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'Missing Middle' Critics Aim to Rally the Troops Despite Mobilization of Opposition, County Board Seems Likely to Move Ahead

SCOTT McCAFFREY
Staff Writer

It's an uphill battle, but those who oppose planned Missing Middle housing changes – or just want the process slowed down to allow for clarification and refinement – rallied Jan. 8 to press their case.

The goal of presenting an “honest and

factual conversation” stood in contrast to the county government’s questionable statements and moving of goalposts, said Julie Lee, president of the Glencarlyn Civic Association.

“Over and over, county officials have said this is not an across-the-board up-zoning – but that’s exactly where we are,” said Lee, part of a coalition of 16 civic-as-

sociation presidents who have been meeting with county leaders on the issue.

Missing Middle aims to largely overhaul the century-old Arlington zoning map; some advocates have pressed for a wholesale elimination of single-family zoning and allowing as many as eight units to be shoehorned on lots that currently permit one.

Supporters say the change will help rectify past ills and increase availability of housing options; critics say it is a ready-fire-aim approach that lacks nuance or an understanding of the real-world implications.

The Jan. 8 event was sponsored by two

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EYES ON A PIN!

Yorktown High School's Chris Cobey, left, has George C. Marshall High School's Daniel Miller in a pinning position during a 132-pound match Jan. 4 in Liberty District wrestling action. Cobey eventually won by a major decision, but Marshall won the team title. See a slide show of photos at <https://sungazette.news> and full coverage of both wrestling and other high-school sports activity inside.

PHOTO BY DEB KOLT

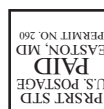
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Arlington Notes

POST OFFICE RENAMING SIGNED INTO LAW: A dedication ceremony is likely to be held in springtime now that legislation renaming an Arlington post office after a long-time letter-carrier has been enacted into law.

The legislation, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8th), honors the late Jesus Collazos, an immigrant who worked for the Postal Service for nearly 25 years before retirement.

He served residents, including his own family, living in the coverage areas of the post office at 2200 North George Mason Drive.

Collazos, who was fighting cancer, died of COVID-19 in the early days of the pandemic. He and his wife, Luz Miriam, had two children, Vanessa and Michael.

The bill (HR 7082) passed the House of Representatives on a unanimous voice vote and then was incorporated into the \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending package enacted into law in the waning days of the last congressional session.

With the signature of President Biden, the post office formally became the Jesus Antonio Collazos Post Office Building.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR 'EMPTY BOWLS' FUND-RAISER: Tickets are now on sale for the Arlington Food Assistance Center's (AFAC) "Empty Bowls" fund-raiser, to be held on Feb. 12 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4000 Locom Lane.

Attendees will enjoy soups made by chefs from local restaurants, served in hand-thrown bowls created by local artists, and will be able to take home the bowls as a gift.

There will be two sittings, 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. All proceeds will benefit AFAC's efforts providing healthy food to those in need across the community.

Tickets are \$45 each; children under 5 are admitted free. For information, see the Website at www.afac.org.

The 2023 event marks the return of Empty Bowls in an in-person setting for the first time since the pandemic.

FUND-RAISING EFFORTS BOOST HISTORICAL-MUSEUM RENOVATION: The Arlington Historical Society garnered \$2,900 during its first participation in the "Giving Tuesday" international philanthropic initiative, held in November.

"Our goal was to raise both money and awareness, and we succeeded in doing both," organization officials said. "We hope we can convert some of the people who 'liked' and shared [on social media] into future members."

The initiative is part of increased fund-raising operations as the historical society begins a planned major renovation of its museum, located in the former Hume School on Arlington Ridge Road.

In addition, the society garnered \$2,018 to support the effort through an online sale of holiday wreaths, which took the place of the traditional partnership between the historical society and Aurora

Hills Women's Club, which has long supported the organization but this year was unable to run its own wreath sale.

"Aurora Hills Women's Club is a great club, and we are thankful for all they do for the historical society and other Arlington non-profits," society officials said, noting the cumulative support of more than \$80,000 over the years in support of renovation efforts.

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

COALITION OF BLACK CLERGY TO HOST DR. KING CELEBRATION: The Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy will host a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Monday, Jan. 16 at Mount Olive Baptist Church, 1601 13th Road South.

Hosted by Rev. James Victor of Mount Olive and Black Coalition of Black Clergy president Rev. Delishia Davis, the event will begin with a community workshop at 10 a.m. followed by the program at 11 a.m.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Otis Moss Jr., pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church of Cleveland.

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

EFFORT AIMS TO CONNECT STUDENTS WITH BOOKS CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: To mark the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, "Mirror and Reflection Corners" will be created at a number of Arlington elementary schools to showcase the positive impacts of diversity.

Local residents are being asked to donate books to the effort, which will focus on eight Arlington elementary schools with a large population of students living in under-served communities.

"Each corner will be created to renew the love of reading," organizers said. "There is no better way to accomplish this goal than with literature which truly represents who students are as individuals. Reading about people who look like them and live where they live will engage their imagination, joy of history and love of self."

The effort is led by the mother-daughter duo of Nadia and Arrington Conyers, authors of the children's book "From Lee Highway to Langston Boulevard."

There are two ways to donate:

- Order from the gift registry online at <https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/30G427KNLUA3G/guest-view>.

- Drop off a book that celebrates diversity on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday during the Representation Matters book drive on Monday, Jan. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2614 18th St. South in Arlington.

"Join us in building cultural consciousness and curiosity among students and celebrating diversity in children's literature and storytelling," organizers said.

Looking for more news of Arlington people, places and things? "Arlington Notes II" is found on Page 9!