

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Toward The Holidays, Gingerly

GIFT IDEAS IN 'E', PAGE 9

Open Homes, Open Hearts

NEWS PAGE 3

Spreading the Hockey Gospel

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School Plan Still Worries Parents

NEWS, PAGE 3

Gingerbread houses from the Heidelberg Bakery located at 2150 N. Culpepper St. in Arlington.

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Get the Inside Scoop On Our Underground Power Line.

Dominion Virginia Power is committed to providing safe and reliable power to customers. As the demand for electricity has steadily grown in the northern Arlington area, it has become necessary for Dominion to add to our network for transporting and delivering power to local homes and businesses. Several of our existing substations require alternative sources of power to increase reliability, and the Clarendon area requires additional substation facilities to meet the growing demand for power.

Over the next six months, Dominion Virginia Power will continue with upgrades to the transmission facilities in Arlington County, VA.

Stop by our neighborhood meeting to learn more about the lines being installed underground and what this project will mean for you and your community.

Information Meeting

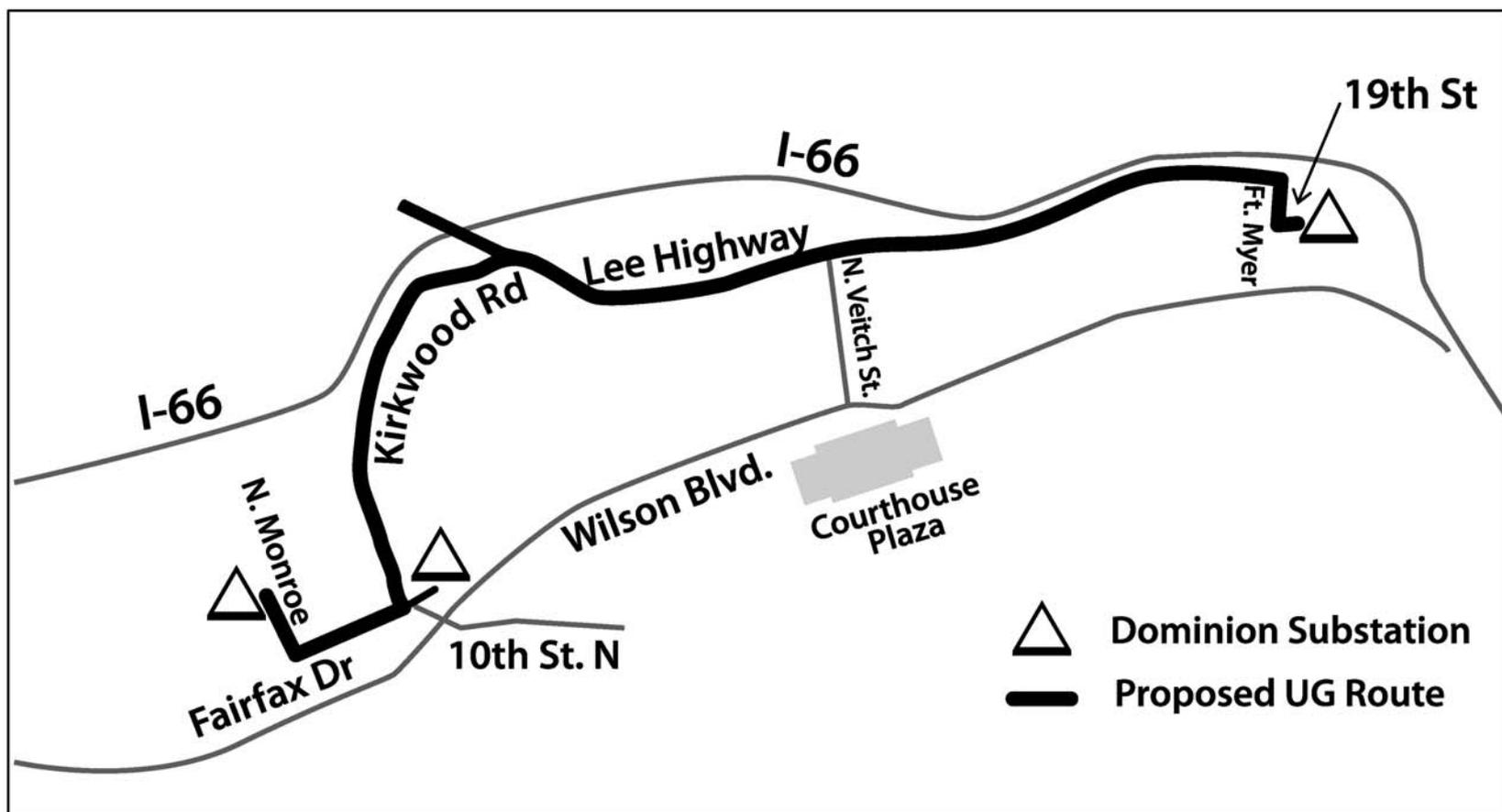
Tuesday, Dec. 2nd

7:30 p.m.

Lyon Village Community House

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Arlington, VA 22201



For more information, please visit our website at www.dom.com and search: Arlington
Or call 888-291-0190 Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Crowding Plan Worries Parents

Proposal to reduce crowding could bring significant changes to local elementary schools.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Michael Strazzella has a daughter in first grade at Nottingham Elementary School in North Arlington. He loves the school and hopes to send his two year old there in a few years.

However, due to a spike in enrollment, Strazzella may not get to do that. His family's home is located in a part of the county that could be affected by Arlington Public Schools' ongoing efforts to alleviate overcrowding in North Arlington elementary schools.

Last week, Superintendent Robert Smith proposed a plan to move 176 students — one of which would be

Strazzella's daughter — from Nottingham, Long Branch and Oakridge Elementary Schools to Taylor and Hoffman-Boston Elementary Schools.

"There's no way around it. We need more space."

— Assistant Superintendent Meg Tuccillo

"We've invested ourselves in Nottingham," Strazzella said. "We moved because of Nottingham. Taylor is a great school but I'd hate to see her leave."

ALONG WITH many other Nottingham parents, Strazzella has reservations about Smith's proposal, which is subject to approval by the School Board. In addition to moving the 176 students, Smith is also recommending moving preschool and arts programs in elementary schools and using modular classrooms, also known as trailers.

His proposal came in response to a spike in enrollment that has occurred at many North Arlington elementary schools in recent years. Smith said that growth in enrollment for this year was double what school administrators predicted. "At the current rate, we will run out of elementary space in 2011,"

SEE MOVING STUDENTS, PAGE 17

Open Homes and Open Hearts

Arlington teacher exemplifies struggles and rewards of being a foster parent.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Amada Wells is a happy, healthy three year old. She likes to watch Dora the Explorer on television and has a poster above her play area of someone she calls "Rock Obama." Her shyness around strangers is betrayed by an infectious, cherubic smile that she can't hide when she's feeling playful.

Amada is too young to remember that her life wasn't always this idyllic. When she was five months old, a social worker took her away from her birth mother and placed her into foster care. Amada's mother suffered from mental illness and was no longer able to take care of her.

She was placed with Katina Wells, a 35-year-old special education teacher at Barcroft Elementary School in Arlington. The day the Arlington County Foster Care Program contacted Wells was the day before the one-year anniversary of her father's death. She had taken time off from work to be alone when she got the call about Amada.

"Should I do this?" Wells asked herself. Even though Wells was still in mourning over her father, she decided to take Amada into her Alexandria apartment. When she went to pick Amada up, there was an instant connection. "Look, I'm here to take pretty good care of care of you," she told the five month old.



PHOTO BY DAVID SCHULTZ/THE CONNECTION

Three-year-old Amada Wells reads a book to her adoptive mother Katina.

"Please don't give me a hard time." Amada looked at her and nodded.

The next day, Wells contracted an intense stomach virus and was in and out of the bathroom all night. Despite being away from her mother in a new situation, Amada was peaceful throughout. "She'd be in her seat and she'd be wonderful," Wells recalled.

"She slept all night. She really understood me."

WELLS, WITH a wide smile and a thick New York accent from her formative years spent growing up in the Bronx, is an example of the dedication and compassion

SEE FOSTER CHILDREN, PAGE 6

Veteran Delegate Gets Challenger

Eisenberg challenged by environmental activist, not saying whether he will seek reelection.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Al Eisenberg, a five-year member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Arlington's 47th district, will be challenged for the Democratic nomination by 31-year-old environmental activist and blogger Miles Grant.

In an interview last week, Grant, a first-time public-office seeker, said that he was running because "Richmond is behind the times" on the issue of climate change. It's an issue that has local as well as global effects, he said.

"The more I worked about global warming, I realized it's about the Chesapeake Bay and electric bills," Grant said. "The one thing I would do in Richmond would be to reach across the aisle. I don't care what you think about global warming. I care what you think about how energy bills went up 18 percent in September. It's more of an economic issue than an environmental issue."

Eisenberg was surprised by the news of Grant's candidacy. "I've never heard of him before," he said. "He never called me so I don't have any idea what it's about. ... I'm not paying much attention to it."

Eisenberg, 62, also said that he has not

yet decided whether he will seek reelection next year. "I'm not generally in the framework of indicating what I might or might not do," he said. "All of this is premature. ... We're still months away from the New Year. ... I can't speculate about what the future's going to be. I haven't decided what I'm going to do today or down the road, frankly."

BEFORE BEING ELECTED to the General Assembly in 2003, Eisenberg worked in the U.S. Department of Transportation during the Clinton administration and, before that, was a 15-year member of the Arlington County Board.

Eisenberg won his 2003 election with 65 percent of the vote and ran unopposed in

SEE CHALLENGER, PAGE 20

Marine Killed in Hit and Run

Maddison Peterson, a 22-year-old active duty Marine stationed in Washington D.C., was killed in Arlington earlier this month in what police believe was a hit and run.

Peterson's body was found in the northbound lane of Jefferson Davis Highway near I-395 at just after 9 p.m. on Nov. 8. The driver of a Ford Mustang that had hit him told police that he had been lying in the middle of the road when he was struck.

Arlington Police spokesperson Crystal Nosal said that, based on examination of Peterson's body, police believe that Peterson was struck by another car before being hit by the Mustang. Nosal said that first car, which police believe was a larger vehicle such as an SUV, did not stop after hitting Peterson.

Peterson had turned 22 years old only four days before being killed, Nosal said. He was stationed at the Marine Barracks in Washington but was being transferred to another post. His father had come to town to help him with the move and was staying at a hotel in Crystal City.

On the night of the 8th, the two were having drinks in the bar of the Crystal City Marriott, located at 1999 Jefferson Davis Highway. Peterson got into an argument with one of the patrons of the bar, Nosal said, and abruptly left. "He walked off to cool off," she said. "If he got upset he would like to walk."

Police are trying to determine when Peterson was last seen alive. Anyone who has any information about Peterson's whereabouts on the night he was killed should call the Arlington County Police Department at 703-558-2222.

— DAVID SCHULTZ

I-66 Crash Kills Two

A 17-year-old driving in the wrong direction on eastbound I-66 collided head-on into another car earlier this week, killing two of its passengers and injuring a third. Alcohol is believed to be a factor in the crash.

The crash occurred around 2 a.m. on Nov. 17 in Arlington near the Washington Boulevard exit of I-66. The 17-year-old was driving westbound on the eastbound lanes of the highway in a 1997 Mitsubishi Eclipse with a 17-year-old passenger. Their car collided with a 2003 Toyota Corolla carrying a male driver and two female passengers.

All five people involved in the crash were taken to Fairfax INOVA Hospital. The two female passengers in the Corolla died at the hospital. The driver of the Corolla and the two 17-year-olds, both of whom were from Fairfax County, sustained non-life threatening injuries.

Virginia State Police did not release the names of the victims in the crash pending the notification of their next of kin. Police also did not release the names of the 17-year-olds because, Police spokesperson Corrine Geller said, charges are pending against the two minors.

The crash caused all eastbound lanes of I-66 to be shutdown for several hours early Monday morning. The lanes were reopened to traffic by 4:50 a.m.

—DAVID SCHULTZ

Former School Board Member Runs for Attorney General

David Foster, a former member of the Arlington School Board, announced this week that he will be running for the Republican nomination for Virginia Attorney General.

Foster was first elected to the Arlington School Board in 1999. Throughout his tenure on the board, Foster was the only elected official in Arlington not affiliated with the local Democratic Party. (By law, School Board candidates cannot be nominated by a political party and must run as Independents.)

Foster stepped down from the board at the beginning of this year after serving two full terms. An Arlington native, he is currently a lawyer with the D.C.-based law firm Fulbright & Jaworski.

Foster will be going up against State Sen. Ken Kuccinelli (R-37) and former U.S. Attorney John Brownlee for the Republican nomination. Roanoke trial lawyer John Fishwick is the only candidate to have announced so far for the Democratic nomination. The primary election in this race will be held on June 9.

SEE WEEK IN ARLINGTON, PAGE 20

NEWS

Schools Look for New Chief

Search firm hired, committee to be formed to replace superintendent.

By DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

A framework has been developed to make what School Board Chairman Ed Fendley described as "one of the most important decisions we'll be making": the selection of a new Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools.

A nationwide search will be conducted for a replacement for current Superintendent Robert Smith. Smith, who became superintendent in 1997, announced earlier this year that he would be stepping down at the end of this school year.

The School Board has hired Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, a headhunting firm based out of Illinois, for a fee of \$45,000 to conduct the search for the new chief of Arlington Public Schools. Hazard Young specializes in superintendent searches. They were involved in the selection of Jack Dale as superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools four years ago and also worked with Alexandria Public Schools earlier this year to select their current superintendent, Sherman Morton.

Hank Bangser, the CEO of Hazard Young, said that Arlington is in a good position to hire a new superintendent because of its location near a large city, its moderate size and its history of high performance. "Therein lies the great foundation for recruitment," he said.

John Connolly, also with Hazard Young, added, "I view Arlington as not a stepping stone district."

IN THE NEXT several weeks, Bangser and Connolly, both former superintendents themselves, will be forming a committee that will come up with the qualities of an ideal superintendent. These qualities will be synthesized into a document called a Leadership Profile that will be used in the recruitment process.

"The purpose of the Profile is to engage the community in the process," Connolly told the School Board. "You're giving ownership and voice to the community. ... You're going to be surprised as to the consensus they will have."

The committee will consist of 35 people and will include teachers, principals, parents, students, community members and clergy. Bangser and Connolly also plan to hold public forums later this year in which anyone from the community can weigh in on what their expectations are for the next superintendent.

Bangser and Connolly also said that they hope to form the committee in the next several weeks and

complete the Leadership Profile before the end of the year. If this schedule is adhered to, the Arlington School Board could hire a new superintendent before spring break, they said.

BANGSER AND CONNOLLY emphasized that the search for the new superintendent will be strictly confidential. After the Leadership Profile is completed and they begin their recruitment process, no details of their potential candidates will be made available to the public.

"There is a direct relationship between the degree of confidentiality and the quality of the pool," Connolly said. This level of secrecy is, in part, to make the position more appealing to candidates who may not want to be subject to media scrutiny before accepting the job, Bangser said. "If you put yourself out there as a candidate," he said, "It's tough. It's hard on their family. It does have a direct impact on the pool."

Bangser also said that diversity would be one of their priorities in searching for candidates. "I think we'll get a true mix of people, both racially and gender-wise," he said.

School Board Member Frank Wilson said that the appearance of a contentious School Board could make Arlington Public Schools less attractive to potential superintendents. "One of our neighboring jurisdictions had a problem with an internal board fight and that didn't look too good," Wilson said.

The consultants both agreed that it is much more difficult to recruit a superintendent who will have to work with a School Board in disharmony. But Connolly said that any candidate would have to have a certain amount of "boardsmanship," a term he used to describe the ability of a superintendent to find consensus among the School Board.

Ultimately, Connolly said, the School Board needs to sell Arlington as a good place to be a superintendent just as much as the candidates need to sell themselves to the School Board. "What you're going through is somewhat of a marriage," he said. "You're not only looking for what they can do for you but they're looking at what you can do for them."

"There is a direct relationship between the degree of confidentiality and the quality of the pool."

— Hank Bangser,
Hazard, Young, Attea
and Associates

More

For more information, visit Arlington Public Schools' Web site, www.apsva.us, to find the Superintendent Search page.

BUSINESS NOTES

Know of something missing from our Business Notes? Send it to *The Arlington Connection*, e-mail it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions.

Responding to demand for its flexible office programs, **Preferred Offices** will open its ninth Washington D.C. area business center in Rosslyn. Potomac Tower will be located at 1001 North 19th

St. in Rosslyn.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Arlington welcomes new sales associate June Ventura.

Rotary Club of Rosslyn-Fort Myer meets for lunch on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn's Vantage Point Restaurant, 1900 Fort Myer Drive.

All Rotarians are welcome to join in the fellowship. Rotary is a community

service organization made up of business professionals dedicated to service above self. Contact Chris Zabriskie at 240-346-4237 or czabriskie@ix.netcom.com.

On Sept. 9, Arlington resident **Amy Kowalski** joined Jockey Person to Person as a direct sales consultant. Kowalski offers women's apparel, sleepwear and activewear in a home party setting. Contact anmswk@verizon.net.

CRIME

The following reports come from the Arlington police department. For the most up-to-date crime reports, visit www.Co.Arlington.Va.Us/police and click on daily crime report.

ROBBERY, 1800 block of S. Joyce St. On Nov. 6 at 8 p.m., a woman was walking and using her cell phone when an unknown man ran up behind her. He grabbed her tote bag, and restrained her around the neck. She pushed him back, and he fled the area. The suspect is described as an African American male, 30's, and 5 feet 7 inches. He was last seen wearing a dark baseball cap, a black jacket and dark jeans.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING, 1600 block of N. Monroe St. At 1 a.m. on Nov. 9, a man was walking away from a party when a subject hit him in the head from behind with an unknown item. The victim knows the suspect's first name.

ATTEMPTED MALICIOUS WOUNDING-ARREST, 5000 block of S. Columbia Pike. At 9 p.m. on Nov. 8, police responded to the area for a disorderly male. Upon further investigation, officers discovered the suspect had attempted to stab two men that he did not know while in the parking lot. The suspect then assaulted a police officer and attempted to kick out the window of a police cruiser. A 28-year-old male, of no fixed address, was charged with two counts of attempted malicious wounding, assault on police, and destruction of property. He is being held without bond.

LARCENY FROM A PERSON, 1100 block of S. Hayes St. On Nov. 6 at 11 a.m., a man was sitting on a bench when a subject he did not know stole the laptop computer from his grasp. Police located the suspect directly afterward, and witnessed identified him. The suspect was a juvenile and charges are pending.

POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY-ARREST, 2200 block of S. Garfield St. On Nov. 6 at 10 a.m., police stopped a man driving a stolen vehicle. A 38-year-old Arlington man was charged with possession of stolen property and driving while revoked. He was held on a \$5,000 bond.

POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY-ARREST, I-395 South at Glebe Road. On Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m., police stopped a man driving a stolen vehicle. A 44-year-old man, of no fixed address, was charged with possession of stolen property and driving while suspended. He was held on a \$2,500 bond.

POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY-ARREST, 600 block of N. Glebe Road. On Nov. 11 at 4:30 p.m., police pulled over a vehicle with stolen license plates. A 26-year-old Sterling man was released on two summonses for possession of stolen property and driving while suspended.

POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE-ARREST, 1000 block of Washington Blvd. On Nov. 11 at 5 p.m., police pulled over a vehicle for being improperly registered. During the investigation officers found narcotics in the vehicle. A 28-year-old man, of Hyattsville, Md., was charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana. He was held on a \$3,500 bond.

COUNTERFEIT REGISTRATION-ARREST, 1800 block of Arlington Blvd. On Nov. 7 at 4:30 a.m., police stopped a car with counterfeit temporary tags. The suspect also had a counterfeit Maryland temporary registration. A 36-year-old man, of Bowie, Md., was charged with possession of a counterfeit registration, driving while suspended with notice, and possession of counterfeit temp tags. He is being held on a \$4,000 bond.

PETS OF THE WEEK

To meet these or any other animals available for adoption, visit 2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr., Arlington. It is open for viewing from noon-7 p.m. on weekdays (closed on Tuesdays) and noon-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Adoption requirements can be reviewed on the Web site at www.awla.org by clicking on "Adopt," as well as all pictures of all of the animals available for adoption. For more information, call 703-931-9241.

Oreo loves anyone that will give him attention. He's a very affectionate and friendly boy and he loves to talk too! Oreo does very well with children. Though he's lived with another cat, Oreo would probably prefer to be the only cat in your home. Come visit this very social, outgoing tabby and see what a wonderful companion he would make.



How could you resist a face like this? Raquel is a clever, quick cutie. She will undoubtedly keep you entertained with her spunky personality. She loves to zip around and play with her toys. Raquel would make a great walking partner as she has very nice leash manners, she will need about 1-2 hours of exercise per day. Stop by to meet this one-of-a-kind girl.



Nelson is an initially cautious dog, who warms up and becomes playful and engaging after a little bit of getting to know you. This is a very active, busy breed that needs a minimum of one hour of daily exercise (and he loves toys). He would do best, like most hounds, in a detached home, because he can be quite vocal.



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PEOPLE

Foster Children Being Adopted

FROM PAGE 3

that it takes to be a foster parent.

As the economy worsens, county officials predict that more and more children will be placed into foster care as a result of financial stresses. "We're really worried about foster care," county spokesperson Kurt Larrick said. "With the economy, there might be a lot more parents who throw up their hands and just can't deal with it."

Rosemary Hubbard, administrator of Arlington's Foster Care Program, said that there are currently 160 minors in the county's custody. "Our mandate is to try to help the biological families to improve the situation so [their children] can go home," she said. "If we can't do that, we look towards their relatives and then our third goal would be adoption."

Ten of Arlington's foster children were adopted last year and 10 more are currently in the adoption process, Hubbard said. In some cases, foster parents can become the adoptive parents of their foster children.

This is the course of action Wells took with Amada. After serving as her foster mother for nearly three years, Wells officially became Amada's adoptive mother this weekend in a ceremony at the Arlington County Courthouse.

"[Amada] has blossomed because of the attention and unconditional love that Katina provides," Arlington County social worker Jenna Duffy said at the ceremony.

BUT DESPITE the finalization of the adoption, Wells said that there would still be a place in Amada's life for her biological mother. She took Amada to her biological mother's family reunion picnic recently. "I still want you guys

in her life because I want her to know her family," she told Amada's biological mother. "There are things that you could explain to her that I wouldn't be able to."

While she retains all legal rights over Amada, Wells has given Amada's biological mother the option of seeing her once a month. "Sometimes she does and sometimes she doesn't," Wells said. "But I do

want her to be in her life."

Hubbard said that having some kind of contact with a foster child's birth mother is "very important" in making the transition for foster children less traumatic.

But maintaining a good relationship with Amada's birth mother hasn't always been easy,

Wells said. She can be very bitter towards Wells and often tries to tell her how Amada should be raised. But after taking a class in foster and adoptive parenting through the county, Wells knows not to take any of this personally.

A parent who had her children taken away from her explained to Wells why biological parents are often resentful towards their foster counterparts.

"[It's] just because we can't find anything wrong with what you're doing," she told Wells. "When the child is taken away from the parent, the parent feels very guilty. We don't have anyone else to lash out at so we lash out at the person who's taking care of our child."

Wells tries to reach out to Amada's biological mother, even though she has no obligation to do so, because she wants

Amada to know her identity as she grows older and to have a sense of background. "I want her to know that her Mom loved her so much that she gave her to me because she couldn't provide care at the time," she said.

IT IS WELLS' own background that spurred her to become a foster parent. When she was growing up in the Bronx, her cousin's sister was killed in a foster home after being beaten to death. "That told me that when I grew up and I was stable I would provide care for someone's child just to save their life so they wouldn't have to go through what my cousin's sister went through," Wells said.

Eleven years ago, Wells moved from New York to Northern Virginia to live with her sister. But only two weeks after she had left the Bronx, her sister kicked her out of her apartment after a disagreement. Knowing no one in the area and having no savings to fall back on, Wells moved into a homeless shelter.

"At first I was scared because you hear about these shelters in New York," she said. "But I was surprised. ... It was clean. It was really nice. You had to get out five hours a day to get a job. I was able to save money and not worry about having a roof over my head."

Wells spent a few months in the shelter and then moved into transitional housing, eventually finding her own apartment in Alexandria. She started her own successful in-home day care business and now works at Barcroft where she recently got a promotion.

"I had to go through that experience to make me what I am now," Wells said. "I didn't have to go to the shelter. I could have gone back to New York. But I didn't want to because ... I feel like I'd failed if I moved back."

NOW WELLS is the proud parent of a bright and loving three-year-old girl. At the adoption ceremony this weekend at the County Courthouse, Amada hid behind her new mother's leg as Judge Benjamin Kendrick recognized the two as a family in the eyes of the court.

"She's a model foster parent," Arlington County social worker N'Dorah Tarawally said. "I idolize her in a lot of ways."

Becoming a foster parent and adopting a child has impacted Wells' life just as much as it has Amada's. Wells said that she is looking to adopt more children and that her home will continue to be open to foster children who have nowhere else to turn. "I feel blessed," she said.

Foster Parenting

Arlington County needs foster parents. To become a foster parent, or to get more information about becoming a foster parent, call the Arlington County Foster Home Coordinator at 703-228-1550. If interested in becoming a foster parent, one will need to participate in a six-week orientation/training program and home study.

"I want her to know that her Mom loved her so much that she gave her to me because she couldn't provide care at the time."

— **Katina Wells**

"I idolize her in a lot of ways."

— **N'Dorah Tarawally, Arlington County social worker**

Getting To Know ...

Max Barger



PHOTO COURTESY REDMAN COMMUNICATIONS

Few people, if any, enjoy thinking about what will happen to their families after they die. But, according to local lawyer Max Barger, planning an estate can be one of the most important things anyone can do for their loved ones and for themselves.

Barger is an Arlington resident and an estate planner with the Bethesda-based law firm Paley Rothman. He was recently named the volunteer coordinator for the estate planning program of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, a non-profit that provides care and services to those suffering from HIV/AIDS.

In an interview with the Arlington Connection, Barger talks about the importance of estate planning, how he got involved with the Whitman-Walker Clinic and his favorite places in Arlington County.

Why is estate planning important? What motivated you to go into the field of estate planning?

I just gave a seminar at my church on Sunday. We're doing a giving campaign and part of that is motivating people to put a will in place. I found that it ... gives folks a sense of relief themselves, that things are in order. I recently sat across the table from a lady whose mother had passed away. She had nothing in place at all.

This poor lady just sat down and wept. She said, "I don't know what she wanted." Those kinds of stories really motivate me to help people understand that getting those things in place is as much a gift to your loved ones that you leave behind as it is giving yourself the peace of mind that your affairs are in order.

When should people start thinking about estate planning?

I don't think it's ever too early to start. When somebody has unusual circumstances like maybe a divorce — not that that's unusual — or a same-sex couple, [or] anytime there are children are involved, there are always times when it's necessary to have estate planning in place. A lot of times if you have young couples they don't think they have any kind of a tax issues. It doesn't have to be a tax issue. You could have a minor child who ends up with a half a million dollars. There's nothing that will discourage a child from going to college any more than a large inheritance. If you don't have the planning in place for a potential minor beneficiary, that can be a problem.

Why are these services so important to the Whitman-Walker clients?

When the estate planning clinic started, HIV/AIDS was really seen as a death sentence. People were, frankly, frightened to death of what was going to happen. It was birthed out of that. Thank God that there have been so many advances in HIV

Max Barger, recently named volunteer coordinator for the estate planning program of the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

treatment. However, there are still so many people [infected with HIV/AIDS], particularly in the District where one out of every 20 people is infected with HIV/AIDS. I helped one lady who had a lot of complications.

She didn't stay on her meds the way she should have and she was suffering from a lot of complications. She was scared about what would happen to her minor child. She had a seven-year-old son. Who would take care of him when she was in and out of the hospital with these complications? That's why it's important today. It's taking care of your business while you're living.

You got involved with Whitman-Walker through GAYLAW. Tell me about that. What do they do?

GAYLAW is the section of the District of Columbia Bar. GAYLAW separated itself from the D.C. Bar so they could file a brief in a discrimination case. It's become its own entity of the LGBT [community]. We also have some police officers that have been a part of it. It's primarily gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered attorneys throughout the D.C. area.

How long have you lived in Arlington?

I've lived here for three years. I live right around Shirlington.

What do you like about that neighborhood?

I love in the weekend to take our dogs out on the bike trail and to walk down to Shirlington and have dinner and walk back.

What's your favorite restaurant down there?

I think my favorite is probably Ping. Of course, you can't say anything bad about the Carlyle Grand. I actually really like Busboys & Poets too.

Is there any part of Arlington that people that don't know about that you think they should know about?

One of my favorite spots is Cherrydale Hardware. I love going to that hardware store because you walk in and there's very friendly folks. They will lead you to exactly the right thing.

— **DAVID SCHULTZ**

BULLETIN BOARD

Know of something missing from our community calendar? E-mail it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome. For more volunteer opportunities, classes, announcements visit www.arlingtonconnection.com and click on Community.

Yorktown HS Crew Boosters annual Wreath Sale is going on now. Place an order for a 24" fully decorated, fragrant, fresh balsam fir wreath to arrive the first weekend of December. Wreaths will be delivered locally by rowers and Booster parents (\$22) and can also be

sent as gifts to friends, family and business associates via UPS or FedEx anywhere in the US (\$32). All proceeds from this fundraiser go towards the purchase and maintenance of boats and rowing equipment necessary to sustain the rowing teams of Yorktown Crew. To order, visit www.yorktowncrew.org or call Karen Monborne at 703-534-5599.

4th Annual After-the-Election Senior Forum. Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. at Culpepper Garden, 4435 N. Pershing Drive. The 4th annual After-The-Election Senior Forum will provide a setting for all to discuss senior issues with Arlington's and Alexandria's General Assembly Officials. For more

information, contact Terri Lynch at 703-228-1733 or e-mail the Arlington Agency on Aging at Arlaaa@arlingtonva.us.

This **November the Animal Welfare League of Arlington** celebrates "Adopt a Senior Pet Month" with reduced adoption fees for "senior" cats and dogs. The League currently has 15 cats that are at least five years old and friendly adult dogs. See all of the available pets at www.awla.org or call 703-931-9241 x200. Visit the League on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, noon to 7 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. at 2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive, Arlington.



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OPINION

Call for Student Connection

Looking for writing and artwork by local students.

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Connection turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students.

As with previous years' issues, we will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any media; photos of sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to sub-

mit are also encouraged.

We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled. Past contributions have come from children from nursery schools through those preparing to graduate from high school.

Sometimes an art or English teacher will assign a project and submit the work of an entire class, but individual submissions from any young person in the commu-

nity are also welcome. We prefer digital submissions.

Please be sure to include the name of the artist or author, and include age, school attended and name of the hometown, along with a phone number to be used for verification purposes only.

Mail, e-mail or deliver submissions to the Arlington Connection by Dec. 5. Our address is 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. E-mail to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com, or call 703-917-6431 with questions.

EDITORIALS

Here's a Stimulus Plan

Many localities are calling for their share of the federal bailout. It's not unreasonable, given that the economic slowdown means less revenue for localities at the very moment local citizens turn to their local governments for more help.

For a stimulus plan that would create jobs, give localities a boost and provide lasting benefits, the next phase of stimulus spending should involve dispensing funds to localities that have major projects, like rail to Dulles or

school building and renovations, ready to go.

Rail to Dulles is not the only major (and sorely needed) transit project that has been languishing in a parsimonious and convoluted federal process waiting for funding. Let's spend \$150 billion paying for projects around the country that will put people to work right away, stimulate the economy via jobs and demand for goods and services, take cars off the roads.

Think what a boost it would be to the local economy to have most of the cost of such a

Build rail to Dulles, and other infrastructure projects.

project taken care of by the feds.

Do we have anything to show for the \$150 billion in stimulus checks mailed out to consumers a few hundred dollars at a time?

The federal government is spending inconceivable sums of money to help stabilize the economy. Let's spend some of it on something that will last.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,
703-917-6416

Taking Care of Those Who Have Taken Care of Us

Landmark programs in healthcare and education demonstrate our country's commitment to veterans.

BY JIM WEBB
U.S. SENATOR

VETERANS DAY 2008

Each year, Veterans Day of ours a day of reflection and recognition of the sacrifices our nation's veterans have made for our country. With one of the largest populations of veterans and active duty service members, Virginia plays a vital role in our nation's defense. It is only proper that we honor their service and sacrifice with the necessary benefits that they have earned and deserve.

The 110th Congress boasts several important achievements for America's veterans and service members, enacting landmark new programs in healthcare and education and providing unprecedented funding levels that demonstrate our country's commitment to those who have honorably served in our military.

In 2007, I introduced legislation that 18 months later would be enacted into law as the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This new program restores a full educational benefit to the members of the "new greatest generation" who have honorably served our country since 9/11. The program is similar to what the original "greatest generation" received when they returned home from World War II.

In an effort spurred by our office, later joined by fellow Vietnam veteran Sen. Chuck Hagel and two World War II veterans, Senators John Warner and Frank Lautenberg, we used a deliberately bipartisan approach that eventually resulted in 58 Senate co-sponsors and 303 sponsors in the House of Representatives.

This new educational benefit,

which will cover the full cost of a public four-year college education and provide a monthly living stipend, earned the full national endorsement of every major veterans organization, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, and Iraq and Afghanistan Vet-



U.S. Sen.
Jim Webb

erans of America. Over five hundred Members of Congress voted for final passage of this new program. The President signed the new educational benefit into law on June 30, 2008.

Additionally, Congress passed an historic \$47 billion in additional veterans' healthcare funding for fiscal year 2009, the largest annual funding level ever. This bill will improve and expand access to healthcare for thousands of veterans, particularly those in rural areas who struggle with high gas prices as they commute long distances for care.

Congress also passed an expansive benefits package which, in addition to needed updates and enhancements for our disability compensation system, extends critical V.A. home loan programs to help veterans afford and stay in their own homes.

FINALLY, BUILDING UPON the success of the 2007 Dignified Treatment for Wounded Warriors Act, this year we enacted the Justin Bailey Mental Health Improvement Act, further enhancing treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and substance abuse problems.

These important legislative accomplishments stand as testament to the high priority this Congress has placed on our nation's veterans. As we remember those who have served in uniform this Veterans' Day, those of us who serve in Washington will remain committed to taking care of those who have taken care of us.

U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, former Secretary of the Navy, served as a Marine Corps rifle platoon and company commander in Vietnam.

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2008

Gifts Galore on Lee Highway

N. Arlington artery a great place for holiday shopping.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

It's not exactly Rodeo Drive, but Lee Highway in Arlington County can be a great place to find gifts for loved ones this holiday season. Stretching from Rosslyn out to the county line and beyond, Lee Highway is a major arterial road in Arlington. It doesn't have the brand-name stores of the Pentagon City area or the trendy cachet of the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor. But for those willing to go off the beaten path to find small, locally owned shops, Lee Highway is a goldmine. Here are four of the stores Lee Highway offers for holiday shopping:

BIG WHEEL BIKES is located on Lee Highway near Spout Run in a shopping center that also features a Giant, a take-out sushi restaurant and the Italian Store. The bike shop has been in Arlington since 1999 and is part of a local franchise that has other outlets in Bethesda, Washington D.C. and Old Town Alexandria.

Mike Hwang, the store's manager, said that business at Big Wheel Bikes is good, with a steady stream of students and active professionals who like to use the county's many bike trails and lanes. In addition, the high cost of driving has driven many people towards bicycles. "When gas prices have gone up we did see a little surge," Hwang said.

One of their most popular models is a hybrid Marin San Rafael bicycle that retails for \$599. The Marin can be used as an off-road and on-road cycle, Hwang said.

Because of the seasonal nature of the bicycle business, Hwang said that business slows down in the cold weather months. But he said that Big Wheel Bikes would be having holiday sales on prior year models and on their wide selection of children's bikes.

A LITTLE OVER a mile down the road is Facets Fine Jewelry store. Locally owned and operated, Facets is located in the Lee Heights Shops near Old Dominion Drive.

Alicia Arnold is a fourth-generation jeweler who works with her father at Facets. "It's a really good time to buy jewelry," she said. "This is the time to buy before [the economy] gets better."

Facets Fine Jewelry is one of the few jewelry stores that do repairs and restorations onsite. They also handcraft their own merchandise. One of the items Arnold is most proud of is an \$895 necklace she made her-



Faith Jennings stands behind the rows of fresh dog treats made daily at Dogma Dog Bakery and Boutique.

PHOTO BY DAVID SCHULTZ/THE CONNECTION

self with gold, diamonds and a geode-like ore called druzy.

"Jewelry is not consumable," she said. "You'll have it for the rest of your life. [It's a] tangible memory."

Facets will be placing many items on sale for the holidays, Arnold said, and will also be hosting a Ladies Night on Dec. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. where gift bags and champagne will be given out.

IF ONE'S TASTES are more international, drive a mile down Lee

Highway to Bollywood Dollywood, located in a shopping center with several stores and restaurants featuring ethnic fare. This boutique sells DVDs, CDs and clothing from India and Bangladesh.

Bright-colored dresses and suits line the walls at Bollywood Dollywood, which has been located in Arlington for 12 years. Rows and rows of movies and albums, most costing less than \$10, are located below.

Sheuly Seltana, a shopkeeper at the store, said that all of Bollywood Dollywood's items are imported from overseas. One of its most popular items, she said, is a film entitled "Baadshah," a comedy about a kidnapping gone wrong. The film stars Shah Khan, whom Seltana said was the Indian Brad Pitt equivalent. "Ev-

erybody likes him," she said.

The store doesn't have any specific sales planned for the winter holiday season. But it just finished a storewide sale for the Muslim holiday of Eid, in which many items were 20 percent off.

HUMANS AREN'T the only ones who need gifts this time of year. Canines are also entitled to some holiday cheer.

For that, look no further than Dogma Dog Bakery and Boutique. Located on Harrison Street just off Lee Highway in the Harrison-Lee Shopping Center, Dogma bakes pastries designed specifically for pets. Faith Jennings, who works behind the counter, said that the most popular of their confections is the D.C. Delight, which is made from peanut butter and oats.

The store isn't just for the four-legged, however. Dogma also sells toys and clothing for both adults and children. "People can come in here who don't like dogs or own a dog and they can walk out with something for someone else," store owner Mary Hogan said.

Hogan opened the store eight years ago because she knew there was a market for high-end dog accessories in her North Arlington neighborhood. Also, she said, she wanted a job that would allow her to come to work with her two mutts, Jackson and Truman. "I just love dogs," Hogan said.

"Jewelry is not consumable. You'll have it for the rest of your life."

— Alicia Arnold, Facets Fine Jewelry

"I just love dogs."

— Mary Hogan, Dogma Dog Bakery & Boutique

Along Lee Highway

Big Wheel Bikes
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www.bigwheelbikes.com

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703-527-4247
www.facetsfinejewelry.com

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR



There are many opportunities in Arlington to buy gifts while helping out local charities, schools and others. Pictured from last year is the Washington-Lee Bazaar which will be on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Ongoing Events

The Arlington Planetarium, 1426 N. Quincy St. presents **"Tis the Season"** begins **Friday, Nov. 21-Dec. 21**. Celebrates winter-illuminated by the stars, the customs and the character of the special time. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. \$3/adult; \$2/senior and child. 703-228-6070.

Santa arrives at the Ballston Mall from the North Pole. The booth will open for pictures Friday, Nov. 28 from noon-6 p.m. and will be open on Saturdays and Sundays until Monday, Dec. 17, when it will be open every day from noon-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 the booth will be open until 9 p.m. while on Christmas Eve, the booth will close at 6 p.m. Visit www.ballston-common.com for more information.

Holiday House at Fort C.F. Smith Park's Hendry House, 2411 N. 24th St., Arlington. Enjoy a juried arts and crafts sale by local artisans from Dec. 13-21. Hours are Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays noon-5 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 12 from noon-8 p.m. Free. Call 703-243-7329.

Holiday Gift Wrap Center. From Nov. 29-Dec. 24 support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation by having them wrap your holiday gifts, located on the 2nd level in front of The French Connection. They offer a variety of paper, bows and boxes from which to choose. All proceeds benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the Simon Youth Foundation. For more information or to view a list of participating charities, visit www.fashioncentrepentagon.com.

"The Penguin Story" performances, from **Nov. 22 through Jan. 25** at Classika Theater, 4041 Campbell Ave., are Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. There will be extra performances. \$12/advance; \$15/door. Visit www.classika.org or 1-800-494-8497.

Bazaars, Fairs

Throughout the holiday season, visit one of the many bazaars and fairs for unique gifts for family, friends and others on your list. A variety of items will be sold along with food and beverages.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Mistletoe Mall at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featuring hand-crafted pottery, jewelry and clothing. There is a children's mall where they can shop by themselves from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Live music, food and a bake sale. Call 703-892-2565.

Holiday Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301

N. Stafford St. Features jewelry, gifts, collectibles and more. Free. 703-516-7007.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Advent Fair at the Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington, from 4-6 p.m. Featuring: make your own Christmas decorations and ornaments, food and singing. Call 703-538-5230.

Mistletoe Mall at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., from 1-4 p.m. Featuring hand-crafted pottery, jewelry and clothing. Artists work from the area and from Central and South America, the Middle East and Iraq. Live music, food and a bake sale. Call 703-892-2565.

Theater Events

This year's theatre brings to life "The Nutcracker" in various adaptations. Also check the ongoing section for more theater listings.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

Duke Ellington "Nutcracker." At 6 p.m., the U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble presents its most popular concert featuring a mix of Stan Kenton's seasonal tunes and the playful and creative Duke Ellington Nutcracker. Free at Millenium Stage, Kennedy Center. Call 703-696-3399 or visit www.usarmyband.com for more information.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

Theater Performance. "Nutcracker" at 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road, Arlington. Buy tickets online at www.arldance.org or at Arlington Center for Dance, 3808 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-522-2414. Advance Sale Tickets: \$22/\$25 Adults, \$17/\$22 Youth

and Seniors. Box office tickets are \$5 more per ticket.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Theater Performance. "Nutcracker" at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road, Arlington. Buy tickets online at www.arldance.org or at Arlington Center for Dance, 3808 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-522-2414. Advance Sale Tickets: \$22/\$25 Adults, \$17/\$22 Youth and Seniors. Box office tickets are \$5 more per ticket.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Theater Performance. "Nutcracker" at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road, Arlington. Buy tickets online at www.arldance.org or at Arlington Center for Dance, 3808 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-522-2414. Advance Sale Tickets: \$22/\$25 Adults, \$17/\$22 Youth and Seniors. Box office tickets are \$5 more per ticket.

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HOLIDAY

Art and Classes

Many art studios will hold their annual holiday art gatherings where people can meet the artists and browse and buy some original art work. There are also many workshops available to learn how to decorate table tops for Thanksgiving, make homemade soaps for presents among others.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Winter Show. Arlington Artists Alliance will have its winter show and sale including oil, pastel and water media painters, potters and woodworkers from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org for more information.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Winter Show. Arlington Artists Alliance will have its winter show and sale including oil, pastel and water media painters, potters and woodworkers from noon-5 p.m. with a demonstration on making holiday cards and gifts from 1-2 p.m. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org for more information.

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

Holiday Gifts. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington. Learn how to make decorations inspired by animals. \$5/child, ages 5-11. Registration required 703-228-4747.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Animal Workshop. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, for children ages 5-11 years. Make crafts inspired by animals. \$5/child, reservations required, 703-228-3403.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Holiday Wreath Workshop. Make a wreath or centerpiece from local greens, pine cones and other natural materials at 2 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Cost is \$30/adult age 12 and older. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Holiday House. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith, 2411 N. Kent St. all ages can browse local arts and crafts. There will be a special children's section. Free. 703-243-4342.

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

Holiday House. Noon-5 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith, 2411 N. Kent St. all ages can browse local arts and crafts. There will be a special children's section. Free. 703-243-4342.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Holiday House. Noon-8 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith, 2411 N. Kent St. all ages can browse local arts and crafts. There will be a special children's section. Free. 703-243-4342.

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

Winter Show. Arlington Artists Alliance will have its winter show and sale including oil, pastel and water media painters, potters and woodworkers from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org for more information.

SEE ARTS. PAGE 16

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Chief Cathal Armstrong, Restaurant Eve

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Arlington lights up in the beginning of December with the first tree lighting at Shirlington (pictured from last year).

Areas Light Up

Four areas in Arlington are celebrating a community-wide holiday kick-off with tree lightings. Area tree lightings include various activities such as photos with Santa, a visit from the Washington Capitals' mascot, receptions, caroling and more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 2
Light Up the Village. The Village at

Senior Events

Arlington seniors can take part in a variety of different holiday events.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4
Gift Wrap Help. Learn how to gift wrap from professional wrappers, Diane Bender and Margaret Puritano, 10 a.m., Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N. Pershing Drive. Free. Get one small or one medium package wrapped. Call to register by Dec. 1, 703-228-4403.

MONDAY/DEC. 8
Wreath Workshop. Living Wreath workshop, conducted by Northern Virginia Master Gardeners, Joanne Hutton and Carol Rosen, 10 a.m.-

noon, Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N. Pershing Drive. Register by Dec. 5, 703-228-4403. Free.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11
Holiday Workshop. Parks naturalist

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3
Ballston Tree Lighting. Help light the Ballston Holiday tree in Welburn Square at 5:30 p.m. with a reception to follow in the lobby of the Qwest Building, 4250 N. Fairfax Drive. There will be music, food and beverages and special guests. Free.

TUESDAY/DEC. 9
Greens Making. Annual Making of the Greens at Lee Senior Center, 11:15 a.m., 5722 Lee Highway. Lee supplies the greens, attendees should bring containers, candles, accessories. Cost is \$1. Call to register, 703-228-0555.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11
Holiday Workshop. Parks naturalist

THURSDAY/DEC. 4
Light Up Rosslyn will start at 5:30 p.m. with Beltway Brass, The Metropolitan Chorus at 6:30 p.m. and the ceremonial light switch will be flipped at 6:45 p.m. All takes place underneath the JumboTron, 1100 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Free. Bring donations from A-SPAN's list. Visit www.rosslynva.org for more.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5
Miracle on 23rd Street Tree Lighting Ceremony. 750 S. 23rd St., 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. The event, features caroling, refreshments, prizes and a special visitor from the North Pole. Tree lighting at 6:30, a visit from Santa at 6:45, followed by a reception. Call 703-521-4441.

Jennifer Sole will conduct workshop on creating holiday ornaments and decorations inspired by nature and animals, 10:15 a.m., Walter Reed Senior Center, 2909 S. 16th St. No fee. Register early, as space is limited, 703-228-0955.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12
Holiday Luncheon. Winter Holiday Luncheon for adults 55+, noon, Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 S. 18th St. Musical entertainment by Milton Nelson. Cost is \$6 plus item for women's shelter. Register by Dec. 10 by calling 703-228-5722.

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For my Co-Curriculum placement this year, I am helping teach children at an art center in Washington. I love my Wednesdays. I get to work with preschoolers in the morning on ceramics and drama. Then in the afternoon, I work with fifth graders in drama. They are so expressive. It's a great opportunity for them. For me, too. At the end of the day, I go to Starbucks with my fabulous supervisor. We get to talk about everything. It's amazing what you can learn about yourself through others.

Alyssa

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918 16th St S \$1,175,000 Sun 1-4pm Andrea Nielsen Long & Foster 703-855-2553

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922 Rolfe St S \$499,000 Sun 1-4pm Larry Smith Keller Williams 703-201-4400
2700 16th St S #676 \$349,900 Sun 1-4pm Douglas Wood Samson Realty 703-338-3660

22205

5720 N 19th St \$599,900 Sun 1-4pm David Lloyd Weichert 703-593-3204
1210 N Frederick St \$847,900 Sun 1-4pm Michelle Sagatov Fall Properties 703-402-9361
5725 16th St N \$649,900 Sun 1-4pm Mary Mandrgoc Long & Foster 703-938-4200
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905 Kensington St N \$1,195,000 Sun 1-4pm Marty Merrian Long & Foster 703-795-0099
909 Kensington St N \$599,000 Sun 1-4pm Marty Merrian Long & Foster 703-795-0099
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2030 Vermont St N #303 \$299,900 Sat 1-4pm Herbert Riggs Keller Williams 703-535-3610
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3740 Nelson St N \$944,000 Sun 1-4pm David Wolfe Long & Foster 703-258-9098

For an Open House Listing Form, call Deb Funk at 703-518-4631 or e-mail debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.

CALENDAR

Send items to *The Arlington Connection* by e-mailing it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome.

ART LISTING:

The Arlington Artists Alliance "Fall Colors Art Show" will be at the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane through Dec. 1. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com for more.

See the **Arlington Arts Center Performance Series** from Oct. 10 through Nov. 29 at 3550 Wilson Blvd. The series will feature performance art pieces by Virginia Warwick, Judy Stone, and Sarada Conaway. All three will perform together only on Oct. 30, from 7 - 9 p.m.

See "Places Near and Far" by Jane McElvany Coonce, a life long Arlington resident and artist through November at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Free. 703-524-7049.

See "New Images in Fiber" at the Marymount University Barry Art Gallery, 2807 N. Glebe Road, from Nov. 7 through Dec. 9. The exhibit will showcase the work of eleven local artists who have spun unique approaches to fiber art.

See the **Fall Solos 2008 through Nov. 29** at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Art by Katie Creyts, Lily Cox-Richard and more. Free. Visit

www.arlingtonartscenter.org or 703-248-6800.

See art by **Margaret Fisher and Frank Barsalou**, "Collaboration and Interpretation," through Dec. 21 at Schlesinger Center Fisher Art Gallery. Free.

Arlington artist Barbara Weber will have work on display during the Holiday Open House at Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St., Occoquan, from Dec. 2 through Jan. 5. Visit www.theartistsundertaking.com or 703-494-0584.

ONGOING:

Bear Rock Café, 2200 N. Westmoreland St., will sponsor a series of six evening dining opportunities to benefit the band program at Yorktown High School. The restaurant will donate 10 percent of the proceeds from each dinner ticket on Friday evenings starting Oct. 24 through Nov. 28. For the band to receive credit, patrons are asked to mention their support of the YHS band program when placing their order.

The **Arlington Farmers' Market** takes place on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon year round. Located at the intersection of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th Street. Visit www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com for more on the market and vendors.

The **Columbia Pike Farmers Market** is located in Pike Park, corner of S. Walter Reed Drive and Columbia Pike. Open Sundays through November from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free.

Women can **learn how to sing** with lessons in a group from 7-8 p.m. on **Nov. 24, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10**. Free. Held at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. 703-764-3896 to RSVP.

Arlington's **David M. Brown Planetarium**, 1426 N. Quincy St. presents "Tis the Season" from **Friday, Nov. 21 through Saturday, Dec. 21**. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. \$3/adult; \$2/senior and child. 703-228-6070.

WEDNESDAY/NOV.19

Poetry Reading. 7-9 p.m. at Pentagon City Borders, 1201 South Hayes St. Featuring Collective Voices - Sylvia Dianne Beverly, Evette Keene, and Joy Alford. Music will be provided by Shep Williams and friends. Free.

Author Signing. 7 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Solveig Eggerz will talk about her book "Seal Woman." Free. 703-931-0153.

Run Turkey, Run. 10:30 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 3-5 can learn about these animals in camouflage. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Turkey Tidbits. 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Preschoolers will learn about turkeys. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Graduate Gemologists. 4 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 8-12 can learn about apatite. \$5/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

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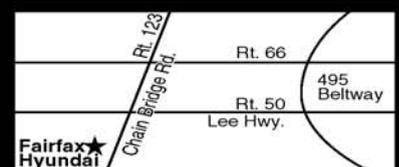
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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Family Events

Families can come together and enjoy a multitude of events geared towards families, from a Turkey Trot to breakfast with Santa.

THURSDAY/NOV. 20

Turkey Tidbits. 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Preschoolers will learn about turkeys. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Run Turkey, Run. 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 3-5 can learn about these animals in camouflage. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

Run Turkey, Run. 1:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 3-5 can

learn about these animals in camouflage. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

Enchanted Forest. Hosted by the Junior League of Northern Virginia from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. at the Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11819 Sunrise Valley. This event includes visits with Santa Claus, holiday crafts, games and two special events. \$7 or \$5 for a Santa Pass. Tickets sold at the door. Enjoy breakfast with Santa from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for \$25/person. Visit www.jlnv.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Enchanted Forest. Hosted by the Junior League of Northern Virginia from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11819 Sunrise Valley. This event includes visits with Santa Claus, holiday crafts, games and two special events. \$7 or \$5 for a Santa

Pass. Tickets sold at the door. Enjoy breakfast with Santa from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for \$25/person. For more information or a list of events, visit www.jlnv.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

Thanksgiving Throwdown 2007 at the Clarendon Ballroom, 3185 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, from 6 p.m.-2 a.m. featuring Kristen and the Noise and DJ Pat Premier. There will be prizes. \$10 with canned goods \$15 without. Call 703-469-2244 or visit <http://www.hiballevens.com>.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Black Friday. The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City will open its doors to the public on Black Friday, at 5 a.m. Many stores open for business between 5 and 6, with all stores open for business by 6 a.m. The mall will close at 10 p.m. Visit www.fashioncentrepentagon.com.



Many different music events take place during the holidays, including the 18th annual Messiah sing-along on Sunday, Dec. 7, pictured.

Holiday Music Events

There are a multitude of music events to celebrate the holidays and being with loved ones.

Christmas Celebration. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Olivet United Methodist Church Sanctuary, 1500 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. Concert features the Mount Olivet Brass and more. Free. Call 703-527-3934.

MONDAY/DEC. 15

Holiday Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church. Over 150 singers will perform holiday favorites including chorals from Goodwin House. Free. Visit <http://encorecreativity.org> or 571-215-6118.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Music Performance. Potomac Harmony Chorus performs "Celebrate with Light!" a holiday music show and sing-along at Ballston Mall, at 8 p.m. Free. Call 703-764-3896 or 703-979-8028 or visit www.potomacharmony.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

Brass & Bells. 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. \$18/adult; \$15/senior, military. Visit www.metchorus.org or 703-933-2500.

SUNDAY/DEC. 21

Music Performance. Potomac Harmony Chorus performs "Celebrate with Light!" a holiday music show and sing-along at Thomas Jefferson Theater, 125 South Old Glebe Road, at 3 p.m. Adults \$15, Seniors (62 & over), Children (12 & under) \$12. Call 703-764-3896 or 703-979-8028 or visit www.potomacharmony.org.

FROM PAGE 14

Crafts for Kids. 4 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Elementary aged children can learn how to make origami. Free, but registration required. 703-228-5946.

THURSDAY/NOV. 20

Community Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Brucker Hall, 400 McNair Road, Fort Myer. Hear the U.S. Army Concert Band perform parts of "Pershing's Own." Free. Call 703.696.3399 or visit www.usarmyband.com for information.

Book talk. 7-9 p.m. at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Author and Professor Jeff Kirwan will speak about his search of Virginia's most remarkable trees. Tour of local trees to follow. Free. Call 703-228-6423 for more.

Music Performance. 7-10 p.m. at Saigonique Vietnamese Restaurant, 4251 Campbell Ave. Hear Vaughn McClarrin. Free. Visit www.mitchellsentertainment.com or 202-812-6301.

Garden Meeting. 10 a.m. at the Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road. Learn about Holiday floral designs. Free. 703-525-8576.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Tales from India. 3:30 p.m. at Gunston Theater One, 2700 S. Lang St. Presented by Indian Dance Educators for children of all ages. \$10/adult; \$5/student. 703-532-5479.

Indoor Soccer Tournament. 6 p.m.-midnight at Barcroft Sports & Fitness

Center, 4200 S. Four Mile Run. \$20 per team. Pre-registration and shin-guards are required. To register contact Edson Bravo at 703.228.7783 or edbravo@arlingtonva.us

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Kenmore Auditorium, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. Washington Balalaika Society Concert. Visit <http://www.balalaika.org>

Improv 101. Noon-2 p.m. at the Comedy Spot, 4238 Wilson Blvd. Learn the basics of Improv comedy. All levels welcome. Visit www.comedyindc.com for more.

Improv Class. Noon-2 p.m. at the Comedy Spot, 4238 Wilson Blvd. ComedySportz performance skills class. Visit www.comedyindc.com for more.

Author Signing. 2 p.m. at Borders, Pentagon, 1201 Hayes St. Solveig Eggerz will talk about her book "Seal Woman." Free. 703-418-0166.

Music Performance. 7-10 p.m. at Saigonique Vietnamese Restaurant, 4251 Campbell Ave. Hear Vaughn McClarrin. Free. Visit www.mitchellsentertainment.com or 202-812-6301.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Kenmore Auditorium, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. See the Washington Balalaika Society perform. \$20/adult; \$18/senior. Visit www.balalaika.org or 703-549-2010.

Fund-raiser. Key Club will hold fund-raiser for HIV/AIDS all day at the Baja Fresh in Rosslyn. E-mail brentable1991@yahoo.com for the flyer. °

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Concert. 3:00 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts

Center, NVCC, 3001 n. Beauregard St., Alexandria. See the U.S. Army Orchestra with guest artist Amy Porter on flute. Free. Call 703.696.3399 or visit www.usarmyband.com for information.

Improv For Teens. 5-7 p.m. at the Comedy Spot, 4238 Wilson Blvd. All levels welcome. Visit www.comedyindc.com for more.

For more Arlington calendar items and announcements, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

ARTS

FROM PAGE 11

Holiday House. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith, 2411 N. Kent St. all ages can browse local arts and crafts. There will be a special children's section. Free. 703-243-4342.

SUNDAY/DEC. 21

Winter Show. Arlington Artists Alliance will have its winter show and sale including oil, pastel and water media painters, potters and woodworkers from noon-5 p.m. with a demonstration on making holiday cards and gifts from 1-2 p.m. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org for more information.

Holiday House. Noon-5 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith, 2411 N. Kent St. all ages can browse local arts and crafts. There will be a special children's section. Free. 703-243-4342.

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SCHOOLS

Plan Would Move 176 Students

FROM PAGE 3

he said.

This is an issue that Arlington Public Schools has been grappling with for several years. Last year, when the School Board considered the overcrowding issue, Smith proposed a plan that would have radically redrawn Arlington's elementary school boundaries, changing the home schools for more than 600 students. Faced with widespread parent outrage, the School Board rejected Smith's proposal and opted to revisit the issue in a year.

Since then, elementary schools in Arlington, many of which were at more than 100 percent capacity, have become more crowded. Simply moving students from school to school is no longer an option, school administrators said. "We do need additional capacity," Assistant Superintendent Meg Tuccillo said. "There's no way around it. We need more space." (See sidebar.)

EVEN THOUGH Smith's proposal has just been unveiled, many Nottingham parents are already wary of what it could mean for their child's educational future. Several said that grandfathering should be allowed so students that are currently attending the school, as well as their younger siblings, can remain at Nottingham.

"My preschooler will survive at Taylor," Nottingham parent Bob Neuman said, "But siblings need to go to school with their brothers and sisters."

The anger and frustration from last year's overcrowding process still lingers with many of these parents. One woman was on the verge of tears as she recounted last year's proposal. Several hundred parents came to School Board meetings to express their opposition to Smith's plan, which School Board Chairman Ed Fendley described at the time as "terrible."

"I don't think you can take last year's plan seriously," Neuman said. "It was so over the top."

Smith has said that he was trying to put forth a proposal that both solved the overcrowding problem and didn't violate the rules the School Board had set at the outset of the process. For example, any changes to the admissions policies of Arlington Traditional School were off the table.

"I thought that I was compelled to follow the guidelines and the direction that had been established by



FILE PHOTO

The superintendent's plan hinges on the ability to move a school to the Wilson School building, shown here.

Overcrowding Plan

The following are some of the details of Superintendent Robert Smith's two-pronged proposal to reduce overcrowding in Arlington elementary schools.

SHORT-TERM:

- ❖ Install modular classrooms at Barrett and Jamestown Elementary School in 2010 and Carlin Springs and Nottingham Elementary Schools in 2011.
- ❖ Move the VPI program from Long-Branch Elementary School to Hoffman-Boston Elementary School and redirect transfers from Fort Myer to Hoffman-Boston beginning in 2010.
- ❖ Move 176 students from Nottingham, Long Branch and Oakridge Elementary Schools to Hoffman-Boston and Taylor Elementary Schools.

LONG-TERM:

- ❖ Create an elementary school at the currently vacant Wilson School building in five to six years through a public/private partnership.
- ❖ Move Arlington Traditional School or Arlington Science Focus School to the Wilson School.
- ❖ Create a neighborhood school at the building vacated by either Arlington Traditional or Science Focus.

the School Board," he said in an interview conducted earlier this year.

The School Board cannot please everyone with its decision on this issue, Nottingham parent Nicole Finnegan said. In her opinion, they need to make a difficult decision that will allow them to put the overcrowding issue behind them once and for all. "We are promising too much to everyone," Finnegan said. "They made some big mistakes last year."

Board Members Hesitant on Wilson Plan

As a long-term solution to alleviate overcrowding in Arlington elementary schools, Superintendent Robert Smith is proposing that a new elementary school be created at the Wilson School building.

The Wilson School is located in Rosslyn and has been unoccupied since the mid-1970s. In recent years, Schools officials have talked about combining the Wilson property with an adjacent county-owned property and leasing the land to a private developer in a public/private partnership. However, the School Board has ex-

pressed a desire to have a permanent elementary school on the site.

Smith's current proposal calls for moving Arlington Traditional School or Arlington Science Focus School, two countywide schools in North Arlington, to the Wilson building and then converting the leftover building into a neighborhood school.

Several School Board members expressed concern that creating a permanent elementary school at Wilson might not be possible in increasingly difficult budget times. "While we all aspire for Wilson to be a school, it is not certain. It is a

big unknown," Board Member Sally Baird said.

"There are a lot of players involved," Board Member Abby Raphael said. "It would be premature to be making a decision about what group of students would go into that building. If the public/private partnership doesn't work out and we need to put our own dollars into it, that affects our [other projects]."

Raphael also said that she would be inclined to not vote on Smith's long-term solutions until plans for the Wilson School are more concrete.

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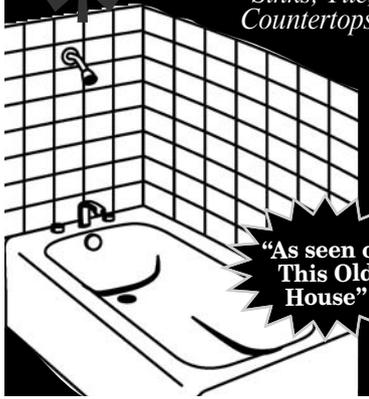
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FAITH

Know of something missing from our Faith Notes? Send it to The Arlington Connection, e-mail it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome.

The Very Rev. **Craig A. Phillips**, Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Glebe Road in Arlington, has been awarded a grant by the Lilly Endowment of Indianapolis as part of its National Clergy Renewal Program for a sabbatical to begin in February 2009.

The Rev. **Nancy Fitzgerald** has

been named new Pastor for Arlington Church of the Brethren 300 N. Montague St.

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, 1500 N. Glebe Road, introduces "The Well," through energetic and contemplative music led by worship band, relevant, thematic preaching, opportunities for questions about God and faith, time to connect with others and weekly communion. Contact Pastor Brad, bmcullen@mtolivet-umc.org, 703-527-3934 or www.mtolivet-umc.org.

Faith, Food and Fellowship - Clarendon UMC, 606 N. Irving, offers twice-monthly mid-week worship, meal

and program on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. The worship service with inspirational music begins at noon, a hot meal follows at 12:30 p.m., and a program runs from 1-1:45 p.m. For more information, contact the church at 703-527-8574.

The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center continues to hold classes in Buddhist thought and meditation on Monday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Griffin Center, 3800 Fairfax Drive in Arlington (Suite 5). Beginners to Buddhism and meditation are invited to learn how Buddhist philosophy can help people cope with today's stressful times. Cost is a \$10 donation. Visit www.meditation-dc.org.

PEOPLE NOTES

To have engagements, weddings, obituaries, or other significant personal events listed in The Arlington Connection, e-mail arlington@connectionnewspapers.com or fax to 703-917-0991. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407. Photos are welcome.

Laura S. DiNardo, daughter of David and J. Kim DiNardo of North 20th St. and graduate of Washington Lee High School, recently performed with the Kenyon College Wind Ensemble in the College's Rosse Hall Auditorium during Family Weekend celebrations.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. John M. Carpenter, son of Army Maj. Howard M. and Nancy M. Carpenter of Arlington, Va., recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. and was meritoriously promoted to his current rank.

Ann Carmody, a member of the Pilot Club of Arlington, participated in the Pilot International Annual Convention, held in Phoenix, Ariz. July 8-11. Pilot International is an organization of volunteers that work together to improve the quality of life in communities around the world.

Suzanne McIntire, of Arlington, has written an article that appears in the October 2008 issue of Highlights Magazine. The article, "A Giant Panda - Starting Out Tiny," tells the story of Tai Shan, a baby panda at the Smithsonian's National Zoo.

The following Arlington residents graduated from Central Michigan University in May of 2008: **Todd Burton, Joseph Jolley and Ernest Ortiz**. Each of the graduates earned a Master of Science in Administration degree.

Taryn Michelitch, daughter of Arlington resident John Michelitch, graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from Ithaca College's School of Health and Human Performance.

Air Force Airman Tigist K. Belema has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Kebede Belema Weldemariam of Arlington. Belema is a 2006 graduate of H.B. Woodlawn High School, Arlington.

Air Force Airman Lindsey A. Jaxel has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Jaxel is the daughter of Robert and stepdaughter of Susan Jaxel of S. Barton St., Arlington. In 2006, the airman graduated from Wakefield High School, Arlington.

New Year's Eve Fun Starts at 4 o'clock

14th annual

MADD 5k Red Ribbon Run

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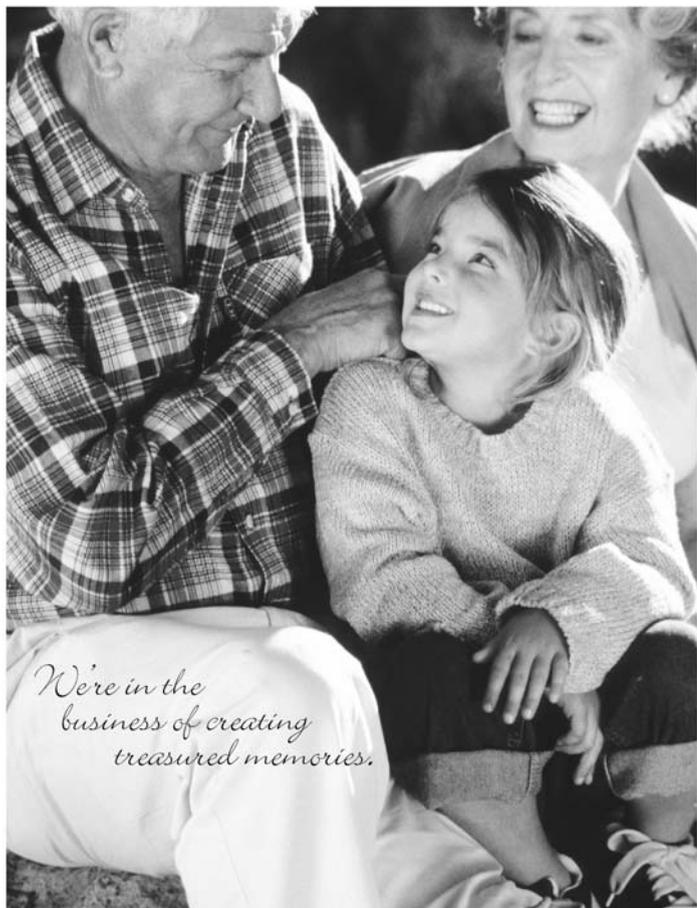
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When:	Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at 4:00 PM
Where:	George Mason University - Fairfax Campus (Concert Hall) - 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 Park in the Visitor Parking Deck by the pond. Check-in will be in front of the Concert Hall (Bldg. 60 on Mason Pond Drive). Further details will be posted at www.racepacket.com . USATF certified 5k race - course is two clock-wise loops around the Patriot Center
What:	USATF certified 5k race - course is two clock-wise loops around the Patriot Center
Registration:	\$20 on or before Wednesday, December 17 th , 2008; \$25 after December 17 th and on race day
Packet Pick-up:	Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at Metro Run & Walk from 6:00-8:00 PM (7516 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA)
Race Day Registration: (& Packet Pick-up)	GMU Concert Hall, Wednesday, December 31 st from 2:30 to 3:30 PM

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Washington Capitals defenseman Jeff Schultz signs autographs after taking part in Capitals Hockey School at H.B. Woodlawn Middle School.

Spreading the Hockey Gospel

Capitals players visit Woodlawn Middle School.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

For those not too familiar with the sport of hockey, the pride elicited after losing a tooth is just another of those on-ice conventions that just doesn't make much sense.

So it was all the more amusing when Washington Capitals forward Matt Bradley flashed a wide grin when asked by an H.B. Woodlawn Middle School student last Thursday if he had ever lost any pearly whites during his eight-year professional career.

"No, I haven't lost any yet," Bradley said, almost disappointed to the crowd of almost 100 students. "But I do have a lot of scars. My grandmother thinks I should get them fixed up, but I like them."

It was part of a question-and-answer session during the first installment of Capitals Hockey School, an initiative started last year in Arlington County schools as a way of exposing students to floor hockey, while teaching proper technique that could eventually translate onto the ice.

Led by Capitals assistant coach Dean Evason, Bradley, defenseman Jeff Schultz, and team mascot Slapshot instructed students about puck handling, passing, and shooting which was followed by a skills competition. The two players then took part in a girls-vs.-boys floor hockey scrimmage to close out the program. The team also donated a new set of street hockey equipment for the school's P.E. program.

THE TWO PLAYERS fielded questions from the inquisitive crowd — ranging from what they eat as

a pre-game meal ("a lot of carbs", according to Bradley) to when they first started skating (for Schultz, it was as a four-year-old).

"They're curious and that's what we're here for," said Schultz. "I'm pretty sure these kids weren't all that familiar with hockey so this gives them an opportunity to learn, try out a few things that maybe they wouldn't ordinarily get."

More than a few students in attendance admitted to learning a lot more about the sport than they knew just hours earlier. Even hearing where the players grew up was a shock to some.

"I didn't know they were all from Canada," said seventh-grader Lincoln Swaine Moore of Bradley, an Ottawa native, and Schultz, who hails from Calgary.

LAST YEAR, five other Arlington middle schools received visits from the Capitals Hockey School, and it's a program the school system would like to see continue in the future.

"It introduces the kids to hockey in a much more real way because they meet the players and they see that they are just real people and real guys," said Debbie DeFranco, supervisor of physical education and athletics for Arlington County.

When it was over, Evason couldn't help but flash his own toothy grin as he watched Bradley and Green sign autographs with sweat dripping down their shirts after the split-gender scrimmage, which ended in a 3-3 tie.

"It's just like our NHL guys, they're most excited when they can play a game and when these kids are playing a game, they've got smiles on their faces, they're excited, and that's what it's all about," he said.

The Marshall Plan

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

Unlike most star athletes, Kendall Marshall hasn't gotten used to limelight. It's more like the spotlight has gotten used to him.

The Bishop O'Connell junior, who will begin his third season as starting point guard for the Knights next month, has already had to navigate through a publicity storm that no teenager can identify with.

As a middle-schooler at Evangel Christian School in Dale City, Va. in 2003, a popular recruiting Web site dubbed Marshall "the most hyped young player ever." Around that same time, youth hoops guru Clark Francis, who famously touted future NBA player Sebastian Telfair as the best fifth-grader in the country, told the Dallas Morning News that, "More people know about Kendall Marshall than anyone in the history of sixth-grade basketball."

As a result, two years later O'Connell was one of many private schools that made a run at securing the enrollment of what they considered a sure-fire basketball prospect. That's when the colleges caught on, according to Marshall's father, Dennis, who said the first letters from universities started arriving when his son was an eighth-grader.

If that weren't enough, Marshall was able

to top all the hype when, as a sophomore last year, he announced his intentions to attend North Carolina on a basketball scholarship, becoming the youngest player coach Roy Williams had ever offered a free ride to.

ALL THESE YEARS in the spotlight, and it's a shock the pressure hasn't gotten the best of him yet.

"You have to put everything in perspective and realize there are a thousand other kids out there that do the same thing you're doing," said Marshall after practice last week. "Some of them are getting the same attention, maybe a little less, but you still have to keep striving to get better every day."

Marshall, who lives in Woodbridge, has shown the ability to do just that, assuming the starting point guard role for O'Connell the moment he stepped on campus two years ago. He was named second-team All-WCAC last season.

With the 2008-09 basketball season around the corner, it's no wonder Marshall's name is on the short list of best players in the metropolitan area — let alone Arlington — no small feat considering the plethora of talented basketball players around Washington, D.C.

All the adulation has fed into some un-

A basketball phenomenon since middle school, O'Connell junior is embracing the hoopla.

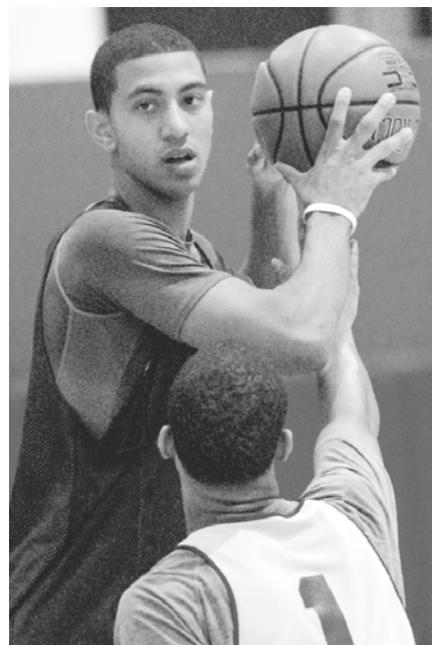


PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Last year, O'Connell junior Kendall Marshall became the youngest player to ever be offered a basketball scholarship by North Carolina coach Roy Williams.

reasonable presumptions over the years, something both Marshall and his father have grown accustomed to.

"People expect a big game every game and

that's just not gonna happen," said Dennis Marshall.

Added Kendall: "When we go into opposing gyms, they're looking for me to be great, but I'm not a conventional scorer all the time. So some people are like 'Well this kid isn't that good.' I just have to know what I can do and be good at that."

IT SEEMS after so many years dealing with pressure forced upon him, Marshall is comfortable with all the hype now. He's even writing a blog detailing this season for a North Carolina fan Web site.

According to his coach, O'Connell's Joe Wootton, the only reason Marshall appears to be at ease with all the attention is because of the hard work he puts in behind the scenes. In between games for his Boo Williams AAU team this off-season, Marshall took more than 40,000 jump shots in an effort to add shooting off the dribble to his already formidable repertoire.

This season presents a new challenge for the 6-foot-3 (and growing) guard. O'Connell's top scorer from a year ago, Jason Clark, graduated after leading the Knights to a 29-8 record and a spot in the WCAC championship game.

So the onus is on Marshall to add more to his plate and lead the Knights on the stat sheet and in the locker room.

POLITICS

Challenger for Eisenberg

FROM PAGE 3

his two subsequent reelection campaigns. He has never been opposed by an intra-party challenger during his time as a delegate.

Grant said that he will rely on the connections he's made through the various volunteer groups he is involved with to power him to victory. Grant is the former chair of the local activist group Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and is active in the County's Community Role Models program. He also maintains a blog on environmental issues called The Green Miles and has written for the local politics blog Raising Kaine.

While environmental issues are Grant's top priority, he said that he would not be a one-issue candidate. Human rights issues for immigrants, gays and women would be another area of concern for him as well as funding for public transit. "I think it's a disgrace that Metro has to go begging for money," he said. "It's a joke that we're arguing about spot improvements on I-66 when Metro is in crisis. It's a miracle that it's running as well as it is."

VIRGINIA ELECTION LAW allows the incumbent — Eisenberg — to choose whether there will be a primary or a caucus for this seat, Arlington Democratic Party Chair Peter Rousselot said.

If Eisenberg chooses a primary, the election will be conducted by the County and will be held in early June at all 21 of the precincts in Eisenberg's district. If he chooses a caucus, Rousselot said, the election will be organized by the local Democratic Party and will be held at one central polling place.

Rousselot said that, typically, incumbents opt for a primary because "usually an incumbent wants to have a higher turnout event because the incumbent benefits from name recognition."

Eisenberg wouldn't say whether he preferred a primary to a caucus. But Grant said that he would prefer the election to be held by a primary. He opted for "whatever method allows the most people to have their

Al Eisenberg

Party: Democrat
First Elected: 2003
Term Expires: 2009
Age: 62
Birthplace: Jersey City, N.J.
Family: Wife (Sharon Davis), two sons
Occupation: VP for Government Affairs, Greater Washington Board of Trade
Web site: www.aleisenberg.com



Miles Grant

Party: Democrat
Age: 31
Birthplace: Boston, Mass.
Family: Single
Occupation: Communications Director, World Wildlife Fund
Web site: milesgrant2009.com



voices heard. That would be a primary."

GRANT'S CANDIDACY could put several prominent local Democrats in the awkward position of having to take sides in the race. This is especially the case for former County Board Member Paul Ferguson (D).

Ferguson, currently the Clerk of Courts, was heavily involved in environmental issues during his tenure on the board and mentored Grant when he was the chair of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment. "Miles has a great knowledge on environmental issues and a proven record of advocating for the right issues," he said.

But Ferguson is also very close with Eisenberg. When Ferguson first ran for the County Board in 1995, Eisenberg was his running mate. Thirteen years later, Ferguson still keeps a photo of himself with Eisenberg from that campaign on his desk in the Clerk of Courts office. "I've always considered Al a friend and a mentor," he said.

If Grant can convince Ferguson and other local Democrats to endorse him, it could be an indicator that his chances of unseating the incumbent delegate are strong.

WEEK IN ARLINGTON

FROM PAGE 4

Here's 'ABBIES'

The winners of this year's ABBIES — the awards given to Arlington's best businesses — were announced after nearly 4,000 people voted for their favorite local businesses. County Board Chairman Walter Tejada said that giving businesses awards is just one of the ways Arlington County recognizes its business community. "The ... ABBIES helps us recognize the very best of all Arlington businesses, with participation from the entire community," he said in a statement.

The winners of the 2008 ABBIES are as follows:

- ❖ "Bargain" Restaurant - **Delhi Dhaba**
- ❖ Coffee Shop - **Murky Coffee**
- ❖ Customer Service - **PetMAC Marketplace and Adoption Center**
- ❖ Date Restaurant - **Carlyle**

- ❖ Family Friendly Restaurant - **Whitlow's on Wilson Bar & Grill**
- ❖ "Great Neighbor" Business - **The Java Shack**
- ❖ "Green Business" - **Whole Foods Market**
- ❖ Happy Hour - **Whitlow's on Wilson Bar & Grill**
- ❖ Live Music Venue - **IOTA Club & Cafe**
- ❖ Neighborhood Bar - **Whitlow's on Wilson Bar & Grill**
- ❖ New Business - **Saffron Dance**
- ❖ Performing Arts Venue - **Signature Theatre**
- ❖ Place to Dance the Night Away - **Clarendon Ballroom**
- ❖ Place to Find an Unusual Gift - **Le Village Marché**
- ❖ Place to Work Out - **Saffron Dance**
- ❖ Post-Theater Spot - **Busboys and Poets**
- ❖ Power Lunch - **Harry's Tap Room**
- ❖ Vintage/Thrift Shop - **Goodwill of Greater Washington** (S. Glebe)
- ❖ Visual Arts Venue - **Arlington Arts Center**
- ❖ Window Display - **Crate & Barrel**

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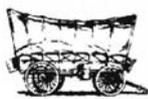
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A Banner Memory



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I watched Paul Pierce and Ray Allen hoist the Boston Celtic's 17th NBA/World Championship banner to the rafters on TNT Tuesday evening, Oct. 28, the first ever in the "new" Boston Garden, (presently known as the TD Banknorth Garden), it reminded me, as sports often does, of my recently deceased father. (Dec. 2, 2008 will be the three-year anniversary of his death.)

As is the case between many parents and their children, sports was our bond. My father was the father who showed up to all his sons' little league, junior high school, high school and Babe Ruth-league games. He was the well-behaved model of parental involvement and decorum. Everyone knew him. He would encourage me before, during and after games, sometimes from his seat in the stands, and other times from even closer. Often, between innings, he would walk down to the team's bench, pat me on the back, and offer some words of wisdom: stop dragging my right leg, (I was a right-handed pitcher), keep my eye on the target, try to take a deep breath between pitches, etc. My father was the consummate professional (for lack of a better phrase) father; he was always there, always where he needed to be, and always what I expected and wanted him to be.

And while growing up, where my father, brother and I were every year around this time (the beginning of the NBA season), was in the old ("venerable" as it was so often described) Boston Garden for the first Sunday afternoon game of the season (my father's only off day). Typically, this game would be versus the Philadelphia 76ers, that meant Bill Russell against Wilt Chamberlain, with supporting casts of Hall of Famers and All Stars too numerous to mention. As a little boy, as a Boston sports' fan, going to a Boston Celtic's game against our arch rivals, was as good as it could possibly be. How he got tickets, I'll never know.

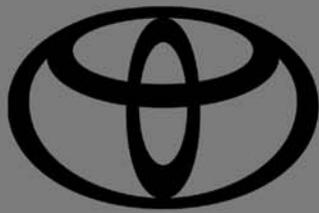
I can still remember being on the court and walking underneath the Celtic's basket, holding my father's hand and tilting my head up to see Bill Russell, all six foot nine of him, his goatee unmistakable in the glare of the stadium's klieg lights; he seemed like he was 10 feet tall, just like my father always did.

Never more than when he was dying, slowly, the debilitating affects of multiple strokes and old age gradually taking their destructive toll. For the last few years of my father's life, physically, he was not the man he would have wanted to be; he suffered indignities not uncommon to people requiring 24-hour care. But through it all, he never lost his sense of humor and never stopped caring about my mother, my brother and myself; always asking how we were doing, in spite of how difficult it was for him to express his thoughts. And even though the family's focus was almost entirely on him (for the three years between his first stroke and his last day), he never made it about him. He did whatever he could, limited as he was by his circumstances, to make it about us, just as he had done all those many years ago when he would get tickets for the Celtic's first Sunday afternoon game of the season.

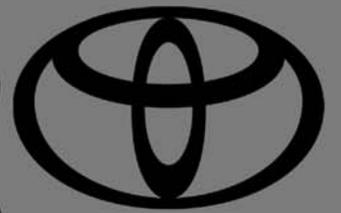
My father owned a jewelry store in downtown Boston. He worked Monday through Saturday and a few nights in between. He left after breakfast (the years when he wasn't driving the neighborhood kids to elementary school) and came home in time for dinner. Sundays were his only day of rest. However, what he did with one of the first Sundays in the fall was to take his two sons to the Boston Garden to see the perennial World Champion, Boston Celtics. It wasn't exactly a schlep, but neither was it a simple undertaking, and he did it for years; all the time, whenever he could, however he could; he'd arrange it, that was my father.

When I see those Championship banners hanging from the rafters at the TD Banknorth Garden, I see my father's face up there as well, because that's what he was, a World Champion dad.

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



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