

The Arlington Connection

Six-months-old today Miles Martin attends the Easter egg hunt at Sunrise Arlington with his mother on Sunday, April 13.

Connection Wins Awards

PAGE 3

Joy at Library Book Sale

PAGE 3

Arrested at a Protest

PAGE 5

Multigenerational
Rituals
Happy Easter

PAGE 6

APRIL 16 - MAY 6, 2025

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SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 12 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

Arlington Connection Papers Wins Awards

Each year the Virginia Press Association (VPA) holds a competition to select the best published material from newspapers and news sites from across the state.

This is one of the largest competitions in the country and judged by journalists from outside the commonwealth.

The Connection and Gazette newspapers received thirteen awards for their work in 2024. The awards were announced at the Omni Richmond on April 12 where the Virginia Press Association “celebrated the talent, dedication, and impact of those shaping the media landscape.”

In the Arlington Connection

Eden Brown & Shirley Ruhe, First Place for Headline Writing. Judge’s comment: “Cutely conveys the squirrel’s success, with a nod to the A-team. Love it.”

Eden Brown & Giovanni Flores, Second Place for Combination Picture and Story, “Memorial Day.” Judge’s comment: “Wonderful photos and variety of quotes that

hit hard. Very well done coverage for an annual event.”

Shirley Ruhe, Second Place, Personality or Portrait Photo, “Way Too Long.” Judge’s comment: “The musician in the foreground and background each bring a different feeling to the photo.”

Shirley Ruhe, Second Place, Feature Series or Continuing Story, “Food Insecurity Series.” Judge’s comment: “Lovely writing on an important subject that focused on issues affecting so many communities in the country beset by widening levels of poverty in what we think of as a land of opportunity.”

In the Fairfax County North Connection

Bonnie Hobbs, Second Place, Feature Writing Portfolio. Judges comment “Your writing and interviews were so thorough. I appreciated the perspective you gathered for the Chantilly High job fair in



Bonnie Hobbs



Shirley Ruhe



Eden Brown



Jeanne Theismann



Susan Laume



Glenda Booth

particular and your coverage of Maj. Jane Russell’s career was clear and informative.”

Bonnie Hobbs, Second Place, In-depth or Investigative Reporting, “Senior Housing Approval” Judge’s comment “Lots of deep diving here on airport issues re: noise and how it could affect a senior housing project. I liked the “side bar” story on the misrepresentation of a sub-committee’s

In the Mount Vernon Gazette

Glenda Booth, Second Place, Feature Series or Continuing Story. Judge’s comment: “It’s a tough assignment to tackle stories of critical importance but with an overarching theme that in less competent hands might be overlooked. In this case each story was well researched and written and succeeded in holding the reader’s attention.”

decision. Thank you!

In the Fairfax County South Connection

Bonnie Hobbs, Third Place, Investigative-Government. Judge’s comment “Thorough recap and coverage of unusual decision by local city to part ways with city manager. Reporter hit bases with all sides told and what is possibly next as new council prepares to take office shortly after outgoing council left them with no city leader.”

Glenda Booth, Second Place, Health, Science & Environmental Writing

Susan Laume, Third Place, Picture Story or Essay, “Washington’s Birthday”

Judge commented there were several events submitted in this category but this rose to the top for the variety of angles and events depicted. “I really liked the smoke rising over the costumed soldiers. Good work!”

Susan Laume, Third Place, Health, Science & Environmental Writing

In the Alexandria Gazette Packet

Jeanne Theismann, Third Place for Column Writing, “Legends of Alexandria” Judge’s comment: “An extremely elegant way to present spotlight stories.

Each story was informative and well presented. Good solid writing by Jeanne Theismann highlighting a lifetime of achievements by each individual.”

Jeanne Theismann, Third Place for Education Writing.

The Joy of the Library Book Sale

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Hundreds of Arlingtonians grabbed their backpacks and headed for the Arlington Central Library over the weekend to take advantage of the bargain prices at the semi-annual book sale. Martin Pippin, coordinator of the book sale, said Thursday was for members of the Friends of Arlington Library (FOAL), and 302 people had passed through the door in the first five minutes when it opened at 3 pm.

The first day attracts many book dealers who come early to snatch up supplies of books and that special rare find. Friday through Sunday was open to the public with a 50 percent discount for teachers and librarians on Friday and Saturday, and 50 percent off for everyone on Sunday.

Diane Kresh, Arlington Director of Libraries, picked out several books for herself on Friday afternoon including one she had read but liked so much she decided she needed to buy a copy for herself — “Big Sky” by Kate Atkinson (her guilty pleasure), “Swift River” by Essie Chambers and a puzzle for her wife. “It keeps everyone hap-



Diane Kresh, Director of Libraries in Arlington, has stopped by the spring book sale on April 5 to add a few favorites to her own book collection.

py,” she says.

Mark Aicklein has a backpack already stuffed full of books. “I was looking for Hegel and I also found some Dr. Seuss books.” Aicklein says he likes the books that have been underlined by a previous reader. “It makes me feel like

I have a companion along, like when you are walking through the forest and find a piece of clothing or a cigarette butt, and you know someone else has been there.” He says it makes you feel less lonely, although he says they always underline the wrong thing. “So I also

get a debate.”

Another customer is back at the puzzle and game table. He already has a backpack full including a book on Singapore “because I used to be stationed there when I was a reporter for the Financial Times. He says he comes to all of the li-



Mark Aicklein has a backpack filled with an eclectic selection of books from Hegel to Dr. Seuss.

Marty Pippin, coordinator of the Friends of Arlington Library (FOAL) semi-annual book sale.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

brary sales and gets most of his books here.

Pippin says he works on the book sale for months in advance getting everything set up. When book sale week approaches the volunteers begin on Monday unloading the

SEE THE JOY OF, PAGE 4

THE ORIGINAL

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News

The Joy of the Library Book Sale

FROM PAGE 3

1,500 boxes from the storage area. Then on Tuesday they unload about 700 boxes and stack them in front of the carts. On Wednesday they unpack about 700 boxes which about 40 volunteers put on the shelves with a break from Old Dominion Pizza now and then to keep them going.

According to Pippin, history is one of the most popular categories of the 40 or categories with children's books not far behind. "We have 12 categories of children's books

including picture books for different ages and interests." But you can find everything from a 125-year-old Kipling tucked between a whole collection of Kipling books to travel, foreign languages, blank journals, trade and fiction hard backs as well as a table of puzzles.

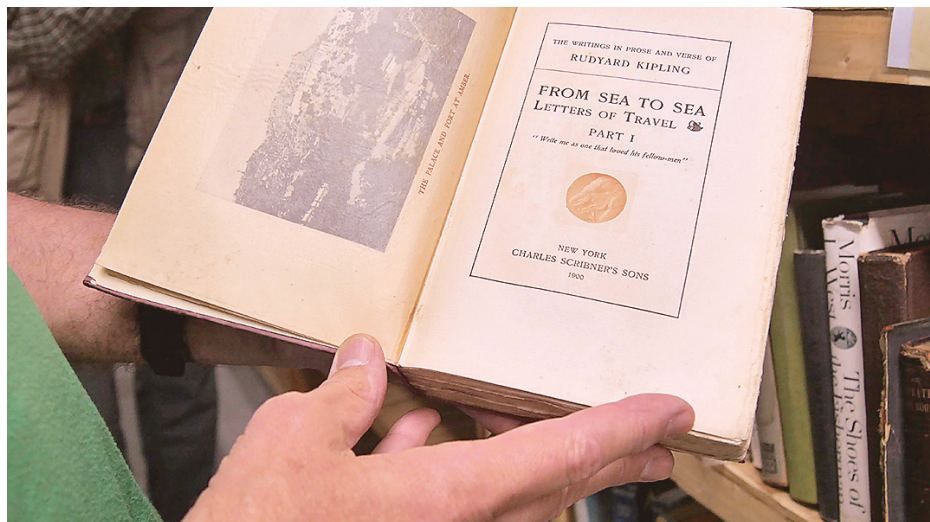
After each book sale the remainder books are sold or donated and each new book sale starts from ground zero with books donated since the last one. Pippins comments, "There are a lot of books. People really like to read."



Aisles are crowded with book sale customers looking for the perfect bargain ... or two ... or three ...



Storage bins that stored 1,500 cartons of books prior to the semi-annual sale on April 5.



The old books shelf held treasures such as this 125-year-old Rudyard Kipling novel.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Arlington Woman Arrested for Protesting

Protestors demand USAID funding be restored, aid be restored.

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Julie Hanson Swanson of Arlington was born in Winooski, Vermont. She is a classic compassionate American woman: her great grandparents came to the US from Ireland, she joined the Girl Scouts and played varsity field hockey for her public high school. She volunteered in Morocco with the Peace Corps in 1981. Swanson moved to Washington after the Peace Corps to serve her country. She retired in 2020 from the federal govern-

ment with 26 years of service with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Peace Corps. She's been married for 33 years.

Swanson was briefed beforehand that they would receive three warnings from the Capitol Police. The third warning would result in an arrest if they didn't move. And so when the third warning came, Swanson and the other demonstrators got arrested.

"The Capitol policeman who arrested me was courteous," she said. "He asked if I needed help getting up from the floor and I told him I did."

"He put zip ties around my wrists and led me into the van for prisoners. I'd never been arrested before so I didn't know what to expect but they drove us

to the Capitol Police Headquarters and we sat there for a while, some of us in a fair amount of discomfort from the zip ties, which we asked them to loosen. They took down all our information. Once they checked to make sure we didn't have outstanding warrants for arrest, we were able to pay the fifty dollars fine and got released. I still have the marks on my wrist from the zip ties because they were so tight," she said, showing her wrists.

What does she think about her experience? "I'd do it again," she said, "because I know what is at stake." Swanson teared up. "I can see the faces of the kids who are going to die. Why? Because Elon Musk wants to save one percent of our foreign aid budget to give tax breaks to the rich? USAID is one of the best things we do and this is relatively low cost."

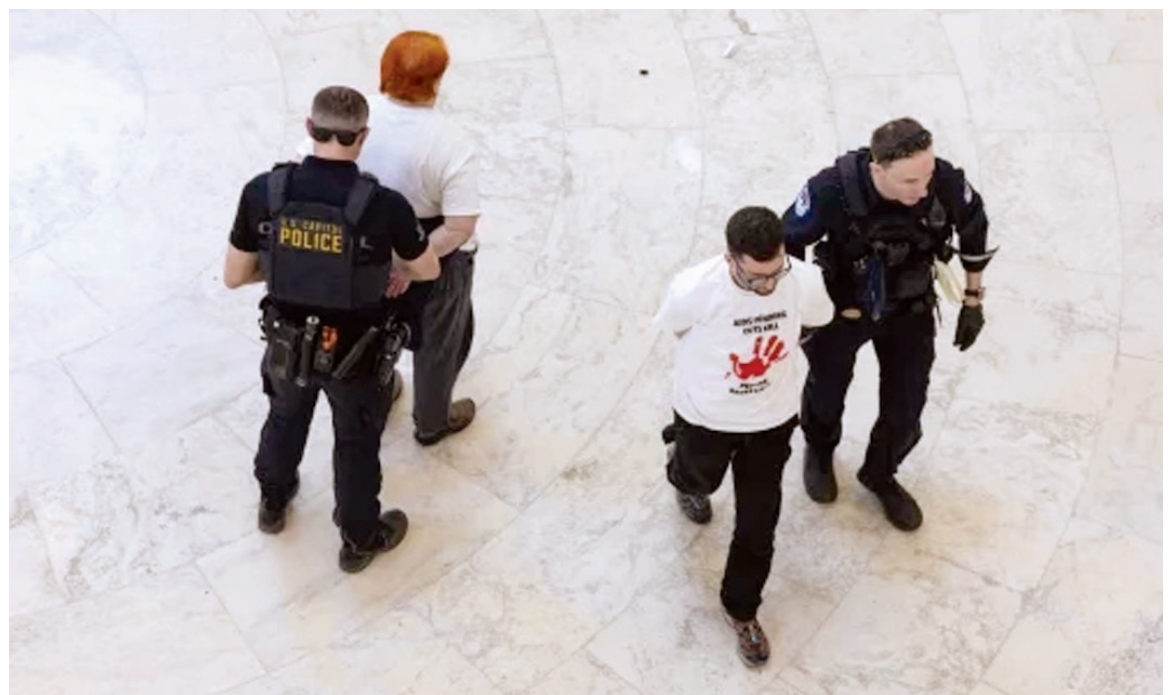
Cutting the aid is evil. I can't just sit by and let it happen without protesting."

Swanson got arrested for "showing up" at a peaceful protest at the Cannon Building Rotunda. She went because she knows what USAID does and she knows how many children are going to die because the U.S. is no longer funding life-saving programs. That is why she went to Capitol Hill on Feb. 26 to show our elected representatives what it will look like if that aid is not restored: dead people. The "die-in" is a form of protest used when the stakes are high.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Julie Hanson, far right, at the beginning of the protest, asking for aid to be restored.



Julie Hanson being led away in wrist ties to the paddy wagon.

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SENIOR LIVING

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



Six-months-old today Miles Martin attends the Easter egg hunt at Sunrise Arlington with his mother on Sunday, April 13.



Ready, set, go!



The Easter bunny has taken a moment off to take a picture with Leilani Choi who says next week she is also headed for the White House Easter egg roll.



Lina Djebbour heads for the Easter egg hunt at Sunrise Arlington.

Hopping Down the Bunny Trail at Sunrise

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

The Easter bunny is hopping, the children are running, the parents are cheering and everyone is having a good time at the Sunrise of Arlington at 2000 N. Glebe Road on Sunday, April 13.

As children gather in the yard in front of Sunrise, they discuss egg hunting strategies. "I found one over here."

"There are a lot of them under the bushes." Parents tell their children, "Don't take all of them; if you get too many, share with someone else."

The plastic eggs have been filled with tiny toys and candies, and Jensen has pulled out the leftover orange Halloween bags in case someone forgot to bring a basket. Some eggs are hidden under the porch while others are high up on the bird feeder.

Rachel Jensen, Executive Director of Sunrise Arlington, tells the assembled children, "There are 100 eggs so if two of you reach for the same one, don't have a fight; there are plenty of eggs for everyone! Hands on your hips, hands on your head. Ready, set, go." Jensen adds some of the Sunrise residents just finishing brunch will come out on the porch to watch the festivities.

This adds multigenerational benefits of the community activity.

SEE SUNRISE, PAGE 12

Ari McSherry from Arlington and his mother Marlene, a resident of Sunrise, have come out after brunch to watch the festivities.



Children line up at Sunrise on Sunday ready to fill their Easter bags with eggs hidden around the yard.



Seven-year-old Noelle Skeete says she is really fast and enterprising, too, as she reaches up for two eggs on a bird feeder in the yard.

Arlington Easter Egg Activities:

April 19: Walker Chapel Eggstravaganza 11 am-1 pm with a visit from the Easter bunny, games and animal friends and followed by a hotdog lunch. 4102 N. Glebe Rd.

April 19: Memorial Baptist 10-11 am for children birth-5th grade. Held in back field with fun, prizes and activities galore. 3455 N. Glebe Rd.

Thru April 20: Potomac Overlook Regional Park 10:30 am-4 pm. Pick up an egg sheet at the nature Center, explore the park on a scavenger hunt and return to the Center for a prize. \$8 per child

April 19: Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church. Gather at Woodlawn Park at 11 am. Children will be divided by ages for the Easter Egg Hunt. Bring a basket. 1325 N. Buchanan Street.

April 19: Calloway Methodist Church. 11am-12:30 pm. Egg hunt, games, food. High View Park 1945 N. Dinwiddie Street.

April 20: St. Peters Episcopal Church 10:30 am. For ages 5th grade and younger. And remember to bring a basket. 4250 N. Glebe Rd.



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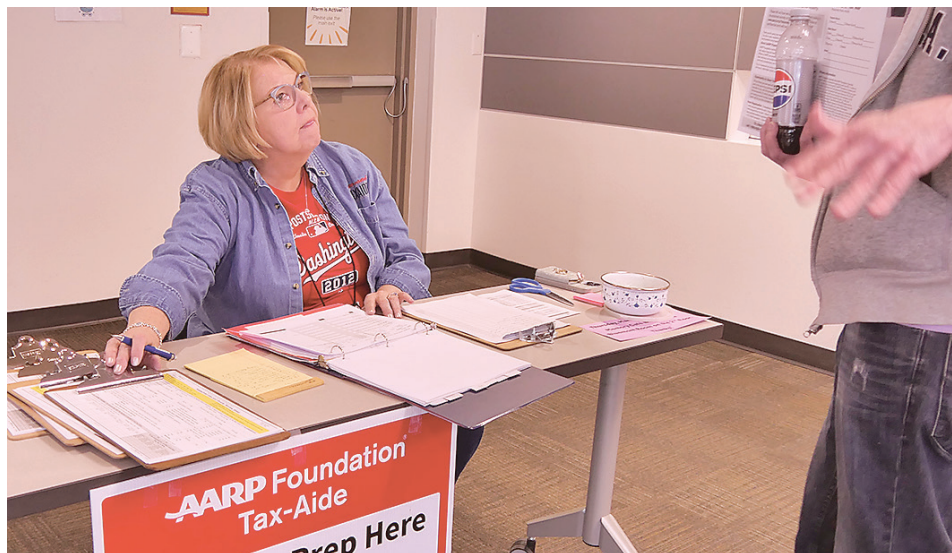
BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

AARP Tax-Aide offered free tax clinics at both the Central Library on Quincy Street and the library branch on Columbia Pike leading up to Tax Day. The nationwide program helped over 1.7 million people in the 2024 tax year with 28,000 volunteers at 3,300 sites.

Karen Miller, Tax-Aide and the local coordinator at the Central library location in Arlington, says they have done about 700 returns since the clinic began in February this year. Miller says the program is geared to seniors but “we also do many families and some students.”

Although there is no income limitation on the free assistance, Miller says there are some returns that are out of scope for their services. “For instance, we can do small businesses and do a lot of Uber drivers. But we can’t help a small business if they have employees, investments or business losses.”

Melissa Adzam, who is at the front desk checking in applicants, says they schedule three slots every 15 minutes. She has seen a steady stream of people one morning. Miller says they take appointments as a priority but also welcome drop-ins. They had two rooms full of tax counselors assisting people with their returns. “We do about 50 appointments a day.”



Melissa Adzam checks in the appointments for free tax assistance.

Miller explains the entire process for a usual appointment takes about two hours. First a tax counselor conducts an interview. Then they prepare the tax return. A second person double checks the return, and then it gets filed. “Of course it depends on how complicated the return is.”

Miller says an applicant needs a social security card, a government-issued ID, their W-2, 1099, and last year’s tax returns are helpful, too. She says there are always a few people who don’t bring what they need. But they do

require applicants to fill out an intake/interview and quality review sheet ahead of time that helps guide people through what they will need to bring with them.

This year a new option was added for those who wanted assistance filing their tax forms. It is called the facilitated-self-assistance option, “kind of a do it yourself.” Miller explains, “We provide the software and the assistance if they have questions. We help them get online, and start their return. They can take it home to finish it or

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



AARP offers free tax clinics at the Central Library and Columbia Pike library branch.

file it here.” She says to take advantage of this option, the income level must be below \$84,000. They must have a phone that can text, an email and be computer literate. She adds they haven’t seen too many people try this yet but it hasn’t been highly publicized. “This year was a soft rollout.”

Another available alternative, called the drop off option, was developed during Covid. A person comes for an interview but they leave their documents for the volunteers to prepare. Then they come back a second time to finalize the forms. “We usually schedule these at the end of the day.”

Miller says she has the best volunteers, and one of them interjects in turn that Miller “is the best volunteer leader I’ve ever met.” Miller estimates she has about 35 volunteers with 9-12 of them assisting tax clients at a time. Many have been assisting for a number of years but “we have new volunteers, too.” The volunteers are required to have in-person training every year along with practice exercises.

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ENTERTAINMENT



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 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, 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 3

Half-Light by Langdon Graves. At Cody Gallery, Virginia Square, Arlington. Cody Gallery is pleased to present Half-Light, a solo exhibition by Langdon Graves. This show marks her first major exhibition in the DC Metro area. Moving seamlessly between two and three dimensions, Graves builds an immersive experience with her exhibition, HALF-LIGHT. Hand modeled drops of blood, rubber bands, a bird house, moths, and a single wisdom tooth set against a backdrop of hyper-saturated color present the viewer with an array of paradoxical moments within a timeless 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

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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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
WYTHE	19757	681	BRUSHY MOUNTAIN ROAD	BR REED CREEK	3/25/2025
FRANKLIN	7914	703	AYERS ROAD 703	POPLAR CAMP CREEK	3/19/2025
ALBEMARLE	746	680	BROWNS GAP TURNPIKE	LICKINGHOLE CREEK	3/13/2025
SCOTT	23815	812	RED STONE DRIVE	STREAM	3/11/2025
DINWIDDIE	6037	619	COURTHOUSE ROAD	HORSEPEN BRANCH	3/10/2025
FLOYD	7503	221	FLOYD HWY SOUTH221	BRANCH HOWELL CREEK	3/7/2025

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 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 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.

\$1.69 Billion Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

Arlington Board votes for a budget that is a 2.3 percent increase over FY 2025.

The Arlington County Board voted Wednesday, April 9, 2025, to adopt a \$1.69 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2026, a 2.3 percent increase over FY 2025. The adopted budget focuses on foundational services for the community, including housing, human services, environmental sustainability, public safety, workforce investments and public schools. The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2025.

“This budget protects core government functions while it prioritizes stable and reliable social safety net services and programs during these uncertain economic times,” Chair Takis Karantonis said. “We are thankful not only to our staff, but to the public for engaging with us on how to create a budget that deeply reflects our community values.”

After careful deliberation on the options presented, the Arlington County Board concurred with the Manager’s recommendations to keep the real estate property tax rate at \$1.033 per \$100 of assessed value and increase the meals tax rate from 4% to 5%. The Board directed the manager to add \$11 million to the County’s Economic Stabilization Reserve.

This budget sees \$11.9 million in service and program reductions and efficiencies, including the elimination of more than 40 filled, vacant and frozen positions.

After months of study, evaluation, and community feedback on funding priorities, the County Board-approved budget made numerous investments, including:

- ❖ **Housing:** \$102M for housing programs to provide direct assistance to stabilize households and improve housing conditions, including \$29.3M for Housing Choice Vouchers; \$17.7M for Housing Grants; \$7M for Permanent Supportive Housing; \$7.8M for Shelters for Homeless, Transitional Housing, and Domestic Violence Survivors.

- ❖ **Human Services:** \$280K for Arlington Food Assistance Center and \$105K for Meals on Wheels; \$358K for a child care license system; \$243K for implementation of the Virginia Quality Birth to Five program; and \$350K in one-time funding for the Culpeper Garden Assisted living Facility Subsidy.

- ❖ **Environmental Sustainability:** One-time funding in the following efforts: \$500K for Climate Action Planning; \$240K for additional tree planting; \$223K for tree watering and invasive plant management; and \$124K for the expansion of the EV fleet.

- ❖ **Public Safety:** \$2.2M in one-time funding for the second recruit class for Fire; \$394K for body worn cameras for Police and Sheriff; \$266K for medication assisted treatment and medication for Opioid Use Disorder for

inmates; and \$232K for contracted security.

- ❖ **Arlington Public Schools:** \$647.4M, an increase of 3.6% or \$22.6M over FY 2025 in ongoing funding, was transferred to Arlington’s school system.

The Board held public budget and tax rate hearings in March 2025 with opportunities for public comment. Since January, the County Board has received phone calls, emails, and letters regarding different areas of the budget and has considered them as part of their deliberations.

Additional Funding for Specific Purposes

In adopting the budget, the County Board also provided supplemental budget guidance to the County Manager that outlines the thought and intention behind additional funding to critical areas of the FY 2026 budget. These include:

- ❖ \$1M increase in one-time funding for homeless services contracts that are currently in the Request for Proposal negotiations process. This additional funding, beyond the \$2.5M in the proposed budget, will help to close on these contracts.

- ❖ \$308K in ongoing funding to restore two positions proposed for elimination, ISD Construction Plan Review (\$170K) and Code Enforcement (\$138K).

- ❖ \$227K in one-time funding to the Sheriff’s Office to be used for bonuses to 83 employees who are in roles that are inmate-facing.

- ❖ \$184K to the Commonwealth’s Attor-

ney Office to provide a temporary communication staff (\$100K one-time funding) and to convert a Commonwealth Attorney III position into a Commonwealth Attorney Deputy (\$84K ongoing funding).

- ❖ \$192K to the Public Defender’s Office to support a Re-Entry Coordinator Fellowship (\$107K one-time funding) and to increase its non-attorney salary supplement (\$85K ongoing funding).

- ❖ \$150K in one-time funding for Food Security Mini Grants, allowing for a third round of grant funding available to local nonprofits to implement select aspects of the County’s Food Security Strategic Plan.

- ❖ \$109K in funding to defer by one year the proposed Developmental Services fee increases for childcare facilities (\$6K ongoing funding), live entertainment & food delivery services (\$14K ongoing funding), and Adaptive Reuse (\$88K one-time funding).

- ❖ \$100K in one-time funding to Arlington Libraries for digital collections.

- ❖ \$87K to restore one-time funding for the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust.

- ❖ \$60K in one-time funding to the County Board Office to support Ranked-Choice Voting Education efforts.

Read the full Board’s Supplemental Budget Guidance here.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/share-datasets/public/v/1/county-board/documents/budget/fy26-budget-guidance.-final.-amended.pdf>

Arlington Seeks 2025-2027 Poet Laureate Applications

Arlington County is seeking its official Poet Laureate for the 2025-2027 term.

The poet selected as Arlington’s next poet laureate will serve as an advocate for poetry and the literary arts, and will advance Arlingtonians’ consciousness and appreciation of poetry in its written and spoken forms. They will represent Arlington County’s commitment to fostering a creative environment that encourages collaboration, innovation and community participation.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on June 2, 2025, with the selected poet laureate’s two-year term beginning after July 1, 2025, to coincide with the fiscal year.

The Poet Laureate will build on Arlington County’s well-received literary programs, including the Moving Words Poetry Competition, now in its 26th year, bringing poetry to a wider audience and strengthening Arlington’s place in the region’s rich literary community. The Poet Laureate program is managed by the Division of Cultural Affairs in Arlington Economic Development.

“Poetry is a dynamic form, taking the language of its time and

pushing its expressive limits. And social media is changing the way we use language,” said Michelle Isabelle-Stark, director of the Cultural Affairs division of Arlington Economic Development. “It’s now easier than ever to write and share poems. Our new Poet Laureate will work with our community to awaken the poet in all of us.”

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, must reside in Arlington during the time of application and for the duration of the appointment, and must demonstrate a track record of experience publishing and/or presenting original poetry within poetry journals, magazines, websites, and/or programs. Arlington County staff, Board Members, and Commission members are not eligible to apply. Former Arlington County Poets Laureate may reapply after one completed term out of office. Full eligibility requirements and terms are available online.

Applications will be reviewed for eligibility by staff from Arlington Cultural Affairs. Eligible applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges, including staff, literary professionals, and well-regarded poets from the region.

Candidates may be interviewed before the final selection is made.

Arlington Supports the Literary Arts

This program builds upon the successful term of the inaugural Poet Laureate, Katherine E. Young (2016-2018), and her successors Holly Karapetkova (2020-2023), and the current appointee Courtney LeBlanc.

Moving Words makes poetry a part of daily life for commuters riding Arlington Transit (ART) by replacing advertising placards inside public buses with poems by local poets. For National Poetry Month, “The Poet is IN” pop-up booths at County libraries, festivals and activities are manned by poets creating free, customized poems for customers right on the spot. Learn more about the position of the Poet Laureate and former Poets Laureate.

Laureate to Receive Honorarium

The selected Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term and receive an honorarium of \$1500 per year to fulfill the duties of the post. Additional funds of up to \$500 per

year will be available for materials and other approved costs associated with the community engagement programs the Poet Laureate facilitates. The Poet Laureate will sign a contract with Arlington County outlining their roles and responsibilities as an independent contractor.

Poems written for Arlington County will remain the property of the poet, but Arlington County will have the right to use the poems; any publication of the poems elsewhere will note that the poem is an original work written for Arlington County. The selected Poet Laureate will be named in a public ceremony and have their name added to the plaque of Poets Laureate at Courthouse Plaza.

Duties

The Poet Laureate will:

- Write at least two original poems per year around a theme of their choice that supports the priorities of the Arlington County Board, by mutual agreement with Cultural Affairs Staff.

- These poems will be presented at public readings. Occasions for the Poet Laureate to choose from will be brought to the poet’s attention as they arise throughout the

year. Examples include the County’s Martin Luther King Day Celebration, Juneteenth, 9/11 Memorial Service, Columbia Pike Blues Festival, among many others.

- Serve as a juror for the annual Moving Words Poetry competition and contribute one poem each year to be displayed on Arlington’s ART Buses along with the winning poems.

- Facilitate community engagement programs, working with Arlington Public Libraries and Arlington Cultural Affairs staff, to engage the public with poetry and the literary arts and to bring poetry to a wider audience. Programs could include workshops, readings, events with students, and more.

Timeline and Submissions Process

Applications are due June 2, 2025, by 5 p.m. Interviews will be conducted in mid-May. The selected poet’s contract will begin after July 1, 2025. Applications are ONLY accepted through arlington.slideroom.com. Please sign up for a free account with Slideroom to submit your qualifications.

Questions about this Call to Poets? Contact Dan Brady, Literary Specialist at dbrady@arlingtonva.us



Melanie Anderson, Executive Director of Thrive



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY YASMEEN RAMADI

Volunteers load new baby boxes with 26 brand new items at Thrive on Chamber Volunteer Day.

Chamber Volunteer Day Builds Community

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce hosted their 26th Annual Volunteer Day on Friday, April 11. More than 200 volunteers from member businesses volunteered at 14 nonprofit organizations to perform services from making DIY PVC pipe cat and dog beds for the Animal Welfare League, helping seniors declutter for Arlington Neighborhood Village and organizing the food pantry for the Bridges to Independence Sullivan House Shelter.

The day began with a kickoff lunch hosted by the Crystal City Sports Pub. An addition to the volunteer work this year was free one-on-one financial counseling sessions with Chamber member financial advisors for individuals who have been impacted by recent federal government reductions or are concerned that they may be affected.

Kate Bates, Arlington Chamber President said, "It's one more way our businesses are stepping up to meet the evolving needs of our community."

Melanie Anderson, Executive Director of Thrive, said they had eight volunteers signed up for the afternoon but were surprised when 15 showed up. "We finished in half the time." The volunteers were filling 50 baby boxes with 26 brand new specialty items that the new moms might not be able to afford when they have new babies." Anderson holds up a colorful baby blanket. "It's beautiful and warm and cuddly; made by some church ladies for us."

In addition, the box contained things for mom like nursing pads and some fun educational toys for the baby, as well as diapers and

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Denise Bing and Alisa Hill help put a classroom back together at the Museum of Contemporary Art after reorganization and repainting.



John Rothman has cleared out a classroom at Museum of Contemporary Art, helped paint the walls and sorted through and organized the bins of supplies on the shelves on Chamber Volunteer Day.



Baby boxes filled with new supplies for mothers and babies by Thrive volunteers



Volunteers at the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington on Chamber Volunteer Day.

wipes and teething rings. "The mothers are focused on essentials and don't have money for toys." Anderson said the volunteers also made "Congratulations" cards to make sure the "moms feel excited

about their new baby. They don't have that moment that most of us have at the baby shower."

Andersen said their organization has about 50 volunteers and a staff of eight, "small and mighty.

We always love to have new volunteers; they give their time but also bring their ideas, skill set and commitment."

The Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington kept 10 volunteers

busy cleaning and painting two classrooms. Josh Rothman from Support Strategies says, "We cleaned out the rooms — took everything out, checked magic markers to be sure they still worked, sharpened pencils, painted the walls marked up by kids." Denise Bing from the Arlington Community Federal Credit Union and Alisa Hill from Mastercard were both first time volunteers. Hill says, "I had fun; I'd do this again."

Lia Ferro, Educational Program Manager for the Museum says they have been participating in the Chamber Volunteer Day for several years. "You can't imagine how helpful this is for us."

Bates said, "This event is a long-standing tradition that highlights the incredible impact our business community makes when they come together to serve. Over the past 26 years, this event has led to meaningful and lasting partnerships between businesses and nonprofits, strengthening our local nonprofit sector and enriching the Arlington community."

SENIOR LIVING

Flourishing After 55

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

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate starting at a \$20 annual fee. To join or register, go to registration.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

Explore the Spanish speaking world with Ashley Gomez, Lubber Run 55+ Center Director, Thursday, April 17, 1 p.m., virtual. April's feature is Andorra, the sixth smallest country in Europe. Registration # 913304-25.

Line dancing practice, no partner needed, led by volunteer Suzie Pratts, Friday, April 18, 11:05 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Office Hour Open with Lubber Run 55+ Center Director Ashley Gomez to discuss programs and ask questions, Monday, April 21, 1:30

p.m. Ideas for new programs welcome. Registration # 913801-02.

Community clean-up at Quincy Park, 1021 N. Quincy St., 1-5 p.m. All supplies provided. Open to all ages; 55+ Pass not required. Registration # 913899-06.

Painting demonstration with a Community Arts Programmer, Monday, April 21, 10:30 a.m., virtual. Picture and supply list sent prior to class. Registration # 913303-04.

Environmental Destruction, learn about landfills, electronic waste, overuse of plastic bags and how it all began, Tuesday, April 22, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Presented by Michelle Atkin, MPH. Registration # 913400-14.

Movie matinee, "Saving Mr. Banks" (2013) (PG-13), Tuesday, April 22, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913804-02

The Best of Simon and Garfunkel, 1960s folk-rock songs sung by local musicians Sherry Hickey and Judy McVerry accompanied by pianist

Ken Schellenberg, Tuesday, April 22, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center, registration # 913304-27 and Thursday, April 24, 11:30 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center, registration # 913304-28.

55+ Travel group will see "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Riverside Center for the Performing Arts in Fredericksburg, Wednesday, April 23. Cost \$105, Arlington resident; \$121, non-resident. (Includes lunch.) Registration # 902504-07.

A Year in the Life of a Box Turtle, presented by Arlington Park Naturalist Aide Leeanna Pletcher, Wednesday, April 23, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Registration # 913400-15.

Local history discussion about Arlington's rich past, Wednesday, April 23, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913402-08.

Nature and Pie Walk with Arlington Regional Master Naturalist volunteer for a 1.5 mile walk through the Arlington Village neighborhood to the ACME Pie shop, Thursday,

April 24, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 913106-31.

Understanding Vision Zero, a global initiative aimed at eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries, Thursday, April 24, 3 p.m., virtual. Presented by Nate Graham, public engagement specialist, Arlington Transportation Division. Registration # 913400-05.

Plants and cuttings swap, Thursday, April 24, 3-4:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Bring some plants to trade with others and learn about new-to-you plants. Please ensure plants and cuttings are pest free and healthy. Registration # 913401-02.

Smartphone videography, maximize the use of your smartphone camera and learn more about apps for photography and editing, Thursday, April 24, 10 a.m., virtual. Presented by Nick Englund, DPR staff. Registration # 913403-03.

Explore Flowers and Pollinators, learn to identify common butterflies, share gardening tips, Friday, April 25, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Presented by Arlington Park Naturalist Aide Leanna Pletcher. Registration # 913400-16.

55+ Travel group will experience the Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival, Saturday, April 26. A botanical haven where gardening enthusiasts, artisans and plant lovers converge. Cost \$12, Arlington residents; \$14, non-residents. Registration # 902504-10.

Annual Trash and Treasure Sale at Aurora Hills 55+ Center, Saturday, April 26, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Items include decorative pieces, small appliances, games and toys, jewelry, craft supplies and more. Donations of items to sell accepted Wednesday, April 23 and Friday, April 25, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Drop-in. For more information, call 703-228-5722.

Coffee or Tea and Thee, Mondays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m., socialize with other 55+ friends at Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Aurora Hills Book Club will discuss "Birnam Wood" by Eleanor Catton, Monday, April 28, 11:30 a.m. Drop-in.

Yarn Crafters of Aurora Hills 55+ Center invite you for conversation while making hand-knit and crocheted items for Arlington charity organizations, supplies and instruction available, Monday, April 28, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Drop-in.

Audiobook Club led by Michiko Oyama, Shirlington Branch Public Library, Tuesday, April 29, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Participants will share thoughts about "What You Are Looking for is in the Library." Registration # 913402-20.

Volleyball, all skill levels welcome, Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center and Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Both are drop-in.

Foot care discussion with podiatrist Dr. Gregory Cardinal from Podiatrists in Motion, Tuesday, April 29, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Learn about foot health and hygiene treatments. Registration # 913500-08.

Give line dancing a try, learn the basics from 55+ volunteer Hanni Cordes, Wednesday, April 30, 10:15 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Cardmaking workshop, beginners should come prepared with a pencil, ruler, scissors, glue sticks and a black ink pad for stamping. Thursday, May 1, 1 - 4 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Trivia, join us for a fun-filled trivia challenge, Thursday, May 1, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 913600-14.

Old Time and String Band Jam, Thursday, May 1, 5 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Open jam of Appalachian old-time (pre-bluegrass) and string band music. Bring your banjos, guitars, fiddles, mandolins and dulcimers. Registration # 913304-19.

New Chief Medical Director Arlington Jail

Dr. Richard Malish, M.D. is the new Chief Medical Director, a newly created position at the Arlington County Detention Facility. With over 30 years of service in the US Army and background in military medicine, internal medicine and cardiology, Dr. Malish brings experience and leadership to the Arlington Sheriff's Office.

Arlington County Sheriff Jose Quiroz said, "I am committed to improving the medical care for the people who are incarcerated in Arlington, and this is the first step in transitioning from contracted medical care to a county run program led by Dr. Malish."

Malish will oversee the medical care provided to individuals housed in the Arlington County Detention Facility (ACDF), ensuring they receive high-quality, evidence-based healthcare that meets professional and ethical standards.

Dr. Malish said, "I look forward to working with the dedicated professionals at the Arlington County Sheriff's Office to ensure the best possible outcomes for those in our care."

The Chief Medical Director for the detention facility position was approved by the County Board at the request of Sheriff Quiroz. Over the next 12 months, the sheriff's office will transition all positions under the current medical contract to county positions. Falcon Correctional and Community Services Inc, will oversee the transition from contracted medical care to a county run program.

Dr. Malish is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology and was elected into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. He went on to obtain his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where he was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor medical society. Over the course of his military career, Dr. Malish has served in both academic and operational capacities, including multiple combat deployments and leadership roles within the U.S. Army Medical Corps, retiring after 30 years of service with the rank of Colonel.

Dr. Malish completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Brooke Army Medical Center, where he was recognized as the "Most Outstanding Senior Resident," and later trained in Cardiology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Arlington Historical Society Museum To Reopen May 3

The Arlington Historical Society Museum, closed last summer for preservation and renovation, will reopen on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

The reopening will allow for celebrating two significant milestones in 2026: the 70th anniversary of Arlington Historical Society and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Museum Director Bethany Baker says that the society has taken the past several months to update older exhibits and introduce new ones featuring original stories and historical signage. This effort involved Arlington Historical Society volunteers and community partners.

The society's mission is to improve the community by promoting knowledge of local diverse history. The Museum's reopening presents an opportunity to revitalize public engagement with Arlington's history, said Arlington Historical Society President David Pearson.

One new exhibit, Memorializing the Enslaved, highlights the lives of enslaved individuals who lived and labored in Arlington, honoring their contributions and resilience. The exhibit seeks to ensure their voices are acknowledged and remembered through historical records, artifacts and personal stories.

During the reopening, May 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors will have the chance to meet Barbara Noe Kennedy, author of "100 Things to Do in Arlington Before You Die."

After the reopening, the Museum will be open Saturdays and Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Those interested in a group tour or who would like to volunteer, please email info@arlingtonhistorical-society.org

Bunny Trail at Sunrise

FROM PAGE 6

Several residents of Sunrise have come out on the porch after brunch to watch the festivities. Ari McSherry is there visiting his mother Marlene. They walk around the yard watching the children scampering to load their baskets and remembering the Easter egg hunts at their house when he was growing up.

Six-month-old today Miles Martin, dressed in his holiday finest, is attending with his mother. "I think we'll wait until next year," she tells him. Miles' mother says she came today because her 94-year-old grandfather lives in a Sunrise just outside of Philadelphia. "I know how much they love little babies so I brought Miles here today so he

could say hi to all of the people."

Noelle Skeete says this is her first time at this Easter Egg hunt but several years ago when she was four years old she attended a different event. All of the older kids grabbed the eggs before she could get there. "It was a very, very sad day." But she says now she is really fast. "I'm the fastest in my school at Glebe Elementary just over there."

Sunrise Arlington offers assisted living, memory care and short-term stays.

Sunrise Senior Living has headquarters in McLean, Va. and more than 270 locations around the region and the United States and Canada offering differing services.

www.sunriseseniorliving.com

www.connectionnewspapers.com

New Farmers Market Opens in Green Valley

By Shirley Ruhe
Arlington Connection

The weather was up and down all day but on Friday at 4 p.m. the new Green Valley Farmer's Market opened at John Robinson Jr. Town Square.

Portia Clark, the coordinator of the market and President of the Green Valley Civic Association, said she has been working on opening the new market since last April. "You know the special permits, the occupancy, all the whole County process." Clark is working with the County but says that Green Valley isn't officially part of the Arlington Farmers Market network.

Clark had eight vendors and eight information providers signed up for the opening of the new market but the uncertainty of the weather seemed to have discouraged a few from showing up.

Mediterranean Farm Kitchen has a good spot for setting out their 48 homemade pita breads, olives "from our farm in Bethlehem," and a variety of humus including spicy, basil-garlic, beet, ginger and olive oil — everything for \$7 each.

Down the sidewalk Renee Mehrdad, the founder and creator of Suka Nuts, has set out her bags of homemade granola "with plenty of nuts," her seasoned peanuts, candied fruit and the most popular — bourbon-maple pecans. She says her business started in 2022, and she produces the nuts and confectionary treats while her daughter does the administrative work.

Just across the sidewalk Mark Dsouza and Tatiana Russell, two volunteers for Eco-Action Arlington, have set up an information table. Volunteers for Moms Demand Action man another information table nearby.

On the far corner of the square Goldman Farm, a sixth generation family farm, is offering a variety of spring vegetables includ-



Goldman Farm, a sixth generation family farm from Cullen, Virginia offers a variety of spring vegetables at the Green Valley Farmers Market Friday, April 4.



Cherish Davidson, Julez Davidson and Ava Nelson are selling pink lemonade on a hot afternoon.



Renee Mehrdad shows two customers her most popular product, her bourbon-maple nuts.

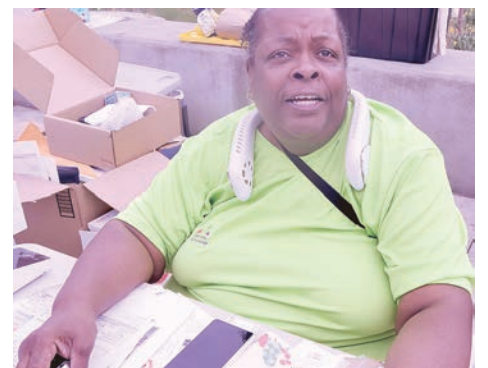
ing cucumbers, asparagus, green onions, and red Russian kale. And, at the end of the table, "See they're bunching up collards." The farmer managing the market says he is part of a rural group of about 10 farmers who all help each other out if one of them is out of some farm produce.

"We don't have many people where I'm from in Cullen, Virginia so we know we need to come up here to the city." He says he is excited to be here and eventually he and the other farmers in his group are hop-

ing to be able to turn the farming over to the younger farmers.

Clark said, "It was delightful to see family, friends and community from all over Arlington and the DMV out in the John Robinson Town Square shopping, chatting and doing what we set out to do building relationships. We all learned something about what we can do when community comes together."

The Green Valley Market will be open 4-7 pm on Fridays.



Portia Clark, coordinator of the Green Valley Farmers Market



Mark Dsouza and Tatiana Russell volunteer for the EcoAction Arlington informational booth at the Farmers market



The manager of the Mediterranean Farm Kitchen cuts up chunks of homemade pita bread for sampling the many varieties of humus.

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

FROM PAGE 9

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 APRIL 22

Socks Collection. Casual Adventure Outfitters in Arlington is once again teaming up with Smartwool for their fifth consecutive year in an Earth Day-inspired recycling initiative. Now through April 22, customers and newcomers can drop off their clean, used socks at the designated in-store collection site. Smartwool will repurpose the fabric into new socks as part of their “Second Cut” project. Here's what you need to know to donate:

- Clean socks only
- All brands, colors, sizes, and materials welcome
- No rolled or paired socks, bags, rubber bands, paper clips (just single socks)

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 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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16 Coffee and Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Village.

10-11 a.m. Avoiding Common Healthcare Scams. Seniors are targeted for a variety of scams, many of them associated with their insurance or healthcare accounts. This session is designed to teach seniors how to prevent, detect, and report those scams so they can keep their benefits, identity, and finances safe. Shawn Smith, State Director, Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol, will update us on the latest healthcare scams, discuss ways to manage scam phone calls, identify scammer tactics, and understand various marketing ploys scammers use to trap seniors. He will also discuss the free resources that are available to assist you should you become a victim of healthcare fraud. Dial in by phone at 929-205-6099. The meeting ID is 889 4857 7106 and the Passcode: 872327

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18 Four Mile Run Wildlife Bike Ride.

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Families. Bring the family for a short, slow-paced ride along Four Mile Run and parts of the W&OD trail in search of turtles, beaver, birds and the many other critters that also use the trail to get around.



The Arlington Players presents “Legally Blonde the Musical” from April 18-27, 2025 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre in Arlington.

They'll stop at Sparrow Pond and Four Mile Run to see what is around. Please provide your own bike and safety gear. Registration Required.

APRIL 18-27 “Legally Blonde the Musical.”

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WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23 April in Reims.

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. At Green Pig Bistro/Buena Vida,

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16

Doggone It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Well, that wasn't much fun at all. What fun that wasn't was those 45 minutes when Burton, our adolescent, two-and-a-half-year-old golden retriever went missing, his first such unsupervised and very unapproved sojourn off-leash this morning. (It might have been fun for him, but it was anything but for us.) Though he has his identification/who to call on his dog tags, as well as a chip embedded (with his owner's name and contact information on it); as any dog/pet owner knows, one of the least guaranteed outcomes in dog ownership is that your dog will return home on his own, some good Samaritan will act amazingly on your behalf and actually call you or that your dog will survive the ordeal (or that you will).

As it happened, Burton was out for his morning walk (his first since his last outing before bedtime) with his mother/my wife Dina as per usual (she does first-thing-in-the-mornings, I do the rest of the day). Typically, Burton's morning walk occurs in the miles of woods directly behind our house (“Belly Acres,” I call our house). Never off leash despite the privacy (our house is also at the end of a dead-end street); still, sometimes (how about all the time) Burton likes to play tug of war. And if one isn't careful/doesn't have a secure hold of his leash, he may squirm away and off he'll go. Which is exactly what happened this morning between Dina and Burton. It has likewise happened to me.

What happened after Burton got loose is that I, as co-owner/father received a frantic phone call from Dina (co-owner/mother). Actually, there were multiple calls (I was in the shower at the time and didn't hear a ring). When I finally answered the phone, Dina said those words that dog owners everywhere dread hearing. For me it was: “Burton's gone.” I asked her what had happened. After learning the circumstances and timeline, I said I was still wrapped in a towel, but I'd be outside as soon as possible.

Within 10 minutes or so, I was outside looking and listening for Dina. When I heard her yelling Burton's name, I walked in the opposite direction (to cover more ground). We live on two acres as do most of our neighbors. With woods all around us and a four-lane state road a quarter mile away, the places for Burton to go to get lost or hurt are numerous. Not finding him in the usual acreage, I got in my car and drove north up our street to the state road (shaking all the way fearing the worst that he might have been hit/killed by a car on it) and with the windows down, I started calling his name and looking all around. Fortunately, when I reached the state road, there was no sign of Burton (thank God, if you know what I mean?) so I turned right and drove a few hundred yards ahead and turned down the next road which sort of borders our property thinking Burton might have wandered through the woods attracted to the sounds of cars. Again, no luck so I drove the minute or two back home.

Just before I was to turn left onto our street, my cell phone rings, and when I answer, I hear the words that all pet owners in a similarly panicked state hope to hear: “I got him,” said Dina. Can you say sigh of relief with an exhale to match and of course a verbal: “Thank God” by me. A dog on the loose with woods that go on for miles protecting above-ground power lines and a below-ground gas pipeline), animals everywhere, flowers blooming, people dirt biking and some locals even shooting guns and the potential for dog distractions with sounds and scents is everywhere, and the sooner we find Burton the better. Well, we did find him, or rather he found us. We were lucky. Heck, he was lucky - and smart. He knew where he lived, and we hoped we knew where he might be. Sure enough, he was coming home at the same time we were out looking for him.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15

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 APRIL 22

Socks Collection. Casual Adventure Outfitters in Arlington is once again teaming up with Smartwool for their fifth consecutive year in an Earth Day-inspired recycling initiative. Now through April 22, customers and newcomers can drop off their clean, used socks at the designated in-store collection site. Smartwool will repurpose the fabric into new socks as part of their "Second Cut" project. Here's what you need to know to donate:

Clean socks only

All brands, colors, sizes, and materials welcome

No rolled or paired socks, bags, rubber bands, paper clips (just single socks)

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



Del Ray Garden Fest takes place on Sunday, April 27, 2025 in Alexandria.

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 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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

Coffee and Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Village. 10-11 a.m. Avoiding Common Healthcare Scams. Seniors are targeted for a variety of scams, many of them associated with their insurance or healthcare accounts. This session is designed to teach seniors how to prevent, detect,

and report those scams so they can keep their benefits, identity, and finances safe. Shawn Smith, State Director, Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol, will update us on the latest healthcare scams, discuss ways to manage scam phone calls, identify scammer tactics, and understand various marketing ploys scammers use to trap seniors. He will also discuss the free resources that are available to assist you should you become a victim of healthcare fraud. Dial in by phone at 929-205-6099. The meeting ID is 889 4857 7106 and the Passcode: 872327

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Four Mile Run Wildlife Bike Ride. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Families. Bring the family for a short, slow-paced ride along Four Mile Run and parts of the W&OD trail in search of turtles, beaver, birds and the many other critters that also use the trail to get around. They'll stop at Sparrow Pond and Four Mile Run to see what is around. Please provide your own bike and safety gear. Registration Required.

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WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

April in Reims. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. At Green Pig Bistro/Buena Vida, 2900 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Get your tickets today for ASCA's April in Reims event. Celebrate the Reims (France) Sister City partnership with an evening of sparkling wine tastings, delicious food, raffle prizes, and more at Arlington's Green Pig Bistro/Buena Vida restaurant.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Preventing Tickborne Diseases. 10-11:30 a.m. Virtual Online. Ticks can be tiny and hard to spot, and bites from these arachnids can be irritating and harmful to your health as they can transmit serious diseases, including Lyme disease, the Alpha-gal food allergy, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Ahead of the spring planting and gardening season, join Elizabeth Forrey, Tick Surveillance Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Health, for a timely presentation on the ecology of tickborne diseases in Virginia with a discussion of several tick species and important tips on tick bite prevention. FREE. RSVP at <http://mgmv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.



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Chain Bridge Bank, N.A.

