

The Arlington Connection

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The young polar bear makes friends with the little penguins while they visit the North Pole in the Synetic Theatre's production of "The Penguin Story," a Classika family show, through Jan. 25, 2009.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION
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Recalling Former Marymount President

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Polar Hug

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Former Marymount President Dies

Sister Eymard Gallagher is recalled as dedicated, compassionate leader.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Eymard Gallagher, the former president of Marymount University and a 57-year member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, died last week at the age of 81. She had suffered from an aggressive form of cancer, according to a Marymount official.

Gallagher served as the fourth president of the Arlington-based school from 1993 to 2001. During that time Marymount constructed new facilities, developed of new degree programs and established the University's Center for Ethical Concerns and the Distinguished Visiting Professor Colloquium Series. She also served on a variety of local boards and was known as a tireless advocate for Marymount.

"She put her heart and soul into this place."

— Shelley Dutton, Marymount University

of huge energy."

GALLAGHER was born as Delphine Gallagher in Los Angeles, Calif. in 1927. She received a bachelor's degree from Marymount College in Tarrytown, N.Y. in 1948 and, shortly thereafter, entered the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. After entering her final vows, she became Sister Eymard Gallagher on Aug. 26, 1956.

After serving in various positions in the Archdiocese of New York, she was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Marymount University in 1983. She later served as the school's executive vice president before being appointed president in 1993.

Sister Irene Cody, a retired Marymount administrator, both worked and lived with Gallagher during her tenure at the school. They met

SEE RECALLING, PAGE 6



DARIUSHDE.COM 07

PHOTO COURTESY ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

An artists' rendering of what the new Yorktown High School will look like upon completion.

Yorktown Faces Second Delay

Bleak economy causes schools officials to recommend delaying construction of N. Arlington high school again.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Yorktown High School may be the latest casualty of the global credit crisis as the Arlington School Board debates whether to delay the construction of a new school building due to an inability to sell bonds for the project.

Arlington Superintendent Robert Smith

is recommending that the construction of a new Yorktown high school be postponed for six months as schools officials determine their ability to procure funding for the project, which has been in the making for nearly six years. If the board approves the delay, the construction project will start in the summer of 2009 at the earliest. "If we can't sell the bonds," Smith said, "We can't start."

Arlington voters approved more than

\$110 million in bonds for the Yorktown project over the last four years but those bonds have yet to be sold to investors. Despite Arlington County's AAA/AAA/AAA bond rating, the highest possible rating for a municipality, Smith said that it was uncertain whether the Yorktown bonds could be sold at a reasonable rate in today's volatile market.

"In the first weeks of the downturn there were school districts that couldn't get anybody to buy their bonds," Smith said. "We don't seem to have bottomed out."

Smith also wouldn't rule out delaying the project another six months if the

SEE SECOND DELAY, PAGE 6

Fighting for Piece of Smaller Pie

Human services groups urge county to keep safety net intact.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

The irony was not lost on Linda Dunphy, the executive director of Doorways for Women and Families. Dunphy's group, which has been around since 1978 and is based out of Ar-

lington, provides services for the victims of homelessness and domestic violence.

As the economy has free-fallen in recent months, there has been a sharp increase in the demand for Doorways' services, which include supportive housing and a shelter for homeless families. However, at the same time, donations from the three major sources of Doorways' revenue — governments, foundations and individuals — are down.

"It's like a triple whammy for non-profits," Dunphy said. "Not only are we facing declining revenues, we're facing increasing need for our services."

Last week, Dunphy, along with the heads of other local human services organizations, went before the Arlington County Board to implore the board members not to cut the human services budget. "More families will be facing hardship in the next year or two and will require more services that will put a burden on County agencies," Housing Commission chair Kathleen McSweeney said.

THAT COULD BE a difficult argument to make now that the County is facing nearly unprecedented shortfalls in both this year's

SEE HUMAN SERVICES, PAGE 6

County Considers Cultural Center

In former Newseum space, County on verge of bringing cultural center to Rosslyn.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

A new, multi-million dollar cultural center could be coming to Rosslyn after the County Board's decision last week to lease the former home of the Newseum. The County will be leasing the Newseum space at a heavily discounted rate from a private developer based in Rosslyn. Pending board approval early next year, that space will be used for dance, music, film, theater and other fine arts and could be a key to the revitalization of Rosslyn.

Dozens of people in the local arts and business communities had been lobbying the County Board to lease the long-vacant Newseum space for use as a cultural center. But others said that spending taxpayer money on the arts is unwise when the County's budget is shrinking.

"What are the County's priorities?" local Republican activist Robert Atkins asked the County Board at its meeting this weekend. "Cultural [spending] in bad economic times ranks pretty low."

A CULTURAL CENTER at the former Newseum space, which occupies more than 53,000 square feet and is located at 1101 Wilson Boulevard, would be a major step towards reviving Rosslyn, supporters said.

The Newseum brought more than 500,000 people to Rosslyn annually, according to estimates from the Rosslyn Business Improvement District, and the loss of the Newseum in 2002 had a significant impact on pedestrian traffic in Rosslyn.

John Seal, chairman of the Arlington Arts Commission, said that the center would feature space for theater groups, such as Synetic, Classika and the Washington Shakespeare Company, as well as independent film screenings and live music. He also said that the Ellipse Arts Center, a visual arts facility currently located in Ballston, would be moved to Rosslyn if the County Board approves the cultural center plan. "The whole idea is to have a wide range of arts there," Seal said.



PHOTO COURTESY ARLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A cultural center could be coming to this Rosslyn property.

Arts In Rosslyn

Here is a list of the organizations and businesses that could be relocating to the new Cultural Center in Rosslyn if it is approved by the County Board next year:

- ❖ Washington Shakespeare Company
- ❖ Ellipse Arts Center
- ❖ Artisans Center of Virginia
- ❖ Busboys & Poets Restaurant/Bookstore (Note: Would open up new franchise in Cultural Center)
- ❖ Classika Theater
- ❖ Bowen McCauley Dance
- ❖ Jane Franklin Dance
- ❖ Rosebud Film Festival
- ❖ Educational Theater Company
- ❖ Hesperus
- ❖ National Chamber Ensemble
- ❖ Northern Virginian International Jewish Film Festival
- ❖ Opera Theater of Northern Virginia
- ❖ Slapsticon Silent Comedy Film Festival

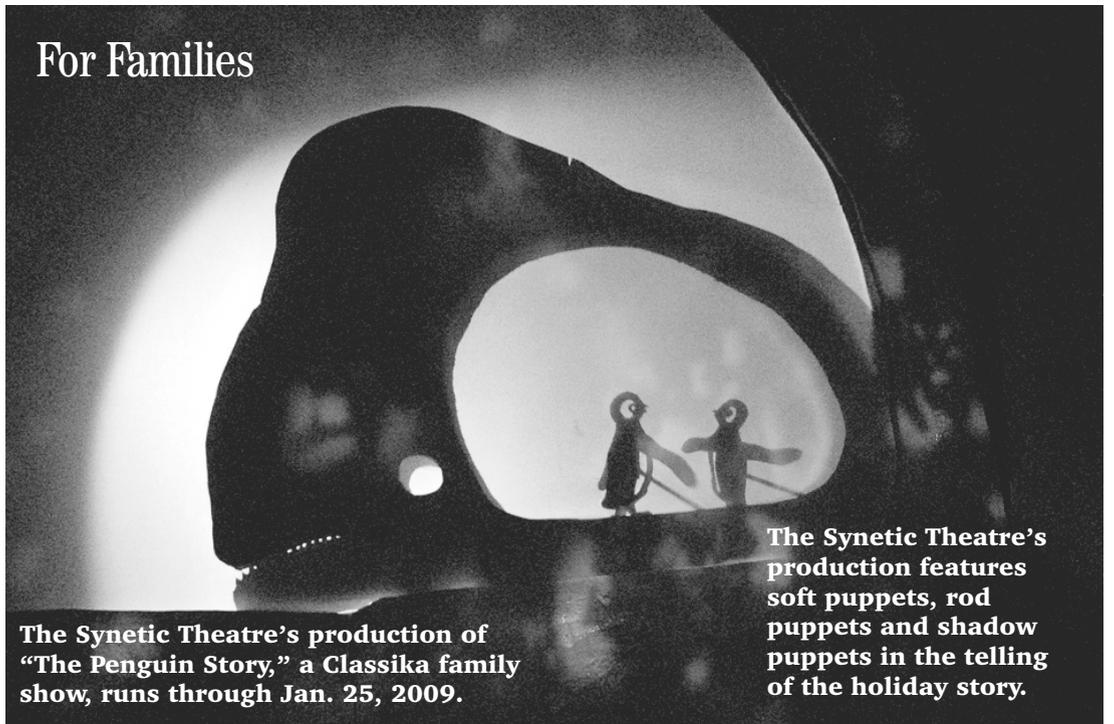
SOURCE: *Rosslyn Renaissance*

Business owners in the Rosslyn area — represented by the Rosslyn Business Improvement District and the Rosslyn Renaissance, groups that advocates for more development in the area — were strongly favoring the creation of the cultural center. David Briggs, the head of the Renaissance, said that the Newseum space, located in the heart of Rosslyn, has been vacant for upwards of five years.

Turning it into something that could draw thousands of people from throughout the Washington region would go a long way towards transforming Rosslyn from a drab office canyon into a thriving nightlife destination, he said.

SEE NEW CULTURAL, PAGE 18

For Families

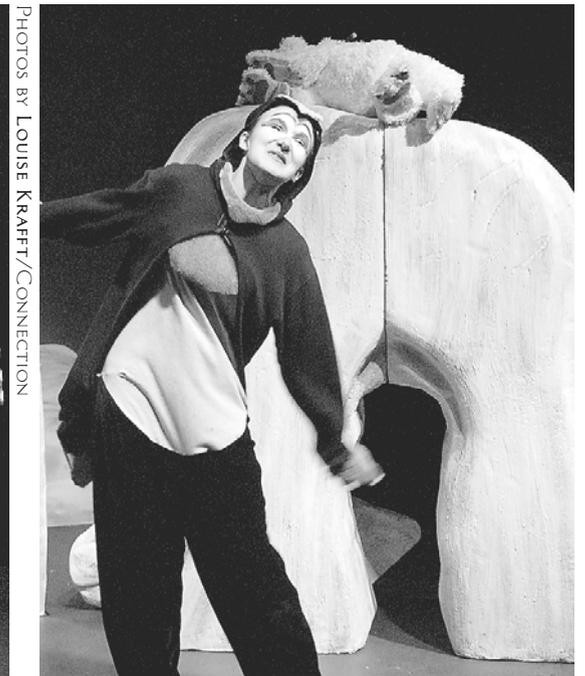


The Synetic Theatre's production of "The Penguin Story," a Classika family show, runs through Jan. 25, 2009.

The Synetic Theatre's production features soft puppets, rod puppets and shadow puppets in the telling of the holiday story.



A polar bear cub makes his entrance on the stage.



Laura Rocklyn joins the cast for a musical finale to the story.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION

Teachers Upset, Firm Sues Schools

Dismissal of fund managers leaves schools staff feeling out of the loop.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Theresa Flynn is a librarian at H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program. Throughout her 21 years as an employee of Arlington Public Schools, she's been saving money for retirement in a 403(b) account, the public employee-equivalent of a 401(k) in which an employer matches an employee's contributions to a tax-free savings account.

But now, due to a change in the local school system's policies towards retirement funds, Flynn must start a new account with a new financial management company and stop contributing to her

current retirement fund. This deprives her of the higher rate of return she would have received had her current 403(b) continued to grow, she said.

Worse than this, Flynn said, was the fact that that she and her fellow Arlington Public Schools employees were not informed of this change in policy until after it had been made. "They're not talking to us," she said. "Arlington has been great in working with teachers but something has changed. ... Refusing to partner with teachers is a path to destruction."

THE CHANGES made to Arlington Public Schools' 403(b) program involve the companies that the school system used to manage the funds.

Currently, teachers, assistants and staffers can invest their funds with any one of 13 different financial management companies that they choose. But earlier this year, schools administrators eliminated nine of those companies. As of the beginning of next year, Arling

"They're not talking to us."
— Theresa Flynn,
H-B Woodlawn
Secondary Program

SEE FUND CHANGES, PAGE 18



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Arlington County Judge George Varoutsos with SCAN Board Member June Stowe, Eric Stowe and SCAN Executive Director Diane Charles.

A Toast to Hope

Celebrating 20 years of SCAN of Northern Virginia.



Arlington County Judge Constance Frogale with SCAN Founder Dave Cleary and Alexandria/Arlington CASA Program Director Carrie Cannon.

SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) of Northern Virginia held a birthday party Saturday, Nov. 15, at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, celebrating 20 years. The evening was filled with music from the Patrick Cooper Jazz Group, gourmet food tasting from area restaurants, wine tasting from vintner sponsors and tables of gifts and getaways donated for the silent auction. All proceeds from the event benefit the work of SCAN of Northern Virginia. More photos at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

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.

ONGOING ITEMS

Donate clothes around Rosslyn through Dec. 4 to benefit the homeless. Visit www.rosslynva.org for more.

Arlington Public Schools students are invited to take part in the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Contest" now through Friday, Dec. 19. All students will be expected to write an essay about their dream for making the world a better place. The contest is open to all Arlington students in grades one through 12. Winners will be announced Friday, Jan. 9, 2009. There is no fee to enter the writing contest. Entry forms are available now at all Arlington Public Schools and Arlington County libraries. Entries can also be submitted by e-mail to mlkentries@arlington.k12.va.us. **Click here** for the entry form. All entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19.

Arlington **Takes a Bite Out of Hunger Week** from Dec. 8 through 14 at most major Arlington

County governmental facilities. Needed are soups, cereals, canned goods, pastas and peanut butter. Visit www.arlingtonva.us and search "hunger."

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.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

Christmas Gala. The Virginia Macintosh Users Group (VMUG), a support and network group for Macintosh users in northern Virginia, meets the first Monday of the month at the Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St. South in Arlington at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Invasive Plant Removal. 1-3 p.m., Lacey Woods Park, meet at North Frederick Street and 11th

SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 14

6th Annual Light Up The Village

Tuesday, December 2
6:30–8:30 p.m.

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Worries over Human Services Funding

FROM PAGE 3

budget and next year's. County Manager Ron Carlee announced last week that, due to plummeting real estate values, the County will be facing an approximately \$40 million gap in next year's budget unless it cuts spending, raises taxes or both.

Several months ago, Carlee said that real estate assessments for next year's budget would probably drop by two percent over this year's. Last week he revised that prediction downward. "I am getting concerned that may be understated as we're moving forward. "Decreases of five percent really could happen."

If real estate assessments do decrease by that much, the County's budget gap for next year will be closer to \$46 million, Carlee said, which would represent three percent of last year's \$1.18 billion spending plan.

WITH THESE PROJECTIONS In mind, the County Board gave Carlee its directions on how to devise a budget for the coming year. The board requested that Carlee and his budget team "add no new positions or programs supported by local tax revenues, unless bringing existing services in-house can be shown to save money." They also requested that there be no increase in the tax burden for the average Arlington real estate owner.

"The economic realities are fairly harsh and look like they will become more so," Board Member Chris Zimmerman (D) said. "I don't know that it has sunk in with everybody how difficult it really is."

While Arlington is experiencing tough budget times, other local jurisdictions are seeing much more dramatic shortfalls. Arlington's neighbor to the west, Fairfax County, is projected to have a \$500 million shortfall in its budget for next year.

Zimmerman said that federal and state aid could become necessary for local governments if conditions worsen. "State and local governments will have to cut services, raise taxes and balance their budgets," he

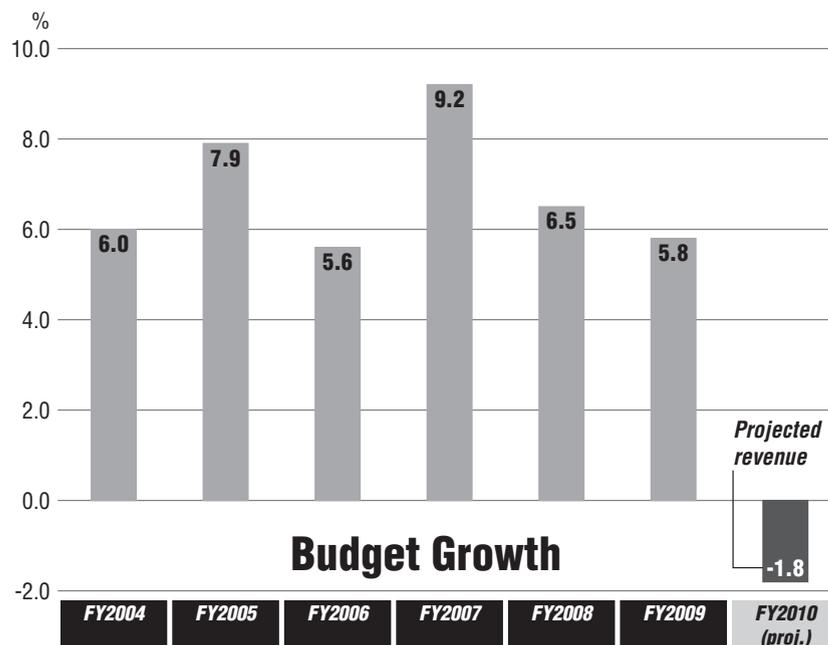


PHOTO COURTESY ARLINGTON COUNTY

Declining revenue in Arlington County's upcoming budget for fiscal year 2010 could have a major impact on human services.

said. "That's exactly the wrong thing for governments to be doing right now."

HOWEVER, because the board will not rely solely on tax increases to make up the spending shortfall, cuts to County services will be necessary. It's these cuts that have those who work in Arlington's human services community nervous.

"[They] will directly affect the health and welfare of the County's most vulnerable," local activist Erica Wood said.

Earlier this month, several local non-profits that deal with aging, homelessness and social justice sent the County Board letters urging the maintaining of current funding levels for human services programs. "Funding is never adequate under the best of circumstances," said Carol Skelly of the Arlington Community Services Board. "There's not going to be any excess in our budgets. ... That means that budget cuts are almost guaranteed to affect our clients directly."

Susan Philp, the chair of the Arlington

Commission on Aging, said that she is concerned that any budget cuts the board makes could affect the viability of the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence, a facility designed to serve seniors with mental or physical disabilities that is set to open next year.

County Board members said that they would take the human services' concerns into account as they move forward with the budget process. "We really care about having a community that ... provides the basic services: fire, police, a school system. That's why local government exists," Board Member Barbara Favola (D) said. "But we also care about our most vulnerable. We're going to take a very compassionate and balanced approach to our economic downturn and a need to provide a safety net. That's just the right thing to do and I don't think we're going to back down."

Second Delay?

FROM PAGE 3

bond market doesn't improve by late spring.

Delaying the start date of the project was necessary, Smith said, because halting the Yorktown project after construction starts is not an option. The new Yorktown High School will be built in phases on the current Yorktown site. This means that Yorktown students will be displaced during construction, which did not occur with the recent construction of a new Washington-Lee High School on a site nearby the old school building.

"There is no good stopping point," Smith said. "This is much more complex than [the] Washington-Lee [project]. It will make Washington-Lee look like a cake walk."

Smith was not willing to start construction of a new Yorktown if there was a possibility that the construction would have to be halted due to financial problems. "It may be that we don't have a problem," he said. "The uncertainty is enough to make sure we have enough money in hand to keep going."

The delay for the Yorktown project could also mean that the project to build a new Wakefield High School could be delayed as well. That project is currently in the planning stages, with construction set to begin in late 2013.

IF THE SCHOOL BOARD agrees with Smith to delay the project, this will be the second time in less than a year that the start date for construction on the Yorktown project will have been pushed back. (Note: The School Board is scheduled to act on the superintendent's recommendation at its Nov. 24 meeting, which was held after the Connection's deadline for this issue. See arlington@connectionnews.papers.com.)

Construction on the project was set to begin this summer but schools officials pushed it back to the winter of 2009 due to concerns that this year's bond referendum may not pass. The referendum was ultimately passed with 75 percent of the vote.

Now the project, which is scheduled to take five years to complete, is being delayed six additional months to the summer of 2009.

Carolyn Marsh, president of the Yorktown PTA, said she approves of the actions taken by the superintendent and said that she does not think he is being unnecessarily conservative. "I think that [he] is being conservative because of the financial situation the world is in," she said. "Once we start this thing we can't stop."

Despite the current delay, Smith said that Arlington Public Schools has already begun seeking contracts with construction companies for the Yorktown project. The school system is moving forward with this aspect of the project because construction costs have fallen sharply in the past several months. "The construction market is one that's favorable to building right now," Smith said.

Recalling Sister Eymard Gallagher

FROM PAGE 3

in 1949 when the two first joined the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary and then reconnected when Gallagher moved to Northern Virginia from New York.

"She was ... a very simple person in the way of not looking for things for herself but looking to help the students and anyone in need," Cody said. "She was a very selfless person."

Whenever the loved one of a student or faculty member died, Gallagher was quick to offer her condolences, Cody said. "Before we knew it the sister was traveling at a distance to be at the fu-

neral mass or to be of some consolation to the family," she said.

Marymount spokesperson Laurie Callahan said that Gallagher was also known for tending to students who fell ill. Callahan recalled that one year she hand-delivered a diploma to a student who was in the hospital.

However, Gallagher never tried to grab attention for herself, Marymount officials said. "She was a woman of faith," Dutton said. "That came across strongly all the time. She was not doing this for herself or for glory."

AFTER RETIRING from Marymount in 2001, Gallagher moved back to a convent

in Tarrytown. Gallagher is survived by two brothers, Charles Gallagher of Lubbock, Texas and Gregory Gallagher of Houston, Texas, and three sisters, Natalie Pope of San Diego, Calif., Charlene Knieriem of Zephyr Cove, Nev. and Mary Herndon of Elberta, Ala.

A Memorial Mass will be held in Gallagher's honor at Marymount University's chapel at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 2. In lieu of flowers, gifts in her name may be made to the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, 50 Wilson Park Drive, Tarrytown, NY, 10591.

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.

ASSAULT ON POLICE-ARREST, 3000 block of S. Columbia Pike. At 11 p.m. on Nov. 11, a juvenile suspect was stopped because of a detention order on file. The suspect assaulted police and fled the area. He was later found and taken to the juvenile detention center. Charges are pending.

ASSAULT ON POLICE-ARREST, 800 block of S. 23rd St. On Nov. 16, at 11 a.m., a woman was involved in an accident and charged with reckless driving. The driver refused to sign the summons and refused to comply with commands from police. Veronica Maciel, 21, of Alexandria, was also charged with assault on law enforcement and obstruction. She was held on a \$4,500 bond.

ROBBERY, 1700 block of N. Van Buren St. At 9 p.m. on Nov. 13, a man was walking when he was approached by two unknown men. The two suspects demanded money. After the victim gave them his wallet, the suspects assaulted him and stole his bag. The two suspects are described as two tall and thin, African American males. One suspect was wearing a baseball cap, black jacket and black pants. The other suspect was last seen wearing a black hooded sweatshirt.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING, 5000 block of S. Columbia Pike. On Nov. 16 at midnight, a man leaving a club was assaulted by a man he knows as "Mascota." The assault may be gang related. The suspect was a white Hispanic male, 35-40 years old, 5 feet 10 inches, 150 pounds.

BRANDISHING-ARREST, 300 block of S. Columbia Pike. On Nov. 15

at 2 a.m., two unknown subjects approached two other men in a parking lot and brandished what appeared to be a black handgun. When a vehicle was pulled into the lot, the suspects fled. They were apprehended by police. Marvin Morales, 23, of Arlington, was charged with brandishing. He was held without bond.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY, 1400 block of N. Wilson Blvd. On Nov. 14 at 9 a.m., a female driver stopped her vehicle to allow pedestrians to cross the street. An unknown male in the crosswalk vandalized her car. When she exited the vehicle to confront him, he assaulted her. The suspect is an African American male in his 40's with black hair. He was last seen wearing grey pants and a black button down shirt.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY, 1800 block of N. Culpepper St. At 5 p.m. on Nov. 14, a man walking his dog saw unknown subject "huffing" from an aerosol can. The unknown subject confronted the dog walker, and assaulted him with the aerosol can. The suspect was a young white male wearing a black coat, white t-shirt and black pants.

BURGLARY, 2500 block of S. 4th St. Between 11 p.m. on Nov. 11, and 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 12, an unknown subject entered a residence and stole computer equipment. There is no suspect description.

BURGLARY, 2000 block of N. George Mason Drive. On Nov. 13 between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., an unknown subject entered a house and stole numerous items. There is no suspect description.

BURGLARY, 3500 block of S. Four Mile Run Drive. Between 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 16, and 11 a.m. on Nov. 17, an unknown suspect entered a construction site and stole several items. There is no suspect description.

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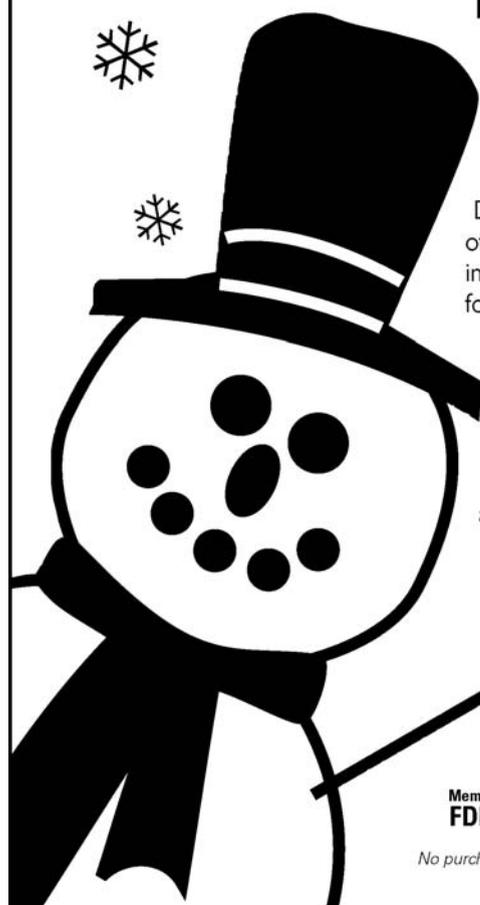
Theme: Holiday Fun!

TO ENTER: (For children 12 years and younger)
 Submit an original illustrated drawing that shows "Holiday Fun" using crayon or marker on white 8½" x 11" paper.
Deadline: Friday, November 28, 2008.

Download entry form from the web site, or pick one up at any of Burke & Herbert's 19 locations. Artwork must be submitted in person to one of these locations. To download entry form, or for office locations, visit www.burkeandherbert.com.

WINNER:
 The winner will receive a \$100.00 U.S. Savings Bond and be featured in Burke & Herbert's holiday advertisement running in community papers on Thursday, December 18, 2008. Works will be judged by Burke & Herbert personnel and a representative of The Art League (at the Torpedo Factory).

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U.S. Department of Energy
**GNEP PEIS
 Public Hearing**

The Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) is inviting comments related to the Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (GNEP PEIS). Comments will assist DOE in finalizing the PEIS. The PEIS assesses the potential environmental consequences of the reasonable alternatives to support expansion of domestic and international nuclear energy production while reducing the risks associated with nuclear proliferation and reducing the impacts associated with spent nuclear fuel requiring geologic disposal. No siting decisions will be made based on the PEIS. DOE will conduct public hearings to discuss issues and receive comments as follows:

Tuesday, December 9
 Holiday Inn Capitol
 550 C Street SW
 Washington, DC 20024

Open House: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Public Hearing: 1:00 p.m.

The public hearings will include brief presentations about NEPA and the GNEP program, followed by an opportunity for oral public comments. Public comments on the Draft PEIS will be accepted through the end of the public comment period on December 16, 2008.

Comments on the Draft PEIS can be submitted by mail to Mr. Frank Schwartz at:
 GNPEIS Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy
 U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW,
 Washington, DC 20585-0119, by Fax: 866-489-1891, or at www.regulations.gov
 Please mark envelopes and e-mails as "Draft GNPEIS Comments".
 If you have questions about the Draft PEIS, or require special assistance at the public meetings, please call
 1-866-645-7803.
 See www.gnep.energy.gov for additional information on GNPEIS.

OPINION

Shop Locally

Local shops help define community, and this year, they need local support.

The economic situation is daunting, and it's probably true that most families, even families who feel financially secure, will be more frugal in this holiday season than in the past.

But we're pretty sure that almost all of us will be doing some significant holiday shopping in the next month. While you're at it, be sure to spend a portion of your shopping dollars close to home.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of the shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Small retail shops are part of what defines any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. The costs of being in business have grown tremendously while revenues are not.

Competition from Big Box stores, expanded shopping malls and the Internet make the holiday shopping season all the more important

to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. In this area, almost everyone will do

some shopping via the Internet.

But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

Give Locally

Local charities seeing unprecedented demand from struggling families for food and other help.

Putting food on the table for the family. It's such a basic activity and most of us are lucky enough to make choices of what we'll buy at the grocery store, whether this is a carry-out night or an eat-out night one or more days a week.

Meanwhile local charities and food banks are finding it hard to gather enough food to keep up with the demand from people who are suddenly unable to afford enough food to put on the table for their families.

Housing costs, the foreclosure crisis, spiking energy and food costs over the past year and other economic woes have put a tremendous strain on working poor families in Northern Virginia.

Included in The Connection over the past few weeks and in coming weeks are stories and listings of local organizations that help local families in need and especially nonprofit groups that provide help to families during the holiday season. These organizations report that while demand is up dramatically, contributions

To Help

- ◆ Doorways for Women and Families, Arlington 703-522-8858
- ◆ Arlington Street People's Assistance Network, www.networkforgood.org
- ◆ Arlington Food Assistance Center 703-845-8486
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Arlington, 703-521-9890
- ◆ Arlington Free Clinic, 703-979-1400
- ◆ Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Western Regional Office, 100 Dry Mill Road, SW, Suite 102, Leesburg, 703-443-2481, www.cdda.net

are down. They need your help to respond to increasingly needy families.

Here is a partial listing of local organizations that help the needy, every one is facing intense and increasing demand for services. Read more at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CAPPIES REVIEW

'The Imaginary Invalid' at Yorktown High

BY ALEX TURNER
SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

From the back of the theatre, a high-spirited company of players tumbled down the

aisles with chandeliers, costumes, and props in hand. The audience quickly discovered that this traveling troupe would deliver a wonderful night of comedy in Yorktown High School's produc-

tion of "The Imaginary Invalid." "The Imaginary Invalid," Moliere's last work, debuted in 1673 starring the playwright himself. The play satirizes the silliness of doctors of the time period who

scammed patients, billing them for phony medicines and procedures. The story follows the rich hypochondriac Argan as he forges through life trying to understand the mayhem ensuing in his household while longing for his next dose of unnecessary medicine.

Presented in its original Commedia dell'Arte style, the Yorktown players succeeded in presenting a well-developed period production. One of the most impressive feats was the continuity of the characters, as multiple actors stepped in to play them. A single role might be played by as many as three actors throughout the show, with the transitions cleverly indicated by the passing of a mask or by interludes between acts. The lead role of Argan was shared by Philip Baraoidan, Ben Taylor, and Paul Kenney. Each added his own flair to the character but stayed consistent in landing comedic moments and maintaining the stature and personality of nutty old Argan. Opposite

SEE YORKTOWN PAGE 13

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns, call: 703-917-6431
By fax: 703-917-0991
arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-917-6431
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

David Schultz
Reporter, 703-226-1652
dschultz@connectionnewspapers.com

Rebecca Halik
Editorial Asst., 703-917-6407

Mark Giannotto
Sports Editor, 703-917-6409
mgiannotto@connectionnewspapers.com

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Mary Kimm
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Editor in Chief:
Steven Mauren
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Photography:
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CIRCULATION: 703-917-6481
Circulation Manager:
John Lovaas

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.

Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-917-6416
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
703-917-6404
jverson@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-518-4631
debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



Snapshot

7:52 p.m.,
Nov. 23,
Shirlington
Station

OPINION

Coming to Terms With I-66

To the Editor:

I-66 is not a local road or community street. It carries 145,000 vehicles per day inside the Beltway. By 2030, the number will be at least 152,000.

I-66 is a federal, state and regional highway. The need for an additional lane in each direction for better daily mobility and evacuation capability in this corridor has been apparent for years. Federal, state and regional officials have a responsibility to address this deficiency.

Arlington's interests are clearly advanced by these spot improvements. By siphoning regional traffic from local streets, I-66 spot improvements protect Arlington neighborhoods. Not widening I-66 means more neighborhood traffic, air pollution and greenhouse gases.

VDOT has gone to extraordinary expense to assess, explain and listen to citizen input related to an obvious need. The fact that only about 100 citizens attended the meeting also shows that most Arlingtonians recognize the benefits of widening I-66.

It's time to construct the westbound spot improvements and move forward to add a full new lane in each direction.

Robert O. Chase

Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
Vienna

www.nvta.org
info@nvta.org

At Yorktown

FROM PAGE 8

these actors, Emily Johnson playing Angelique, the daughter of Argan, filled the stage with her presence and grace as a proper lady of the time while supplying hilarity to all situations.

The principal actors were handily supported by a talented ensemble cast. The actors took the audience on a fast paced, high energy ride while conquering many challenges presented by the piece. One of these challenges was acting behind the traditional Commedia masks used to represent the stock characters in the show. The actors were mostly successful in exuding a bevy of expressions and emotions solely through the movement of their mouths and eyes. A second challenge was ensuring that the rhyming couplets did not become monotonous or too "sing-songy." The ensemble's clear understanding of the text and the characters' motivations were shown through their skilled delivery. One notable group that embodied the style of Commedia dell'Arte was the Zanni ensemble, the clowns of the show who provided slapstick comedy and physical humor that was the cornerstone of the stylized show.

The technical aspects of this production were simple but exquisite and appropriate to the time period. Costumes were bright and provided clear commentary on a character's social class. Especially noteworthy was the set, a rolling interior of a French estate that could be configured into multiple settings.

In a Commedia dell'Arte tour de force, "The Imaginary Invalid" rejuvenated the period style and provided for a "sickeningly" good night of comedy.

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All's OK That Starts Neat

Joe Banno pulls out the stops at Clark Street.

By BRAD HATHAWAY
THE CONNECTION

Few theatrical projects offer a director so many opportunities to shine as a 400-year-old acknowledged "problem play." Joe Banno, whose staging of Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well" has opened at the Washington Shakespeare Company's Clark Street Playhouse just north of Crystal City, shares those opportunities generously with his set designer, his costume designer and his cast. As a result, what could have been a dull academic examination of a play not necessarily worth examining is an entertaining evening. "All's Well" can be thought of as a romantic comedy or as a comic romance. Different directors tend to emphasize one or the other aspect of the story of a young woman who falls in love with a dolt. Banno makes his

choice, putting the emphasis on comedy. It's not a bad choice, given that the central story details the heroine's effort to win a prize that simply doesn't seem worth having.

IN SHAKESPEARE'S PLAY, the lovely Helen, played by the truly lovely Mundy Spears, is hopelessly in love with Bertram, a count who is deeply in love with, well, Bertram. He may have eyes for other women who can provide some diversion in his life, but he's blind to the charms of Helen because she is of such low birth. He's a nobleman and she's merely an orphan whose father was a mere physician. Horrors!

Being the daughter of a doctor, however, has left Helen with a few tricks of her own. When the King falls ill, she remembers a cure from her father's bag of tricks, which restores the royal health. In gratitude, the King grants her "the

hand of any man in the kingdom." Of course, she picks old stick-in-the-mud Bertram.

Parker Dixon plays Bertram as a handsome and even charming dolt. His problem is that Shakespeare gives him very few lines that reveal any sort of redeeming features that would justify Helen's interest in him other than simple sex appeal, and Dixon, as suave as he can be, simply can't make him a worthy object of her affection.

Shakespeare obviously wrote the play the way he did to make points about the illogic of class distinctions as well as the power of infatuation. However, in constructing the plot and building the characters, he fell short of the standards he achieved in his greater works.

Where and When

The Washington Shakespeare Company production of "All's Well That Ends Well" plays through Dec. 7 at the Clark Street Playhouse, 601 South Clark St. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 - \$35. Call 800-494-8497 or visit www.washingtonshakespeare.org.

BANNO DIVERTS

our attention from such fatal flaws in the text by giving the designers the opportunity to create visual pleasures while letting the cast make the most

of the comedy built into the script. He envisions the action taking place in pre-World War Two Europe, a world of elegance and grace facing an uncertain future.

Set designer Hannah J. Crowell provides a black, white and grey environment and costumer Melanie A. Clark puts most of the cast in similarly monochromatic garb to contrast marvelously with the pastels in which Spears appears as she attempts to attract her count's attention.

In addition to Dixon and Spears, Banno has the services of Cam Magee as Bertram's mother, who favors the match with Helen, Nathan Weinberger as her butler with a mind of his own, Kim Curtis, who struts about as the King once Helen has cured him of his ills and, most importantly, Ian Armstrong as Bertram's friend who makes him seem, by comparison, a paragon of manly and military virtues. As Armstrong plays up the cowardly braggart aspects of the role, it gets funnier and funnier.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits Potomac Stages, www.PotomacStages.com. He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.

X Marks 'The Spot'

The Comedy Spot offers range of improv classes and performances.

Where and When

Watch family-friendly ComedySportz improv shows at the Comedy Spot (4238 Wilson Blvd.) on Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. or catch the "R" rated Blue Show at 10 p.m. on both nights. Admission is \$15. For information about shows and classes visit www.comedyindc.com.

"I wanted to do something that would take me out of my element."

— Alex Witt, Improv 101 class member



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

By ALISSA FIGUEROA
CONNECTION

When most people think of having fun, performing in front of an audience with no script and little direction is not the first thing that comes to mind. Yet, for the members of the Comedy Spot's improv classes, onstage without a script is exactly where they want to be.

The Comedy Spot, located in the Ballston Mall, offers the public a chance to watch the professionals at weekly improv comedy shows and take classes to learn the craft.

Imagine a human three-ring circus — that's an improv show. There are games with set rules that the actors must adhere to — whether it be the setting for a scene or a certain character attribute — but everything that follows then develops from the players' interpretations and responses to one another. In the best cases, the resulting action is hilarious; in the worst, the audience is left wondering what's going on.

IN TWO IMPROV classes on a recent Saturday afternoon (101, which focuses on the basics, and 201 which helps advanced students refine their skills), participants took part in a variety of exercises. Each class began with warm-up drills meant to loosen up the body, voice and mind of the actors and led into more complex character-based scenes.

Many of the exercises seemed more aimed at garnering skills than laughs.

"Funny is not emphasized at all in the intro class," said instructor Katie Dunn. "When the basics are there, when you're being true to the scene, to the character you're playing,

the funny happens."

In fact, for most pupils, launching a career in comedy is not a reason for signing up.

"I wanted to do something that would take me out of my element," said Alex Witt, a member of the Improv 101 class who works in finance.

For Harmeet Singh, who enrolled in the introductory class with his cousin PD, the reasoning was more practical.

"I've been to a lot of bars or clubs where, after a while, the conversation kind of dies out," said Singh. "I thought improv might help."

"It was an instant friend base," said recent Arlington transplant Danielle Feuerberg. "Just being here, surrounded by people who are all funny, intelligent and tremendously supportive."

For classmate Pat Brookover the class was a way to improve his public speaking skills for his day job.

"It's a great outlet to be crazy," said Thayer Rasnick, who started out in the improv classes and now performs with the Comedy



PHOTO BY ALISSA FIGUEROA/THE CONNECTION

Improv 101 students participate in the "emotional sympathy" exercise.

Spot resident improv troupe. "Where else can an adult go and act like a child?"

"And not get arrested?" chimed Sam Rogers to the chuckles of his fellow players.

THE STUDENTS seemed to enjoy interacting on and off stage, even when their scenes dragged or when constructive criticism was offered by the instructor.

"The butterflies never go away," said Rogers. "But if you can focus that energy, it's good comedy."

"The hardest part is just getting out there," Dunn told her class after they finished an exercise in which one student improvised a scene and was joined onstage by other players spontaneously.

CALENDAR

Know of something missing from our entertainment calendar? Send it to TheArlingtonConnection@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 Goonce, 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**

SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 12

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Save your holiday shopping for December 3rd!

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Tickets are \$35, \$50 and \$100. To purchase tickets please go to www.doorwaysva.org/events

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**For an Open House Listing Form,
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All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.**

CALENDAR

For complete calendar listings and other community items, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on Arlington Connection.

FROM PAGE 11

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. 26

Kid's Movie Day. 4 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Elementary school aged children can watch "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving." Free. 703-228-5946.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Stop In For Stories. 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Central Youth Services, 1015 N. Quincy St. All ages can enjoy crafts, stories, songs and more. Free. 703-228-5946.

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

Book Signing. 2 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 2800 Clarendon Blvd. Annette Haws will sign copies of her book "Waiting for the Light to Change." Free.

SUNDAY/NOV. 30

Improv For Teens. 5-7 p.m. at the Comedy Spot, 4238 Wilson Blvd. All levels welcome. Visit www.comedyindc.com for more.
Messiah Sing-Along. 7 p.m. at Clarendon United Methodist Church,

606 N. Irving St. church organist and choirmaster J. Reilly Lewis leads. \$20 suggested donation. Reception to follow.

Monday/Dec. 1

Storytelling. 7 p.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Hear master storyteller Jim Weiss spin his magic. Call 703-527-5929 to reserve your spot. For children 4 years and up only. Free.

Doug Hill Storm Watch. 7 p.m. at Wakefield High School, 4901 S. Chesterfield Road. Learn about to prepare for winter with saving tips and more. Free.

Ice Cream Social with Bach. 1 p.m. at Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N. Pershing Drive. Enjoy music and ice cream. \$1/person. 703-228-4403.

Our Star, the Sun. 3 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Families with children ages 7 and up can learn about the sun. \$2/person. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Naturalists' Collectors Club. 4 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 11-13 can learn about the environment and take home a gem. \$5/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Drop in Storytime. 4 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. All ages. Free. 703-228-0322.

Page to Stage. 7 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Signature Theatre artistic director Eric Shaeffer will talk with Tom Zemon about "Les Miserable." Free. 703-228-0322

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

Holiday Animal Crafts. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center,

3608 Military Road. For children ages 5-11 with adult. Create ornaments and decorations inspired by animals. \$5 fee. Call 703-228-4747 to register.

Shirlington Screens. 7 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day." Free. 703-228-0322.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3

Dance Performance. Noon at The Forum at Sidney Harmon Hall, 610 F St. NW, Washington DC. See Arlington-based Bowen McCauley Dance company perform in "Happenings at the Harmon." Free. www.bmdc.org

Art Class. 10 a.m.-noon. Sculpting in balsa form, learn to carve into a soft medium. For seniors at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-248-6800 to register. Free.

Shopping Benefit. 6-9 p.m. at Crate and Barrel, 2800 Clarendon Blvd. Proceeds benefit Doorways.

Beekeeping for Teens. 2:30 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Teens ages 12-17 can learn how to work the hives. \$5/child. Registration required, 703-243-4342.

Bird Walk. 9:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults can search for wintering birds. Bring binoculars and field guides. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Slither Hither. 9:30 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Preschoolers age 3-5 can learn about snakes. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Book Discussion. 4:15 p.m. at Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 S. 18th St. Discuss "Brother, I'm Dying" by Edwidge Danticat. Free. 703-228-5722.

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Saturday, Dec. 6th at 11:00 a.m.

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For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 548-0111. Weekend events are Metro-accessible.

SCHOOLS

The Trojan Women' at Washington-Lee

By JOHN MORGAN
WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

The stage lights of Kenmore Middle School open on the sounds of war, screams, and something that sounds like distant gunfire. Then the women come out. This is the beginning of Washington-Lee High School's production of "The Trojan Women," translated from the adaptation of Euripides' Greek tragedy.

CAPPIES REVIEW

"The Trojan Women" is often considered one of the first anti-war plays ever written, and has been put on for countless audiences since its premiere in 415 BCE. It starts at the final moments of the Trojan War. The great prince Hector is dead, and all the men, old and young, have been slaughtered by the Greeks. All that remains of Troy are its women, led by the queen Hecuba. The Greeks are deciding what is to be done with the women, and dealing with other issues, like whether to kill Helen, the woman that started the

war.

Washington-Lee created something different with their version of the play and, while staying faithful to the translation, made it their own. The look of the production has no real era, and leaves the setting and time period open for the audience's view. Everything about the play is broken and ravaged; the combined despair of all the Trojan women creates a feeling of hopelessness and anger that carries the play's two acts without wavering, even though it is sometimes marred with overacted cries and performances that switch on and off.

The play only had one lead, one central character: Queen Hecuba. Anne Donnelly did an excellent job of portraying the queen, and her anger towards the Gods and the Greeks was powerful. Her voice was strong and had a wide range of emotions, but occasionally her physicality of an old woman wasn't clear.

The ensemble of the Trojan women was the highlight of the production. They seemed to have a real bond like that of women that had known each other their whole

lives, and were going through the same crisis. The highlights of these women were Cassandra (Morgan Sendek), the Queen's daughter who, after the ransacking of Troy, had gone completely insane, and Andromeda (Rebecca Pratt), the wife of Hector, whose son is killed. The god Poseidon (Ahmad Helmy), who comments on the actions of the mortals was also exceptional, with a dark loud voice that showed anger with never having to yell.

The set was well designed and put together, but did not look like anything in particular, just a platform. The production had a constant ambience track that added well to the play, and a great use of lighting in the first act.

The play had a well-utilized ensemble, and was, as an ensemble piece, quite good. Its different take on era and setting made it all the more interesting, despite sometimes bumpy performances from the actors. A fine job by Washington Lee High School.

Cappies is a high school critics and awards program involving more than 50 schools in the Virginia, Maryland and D.C. areas.



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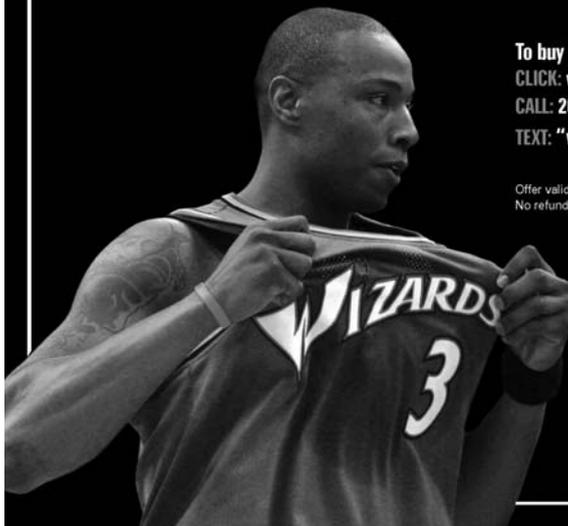
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PETS OF THE WEEK



LillyAnn is a little 7-month-old playgirl. She hasn't ever seen a toy she doesn't like. LillyAnn is an unusually beautiful, chocolate brown color. She is best friends with LoraLee and came in with two other kitties.



LoraLee is a cute little 7-month-old girl and very playful and friendly. She likes other cats and is best friends with LillyAnn. LoraLee came in with two other kitties.

To meet these or any other animals available for adoption, visit 2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive, 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.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Road N, Arlington. Join Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and Arlington RiP Program to help rid Arlington's parks of invasive plants like English ivy, porcelain berry, and honeysuckle bush. To register, volunteer@arlingtonenvironment.org or 703-228-6406.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

A Wrapping Party for children of incarcerated parents that will be held Dec. 18 from 6:30-8

p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane. Community volunteers are needed to:

- ❖ Donate new unwrapped gifts (no clothing) for children up to 18 years of age; gifts for teens over 14 especially needed. You can bring the toys to the OAR Office at Courthouse Square, or bring the gifts with you to the party.
- ❖ Contribute financially to help cover the costs of delivery, postage, and supplies.
- ❖ Deliver the wrapped gifts to one or two families in your zip code.

The party is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Call 703-228-7030.

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 Arlington Assembly of God...703-524-1667
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Churches- Catholic
 St. Agnes Catholic Church...703-525-1166
 Cathedral of St Thomas More...703-525-1300
 Our Lady of Lourdes ...703-684-9261
 Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic
 703-979-5580

St Ann Catholic Church...703-528-6276
 St. Charles Catholic Church...703-527-5500

Church of Christ
 Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535

Church of God- Anderson, Indiana
 Church of God...703-671-6726

Churches-Episcopal
 St Andrew Episcopal Church...703-522-1600
 St George Episcopal Church...703-525-8286
 St Johns Episcopal Church...703-671-6834
 St Mary Episcopal Church...703-527-6800

Churches-Episcopal
 St Michael S Episcopal Church
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St Paul Episcopal Church...703-820-2625
 St Peter's Episcopal Church...703-536-6606
 St Thomas Episcopal Church...703-442-0330
 Trinity Episcopal Church...703-920-7077

Churches Lutheran(ELCA)
 Advent Lutheran Church...703-521-7010
 Faith Lutheran Church...703-525-9283
 German Lutheran Church...703-276-8952
 Resurrection Lutheran Church...703-532-5991

Churches Lutheran(Missouri, Synod)
 Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846

Churches-Nazarene
 Arlington First Church of
 the Nazarene...703-525-2516

Church- Brethren
 Church of The Brethren...703-524-4100

Churches-Baptist
 Arlington Baptist Church...703-979-7344
 Cherrydale Baptist Church...703-525-8210
 First Baptist of Ballston...703-525-7824
 Mt. Zion Baptist Church...703-979-7411

Churches-Baptist-Free Will
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 Church of Covenant ...703-524-4115
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 Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
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 ...703-528-0937
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 United Church of Christ...703-538-4886

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After a Stroke: 'I Just Kind of Kept Going'

Three years later, 16-year-old Arlington swimmer is lauded for remarkable recovery.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

It was almost three years ago now that Ariel Cohen was in the pool when all of a sudden she realized she couldn't swim.

November 30, 2005 was a normal day otherwise, according to Cohen. The Arlington resident had gone to school at Holton Arms in Bethesda, Md. and after the final bell sounded was off to the pool for the swim team's time trials. It was a routine event for Cohen, a talented swimmer for years.

But in the middle of the meet, Cohen went to lift her arm out of the water in a stroke motion like she had thousands and thousands of times before. Only this time her arm wouldn't work.

"I was swimming and then I just couldn't swim anymore," said Cohen. "It was kind of weird."

After teachers jumped in to save her, Cohen's mother, Rachel, who had been picking up Cohen's younger sister, walked in the door of the Holton Arms facility only to be told her daughter had just been rescued from the depths of the pool.

"As soon as I saw her, her whole face was collapsed," Cohen's mother said.

Lucky for the Cohen family, the head of neurology at George Washington University Hospital also happened to

"No one knows why [the stroke] happened, no one knows how it happened, but I know now I couldn't imagine my life any other way,"

— Ariel Cohen

have a child swimming at Holton that day and was able to accurately access the situation.

The 13-year-old Cohen had suffered a stroke, something seen in only three of every 100,000 pediatric patients.

WHEN SHE ARRIVED at Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C., Cohen had no control of her limbs and had lost most of her sight. Doctors would later tell Cohen's father, Dan, who had rushed back from a business trip in Las Vegas, only that his daughter



COURTESY OF HERMAN FARRER PHOTOGRAPHY

Arlington native Ariel Cohen receives the Victory award at the National Rehabilitation's Gala for her perseverance in recovering from a stroke suffered as a 13-year-old. Pictured with her is award presenter and paralympic athlete Rudy Garcia-Tolson.

would be able to use a wheelchair when all this was over.

That's when the doctors suggested using a revolutionary biotech protein called tPA that helps melt away the blood clots that cause strokes. But tPA had only been used on 12 pediatric patients ever and had a 15 percent mortality rate. Making matters riskier was the fact that tPA is supposed to be administered within three hours of the initial symptoms. Ariel was to receive it three hours and six minutes after her stroke.

All Dan Cohen could do was turn to his daughter's doctors and simply ask, "If this were your daughter, what would you do?"

IT HAS BEEN a long road to recovery for Cohen, and her speech on Monday night, Nov. 17 at the National Rehabilitation Hospital's Gala Victory Awards to honor those who show exceptional determination in the face of physical adversity reflected that journey.

"No one knows why [the stroke] happened, no one knows how it happened, but I know now I couldn't imagine my life any other way," said Cohen to the crowd. "Not as if I enjoy the after effects of the stroke; not at all. Every day is hard. But I was never

normal before the stroke. And the stroke just sets me apart a little bit more."

After being in Children's Hospital for seven days, Cohen spent the next five and a half weeks at the National Rehabilitation Hospital where she rehabbed seven times a day. She had to re-learn the simple things others take for granted like walking, running, fine motor skills, even doing arts and crafts. Experts in the field of pediatric strokes reviewed her records with interest, hoping to find a firm solution to what Cohen had barely survived from.

The message Cohen wanted to convey last Monday, though, was an acknowledgement of collective will more than anything else. Her parents never let her think that anything but a full recovery was possible. Same with the therapists that worked with her for months in rehabilitation. And Cohen said there wasn't a day that went by when she wasn't visited by some friend or family member.

"We have this cradle of support that wouldn't let her fall, wouldn't let us fall," said her mother.

Her father still remembers the first time she moved her left arm again. Ariel and friends were watching a horror movie in her room at NRH when a particularly scary scene came on and everyone jumped, and to everyone's surprise that also included Cohen. They kept rewinding the movie over and over again, just to see the first real movement they had seen out of Cohen's left

side in weeks.

"What sets me apart is that I had a whole army of family, friends, therapists and teachers behind me; I had you," Cohen said in her speech. "It is because of you that I am here."

THESE DAYS Thanksgiving takes on a different meaning in the Cohen household. Ariel, now 16, is a junior in high school at Holton Arms. Her life has discovered a sense of normalcy again.

She's a three-sport athlete whose volleyball team won its division this fall. She's also back in the pool swimming again and even running track in the spring. But the athlete inside here never really left, even when she was just trying to regain the simplest skills like walking or writing.

"Sports was everything because she was an athlete and she knew how to think like an athlete," said Rachel Cohen. "For her, it was like working out, it was like going to gym. She was used to that."

Still, the effects of the stroke are there. Before the incident, Cohen was a top-level swimmer, winning races or at least finishing in the top-three. Her parents describe her as more of a middle of the pack athlete now. "She feels the difference, she can tell," said her father, Dan. "She misses and recognizes it, but at the same time it has given her a pretty unique perspective for a young person."

Said Cohen: "I always just say I'm fine when people ask. Yeah sure it's hard, but really I could be much, much worse. I used to be a lot smarter. I used to be a better athlete. It's not as easy anymore, that's what it is. I'm not gonna go cry in a corner about it, though."

That perspective on the world was on display last week, as her parents saw their daughter reach a sense of closure as she "held the audience on the tip of her tongue." Her recovery and the usage of tPA in the hours after her stroke has made Cohen a case study for medical experts.

Not to mention a study in resilience that everyone who suffers from something traumatic can be thankful for this week.

"When the stroke happened there wasn't time to go cry and be upset about it. I just kind of kept going," Cohen said. "Now it's just what I wake up to in the morning."

"I used to be a lot smarter, I used to be a better athlete. It's not as easy anymore."

— Ariel Cohen

Filled With Anticipation



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It may just be me, but I doubt it. And what it is that I don't doubt, is, my renewed enthusiasm about buying gasoline. To say I'm excited at the prospect would be a bit of an exaggeration. To say that I am positive about the former negative would definitely be more accurate. And though \$2 per gallon savings (give or take), equating to approximately \$30 savings per week per driver/car, is not going to fund my retirement, it does, however, represent a nearly 50 percent reduction in our weekly gasoline/commuting allowance.

Sometimes the dollar amount saved sounds better than the percentage discounted, and vice versa. With respect to the declining cost of a gallon of gasoline recently, the latter is more impressive than the former. Still, a \$2 price reduction per gallon is significant no matter the percentage amount discounted.

And that's money you can take to the bank, literally and/or figuratively. And who doesn't want to "go" to the bank? It's "coming" from the bank, after having had to withdraw money that's the problem. As is \$4 per gallon, gasoline a problem, for me anyway. No matter the trip — or distance — behind the wheel, be it business, pleasure, errands, gasoline, etc., I can't stop looking at my gas gauge and/or my car's how-many-miles-left-in-the-tank indicator, and prepare, mentally and fiscally, for the next much-sooner-than-preferred, gasoline purchase. Combining trips certainly stems the emotional and financial tide, as does using public transportation but as a percentage, the dollars saved by utilizing these strategic alternatives seems hardly worth mentioning, so I won't.

But spending \$2 for a gallon of gasoline (of late) and getting 10 gallons for my meager \$20 purchase certainly seems worth it, and it seems like value I haven't received at the gas station in years. Moreover, given the present economic climate, value and/or the perception of value seems to have come and gone. Finding it again, two or three times a week (depending on the driving circumstances), at the gas station of all places, is like finding money on the street or winning at Black Jack: totally unexpected and greatly appreciated. However, since there's no shortage of places to spend your winnings (so to speak), the thrill is rather temporary. But given the likely fact that you're buying gasoline multiple times a week, the thrill is not gone (sorry, B.B.), it's recurring. In effect, for the time in which we're being, it's the gift that keeps on giving. And what used to be a nightmare (\$4 and up for a gallon of gasoline), and a recurring one at that, has now become a dream come true (spending 50 percent less for a gallon of gasoline than previously) and a dream that you're reminded of every time you gas up without paying up.

It's not exactly money for nothing, but it sure is a lot more for your money than nothing. It's something incredibly substantial: its peace of mind, it's extra money in your pocket, it's something given rather than taken. And as we all know — or have been told, repeatedly — it's better to give than to receive. However, when it concerns the price of a gallon of gasoline (or for a gallon of home heating oil), I'll take whatever they want to give.

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

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-Dean Acheson

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Minimum Bid: \$216,894.85

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$150.0 million budget for calendar year 2009.
On Thursday, December 11, 2008, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2009 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.
Revenues are expected to be \$150.0 million in 2009. Water sales are expected to provide \$125.1 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.
The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	2008	2009
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$40,719	\$42,788	
Power and Utilities	11,015	13,191	
Chemicals	9,288	10,625	
Fuel	989	1,028	
Postage	419	449	
Insurance	1,254	1,289	
Supplies and Materials	3,492	3,694	
Contractual Services	6,109	6,797	
Professional Services	1,321	1,364	
Other	1,964	1,981	
Sub-Total	76,570	83,206	
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(8,574)	(8,667)	
Total	\$67,996	\$74,539	

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:
Debt Payment \$37,687,000
Improvement Fund \$11,000,000
General Fund \$25,710,000

NOTICE OF WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2008, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.
The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2009, include the following:

1. An increase in the availability charge from \$3,850 to \$3,950†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$6,400 to \$7,600.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$800 to \$850†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$28 to \$29.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$6.25 to \$7.05†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$1.70 to \$1.83 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$2.65 to \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off/Turn On Charge from \$40 to \$42.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. An increase in the Sewer Use Meters Charge from \$36 to \$37
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$13 to \$14.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.
†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

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NEWS

New Cultural Center?

FROM PAGE 4

"This could become a real model for the rest of the Commonwealth," Briggs said.

THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS of the cultural center project are what most attracted County officials. The County would be paying \$1 per year in rent on the Newseum space for the first 10 years, according to the terms of the lease currently being considered by the County Board. Arlington Cultural Affairs staffer John Palmer Claridge estimated that the property would cost the County \$60 million if it were to purchase it outright.

This heavily discounted rent agreement came about as a result of negotiations with the Newseum space's owner, Monday Properties. Monday agreed to lease the Newseum space for what is essentially nothing in exchange for increased density in another one of its properties, the soon to be built skyscraper at 1812 North Moore Street.

However, even with the discounted rent,

creating a cultural center at the Newseum space will still cost at least \$4 million in up-front renovation costs and \$600,000 annually for operational costs.

UNDER THE PLAN being considered by the Board, Rosslyn business owners and developers would contribute to the project. Ticket sales and rental fees would also cover part of the costs. But the rest would come from County bond funds that have already been approved.

County officials have a third-party consultant examining the business plan of the cultural center to determine how much revenue it can generate. If that revenue amount is not enough, the County could exercise an escape clause in its lease with Monday Properties.

"It would not be my recommendation to do this unless we can do this without new tax dollar support," County Manager Ron Carlee told the Board. "That makes this a very challenging hurdle to get over."

The board is scheduled to vote on the cultural center plan in February.

Changes Rankle Teachers

FROM PAGE 4

ton Public Schools employees will have only four companies to choose from when investing their retirement funds.

"Some of them ... were invested for 25 years," said Shelly Jennings, president of the Arlington Education Association, a local teacher's union. "They can no longer put their investments with those companies."

A flyer given out to schools employees stated that the changes were made as a result of new IRS laws that required the school system to assume full responsibility for the management of its 403(b) accounts.

Arlington Superintendent Robert Smith said that the changes were also made for financial reasons. The school system could get better terms in its contracts with the financial management companies if it used fewer companies, he said. "When you have fewer firms," Smith said, "That means that the firms who bid ... are more likely to get more customers."

JENNINGS SAID that a lack of communication from Schools administrators about these changes compounded the problem. "The school system was aware of this situation going back into the late winter, early spring of this year," she said. "There was no information given to employees about what would be happening. There was no input from employees. There was none of that."

"Because there was no information," Jennings added, "You get rumors and gossip and there's really quite a lot of that going on."

This summer, a committee was formed to examine making changes to the 403(b) program. However, due to state confidential-

ity laws, the committee met in private. Gerry Collins, a former Arlington Education Association president, served on the committee but was forbidden from discussing it with his colleagues. "The actual deliberations over the selection are by law and policy pretty secret," Smith said. "It's not a matter of everybody getting to vote up or down."

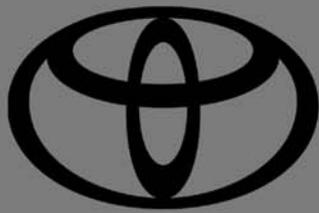
THIS DIDN'T SIT well with many teachers. Dozens showed up at a recent School Board meeting to voice their displeasure with how the process was handled. "The school system has not provided communication with employees," retired teacher Jim Schroeder said. "That is essential."

The financial management companies that weren't chosen by Arlington Public Schools were also displeased. Representatives from Valic, one of the companies not selected, attended the meeting and lobbied the School Board to reconsider the decision.

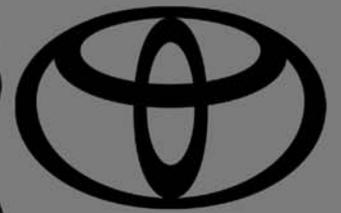
Financial Directors, a money management company based out of Reston that specializes in investing 403(b) funds, was not among the four companies that were chosen. They are now suing Arlington Public Schools for breach of contract.

Smith said that the companies that weren't selected to manage the funds fomented the anger of the Arlington Public Schools employees who came to the School Board meeting. "They were whipped up," he said. "If a provider tells them they're not being treated well and they need to show up, they show up."

However, Smith acknowledged that "When you look back at how you've done one thing or another, I'm sure there are ways we could have communicated better."



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