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Jenny Mullins is the most recent artist to join the residency program at the Arlington Arts Center.

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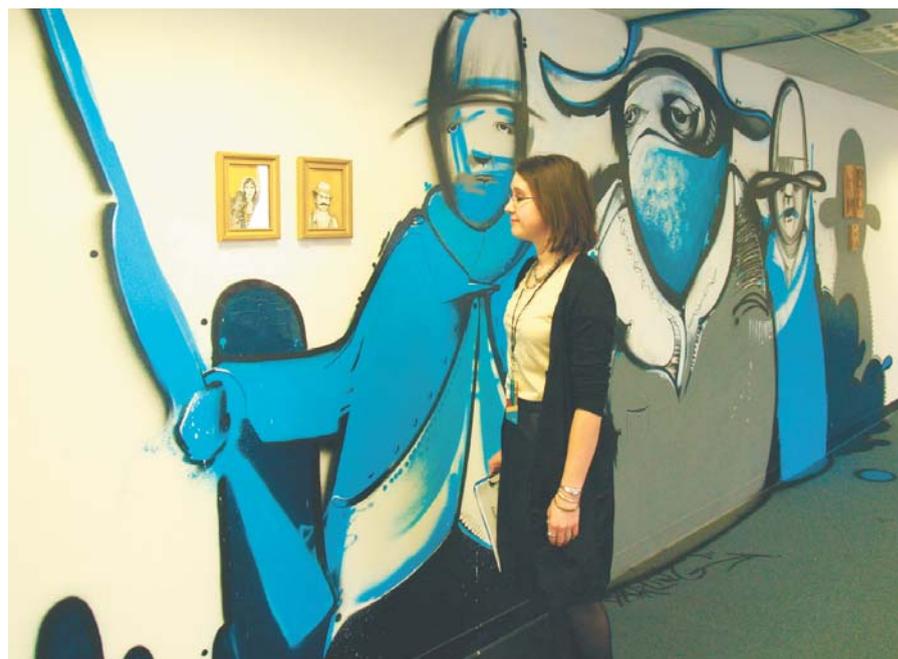


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**On Exhibit**

Adrienne Cook, a volunteer at the G40 Summit exhibition, taking in one of the many wall installations on Saturday, March 7. The exhibition will run through March 30, 7 days per week.



New York-based New Brow graffiti artist, TMNK, in front of one of his "Art is My Weapon" installations at the G40 Summit Art Exhibition in Crystal City.



Crystal City Business Improvement District CEO and President Angie Fox opens the "G40: The Summit" with curator and Art Whino founder Shane Pomajambo, on March 1.

**'Pool Rewards' for Sharing**

**Reward program encourages new carpoolers.**

BY SENITRA MCCOMBS  
 THE CONNECTION

Tired of fighting through traffic on the beltway? Perhaps Commuter Connections has a solution.

According to Commuter Connections Director Nicholas Ramfos, Commuter Connections began a pilot carpooling program in the D.C. area to help "promote carpooling" and help to "decrease air pollution and promote long-term changes in commuting behavior."

When the program first started in the area, it was restricted to only three major highway bottlenecks however, now it will be open to "all newly formed registered carpools traveling anywhere within the region."

Beside the gas mileage saved by using Commuter Connections, the program also

offers riders a cash incentive called Pool Rewards.

"Commuters may qualify for a \$1 each way incentive for carpooling during the Pool Rewards pilot program. In order to receive payment, participants are expected to regularly report travel time through an online system," Ramfos said.

However, commuters must register to join or form a new carpool by March 31.

Commuters who travel during peak commuting times can sign up for the Pool Rewards program at [www.commuterconnections.org](http://www.commuterconnections.org).

In addition, ridesharing commuters may also be eligible for other money-saving services such as the free regional Guaranteed Ride Home program that ensures a ride home when unexpected emergencies arise. Some rules and limitations apply.

Commuter Connections also provides registered commuters with free access to a list of other commuters who live and work near them as well as share similar work schedules.

A similar cash incentive program called

SEE POOL REWARDS, PAGE 13

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## Color Me Lucky

Artist explores what it means to be American.

BY DELIA SAVA  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t's amazing, it's just a serious stroke of luck and it's really great to work with the people here and the staff," said Jenny Mullins. The 25-year-old Texas native who holds an MFA in painting from the Maryland Institute College of Art is the most recent artist to join the residency program at the Arlington Arts Center.

It's a gloomy day. The rain is falling hard and steady outside but inside in her spacious light-filled studio, Mullins is all smiles: she is working on one of her large colorful paintings.

"It was always the thing that I wanted to do," said Mullins about her choice to become an artist. It was just a matter of deciding what role art would play in her life. "Was it something that I would do as a hobby or was it something I would do as a profession?" she said adding, "I just realized over time that it had to be a profession because it wasn't satisfying to have it in a lesser role."

In addition to creating works of art, Mullins says she "pays the bills" by teaching at Montgomery Community College and at NoVa Community College. "At the moment I am teaching color theory which I love doing — it's learning how colors relate and learning how to use color," Mullins said.

Mullins is working to deepen her practice and says she likes to really push the envelope. "Ultimately to get my ideas across to people; communication is a huge part ... if I can create a piece that people can relate to and really understand then that's deeply satisfying."

When asked about the inspiration for her work, Mullins says it's more of an "obsession" for her to explore American culture. "That's the core of my work, what is it to be American?" She added, "It's fascinating how people take different cultures and



PHOTO BY DELIA SAVA/THE CONNECTION

**Jenny Mullins created the interactive sculpture "The American Reincarnation Machine."**

weave them into our own and they become something else, something American."

Mullins points to the installation in the back of the studio, an interactive sculpture, titled "The American Reincarnation Machine" as an example of what she's communicating through her art. "It stems from different ideas and I'm distilling it down, the machine comes from my fascination with Eastern and Western culture."

The sculpture resembles a soda machine that's undergone a Las Vegas make-over and what Mullins describes as a "tinny British accent." When

SEE NEW ARTIST, PAGE 13



COURTESY OF OPOWER

**President Obama delivers a speech at OPOWER's Arlington office across the street from the Courthouse Metro station.**

## Obama at OPOWER

Presidential visit highlights local company's energy innovation.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**here's nothing like a presidential visit to gin up a buzz. Just ask the folks at OPOWER, the Arlington-based company that promotes energy efficiency and Smart Grid software. Last week, their office was the scene of a speech delivered by President Barack Obama.

"This looks like a fun place to work," the president said, prompting giggles from OPOWER employees in the background. "The jobs

of tomorrow will be the jobs in the clean energy sector."

Obama praised OPOWER for doubling its workforce in the last year. He also commended the company's work to reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere by increasing energy efficiency of the utility companies that purchase the company's software. Essentially, the president used the appearance as a way to highlight the relationship between environmental innovation and job growth.

SEE OBAMA, PAGE 13

## Transparency Blackout

Police departments in Northern Virginia refuse to release public documents.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he cop cruiser patrolling your neighborhood is operating in secret. And don't bother asking for documents detailing their activities because police departments in Northern Virginia routinely deny requests for incident reports and arrest records. Arlington and Fairfax police officials won't even answer questions about their lack of transparency. It's all legal under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, which includes broad exemptions for police agencies. Local jurisdictions that use their exemption in all cases, regardless of what the case is about or whether the case is open or closed.

"I don't think we have to justify it," said Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook in an interview about access to public documents. "A lot of things can be said about transparency, that doesn't make it effective."

In a series of Freedom of Information Act requests

to three Northern Virginia jurisdictions, police officials denied access to a wide range of public information. Alexandria police issued a press release including a mug shot when they arrested a burglar in Old Town last year, but they won't share the incident reports leading to his prosecution. In Fairfax County, police declined a request to be interviewed about their unwillingness to release the name of the officer who shot and killed a motorist on Richmond Highway last year. And the Arlington County Police Department also refused to answer questions about their denial to release documents related to the drunk-driving arrest of a former Alexandria police chief — a case that's been fully adjudicated in the courts.

"I think Northern Virginia has really taken this to an extreme," said Ginger Stanley, executive director of the Virginia Press Association. "I understand the need of law enforcement to protect an ongoing investigation, but there's also a public interest at work

SEE KEEPING POLICE, PAGE 4

### Secret Police?

❖ **Alexandria:** In September, the Alexandria Police Department issued a press release announcing the arrest of Ralph Fowler, a man they charged with a series of burglaries in Old Town. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request, Alexandria officials refused to release incident reports detailing the crimes alleged in the press release. In an interview about availability of public documents, Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook said he didn't think he needed to justify his department's lack of transparency.

❖ **Arlington:** In July, the Arlington County Police Department arrested former Alexandria Police Chief David Baker and charged him with drunk driving. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request for the arrest report, county officials charged \$24 for a one-paragraph

summary of the document in which they misidentified the man they arrested. They later explained that Baker was correctly identified in the report, but they refused to release it, even now that Baker has served his sentence in the county jail. Arlington police officials declined a request to be interviewed about their commitment to transparency.

❖ **Fairfax:** In November, a Fairfax County Police Department officer shot and killed a motorist on Richmond Highway. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request, Fairfax officials declined to release the name of the officer who killed the man or share documents related to the incident. Officials with the Fairfax County Police Department later declined a request to answer questions about government transparency.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY WRAP UP

The Virginia General Assembly concluded most of its 2010 legislative session March 14.

The following is a sample of bills that Richmond deliberated on this year and information about how local legislators voted on particular bills.

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) still has an opportunity to veto any bill that General Assembly has passed over the next couple of weeks. Legislation that McDonnell vetoes must then win two-thirds of the votes in both branches of the General Assembly in a one-day session held April 21 in order to become law.

More information about each bill can be found on the General Assembly's Web site at HYPERLINK "<http://leg1.state.va.us>" <http://leg1.state.va.us>.

## Concealed Guns Allowed In Bars

The General Assembly has voted in favor of allowing people to carry a gun concealed into a bar or restaurant as long they have an appropriate permit and do not consume alcohol. Previously, Virginia had only allowed people to carry their firearm into a bar or restaurant if they agreed to expose the weapon.

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) has indicated he will sign the new bill into law.

Every Arlington County delegate and state senator voted against this legislation but it passed both branches of the state legislature by substantial margins.

## Establishing Charter Schools Made Easier

The General Assembly did agree to tweak the charter school application process, though the legislative body stopped far short of the complete overhaul Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) has put before them.

The Virginia Board of Education will be obligated to review and state whether they support a specific charter school application, though local school boards would still have the ultimate say in whether a new charter school opens in their district.

Charter school advocates have said that a local school board's ability to veto any charter school application — which is still intact under this iteration of the law — is a major impediment to establishing a robust charter school movement in Virginia. They argue that local school boards often have an incentive stifle local charter school movements, since charters often compete with traditional public schools for funding and students.

The issue of charters, privately run schools paid for with public dollars, cuts across political party lines. In addition to McDonnell, President Barack Obama (D) has stated his strong support for charter school development.

Though the bill easily passed both branches of legislature, every Arlington County delegate and state senator voted against it.

## Money from HOT Lanes Tickets Will Go To Private Company

The private company that will own and operate the High Occupancy Toll [HOT] lanes being built from Springfield to Tysons Corner on the Capital Beltway will profit off of those using the roadways both lawfully and unlawfully.

Transurban Group will not only collect revenue from people paying to ride in HOT lanes but also those who try to skip out on the fee and get caught. The Australian company will get to keep any of the money collected from traffic violations associated with the tolls.

Arlington County Del. Adam Ebbin (D-39) introduced legislation this year that would have altered this arrangement, sending all money collected from HOT lane violations to the state coffers instead of Transurban.

The Virginia House of Delegates' transportation committee voted to kill the legislation, though Ebbin's Arlington colleague, Del. Bob Brink (D-48) voted in favor of the bill.

## NEWS

# Keeping Police Records Secret

FROM PAGE 3  
here."

The code of silence has its roots in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in the 1968. The legislation includes a loophole large enough for a police cruiser to drive through it. Local governments have an exemption that allows for a complete blackout for "complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence." These documents that reveal a wide spectrum of detailed information about police behavior, everything from how investigations were conducted to how conclusions were reached. The way that exemption is exercised in Northern Virginia, that means citizens have only faintest idea of how their police departments are acting on their behalf. The only information available is through summaries of the documents police refuse to release.

"It's a control thing," said Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Arlington-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "And there doesn't seem to be any political will to do anything about it."

Ironically, the first paragraph of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act explains that all public records "shall be presumed open."

But that's not how it works.

Police departments in Northern Virginia have chosen to interpret the law in a way that starts from the presumption that they will never share incident reports and arrest reports — regardless of what the case is about or whether the case is open or closed. That means police departments in Virginia act without the kind of public scrutiny that acts as a check on public-safety officials widely available in other states.

"Virginia is the outlier," said Charles Davis, executive director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, and professor at the Missouri School of Journalism. "These are documents that are available in most other states, but Virginia is unique in the level of closure."

Any legislative effort to undercut the broad exemption power would likely be opposed by groups such as the Virginia Police Chiefs Association. According to Dana Schrad, executive director of that organization, the association would rather see agencies work within the law and strike a balance between public disclosure and public safety. According to a law-enforcement guide to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act published by the association, the ability to withhold information also comes with the responsibility to not abuse that discretion.

"We encourage agencies to use their discretion in a judicious manner," said Schrad. "There may be situations where it's in the best interest of the public to release this information."

Yet police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a "blanket" approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can, making police officials in Northern Virginia open to the least amount of public scrutiny in America.

Fairfax County is the least transparent police department in Northern Virginia. Even defense attorneys in Fairfax complain that they have to get a court order to see police records that are routinely made available in the rest of Virginia. In contrast to Alexandria and Arlington, where prosecutors open their office to defense attorneys, the Fairfax commonwealth's attorney's office forces defendants to tie up court time and jump through bureaucratic hoops to get documents that are easily available elsewhere — even in Virginia.

"It certainly puts more of a burden on the defendant," said Jim Clark, a defense attorney who practices in Fairfax County. "I'd love to get every incident report, but that's not how things work in Virginia."

Nowhere is the lack of transparency on display more dramatic than officer-involved shootings. The most recent example happened in July, when a Fairfax County police officer shot and killed a motorist on

Richmond Highway. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request seeking information about the incident, Fairfax officials declined to release video footage of the shooting from police cruisers or copies of reports written in the wake of the shooting. Even the name of the officer remains shrouded in secrecy.

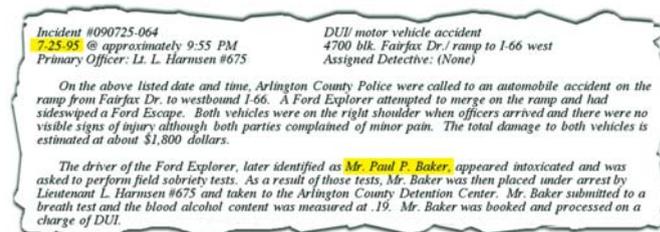
"Disclosure of the name is painful, but the greater good is transparency," said Jim Lay, an attorney who represented Alexandria police officer Carl Stowe after he shot and killed a teenager in 2006. "In my opinion, Fairfax County is exploiting the fact that there are insufficient requirements for public disclosure."

In January, Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond Morrogh announced that he would not be filing criminal charges against the officer who shot and killed David Masters, who was unarmed. A press release issued on Jan. 27 suggested that Masters disregarded police lights and sirens in the minutes before the fatal shot was fired. But the police department denied a request for public inspection of the actual reports. That leaves citizens of Fairfax County with an incomplete portrait of how their police department used deadly force on a well-traveled stretch of road.

"I would like to see all of this information disclosed eventually," said Dallas Shawkey, chairman of the public safety committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association. "It's important for the community to know what happened in this case and in any case that involves the use of deadly force."

**ARLINGTON COUNTY** Police Department refuses to release the arrest report for what may be its highest-profile arrest of 2009 — the drunk driving bust of David Baker, who was then the chief of police in Alexandria. Even now that Baker has served his five days in jail and the case is closed, police officials in Arlington refuse to release the report detailing what happened that humid July night. Through a spokesman, Arlington County Police Department officials declined to answer questions about its commitment

SEE SECRECY, PAGE 15



ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**The Arlington County Police Department charged four media outlets \$24 each for staff time to create a two-paragraph summary of a document they refused to release. The document misidentifies the name of the suspect and the date of his arrest.**

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE CONNECTION



**Volunteer/organizer Jill Rabach helps customers assemble a stroller at the Kids Stuff sale inside the St. Episcopal Church on Saturday, March 13.**

## PEOPLE



### 'Kids Stuff'

**Volunteer Amber Blaha helps customers bag their items as they participate in the Kids Stuff sale.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF HADLEY ELIZABETH HUNTER HAWKS



**Arlington Young Democrats President Gordon Simonett speaks with Terry McAuliffe during the auction at the Clarendon Grill which raised nearly \$4,000 for the Arlington Food Assistance Center. The lunch with McAuliffe was the top item, selling for \$650.**



### Date Auction

**Auctioneers Jen Amore and Nicole Truhe talk to Karl Johnson following his win of a coffee tasting on Wednesday, March 10, at the Arlington Young Democrats ninth Annual Date Auction. The also collected more than 100 pounds of food.**



### 'Sinfully Sweet'

**Waiter Matt King pours guests a glass of wine as they enjoy tasty chocolate bites inside Morton's Steakhouse on Friday, Feb. 26 during the "Sinfully Sweet Wine and Chocolate Pairing."**

PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE CONNECTION



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# OPINION

## The Transportation Fix

No help on congestion just a small part of spreading pain from budget.

The Virginia General Assembly has adjourned.

If for some reason your attention lapsed between the campaign for Governor (Gov. Bob McDonnell took office just two months ago) and now, you might expect a transportation plan as one of the outcomes of this assembly session.

Here is the transportation relief proposed and passed and likely to be signed: the maximum speed limit on some roads will increase to 70 miles-per-hour.

This seems like it might violate equal protection standards, since there are very few hours of the day on any Northern Virginia's roads that getting above 55 is possible. Heck, most of us are really happy if traffic on the Beltway or 66 or 95 or Toll Road moves along at 30 mph without frequent stops.

So in other parts of the state not dominated by congestion, vehicles will be moving faster.

In Northern Virginia, there will be even less money for even fewer efforts at relieving congestion.

The governor's commitment to fixing transportation, the center of his campaign that boosted him to an election victory even in Fairfax County (not Arlington or Alexandria) turned out to be far weaker than his commitment to eschew any new forms of revenue that might be needed to pay for such a fix.

Seriously, the Governor made no major proposal to the General Assembly on transportation.

Many, many people will face hardships that the rest of us can barely imagine because of the greatly pared down budget just passed in the General Assembly, especially people with disabilities of all kinds, working poor families, people who need mental health care, people who are struggling with addictions, families who can't afford health insurance whose incomes are just enough to keep them from getting assistance, etc.

Localities will press to raise property taxes so they can buffer some of the cuts to education, health care and the safety net passed along from the state.

Parents and students and teachers will feel the pain as school districts struggle to adjust priorities in ways that won't sit well.

And everyone who needs to get anywhere will sit in traffic, wait longer for buses, pay more for rides on public transportation of all kinds.

But don't forget that if you are lucky enough to drive through some of rural Virginia on an interstate, you'll probably get to go 70 miles-per-hour. That should compensate for some of the pain.

### Find Us on Facebook

It's a work in progress, but the Connection and sister papers Centre View, Alexandria Gazette Packet and Mount Vernon Gazette are now on Facebook. Please become a fan.

— MARY KIMM,

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### EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Overpaid Representatives

To the Editor:

Are you disturbed by those large organizations you pay to represent your interests who routinely provide less than stellar results? U.S. citizens invest millions every year to support these institutions whose employees receive salaries many times those of the average American. Then, even when these highly paid employees deliver a sub-par performance, they are given additional financial rewards. This bothers me. Am I just another citizen chiming in about the bonuses awarded to financial, stock brokerage and banking industries? No, I am, in fact, talking about Congress.

There is a lot in the news about banks that, only a few months ago, received a financial

bailout by American taxpayers that kept them in business but which now are bestowing million dollar bonuses to their employees. This is maddening, I agree, but even the employees of these financial institutions do not get to set their own salaries.—Members of Congress may have the only job in the country who can set their own salaries without regard to performance, profit or economic climate. Even though many they represent are struggling, the economy is in recession and there are record unemployment rates, members of Congress received a \$4,700 (or more) raise in 2009.

I realize that financial success might not be the only reason to award a salary or bonus. The banking industry is quick to point out that they need to give their bonuses, though unpopular to most Americans, so they won't lose their most talented employees to other com-

panies. Banks seem to feel that their employees are doing a good job for them. So, do most Americans feel that Congress is doing a job that justifies a pay raise while the "National Personal Income" is projected to decrease for the first time since 1949, some 60 years ago? It appears not: According to a Feb. 5, 2010 Gallup poll, the approval rating of Congress by the American public is less than 18 percent. The partisan politics, and deadlock, do-nothing operating procedures have been long-term problems in American politics.

I have to wonder how well these people, with a salary more than six times that of 50 percent of Americans, can represent the interests of most of us. I wonder if they are there for the right reasons. Are they motivated by a commitment to public service or does something else motivate them? Did you know that 20 lawmakers who were found guilty of serious crimes over the 25 years prior to 2007, including stealing money from those they represent, continue to receive retirement benefits. Pensions for felons is, perhaps, a topic for another day. Our legislators deserve a fair salary and are charged with setting their own by the Constitution but it appears to me that it needs to be brought back towards the middle-American level.

Here is my proposal. Pass legislation that ties Congressional salaries to the median salary of Americans. Medians are tabulated annually and it seems fair to me that the pay becomes tied to the financial performance of the country. There are 435 members in the House and 100 in the Senate. If salaries were tied to the median salary of the Americans that Congress represents, this would amount to a yearly savings of more than \$78 million. It will take a legislator to take this proposal and submit a bill for passage — Impress me!

Scott Lockhart



**Classic** Ashlawn Elementary School third-graders entertained their parents by performing Greek Mythology Reader's Theatre on Feb. 19. The show was the culmination of a drama residency taught by Theatre Teaching Artist Mary Beth Bowen and funded by the APS Humanities Project. Students from three different classes (Ms. Bailey, Ms. Chamberlain and Ms. Musto) each performed a script based on a Greek myth, which they had read as part of their study of Ancient Greece. The myths were "King Midas," "the Race of Atalanta" and "Hades & Persephone."

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## THEATER

# Signature Celebrates Sondheim's 80th

Join Signature Theatre this weekend on March 20 and 21 in celebrating the life and work of composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim, the man who has transformed the face of American musical theater with works such as "A Little Night Music," "Sweeney Todd," "Company," "Follies," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," and "Sunday in the Park with George."

Sondheim turns 80 on March 22, and since he's Signature's "signature" composer, the theater company will honor him with a full weekend of free events including lobby performances, backstage tours, films, lectures, actor discussions, a critic forum, a sing-along, and a birthday cake.

For the Sondheim Birthday Weekend, Signature's performances of "Sweeney Todd" continue Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7

p.m. In honor of Sondheim's 80th birthday, Signature has joined with sponsor Target to give away 80 tickets to students and young professionals (30 and under) to the Saturday evening performance of "Sweeney Todd."

Other Special Sondheim Offerings:

Sweeney Experience Auction. Be a part of the show! Participate during Signature's online auction for a chance to be onstage during a performance of "Sweeney Todd." The winner of the Sweeney Experience

will have a walk-on role in costume during the Sunday matinee performance on March 21. Bidding for this begins March 4 and ends on March 14 at



PHOTO BY RUSS HIRSHON

**Signature Theater salutes Stephen Sondheim (with Bernadette Peters) last year at the first Sondheim Award given by Signature Theatre.**

9 p.m. The highest bidder wins the chance to buy some Pirelli's Miracle Elixir. Bidding begins at \$500.

Sondheim Award Gala Raffle. Purchase a \$20 raffle ticket for the opportunity to win a pair of tickets to the Sondheim Award Gala at the Embassy of Italy on April 12, 2010. Raffle tickets will be available at the Signature gift shop in the Mead Lobby before performances and during intermissions or through the Box Office at 703 820-9771. The winner of a pair of Gala tickets will be drawn at Signature on March 21 but need not be present.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20**

BACKSTAGE SONDEHEIM: Noon at the Mead Lobby

THE SONDEHEIM INFLUENCE: 12:30 p.m. in the ARK

ISN'T IT RICH?: 1 p.m. in the Mead

Lobby

SONDEHEIM CINEMA: In the Shirlington Library. Noon - "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"

2 p.m. - "Gypsy"

BEHIND SONDEHEIM: 5 p.m. in the ARK

ISN'T IT RICH?: 7 p.m. in the Mead Lobby

Signature favorites sing Sondheim in the Mead Lobby before the 8 p.m. performance of "Sweeney Todd."

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21**

WHAT IS IT ABOUT SONDEHEIM?: 12:45 p.m. in the ARK

ISN'T IT RICH?: 1 p.m. in the Mead Lobby

SONDEHEIM CINEMA: In the Shirlington Library

2 p.m. - "West Side Story"

MUSICALLY SONDEHEIM: 5 p.m. in the ARK

ISN'T IT RICH?: 6 p.m. in the Mead Lobby

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, STEVE!: 10 p.m. in the Mead Lobby

Join in singing and celebrating with birthday cake and celebrate the great works of Sondheim with a lobby sing-along. Cash bar.

## Huge Cast Fills Lee's Stage

Some 22 actors perform 1920's "The Front Page."

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE CONNECTION

Ever wonder why you don't see professional productions of such marvelous old-time hits as the 1928 drama/comedy of a night in the press room of a Chicago courthouse, "The Front Page?" Simple. The script by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur calls for a huge cast by today's standards.

Who can afford to pay 22 performers at today's rates? Not professional theaters, that's for sure. Ah, but community theaters such as the Port City Playhouse can field such a small army because their performers are all volunteers. Still, it takes considerable resources to make a complicated show of this type work and director Roland Branford Gomez gives the project a sense of heft, if not a consistent sense of style.

The action takes place on a single set (that helps with the budget). It is the pressroom of the Criminal Courts Building in Chicago on a late spring evening as a gaggle of reporters wile away the hours awaiting an execution scheduled for the next dawn. How much is a gaggle? In this case, it is over half a dozen and the playwrights have given each a distinctive personality so it would be difficult to get away with fewer just

to save money.

They play cards, they trade stories while one plunks away on a banjo and another tries to get some work done at his roll-top desk (the desk plays an important part in the plot after intermission). Various strange characters wander in and out, especially when things get frantic after the escape of the condemned man.

With 22 characters and only two hours of stage time in its three acts, the play doesn't give very many performers too much time alone in a spotlight. Instead, the show relies on rapid-fire dialogue, often with multiple characters talking at the same time. This kind of show requires a polished, well-practiced pace and here is where this production fails to live up to its potential. The confusion is not as disciplined as the script's authors obviously intended.

With many people talking over each other's lines, it is important that the lines that are most important to the plot or to the definition of a particular character's purpose in a scene are the ones that rise above the din so the audience can follow what is going on. Too often in this production, however, it is the throwaway lines that obscure plot points. As a result, the audience spends a lot of time trying to figure out what is going on rather than sitting back and enjoy-

ing the action.

While it is essentially an ensemble show, there is a principal character that constitutes a starring role. Reporter Hildy Johnson is anxious to get the evening over since he's about to leave on his honeymoon with his pretty bride played by Elizabeth Heir. Mark Lee Adams handles that role with a glint in his eye, a spring in his step and an energy not always matched by the rest of the cast.

In any theater company, it would be difficult to assemble an "all-star cast" when the cast has to approach the two dozen mark. In community theater that is even more difficult, but Gomez and the Port City Playhouse have the reputation for solid productions that draws some of the better community theater actors and actresses to their shows. As a result, this production benefits from the likes of Bonnie Jourdan as Hildy's potential mother-in-law, Jerry Morse as the sheriff who's career is in danger due to the escape of his prisoner, Ron Field as the Mayor who's concern over reelection outweighs any sense of duty, Ron Sturman as the clerk trying against considerable odds to deliver a reprieve from the Governor and Cary Cramer as the escapee.

Late in the action, James McDaniel joins the group as Hildy's editor out to make a name for his



**Pictured are P. Spencer Tamney — Wilson, Eleni Aldridge — Mrs. Schlosser, Will Monahan — Endicott, Brian Clarke — Murphy, Geoffrey Baskir — Schwartz, Jim Day — McCue and Cal Whitehurst — Kruger.**

newspaper by scooping everyone else and manipulating events to make an even more dramatic story. His arrival sparks the production to a higher energy level.

Another source of pleasure is the music played before the show begins, during intermission and as the audience files out. It sounds very much as if it might be vintage 1920s jazz recordings cleaned up through the magic of modern digital technology. In fact, it is all original music composed by Joseph Colombo.

But it is the gaggle of reporters that are the heart of the piece, most notably Will Monahan as a crotchety veteran, Jim Day as a hardened beat reporter, Brian Clark as a sharp-tongued scribe, Ted Culler as the persnickety

owner of the roll-top desks and Cal Whitehurst as the musically inclined reporter. Their banter may well become better paced as they perform the show more times. It runs through March 28 at the Lee Center.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway and writes about theater for a number of national magazines. He can be reached at [Brad@PotomacStages.com](mailto:Brad@PotomacStages.com).

## Where & When

The Port City Playhouse production of "The Front Page" is at the Lee Center for the Performing Arts, 1108 Jefferson Street with performances Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. There is a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, March 28. Tickets are \$14 - \$16. Call 703-838-2880 or log on to [www.telgo.com/pcp](http://www.telgo.com/pcp).

# CALENDAR

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 17

**St. Patrick's Day Gala.** 3 to 7 p.m. At McGinty's Public House at Market Square in Potomac Yard. Irish band Trade Routes will perform. Authentic Irish cuisine and live music all day and evening. Call Emma Whelan at 240-423-8472 and visit [www.mcgintypublichouse.com](http://www.mcgintypublichouse.com).

**Film: "The Quiet Man" [1952].** 6:30 p.m. The Shirlington Screens series presents John Ford's "The Quiet Man" [1952]. At the Shirlington Branch Library.

**El Paso Café.** 5 to 10 p.m. Enjoy a Saint Patrick's Day themed dinner at El Paso Café and 20 percent of the proceeds will go to support SCAN of Northern Virginia. At 4235 North Pershing Drive in Arlington. Call 703-243-9811.

**Going Green Campaign.** Noon. Conference and tours to launch new Going Green campaign. At Bishop O'Connell High School, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 18

**Holistic Moms Network.** 7-9 p.m. The topic is organic gardening with Mitch Baker, American Plant. At Arlington United Methodist Church, 715 S. Glebe Road, Arlington. Visit <http://arlexva.holisticmoms.org/> or call 703-824-6167.

**Panel Discussion.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. "We Have Decided Not to Die," featuring Neuroscientist James Giordano, Ph.D. The panel is being held in conjunction with the Arts Center's "Transhuman Conditions" show. At the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Visit [www.arlingtonartscenter.org](http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org).

**Watershed Planning Workshop.** 7-9 p.m. Learn about Arlington County's recent project to reduce and filter polluted stormwater runoff. For Gulf Branch, Donaldson Run and Upper Four Mile Run Watersheds. At Langston Brown Community Center, 2121 N. Culpeper Street, Arlington. Call 703-228-3588 or [cjolicoeur@arlingtonva.us](mailto:cjolicoeur@arlingtonva.us).

**Breast Cancer Program.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. An oncologist and a breast surgeon explains tools used to classify breast cancer risk as low, moderate or high and addresses screening guidelines and risk reduction strategies. At Virginia Hospital Center, Conference Center, 1701 N. George Mason Drive, Arlington. Call 703-558-0877.

**Film: "For My Father" [2008].** 6:30 p.m. The Cross Cultural Cinema series presents the Israeli film "For My Father" [2008] from director Dror Zahavi. At the Arlington Central Library Auditorium.

**Hamilton College Choir.** 7:30 p.m. Free. Will perform both sacred and secular works ranging from the Renaissance to the present day. At St.

Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington.

## Women in Business Luncheon.

11:30 a.m. Registration and Networking; 12 noon Lunch. Cost is \$45. Honoring Barbara A. Favola, Arlington County Board. At Morton's The Steakhouse, 1750 Crystal Drive, Arlington. RSVP to Kim Christensen at 703-418-1444 or [cm.mar@mortons.com](mailto:cm.mar@mortons.com)

## FRIDAY/MARCH 19

**Choir of College of William & Mary.** 8 p.m. The 65-member mixed chorus will perform African-American spirituals. At Rock Spring Congregational UCC, 5010 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Email Katherine at [katherine.rubida@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.rubida@gmail.com) or by phone at 703-582-7181.

**"20th Century (and Beyond)." 7:30 p.m.** Sponsored by the IBIS Chamber Music Society, members of The Kennedy Center Orchestra and the Boston Pops. At the Lyon Park Community Center, 414 N. Fillmore Street, Arlington. Visit [www.ibischambermusic.org](http://www.ibischambermusic.org)

**Family Bingo Night Fund-Raiser.** 6 to 10 p.m. All proceeds benefit the BRYC U12 Dragons, U13 Spartans and U17 Vapors Soccer teams; a cancer research study for a U12 Dragon's player, and World Vision Haiti relief. At the Virginian Suites Hotel, 1500 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. Contact coach Elisa Yu-Shan at 703-725-2650.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 20

**Open Day.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free clinics and games for all ages with the Baltimore Washington Eagles Australian Rules Football Club. Boys and girls aged 5 to 15 are welcome to participate. At Bluemont Park, 601 N. Manchester Street, Arlington.

**Jamestown Spring Fair.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 40 games for children, face painting, pony rides, moon bounce, inflatable obstacle course and a bake sale. At Jamestown Elementary School, 3700 Delaware Street, Arlington.

**American Red Cross Wilderness and Remote First Aid Course.** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$110. At the Arlington Chapter of the National Capital Region, 4333 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-527-3010, Ext. 736 or contact [cbenitez@arlingtonredcross.org](mailto:cbenitez@arlingtonredcross.org).

**Reading: A Family Affair.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A fun day of learning and entertainment, featuring The Great Zucchini, Good Life Theater, The Rainbow Entertainment Company, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, and Clifford the Big Red Dog. Sponsored by the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia. At the James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale

Rd., Falls Church. Visit [www.lcnv.org](http://www.lcnv.org) 703-237-0866.

**Choralis Sings English Works.** 7 p.m. At Falls Church Presbyterian Church, 225 East Broad Street, Falls Church. Tickets for the concert (\$40 premium, \$25 regular admission, \$5 students 22 and under with ID, and free for children 12 and under) are available from [www.choralis.org](http://www.choralis.org) or by calling 703-237-2499.

**Country Western Dance.** Bernie Vitale will be the DJ. Cliff and Donna Carlson will teach a full hour of beginners Two Step beginning at 7:30 p.m. Open dancing is from 8:30-11 p.m. and includes Two Step, Waltz, line, Swing, Cha Cha, and specialty dances. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12. Visit the Web site, [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or call our hot line 703-860-4941.

**"Song and Dance."** 10:30 a.m. Kids of all ages have two opportunities to meet the harp, flute and string family in a concert entitled "Song and Dance." Members of The Kennedy Center Orchestra and the Boston Pops perform in this free, 40-minute program. At Clarendon Presbyterian Church, 1350 N. Jackson Street, Arlington. Visit [www.ibischambermusic.org](http://www.ibischambermusic.org). The program repeats itself at 1 p.m. at the Arlington Central Library, 1050 N. Quincy Street, Arlington.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 21

**Benefit Auction.** 2-5 p.m. Doorways for Women and Families' Annual Benefit Auction, "Opening Doors to a Brighter Future." At the Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington. Purchase \$150 tickets at [www.doorwaysva.org/benefit](http://www.doorwaysva.org/benefit).

## TUESDAY/MARCH 23

**Author Event: "A Taste of Honey"** by Jabari Asim. 7 p.m. At the Shirlington Branch Library, 4200 Campbell Avenue, Arlington.

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$10. With the band Double Scotch. At the Clarendon Ballroom, 3185 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 24

**LinkUp & Live Charity Event.** 6:30 p.m. Proceeds will help support CrisisLink's care for people in crisis, contemplating suicide or dealing with other mental health problems. At the Clarendon Ballroom in Arlington. Visit [www.LinkUpandLive.org](http://www.LinkUpandLive.org).

**Relational Aggression and Bully Prevention.** 7-9 p.m. At the Education Center, 1426 North Quincy Street, Board Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. Register online at [www.apsva.us/](http://www.apsva.us/) adulted or by calling 703-228-7200.

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Children of the World metal wall hanging, Haiti. \$78

# Arlington REAL ESTATE

For information about appearing on this page, contact Deb Funk at 703-778-9444 or debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

## On the Market



### Arlington, North – Open Sunday 1-4 pm

This Architect's personal residence incorporates many elements to include floor to ceiling bow window, over sized hearth or even 12x12 individual pane sidelight windows surrounding front door that are subtle details overlooked as a whole but together result in this stunning residence. An innovative interpretation of a New England style of architecture demonstrates understated elegance. Workmanship and use of quality materials further enhance this sophisticated design. Premium 20,110 sq ft lot originally earmarked for an 8,000 to 9,000 sq ft designed McMansion. Subsequently redeveloped in favor of this roughly 6,000 square foot, more conservative, yet elegant option. Highlights include dramatic two story foyer, 10, 12 and 15 foot ceilings, kitchen with substantial island open to breakfast and family rooms, self contained master's quarters with unique private study. Six bedrooms and 4.5 baths, total. Four bedrooms and three full baths upstairs. Daylight walkout inclusive of billiard /exercise /recreation rooms and French doors exiting to slate patio. Gorgeous lot. Walk to Potomac River, one light to D.C. and Jamestown/Williamsburg/Yorktown Schools. 4114 40th Place North, Arlington 22207.

**For more information contact Kevin Love, RE/MAX Allegiance, 703-807-1986.  
This house is priced at \$2,195,000.**

### Brick Colonial in Arlington Heights

Arlington Heights classic brick colonial is conveniently located to Clarendon, and Rte 50 with easy access to the D.C. This three bedroom, two bath home is situated on a tree lined street seconds to many of Arlington's popular shops, restaurants and nightlife.

The home's features include:

- Beautifully updated kitchen with Silestone countertops, cherry cabinets, antiqued hammered copper sink, Brazilian cherry floor, and Jenn Air appliances (new in 2005).
- Gleaming hardwood oak flooring throughout the main and upper levels.

This house is located at 3114 South 2nd Street Arlington 22204.

**For more information contact Norm Odeneal, Keller Williams Realty,  
www.CALLNORM.com, 703-587-0945.  
This house is priced at \$609,000.**



### Arlington Colonial in Aurora Hills

This beautiful classic Arlington Colonial home is nestled on a quiet street in Aurora Hills. Sited on a flat, 8,600 SF lot, this three bedroom, 2.5 bath home brings a classic Arlington style home with good family living space, great outdoor space for play, pets and entertaining. A rear addition adds a light-filled family room with a sight line to the remodeled kitchen and an upstairs deck. Brand new finished basement and full bath with built-in cabinetry, recessed lighting, custom speakers, and great closets. This property is a commuter's dream whether you travel by car, Metro, or plane -- only six minutes to National Airport - moments to two Metro rail stations -- or two stop lights to Downtown D.C./Capitol Hill. Detached garage. 2615 S. Lynn Street Arlington, 22202. Open House Sunday, March 21, 1-4 p.m.

**For more information contact Leanne Spencer, Weichert Realtors  
202-494-7596, spencerlg@aol.com, www.leannespencer.com.  
This house is offered at \$789,000.**



### All-New County Club Hills Home

• All-new five-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath home across from school bus stop and the entrance to Gulf Branch Nature Center and Park.

• Open main-level with formal living room, dining room & study. Kitchen opens to breakfast room & soaring family room with wall of windows.

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• Priced at \$1,849,000 but financing makes it the same as \$1.5M.

**For more information contact Sharon Chamberlin, 703-244-2588,  
McEneaney Associates, Inc., www.SharonChamberlin.com.  
3427N. Utah St. Open Sunday 1-4 pm.**



## Profile in Real Estate - Kevin O'Neill

Kevin O'Neill joined American Realty Group in April 2004. Having a degree in Construction Management from Illinois State University and six years of experience in construction on projects ranging in size from a few hundred dollars to millions, he can envision any home's potential.

An Arlington resident since 1998, Kevin has helped people in all stages of life find a new place to call home. Working with first time buyers, sellers, renters, landlords, or as a property manager, he is able to assist you with all of your real estate needs.

"The diverse population makes Arlington a wonderful place to raise a family," says Kevin. "The abundance of housing choices,

shopping, transportation options, parks and strong schools make Arlington a great place to live and work. I enjoy my career and am blessed that I can do it in here at American Realty Group."

Before getting his real estate license, Kevin was an Army mechanic and a software developer at QuadraMed in Reston. "I used my VA Loan to buy my first home. The pride of ownership is a great feeling. With the rates low, and the availability of homes, NOW is a fantastic time to purchase. Contact me so we can get YOU started."



Kevin O'Neill  
American Realty Group  
therealestateguy@lycos.com  
571-243-9485

# REAL ESTATE

**John Kozy**, sales associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Arlington, was appointed by the Canadian government's International Civilian Reserve (CANDEM) as a short-term observer monitoring presidential recent run-off elections in Ukraine during a two-week stay in January and February.

Kozy, an American and Canadian citizen who formerly worked as a political consultant and human rights observer for the United Nations, was educated about the country's electoral law and the candidates, traveled with a delegation of about 200 volunteers to Ukraine, and observed polling procedures in Ukraine's third largest city, Dnepropetrovsk.

**Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, Inc.** President/CEO Nina Janopaul announced two new staff members who are joining the APAH team: Linda Y. Kelleher, Director of Community and Resident Relations, and Kerry Lutz, Resident Services Coordinator for Columbia Grove Apartments.

Kelleher will be responsible for APAH's communications and marketing efforts; grant writing and fundraising and expanding APAH's resident services program.

Lutz will be developing and implementing APAH's Resident Services Program at the 208-unit Columbia Grove Apartments, 1010 S. Frederick Street, Arlington. Lutz joins APAH after a Peace Corps assignment in Nicaragua. She has worked with at-risk populations at Stop Child Abuse Now in Northern Virginia (SCAN) and Catholic Charities Hispanic Center in Washington, DC. Lutz is fluent in Spanish and has a B.A. in Hispanic Studies from the College of William and Mary.

**MTFA Architecture Inc. of Arlington** announces the newest additions to its team, **Kristen Paradies** and **Katherine Solether**. Paradies, an architect with 10 years of experience, brings to MTFA a specialized expertise in commercial interiors and environmentally friendly design. Solether is a designer talented in architectural planning and interior design.

## "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington's Office of Senior Adult Programs March 28-April 2.

**Arlington senior centers:** Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Culpepper Garden, 4435 S. Pershing Dr.; Langston-Brown, 2121 N. Culpeper St.; Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Madison, 3829 N. Stafford St.; also TJ Comm. Center, 3501 S. 2nd St., Fairlington Comm. Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Master chess player Macon Shibut meets with **Madison Chess Club**, Monday, March 29, 9:30 a.m., Madison Community Center. Details, 703-534-6232.

**Traditional Hatha Yoga** classes start Monday, March 29, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown. Previous experience helpful. Call to register, 703-228-5321.

Four **fitness walking** clinics begin Monday, March 29, 11:30 a.m., TJ Community Center. Cost \$24 with 55+ Pass. Register, 703-228-4771.

**Pickleball** for new and experienced players, Monday, March 29, TJ Community Center and Walter Reed Senior Center. Free with 55+ Pass. Details, 703-228-4745.

**Laughter is the best medicine program**, Tuesday, March 30, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Details, 703-228-5321.

Beginners **full fitness exercise class**, Tuesday, March 30, Thursday, April 1, 10 a.m., Lee. Cost \$3.50 per drop in. Details, 703-228-0555.

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**OPEN SUN. 1-4**



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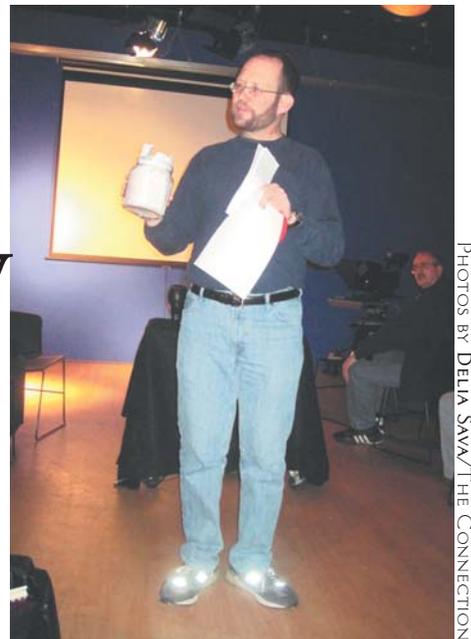
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## PEOPLE

# AIMing at Best Comedy

Arlington Independent Media hosted an event for local filmmakers to screen their comedy short films for the community on Friday, March 12. Audience members voted for their favorite film with proceeds going to the director's chosen nonprofit organization. The audience favorite: "The Interview" directed by Jennifer Hatcher, and the nonprofit receiving the proceeds was Animal Welfare League of Arlington.



Michael A. Shea collects the ballots.



Left, Hilary Egan, membership coordinator at AIM and Rana Fawad, volunteer.



Left, Vicki Yung, director of "Prankster," with Steve Cordle, lead actor in "Old Timer."

PHOTOS BY DELIA SAVVA/THE CONNECTION

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PAG404642A

# Obama Highlights Local Company

FROM PAGE 3

"We are an early example of that trend playing out," said Ogi Kavazovic, a marketing director with OPOWER. "We took the president's visit as a validation that we're on the right track."

Kavazovic said that the company's Web site spiked 500 percent on the day of the visit, which was televised live on C-SPAN. The energy efficiency company is located across the street from the Courthouse Metro station, an area that OPOWER officials say they would like to transform into a high-tech corridor. Some high-tech companies have already chosen the area to locate their headquarters, and Kavazovic said he's hoping the presidential visit may prompt more interest in the Courthouse area.

"We have been trying to form a high-tech community in Arlington for some time," said Kavazovic. "So having Obama come here and recognize our company can only help that."

**ARLINGTON COUNTY** has a long history of supporting environmental initiatives, dating back to the late 1960s when county officials became early supporters of the Metro system. More recently, the county has committed to lowering greenhouse emissions at county-owned buildings and launched an Internet feature tracking efficiency at every Arlington government facility. In January, County Board Chairman Jay Fisetta announced the appointment of a broad-based task force to develop a Community Energy Plan aimed at identifying specific strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions countywide.

## 'Pool Rewards'

FROM PAGE 2

Cash for Commuters took place in Atlanta.

At the end of its first five years, the Atlanta program coaxed more than 29,000 drivers out of their cars and saved 32.8 million vehicle miles traveled.

"... 64 percent of its participants continuing to use commute alternatives at least once per week after the cash reward program ended," Ramos said. He hopes to duplicate this success in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Commuter Connections is a regional transportation network funded by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

"Just as we have plans for land use and transportation, we need a plan for energy use," Fisetta said in his New Year's Day inaugural speech. "It is the 'Arlington Way' to involve the whole community in the important decisions on our county's future, and I hope this sets a blueprint for Arlington's long-term sustainability and competitiveness."

The county's green reputation now has a presidential imprimatur, with Obama singling out the Arlington business as an example

of his administration's argument that environmental innovation is tied to job growth. OPOWER officials say their company grew from 20 employees at the start of 2009 to 75 positions at the end of the calendar year. That kind of job growth, combined with the administration's environmental goals, created a kind of perfect storm for OPOWER.

"We were kind of floating on air for a few days there," said Kavazovic. "But at this point, it's kind of back to business as usual."

# New Artist in Residency

FROM PAGE 3

one approaches, it begins to ask a series of questions to determine what animal (there are 12 choices) the participant will be in the next reincarnation. Mullins created the sculpture with the help of her fiancé, Rubin Sidhu and a friend, Ryan Springer, both electrical engineers.

It took about six months to create the sculpture. "It was such a great thing to have a chance to collaborate, it gives you insight

into other professions and different ways of thinking," Mullins said. She smiles as she credits Sidhu for all his help with the project: "He did help write the code — that's his handiwork."

In the few months that she has been part of the program, Mullins has come to appreciate the community and its support for artists. "I knew when I got in that I was lucky and every month after that, I have realized just how lucky I am."

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Sunday, March 28 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Purchase quality used goods including furniture, children's items, antiques, jewelry, books, kitchenware, electronics, and clothing at bargain prices.

All proceeds benefit the Junior League's literacy programs. Find out more at www.jlw.org or call (202) 337-2001, Ext. 18.

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# Despite Change, Yorktown Searching for Similar Success

## Senior left-hander Johnson leads Patriot pitching staff.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Yorktown baseball program has a new head coach and lost its co-region player of the year and two other all-district first-teamers to graduation after winning a school-record 19 games in 2009. While change can be used as an excuse, the two-time defending National District champions are instead striving for similar success.

Mike Ruck takes over head coaching duties following Mike Allen's resignation after 12 years on the job. Second baseman and pitcher Kyle Toulouse, the 2009 co-region POY, is playing football at Holy Cross, leaving shoes that might take several Patriots to fill. While it won't be easy, Ruck and two of his seniors hinted Yorktown has what it takes during Sunday's Northern Region media day at the Virginia Baseball Club in Merrifield.

"Everyone came in saying we lost too much," said Ruck, who had previous

coaching stops in Maryland and Florida. "Seeing these guys play, I'm cautiously optimistic. I think if we do what we're capable of we'll be able to compete against any team any day."

One reason for Ruck's optimism is the return of all-district pitcher Dean Johnson. Ruck called Johnson a "crafty lefty" with good command, and in an e-mail said Johnson reminded him of a high school version of former Atlanta Braves all-star Tom Glavine.

"I've coached some pretty good ball players," Ruck said. "I've never coached someone that polished on the mound. ... He's not going to impress anybody with his velocity, but his mound presence [is strong

**"I've coached some pretty good ball players. I've never coached someone that polished on the mound."**

— Yorktown baseball coach Mike Ruck on Dean Johnson



**Yorktown senior pitcher Dean Johnson takes over as the Patriots' staff ace, a role formerly held by co-region player of the year Kyle Toulouse.**

and] he's able to mix speeds. He's that one guy that you face and three at-bats later you're 0-for-3 and you're scratching your head, "Why am I 0-for-3 off this guy?"

Johnson, the staff ace, said he throws his fastball in the low 80s and also throws a changeup and a curve.

"We definitely want to win the districts," the senior said, "regular season and championship, again."

Senior Chris Kyser is one of three catchers who will work with



**Yorktown senior Chris Kyser is one of three Patriots who could see time at catcher this season.**

Johnson. Ruck spoke highly of the Patriots' depth at the catcher position, saying any of the three could start for most programs in the state. The coach said Kyser, who will also play right field, is the Patriots' best overall hitter and will bat third. Senior Mike Ryan will also see time at designated hitter, and sophomore Red Dowdell is getting college looks without have played at the varsity level.

"We've heard that [we lost too much talent to compete]," Kyser said. "We've thought that, too. But with the way the team's looking so far, I think we're going to be

decent contenders. ... We kind of want to prove ourselves [as individuals], too. Last year we were kind of living in the shadow of Kyle Toulouse — as we should have, he's an all-state player — but I think that we're coming out trying to prove ourselves, not just the team."

Junior Brooks Valtin takes over at second base and will hit lead-off. Senior Brian Scholl will bat second and play center field. Junior Shaun Wood will play first base and hit cleanup while senior Andrew D'Addario will play left field and hit fifth.

"He just mashes," Ruck said of D'Addario. "He's a 'see ball, hit ball' guy."

Dowdell will hit sixth and see time at catcher. Junior James Overbeek will hit seventh and play third base, Ryan will bat eighth and see time at catcher at designated hitter and senior Wade Holmes is the shortstop and bats ninth. On the mound, sophomore left-hander Daniel Whitaker is the Patriots' No. 2 starter. Junior Nate Brown is the No. 3 starter and a middle-innings reliever. Junior Kevin Tomlinson is a situational left-hander out of the bullpen and senior Ben Earley is the team's closer.

## Wakefield Enters 2010 Season Light on Experience

### Warriors' pitching rotation composed of three sophomores.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**W**akefield head baseball coach George Baker has been here before.

Whether it's a lack of experience, size or talent, Baker's Warriors are the underdogs on most occasions.

Wakefield returns four athletes from a team which won three games in 2009. On top of that, senior Sam Kealey, slated to be the ace of the team's pitching staff, suffered a ligament tear in his pitching elbow (right) during the fall and will likely be limited to first base duties. When asked about his expectations during Sunday's Northern Region media day at the



**Wakefield senior Sam Kealey was slated to be the ace of the Warriors' pitching staff, but suffered a ligament tear in his pitching elbow in the fall. He will play first base and bat third.**

SEE THREE, PAGE 18

## 5Qs

### Five Questions with Yorktown Senior Libby Kane

**Q: You play volleyball, lacrosse and swim for Yorktown. Do you have a preference for one?**

A: Volleyball is my favorite sport, I would say, but I don't really have a preference as to which I like to do because I love the teams. It's mainly the teams I like the most.

**Q: Your positions in volleyball (setter) and lacrosse (goaltender) are those of a communicator. What is the role like?**

A: I'm the kind of person that I will never yell at my teammates — I'm a firm believer that I will not yell at my teammates. I know what I have to do and I know what they have to do. You kind of have to be in their heads ... and make sure you're on the same page. ... It's second nature.

**Q: Who is your favorite music artist?**

A: I liked Kanye West before he became what he is now — his older music — just because I like the way he flows. ... I didn't like him after the [808's and Heartbreak] CD. ... I don't just have one particular artist; I have a whole collection I like.

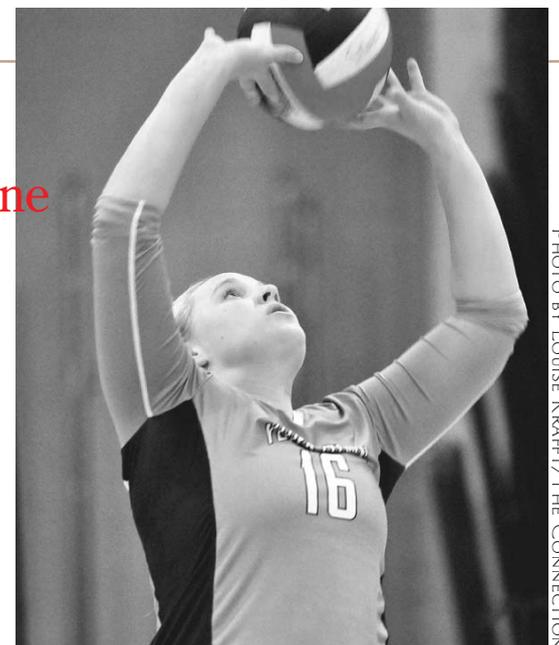


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

**Q: You're going to North Carolina State next year. What are you most looking forward to about the transition?**

A: Just meeting new people, getting to know different people from different areas and getting new freedoms.

**Q: What's your favorite movie?**

A: "Stomp the Yard." I like the movie but it's kind of a joke with my friends also. ... I don't have any rhythm so I kind of appreciate that they do.

# Secrecy

FROM PAGE 4

to transparent government.

"I am in the corner of trusting our police department," said County Board member Barbara Favola, who was chairwoman when Baker was arrested. "If they push back I am not going to override them, and I don't think I could get three votes on the board to override them either."

Yet Baker's case highlights a number of ways police in Virginia hide their actions from public scrutiny. Did Baker receive special treatment because he was the chief of police in a neighboring jurisdiction and driving a city-issued vehicle? Who was the woman sideswiped by Baker, when his blood alcohol content registered at twice the legal limit that night? Did Baker try to use his position of power? The public may never know what the documents say about these questions because county officials refuse to release them even though they have the ability to do so.

The actions of the Police Department in the wake of the arrest also raise a number of questions about the level of transparency in Arlington. In the hours after Baker's arrest, seven media organizations made public-record requests for the police report. County officials denied those requests, citing their exemption clause in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Instead of releasing the public document, Arlington officials offered a two-paragraph

summary of the report for a fee of \$24. The four organizations that agreed to the fee received a two-paragraph summary that misidentified David Baker as Paul Baker and incorrectly stated that the arrest took place in 1995 instead of 2009.

"Public officials who try to hide information never look good," said Chip Watkins, an Arlington tax attorney who saw a copy of the document and speculated that the mistake was intentional. "Either someone was trying to cover up for him or they were just sloppy."

**IN ALEXANDRIA**, Police Chief Earl Cook has been on the job since August, after Baker resigned. As one of the three finalists for the job of top cop back in 2006, he was the highest-ranking deputy chief when Baker was forced to step down in the wake of his drunk-driving arrest. Then, on the day he was officially announced as City Manager Jim Hartmann's permanent selection for the job, Cook said that he would review the policy of shielding public access to documents that are widely available in other states.

"I think that's something that's going to have to be under review," Cook said when asked about the lack of access to public documents in Alexandria. "I did not disagree with the policy in the past, but I'm open to discussion about it. If we have a better way of doing it or if is going to serve the public better, perhaps we'll change that policy."

Seven months into his tenure, Cook has yet to launch a formal review. When asked about the issue now, he says he never intended to conduct one.

"I didn't have an idea in mind that I needed to release a report," said Cook. "What I was thinking in my mind is that I needed to review our processes to make sure we are doing those things that serves the community. And that's what I've been doing on an ongoing basis."

The lack of transparency in Alexandria is consistent, even in cases when the police are seeking publicity. For example, a series of high-profile burglaries in Old Town last summer led to an arrest of a man named Ralph Fowler. On Sept. 25, the Alexandria Police Department issued a six-sentence press release along with Fowler's mug shot. Yet in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, Alexandria officials declined to release the incident reports leading to his arrest.

"As one who promotes and advocates transparency I personally don't have a problem with those documents being released," said Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille. "But I need to check with the proper authorities to see why they have such a hang-up."

Hartmann says the reason Alexandria refuses to release documents that are widely available in the rest of America is concerns about privacy. He says he stands by his police chief's decision against full disclosure of public documents – even in cases where the police have sought publicity by issuing press releases.

"The police chief has concerns about certain information in police reports associated with victims or witnesses that he feels needs to be protected," said Hartmann. "There are certain circumstances where it would be in the victim's or a witness' interest to not have their names divulged at a particular stage of a case."

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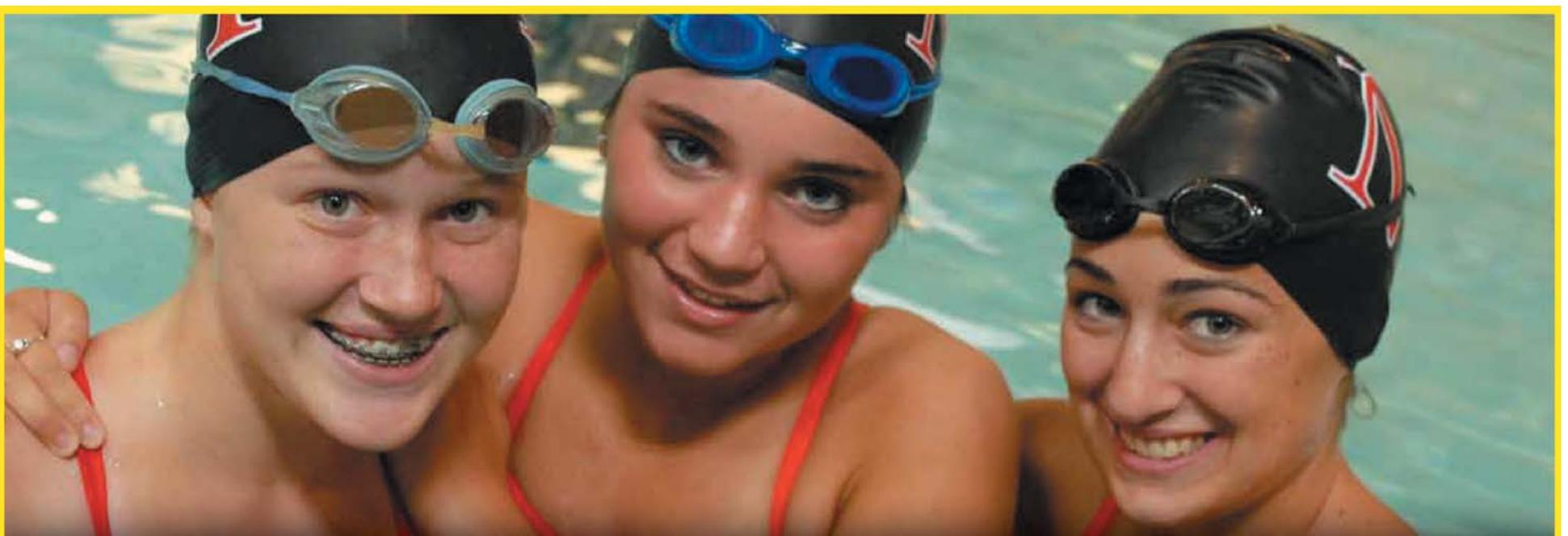
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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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## SPORTS

# Three Sophomores in Warriors' Pitching Rotation

FROM PAGE 14

Virginia Baseball Club in Merrifield, Baker, in his 11th season at Wakefield, didn't sugar coat his outlook.

"We're going to take our lumps, definitely, early because we're very young," he said. "This is really a JV team, a lot of underclassmen that have never seen varsity pitching."

Kealey, seniors Isidro Lopez and Matt Heckler and sophomore Chris Tito are the Warriors returnees.

If Kealey can't pitch, the Warriors' rotation will consist of three sophomores: Chris Tito, Glenn Kinsmen and Rene Escobar. Tito, a left-hander, would assume the role of staff ace.

Seniors TJ Dixon and Thomas Rice are left-handers playing baseball for the first time and learning how to pitch. Baker in an e-mail said the duo could be effective by midseason.

Kealey, a three-year starter who will bat third for Wakefield, said the Warriors should be a strong defensive team. He also said being an underdog is a driving force.

"[We need to] keep our expectations reasonable," Kealey said. "I think if [we keep] improving on our hitting we're going to be able to surprise some teams. ... Also, being

considered the poor school of Arlington, I think we carry that around and it's just extra motivation to win, to beat W-L and Yorktown."

Heckler takes over at shortstop after earning second-team all-district honors at second base last season. He will bat in the No. 2 spot.

Lopez will be Wakefield's catcher, replacing all-district backstop Ryan Kawakami, and bat fourth. Alex Molina could also see time at catcher.

Kinsmen will play second base when he's not on the mound. When the sophomore is pitching, Molina will play second. Nick Werner, Will Ryan and Escobar are competing for playing time at third base.

Tito will lead off and play center field when he's not on the mound. Kevin Caneva will play left field. Ivan Lopez, a freshman, is the team's utility player.

While he expects tough times early in the season, Baker is hoping the Warriors can follow in the footsteps of some of his previous Wakefield teams.

"I did go to the district championship in 2002 and 2006 with teams that didn't do very well at the beginning," Baker said, "but they really improved at the end and that's my goal with this group — just to get better by playing every day."



**Danielle Cameron, Stephanie Wright, Jill Flynn, Catherine Keightley, Del. David Bulova (37<sup>th</sup> District), Catherine Gergely, Kendra Morrison and Karyn Moran.**

## Girls on the Run Recognized in Richmond

The Girls on the Run of NOVA team traveled to the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond on Feb. 20, to meet the 37 members of the Northern Virginia Delegation, and raise awareness of Girls on the Run. GOTR NOVA was recognized for its work serving girls in Northern.

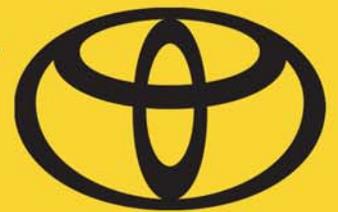
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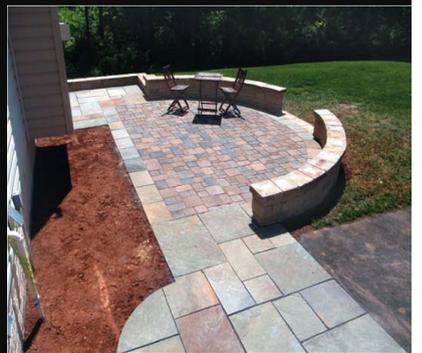
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