, you sure do feel it emotionally. Moreover, if one is fortunate to experience some positive results along this cancer way, it seems to clear a path for you to become the pre-cancer-diagnosis person you used to be rather than the post-cancer-diagnosis you sort of became. This return-to-normal transition happens as seamlessly as the attitude changes that manifested when you first began coming to grips with this cancer diagnosis/abbreviated mortality. Your focus begins to broaden again and you're not always the most important person in the conversation. And in a way, it helps to not be consumed with self anymore. It's not an indication of remission, nor is it a guarantee/predictor of anything, it's more an acceptance of reality. "Cancer sucks" for sure as the motto so simply states. It's certainly a blip on the radar, but it doesn't have to be a life's sentence. Instead, it can become your life's work, one you're redefining every day.

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



# Arlingtonians Show Up to Protest Congress' Inaction

FROM PAGE 3

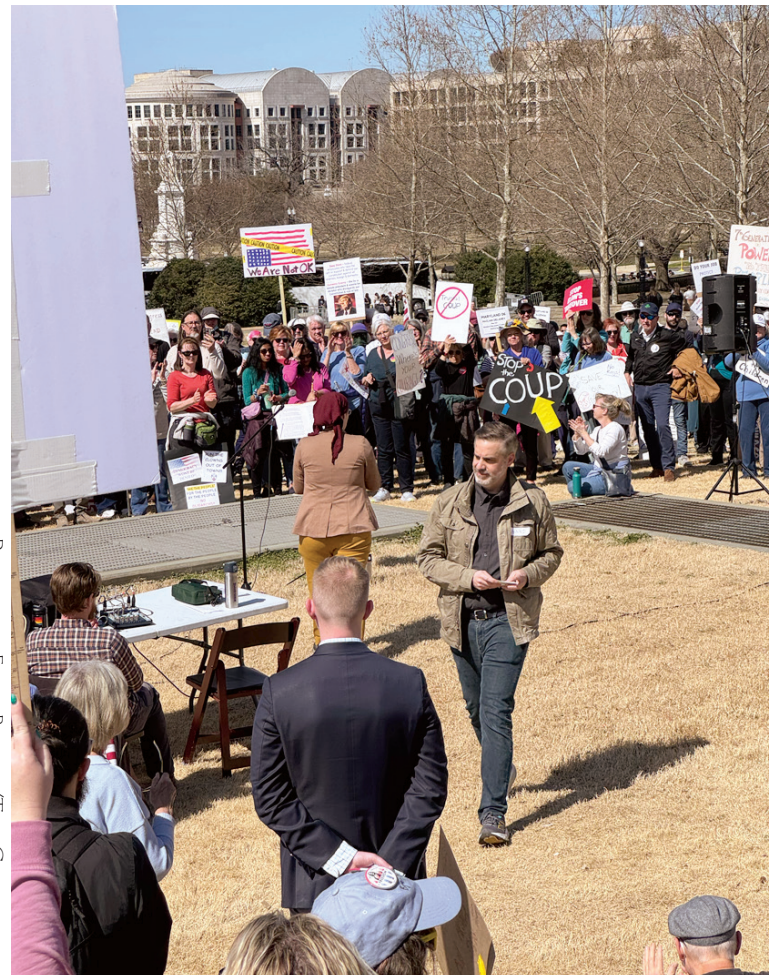
AID affiliated organization doing humanitarian relief. "After 16 years my job suddenly came to an end. None of us were getting rich working in international development ... we didn't make enough to get a Republican tax cut ... but now I am wondering how I am going to pay for college tuition or how many more mortgage payments we can make, so please, keep standing up and fighting."



The general trend in signs was concern that Congress was not doing more to reclaim their role in balancing the power of the president by pushing back on his executive orders.



U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) was applauded for his call to fight the invasion of privacy by the DOGE team in gaining access to social security and other sensitive information of Americans.



Mark walks away from the podium where he told the crowd he had been fired from work with a USAID affiliated organization doing humanitarian relief.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

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