County’s Tax-Delinquency Rate Edges Higher

Impact of COVID and Economic Downturn Ends Long Era of Declining Rates

SCOTT McCAFFREY  
Staff Writer

A lengthy string of annual record lows has come to an end, with the Arlington County treasurer’s office reporting a fiscal 2020 tax-delinquency rate of 0.22 percent, up from 0.177 percent a year before.

While still rock-bottom compared to historic norms and surrounding jurisdictions, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted, and is likely to continue to impact, the numbers. “Given the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic, none of this is surprising,” Treasurer Carla de la Pava told the Sun Gazette. “We are working with our businesses and individual taxpayers to provide payment options that they can live with to pay their tax obligations,” de la Pava said. “Taxes come due every year and local governments need tax revenue now more than ever to provide the services people need to help them through this difficult time.” (She will formally report the details to County Board members later this month.)

Nearly a billion tax dollars passes

Continued on Page 19

Watershed Bond Draws Incoming Flak

SCOTT McCAFFREY  
Staff Writer

Arlington officials say starting to sell long-term bonds, rather than simply using pay-as-you-go funds, to ramp up improvements to an outdated and sometimes overwhelmed watershed-collection network won’t crowd out other priorities, including schools, parks and transportation.

But it comes in the form of a promise, not a guarantee. Perhaps a little background is in order.

To retain its AAA bond ratings, the county government long has maintained a policy that total debt service – interest payments and repayment of principal – for the hundreds of millions of dollars in outstanding government debt would not exceed 10 percent of the county’s annual budget.

Continued on Page 19
Area Social-Safety-Net Workers Share in Annual William Newman Jr. Spirit of Community Honor

When it comes to the Arlington Community Foundation, the password is “nimble.”

“That is going to be the word of the year,” the organization’s board chair, Avril Ussery Sisk, said Sept. 23 at the annual presentation of the William T. Newman Jr. Spirit of Community Awards.

Rather than an individual, the award for 2020 was bestowed collectively on those in Arlington who have maintained the social safety net during the six months (and counting) of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic impact on the community.

They have been “the people who came at this crisis with everything they’ve got,” said Circuit Court Chief Judge William Newman Jr., who in 1991 was the originator of the local community foundation.

“It’s a privilege to present the award to the heroes we are celebrating,” Newman said, offering a personal salute to those who “selflessly put themselves in harm’s way to help others.”

Among those honored with the broad-based award was Norma Hernandez, resident-service manager for AHC Inc., which operates a number of affordable-living communities in Arlington.

With the arrival of the pandemic in March, AHC mobilized resources to assist those who suddenly were without jobs or, in some cases, even food.

“At the beginning, it was a couple people; now it’s growing more and more,” said Hernandez, noting the strain on the safety net and those who work to support it.

(“You feel tired, but you feel happy,” she said of the rewards of the effort.)

Phyllis Thompson, a social worker with the Arlington school system, said the pandemic’s impact came like a lightning bolt out of a clear sky.

“They just didn’t know where their next meal was coming from, or how to pay the rent,” she said of those living close to the edge.

In response, “we got creative, became collaborative in a way we’ve not been before,” Thompson said.

That was the ethos being honored with the award, and the words “creative” and “collaborative” also have been the watchwords of the community foundation in recent months.

“People can’t and shouldn’t have to wait” for bureaucratic wheels to get up to speed when confronted with such a crisis, Sisk said.

“We made a conscious effort to listen to what was needed” and then responded quickly, she said.

More than $1 million was moved by the foundation into funds to support safety-net providers. “We did our best to move that money quickly,” said Jennifer Owens, its CEO.

It was, she said, “a unified push to be as useful and effective as possible.”

“If 2020 has taught us anything, we need to be flexible,” Owens said.

Nearly 70 organizations benefited from that initial burst of funding, and many have reinvented themselves to address the pandemic, said Anne Vor Der Bruegge, director of grants and initiatives for the foundation.

“It’s all hands on deck [to] do what it takes,” she said. “They are giving it 200 percent.”


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Arlington Circuit Court Chief Judge William Newman Jr. speaks at the annual Spirit of Community awards presentation, held “virtually” on Sept. 23. The awards are sponsored by the Arlington Community Foundation, which Newman founded.
A year after it was first proposed, the renaming of Nauck Town Square in honor of a longtime Green Valley civic leader looks headed to success.

The name “John Robinson Jr. Town Square” has won the support of the Park and Recreation Commission, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission, Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) and the civic associations of Green Valley, Shirlington and Douglas Park.

County Board members will have the final say.

Robinson (1934-2012) was “always the go-to person – he was on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day,” said Robin Stombler, chair of the community-affairs committee of the Green Valley Civic Association.

“It’s difficult to think of any other name for this town square,” Stombler said. “He just personified what it meant to be a leader.”

For decades, Robinson was involved in community issues of the day, running the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and being active in food/clothing/furniture drives and efforts to rid the Green Valley community of its drug scourge in the 1980s.

He also published the Green Valley News, a compendium of local items, for four decades.

“This was our version of the Northern Virginia Sun – only better,” said Carmela Hamm, an HALRB member.

Hamm said Robinson’s motivation to help his community was deep-rooted.

“He has left a significant legacy on a number of key issues.”

A final vote on renaming the town square could come by the end of the year.

“Voters approved funding for the project in a 2018 referendum; County Board members in 2019 approved the final procedural steps needed to move forward, including purchase of an adjoining parcel.”

Even before the Civil War, the Green Valley community (alternately known as Nauck) was one of the rare enclaves in what is now Arlington where free African-Americans could live. After emancipation, more moved into the neighborhood and it became one of the hearts of Arlington’s black community. In recent years, increasing home values have led to a degree of gentrification, but some long-time residents and a number of important facilities (including churches and the local YMCA) remain.

A mural of Robinson by artist Romeo Taylor now can be found close to the town-square construction site, next to one of another community stalwart, Leonard “Doc” Muse, longtime proprietor of the Green Valley Pharmacy.

Another part of the effort to honor Robinson’s legacy has been cataloguing his large collection of photographs and identifying who is in them.
For Sharon Davis, a Lifetime of Service to Local, National Political Causes Lauded by Democrats

SCOTT McCAFFREY
Staff Writer

Sharon Davis reacts to comments made by former Clerk of the Circuit Court David Bell during a Sept. 26 ceremony honoring her at Arlington Senior Democrat of the Year. The honor was bestowed “virtually” in a program that drew nearly 100 people.

Sharon Davis, a Lifetime of Service to Local, National Political Causes Lauded by Democrats

SCOTT McCAFFREY
Staff Writer

“Missing middle” may be two words totaling 13 letters, but depending on which side of the Arlington political divide you are on, it may qualify as a single four-letter word.

The proposed housing policy, which in theory aims to find ways to stop Arlington from becoming an enclave of the very wealthy with some low-cost housing thrown in as fig leaf, came under withering attack from a veteran campaigner during the recent Arlington County Committee of 100 County Board debate.

The missing-middle plan being touted by county leaders “will have just the opposite effect” as those leaders promise, independent candidate Audrey Clement said at the forum, held online due to public-health conditions.

“The county’s commitment to affordable housing is strictly token,” said Clement, who has made about a dozen runs for office, including four against Democrat Libby Garvey. She has yet to find success, and this year was the only candidate to file to take on the incumbent Garvey, who has served since 2012.

As she had in the past, Clement said the missing-middle plan will result in more density on residential parcels. That, she said, is designed not to lower costs of housing or provide more of it to lower-income households, but to increase the flow of tax revenue coming into the Arlington government’s coffers.

“Upzoning is gentrification on steroids, and that is where this county intends to go,” Clement said, while also taking a shot at affordable-housing providers whose construction cost of units “exceeds the cost of a luxury condo.”

Garvey, who over time must have become used to panning Clement’s thrusts, acknowledged the phrase “missing middle” has become “much maligned” in some quarters. But she said it was not the bogeyman opponents paint it as.

“The point is to provide the gamut, to provide the different kinds of housing to meet the needs people have at different times,” she said.

And, Garvey said, all that is happening at the moment is a series of studies that will provide the basis “to have a really good foundation of a community-wide understanding of what the situation is right now.”

“We really need to be able to talk about it,” she said.

The debate, held Sept. 9, was the second in two days for Garvey and Clement, having faced off the night before in a forum sponsored by the Arlington County Civic Federation.

The two have shared space on the ballot three times in the past:

• In a 2012 County Board special election necessitated by the elevation of Barbara Favola to the state Senate, Garvey won 49.2 percent of the vote, Republican Mark Kelly 43.5 percent and Clement (running under the banner of the Green Party) 7 percent.

• In the 2012 general election, Garvey won 60.3 percent of the vote, Republican Matt Wavo 25.5 percent and Clement 12.9 percent.

• In the 2016 general election, Garvey won 70.8 percent, Clement 27.1 percent, with the 21.7 percent of voters who wrote in other names being higher than normal, suggesting some in the electorate weren’t enthralled with either option.

The Sun Gazette has been the community’s source of news and information for decades. We’ve got you covered with the news that matters most to you!
Church Cemetery on Road to Status as Historic District

SCOTT McCAFFREY
Staff Writer

It won’t be a done deal until sometime early next year, but the cemetery at Mount Salvation Baptist Church in Arlington is now virtually assured of becoming a local historic district.

The county’s Historical Affairs and Landmarks Review Board (HALRB) has approved the nomination, setting the stage for public hearings before the Planning Commission and County Board.

“This is something that is incredibly valuable to our community and to the history of Arlington County,” said Carmela Hamm, a member of the HALRB and, as a child, a member of the congregation at Mount Salvation.

The cemetery, located adjacent to the church in the historically African-American North Arlington community of Halls Hill/High View Park, is the final resting spot of at least 89 people. Burials at the cemetery were recorded from 1916 (although some likely occurred a decade or two earlier) to 1974.

Members of the Pelham, Spriggs and Lewis families are among those interred there.

Arlington has about 40 local historic districts. Unlike inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places or Virginia Landmarks Register, inclusion in a county historic district provides protections from development and alteration, giving the HALRB say on changes. Under the planned preservation guidelines, any changes would have to be “respectful of and compatible with the historic and existing fabric” of the existing site. (While the district will include the cemetery, it will not include the adjacent church building.)

Cemeteries at two other predominant-African-American churches – Lomax AME Zion and Calloway United Methodist – previously had been designated local historic districts.

Preparing the background material in support of the Mount Salvation nomination was lengthy, but worth the wait, HALRB members said.

“The research was incredible – this information is probably all in the same place for the first time ever,” said member Joan Lawrence.

The church supported the nomination, as did neighbors and the John M. Langston Citizens Association.

Wilma Jones Kilgo, president of the latter group, said her organization was “unanimous that we as a community want to support this designation.”

“It’s very important to the community that this happen,” she said.

County staff say the procedural steps needed to get the item to the County Board for final approval will take several months. They are hoping to have creation of the district approved as part of Black History Month in February.

“We look forward to the day it’s actually completed and finalized,” HALRB chairman Richard Woodruff said.

Hotel-Occupancy Rates Remain in the Dumps: The Arlington hotel-occupancy rate continues to lag significantly behind that of a year before, as the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn hit the tourism and business-travel sectors hard.

Arlington’s hotel-occupancy rate in July was just 24 percent, with the year-to-date rate of 35 percent less than half the 76.7-percent rate recorded during the same seven-month period in 2019, according to data from Arlington Economic Development, based on reporting by Smith Travel Research.

For the January-to-July period, the average room rate for Arlington lodging establishments was $141.55, down nearly 18 percent from the $172.16 recorded during the same period in 2019.

For July, the average room rate was $111.20.

Arlington, Alexandria Team Up to Support Job-Training Effort: The Arlington and Alexandria governments are teaming up for a new job-training initiative.

“Skill-Up Alexandria City and Arlington County,” will provide access to online classes funded by a U.S. Department of Labor grant as part of an initiative of the Alexandria/Arlington Regional Workforce Council, Alexandria Workforce Development Center and Arlington Employment Center.

This program uses the Metrix E-Learning System, which offers a wide variety of courses to help people who are looking for a new career or want to move up from their current position.

Some 5,500 courses are available. Users will have six months of free access.

For information, call the Arlington Employment Center at (703) 228-1400 or e-mail jobseeker@arlingtonva.us.
Our View: Leftovers on County Board Menu?

Some weeks ago, we opined that it was a shame that – in a country of 330 million people – our choices for president boiled down to two out-of-touch old men better suited to running for leadership of a Florida senior-citizens condo. (We did get one letter to the editor on the subject, asking us not to lump America’s seniors in with the likes of Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Fair point.)

When it comes to the 2020 Arlington County Board race, we face a similar, though not identical, problem. If the race between Democratic incumbent Libby Garvey and independent challenger Audrey Clement feels familiar, it’s because the two have run against each other three times before.

And, as has been the case in the past, Clement will score some points in debates but in the end will never come close; Garvey may not be universally loved by Democratic insiders, but the party sample ballot will carry her through.

Clement in some ways is savvy, and is at her best when pointing out when the emperor has no clothes, such as her disrespect of the county government’s weak housing policy – one that is falling short in preserving affordable units and now has focused on a “missing middle” plan clearly designed to increase density (and the flow of real-estate taxes) without doing much to address affordability.

But any Clement candidacy suffers from two fatal flaws: She has run so often, her campaigns have become background noise, tuned out by the voters; and her political views, while sometimes on target, are scattershot. Depending on the issue, she is coming at the Democratic oligarchy from the left, from the right, from the middle, and sometimes from outer space.

Garvey, like Clement, at this point is effectively running for the sake of running. Except, in her case, it’s running for the sake of being elected and then holding elected office for the sake of holding elected office, while occasionally rotating into the County Board chairmanship.

Have there been any out-of-the-box proposals from Garvey since she worked to scuttle the streetcar and overpriced bus stops to those many years ago? As President Eisenhower said when asked whether Vice President Richard Nixon had contributed any ideas to his administration: Give us a week and we might come up with one.

Garvey has not covered herself in glory during COVID (nor has the county-government leadership in general). Our local government often is too timid when it needs to be bold, yet conversely too aggressive when it should be cautious. And, as Clement points out, government leaders proclaim their fealty to the progressive playbook, but seldom take tangible steps to advance said cause.

This weakness makes us yearn for the days of the likes of Chris Zimmerman (who may keep over when he hears that praise from us). He was able to lead the County Board – not always in the direction we wanted to see, but at least to keep it moving forward toward a purpose. There’s been little of that for years, and while the sclerotic thinking of late is not entirely Garvey’s fault, she is on the ballot. Maybe something will happen in coming weeks to lead us toward an endorsement of either Garvey or Clement. But perhaps not; leftover sometimes are delicious, but in this case, it’s a rather bland array of options.

Garvey’s Housing Remarks False, Incendiary

Editor: The Arlington County government is moving ahead with its plan to increase the number of “missing middle” housing units in Arlington, even if that means greatly increasing the population burden on our already overburdened infrastructure (schools, roads, sewer and stormwater systems, parks and open spaces, and trees) and transforming single-family housing neighborhoods.

There is no promise from the county government, nor data they have provided, that “missing middle” housing will be affordable to low-income or even middle-income people, and there is no credible evidence it would increase Arlington’s diversity. In fact, staff has recently moved away from asserting either of those benefits, and rather focused on increasing density in housing types and quantity.

A significant part of the county government’s effort is to paint many Arlingtonians as irredeemably racist. Pointing first to the admitted racist policies of those living in Arlington in the last century, the county then goes on to slur current Arlingtonians.

An example of this tactic is County Board Chairman Libby Garvey’s statement in a formal press release release, supposedly based on a “data-driven approach,” which accused Arlingtonians of engaging in “ongoing housing discrimination.”

The county government’s response to a request for data supporting this accusation produced nothing remotely resembling the picture of Arlington that the government or Garvey are trying to paint. The county government’s own summary of housing complaints shows that there were no – zero – complaints of housing discrimination based on race, color or national origin in the latest year for which data is available, 2019.

Also, the county’s “Working Toward Fair Housing” annual report for 2019 noted (Page 16) that only one out of 100 tests found different treatment based on national origin, but no differences in treatment were found in the re-test.

All this in a county of 236,842 residents.

The problem is not ongoing discrimination but the increasing costs of land and housing that makes Arlington unaffordable for lower- and middle-income people of all backgrounds.

For the chief elected official of our county to make a deliberate, formal and false statement concerning Arlingtonians as complicit in ongoing racial discrimination is divisive, incendiary, and should be outside the bounds of acceptable political rhetoric, especially in this time of heightened political conflict.

It also undermines the credibility of all the other “data-driven” conclusions the county government is providing us on this subject.

Bill Roos

Arlington
New County Regulations Will Decimate Summer Camps

Editor:

Recently, the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) sent summer-camp contractors an amendment to their contracts, stating that registration for all summer camps will now be handled entirely and exclusively by DPR. Based upon conversations with former DPR employees, the true purpose of this amendment is to recoup the money ($133,413) that the parks department lost the county as a result of the bankruptcy of American In-Line Skating, a former summer-camp contractor.

This new registration will include a $4 administration fee per camper, as well as provide DPR exclusive control over all summer-camp registration fees paid by parents regardless of whether the fees are for DPR’s camps or contractor’s camps. The amendment also conditions payment of camp contractors upon submission and approval of an invoice, and grants DPR up to 45 days to pay summer-camp contractors.

Many of the camps that summer-camp contractors run are one- to two-week camps over the course of the summer. Summer-camp contractors are individuals and small businesses that cannot survive a 45-day payment cycle.

Summer-camp contractors understand and appreciate efforts to improve the summer-camp-registration process. While summer-camp contractors have tried to engage DPR in discussions regarding this amendment, staff has consistently rebuffed such efforts. Although county officials frequently invoke the “Arlington Way,” we have yet to see DPR follow that path.

The inevitable effect of the decision will be to increase the price of summer camps, limit their availability of summer camps and deprive some Arlington families from having accessible childcare.

This amendment fundamentally jeopardizes summer-camp contractors’ obligations to comply with the Code of Virginia, which reads “All employers operating a business shall establish regular pay periods and rates of pay for employees except executive personnel. All such employers shall pay salaried employees at least once each month and employees paid on an hourly rate at least once every two weeks or twice in each month.” Therefore, this amendment places contractors in the untenable position of going into debt to run their summer camp, failing to comply with state law regarding timely payment of employees, or simply abandoning summer camps.

Summer-camp contractors provide an important and reasonably priced service to the families of Arlington. On top of this, summer-camp contractors also hire local high school/college students while purchasing supplies from Arlington small businesses. Accordingly, DPR’s decision will have negative consequences beyond just summer camp contractors.

The county government, its parents, and its summer-camp contractors share an interest in maintaining and promoting a vibrant summer-camp program. DPR cannot foist the financial risk and financial burden upon the summer-camp contractors while depriving them of timely access to the fees needed to pay employees and expenses.

The continued success of the summer camp programs requires DPR to engage in productive discussion regarding the registration and payment process of Arlington summer camps.

Tom Shean
Arlington

Once Again, County Government Sidelines Green Valley

Editor:

There is a new road map for the “Arlington Way.” The county has been passing this path for some time, but it came careening through the Green Valley community on Sept. 15, when the County Board voted 5-0 to instruct us on what we may or may not discuss about a multi-million-dollar public project.

In essence, our local elected officials told our community to stay in its lane. A new facility for ART bus maintenance and operations will be built in Green Valley, and the community did not object. However, the Green Valley Civic Association would like to discuss site optimization, environmental and other issues for the project.

These issues have merit and deserve discussion. Our local government thinks otherwise. The staff presentation said, “we will engage the community as we move forward.” The slides to accompany the statement note a “first community-engagement checkpoint,” then a second one and then a final checkpoint.”

Staff says “we’ll go back to the community so they can see where we are in the process.” Does this sound like dialogue, involvement or engagement?

The staff report to the County Board determines what Green Valley may say about the project. The county writes it will “gather feedback from the community on the aesthetic elements of the buildings and perimeter treatments.” Remarkably, the chair of the County Board took this a step further, noting that only professional people should be involved with the details of this project.

Assuming residents of Green Valley might get “frustrated” by these “complex” matters and that we should “stay in the way around. That is the definition of “gerrymandering.”

The amendment on the Nov. 3 ballot would end partisan gerrymandering through the creation of a bipartisan commission on redistricting that will be responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts, with responsibility devolving to Virginia’s Supreme Court if the commission is unable to reach agreement on the districts, or if the General Assembly fails to enact the districts agreed upon.

Contrary to what the billboard states, the amendment will end gerrymandering, resulting in legislative district lines that are drawn fairly in a bipartisan manner that will not improperly favor one party. Shame on those who posted such a misleading billboard.

Robin Stobler
Arlington

Redistricting Amendment Is Step in the Right Direction

Editor:

My husband and I voted at the Fairfax County Government Center, and were shocked to see a billboard stating “STOP GERRYMANDERING. Vote NO on Amendment #1. Virginia Democratic Committee Voted No. You Should, Too.”

This billboard is not just misleading. It’s downright false. Virginia redraws its legislative and congressional district lines every 10 years based on the most recent census. This responsibility currently is entrusted to members of the General Assembly. Historically, the party that controls each house of the legislature redraws the district lines with the goal of unfairly favoring its candidates to the disadvantage of the other party. In short, elected officials redraw the districts to keep themselves in power, which results in politicians picking their voters when it should be the other way around. That is the definition of “gerrymandering.”

The amendment on the Nov. 3 ballot would end partisan gerrymandering through the creation of a bipartisan commission on redistricting that will be responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts, with responsibility devolving to Virginia’s Supreme Court if the commission is unable to reach agreement on the districts, or if the General Assembly fails to enact the districts agreed upon.

Robert Ferguson is as local as they come. A lifelong Northern Virginian with more than 24 years of Arlington real estate expertise, Rob knows the neighborhoods and the local market.

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**Arlington Notes**

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**COMMITTEE OF 100 WAIVES DUES FOR 2020-21:** To support members during the current health and economic challenges, the Arlington Committee of 100 has waived membership dues for the year. The Arlington Community Federal Credit Union has stepped in as sponsor, filling the gap left by going dues-less for the organization’s year.

Making the change was “a great way to adapt,” new Committee of 100 president Hannah Dannenfelsl said. (Dannenfels is on the staff of the credit union.)

“Well we hope you’ll remain engaged,” Dannenfels told those participating in a Sept. 23 online forum focused on the Arlington government watershed bond on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The Arlington Committee of 100 was founded in 1954 by 11 residents concerned about the polarization that had occurred in preceding years, as new arrivals to the community often clashed, philosophically and politically, with those who had lived in the county for years.

Like many community organizations, the Committee of 100 has moved its meetings to a “virtual” format since the pandemic. Dannenfels said meetings will remain virtual for the foreseeable future, with a goal of returning to the dinner meetings that have been held for 50 years at Gerard Phelan Hall on the campus of Marymount University.

On Oct. 14, the organization will host a forum on the state constitutional amendment on redistricting.

In addition to Dannenfels, officers for 2020-21 include Gerry Laporte (vice chair), Lizzie Arias (secretary), Tamon Honda (treasurer) and Lynn Juhl (immediate past chair). Board members include Michael Anderson, Jeanne Broshail, Lisa Cummings, Bob Garcia, Patrick Hope, Kim Klinger, Brian Marroquin, Scott Pedowitz and John Vilhardt.

For information, see the Website at www.arlingtoncommitteeof100.org.

**ARLINGTON PHILHARMONIC GOING ‘VIRTUAL’ FOR TIME BEING:** The Arlington Philharmonic will be “virtual” for most or all of its 15th-anniversary season, with concerts, presentations and live-streaming events moving to YouTube and other online platforms.

“Our community needs music and the arts more than ever – our orchestra performances strive to strengthen our community resilience,” officials said in putting out a call for donor support.

The organization’s first concert of the 2020-21 season featured a brass quintet of Andrew Wilson, AndrewSchuller, Tara Islas, Kirsten Lies-Warfield and Jan Duga under the baton of music director A. Scott Wood. Works by composers including Sousa, Joplin, Maurer, Telemann, Ewald and Debussy were presented.

For information, a link to the September concert and a schedule of upcoming concerts, see the Website at www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org.

**‘ECDC’ PLANS 5K RUN/WALK TO SUPPORT REFUGEES:** The Arlington-based Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) will host a “virtual” 5k run/walk to support refugees. The Council is in conjunction with the African Community Center in Denver, will take place Oct. 22-25, with participants raising funds to support initiatives assisting refugees with efforts settling in the U.S. The goal is to raise $95,000.

For information and to register, see the Website at https://www.ecdceu.org.

**COUNTRY BOARD MEMBERS MAKE APPOINTMENTS:** County Board members recently made the following appointments to government boards and commissions:

Jennifer Conor was appointed to the Aquatics Committee; Sara Rubalcava was appointed to the Citizens Advisory Commission on Housing. Adora Williams was appointed to the Civil Service Commission. William Way and Alfonso Lopez were appointed and Hershel Kanter, Lincoln Cummings and Cheryl Beveridge were reappointed to the Commission on Aging.

David Carlson and Susannah Halworth Dunn were reappointed to the Commission for the Arts. Jose Quinonez was appointed to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Commission. Emily Norton was appointed to the Crystal City Citizens Review Council. Lynn McQueen was appointed to the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission. Steven Krieger was appointed to the Human Rights Commission.

Peter Laura has been appointed to the Industrial Development Authority. Ben English, Colton Gibbs and Benari Gajadhar-Smith have been appointed and Michael Griffin has been reappointed to the Partnership for Children, Youth and Families. Chris Slatt has been reappointed to the Transportation Commission. Al Leach has been appointed and Matt Clpute has been reappointed to the Trestas Towing Advisory Board.

In addition, Steve Baker has been designated as chair of the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission.

**ARLINGTON CHAMBER TO BREAKFAST VIRTUALLY WITH THE WLEXANDRIA COUNCIL:** The Arlington Chamber of Commerce will host a “virtual” breakfast networking event with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Oct. 8.

The cost is $10 for members of the organizations, $20 for others. For information, call (703) 525-2400 or see the Website at www.arlingtonchamber.org.
ARLINGTON ROTARIANS HONOR AT REGIONAL LEVEL: The Arlington Rotary Club has received a Gold Community Service Award from Rotary International’s regional District 7610.

The award recognizes the club’s service to Arlington during challenging times, which has included work during the current coronavirus situation.

The award also covers the club’s pre-pandemic focus on education, food security and homelessness in 2019-20.

In March, the club quickly shifted its programs and projects to on-line community service, with both club donations and direct public appeals for the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

The club received an additional Significant Achievement Award for its community service project on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. More than 200 volunteers assembled blankets for children in affordable housing and for Arlington’s homeless community.

The club recently completed its summer 2020 projects with a blood drive in partnership with Arlington’s Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ and INOVA. Thirty-one pints of blood were collected in the drive, one of three supported by local Rotarians each year.

The club’s major fall fundraising event – its annual Trivia Night Contest – will be held online on Oct. 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The event will help fund community service initiatives during the remainder of 2020 through spring 2021. Registration is $10 per player.

For information, see the Website at www.arlingtonrotaryclub.org.

VIETNAM VETS ARE AGAIN SUPPORTING FAMILIES: For the 10th consecutive year, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227 of Northern Virginia is donating gift cards to children of veterans in the Veterans Administration Supportive Housing program.

In addition to the 30 $75 gift cards, the chapter also presented two $100 gift cards to veterans who are enrolled as students and are taking part in the VASH program, a joint effort of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Arlington Rotary projects include helping the Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ congregation in blood drives for INOVA three times a year. Club President Chelsi Dildine (above) didn’t get to drive the Bloodmobile, but was pleased with the summer drive’s success. See item at left.

SUN GAZETTE LAUNCHES WEEKEND EDITION: The Sun Gazette last week inaugurated an online “weekend edition,” providing fresh local news and bonus features online.

The edition can be found at https://sungazette.news each Friday beginning around noon.

In addition to updated, all-new news and sports from the local area, there also will be a focus on home, real estate, health and family living, with bonus features throughout.

Access to the weekend editions, as with the regular papers, is free, and those with interest can sign up for a “reminder” e-mail when they are posted online.

GALLERY TO OPEN MEMBER EXHIBITION: Gallery Underground, operated by the Arlington Artists Alliance, will present the all-member exhibition “Autumn’s Palette: Art for the Season” from Oct. 1-31 at the gallery, 2100 Crystal Drive.

For information, see the Website at www.galleryunderground.org.

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Re-Starting Exercise? Check in with a Physician

Exercise plays a significant role in disease prevention. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, physical activity helps to reduce individuals’ risk of chronic conditions, including type-2 diabetes, heart disease, various types of cancer, and dementia.

As vital as exercise is to a healthy lifestyle, many people simply are not getting enough of it. A 2018 report from the National Center for Health Statistics found that only about 23 percent of American adults between the ages of 18 and 64 are meeting the benchmarks for physical activity guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. And that problem is not unique to the United States.

A recent study from Statistics Canada found that only about 17 percent of adults north of our border were meeting the minimum guidelines for weekly physical activity established by the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology.

Such figures illustrate the emphasis that many adults must place on getting more physical activity. But returning to physical activity after a long layoff or becoming physically active for the first time are not as simple as lacing up a pair of running shoes and hitting the road. In fact, the American College of Sports Medicine notes the importance of preparticipation health screening for adults about to engage in physical activity after a period of inactivity.

What is a preparticipation health screening?

A preparticipation health screening is an examination conducted by a physician that looks for particular issues that may interfere with one’s ability to exercise. Doctors likely will ask patients about their medical histories and their family histories as well, as each of these factors can be used to determine whether a person is ready for physical activity or any restrictions need to be put in place to protect them.

What happens after a preparticipation health screening?

Once a physician conducts a health screening, he or she will conclude if an individual can exercise and how much he or she can exercise.

Adults who are cleared to exercise but have never been physically active or have gone years without exercising will likely be advised to take it slowly at first. Doctors may provide specific exercise recommendations or refer patients to a sports medicine professional who can help them devise an appropriate workout regimen.

Doctors also may recommend followup appointments to track patients’ progress. Such appointments can be invaluable, as they can help people whose overall health has improved after limited exercise ramp up the intensity of their workouts, which can help them continue on the course to a healthier life.

However, it’s important that people consult their physicians before increasing the intensity of their workouts. A second screening might even be worthwhile, helping people and their physicians alter workout regimens that reflect their improved overall health.

Many people aspire to exercise more. In many instances, a preparticipation screening is a vital component for people looking to become more physically active after a long layoff. (HM201574)

Side Effects Could Appear Once Eating Healthier

For many people, the road to a healthy lifestyle begins in the kitchen. People make changes to their diets of their own volition or at the recommendation of their doctors, and those changes can have a profound effect that might surprise even the most devoted of healthy eaters.

According to the Center for Advancement in Cancer Education, 90 percent of all cancer cases can be prevented through environmental and lifestyle choices like deciding to eat a healthy diet.

In addition, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, notes that a history of poor eating is one of the biggest contributors to the various nutrition- and physical activity-related health challenges that now face the U.S. population.

By simply altering their diets to make them more nutritious, millions of people across the globe can significantly reduce their risk for various chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. People who are committed to eating healthier should know that changing diets can produce some adverse, but typically temporary, side effects.

The CACE notes that such side effects are predictable, as they are essentially just manifestations of the body’s adjustments as it responds to eating better. People adopting healthier diets should discuss the appearance of the following side effects with their physicians while recognizing that they are not necessarily a cause for concern.

Skin rashes

The CACE notes that people who have histories of recurring skin rashes or eruptions may experience such rashes as they adjust to healthy diets. That’s because the skin is becoming more active and alive due to the healthy diet and expelling toxins that could potentially prove hazardous down the road.

Doctors unfamiliar with patients’ histories may mistake these rashes for food allergies, so it’s important that patients be open and honest about their medical histories and remind their doctors that they are in the process of changing their diets for the better.

Colds or fevers

Colds or fevers can be another way the body indicates it’s working hard to cleanse itself. Fevers should always be monitored closely, even while in the midst of changing one’s diet for the better.

But the CACE notes that colds or fevers, while unpleasant, can serve as a natural form of housecleaning as the body adjusts to a healthy diet. Persistent colds and fevers should be brought to the attention of a physician.

Additional symptoms

Some people may experience withdrawal symptoms like headaches and irritability as they transition from unhealthy diets to healthy ones. Such symptoms may be more likely to occur among people who suddenly adopt extreme diets.

A gradual transition may help mitigate these symptoms, as can choosing a less extreme, balanced diet as opposed to one that demands certain foods be avoided entirely right off the bat.

Choosing to eat a healthier diet is a smart move that can pay long-term dividends. But the transition may require people to confront potentially uncomfortable side effects as their bodies adjust. (HM201580)
Is There Proof that 10,000 Steps a Day Works?

Over the last several years, many people have embraced the notion that 10,000 daily steps are the way to being physically fit. Health experts espouse that notion and trainers endorse it, but is there scientific proof behind the recommendation?

The 10,000-step standard – which equates to roughly five miles, depending on a person’s stride length and speed – has some surprising origins that are not necessarily rooted in medical science.

I-Min Lee, a professor of epidemiology at the Harvard University T. H. Chan School of Public Health and the lead author of a new study published in May 2019 in The Journal of the American Medical Association, wanted to explore the origins of the 10,000-step recommendation.

She discovered the guideline evolved from a marketing strategy devised by a Japanese company called Yamasa Toki. That firm introduced its new step-counter in 1965, naming it Manpo-Kei, which translated into “10,000 steps meter.” They marketed the meter using the Japanese character for “10,000,” which resembles a man walking.

The character and round number proved memorable and the slogan, “Let’s walk 10,000 steps a day” was catchy.

As a result, many people adopted the 10,000-step approach, even though its medical benefits might not have been proven.

But this isn’t to suggest that taking 10,000 steps per day cannot be part of a healthy living plan. In fact, such a goal promotes physical activity, which is a key component of a healthy lifestyle. However, simply taking 10,000 steps per day might not be enough to achieve long-term health.

Lee conducted her own research to test if the Japanese were on to something by inadvertently setting the 10,000-step standard. She found that an increase in walking correlated to lower mortality rates among more than 16,000 elderly American women.

However, when these women reached about 7,500 steps, the mortality rates leveled out, suggesting that those extra 2,500 steps might not be necessary.

Even the manufacturer of one of the most popular fitness trackers, Fitbit, says that users’ step goals can vary depending on need, and that goals may even shift over time.

People who are looking to lose weight and maintain their existing health will need to modify their step count accordingly. Working with a qualified trainer or using a medically sanctioned training program can help people exercise safely and effectively.

Taking 10,000 steps per day may help people achieve their health-related goals. But 10,000 steps alone likely won’t be enough to achieve optimal health.

Arthritis Comes in Many Forms, So Be on Lookout

Arthritis has name recognition, even among people who are not suffering from it. But despite that recognition, arthritis is not as well understood as one might think.

According to the Arthritis Foundation, arthritis is not a single disease, but rather an informal way of referring to joint pain or joint disease. In fact, the term “arthritis” is so wide-ranging that it actually refers to more than 100 types of conditions.

Despite that complexity, arthritis often produces four important warning signs, regardless of which type of arthritis a person may have.

1. Pain

The Arthritis Foundation notes that arthritis-related pain may be constant or intermittent. One common misconception about arthritis pain is that it only occurs during or shortly after a body is at rest.

However, arthritis-related pain can occur while the body is at rest and is not always triggered by an activity that incorporates a part of the body affected by arthritis.

In addition, pain from arthritis can be isolated to one area of the body or affect various parts of the body.

2. Swelling

Skin over the joints affected by arthritis may become red and swollen. This skin also may feel warm to the touch. The Arthritis Foundation advises anyone who experiences this swelling for three days or longer or more than three times per month to contact a physician.

3. Stiffness

This warning sign is, along with pain, the one that is most often associated with arthritis, even by people who don’t suffer from the condition.

Stiffness when waking up in the morning or after long periods of being sedentary, such as sitting at a desk during the workday or taking a long car ride, can be symptomatic of arthritis, especially if the stiffness lasts an hour or longer.

4. Difficulty moving a joint

The Arthritis Foundation notes that people should not experience difficulty moving, such as when getting out of bed. People who experience such difficulty may have arthritis.

People who recognize any of these warning signs should report them to their physicians immediately. Be as specific as possible when describing these symptoms, as specificity can help physicians design the most effective course of treatment.
We travel this week to the always-in-fashion Country Club Manor community, where a substantially expanded and thoroughly remodeled colonial nestled on a glorious quarter-acre fenced lot awaits.

Featuring nearly 2,500 square feet of light-filled interior space, with the circa-1950 original part of the property buttressed by a significant two-level addition, the home is the best of all worlds. High-quality features ranging from gleaming hardwoods and a brick-surround wood-burning fireplace to extraordinary landscaping provide the backdrop for spacious and gracious family living.

The property currently is on the market, listed at $1,075,000 by David Lloyd of Weichert, Realtors. An open house is slated for Sunday, Oct. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m.

A classical curb appeal gives way to some surprises as we are ushered up onto the covered porch and into the home, with the versatility of the floor-plan evident at first blush.

Let’s skip ahead just a bit, focusing our attention on the family room area, part of the addition and featuring vaulted beamed ceilings, beautifully reclaimed hardwoods, bay/bow window and window surrounds.

What originally had been the living room features a wonderful fireplace, and could be used as an embassy-sized dining room or den (with French doors leading you to the patio). A full bath, workshop/learning space and pleasant laundry area can be found here, as well.

As mentioned earlier, the wrap-around deck will be the perfect place to enjoy the seasons – in fact, the entire rear and side yards are marvelous “grilling-and-chilling” areas.

The location makes this a commuter’s dream, as you are just minutes to Chain Bridge and close to employment hubs and all of Arlington’s celebrated amenities.

It’s the best of all worlds – a classic home from Arlington’s post-war growth period that has been updated and expanded to exceed 21st-century expectations.

Articles are prepared by the Sun Gazette’s real estate advertising department on behalf of clients.

For information on the home, contact the listing agent. For information on having a house reviewed, contact the Sun Gazette’s real estate advertising department at (571)333-6272.
‘CERT’ Program Offered in Spanish

The Arlington Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will conduct a “virtual” disaster-preparedness-and-response training course in Spanish from Oct. 28-Nov. 21, aimed at meeting the needs of the nearly 16 percent of county residents who are Latino.

“By acquiring the knowledge and skills, the Spanish-speaking community will be able to help each other at the household and neighborhood level and be better equipped to interact with and assist first-responders,” said Pablo Gonzalez, a Spanish-speaking instructor for the program and a member of the Anne Arundel/Annapolis Community Emergency Response Team.

CERT training teaches volunteers skills such as fire safety, light search-and-rescue team organization and disaster-medical operations. These skills allow community members to step up when first-responders are delayed by the magnitude of the disaster.

For information, see the Website at www.arlingtonCERT.org.
Action in Fairfax to Remove Confederate Monuments: Step Forward or ‘Capitulation to Cultural Revolutionaries’?

BRIAN TROMPETER
Staff Writer

Some say history repeats, others say it rhymes. At the Sept. 15 Board of Supervisors meeting, it fairly screamed.

At issue was the supervisors’ 9-1 vote in favor of removing a granite obelisk and historical marker commemorating a Confederate officer’s death, plus a pair of naval howitzer cannons, from the grounds of the Fairfax County Judicial Complex.

The monument and plaque noted that Capt. John Quincy Marr had been killed in battle there on June 1, 1861, the first Confederate unit-to-unit combat casualty of the U.S. Civil War.

The obelisk has been located in front of the old Fairfax Courthouse on county property in the city of Fairfax since June 1, 1904.

The U.S. Army in February 1910 donated a pair of brass Dahlgren cannons for the site. Cannonballs also had been arranged on a nearby ammunition pad, for the site. Cannonballs also had been arranged on a nearby ammunition pad, for the site.

Removing the monument and howitzers and storing them at a county facility would cost about $19,562, officials said. VDHR has asked for its historical marker to be returned to the state if the county removes it, they said.

County staff will report back to supervisors Oct. 20 regarding the status of the obelisk, historical marker and cannons. The board must take a final vote on the removal after the 30-day period expires.

Debate at the public hearing was impassioned and Chairman Jeff McKay (D) multiple times pounded his gavel and threatened to recess the meeting if the audience continued to interrupt board members’ remarks.

Most who testified in person at the hearing either wanted the monuments left untouched or perhaps contextualized with additional information. Phoned-in remarks from the public were more mixed, with several people arguing for the items’ removal.

Blake Myers, preservation chairman of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, said the artifacts should not be covered or removed and any contextualization should be based on accurate and relevant research by recognized Civil War historians.

The obelisk and marker neither glorify Marr and the Confederacy nor affirm white supremacy, said Myers, who referred supervisors to a county-published book detailing the battle.

“I further implore you not to rely on pontificated news, opinion articles,6575, [erases] the sanctity and integrity of history. You obliterate the segue for our children for gaining insight and historical understanding.”

Friends of the Historic Fairfax Courthouse president Jenne Lindner suggested another monument could be added to the site to commemorate the African-American man who found Marr’s body after the battle.

Beverly Dickerson of Oakton favored leaving the monument and marker in place, saying such items better enable visitors to imagine actions that occurred at historic sites.

Fairfax County leaders from 2011 to 2015 supported Civil War sesquicentennial events, historical markers and programs, but recently have succumbed to hysteria over that same history, said Vienna resident Edward Wenzel, who helped found the Chantilly Battlefield Association.

“To remove the Marr monument would be a disgrace and a capitulation to anti-American cultural revolutionaries,” Wenzel said. Such a removal would “be a rebuke of our Civil War heritage and a political pander to the grievance industry, the deceived and the truly intolerant.”

Others argued that commemorations of a Confederate soldier should not be located at the Judicial Complex.

“That location should stand for justice for all,” said Sarah Selvaraj-D’Souza of Reston Strong.

Supervisors had the final word and only member Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) voted against the removals, saying they did not meet his threshold for spending taxpayers’ money.

“I’m not a big fan of revisionist history,” he added.

Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock) said the Marr monument and many others like it were part of a campaign by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to cultivate a “lost-cause mythology.”

That effort came shortly after the end of Reconstruction, where African-Americans had enjoyed the right to vote and hold public office, Walkinshaw said. Blacks subsequently had to endure several decades of violence and oppression, he said.

Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence), who moved for the items’ removal, agreed.

“John Marr has a monument because he died for the Confederacy,” she said. “It memorializes a Fairfax that’s very different from the one that exists today and by being a monument is inherently glorifying. Confederate monuments and place names were affirmations of white supremacy under the siren of Southern history and tradition and they go against the goal of a more just, unified county.”

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The U.S. Army in February 1910 donated a pair of brass Dahlgren cannons for the site. Cannonballs also had been arranged on a nearby ammunition pad, but several disappeared over the years and officials removed the last ones three decades ago.

The third artifact at the site that will be removed, a Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) marker, has been located near the Judicial Complex’s flagpole area since 2009. It was installed by the VDHR, City of Fairfax Markers Committee and Fairfax County History Commission.

County officials for 30 days following the supervisors’ decision will entertain offers to relocate the obelisk and cannons at historical societies, museums, governments or military battlefields.

Removing the monument and howitzers and storing them at a county facility would cost about $19,562, officials said.

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The six-months-and-counting roller coaster ride that has impacted virtually every facet of daily life in Virginia hasn’t left untouched the commonwealth’s real estate community.

“The landscape of our business has changed — week to week,” said Kemper Funkhouser, current chairman of the Virginia Realtors trade organization, speaking at a 26 legislative meeting of the organization.

That said, “the business of our association did not stop — we’ve probably done more work than we have in the past. We’ve really shown value to our members,” Funkhouser said. Despite the immediate impact of the COVID pandemic and subsequent government mandated shutdowns, the real estate market pulled out of a brief tailspin and has defied expectations with a solid summer rebound.

“Residential housing is booming,” said Deborah Baisden, a regional vice president of the National Association of Realtors, who spoke at the event (held, like most other meetings these days, “virtually” in Virginia). The Virginia real-estate market started surging back to life in June, fueled by pent-up demand. Coupled with an inventory shortage that was baked in even before the pandemic, that burst of home-buying has pushed median home prices statewide to $332,000 in July, up 7.4 percent from a year before. Median prices were up in all corridors of the commonwealth that month, ranging from $130,000 in Southside Virginia to $313,677 in Northern Virginia.

“With great challenges we see great opportunities,” said Funkhouser, a Realtor from the Shenandoah Valley. “Our members are more engaged.”

The organization has worked throughout the year to build partnerships in efforts to support, and at times oppose, legislation emanating from the new Democratic majority in Richmond. In addition, the trade group is implementing its new strategic plan, adopted in the summer of 2019.

The plan is “so critically important,” said Virginia Realtors’ CEO Terrie Suit, because it allows staff to take a long-term approach to meeting the needs of members.

“In the old days . . . year to year, those goals would change,” Suit said.

Homes Getting More Per Square Foot Across Area

Homeowners across the region were getting more, on a per-square-foot basis, for their properties during the first eight months of the year compared to 2019, according to new data.

Each of the five major jurisdictions in Northern Virginia saw boosts in average sales price per square foot in the January-to-August timeframe, according to data reported in mid-September by MarketStats by ShowingTime.

As always, the average varied significantly by locality.

• The average per-square-foot cost of homes sold in Arlington was $453, up from $434 during the same period in 2019.
• The average cost in Alexandria ($396) was up from $368.
• The average cost in Falls Church ($393) was up from $374.
• The average cost in Fairfax County ($289) was up from $279.
• The average cost in Loudoun County ($209) was up from $198.
• The average cost in Prince William County ($175) was up from $168.

Across the region, the highest per-square-foot cost for the first eight months of the year was turned in by the District of Columbia at $499, up from $488.

The Maryland suburbs, the per-square-foot cost rose from $247 to $251 in Montgomery County and from $181 to $190 in Prince George’s County.

Mid-Sized Cities Find Success in New Survey

A new Zillow analysis shows mid-sized cities are now leading the country as the top markets poised for growth, replacing expensive coastal metros such as San Francisco and Seattle that had led the way in the past.

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Many of these markets also happen to offer home shoppers more space for their money, as the coronavirus pandemic has reshaped where and how people want to live.

The analysis weigths a variety of factors to show demand in the market and continued opportunity for growth. Those include recent and forecast home-value growth, the share of homes sold above list price and how quickly homes sell.

Here are the top 5 on the list.

Boise is an up-and-coming city drawing young professionals, families and retirees alike, the analysis found. Home values are strong, increasing 11.8 percent from last year, and are expected to grow 5.5 percent into next year. Buyers are snapping up houses in record time, with the typical home going under contract in as little as five days.

“Boise offers that small-town feel people crave from the movies, and has something for everyone,” said Michael Edgar, owner of Michael Ryan Real Estate, who relocated to Boise in 2003 from California. “There’s an abundance of outdoor activities right outside your doorstep, plenty of restaurants to choose from, and not a lack of career opportunities. Its affordability makes it a great place to raise kids, retire or work remotely.”

Huntsville, known as Rocket City, is home to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Home values have also skyrocketed, increasing 10.4 percent compared to last year, and home values are forecast to increase 5 percent over the next year.

3. Ogden (Utah): Population: 600,000; typical home value: $344,816.
Ogden offers the benefits of urban life with easy access to the outdoors. The demand in this market is strong, with 41.5 percent of homes selling above list price. Zillow is forecasting home values in Ogden will increase 4.6 percent in the next year, showing the demand for this market is here to stay.

Spokane has seen accelerating home-value growth, increasing 9.5 percent from a year prior. The Spokane market is hot for sellers, with 45.1 percent of homes selling above list price. Competition for homes here may be attributed, in part, to the metro’s vibrant downtown, trail system and growing microbrewery and winery scene.

York is the oldest city on this list, dating back to 1777 as the first U.S. capital. Today, York has a suburban feel mixed with its history, and sales of these architecturally unique homes do not appear to be slowing down anytime soon. Home sales increased a whopping 75.7 percent from the previous month, and are 17.7 percent above last year’s levels.

Rounding out the top 10: Colorado Springs (Colo.): Population: 645,000; typical home value: $336,927; Lancaster (Pa.): Population 500,000; typical home value: $242,009; Modesto (Calif.): Population 515,000; typical home value: $400,762; Syracuse (N.Y.): Population 665,000; typical home value: $154,596; and Visalia (Calif.): Population 445,000; typical home value: $232,800.

— Staff Reports
Brothers Join College Cross Country Squads

A Staff Report

Bishop O’Connell High School baseball player and former Arlington Senior Babe Ruth standout Bobby McDonough recently threw a eight-strikeout, no-walks complete game to get the win for the 17-under Molina Stars travel baseball team this fall.

BROTHERS TO RUN IN COLLEGE: Twin brothers Bowen and Reece Shuttleworth, 2020 Yorktown High School graduates, are freshman members of different college men’s cross country teams this fall.

The two were standout performers in cross country and track and field at Yorktown.

Bowen Shuttleworth will run at the College of William and Mary and Reece Shuttleworth at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDPUP

Last fall, the brothers helped the Yorktown boys finish second in the Liberty District meet, then fourth in the 6D North Region championships.

Reece finished fifth individually and Bowen eighth, just six seconds apart, in the district meet. Each had two 25 finishes in the region.

STAYING IN SHAPE: With gyms and other workout facilities closed, former Wakefield High School boys basketball standouts, and now college players, Alan Treakle and Deng Nhial spent time staying in shape for the upcoming winter season this summer by regularly running through the school parking lot and surrounding streets.

Treakle will be a senior guard for the University of Mount Olive in North Carolina. Nhial will be a junior forward for the University of West Georgia.

MEET THE COACHES: Whether or not any public-school sports are played during the 2020-21 school year, varsity teams in Arlington are still holding meet-the-coaches-nights. They will be held “virtually” over the upcoming days.

For information on those times and dates for the meetings, visit the high-schools’ athletic Web sites and Twitter sites.

Continued on Page 17

Making Progress At Army

O’Connell Graduate Earns Playing Time

DAVE FACINOLI
Staff Writer

It took Nate Smith a bit of time to figure out his sports niche when he was a multi-talented high-school athlete for the Bishop O’Connell Knights.

Smith, now a backup sophomore outside linebacker/defensive end for the Division I Army Black Knights football team at West Point, played baseball, basketball, football and was involved for a brief time in track and field at O’Connell. Of the three, football probably was his least favorite for a time.

But with a lanky frame, along with good speed and quickness, Smith eventually realized football probably would present his best path to playing a sport at a high level in college.

“I really did like all three sports in high school,” said the 6-foot-3, 260-pound Smith, who weighed closer to 210 pounds at O’Connell. “My dream was probably football probably was his least favorite for a time.

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Continued on Page 17

Teeing Off

Chilly Temps, Rain Don’t Stop Masters Swimmers

It is an intrepid crew for sure that regularly swims in all kinds of outdoor conditions — cold, rain, wind, dark and the early mornings — this time of the year.

Dave Facinoli

They are the adult Masters swimmers throughout Northern Virginia. The group rents pool time, often each day for a few hours, from various outdoor neighborhood pools that are open during the spring and summer. Sometimes the swimmers start as early as 5 a.m.

When most pools close over Labor Day Weekend, the Masters continue swimming at those pools, sometimes renting time through September.

During September, the temperatures can cool a good bit, as has been the case in recent days. But that doesn’t stop the Masters.

One recent morning, many Masters filled the lanes of such a pool and were swimming away despite the chilly 48-degree outdoor temperature. That neighborhood pool, and those swimmers who were not wearing wetsuits, are regularly seen from the back second-floor window of home owners Wendy and Karl Kunc, who live in Northern Virginia.

Wendy snapped a photo of those swimming in the water on that 48-degree morning, and added a comment.

“I could hear them [swimmers] churning through the water like Beluga whales from inside [our house],” Wendy said.

A few days earlier, on another cold morning, and also raining and windy, at the same pool, the swimmers went about the routines. They didn’t stop or hesitate because of the nasty weather.

Actually, Masters swimmers prefer colder water. They often complain, during summer’s hottest days, that the colder water. They often complain, during summer’s hottest days, that the

Continued on Page 17

Sports

More on the Web

□ High-school roundup.
□ Youth sports results.
For more sports, visit: www.insidenova.com/sports/Arlington

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Three County Schools to Be Reunited in Same District

DAVE FACINOLI
Staff Writer

Beginning with the 2021-22 high-school sports season, all three Arlington County public schools will again be members of the same conference.

For that campaign, the Wakefield Warriors will move from the National to the Liberty District, where the Arlington school will join its county rivals Washington-Liberty Generals and Yorktown Patriots. That means the all-Arlington neighborhood rivalries will occur at least once a season, and often twice, in all girls and boys sports.

Boys and girls doubleheader basketball games among the Arlington teams, no matter which venue or night of the week, often draw sellout crowds and generate considerable revenue. With Wakefield coming to the Liberty District, there will be opportunities for more intra-Arlington games.

“I like this. It will be back to normal in Arlington, and that’s great and the way it should be,” Wakefield boys basketball coach Tony Bentley said. “At the end of the day, all of those rivalries should occur every season in every sport. It’s so good for Arlington sports and the community.”

The last time all three schools were in the same athletic league was in 2013-14 as members of the National District. The next year, W-L and Yorktown moved to the Liberty, while Wakefield stayed put in a league that was renamed the Capital Conference for a few years. After that split, Wakefield then didn’t always play W-L and Yorktown in every sport each year. Prior to that 2013-14 breakup, the three Arlington schools had been in the same district for decades.

Bentley said one of the drawbacks to the move will be not playing the Edison Eagles multiple times a season in boys basketball. That rivalry had become one of the most popular in Northern Virginia in recent years.

The new seven-team Liberty District also will include the Herndon Hornets, Langley Saxons, Marshall Statesmen and McLean Highlanders.

Like Wakefield, Marshall rejoin the Liberty District. The Statesmen had been in the Capital and National districts in the interim and won many team and individual titles.

The new 2021-22 setup does mean fewer Arlington teams will win district championships. During the 2019 football season, Yorktown won the Liberty championship and Wakefield the National. Once the the new alignment begins, those teams will compete for the same title.

Army
Continued from Page 16

always was to play college football. So I made the decision to just play football my senior year at O’Connell and get more prepared.”

For Army this season, Smith has seen his playing time increase in every game, and he has made some key defensive plays. On a couple of snaps, Smith came up with a big third-down stop and broke up a pass.

“Nate has a lot of talent and has made some good plays in our games. He is young, focused and is getting better,” said John Loose, Army’s assistant head coach and outside linebackers coach.

“Nate is very strong and can shock you with his strength.”

Loose said Smith could become a starter on defense.

Colin Disch, Smith’s head coach at O’Connell, saw the potential in him from the start.

“When Nate was at O’Connell he had huge hands, long legs and long arms and could really get up and bat balls down,” Disch said. “He showed tremendous growth mentally and physically in football. So I’m not surprised he is doing well at all. We could see his frame and how he could easily be 250 pounds or more.”

For O’Connell, Smith received various football accolades for being a standout linebacker on defense. He made first-team All-Sun Gazette on defense as a junior and senior and was Division I first-team all-state for private schools on defense his senior year. He made second-team all-state as a junior and also earned All-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference selections on defense.

“Nate thrived in discipline and showed a lot of maturity over his four years at O’Connell,” Disch said. “We knew his best football was ahead of him and had the chance to turn into something good. With the structure at Army, he has the chance to excel.”

After graduating from O’Connell, Smith spent the next football season as a member of Army’s prep-school team, earning considerable playing time.

“I learned a lot from that first year,” said Smith, an engineering/management major. “I am very fortunate to be here and to have the chance to play. There are so many benefits here. I just want to play defense, fill in where I can, and want to coaches to trust me.”

As a freshman the next fall, Smith was on the Army team but saw little action in certain situations, playing in three games where he was credited with two tackles.

Looking ahead, Smith has his eye on the famed Dec. 12 Army-Navy game in Philadelphia, and is hoping to play in that contest. He was on site for the 2019 game.

“That game is a different experience,” he said.

Roundup
Continued from Page 16

WAKEFIELD COACHING OPENINGS:
Wakefield High School has an opening for a head swimming and diving coach. The swimming and diving season is during the winter, scheduled to begin in December. Contact Nate Halley at Nathel.

hailey@apsva.us.

STUDENT ATHLETE AWARDS: The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame is accepting applications for its annual Student Athlete Achievement Awards. The Hall of Fame is looking for high school juniors and seniors from across the state who excel on the field, in the classroom and in their communities.

Student athletes may submit an application themselves, or be nominated by a family member, coach, administrator, or mentor. Individuals completing the application will be asked to include details and references that support the student’s achievements in each of the areas of focus; academic, athletic and civic.

Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted through the online application, which can be found at www.vasportshof.com.

CONDITIONING WORKOUTS: High school athletes interested in participating in whatever type of team workouts are held in the coming days and weeks, should contact the head coaches of those specific teams at Wakefield, Washington-Liberty and Yorktown, or the schools’ athletic departments to find out more information.
ANOTHER BOOK ON THE HORIZON? It was five years ago when Arlington resident Rob Fisher wrote his first book – a novel titled: “The Wichita Kid: A Caddie’s Story.” The 321-page paperback was based on Fisher’s experience of being a rookie golf caddy at a country club while growing up in the Cleveland area.

“IT was fun to write, and because of the book, I have reconnected with some people who I knew from all of those years ago when I was a caddy,” Fisher said. “They want to relive and talk about the past.”


SOCCER CAMPS: The Northern Virginia Soccer Club is offering various camps. For information, visit www.novasc.org.

VIRTUAL 5K RACE: The Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. will hold its National Run for Refugees, a virtual 5K race Oct. 22-25.

Over 3 days participants can run (or walk) a race then submit time to the ranking. Sign up at https://www.bspborts.com/edcd-virtual-national-run-for-refugees.

ARLINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE NEWS: Anyone wanting information about Arlington Little League fall ball and registering should visit: www.registrar@arlingtonlittleleague.org.

Also, the league is looking for umpires for upcoming seasons. For information visit: umpire@arlingtonlittleleague.org.

HALL OF FAME CEREMONY POSTPONED: The Arlington Sports Hall of Fame’s induction dinner, which was scheduled for Sept. 9, has been postponed to a date to be determined. The hall has decided to suspend accepting nominations for the rest of this year.

One of our board members has set up a Facebook group Arlington Sports Hall of Fame (ASHOF), which you are invited to join. I’ll ask one of my grandkids to help me with that.

ARLINGTON TRAVEL BASEBALL: Tryouts for Arlington Travel Baseball for 10-to-12-under teams are Oct. 12 and 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Gunston Park. For more information visit www.arlingtontravelbaseball.org, call 703-801-6297 or email atbarnseal@gmail.com.

Information on development for Arlington Travel Baseball players ages 9-11 can be found by calling 703-801-6297, visiting www.arlingtontravelbaseball.org or emailing atbarnseal@gmail.com.

Arlington Travel Baseball’s 8-under academy provides youth players an opportunity to improve their skills and prepares players for the challenges of baseball. For more information, visit www.arlingtontravelbaseball.org.

LEARN TO PLAY SOCCER: Arlington County offers adult soccer classes this fall. For more information or to register, visit: https://parks.arlingtonva.us/sports-soccer-adult-clinics/ or contact, Marta Cuhlil at (703) 228-1818 or mcahill@arlingtonva.us.

ARLINGTON SENATORS: The fall baseball season is on going for the Arlington Senators at the 13-under and 14-under age groups.

The teams are coached by John Harris, Graeme Fineman, Steven Head, Dan Potosky, Mike Cowell, Paul Danigel, Scott Nathanson, Jeremy Seipp and Phil Juliano. The season runs through the first weekend of November, with many games at Barron Field. For information on the organization, visit www.arlingtonsenators.com.

SAGE IN ACTION: Three Arlington Sage girls softball teams have upcoming fall tournaments at the 10-under, 11-under and 12-under age groups. Check out a future issue of the Sun Gazette for results.

SOFTBALL UMPIRES NEEDED: The Northern Virginia Softball Umpires Association is seeking individuals interested in becoming certified umpires for high-school and recreational fastpitch softball in the local area. Complete training is provided.

For more information, email uic@nvuua.org or visit www.nvuua.org. Complete training provided. Flexible schedule are available for those interested in umpiring.

FOOTBALL OFFICIALS NEEDED: The Fairfax County Football Officials Association needs more officials to cover all of its games. Candidates must be at least 16 years old and have reliable transportation. Training is provided. Contact the FCFOA at fcfoa1@gmail.com.

GAME OFFICIALS NEEDED: Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires is in need of officials for baseball, softball and volleyball.

Officials are needed in all communities across the metropolitan area for youth recreational leagues, men’s leagues, high schools and colleges.

Experience is helpful but not required. Formal classroom and on-the-job training will be provided. Visit www. umpires.org or call John Porter at (703) 978-3601 for more information.

STUDENT ATHLETE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame is accepting applications for its annual Student Athlete Achievement Awards. The hall’s foundation is looking for rising high-school juniors and seniors, who excel in the classroom and their communities.

Applications must be submitted through the online process, found at www.vasportshof.com.

College Roundup

MARYMOUNT SOCCER: Three former high-school soccer players in Arlington are members of the men’s and women’s teams at Marymount University, with the season possibly being played later this fall.

Wakefield High School graduate Taylor Memon plays for the women. She is a junior midfielder, who played in 19 games with 16 starts during the 2019 season. Memon had two assists and took 14 shots.

Wakefield graduate Marvin Munoz is a freshman forward for the Marymount men’s team, and Bishop O’Connell High School graduate LUIS OCHOA is a senior midfielder.

In 2019, Ochoa played in 10 games, making six starts. He scored one goal and took five shots.

In recent days, the Marymount University women’s soccer squad was honored with a United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award for their performance in the classroom during the 2019 season.

Marymount was one of 889 college teams to receive the honor. As a team, the Saints amassed a 3.60 grade point average. Also in 2019-20, 17 Marymount soccer players earned Atlantic East Conference academic awards.

While on the field in 2019, the Saints reached the Atlantic East Conference tournament for the second straight year.

EMILY TALOTTA: Yorktown High School graduate Emily Talotta is a junior forward on the women’s soccer team at Christopher Newport University.

A year ago, Talotta played in 22 games, all starts, scoring three goals and having 12 assists. She took 43 shots.

Talotta helped the 2017 Yorktown team win the Virginia High School League’s Class 6 state championship.

She also played in the Arlington Soccer Association from 2009 to 2017.

KAI GREEN: Washington-Lee (now Washington-Liberty) High School graduate Kai Green was the Capital Athletic Conference men’s Rookie of the Year in swimming for the University of Mary Washington team during the shortened winter campaign.

At the CAC championship meet, Green finished in second place in the 100 breaststroke event (57.13), placed third in the individual medley event and he swam a leg on the winning 400 free-style relay.

Green was a standout swimmer in district, region and state events for W-L during his high-school career, winning multiple events in competitions.

DAQUOI MOORE: Washington-Liberty High School graduate Daquoi is a freshman member of the football team at Ferrum College. Moore was a two-way player for W-L and is listed as a defensive back for Ferrum. He also returned kicks for Washington-Liberty.

LILY HARKES: Bishop O’Connell High School graduate Lily Harkes is a junior midfielder on the women’s soccer team at Elon University this fall.

A year ago, Harkes played in 18 games for Elon, taking four shots on goal.

ALLIE STRAZZELLA: Yorktown High School graduate Allie Strazzella is a freshman member of the women’s soccer team this fall at Gettysburg College, a team that had not yet played games as of late September.

Strazzella helped Yorktown win the 2019 Virginia High School League’s Class 6 state tournament championships, blanking T.C. Williams, 2-0, in the title game. She was a captain of that Yorktown squad.
Watershed

Continued from Page 1

(County officials often come close; some years the debt service hits 9.7 percent or 9.8 percent of the total budget.)

The fear of some in the community is that, if the government starts ramping up bond sales to pay for extensive watershed projects, it would bump up against that ceiling, meaning bonding for other capital projects would have to be deferred.

Not to worry, county-government officials say.

“The stormwater piece will be different,” they said. It would not be under 10 percent, said Kevin Fries, the treasurer of the Department of Management Finance, the de-facto debt czar for the county government.

Why? Because county officials do not anticipate selling the debt like ordinary general-obligation bonds, but more like bonds for utilities. They will be secured by specific funds, rather than the more nebulous full faith and credit of the county government.

The funding to repay the bonds will come from the surplus that for a number of years has been affixed to real-estate taxes for the purpose of stormwater improvements. It currently sits at 1.5 cents per $100 of property assessed, or $135 a year for the owner of a home assessed at $900,000.

Because of that defined funding source, repaying principal and interest will not count against the overall bonding capacity, Fries said.

Not everybody is fully convinced that the time is right to start down the road of bonding specific projects.

Gillian Burgess, a member of the county government’s Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission, said there were a number of unknowns about the proposal, starting with how the county government’s uncertain budget future.

“We are in a new fiscal context,” she said at a Sept. 23 Arlington Committee of 100 special forum called to address the topic in advance of the Nov. 3 election.

Burgess also voiced disquiet that the electorate turns thumbs down next election, if the electorate turns thumbs down next election.

“We have to think through what would happen if the government starts ramping up bond sales to pay for extensive watershed projects, it would bump up against that ceiling, meaning bonding for other capital projects would have to be deferred. Not to worry, county-government officials say.

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Fairfax County Public Schools officials on Sept. 23 gave their rationale for proposed admissions-policy changes at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology (TJ), but the public appears unconvinced.

Richards, a regional governor’s school, located in the Alexandria area, routinely ranks near the top of U.S. high schools, but has been criticized by some for years because its demographics differ considerably from those of the school system overall.

Current TJ admissions policies require applicants to have at least a 3.0 grade-point average in core classes, be taking Algebra 1 in eighth grade, take an admissions test, provide recommendations from teachers, fill out a student-information sheet, pen a problem-solving essay, meet minimum GPA requirements in math and science, and pay a $100 application fee.

Superintendent Scott Brabrand on Sept. 15 recommended that the School Board scrap the admissions test and application fee, enhance the problem-solving essay, boost the core-class GPA requirement to 3.5 and conduct a “merit lottery” of qualified applicants, randomly selected from each of five geographical areas.

If approved, the new policies would take effect in time for next spring’s TJ application process. The new lottery would apply to students selected for the semifinalist pool.

“We are not lowering the standards of the education at TJ,” said Jeremy Shughart, the school’s admissions director.

The new rules would de-emphasize the admissions test, which screens out some talented applicants, Brabrand said. Some families spend $10,000 to $15,000 per year on test-preparation services to get their children into TJ, he said.

“This is not the way to find and spot talent,” he said. “There has to be a better way.”

TJ accepts students from Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William counties, as well as the city of Falls Church. Some jurisdictions have declined to allow students to apply to TJ out of fear it would lead to a “brain drain” in those localities.

Under the proposed lottery system, FCPS would set aside 350 spaces for Fairfax County students, with 70 qualified applicants randomly selected from each of five geographical areas.

Another 62 applicants would be chosen from Loudoun, 68 from Prince William, 18 from Arlington and two from Falls Church. Applicants from private schools would be assigned application pathways based on where they reside.

FCPS by Oct. 9 must submit to the state a report on the demographic makeup of TJ’s student body. TJ’s Class of 2019 was 70 percent Asian, 21 percent white, 5 percent Hispanic, 2 percent black and 2 percent of two or more races.

Under the new merit lottery, those figures would have been 52 percent Asian, 29 percent white, 8 percent black, 5 percent Hispanic and 6 percent those of two or more races, FCPS officials said.

(FCPS's overall population is 37.8 percent white, 26.8 percent Hispanic, 19.5 percent Asian, 8.8 percent black and 5.7 percent two or more races.)

Just 1.2 percent of TJ’s Class of 2019 was made up of economically disadvantaged students and 1 percent were English-language learners. Under the merit lottery, those figures would have been 8.8 and 2.3 percent, respectively.

TJ officials have made numerous changes since 2011—from creating the position of an outreach specialist (later reduced to half-time) and adding the problem-solving essay to reducing minimum requirements for semifinalists—but these have not had a significant impact either on the applicant pool or the demographics of those admitted.

“We must remember, representation matters,” said Leona Smith Vance, the school system’s director of equity and family engagement. “Who our children see around them, who they learn with, will impact how they become as adults.”

FCPS officials must decide whether the TJ admissions process rewards the right student attributes, Smith Vance said.

“For a long time, we’ve re-searched policies that have privi-leges,” she said. “It will be impor-tant, when we’re doing any selection process, that we check our biases. . . . We all hold them.

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EMPLOYMENT

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October 2, 1949:
- The Arlington Bar Association says local courts need more staff to keep pace with growth.
- Mount Olivet United Methodist Church will move into its new sanctuary next week, and Memorial Baptist Church plans to lay the cornerstone for its own sanctuary this week.
- Harrison Mann has been re-elected chairman of the Arlington Democratic Committee.

October 2, 1958:
- Last rites have been administered to Pope Pius XII, who suffered a stroke and is clinging to life.

October 1, 1962:
- The County Board has named Bert Johnson as Arlington's new county manager.
- The county now is home to 202 certified fallout shelters, able to accommodate 60,000 residents wishing to ride out a potential nuclear conflagration in them.
- Oct. 6 is the deadline for Virginians to register to vote in the general election.

October 1, 1969:
- Republican gubernatorial candidate Linwood Holton is about to release a list of prominent Democrats who are supporting him.
- A federal appeals-court panel has reaffirmed that the University of Virginia must admit women to undergraduate programs.

October 1, 2020:
- The Arlington County government's five 55+ Centers remain closed due to the public-health pandemic, but “virtual” and outdoor programs are available free of charge this month and are open to all residents 55 years of age and older.
- Residents must pre-register to receive a link to the virtual programs and the outdoor programs. Registration is available at https://registration.arlingtonva.us or by calling (703) 228-4747, ext. 3.

FOLK-MUSIC SINGALONG OFFERED: A folk-music singalong featuring singer-songwriter Carl Gold will be held Monday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. at Lee Center Park, 5722 Lee Highway. (Registration #911702-06)

HEALTH FORUM FOCUSES ON THE GUT: A discussion of gut health with nutritionist Kristin McGill will be held online on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. (Registration #911400-07)

MUSICAL SERENADE FEATURES: An acoustic hour featuring music from the 1950s to today will be presented on Friday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. at Langston Brown Center, 2121 North Culpepper St. (Registration #911703-13)

OKTOBERFEST
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ACROSS
1. Worry
6. Fleur-de-
9. One of Egyptian christians
13. Navy a soul
14. Dot-com address
15. Pretend, two words
16. Figroup's troll
17. Romanian money
18. Dostoyevsky's masterpiece, with The
19. "Royal Brewery in Munich, a.k.a. __ Mynchen"
21. "Original Oktoberfest location"
23. Tree juice
24. Cathedral part
25. Lysergic acid derivative, acr.
28. Children's author Roald
30. Bivouac
35. Heroic poem
37. Taro or cocoyam, technically
39. Relish tastebuds' sensation
40. Russian governmental agency
41. Musketees' weapons
43. Presidential "No!"
44. Make corrections
46. Kind of palm
47. A in B.A.
48. Indian Ocean's saltwater inlet
50. Carve or Pluto
52. "Sesame Street" watcher

DOWN
51. One-horse carriage
53. Sunday newspaper inserts
57. "Kind of Oktoberfest band"
60. "Salty snack"
64. Meltable abode
65. Go wrong
67. Sore spot
68. African prairie
69. "Wheel of Fortune"'s vowel request
70. All-season ones, on a car

55+ News

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Appleton's OKTOBERFEST

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71. Affirmatives
72. Beaver's construction
73. Noise of contempt

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BASICS OF BIRDING OFFERED: A discussion of birding, led by naturalist Ken Rosenthal, will be offered online on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. (Registration #911400-16)

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LINE DANCERS TO GATHER: Line dancing is offered on Friday, Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. at Virginia Highlands Park, 1600 South Haynes St. (Registration #911802-04)

TOUR OF FORT C.F. SMITH PARK OFFERED: Historian John McNair will host an exploration of Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th St. North, on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. (Registration #9020009-02)
than $675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year. The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States. Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution mandates that this occur every 10 years. The information the census collects helps determine how more than $675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.

Help Arlington County before the 2020 Census invitations to arrive in mailboxes. Weichert Arlington is a proud 2020 Census Partner. Get out the Count and expand its outreach - census 2-4PM Arlington Census Palooza 3/7. Call your Weichert Arlington associate today to list your home and increase your pool of buyers, call your Weichert Arlington associate today!

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Arlington’s response rate (as of 9/17 per arlingtonva.us) is 75.6% (households counted by self-response, online, phone or paper) AND 22.4% (households counted by Census takers). There are just 2% of households left to contact! Help make a difference by participating in the 2020 Census EXTENDED to October 31st!

Denyse “Nia” Bagley
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