

# The Arlington Connection

# Dog Day In the Park

COMMUNITY, PAGE 2

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A young dog makes it through the crowd after retrieving a ball in the Shirlington dog park.

## Iron Men Of Rotary

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION  
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## COMMUNITY

# A Dog's Day At the Park

Sunday, with weather climbing into the 60s, hundreds of two and four legged walkers and runners filled the Shirlington dog park. Arlington County now has eight dog parks. The one in Shirlington, located off of Four Mile Run has a water feature, the run. And on Sunday it rippled with sunbeams and splashing dogs.

## County Dog Parks

### Benjamin Banneker Park

1701 North Van Buren Street  
Arlington, VA 22205

❖ Lights on until 8 p.m.

### Fort Barnard

at the corner of South Pollard Street  
and South Walter Reed Drive

❖ Lights on until 9 p.m.

### Fort Ethan Allen Park

3829 North Stafford Street  
Arlington, VA 22207

❖ Lights on until 7 p.m.

### Glencarlyn Park

301 South Harrison Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

### Herndon & 13th Street Park

1299 N. Herndon Street  
Arlington, VA 22201

### Shirlington Park

2601 South Arlington Mill Drive  
Arlington, VA 22206

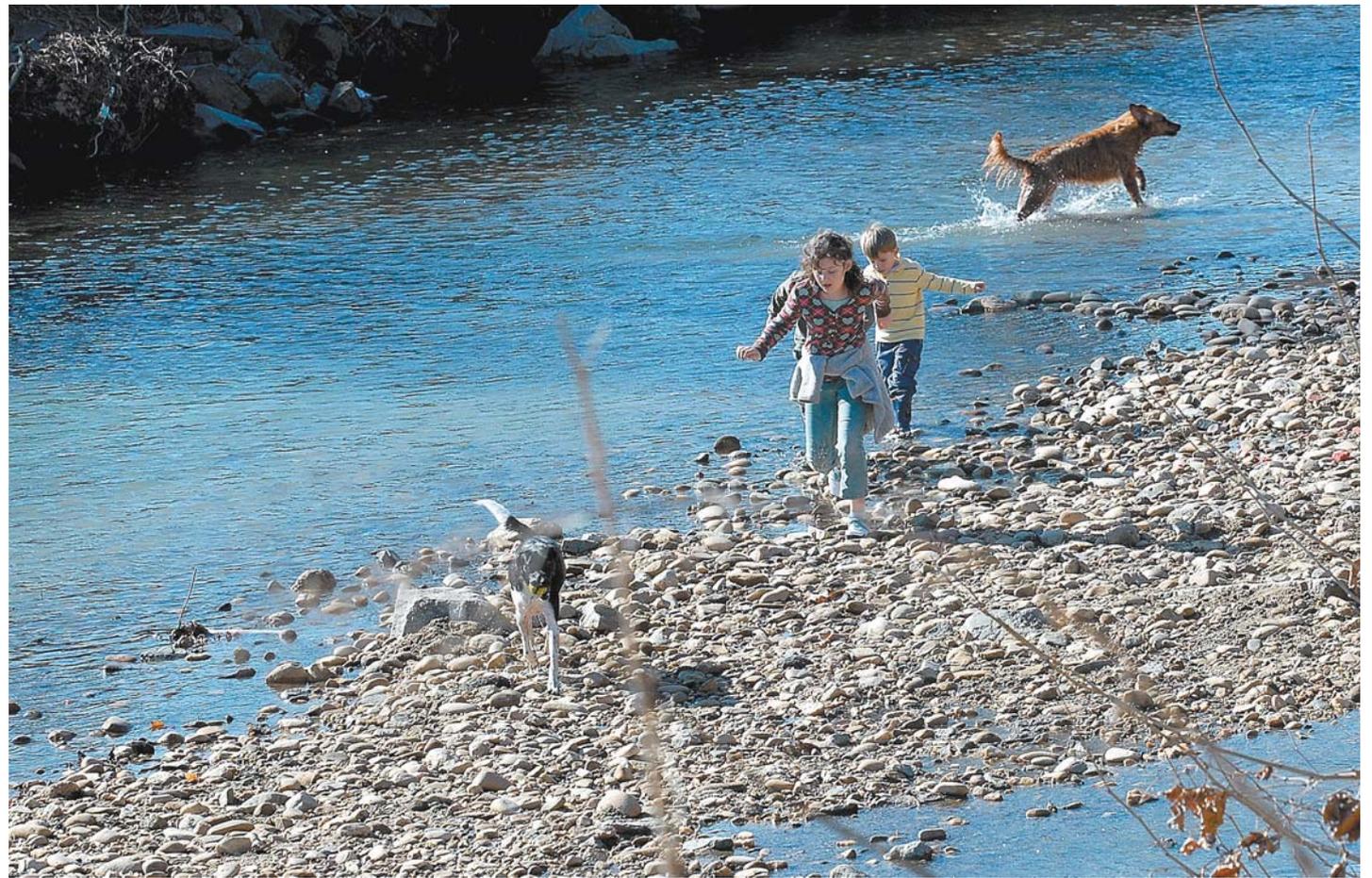
### Towers Park

801 South Scott Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

❖ Lights on until 10 p.m.

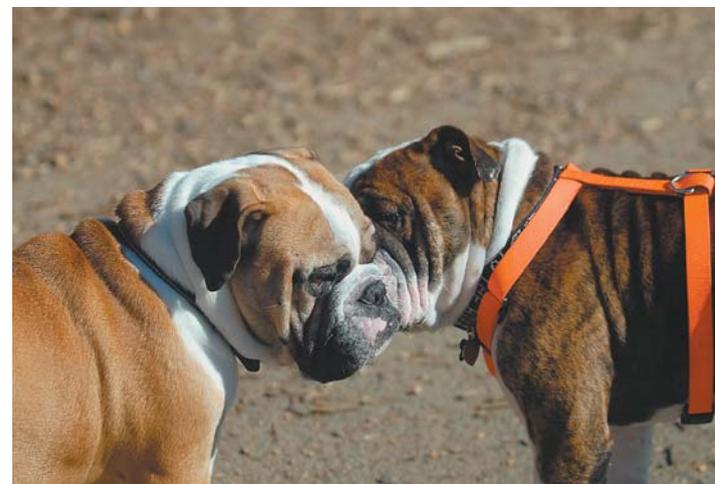
### Utah Park

3191 South Utah Street  
Arlington, VA 22206

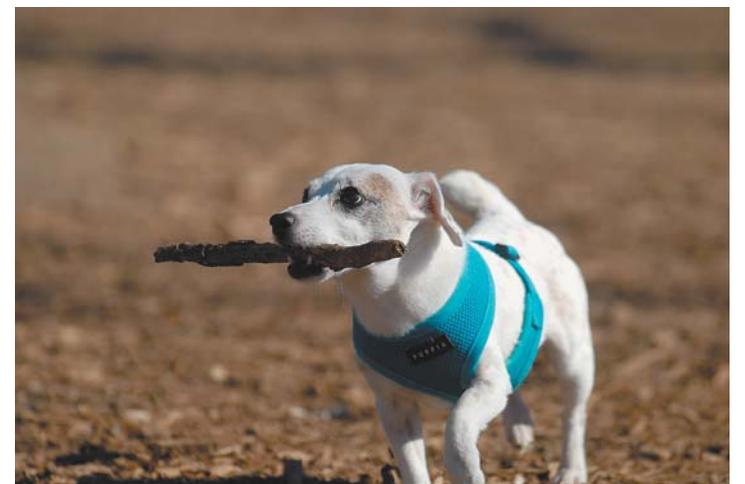


Children play on the sandbars with their pets.

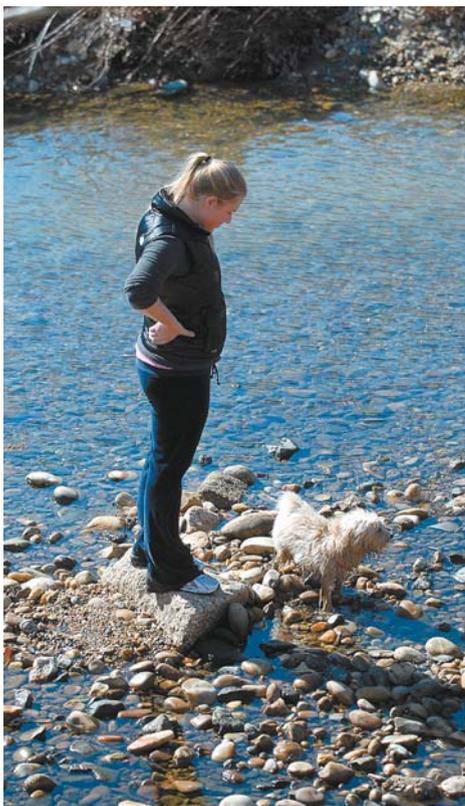
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



Harley and Franklin greet in the off-leash run in the park.



A Jack Russell Terrier parades down the walkway with a prized stick.



Jenn Tucker and Penny wander out on the stones in the middle of the run.



Two shepherds, Hans and Luke, greet the new dogs coming into the park.

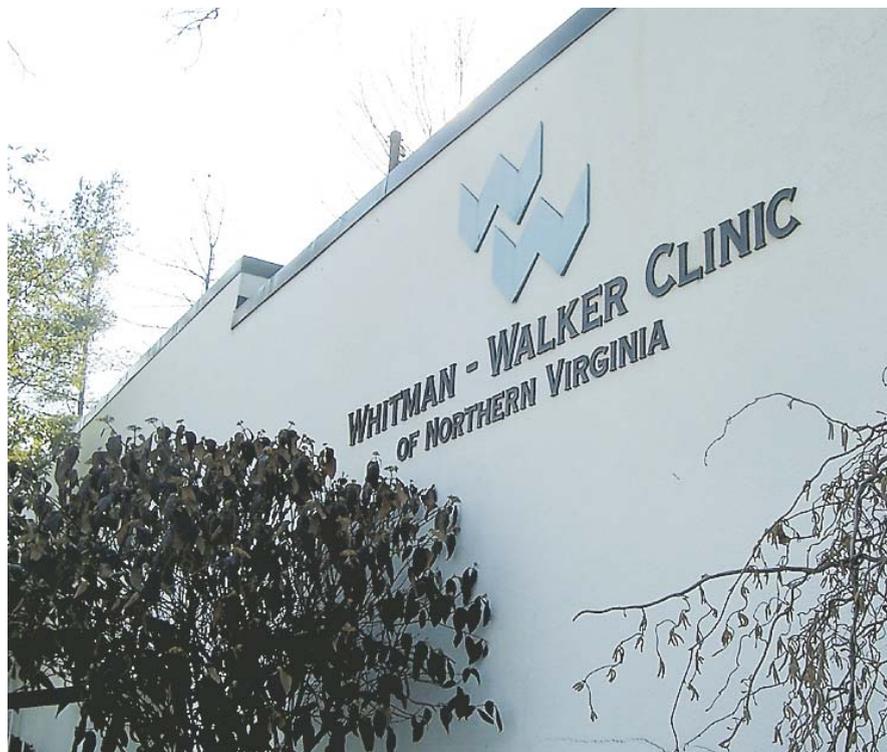


PHOTO BY DAVID SCHULTZ/THE CONNECTION

The Whitman-Walker Clinic's Arlington branch will be closing next month due to budget constraints.

## AIDS Clinic To Close

Facility falls to "economic realities."

The Northern Virginia branch of the Whitman-Walker Clinic will be closing next month due to budget constraints, according to the clinic's spokesperson. One of the Washington region's largest providers of health care for patients with HIV and AIDS, the Whitman-Walker Clinic had operated its Northern Virginia location in Arlington since 1989.

According to an email sent by Whitman-Walker spokesperson Chip Lewis, the D.C.-based non-profit organization has seen a decline in revenues in recent months coupled with an increase in new patients who do not have health care. "This situation led us to take this

painful but necessary action," Lewis wrote. "We had to deal with current economic realities."

Whitman-Walker has also seen a sharp decline in funding for HIV and AIDS care from the state of Virginia, according to Lewis, and this has made it more difficult to deliver free health care to its patients. Late last year, Whitman-Walker announced that it would be laying off 45 employees and discontinuing its residential addiction program.

The organization is partnering with other local health care providers, such as the Casey Clinic in Alexandria and Inova's Juniper Program, to ensure that its Northern Virginia patients don't see any disruption in their health care, according to Lewis. "We have developed a

SEE CLINIC TO CLOSE, PAGE 4

## Iron Men of Rotary

Two prominent Arlingtonians honored for 50 years of membership.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ  
THE CONNECTION

If it's Thursday afternoon, Hugh Heishman is at a Rotary Club meeting. Every Thursday — regardless of what else is going on, regardless of how he's feeling, regardless of anything — Heishman is eating lunch at La Cote D'Or Café with his fellow Rotarians.

He's kept up this routine for quite a while now; earlier this month, the Arlington Rotary Club honored Heishman for 50 years of membership with perfect attendance throughout.

"Why wouldn't you want to come every Thursday?" Heishman said at a recent Rotary meeting. "You get to sit at a table with some very talented people."

HEISHMAN, a retired automotive retailer who owned a successful chain of dealerships in Crystal City, was honored along with his fellow Rotarian, Herman "Obe" Obermayer, who has also been a member for 50 years — albeit with a less sterling attendance record.

Obermayer is a retired journalist and author who was the former publisher of the Northern Virginia Sun, which is now the Arlington Sun-Gazette. During the 1990s, he helped start newspapers in Eastern European countries that were under Soviet control during the Cold War.

Obermayer said his membership in the Rotary Club was instrumental in his deci-



PHOTO BY DAVID SCHULTZ/THE CONNECTION

Hugh Heishman (second from right) and Herman "Obe" Obermayer (right) are honored for their 50 years in the Rotary Club.

sion to purchase the then-struggling newspaper in 1963. He was living in New Jersey at the time and, throughout his negotiations to purchase the Sun, he would commute down to Arlington several times a month and meet with local Rotarians to hear what they had to say about the newspaper.

"If I had not gotten this window into what the community thought of its newspaper, I never would have invested in it," Obermayer recalled.

Heishman said he got involved in Rotary because it afforded him the opportunity to socialize with the great leaders of the com-

SEE CLINIC TO CLOSE, PAGE 4

"Why wouldn't you want to come every Thursday? You get to sit at a table with some very talented people."

— Hugh Heishman

## State Transportation Cuts Would Affect Arlington

Controversial I-66 project could be axed.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ  
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Department of Transportation is undergoing another round of severe budget cuts and projects in Arlington to improve roads, rail and highways are on its chopping block.

Last week, VDOT announced that it would be increasing a proposed budget cut by \$700 million due to the worsening eco-

nompic picture. This brings its latest budget cut — which is currently being debated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board — to a total of \$2 billion.

This is the second time in the last eight months that the state's transportation budget has undergone multi-billion dollar downward revisions. In June, VDOT slashed \$1.1 billion out of its budget in a rare mid-year

recalibration of its six-year improvement plan.

"We're going to complete the engineering and put the plans on the shelf."

— Virginia Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer

Homer said that, if the Commonwealth Transportation Board approves these new

ONE OF THE CASUALTIES of these budget cuts is a plan to add an extra lane to I-66 between Washington Boulevard and the Dulles Connector. Virginia Secretary of Transportation Pierce

budget cuts, "We're going to complete the engineering and put the plans on the shelf."

This comes as welcome news to many Arlingtonians who have been opposed to the widening of the four-lane highway for years. "That's the only bit of good news in any of this," Arlington County Board Member Chris Zimmerman (D) said. "We think it's a stupid waste of money."

VDOT is still planning on moving ahead with a project to add an extra lane on I-66 between Fairfax Drive and Sycamore Street. Homer said VDOT has decided not to cut this project because it is already partially

SEE PROJECT CUTS, PAGE 4

# Jefferson Parents Lobby Board

## PTA asks for renovations to middle school.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ  
THE CONNECTION

Parents of students at Thomas Jefferson Middle School are trying to get the School Board to renovate their decades-old school, which is one of the last in the county to be rebuilt.

Dozens of Jefferson parents joined representatives from neighborhoods that surround the school to lobby the board last week. They encouraged the board to enact a \$4.3 million renovation plan that was recently unveiled.

The School Board did not indicate whether they would allocate the \$4.3 million that would be needed to complete the project, which Jefferson PTA president Jennifer Dunlap said could be completed over the summer and require no student disruption.

According to a schools release, the board will consider the renovation plan during its budget deliberations next month.

Under the plan, the school's cafeteria would be remodeled, a new bus drop-off area would be created and windows would be installed in the mostly window-less building. "It would turn it into a welcoming environment for the students," Dunlap said.

Currently, the school has only 11 external windows, Dunlap said. This renovation project would install windows and skylights that would bring natural light into the building. It would also give the commons area and the cafeteria a new color scheme. The interior of the school is currently painted

"mustard and pea green," Dunlap said. "It's very dark and not inviting at all."

In the last decade, Arlington Public Schools has been renovating and rebuilding nearly all of its school buildings in the county. Jefferson, along with Wakefield High School, is one of the only schools in Arlington that has not been renovated during this time period or is currently in the process of being renovated.

Dunlap said Jefferson parents accept that the construction of a new Wakefield is a higher priority for the School Board and that it might be 15 years before a new Jefferson building is completed. "But if we can do these changes," she said, "The worst part of the school would change and it would make waiting for that palatable."

David Schultz can also be heard on WAMU 88.5 FM.

**"It's very dark and not inviting at all."**

— Jennifer Dunlap, Thomas Jefferson Middle School PTA president

# Northern Virginia Transportation Projects Cut

FROM PAGE 3

funded by a congressional earmark secured by U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), who represents parts of Loudoun and Fairfax Counties.

But Allen Muchnick, the head of the anti-I-66 group Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation, said the decision to scale back its I-66 project "shows that [it's] not a priority for VDOT. ... For whatever VDOT's purposes are, good or evil, it has other priorities."

**ARLINGTON OFFICIALS** were less overjoyed with the other cuts VDOT has proposed.

Ten million dollars for the improvement of the Courthouse Road/Route 50 interchange was excised from the state's transportation budget. Zimmerman, who serves as the chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, said he was confused by the move to cut this project since

## Budget Cuts

The following is a list of some of the Northern Virginia projects that VDOT is proposing to either cancel or delay:

- ❖ Improvements to Route 50/Courthouse Road interchange – **Arlington County**
- ❖ I-66 widening inside Beltway – **Arlington County**
- ❖ I-66 pavement rehabilitation – **Fairfax County**
- ❖ Vienna Metro Station improvements – **Fairfax County**
- ❖ Route 7 widening – **Fairfax County**
- ❖ Merrifield interchange (Route 29 and Gallows Road) improvements – **Fairfax County**
- ❖ Route 29 widening – **Fairfax County**
- ❖ Route 7 widening in Leesburg – **Loudoun County**
- ❖ Clermont Avenue widening – **City of Alexandria**

construction is already under way there. "It's a strange one to stop, if you ask me," he said. "I don't know what the logic is to any of this."

Zimmerman also said that these cuts

**"There are many things that need to be done and they're getting farther and farther out into the future."**

— Arlington County Board Member Chris Zimmerman (D)

make it even less likely that other Arlington projects — such as improvements to the Rosslyn Metro Station and the reconstruction of the Washington Boulevard bridge over Columbia Pike — will receive state funding. "There are many things that need to be done and they're getting farther and farther out into the future," he said.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will meet in Richmond later this month to finalize the budget cuts.

Learn about teaching English to speakers of other languages. Free. 703-533-9478.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

**Money Talk.** 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Women can take on their finances. \$20 includes textbook. 703-228-6417.

# AIDS Clinic To Close

FROM PAGE 3

patient transition plan for each patient based on their medical condition, location, insurance and personal preferences," he wrote.

According to its Web site, the Whitman-Walker Clinic was established out of the basement of the Georgetown Lutheran Church in 1973 "by and for the gay and les-

# 50 Years Of Rotary

FROM PAGE 3

munity. "If Rotary had existed at the time when George Washington was our leader," he said, "He'd have been a Rotarian."

**THE ROTARY CLUB** was formed 104 years ago in Chicago by Paul Harris, an attorney who was looking to form relationships with other professionals. Since then it has evolved into one of the largest service organizations in the world, with 1.2 million members who belong to more than 32,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 200 countries.

Arlington's Rotary Club is especially close-knit. At its recent meeting, one man spoke of buying a car from the wife of a fellow Rotarian in 1970. The car is still running, he said.

The group engages in a weekly practice known as "Happy Talk," in which members contribute a few dollars to the club and get to tell their fellow Rotarians about joyous events in their lives.

But the Arlington Rotary Club is about more than money. Club president Kim Durand said that the group does blood drives and food drives; raises money for the Central Library; and was involved in the Hurricane Katrina recovery.

"Some suggested that this is a knife and fork club that just knows how to write checks," Arlington Rotarian Steve Holmes said. "But it's actually very involved in the community."

**"Some suggested that this is a knife and fork club that just knows how to write checks. But it's actually very involved in the community."**

— Steve Holmes

## BULLETIN BOARD

Know of something missing from our community calendar? E-mail it to [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

## ONGOING ITEMS

All Arlington County administrative offices, public libraries and nature centers **will be closed Monday, Feb. 16**, in observance of the Presidents Day holiday. County offices and courts will resume normal schedules on Tuesday, February 17. Visit [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) and search keyword "holiday."

Arlington residents who need help repairs on their house, can contact **RPJ Housing**, a local non-profit agency funded by Arlington County. Teams of volunteers do all the work free with skills ranging from novice to professional. These community members repair floors, ceilings, walls, doors and roofs; install grab bars, railings and smoke detectors; address minor plumbing and electrical

repairs; build ramps, paint and attend to yard work. Priority is given to seniors, persons with disabilities and families with children. To obtain an application, simply call RPJ Housing at 703-528-5606 ext. 11 or visit <http://rpjhousing.org/programs.html>

Beginning Thursday, March 5, **NAMI-Northern Virginia** offers a free, 12-week education course in Arlington on mental illness for family members of individuals with mental illness. Contact Marie Fordham at 517-213-0668 for more information.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 15

**Support Group.** 1 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5533 N. 16th St. NAMI-Arlington sponsored group. Free. 703-862-9588.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 17

**Discussion.** Noon at Holiday Inn in Rosslyn.

# Gubernatorial Candidates Woo Arlington Democrats

Two of the four candidates running for governor were in Arlington last to win over an influential group of local political activists.

**Terry McAuliffe** and **Brian Moran** each gave separate, three-minute speeches to the Arlington County Democratic Committee on their qualifications to run the state of Virginia.

The candidates did not interact; McAuliffe left the meeting – which took place at the National Rural Electric Co-Opera-



FILE PHOTOS

**Brian Moran and Terry McAuliffe are stumping for support in Arlington.**

tive Association building in Ballston – before Moran arrived.

Moran, a former member of the

House of Delegates from Alexandria, and McAuliffe, the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, are vying for the Democratic nomination in the race along with Sen. **Creigh Deeds** (D-Charlottesville). Former Virginia Attorney General **Robert McDonnell** is running unopposed for the Republican nomination.

Arlington's votes will be crucial in the three-way Democratic primary. The county is one of the most Democratic areas in the state. Arlington provided U.S. Sen. **Jim Webb** (D) the margin of victory he needed to defeat former U.S. Sen. **George Allen** (R) in his razor-thin 2006 victory. All three candidates for Governor will be cam-

paing hard for Arlington's votes in the June 9 primary.

Thus far, Moran would appear to have an advantage on McAuliffe and Deeds in Arlington, having received the endorsement of nearly all of the county's elected officials.

— DAVID SCHULTZ

LOCAL POLITICS

PEOPLE NOTES

To have engagements, weddings, obituaries, or other significant personal events listed in *The Arlington Connection*, e-mail [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympic Committee has new leadership for 2009 which includes **Jack Hobbs**, (Alexandria), chairman; **Carol Mackela**, (Arlington), secretary and **Judy Massabny** of the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and **Brian Johnson** from the Fairfax County Parks Authority serve as co-coordinators on the Committee.

Several Animal Welfare League of Arlington staff and volunteers have been nominated to receive awards from the Metropolitan Council of Governments Animal Services Committee for their outstanding dedication, commitment, and service to animal welfare. The nominees and their award categories are:

**Volunteers of the Year:** Rebecca Kingery, Nicky Roberts, Kit Hudgens, and Vanessa Hartman for their dedica-

tion to small companion animals at the shelter and their assistance with adoptions of 159 rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, birds, and ferrets in 2008.

**Animal Care Team of the Year:** Bonnie Wilson, Kim O'Keefe and their kennel staff go far beyond just keeping our shelter clean and comfortable for our animals.

**Animal Control Officer/Human Officer of the Year:** Alice Burton, Chief Animal Control Officer.

**Community Partnership of the Year:** Arlington County Office of Emergency Management (Lucia Schmidt, Debbie Powers), Animal Welfare League of Arlington (Kay Speerstra), Arlington County Dept. of Health and Human Services (Robert Sharpe), Arlington/Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross (Dawn Kuras).

**Veterinarian of the Year:** Dr. Jeff Newman and the staff of Caring Hands Animal Hospital, Arlington.

**Administrative/Customer Service of the Year:** Rita Naimoli, Coordinator of Volunteer Training for the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.

**Adoption Team of the Year:** Rebecca Gall and the adoptions team at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.

SENIOR LIVING

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

**Technology Program.** Cyberseniors/Cyberteens, intergenerational computer training program offered at Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway, Arlington. Five four-hour courses, \$20 each with tens assisting seniors. Call or drop by, 10 a.m. – noon, 703-228-6425 or 703-228-0555.

**Fast Walkers.** Fast paced walking group for adults 55+ will meet 9:30 a.m., Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St., Arlington. No fee; newcomers welcome. Information: 703-228-5722.

**Walkers.** The Lee Walkers, Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway, will walk along Holmes Run Trail, Alexandria, 10 a.m. Cost is \$2; newcomers welcome. Call to register, 703-228-0555.

**Lunch.** Valentine's Day luncheon for adults 55+, noon, Aurora Hills

Senior Center, 735 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St., Arlington. Pasta, meatballs, salad, rolls, dessert. Musical entertainment by Songfellows barbershop quartet. Cost is \$6. Register by noon Feb. 11 by calling 703-228-5722.

**Celebration.** Smoothies party for early Valentine's celebration, 10:30 a.m., Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St., Arlington. Bring a favorite fruit, Center will provide the rest. Free. Call 703-228-5321.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

**Honor Celebration.** Nine elders from Arlington's African-American community will be honored for their community contributions during a Harambee Ceremony, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Walter Reed Senior Center, 2909 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Harambee in Swahili means working together for a common purpose. Free. Information: 703-228-0948.

Correction

In the story "Field In 47<sup>th</sup> Race Swells" in the Feb. 4 edition of the *Arlington Connection*, Alfonso Lopez's place of residence was referred to incorrectly. He lives in the 47<sup>th</sup> House of Delegates district.

## Arlington Cosmetic Dental Group



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## Lunch & Learn

Free Event for Seniors

You're invited to join us at one of our upcoming "Lunch & Learn" events at our beautiful community. Our professional staff will be present to meet with you and discuss how living at our community can eliminate the burden of maintaining a home so you are free to pursue your interests, friendships and active lifestyle. Sample our delicious cuisine and learn about the many services and options we offer, including:

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- Personalized care for independent residents
- Fitness programs

**For complete details and to RSVP, please call our Director of Community Relations.**



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EVENT DETAILS

Lunch & Learn

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Wednesday, February 18th  
11:00am

RSVP to 703-845-5075  
by February 15th

# OPINION

## Gun Show Loop Hole Stays Open

Affront to families of Virginia Tech victims leaves option open for felons and people with documented mental illness to buy guns.

It's a common sense measure that wouldn't stop a single qualified Virginian from buying a gun. We have the technology to implement it without massive expense or additional bureaucracy.

Right now, some of the guns sold at gun shows in Virginia are sold without the background check required of gun sales in any other official setting. This allows even convicted felons, stalkers with restraining orders against them, and people with documented mental health problems that could make them a danger to themselves or others a clear path to purchasing a firearm.

There is no reason for this.

In November, at the "Nation's Gun Show" the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly was the scene of record gun sales. It was an ebullient gathering of people with shared interests, and no doubt all but the tiniest percentage of participants were law-abiding, responsible people, fully qualified to own the guns they were buying. The record sales were motivated in part because of concern by some gun enthusiasts about new restrictions on some firearms that could come with Democratic control of Congress and the White House, and in part because of the recession.

### EDITORIAL

Why would those people want to run the risk that a tragedy like the one at Virginia Tech nearly two years ago that claimed the lives of 33 people would involve a gun purchased without a proper background check at the Nation's Gun Show?

For the record, the Virginia Tech shooter was able to buy his guns legally because his name was mistakenly not included on the list of those excluded from gun ownership; he was previously ruled a danger to himself or others and should not have been able to buy from a licensed gun dealer. But if he had been excluded through normal means, he could have traveled a few miles from his home to the gun show in Chantilly in search of weapons he could buy without a background check.

In any event, legislation in the General Assembly that would have closed the gun show loophole is dead for this year. Only one Northern Virginia senator, Ken Cuccinelli, voted against closing the loophole.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Avoid State Dictate

To the Editor:

Arlington Del. Bob Brink sponsored a bill (HB 1890) that recently passed the House of Delegate in the Virginia Assembly that will effectively eliminate the right of citizens of Arlington to place future referendums on the ballot to activate a housing authority in Arlington. Is Delegate Brink afraid that moderate income people will be able to rent in his north Arlington district with the help of a housing authority? Is he afraid to allow Arlington voters the power to decide for themselves if a housing authority is needed in Arlington? Is he afraid of democracy?

Brink is cravenly carrying out the wishes of County Board Democrats who oppose a housing authority and truth be told oppose the preservation of moderate rental apartments throughout Arlington including in tony north Arlington, north of Lee Highway among the Country Club set. The Arlington Democratic Party is full of limousine liberals who don't want moderate income folks living in Arlington anymore.

Affordable housing in Arlington has been reduced to almost none because of frenzied development, tear downs and condo conversions that left people making below \$60,000 a year out of Arlington, including seniors, teachers, police and fire, and many entry level professionals. Any fair analysis of housing in Arlington shows crisis-rising numbers of homeless, evictions, and displacement. We need new solutions — including a housing authority.

We Greens placed the housing authority referendum on the ballot in 2008. The authority received 33,000 favorable votes and 66,000 negative votes. The people decided — not a bunch of General Assembly delegates — from other areas of Virginia. This is a local issue; this is local democracy; this is the time to keep addressing our housing programs including starting a housing authority.

Brink's bill should be defeated in the Virginia Senate or vetoed by Governor Kaine.

**John Reeder**  
Arlington

*The author was the Arlington Green Party candidate for Arlington County Board in 2008, and endorsed the passage of the housing authority in 2008.*



Students at the Potomac Crescent Waldorf School take some time out from their studies to frolic in the snow.

PHOTOS BY DAVID SCHULTZ/THE CONNECTION

### Yesterwinter?

The season's first snowfall blanketed the Washington region in January, causing schools to close and roads to become dangerously icy. But students at the Potomac Crescent Waldorf School — located on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South in the Aurora Highlands neighborhood — reveled in the coldness. Snowballs were thrown, snowmen were constructed and a good time was had by all — just memories during this week's unseasonably warmer weather.



Kysa Chilling, 6, makes a snowman during one of the heaviest snowfalls in the D.C. area in recent years.



Colin Pirillo, 7, a student at the Potomac Crescent Waldorf School, prepares to launch an icy attack.

## ARLINGTON CONNECTION

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# Koger Sentenced to Prison

Hundreds of local homeowners associations victimized.

**J**effrey Scott Koger, 39 of Oak Hill, was sentenced last week in federal court to more than five years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$2 million in restitution.

Koger embezzled more than \$3 million from many of the 400-plus Northern Virginia homeowners associations that contracted services from his family's company, Koger Management Group, located in Fairfax.

KMG collected homeowners association dues and provided a variety of financial and maintenance services for the HOAs. Homeowners associations in virtually every part of Northern Virginia were affected, including in Ashburn, Chantilly, Arlington, Burke, Springfield, McLean, Reston, Mount Vernon and Alexandria, among others.

Neither the United States government nor Jeffrey Koger's defense attorney call his criminal actions "sophisticated,"

but Koger used more than 140 bank wire transfers to move the money for his own purposes. The embezzlement was conducted over the course of several years.

"The defendant took steps to cover up and explain away his criminal behavior which made his theft more difficult to detect," according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Hanly. "A significant term of incarceration

is needed to reflect the seriousness of the defendant's crime, to impose just punishment, and to deter him from future offenses."

Koger, who also faces criminal charges in Fairfax County (see below), pleaded guilty to wire fraud and tax evasion last November.

U.S. District Court Judge Leonie M. Brinkema sentenced Koger Friday, Feb. 6 to 66 months in prison and ordered that he pay more than \$1.2 million in restitution as well as \$775,272 to the IRS for tax evasion.

Koger was the former chief financial officer of his father's real estate management firm, Koger Management Group, which filed for bankruptcy in July 2007. Robert Koger, the defendant's father, reported to the Fairfax City Police in November 2006 that he believed his son had embezzled \$800,000, kicking off the investigation.

"The defendant's crimes caused substantial harm to numerous individuals, including: KMG which was forced to dissolve and declare bankruptcy; KMG's employees, many of whom lost their jobs as a result of the dissolution; the more than 350 HOA (homeowners associations), many of whom suffered real financial hardship because of the stolen monies," according to Hanly.

**KOGER COOPERATED** with probation officers in preparing his pre-sentence report. He "places no blame on others for his conduct," according to his defense attorney Peter D. Greenspun.

"However, counsel for Mr. Koger feels it is

important to bring to the attention of the Court the context of what occurred and a full understanding of mental health challenges untreated through the time of his offenses," according to documents filed by Greenspun in U.S. District Court, giving the position of the defendant with respect to sentencing.

"Mr. Koger's actions were ultimately derived not from pure greed but rather as a result of his severely deteriorated mental health state coupled with an unhealthy need to provide for his wife," he said.

Untreated mental health challenges included Koger's bipolar disorder, alcohol dependence, bulimia nervosa and borderline personality disorder as well as gambling addictions, according to Greenspun.

Greenspun described his client as a "bright and capable businessman" who lived for years in a "frantic and type A-plus manner" helping to make KMG successful.

There is no evidence of theft before Koger began his relationship with his wife in 2002, Greenspun wrote, when Koger started to support her fitness and restaurant business ventures as well as a newly acquired lavish "extreme life style."

"The theft scheme was not complicated," according to Greenspun. "Mr. Koger took out funds out of a BB&T pass through account. While those transactions were covered up by various KMG accounting and administrative entries, there was no secret as to where the funds were going."

Koger embezzled the money and invested funds in personal accounts and businesses he and his wife were involved in, according to court documents, including: \$733,000 in Jordan's 8 restaurant on Capitol Hill; \$374,960 to pay a contractor to remodel his Oak Hill house and the Tri-Fitness, Inc. facility in Annandale; \$40,000 for a down payment on a 2005 Chevrolet Corvette convertible; \$60,000 for a down payment on a house in New Mexico; and \$56,668 for windows and doors for his home.

Koger also evaded \$775,273 in federal income taxes by failing to file personal income tax returns from 2003-06, according to the Internal Revenue Service. In 2005, Koger received taxable income of more than \$810,257.

"The tragedy is that Mr. Koger's education and intelligence, and described work ethic should have brought about more, not less for Mr. Koger," Greenspun said.

**FEDERAL SENTENCING** may be the least of Koger's problems. He also faces three counts of attempted capital murder of police officers, two counts of aggravated maiming and five counts of use of a firearm in the commission of felonies in Fairfax County courts.

"The struggle for Mr. Koger only begins with this [federal] sentencing," said Greenspun.

Additional aggravated malicious wounding charges in the City of Alexandria Circuit Courts could also be prosecuted, although they have currently been nolle prossed, or set aside.

According to police reports and testimony at Koger's preliminary hearing in Fairfax County court in June 2008, Koger stopped his 1990 Jeep Cherokee behind a taxicab stopped at a traffic light at the corner of Seminary Road and North Beauregard Street in Alexandria in the early morning of Feb. 2, 2008.

Koger got out of his Jeep, walked to the taxi driver's



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**"The struggle for Mr. Koger only begins with this sentencing."**

**— Peter D. Greenspun, defense attorney**

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## NEWS

# Hundreds of Homeowners Associations Victimized

FROM PAGE 7

window and fired several shots into the cab. The driver was seriously injured.

Koger shot two other men in another car, who escaped him by driving into the Fairfax County Police Station on Franconia Road.

"These incidents are without reason and there is not any evidence of motive," according to Greenspun, who called the incidents "serious events" although "nothing but the delusional actions of a very challenged and intoxicated man."

Koger eventually fled in his Jeep to elude a Virginia State trooper. Koger crashed into a traffic control box in front of Springfield Shopping Mall, and got out of his car with a fire-

arm in his hand.

When Koger fired his weapon, the trooper and Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority officers shot back, hitting Koger in the mid-section. He was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries, but recovered.

**AFTER BEING SHOT**, Koger said, "Help me, they're coming to get me."

Koger had a blood alcohol content of .25 or higher — three times the legal limit in Virginia to drive — according to federal court documents.

In August, Greenspun, filed notice of Koger's possible intent to claim the insanity defense.

"Law enforcement, family and defense counsel have not been able to identify any assault-

ive behavior in the span of Mr. Koger's life," he said.

At the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, Koger has been placed in solitary confinement from time to time due to concerns for his safety and suicidal tendencies, according to Greenspun.

"Mr. Koger has had a daunting time due to the publicity surrounding his cases, his victimization at the hands of more incarceration-experienced inmates, and the taunts by those who live or have lived in properties managed by KMG," according to Greenspun.

Koger faces more than three life terms in prison if convicted in Fairfax County Circuit Court. His trial on those charges is currently scheduled for later this month.

### BUSINESS NOTES

Know of something missing from our Business Notes? Send it to The Arlington Connection, e-mail it to [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication.

On Monday, Jan. 19, **The Reading Connection (TRC) and Kinder Haus Toys** collected more than 1,000 children's books at a book drive to benefit TRC's four literacy programs. The donated books will be distributed through TRC's shelter read-alouds, monthly book club and its workshops for parents and family support workers.

The **Avon Foundation Breast**

**Care Fund** has awarded a \$35,000 one-year grant to Arlington Free Clinic to increase awareness of the life-saving benefits of early detection of breast cancer and to provide breast health care services. It is the seventh year that the program has received Avon Foundation funding to support its work on this health issue.

### MILITARY NOTES

Army Pfc. **AnDrinna M. Stearns** has been decorated with the Army Commendation Medal. She is the daughter of Reggie W. Davidson and granddaughter of Barbara A. McDaniel and a 2001 graduate of Washington-Lee High School.

### HEALTH & FITNESS

Know of something missing from our health & fitness listings? E-mail it to [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

A **reflexology class** will be offered in January at Yoga & Bodywork Studio, 530 S. 24<sup>th</sup> St. Call 571-217-1353 to be put on the list. A deposit is required.

The Ballston **Commonwalk** program is free. It meets Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8-9 a.m. where walkers go at their own pace. Meet at 9:15 a.m. for group exercise at the sign

in table (inside the mall across the information desk). It is a nice and safe environment especially with the winter coming up. For more information and where to meet, call 703-558-6859.

**Alzheimer's Association Caregivers Support Group.** This group offers an opportunity to meet with other caregivers to discuss ways to manage stresses and challenges associated with caring for a loved one who has Alzheimer's disease. This group meets on the third Tuesday of every month from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Carlin Springs Health Pavilion, 601 S. Carlin Springs Road. For information 703-558-5903.

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# 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](http://www.Co.Arlington.Va.Us/police) and click on daily crime report.

**BANK ROBBERY**, 5500 block of Lee Highway. On Jan. 30 at 6 p.m., two masked men entered a bank. They were armed with a knife and a handgun. The suspects demanded money, received it, and fled the area. Both suspects were covered in all dark clothing including baseball caps and masks. This is possibly related to another bank robbery that occurred in the area at the same time.

**BANK ROBBERY**, 5300 block of Lee Highway. On Jan. 30 at 6 p.m., two men entered a bank, and one of the suspects was armed with a handgun. The suspects demanded money, received it, and fled the area. Both suspects were African American males in all dark clothing; one suspect was wearing sunglasses. This is possibly related to another bank robbery that occurred in the area at the same time.

**ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY**, 2400 block of Crystal Drive. On Jan. 29 at 2:30 p.m., an unknown man entered a Crystal City bank. He passed a note to a teller demanding money, but fled without receiving any. The suspect was an African American male of unknown age, 5 feet 10 inches and 180 pounds. He was wearing a black jacket, black baseball hat with yellow lettering, and dark sunglasses.

**ROBBERY**, 5000 block of Columbia Pike. On Jan. 29 at 10 p.m., a woman was entering the store when a man she knew grabbed her wallet from her hand and fled. The suspect's information is known.

**POSSESSION OF WEAPON**, 2600 block of Jefferson Davis Highway. On Jan. 2 at 1 a.m., an officer conducted traffic stop. During investigation the driver was found to be suspended, in possession of a stun gun and narcotics. A male, 37, of Temple Hills, Md., was issued a summons for driving while suspended, and charged with possession of a stun gun by a convicted felon, possession of cocaine and possession of marijuana. He was held on a \$1,000 bond.

**POSSESSION WITH INTENT-ARREST**, 2100 block of Columbia Pike. On Jan. 28 at 9:30 p.m., police responded to a bus stop for a disagreement. During the investigation, police found a subject in possession of narcotics. A male, 32, of Washington D.C. was charged with possession of narcotics with the intention to sell. He was held without bond.

**ARSON**, 2700 block of N. Harrison St. at Greenbrier Park. On Jan. 30 at 9:30 p.m., an officer located a small fire in a park. A basketball game had recently finished at the nearby high school, and the suspects are juveniles. The case is under investigation by the Fire Marshall.

**ATTEMPTED MALICIOUS WOUNDING-ARREST**, 1800 block of S. Eads St. On Jan. 30 at 11:30, a woman was assaulted by the father of her child. The suspect also deliberately ran his vehicle into the car of another subject at the scene of the assault. The suspect drove off, and was apprehended by police. A male, 29, of Washington D.C., was charged with domestic assault & battery, and attempted malicious wounding. He was held without bond.

**UNLAWFUL WOUNDING-ARREST**, 4400 block of S. 31st St. On Jan. 29 at 8:15 a.m., a man bit his ex-girlfriend during an argument. Police apprehended the suspect after he continually left threatening phone messages for the victim. A male, 21, of Annandale, was charged with unlawful wounding, stalking, and threats by telephone. He was held without bond.

**ASSAULT AND BATTERY**, 800

block of S. Frederick St. On Jan. 30 at 10 p.m., two men and a woman were walking when a car approached them. Five subjects got out of the car and several assaulted one of the men. The suspects asked the victim about his gang affiliation. All five suspects were African American males wearing all dark clothing.

**LARCENY FROM A PERSON**, 1300 block of S. Joyce St. On Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m., a woman was at a table with her purse hanging on the back of a chair, when two unknown men ran by and stole the purse. The suspects were both African American males in their late teens. They were wearing dark jackets and jeans.

**BURGLARY**, 3800 block of Columbia Pike. Between 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 1, and 2 p.m. on Jan. 2, an unknown suspect broke into a storage unit. There is no suspect description.

**BURGLARY**, 5800 block of N. 16th St. On Feb. 3 between 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., an unknown subject entered an apartment and stole numerous items. There is no suspect description.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, 2900 block of S. Randolph St. On Jan. 28 between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., an unknown suspect entered two vehicles and stole GPS units. There is no suspect description.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, 5000 block of 34th St. Between 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 27, and noon on Jan. 28, an unknown suspect entered three vehicles and stole various items. There is no suspect description.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, Shirlington Neighborhood. Between 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 31, and 11 a.m. on Feb. 1, an unknown suspect broke into three vehicles that were parked in two different parking garages and stole several items. There is no suspect description.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, 2200 block of S. Garfield St. On Jan. 30, between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., four vehicles were broken into. One vehicle had items stolen from inside. There is no suspect description.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, 2600 block of S. Crystal Drive. Between 2 a.m. on Jan. 31, and 9 a.m. on Feb. 1, an unknown suspect broke into two vehicles inside a parking garage. Several items were stolen. There is no suspect description.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, 2200 block of S. 27th St. Between 2 p.m. on Jan. 30, and 11 a.m. on Feb. 1, three vehicles in a parking garage were broken into. Electronics were stolen. There is no suspect description.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, 800 block of S. Frederick St. Between 11 p.m. on Jan. 30, and midnight on Feb. 1, 4 vehicles were broken into. Various items were stolen. There are no known suspects.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, Columbia Forest Neighborhood. Between midnight on Jan. 31, and 10 on Feb. 1, three vehicles were broken into. Various items were stolen. There is no suspect description.

**LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, 5900 block of S. 1st St. and 100 block of N. Liberty St. On Feb. 3 between midnight and 7 a.m., an unknown suspect broke into three vehicles in the area and stole several items. There is no suspect description.

**ATTEMPT LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES)**, 2000 block of S. Glebe Road. Between 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 30, and 8 a.m. on Jan. 31, two vehicles were broken into and searched but no items were stolen. There is no suspect description.

**STOLEN AUTO** Jan. 30, VA XXN-8393, 2005 Chevy Impala, gold; 1400 block of S. Taylor St.

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## THEATER

# Audience Laughter Fills Small Hall

Signature showcases  
"The Little Dog Laughed."

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
The little dog isn't the only one who laughs when Holly Twyford takes the stage at Signature Theatre as the lead in Douglas Carter Beane's contemporary comedy "The Little Dog Laughed." Indeed, the title of the evening might be "The Little Audience Laughed" because the show is playing in the smaller of Signature's two theaters in its complex in Shirlington, the 110-seat black box theater called "The ARK."

The title of the four-character comedy is a line from Mother Goose's nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle." Why did the little dog laugh in that rhyme? "To see such sport," of course. In this instance, it is the hijinks of show business insiders.

Lamponing the peculiarities of the entertainment industry has made for marvelously entertaining

comedies for decades, but this is a new one that has been added to the list of funny material. It is being given its local premiere at Signature after a three-month run on Broadway which garnered a Tony Award for its star Julie White.

The principal pleasure of this new production is watching its star as well. Holly Twyford plays the agent of an up-and-coming actor who wants to achieve matinee-idol star status. She pulls every string in the book to obtain the opportunity to produce a movie of a new play which she's convinced will solidify his status when he plays the lead.

The problem she has is that the play deals with the love affair between two gay men, and as she

explains to the audience, when a straight actor plays a dramatic part of a gay man, it's viewed as great acting. When a gay actor plays the same part, "it's bragging." Her hunky leading man meets and falls for a male prostitute and wants to go public with the affair. What to do?

Twyford's maneuvering involves interactions not just with the actor, played with a slightly excessive

heavy hand by Matthew Montelongo, but with the male prostitute who is played with delightful levity by Ivan Quinlan, and even the prostitutes' own girlfriend (yes, he has a girlfriend when he's not off with a gay client). Cassie Platt delivers some of the comedy with fine timing.

But the show belongs to Twyford, and while she establishes solid rapport with her colleagues, she pulls

### Where and When

"The Little Dog Laughed" plays Tuesday - Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m. with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Signature Theatre is located at 4200 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington. Tickets are \$44 - \$71. Call 703-573-7328 or visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).



Matthew Montelongo as Mitchell and Holly Twyford as Diane.

off both her solo scenes and the ensemble ones with a flare that makes the moments she's on stage the ones you will remember after you leave the hall.

With "The Little Dog Laughed," Signature has two hits playing at

the same time. Both this light comedy and the big sung-through musical "Les Misérables" are drawing crowds to their new two-theater complex. The musical is slated to run through Feb. 22 while the comedy continues on until March 8.

This is a good time for theatergoers who haven't yet discovered Signature to make a visit (or two).

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits Potomac Stages, ([www.PotomacStages.com](http://www.PotomacStages.com)). He can be reached at [Brad@PotomacStages.com](mailto:Brad@PotomacStages.com).

### CALENDAR

E-mail calendar announcements to The Arlington Connection, [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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:

See "East Meets West" at Century 21 Redwood Realty, 1711 Wilson Blvd., through Feb. 28. Art by Arlington Artists Alliance. Free. Visit [www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com](http://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com)

The Arlington Artists Alliance has a winter show through Feb. 27 at Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Over 20 artists display oil paintings and more. Free. Visit [www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com](http://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com) for more.

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present "Crossing Glances: Regards Croises Arlington & Reims: Sister Cities" from Jan. 23 through March 28 at Ellipse Arts Center, 4350 N. Fairfax Drive. Photographs by John Babineau of Arlington and Cecile Bethlehem of Reims, France. Free. Visit [www.arlingtonarts.org](http://www.arlingtonarts.org) for more.

**Students from Kenmore Middle School** are exhibiting their artwork at The Phillips Collection Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. The student artwork included in the exhibit was inspired by The Phillips Collection's current exhibition, "Christo and Jeanne Claude: Over the River, a Work in Progress." The community celebration is open to the public and the student exhibit can be viewed through March 8. Call 703-228-6004.

Paintings and drawings of **Teresa Oaxaca** will be on display at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., from Feb. 23 to March 30. Oaxaca, a 2005 graduate of H-B Woodlawn in Arlington, is a classically-trained realist painter who studied in Italy and Norway.

#### ONGOING:

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. 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Visit [www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com) for more on the market and vendors.

Arlington's David M. Brown

Planetarium, 1426 N. Quincy Street, presents "Hubble Vision" through Sunday, Feb. 22. Enjoy a multimedia show featuring the best and most exciting Hubble images. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens & children 12 and younger. For more information, call the Planetarium office at 703-228-6070.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 12

**Film Talk.** 6:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Hannah Rose Shell will discuss "Secondhand (Pepe)." Free.

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 13

**Murder Mystery.** 7:30 p.m. at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit [www.mtolivet-umc.org](http://www.mtolivet-umc.org) for tickets.

**Friday Night Movie.** 6:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults and teens can watch "The Galapagos" and then discuss. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 14

**Murder Mystery.** 6 p.m. at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit [www.mtolivet-umc.org](http://www.mtolivet-umc.org) for tickets.

**Lecture.** 1:30 p.m. at National Science Foundation, Room 110, 4201 Wilson Blvd. Listen to "Darwin at 200, Human Nature at a Few Million, Myth Dispelled" by Dennis K. McBride, Ph.D. Free. Visit [www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org) or 301-587-3827.

**Harambee Ceremony.** 11 a.m. at

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Walter Reed Community Center. Enjoy the 12<sup>th</sup> annual ceremony. Free. 703-228-0943.

**Rocks, Minerals and What is Orogeny?** 1 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Ages 9 to adult can learn about rocks and miners and study the history of the American West. \$2/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

**Movie Watch.** 3 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Adults can learn about Pola Negri and watch "Barbed Wire." \$2/person. 703-228-3403.

**Identifying Trees.** 2 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, Marcy Road at Military Road. Identify trees in winter. Reservations required, 703-528-5406.

**Performance.** See-I performs at IOTA at 9 p.m. \$12/person. Visit [www.myspace.com/seei](http://www.myspace.com/seei) for more.

**Theater and Valentine's Day.** Watch "Dante" and have champagne and chocolates before the show at Rosslyn Spectrum, 1611 N. Kent St. 7 p.m. starts the champagne, 8 p.m. showtime. \$40/person; \$20/student. 1-800-494-8497.

**Child's Night Out.** 7-11 p.m. at Syntetic Theater, 2788 S. Arlington Mill Drive, #110. Children ages 3-10 can enjoy games, projects and more. \$20/hour or \$60/all evening. Registration required, 703-824-8061.

**Tree Pruning Workshop.** 9 a.m. at Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 S 16<sup>th</sup> St. Free. To RSVP 703-228-6414.

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 15

**Author Event.** 3 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Andrew Jampoler will discuss "The Last Lincoln Conspirator," which tells the story of John Surratt. Free.

**Owls of Virginia.** 2 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can learn about these animals and see one up

close. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

**Cleanup and Invasive Removal.** 2 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Join Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and Arlington's Remove Invasive Plants program. Free. Register at 703-228-6406.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Eclipse Chamber Orchestra performs romantic favorites. Free reception follows. \$25/adult; \$20/senior; \$5/student. 703-635-2770 for tickets.

#### MONDAY/FEB. 16

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m., Wakefield High School students perform in "Aftershock" at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org) or contact 571-527-1827 for tickets.

#### TUESDAY/FEB. 17

**Birding Trip.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Black Hill Regional Park. Meet at Lubber Run, 300 N. Park Drive. Adults can look at waterfowl. \$15/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

#### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

**Poesis.** 7 p.m. at Pentagon City Borders, 1201 S. Hayes St. Features Tala Abu Rahmeh and Ines Rivera Prosdoci. Free. 703-418-0166.

**The Purr-fect Pet.** 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 3-5 can learn why some animals make good pets and others do not. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

**Graduate Gemologists - Cabochons.** 4:15 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children age 8-13 can learn about new stones and take one home. \$5/person. Registration

required, 703-228-3403.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 19

**Gardening Meeting.** 10 a.m. at Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road. Learn about miniature floral designs and vertical designs. Visit [www.rockspringgardenclub.com](http://www.rockspringgardenclub.com) or 703-525-8576.

**The Purr-fect Pet.** 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 3-5 can learn why some animals make good pets and others do not. \$3/child. To register, 703-228-6535.

**Nature Lover's Book Club.** 7:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Discuss "The Lively Pets of Parque Vargas" by Archie Carr and two other books. Free. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 20

**Theater.** 7:30 p.m. at Chalice Theatre at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. \$15/student; senior. \$20/adult. Watch "Big: The Musical." 703-892-0202 ext. 6.

**Black History Proclamation Ceremony.** 10:30 a.m. at Court House Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Enjoy music, speeches and more. Free. 703-228-7589.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 21

**Movie Watch.** 2 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "500 Years Later" by Owen Alik Shahadah." Free.

**Theater.** 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. \$15/student; senior. \$20/adult. Watch "Big: The Musical." 703-892-0202 ext. 6.

**Rowing Competition.** 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Ballston Common Mall. Yorktown High School will hold a competition to benefit Habitat for Humanity. E-mail [orheume@yahoo.com](mailto:orheume@yahoo.com) for more.

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## MUSIC

# Island Valentine

Why listen to reggae music on Valentine's Day? Why not?

IOTA Club and Café in Arlington is hosting a triple billing of reggae artists on Feb. 14. John Bowen and DJ Fasimbass' Afrikan Dub Soundsystem are opening up for local act See-I, which contains members of the D.C.-area electronic music collective, Thievery Corporation.

Before the show, IOTA will be offering a special Jamaican Valentine menu. According to an email from club owner Stephen Negrey, the food will be "hot, spicy and cheap."

The reggae show begins at IOTA at 9 p.m. on Valentine's Day. Tickets are \$12. The special Jamaican menu begins at 5 p.m.

Visit [www.iotaclubandcafe.com](http://www.iotaclubandcafe.com) for more.



PHOTO BY JESSE JUSTICE

**Local reggae act See-I will be performing at IOTA Club and Café in Arlington on Valentine's Day.**

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## SCHOOLS

# No Subtlety in Commedia

A look behind the mask of "The Imaginary Invalid."

BY BROOKE WEBER  
YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

When we think "comedy," our minds automatically flash to "The Office" or "Saturday Night Live" in its heyday, perhaps some Stooges' slapstick or — if we're really cultured — mimes. But who would have guessed that all these variations came from the minds of a bunch of 16<sup>th</sup>-century actors in tights? In fact, the Italian "art of comedy," or Commedia dell'Arte, is the origin of most modern styles of theatre.

Now, 500 years later, Yorktown High School is resurrecting this classic art form for its production of Molière's "The Imaginary Invalid," which placed first in the regional competition of the Virginia High School League One-Act Play Festival on Jan. 31.

Commedia dell'Arte combines the classic stereotyped characters still recognizable today — the miserly old man, the infatuated lovers, the crafty servant — with stylized movement to create a unique form of art. Each stock character has its own special movement, attitude, mask, and lazzi (or quirks). Big sweeping gestures, bent knees, and exaggerated walks are all part of this over-the-top style.

For the cast of "Invalid," the Commedia dell'Arte style was challenging to master at first. Typically, high school theatre employs modern realism, in which actors are enveloped in the world they create on stage. However, Commedia is much more presentational: the "players" directly involve the audience in the action.

"Getting used to the presentational style was difficult," said Curt Gavin, who shares the role of Argan, the miser, "especially finding the 'truth' behind the charac-



PHOTOS BY JIM COATES

**The hypochondriac Argan (Curt Gavin) and Toinette (Elaine McCartin) argue over his "illness" as the servants look on (from left, Natalia Froberg, Catalina Ruiz de Gamboa, and Alicia Mau).**

ter because his actions are so outrageous."

Wyckham Avery, Commedia expert and guest artist at Yorktown, assured the cast, "There is no subtlety or subtext in Commedia." Everything is presented openly to the audience and the characters loudly and boldly articulate their thoughts, often with hilarious results.

With Commedia, bigger is usually better. "It allows you to take a character as far as you possibly can without fear of overacting," said Eileen Sugameli, who plays both Monsieur Purgon and a zanni.

Commedia dell'Arte relies heavily on masks to tell the audience "who is who." In "The Imaginary Invalid," each character has its own distinctive mask: the lecherous Argan (miser), characterized by his long nose, the bumbling zanni (servants), the scheming Toinette (maid), and the self-absorbed dottore Purgon (doctor). The Inammorati, or lovers, are the only characters not played in mask, but instead are done up in

heavy makeup.

The moment the actor puts on the mask, he sheds the personal attributes that otherwise would interfere with the audience's connection to the character. The mask gives the actor the freedom to play with the absurdity of the role. According to Avery, "The mask keeps the actor, as well as the audience, focused on that character's specific objective and role in the drama."

So when you see Argan eyeing the plethora of medicines on his bedside, or zanni hungrily rubbing their stomachs, or the lover Cleante fondling the window curtains, there's no doubt about what the character is thinking. Before long, the audience, too, becomes involved in the action, laughing at the characters' antics and rejoicing at their successes. After all is said and done, Commedia leaves us with an important message: take comfort in the absurd and ridiculous — after all, life is better big.

*The cast and crew of "The Imaginary Invalid" will compete at the state level on March 21.*



**Believing their father to be dead, Louison (Avery Hitt, left) and Angelique (Muriel MacDonald) receive quite a shock when Argan (Charlie Resnick) awakes.**



PHOTOS BY JIM COATES

**Cleante (Paul Kenney) and his servant (Ben Taylor) discover there's another suitor for Angelique.**

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3825 Roberts Lane  
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2521 Vermont Street N.  
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3106 Harrison Street  
"Crescent Hills" Days on Market: 31  
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5706 27th Street North  
"Country Club" Days on Market: 11  
Listed \$769,900 • Sold: \$781,200



1356 Kirby Road  
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3800 Fairfax Drive #713  
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## SCHOOLS

### National District Swimming

It was business as usual for the **Yorktown** girl's swim and dive team as it easily won the National District crown this past weekend at Providence Rec Center with a team score of 617.5, nearly the double the amount of points as second-place Mount Vernon. The Patriots are undefeated this season and have never lost the National District championship. The conference was created in 1993.

#### SPORTS BRIEFS

This year, the lady Patriots had nine first-place finishes and 29 top-eight placers. Leading the way throughout was junior Abigail Ortmayer, who collected top honors in Saturday's first final (200-yard medley relay) and its last race (400-yard free style relay). In between, Ortmayer picked up district titles in individual races like the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard breaststroke.

Other notable swimmers were sophomore Kerry Sutherland, who won both the 200- and 500-yard freestyle races, and senior Hilary Stetekluh (1<sup>st</sup> place 50-yard freestyle; 2<sup>nd</sup> place 100-yard butterfly). Junior Kaitlin Wolla won the 100-yard butterfly race.

The **Washington-Lee** girl's team came in third place overall led by senior Sarah DiNardo, who took home a district title in the 200-yard freestyle.

The Yorktown boy's came in second place in the team competition with a score of 327. The Patriots have now finished first or second in the district every year since 2002.

Leading the charge was junior Andrew Leach (2<sup>nd</sup>, 100-yard backstroke), senior Jack Wilson (2<sup>nd</sup>, 100-yard breaststroke), senior Brian Coonce (2<sup>nd</sup> diving), and freshman Will Tarkenton (4<sup>th</sup>, 500-yard freestyle).

Washington-Lee came in fourth place in the boy's team competition thanks in large part to its first-place 400-yard freestyle relay team. The group consisted of junior Jake Huston, junior Freddy Crawford, senior Nicholas Penaranda, and freshman David Palmer. Crawford also won the 100-yard backstroke, while Huston won the 100-yard breaststroke race.

The Northern Region swimming meet takes place this Saturday at Oak Marr Rec center beginning at 5:30 p.m.

### National District Wrestling

The National District wrestling tournament was held this past weekend at J.E.B. Stuart High School and all three Arlington public schools were well represented.

**Yorktown** had two individual champions and two other finalists. Danilo Downing (125 pounds) and

Will Lomax (215 pounds) both took home district titles in their respective weight classes, while Hunter Rheume (145 pounds) and Nathan Young (171 pounds) made it all the way to the finals before losing a match, therefore finishing in second place.

Other regional qualifiers included Hasan Hiraoglu (3<sup>rd</sup> place at 189 pounds), Dean Kime (4<sup>th</sup> place at 112 pounds), and Nolan Paduda (4<sup>th</sup> place at 130 pounds). As a team, the Patriots came in fourth place.

As has been the case all season long, **Wakefield** was led by seniors Carlos Bonilla (140 pounds) and Chris Ioffreda (171 pounds), who both won district titles in their respective weight classes. They helped pace the Warriors' fifth-place team finish that was aided by strong performances by Henry Vasquez (2<sup>nd</sup> place at 103 pounds), Henry Mejano (2<sup>nd</sup> place at 119 pounds), and Victor Leavell (2<sup>nd</sup> place at 135 pounds).

Michael Watson, who was a finalist in the 140-pound weight class, led the **Washington-Lee** team. Timothy Jenkins (3<sup>rd</sup> place at 103 pounds), Manik Sarik (3<sup>rd</sup> place at 130 pounds), Conor Sharp (3<sup>rd</sup> place at heavyweight), Nicholas Burns (4<sup>th</sup> place at 152 pounds), and Justin Serene (4<sup>th</sup> place at 171 pounds) all also turned in strong performances. The Generals finished in sixth place overall. The Northern Region wrestling tournament will take place on Feb. 14 at Fairfax High School.

### Goal of the Year for Yorktown Student?

In March of 2008, the Arlington Travel Soccer Club (ATSC) Under-16 Boys Soccer team won a game 1-0 against the Black Watch Highlanders of New York at the esteemed Jefferson Cup tournament in Richmond, Virginia. The game-winning goal was scored by Arlington resident Marcus Caraca, who is now being put on the national stage as a nominee for US Youth Soccer's Goal of the Year.

Voting for Goal of the Year commenced on Feb. 2 and runs through Feb. 27. Votes are cast online at <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/workshop/goalandsaveoftheyearvoting.asp> where voters can watch video of all nominated goals. Marcus's goal is the last goal on the compilation video.

Marcus attends Yorktown High School in Arlington and will graduate in 2011. He holds a 3.8 grade point average while taking some Advanced Placement (AP) courses as well as being on the honor roll. He received first place in the regional science fair and is a member of the Hispanic Leadership Conference. Marcus played high school basketball in 2007 and was part of the Virginia Northern District Olympic Development Program (ODP) Pool in soccer.

### SCHOOL NOTES

To have school information listed in The Arlington Connection write an e-mail to [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407.

This spring the **Arlington Community Foundation** will award **65 scholarships** totaling over \$150,000 to Arlington college bound students. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 annually. Students are eligible for scholarships based on their connection to the Arlington community and different criteria related to their activities, achievements and career goals. The application deadline is March 6. Apply at [www.arlcf.org](http://www.arlcf.org).

**Samantha Simmons**, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Simmons, Arlington, earned Honors at

St. James School.

Tuckahoe ITC **Marnie Lewis** presented classroom techniques to other educators at the National Council for the Social Studies Conference last month.

Glebe Elementary fifth grade teacher **Amigh Mariani** recently returned from Edgecomb, Maine. She was one of five teachers selected from across the country to attend the Center for Teaching and Learning and spent a week observing classrooms.

**Ashley Finan** of Arlington received a bachelor of science degree from Coastal Carolina University.

**Caitlin A. Smith** of Arlington earned a bachelor of arts degree in business administration with a concentration in general management from Tusculum

College.

The following Arlington Public School winners of the 2009 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest are:

Elementary Girls: 1st Place: **Casey Wilson** - Grade 4, Henry Elementary School; 2nd Place: **Lydia Cawley** - Grade 5, Arlington Science Focus School; 3rd Place: **Gabrielle Economos** - Grade 4, Nottingham Elementary School. Elementary Boys: 1st Place: **Joseph (Joey) Kennedy** - Grade 3, McKinley Elementary School; 2nd Place: **Gautam Malik** - Grade 3, Taylor Elementary School; 3rd Place: **Michael Sanders** - Grade 2, Ashlawn Elementary School. Middle School Girls: 1st Place: **Rebecca Merriman-Goldring** - Grade 6, Swanson Middle School; 2nd Place: **Hannah Murphy** - Grade 6, Williamsburg Middle School; SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 15

# SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 14

3rd Place: **Samantha Tigner** – Grade 7, Kenmore Middle School. Middle School Boys: 1st Place: **Nicholas Franco** – Grade 7, Kenmore Middle School; 2nd Place: **Frederic Gagliolo** – Grade 6, Williamsburg Middle School; 3rd Place: **Quinn Cox** – Grade 6, Williamsburg Middle School. High School Girls: 1st Place: **Brittany Peters** – Junior, Wakefield High School; 2nd Place: **Brittany Feinberg** – Senior, Yorktown High School; 3rd Place: **Silvia Fernandez** – Junior, Yorktown High School. High School Boys: 1st Place: **Timothy Spicer, Jr.** – Junior, Wakefield High School; 2nd Place: **Thomas Mosher** – Junior, Yorktown High School; 3rd Place: **Stuart Couch** – Senior, Yorktown High School.

The winning essays will be available online at [www.apsva.us](http://www.apsva.us) on Jan. 23.

Six Arlington Public Schools have earned the Governor's VIP Award for Educational Excellence: **Arlington Science Focus, Arlington Traditional, Long Branch, McKinley, Taylor and Tuckahoe** elementary schools. In addition, **Ashlawn, Barrett, Henry, Jamestown, Nottingham, and Oakridge** El-

ementary Schools and **Yorktown High School** earned the Board of Education's VIP Excellence Award, the second-tier honor in the VIP program. **Washington-Lee High School** earned the Board of Education's VIP Competence to Excellence Award.

Arlington resident **Nancy Aracely Flores** was named to the fall 2008 dean's list at The University of Virginia's College at Wise.

**Arlington Mill** librarian **Vera Stover** was among the 125 singers who performed at the "We Are One" Pre-inaugural Event at the Lincoln Memorial on Jan. 18. The back-up choir sang with Bruce Springsteen and Beyonce.

**Kenmore's Shauna Dyer** was featured in the January issue of the Phillips Collection newsletter. Dyer along with colleague Jeff Wilson was selected to participate in the Phillips Collection's mentor teacher program in September.

The **Wakefield Orchestra**, under the direction of **Gene Pohl**, has received grants from the Washington Performing Arts Society and the Wolf Trap Foundation. The Performing Arts Society grant

will allow Pohl to provide a workshop for students with MarcOlivia, a professional string duo. The Wolf Trap grant will be used to bring in professional guest artists from local symphony orchestras to solo with the orchestra at the spring concert.

Yorktown High School placed first at the regional Virginia High School League (VHSL) One-Act Theatre Arts Festival on Jan. 31 with the student-performance of "The Imaginary Invalid." In addition to receiving top honors, judges named nine members of the cast as All-Stars. They were **Philip Baroidan, Curt Gavin, Allison Ham, Avery Hitt, Paul Kenney, Muriel MacDonald, Elaine McCartin, Charlie Resnick, and Brooke Weber. MacDonald** was named Best Actress for the entire competition. **Weber and Kenney** were runners-up for best overall actress and actor respectively.

The following students at Coastal Carolina University students from your coverage area who earned dean's list status: **John W. Northington Jr.**, Arlington; **Casey L. Rolla**, Arlington; and **Anna L. Tupy**, Alexandria.

## FAITH NOTES

Know of something missing from our Faith Notes? Send it to *The Arlington Connection*, e-mail it to [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

On Jan. 25, the ministers at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of**

**Arlington** (UUCA) were presented with an award certificate from the national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) giving the church formal accreditation as a "Green Sanctuary." A Green Sanctuary is a church that has made a deep commitment to living in harmony with the Earth and made substantial progress in "greening" all aspects of church life, from buildings and grounds to worship services and religious educa-

tion. Visit <http://www.uucava.org/EcoAction/index.htm> for more.

General Program Classes with **meditation and Buddhist teachings** on Monday evenings, Feb. 3, 9, 16, and 23. The classes are held at The Griffin Center (Suite 5) 3800 Fairfax Drive, 7-8:30 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. A \$12 class fee is requested. For more information; [www.meditationdc.org](http://www.meditationdc.org) or call 202-986-2257.

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# 'A Force to Be Reckoned With'

W-L senior dominates National District Indoor Track and Field Championships; Generals finish second.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE CONNECTION

**K**imsue Grant had just completed her last throw of the shot put competition during last week's National District indoor track championships. It was a disappointing attempt that did not travel nearly far enough for the Washington-Lee star's liking.

"I'm going to have to practice this if I'm going to do it at regionals," said Grant as she turned towards her coaches.

If practice really does make perfect, then the rest of the Northern region better be afraid after last week's two-day event that took place at the Episcopal Field House in Alexandria and the Thomas Jefferson Rec Center in Arlington. The shot put is probably Grant's weakest event, and after proving herself to be the best athlete in the National District, anything more is hard to fathom.

Grant led the W-L girl's indoor track team to an impressive second-place finish in the team competition last week, accounting for a whopping 60 of the Generals 85 points. She finished in first place in the long jump, high jump, and triple jump — all of which went along nicely with her second-place finishes in the 55-meter dash, 4x200-meter relay, and 300-meter dash and third-place showing in the aforementioned shot put.

"She could definitely be someone's heptathlon athlete in college," said eighth-year W-L coach Warren Gillus of his senior star. "She's one of the best to come

**"She's one of the best to come through Washington-Lee."**

—W-L coach Warren Gillus

through Washington-Lee, that's not a question."

**ORIGINALLY FROM JAMAICA**, Grant came to W-L last year almost unbeknownst to Gillus or the rest of his team. On the first day of school last year, Gillus heard from director of student activities Carol Calloway that there was a new girl in the office that "looked like a runner."

Grant made an instant impact on the team, cementing herself as the best girl athlete almost immediately thanks to a wealth of prior experience.

"Track in Jamaica is a lot harder," said Grant. "Everyone here loves basketball, but back in Jamaica everyone wants to do track. You just can't avoid it and that's when I started doing it."

Grant's strongest event is the triple jump, one of the most technical skills in track and field, with competitors combining running, skipping, and leaping into a single fluid motion. Grant's jump of 35-feet, nine inches was almost four feet longer than that of the second-place finisher last week.

Last year, Grant qualified for states in the triple jump, but did not compete due to shin splints. This season, she has already qualified in the high jump and it appears likely that — barring something unforeseen at this weekend's Northern Regional championships — she will also compete in the triple jump and 55-meter dash at the state level.

"This year I'm back bigger and better," said Grant, who holds just about every significant W-L girls track and field record. "I tell my competitors that I'm go

SEE GRANT DOMINATES, PAGE 19

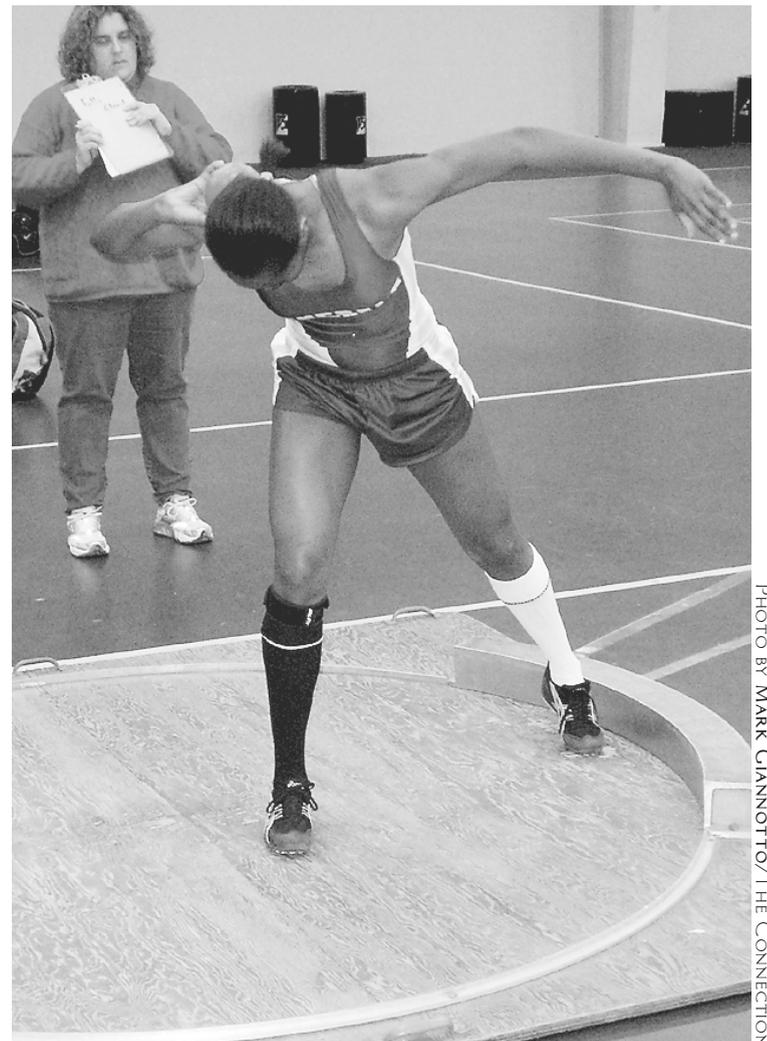


PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE CONNECTION

**W-L senior Kimsue Grant competes in the shot put during last week's National District Indoor Track Championships. Grant scored 60 of the Washington-Lee's 85 points in girl's team competition.**

## Campbell Closes with a Split

General girl's, Wakefield boy's win in final doubleheader at W-L's Campbell Gymnasium.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ashington-Lee coach Angie Kelly gave her team a hypothetical to think about before Monday night's showdown against Arlington rival Wakefield — the last such meeting between two in-county schools at W-L's Rudolph Campbell Gymnasium.

With the old gym scheduled to be demolished in the coming months as part of Washington-Lee's ongoing renovation project, Kelly emphasized to her players that people would remember this game 20 years from now. They controlled how that story would be told.

"This is going to be one of the last memories we have in this gym and a loss was not what we wanted," said sophomore Michele Derieux.

Consider their wish granted after a 50-34 win over Wakefield gave the home fans something to be happy about on an evening where the boy's basketball team played its last-ever game at Campbell Gymnasium.

It was a well-balanced effort for the lady Generals, who saw a three-point lead balloon to double digits thanks in large part to an 8-0 run to begin the fourth quarter. Derieux led W-L with 16 points, including seven-straight points in the second quarter.

Junior Shante Waller (eight points, all in the third quarter) and senior Jen McCue (13 points) were also instrumental for the Generals (6-15, 5-6), who have bounced back from losing nine of their first 10 games of the season to go 5-6 down the stretch.

With a win over Stuart Friday, W-L can

secure a first-round home district playoff game next week, therefore extending Campbell Gymnasium's run one last game.

"We're not playing like one person anymore, we're playing like a team," said Waller.

"We're getting to where I thought we should be at the beginning of the season," added Kelly. "We just refused to lose, not in this house, not the last time an in county rivalry game takes place."

**THE BOY'S GAME** that followed didn't have as happy an ending for the Generals. After taking a 38-30 halftime lead over favored Wakefield, W-L "ran out of gas" according to coach Bobby Dobson, allowing the Warriors to go on a 18-4 run that spanned much of the fourth quarter en route to an 81-60 victory.

A trio of seniors led Wakefield (15-6 overall, 7-4 National District) in scoring — Corey Levenberry (20 points, five re

SEE FINAL DOUBLEHEADER, PAGE 19



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

**Washington-Lee senior Jen McCue guards Wakefield's Veronica Paz during Monday night's boy/girl basketball doubleheader between the two schools.**

## Dying To Find Out, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have to admit, the pain was a bit unusual, and it had migrated so, at my wife, Dina's, insistence, I made the trek to my HMO's emergency room, relayed my symptoms to the receptionist and took a seat in their waiting room.

All things considered, the wait wasn't interminable, nor was it hours; of course, it wasn't minutes, either, but given the holiday-nature of the day, it could have been much worse.

And apparently, so could the diagnosis. After having my vital signs taken by a nurse, and answering questions from a physician's assistant, there was no clear picture (heck, at this point, it wasn't even blurry, it was completely befuddling, even after the chest x-ray was viewed) to explain my discomfort. It was so befuddling that the physician's assistant actually involved a doctor.

He asked me the standard questions. My answers offered no standard help. So much so, that I remember asking the doctor, if it only hurt when I make certain movements, perhaps I shouldn't make those movements; and then watching as the doctor shrugged his shoulders and said, "Yes, probably." And so I was excused, with the ever-popular: "If it gets worse, come back." And symptom-wise, it didn't; it got better, until five days later.

That's when the same physician's assistant called back. Still puzzled by my pain and lack of symptoms, she had, on her own initiative sought out the opinion of a Radiologist to review my chart/x-ray. Based on that consultation, I was urged to go to my nearest HMO pharmacy, that evening, to pick up a precautionary prescription to begin taking immediately. The concern was, despite being asymptomatic, perhaps I had a touch of pneumonia. And so it continued.

The next day, still improving and symptom free, my HMO called to tell me that they had ordered a CT Scan. Somewhat perplexed by their uncharacteristic speed, I nonetheless complied and went the very next day. TWO HOURS after completing the scan, my primary doctor called to discuss the results. Unfortunately — and surprisingly — there was cause (given my age and health history) for concern.

Perhaps I'd like to schedule an appointment to discuss the findings, my doctor suggested. "No, just tell me," I said. And so he did. There were lesions on my lungs that might be malignant. WHAT! Still unsure, however, the doctor scheduled an appointment with a pulmonary specialist as soon as possible. Two hours later, ON THE SAME DAY, the appointment was made for the next afternoon, with a P.E.T. scan to follow, all of which seemed incredibly fast and efficient given my previous experiences with this same HMO. Nevertheless, I was appreciative of their record-breaking haste.

The pulmonary doctor didn't interpret the x-ray and CT scan as the cancer threat that my primary care doctor and radiologist had (canceling the P.E.T. scan in the process), but nonetheless, suggested I return in a week, take a second x-ray and see what develops. And so I did. Still symptom free.

A week later, I'm back with the pulmonary specialist, second x-ray in hand. The second x-ray confirmed the doctor's suspicions that maybe I had indeed had pneumonia and so two weeks after the initial fact, I was once again excused; with the "We'll call you if ..." goodbye.

THE NEXT DAY, the pulmonary doctor calls back to say that, upon further review with yet another radiologist, he now wants to me to see another doctor, a thoracic surgeon.

Five days later, I see the thoracic surgeon, x-rays and CT scan in hand. Likewise puzzled by what he sees, he apologized for his inconclusiveness and says he too, would like to review the x-ray and scan with his radiologist to get a better understanding A biopsy and/or surgery are certainly possible but he's not sure. Moreover, he's not sure another diagnostic test (P.E.T. scan, M.R.I.) would clarify anything. Let him review everything he asks, and he'll get back to me, probably in the next day or two.

THE NEXT DAY, the thoracic surgeon calls back to tell me that he now thinks I should have the P.E.T scan and to schedule it as soon as it's convenient. And so it continues.

Four weeks later and still wondering, I wouldn't say I'm worrying yet, however, but I am beginning to have a little trouble falling asleep.

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

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One man with courage makes a majority.  
-Andrew Jackson

**21 Announcements**

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540-967-3188  
Attn: Kathleen Albertson  
The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ in February 2009. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Mr. Alex Wardle at 703-583-3822 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until March 15, 2009 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC # 2008-3203.  
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A petroleum release from former underground storage tank systems had occurred, and corrective actions have been implemented, at:  
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Arlington, Virginia

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Mr. Frederick Kline to prepare a Corrective Action Plan Addendum to address cleanup of petroleum fuel contamination at the site. If you have questions regarding the cleanup please contact:  
John Diehl  
Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc.  
43045 John Mosby Highway  
Chantilly, VA 20152  
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The Corrective Action Plan Addendum will be submitted to the Remediation Division of the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ by January 30, 2009. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Mr. Randy Chapman of the DEQ at (703) 583-3816 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan Addendum submittal. The DEQ Remediation Division will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan Addendum until March 6, 2009, and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC # 1991-1474.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Northern Regional Office  
Remediation Division  
13901 Crown Court  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.  
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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**NOTICE**  
We deeply regret that due to space limitations, we're no longer able to publish the Crossword Puzzle. We appreciate the week-to-week commitment and enthusiasm of our loyal participants.

# SPORTS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Yorktown's Lindsey Hunt took home district titles in both the 1600-meter and 3200-meter races.

## Grant Dominates Districts

FROM PAGE 16

ing to be a force to be reckoned with. I think I've already proven that to them."

**GRANT WASN'T** the only General to shine last week, as the W-L boy's also finished with an impressive second-place showing in the team competition thanks to a plethora of standout performances. Leading the way was senior Luke Malley, who helped the Generals dominate the distance running portions of the meet. Malley won the district title in the 1600-meter run, and placed second in the 1,000-meter run and as a member of the 4x800-meter relay. Juniors Brian McGrail and Steve San Miguel were also instrumental, combining to finish first and second, respectively, in the 3200-meter run.

**Yorktown** came in third place in the girl's competition, thanks in large part to its distance runners as well. Senior Lindsey Hunt provided the highlight-reel performances, winning the district title in both the 1600- and 3200-meter runs.

"You just have leave it all out there so you can't have any regrets about your race," she said after overtaking Edison's Betel Yosef in the final lap to win the 1600-meter race in a time of 5:27.58. "I just went and it worked out."

On the girl's side, **Wakefield's** 4x200-meter relay team blew away the field coming in first place with a time of 1:52.55.



W-L senior Kimsue Grant (right) waits her turn with teammate Sierra Riddle during the 4x200-meter relay, one of seven events Grant competed in last week.

Freshman Gabrielle Phillips ran the opening leg, junior Lisa Anderson ran second, sophomore Brittany Raiford ran third, and senior Sarah Sneed completed the final leg.

The overall boy's and girl's National District indoor track titles both went to Edison. As for the Northern Regional Championships that will take place Feb. 21 at George Mason, Washington-Lee had 23 athletes qualify, Yorktown had 20 qualify, and Wakefield had five.

## Final Doubleheader at Campbell

FROM PAGE 16

bounds), Robel Getu (19 points, including five 3-pointers), and Johnathan Ford (16 points, seven rebounds, four assists). Senior Charlie Fuller and junior Tim Edwards led W-L (4-17, 3-8) with 17 and 10 points, respectively.

It was a bittersweet win for the Wakefield coaching staff, though. Head coach Tony Bentley was a W-L player in the late 1980s and coached under Dobson as an assistant for 10 years prior to beginning his tenure with the Warriors. Wakefield assistant coach Horace Willis also was an assistant under

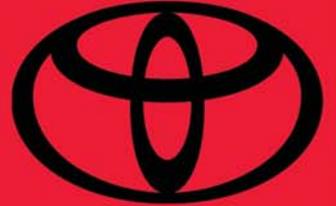
Dobson at W-L and is still an assistant football coach with the Generals.

Afterwards, both Bentley and Dobson talked about some of their favorite memories in the gym. Bentley immediately mentioned a 1996 rivalry game in which W-Is Tony Stanley scored 49 points in a Generals win over rival Yorktown.

Dobson's mind went back to the 1999 season, when the coach won his first district title at W-L, defeating Wakefield of all teams, 37-34. The gym may be gone next year, but this Arlington rivalry will remain no matter where the games may be played.

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