

These young birders, from left, Nero Disparte, Lincoln Tillemann and Ryan Weber, at Huntley Meadows Park are participating in a Birdathon, Northern Virginia's Bird Alliance's annual fundraising campaign.

The Arlington Connection

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PHOTO BY TOMICAH TILLEMANN

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JULY 31 - AUGUST 6, 2024

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SENIOR LIVING

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Registration is open for 2024 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics to be held Sept. 14-29.

Register online at www.nvso.us. Cost \$20 for multiple events. For more information, email nvso1982@gmail.com.

Read and discuss current articles in popular magazines, Wednesday, July 24, 11 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Facilitated by librarian Vicky McCaffrey. Articles available at the center. Registration # 914402-07.

Open rehearsal of rock-n-roll band called Off Our Rockers, Wednesday, July 24, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Madison Community Center. Music from the 50s through 70s. Drop-in.

55+ Travel group will attend the 2024 Twilight Tattoo showcasing soldiers from the U.S. Army Military District of Washing-

ton ceremonial units, Wednesday, July 24. Cost \$9, Arlington resident; \$10, non-resident. Registration # 902407-10.

55+ Travel group will attend a limited engagement of “Love Letters” performed at the Riverside Center, Fredericksburg, Wednesday, July 31. Cost \$105, Arlington Resident; \$121, non-resident. Registration # 902407-13. Meal included.

Canasta, easy-to-learn card game, Wednesday, July 31, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Practice for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics or just enjoy a game. Drop-in.

Summer tomato tasting, bring your tomatoes whole and we’ll slice and serve with balsamic glaze, Wednesday, July 31, 6 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Bring enough to share. Registration # 914501-01.

The Great American Songbook tunes will be performed by Ken Schellenberg and the Neighbors, Thursday, Aug. 1, 1 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 914301-04.

Bunco Bunch, fun dice game of luck, practice for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, or just enjoy a game, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 914600-08.

Crafternoon social group of experienced

yarn crafters work on projects followed by a stroll around Lubber Run Community Center’s indoor track., Friday, Aug. 2, 3 p.m. Drop-in.

Summer Bingo at Aurora Hills 55+ Center, fun, win prizes and have fun, Friday, Aug. 2, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 914600-03.

Cribbage, classic game easy-to-learn and play, Friday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center.

Practice for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics or just enjoy a game. Drop-in.

Monthly social at Arlington Mill 55+ Center to celebrate the Paris 2024 Olympics with brie, baguettes and croissants, Monday, August 5, 1 p.m. Registration # 914801-03.

Learn about the philosophies of influential ecological thinkers throughout history, including John Muir, Gifford Pinchot and Aldo Leopold, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 6:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Presented by Arlington Regional Master Naturalist Caroline Haynes. Registration # 914400-22.

55+ Travel group to visit the “New Worlds: Women to Watch” exhibit at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Tuesday, August 6. Cost \$30, Arlington resident; \$35, non-resident. Registration # 902408-03.

Mocktails and music, sip on lemongrass

slushies or a refreshing watermelon mint mocktail while listening to records, Wednesday, August 7, Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 914801-08.

Opera appreciation group will discuss and hear musical selections from “Tannhauser” by German composer Richard Wagner, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 914300-05.

Olympic games trivia about past and present Olympics, Thursday, Aug. 8, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Medals awarded to winning team. Registration # 914600-14.

Summer recipe exchange, Thursday, Aug. 8, 12:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Bring multiple copies of your favorite recipe to share. Registration # 914801-09.

Beginner quilling, learn to create beautiful raised images from coils of paper strips, Thursday, Aug. 8, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Fee \$18, supplies provided. Registration # 914310-05.

70th Anniversary Ice Cream Social, Friday, Aug. 9, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55 + Center. Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of 55+ Programs with live music by PhEd-Up with Phriends and ice cream. Free admission. Registration # 914899-09.

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Drop Off Extra Produce to Help Needy Families

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Jay Curre, an incoming freshman at Washington-Liberty High School, is busy packing zucchini, baby eggplants and some greens in paper bags. He says he was looking for something to do this summer to stay occupied. Every Monday beginning in May volunteers bag donated produce. The produce is donated by local gardeners to local faith-based food pantries to provide supplemental groceries for needy families.

Tey Scott is in the kitchen filling large brown paper bags lined up on the counter. He will be a sophomore at W&L in the fall. Scott says, "I've done this a lot. I want to help out people."

Laila Leikvold, just home from a family reunion in Scotland, is the supervising volunteer in charge today standing inside the door to check in the produce as it is dropped off. She records what they receive and weighs the produce. "We rotate the responsibility; it is too much to do every week." Leikvold chats with Daena Kluegel, another regular volunteer about the surprising diminished supply being dropped off this year. Kuegel comments the need right now is great but Leikvold says, "Last year we received pounds of food but I think this is about half of what we had received last year at this point. I'm



Jay Curre bags zucchini and collard greens for needy families on Monday at Rock Spring UCC.

guessing it is the drought."

L.P. Mitchell, who has been donating garden produce for many years, adds that this year's total will be a fraction of last year be-



Laila Leikvold manages the check-in and recording of produce dropped off at the regular Monday bagging held at Rock Spring UCC from 12:30-2:30 every week.

cause the gardens are more fragile with fewer and less hardy growth. "A warm winter led to a proliferation of wildlife, including animals that typically go after garden crops: rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, raccoon and

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Monday bagging at Rock Spring for needy families.

deer." He said, "Daily we remove gnawed on and partly eaten vegetables from our gardens. We are finding caging damaged and fencing chewed up and destroyed." As a result, he says, they simply have far less to give.

Right now there seems to be a supply of tomatoes and peppers, and beans are just starting to come in. Collards are mostly gone.

Leikvold says, "We have stopped using some amount of plastic and are using compostable bags. We used to package the produce for a family of four but now we are able to send more in bulk. Any amount of extra garden produce is welcome."

Rock Spring UCC is located at 5010 Little Falls Road.

Torri Huske Wins Olympic Gold in Paris

Torri Huske, 21 of Arlington, won the Olympic gold medal in the 100-meter butterfly Sunday night.

"Still feel like I'm in shock right now," Torri Huske posted on Instagram. "These past two days have been a dream. Thank you so much to my amazing friends, family, coaches and country." Huske also was part of the silver medal winning women's 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay.

In 2021 at Tokyo Olympics, Huske also won silver as part of the women's Freestyle Relay. She came in fourth in the 100-meter butterfly, missing the podium by just one one-hundredth of a second.

"I'm not gonna lie, that was devastating," Huske said to a TeamUSA writer when asked about the



Torri Huske just after winning Olympic gold in Paris this week.

loss in 2021. "But I think that it really fueled me, and I think that it did make me better."

Huske graduated from Yorktown High School and now swims at Stanford University.

<https://www.teamusa.com/profiles/torri-huske>



Torri Huske, right wearing gold, and teammate Gretchen Walsh with silver.

BIRD ALLIANCE



PHOTO BY MUSA MURAWIH.

Northern Virginia Bird Alliance Board Member Musa Murawih led members of the Black Women Hike group in a bird walk at the Carderock Recreation Area, Potomac, MD.



PHOTO BY LIBBY LYONS

Members of NoVa Bird Alliance worked with local residents to improve the habitat at Monticello Park in Alexandria as part of the organization's Stretch Our Parks initiative. The group spread wood chips to reduce erosion on the trails and planted trees in the park. The park is a hot spot for migratory birds, and particularly warblers, in the spring.



PHOTO BY JERRY TOUVALL

NoVa Bird Alliance held a work day at the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge to remove invasive species, and in particular Mile-a-Minute. Invasive plant species can out-compete native species and destroy local ecosystems



PHOTO BY JERRY TOUVALL.

NVBA's Vice President Jerry Touvall teamed up with the US Fish and Wildlife staff from the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge to do a presentation for the combined 3rd and 5th grade classes at Rockledge Elementary School in Woodbridge. Students learned about birds they can see at the Refuge and in their own backyards and neighborhoods.

Local Audubon Chapter Drops 'Audubon' from Name

Now the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance, still a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, a 5,000-member chapter of the National Audubon Society, voted overwhelmingly to change the chapter's name to the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance (NoVa Bird Alliance), effective Aug. 1. The group's new motto is "Conserving and Enjoying Nature."



PHOTO BY JUDY GALLAGHER

Green Herons are small herons that are found at the edges of ponds, lakes and wetlands throughout northern Virginia. They wait patiently for a fish to swim near, then capture it with their dagger-like bill.

Elizabeth Lyons, president of the organization, explained, "We are excited about our new name for two primary reasons. First, 'Bird Alliance' better describes what we do. Second, protecting nature is so urgent that we need everyone's help yet we found that John James Audubon's history was keeping people, especially those in younger and more diverse groups, from joining our cause. Our new, more welcoming name will enable us to conserve nature for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people because it will help us engage and serve all of Northern Virginia's communities."

One reason that at least 20 chapters dropped the Audubon name is that John James Audubon, a naturalist and painter, supported his work by buying and selling enslaved people. Board member Tom Blackburn elaborated, "The National Audubon Society decided not to change its name. Our organization is not attempting to erase John James Audubon, but we felt it was time to change our name so our focus on birds and the environment is more easily recognizable and so our name is more welcoming to all the people in the area we serve." The organization will continue as a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

The NoVa Bird Alliance's member territory encompasses all of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford Counties; portions of Fauquier, Loudoun, Rappahannock

and Spotsylvania Counties; and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park.

MANY BIRDS IN DECLINE

For over 40 years, the group has surveyed birds, butterflies, dragonflies and bloom dates of plants in southeastern Fairfax County and Prince William County. The bloom dates project is one of the longest-duration such surveys in the country.

One study of North American birds showed that three billion birds – 25 percent of the total bird population – have been lost in the last 50 years, because of spreading agriculture and urbanization, and the pollution and loss of habitat that comes with that.

Nearly 500 species of birds spend part or all of the year in Virginia.

"Bird population trends in Virginia are consistent with the rest of North America," noted Blackburn. "Preliminary data from the state's Second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas indicate that many bird species are in steep decline in Virginia."



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

The Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge near Lorton was the first refuge in the United States established to protect nesting Bald Eagles. Bald Eagles were nearly eliminated from the lower 48 states in the 1960s, but populations have rebounded strongly thanks to protection under the Endangered Species Act, banning the chemical DDT, and protection of their habitats.

"Our new, more welcoming name will enable us to conserve nature for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people because it will help us engage and serve all of Northern Virginia's communities."

— Elizabeth Lyons, president, NoVa Bird Alliance

"Some birds, such as gadwalls and blue-winged teals, no longer breed in Virginia. Climate change has resulted in southern birds, such as Mississippi kites and anhingas, starting to breed in Virginia. Many bird species are nesting two to five weeks earlier than they were 35 years ago, when the first

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas was compiled," he said.

Greg Butcher observed, "Northern Virginia remains one of the most rapidly developing regions in the world. A major downside to this development is that we are losing natural areas that support birds and wildlife. In



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

Wood Ducks are the most spectacular duck in Northern Virginia. They nest high in trees in wooded swamps. The ducklings jump out of the nest just a day after hatching then join their parents on a trek to the nearest water.



PHOTO CREDIT TONI GENBERG

NVBA's Wildlife Sanctuary program offers trained naturalists who provide advice on habitat improvements to homeowners, churches, HOAs and small businesses. Those who take the Healthy Yard Pledge and succeed in attracting key species to their property receive certification as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

the last few decades, we have lost the bobwhite quail as a breeding bird in northern Virginia and we no longer hear its namesake whistle in our neighborhoods.

"Similarly, the wood thrush used to provide a familiar and lovely song that is increasingly rare to hear anywhere near Washington, D.C., where it is the official bird." Butcher is



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

The Prothonotary Warbler nests in swampy woodlands, including in nearby Huntley Meadows Park. Its numbers are declining due to the loss of forested wetlands in the United States and in the mangroves of its wintering grounds in Central and South America.

the retired Migratory Species Coordinator for U.S. Forest Service International Programs and former Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society.

He continued, "Our parks provide our best chance to maintain healthy bird populations. We need to add more parks, increase their sizes and promote their natural values.

"Both grassland birds and forest-interior birds require large patches of habitat to survive and breed. These large habitat patches are the first to disappear during urbanization. Species like bobwhite quail and wood thrush are at risk when these large habitat patches disappear."

WHY CARE ABOUT BIRDS?

"Many studies have shown that exposure to nature contributes to human health and happiness," Butcher said. "Birds are especially important because they provide both visual and aural beauty.

"In addition, birds are easy-to-measure indicators of the health of the environment. Birds need many of the same natural elements that humans need, so when bird populations decline, it's a warning that human wellbeing is also at risk."

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

With a 44-year history, the organization, newly renamed Northern Virginia Bird Alliance, offers educational programs on birds, conservation and natural history and leads walks. Their Stretch Our Parks initiative



PHOTO BY TOMICAH TILLEMANN

These young birders, from left, Nero Disparte, Lincoln Tillemann and Ryan Weber, at Huntley Meadows Park are participating in a Birdathon, NVBA's annual fundraising campaign. Teams compete to see how many bird species they can find in one day in northern Virginia and how much money they can raise for the organization. This year's winning team found 124 species in one day.



PHOTO BY TANIA ROMERO GONZALEZ

NVBA volunteers prepare to tackle invasive plants at the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Left to right: Judy Gallagher, NVBA Board; Isaiah, OBNWR staff member; Jerry Touvall, Vice President, NVBA; Gail Youngken, OBNWR Visitor Services Specialist; Libby Lyons, President, NVBA; Andreas Seiter, NVBA Board.

works with people to expand the ecological impacts of parks beyond their borders and into surrounding neighborhoods. The Wildlife Sanctuary Program offers trained ambassadors to help property owners restore natural habitat, including free on-site visits.

The Advocacy Committee works with

elected and other officials and "sister" organizations on local, state and federal policies to preserve and restore wildlife, habitats and ecosystems.

For more information and to join, visit www.nvbirdalliance.org or email president@nvba.org. Annual dues are \$20.

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Advocating for Plant Based Meals in Schools

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Cheyenne Klapper was in 8th grade when she watched a documentary entitled “Cowspiracy.”

“I didn’t realize I was doing so much harm eating meat, and I said ‘I can’t purchase meat again.’” So Klapper went home and told her mother. “My mom said, ‘this won’t last.’” But now five years later her mom is cooking two plant-based meals a week. Klapper says, “I don’t miss meat; I just think of what the industrial animal goes through.”

Klapper has graduated from Arlington Tech High School and is on the national Plant Powered Youth Steering Committee who recently visited Capitol Hill and agencies to participate in the Steering Committee fly-in. Their purpose was to advocate for nutritious, climate-friendly plant-based meals in schools. This is a joint project of Chilis on Wheels and Friends of the Earth.

Klapper was armed with her fact sheet against HR1147, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, which would return whole dairy milk to school meals. She says whole milk is a source of high saturated fat and unnecessary and unhealthy for a child’s health. There is a fact sheet on HR3276, the Healthy Future Students and Earth Act, which they support that would create a pilot program to provide healthy climate-friendly plant-based meals in the nation’s public schools. She visited Sen. Tim Kaine and Sen. Mark Warner’s offices as well as Congressman Don Beyer.

“The meeting with Beyer everything was perfect; they were also opposed to HR 1147 and supportive of HR 3276 but at Senator Kane’s office they were inclined to support HR 1147.

“The meetings with the agencies were frustrating. One of the main issues is equity. The Department of Agriculture subsidizes dairy and meat. The lady said that everything on school lunches has to come from American farmers but I said because they subsidize meat, not blueberries, that’s what is on the school menus. ... She just didn’t understand.”

“And at EPA they just kept saying they couldn’t do anything; go talk to Congress. But they can do a lot of things with the laws in place. We just kept talking in a loop.”

In the process Klapper realized that she had felt this experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity. “But it is accessible to lobby. I realized I want to be a lawyer focusing on policy and advocacy and restorative justice.”

Klapper’s project on the Steering Committee is to advocate for plant-based meals in schools and to get a pilot project started at Arlington Tech. She says there were a few students when she was in high school who liked plant-based food but weren’t vegans like her. Klapper adds the idea is to find the meal they like the best. You could have a tofu scramble with potatoes or quinoa with lentils and broccoli or an Impossible burger.

I have been working with Amy Maclosky,



Cheyenne Klapper (front right) with other members of the Plant Powered Youth Steering Committee on Capitol Hill visits in June.



Cheyenne Klapper sits at Compass Coffee drinking her green Matcha, made with powdered dried green tea leaves and mixed with oat milk.

the Director of Arlington’s Food and Nutrition Services, who is open to the idea. She says obstacles are not enough time and money. But the good news is that the Arlington County goal is 50 percent from scratch

cooking for the school meals, and there is a meeting in August to discuss the idea of a plant-based pilot project.

“It takes a lot to do something like this. The main issue is parents complaining about the plant-based options not being nutritionally adequate so I’m doing a lot of research now so I can document the nutrition in plant-based foods. During this process I’ve learned about the power of parents complaining. They took chicken nuggets off the menu because of parental complaints.

She adds that there are a lot of opportunities to get wider acceptance of plant-based meals. “I briefly thought about joining the military — you know there are no plant based MRE choices.

“And you could also offer food delivery options for plant-based meals.

Klapper will leave for the University of Virginia on Aug. 19 where she plans to continue her advocacy for plant-based foods on the school menu there.

“When I was visiting UVA there was only one plant-based choice on the lunch menu, and I had to wait 40 minutes for a tofu scramble for breakfast. The food there is disgusting. But I’m going to continue my advocacy there. This is important to me.”

Another Why Me ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... but not what you think. Once again, this ‘why me’ has nothing to do with cancer. It has to do with emails that I am receiving almost daily, including weekends. The email is addressed to me; ‘Dear Kenneth’ is how they begin. This recurring appearance in my inbox is being sent by alerts@neighborhoodalerts.com. What they are emailing to me are police-type reports, if not copies of the actual documents, of “non-violent crimes” in our community: thefts, car break-ins, robberies in homes, in addition to rather helpful advisories: flood watch, excessive heat warnings, properties for sale, permits applied for, and any buildings/new construction proposed. In summary, I am receiving unsolicited news of our community’s goings on, the good, the bad, and the ugly, with apologies to Clint Eastwood and director Sergio Leone.

On the face of it, “Not horrible,” which is exactly how are neighbor, Robert, described to us over the phone, the damage caused by a large tree that crashed into our house while we were away on vacation. But what bothers me most about this almost daily news feed, is the overwhelming percentage of these communiques have to do with crime. And from the consistency of the reporting of break-ins, car thefts, and all manner of relatively non-violent behaviors, I can’t help feeling victimized even though I have not been, nor witnessed, or heard firsthand of any of these kinds of activities. Moreover, I just can’t believe there’s this much crime in my little corner of Montgomery County. And yet, every morning, or nearly so, I am the recipient of this drumbeat of low crimes and misdemeanors occurring practically under my nose. It’s as if I’m part of an email group that includes the police commissioner, captain at my nearby police station along with his chief of detectives, the desk Sergeant and so on who should receive and/or are on a need-to-know basis, whereas I’m neither part of the police and/or really don’t need-to-know, this much. I’ve asked many of my neighbors if anybody else is receiving the daily updates that I am. No one is receiving these emails. Ergo, ‘why me?’

This must be an error, right? I’m of two minds on the matter (I am married to a Gemini, after all); either there’s this much crime occurring - for which I see or hear no evidence, and I’m lucky to even be hearing about it or, I’m unlucky to be hearing about it because what I wouldn’t have known couldn’t hurt me. But now, I know. Or do I?

It just seems that if crime was as rampant as this ‘service’ infers that it is, I would have heard about elsewhere, like from a person first, not a ‘service.’ But to quote the great Sergeant Schultz from “Hogan’s Heroes:” “I see nothing.” Perhaps, I’m playing the innocent here because I’ve never heard of nor requested (signed up) for this so-called service. Yet here I sit, computer in hand (on desk, actually) and there the email arrives - from alerts. More unpleasant activities that’s fit to email.

What am I to make of this outreach? Why am I the one being informed? If this is a phishing expedition, where’s the bait? I’ve not been asked for money, but maybe simply clicking on this email is somehow causing me problems even though I’ve never responded. I sure hope my curiosity isn’t going to get the best of my bank account.

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

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

ENTERTAINMENT

CENTERS FOR OPPORTUNITY ARLINGTON

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

ARLINGTON ARTISTS ALLIANCE OPENS BOUTIQUE GALLERY

The nonprofit organization Arlington Artists Alliance (AAA) announces a new boutique gallery space opened on July 18. The Alliance Gallery is located at 2700 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 330, in The Crossing Clarendon in the breezeway between SoulCycle and Chip City. The gallery is open from Thursday-Sunday from 12 p.m.-6 p.m., with free entry.

The inaugural Alliance Gallery show runs from July 18- Aug. 18. Entitled Ad Astra Per Aspera, this group show features Eleftheria Easley, Justyne Fischer, Pedro Ledesma III, Anna Nazaretz Radjou, and Nicole Tobin. Curated by Christina Papanicolaou, the show embodies themes of empowerment through textile art, collage, print, and photography. The works confront a range of social and personal challenges, such as gender and racial inequality, the fight for self-empowerment, and the struggle to connect in the digital age.

An opening reception for the Alliance Gallery will be held on Thursday, Aug. 1 from 5-7 p.m. The reception includes complimentary food and beverages, and live music. The reception is free and open to the public.

From Aug. 29 through Oct. 6, a juried show for AAA artists is planned, with local visual artist Yigit Cakar serving as jurist. This fall, from October 17-November 24th, another juried exhibition open to artists from across the region will be juried by Rosemary Feit Covey.

THURSDAYS THRU NOV. 21

Ballston Farmers Market, Thursdays from 3-7 p.m. At Welburn Square, near Ballston Metro, Arlington. More than 20 vendors in Ballston – both fan-favorites and newcomers. This year also sees the return of the Mega Markets – sponsored this season by VIDA Fitness. Mega Markets feature the addition of live music from local musicians and a Beer and Wine Garden.

THRU AUG. 23

Fridays at the Fountain. At the Water Park, National Landing, Arlington. Step into the rhythm of summer every Friday thru Aug. 23 at Water Park. This free concert series features a range of musical talent from all around the region. Feast on food and drink at one of the area's best new outdoor food halls as you groove to soul, salsa, and more!

WEDNESDAY/JULY 31

Vessels & Passages - A Poetry Series. 7-8 p.m. At Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. A monthly poetry series hosted at the Museum of



The Crossing Clarendon has opened at 2700 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 330, in Arlington.

Contemporary Art Arlington in the Tiffany Gallery. Vessels and Passages features established poets, who will share their work and facilitate open discussions with the public. The series will also support student and local emerging poet programs in the greater DC area to enable their work to be shared as well. Just like in the visual arts, poets need space to share their creativity, and this series will provide that space.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Dark Star Park Day. At 9:32 a.m. At 1655 N. Fort Myer Drive (at the convergence of N. Fort Myer Drive and N. Lynn Street, Arlington). An Arlington tradition for four decades, the public is invited to the 40th annual Dark Star Park Day to watch the shadow alignment that the sculpture was designed to capture. In honor of the year-long celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Arlington's internationally acclaimed collection of contemporary public art, this year's event will be augmented by an official County proclamation and the debut of a new poem by Courtney LeBlanc, the third Poet Laureate of Arlington County, commissioned to honor Dark Star Park and the work of artist Nancy Holt. Every Aug. 1, at approximately 9:32 a.m., Nancy Holt's Dark Star Park (1979-84) performs a special effect. Shadows cast by the spheres and poles of this outdoor sculpture align with their permanent forms on the ground, marking the moment of Rosslyn's founding.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 7

Coffee and Conversation with Arlington Neighborhood Village. 10-11 a.m. Featuring GMU cultural historian Michael O'Malley who

explores the history of racial classification. His most recent book, *The Color of Family: History, Race and the Politics of Ancestry*, uses an incident in his family history to examine how authority over identity has shifted from community, to state and federal administrative records, to commercial genealogical companies, like Ancestry.com. He discusses whether this a benign development or a threat.

SATURDAY/AUG. 10

Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Sponsored by the Capital City Showcase. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle! The headliner for August's show is the hilarious musical comedy duo B.U.S.S.I.!

THRU AUG. 23

Mason Exhibitions Presents A Closer Look: Conflicted Art from Ukraine. At Mason Exhibitions Arlington, 3601 Fairfax Drive, Arlington. Curated by Sophie Bae with Conflicted Art's Yevgen Nemchenko, the exhibition offers a nuanced exploration of the impact of war through the lens of contemporary Ukrainian artists. It is easy to feel overwhelmed and detached from the deeper questions surrounding the persistence of war in the 21st century. A Closer Look: Conflicted Art from Ukraine seeks to bridge that gap by showcasing the work of 13 Ukrainian artists who confront head-on the experiences of direct conflict. Through photography, video, painting, sculpture, literature, and installation, these artists offer a multifaceted perspective from the fringes of this conflict. Their



The seventh Arlington Visual Art Studio Tour takes place Sept. 21-22, 2024 at 59 art studios in Arlington.

works invite viewers to engage in dialogue beyond statistics and headlines and to examine core issues of existence distorted by violence and uncertainty.

FRIDAY/AUG. 23

Summer Concert Series. The U.S. Air Force Band returns to the Air Force Memorial in Arlington. Free and open to the public.

Friday, Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. - Airmen of Note

Friday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Air Force Birthday Concert.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

Summerdance 2024 Film Festival. 2-6 p.m. At Regent Theatre in Arlington. This inaugural event will feature seven short premiere films to celebrate the collective talent of New England filmmakers. Red carpet cocktails and networking begins at 2 p.m., followed by films and Q&A at 3 p.m. Organizer Gabrielle Rosson said Summerdance is a curated event with filmmakers selected based on the scope of their work and whether the film has been previously screened.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Girls Try Hockey for Free Day. Registration is now open for the NHL's Washington Capitals DMV Girls Try Hockey For Free Day, taking place at 18 rinks across Virginia and Maryland on Saturday, Sept. 14. Participating clubs in Virginia include: Arlington, Va. - Caps Academy (at MedStar Capitals Iceplex in Arlington, VA)

Haymarket, Va. - the Piedmont Predators (at Haymarket IcePlex in Haymarket, VA),

Leesburg, Va. - the Loudoun Knights (at Ion ITC in Leesburg, VA)

Reston, Va. - the Reston Raiders (at Skatequest in Reston, VA)

Richmond, Va. - the Richmond Generals (at Richmond Ice Zone in North Chesterfield, VA)

Springfield, Va. - The St. James (at The St. James in Springfield, VA)

Virginia Beach, Va. - the Hampton Roads Junior Admirals (at Iceland in Virginia Beach, VA)

Woodbridge, Va. - the Potomac Lady Patriots (at Prince William Ice Center in Woodbridge, VA)

About the Initiative:

DMV Girls Try Hockey for Free is a program that provides local girls ages 4-9 the chance to try hockey during a one-to-two-hour ice session at no cost.

Required equipment is loaned to participants through the local youth hockey organization.

Interested families can register at capsyouthhockey.com/girlsthff Try Hockey for Free days also provide local youth hockey associations with a platform and opportunity to acquire new players locally and engage interested families into youth hockey programs across the region.

Last year, more than 300 girls ages 4-9 tried hockey for the first time through the event, and more than 30% of girls registered to continue to play.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show. 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. The Capital City Showcase, which produces some of the best events in the D.C. area, returns with its new one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle. Hosted by Christian Hunt, this experience features comedy from the DC area's finest comics. The headliner for September's show is the hilarious Jenny Questell.

SEPT. 21-22

STUDIO TOUR, 59 Arlington Art Studios to Open to Public. This year will mark the seventh Arlington Visual Art Studio Tour, which is a joint effort of independent artists and volunteers, supported by contributors including Schnider Investment Group and Dominion Lighting, and in cooperation with Arlington's visual art organizations. The Tour is a community-building event that allows visitors to discover the artists who are also their neighbors. The Tour will publish names, locations and opening hours of participating artists, so that anyone can create their own itinerary to meet the artists in their maker spaces and see their work. Studios in South Arlington will open Saturday Sept. 21, and those in North Arlington, on Sunday Sept. 22. This year, the assortment of artwork includes painting, assemblage, collage, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture, weaving and fiber, drawing, paper-cutting, glass, metalwork, calligraphy and jewelry. Visit <https://www.arlingtonartstudiotour.org>.