

Sounds Of The Season

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT / THE CONNECTION

Concert To Benefit Doorways

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Paying Tribute To Historically Black Schools

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Reviving Drug Court Debate

NEWS, PAGE 6

Music from the Washington-Lee Madrigal singers filled the hallways at Washington-Lee High School as shoppers perused items at the holiday bazaar.

inside
Arlington
 REAL ESTATE & OPEN HOUSES

inside
Orange Line
 CONNECTION

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FOR THE HOLIDAYS



In Rosslyn

ABC7/WJLA's Maurice Jones and Rosslyn BID, Arlington County Board members flip the switch at 6:31p.m. to light up Rosslyn on Dec. 2.



PHOTOS BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/THE CONNECTION

In Shirlington

Carriages of the Capital provided free carriage rides to guests who donate non-perishable food items or make a contribution to Arlington Food Assistance Center during the Light Up The Village event in Shirlington on Dec. 2.

VIEWPOINTS

'My Favorite Christmas Gift'

PHOTOS BY MEGHAN MARVILLE



Paul Robertson:
"My favorite gift was a Lego ship set I got when I was 8. I built it immediately and couldn't put it down for days."



Stephen Kelly:
"My engagement ring. It reminds me of the Spirit of Christmas all year long and the love I share with my partner."



Belinda Smith:
"The original Nintendo, I loved it. I'll never forget having to blow out the cartridges and running all day on the power pad. I wish I still had it!"



T.J. Hamilton:
"The go cart I got as a kid. It was blue and white with a lightning stripe on the side. I called it Jack and would zoom around in it for hours."



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The Washington-Lee softball team members: Hannah Swan, Lauren Fahn, Abigail Whitmore, Emily Bennett and Allison Muhalik offered a varied of baked goods for sale.



Carina Garcia, Alex Vincent and Erin Daniell, seniors now, have been in Girls Scout Troop 1245 since they were Brownies. The girls created scarves, firestarters and a multitude of stocking stuffers and hostess gifts.



Members of the Washington-Lee Swim and Dive team offer mason jars of premixed cookie batter for visitors at the holiday fair.

Washington-Lee High School Hosts Annual Holiday Bazaar

Vendors filled the cafeteria and hallways of the new Washington-Lee High School for the annual holiday bazaar last weekend. Crafts, jewelry, candles, and other items overflowed on tables as shoppers met friends, talked and perused the items.

The hallway was jammed with student clubs, all inventive in their fundraising pursuits ... The Swim and Dive team filled mason jars on cookie ingredients with instructions on how to prepare and bake delicious delectable's. The Girl Scouts created crafts and workshop tables. And the Washington-Lee Madrigals performed holiday tunes to inspire appetite and seasonal shopping.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



Scouts from Troop 5612 set up a craft table a workshop for visitors to make holiday cards.

Singing To Support Doorways

Concert to raise funds for shelter programs.

BY DELIA SAVA
THE CONNECTION

This just adds a bigger purpose to our holiday sing-along," said Janell Tuttle, president and assistant di-

rector of Potomac Harmony Chorus. For the second year, the locally chartered member of Sweet Adelines International will be performing a concert and sing-along to benefit Doorways for Women and Families.

"Doorways works hard year 'round to provide safe shelter to abused and homeless women and families," said Linda Dunphy, executive director of Doorways adding, "We are grateful to the women of Potomac Harmony for their support of our mission."

Lara Lukaszek, special events coordinator with Doorways, noted that last year the agency received more than \$1,000 in donations from the event. Admission to the sing-along is free and songbooks are



Janell Tuttle



Lara Lukaszek



Mary Gleason

SEE SING-ALONG,
PAGE 5

PHOTOS BY DELIA SAVA/THE CONNECTION

Female Inmates To Interact with Their Children

Jail program provides formal "contact visit" program for holidays.

BY ORRIN KONHEIM
THE CONNECTION

Tuesday, Dec. 14, marks the 10th Annual Incarcerated Mothers Program in the Arlington County Detention Center.

The event, sponsored by the Arlington County Sheriff's Office, will give incarcerated mothers the chance to have a contact

visit with their children. The program is designed to lessen the effects of separation and encourage mothers to have positive relationships with their minor children.

Mother's Day is the only other time that the female inmates are let out from behind the closed glass windows that are ordinarily used for visits.

When asked about the security risks of contact visits, Administration Director Ma-

yor Susan Doyel said, "It's such a treat for the women. They would not do anything to mess it up."

Taking place in the lobby of the Arlington County Detention Center, the event lasts two hours. It typically involves mothers and their children exchanging cards, making gifts for each other, eating dinner and other forms of bonding.

At this time, the county's constantly fluctu-

ating inmate population consists of 51 female inmates out of a total of 466 — 10.9 percent.

According to Doyel, there hasn't been enough interest to among the male inmates to justify a similar program.

There are other programs in place for male inmates to see their children. The male inmates can participate in the Read to Me story program, a parenting clinic and Project Christmas Angel, through Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington County, Inc. which provides gifts for inmates to give to their children during the holidays.

Arlington REAL ESTATE

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

On the Market



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Profiles in Real Estate – Betsy Twigg

Betsy has been successfully selling homes for the last 21 years. She works throughout Arlington and surrounding areas, most often in the central part of Arlington, from Glebe Road west to the East Falls Church Metro. The hub of this neighborhood is the Westover Village area which is reminiscent of an old-fashioned town center with a library, post office, grocery store, shops, and restaurants. Educated in finance and economics, Betsy helps clients analyze the financial aspects of buying and selling a home.

Her previous experience as a project manager for a real estate developer has given her a background in construction which is important in preparing homes for sale and with home inspection repairs.

Betsy's well-known "The List" contains the names of good home repair and improvement vendors who are experienced and reasonably priced. One piece of advice she offers buyers is to use vision and look for homes with great bones in good locations. Buyers who are bedazzled by stylish decorating often miss the best houses. Betsy advises sellers to make their homes look as good as possible, "Decluttering, cleaning inside and outside, making repairs, and painting will yield the best return for home sellers." Betsy is known among buyers, sellers, and real estate agents for her sense of humor and her ability to stay calm and clear-headed in any situation. These are perhaps Betsy's most important skills in the world of real estate.



Betsy Twigg
McEneaney Associates, Inc.
703-967-4391
www.BetsyTwigg.com

Sing-along Benefits Doorways Shelter

FROM PAGE 3

provided to everyone in the audience. Tax-deductible donations can be made to Doorways at the door.

At the weekly rehearsal of the chorus last week at the Hermitage, a senior living facility in Alexandria, Lukaszek thanked the members of the group for their generosity. "We are really so excited about this event ... to have a partnership with this group is just so ideal."

The additional support comes at a time when the agency has seen the requests for shelter increase by 28 percent from the past year and the number of people who could not be served was up 21 percent, according to Lukaszek. As a result of the special partnership some of the members of the chorus volunteered to sing at another Doorways event earlier this year and they have become involved in other ways.

Mary Gleason, a retired Navy officer and a member of the chorus since 2004, said she was motivated to volunteer with Doorways, after she learned of the important work the agency was doing in the community to educate young women and to promote healthy relationships. "I wanted to get involved with Doorways because they offer a wide range of services ... and I think it's important for people to understand what is appropriate and what isn't in relationships," she said.

And her involvement with the chorus has been a source of pride and pleasure for Gleason, who observed, "I'd never worked with this many women and it's such a great group of women who come together from all over, and have varied backgrounds and ages and it throws us all together to sing and it's just a very fun thing," she



The women of Potomac Harmony Chorus in rehearsal at the Hermitage.

PHOTO BY DELIA SAWYER/THE CONNECTION

said. Under the direction of master director Ozzi Mask, the chorus has received top honors and been recognized for musical excellence in the regional competitions.

Tuttle who has been with the chorus for more than 14 years said it gives her tremendous joy to watch the "ladies" as they explore, develop and grow in their singing abilities. According to Tuttle the music education association has more than 80 active members in its local chapter — they are dedicated to performing and teaching the American folk art of four-part harmony, barbershop style singing.

Gleason hopes the concert and sing-along will raise awareness and provide support to Doorways. "I just encourage anyone who likes to sing to join us."

More

HOLIDAY CONCERT AND SING-ALONG

Sunday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m.
Thomas Jefferson Community Center Theater
125 S. Old Glebe Road
Visit www.potomacharmony.org and www.Doorwaysva.org.

BUSINESS NOTES

Know of something missing from Business Notes? Send it to [The Arlington Connection](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com), e-mail it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with any questions.

The **Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID)** received two new awards honoring the organization's commitment to transportation alternatives. The Crystal City BID was named a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) by the League of American Bicyclists, and received the Pioneer Award from Arlington's Car-Free Diet. Visit www.crystalcity.org for additional details on the area's accessible assets and burgeoning bicycle culture and to register for upcoming events.

The **Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) Artful Program** was awarded the Pinnacle Award by the International Downtown Association (IDA) at its 56th Annual

Conference. The Pinnacle Award is the highest level of honor of the Downtown Achievement Awards and is presented to projects that represent the best of the best in downtown management and urban development.

The International Downtown Association also recognized the **Rosslyn BID** with a Downtown Pinnacle Award for its work and initiatives related to public space. Specifically, the Rosslyn BID created a temporary public plaza at The JBG Companies' CentralSpace construction site.

Engineering Services Network Inc. (ESN), has secured a \$1 million contract from the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) Field Security Operations (FSO), Enterprise Security Solutions Service, to provide engineering and technical support to the Integration Test Lab. The contract is for one year, with an additional two one-year options. If all options are exercised, the contract would be worth a total of \$3 million.

Arlington County has selected the **Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH)** to build affordable rental apartments, most of them family-sized, on the county site adjacent to the planned Arlington Mill Community Center.

Construction is expected to begin by June 2012, and be completed by December 2013. Construction will be coordinated with construction of the Arlington Mill Community Center, located at 4975 Columbia Pike, with the housing built on a slab that will cover part of the community center's underground parking garage.

Timothy Hughes, of counsel to **Bean, Kinney & Korman**, has recently been recognized as a "Leader in the Law" honoree by Virginia Lawyers Weekly.

Each year, Virginia Lawyers Weekly presents this award to those in the legal field who are changing practice, advancing the law, improving the justice system and setting the standard for other lawyers.

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22202

1603 Arlington Ridge Rd.....\$1,495,000...Sun 1-4.....Ginger Webre.....Long & Foster.....703-518-8713

22205

875 Longfellow St N.....\$585,000.....Sun 1-4.....Cecelia Lofton.....Weichert703-821-8300

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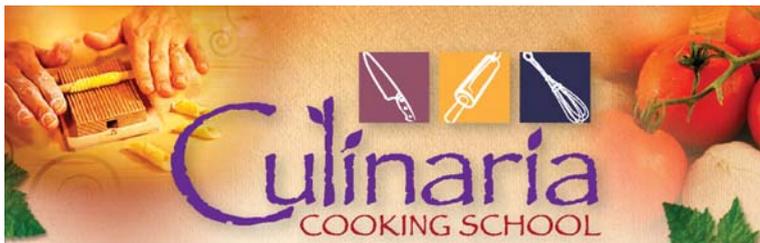


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NEWS

Reviving Drug Court Debate

Trodden's announcement may give new life to drug court proposal.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The announcement that Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney Richard Trodden will not seek reelection next year has given new life to efforts to create a drug court in the county. The effort dates back to last year, when Circuit Court Chief Judge William Newman and the Arlington Community Services Board supported an effort to create a drug-court that would create a separate docket for repeat violators who find themselves in a perpetual cycle tied to clinical addictions. At the time, Trodden was only interested in offering treatment as an alternative to incarceration.

"We don't need a sham drug court," said Trodden in an interview last year. "As I understand it, the drug court would meet weekly to see if they are working and keeping their job and toeing the line. And if they are not, it's into the slammer they go for a while."

Trodden's announcement that he will not seek reelection next year has renewed the debate about drug courts, once again opening the door to a potential agreement that would move the proposal forward. After a series of discussions between prosecutors, the public defender and members of the Community Services Board, the effort failed to gain traction — partly because of a lack of funding.

"I would have hoped we would have made more progress in this area with Dick Trodden at the helm," said Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), a former chairman of the Arlington Community Services Board. "I'm still hopeful we can take a significant step in beginning to implement a drug court model in the months ahead and then move toward fully implementing the program with Dick's ultimate successor."

DRUG COURTS were first created 20 years ago in Miami. Since that time, more than 2,000 have been created in all 50 states and 20 countries. Virginia has 30 drug courts, although each individual drug court has its own format. In Alexandria, for example, the drug court is held in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court so that those who can demonstrate they have kicked the habit can regain custody of their children.

"Our version of the drug court gives families the ability to reconnect if the defendant can leave drugs behind," said Circuit Court Judge Nolan Dawkins in an interview last year. "But with success also goes failure, and not many people relapse."

The Arlington Community Services Board estimates that about 80 percent of people in the Arling-



Commonwealth's Attorney Richard Trodden

ton jail have some kind of substance abuse problem, including alcohol abuse. Yet the criminal-justice system tends to punish repeat offenders as criminals rather than treat their addictions. Because each day in jail costs Arlington taxpayers about \$150 per inmate, supporters of the drug-court movement say implementation would save money and reduce crime.

"The idea behind drug courts is that we shouldn't wait until people are repeat offenders," said Chris Deutsch, communications director for the Alexandria-based National Association of Drug Court Professionals. "This eases the burden on police and saves taxpayers money in the long run."

BUT THE EFFORT might become part of the debate in the upcoming race to succeed Trodden. The four-term prosecutor has already endorsed his Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Theo Stamos for the position. When asked about the drug court proposal, Stamos said existing Virginia law already gave judges discretion to expunge drug convictions upon completion of treatment programs for first-time offenders. Stamos said that she would be hesitant to extending that opportunity to repeat offenders.

"There has to be consequences," said Stamos, a Democrat who will be on the ballot during the summer primary. "At some point, it has to be dealt with."

Supporters of creating a drug-court model in Arlington say the chief benefit would be for the multiple repeat offenders, those whose addictions have created a cycle of convictions and a lengthy rap sheet. Drug court participants undergo long-term treatment and counseling, sanctions, incentives and frequent court appearances. Successful completion of the treatment program results in dismissal of the charges or lesser penalties.

"Incarceration generally does not address the underlying problem, but detoxification and treatment programs often do," said Carol Skelly, chairwoman of the Arlington Community Services Board last year. "Diversion to treatment improves the chances of turning offenders into contributing members of our community."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Bike Collection. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wheels to Africa Bike Collection taking place at Yorktown High School. A suggested donation of \$10 will help ship a bike to Africa. Wheels to Africa was started by an 11-year-old Arlington

boy, Winston Duncan, who decided he had to help people in Africa who need transportation to obtain food, water and medicine. Since 2005, Wheels to Africa has shipped over 2700 bikes to Africa. Wheels to Africa, requests a \$10 donation with each bike to help cover the costs of shipping bikes. Visit www.wheels-to-africa.org.

Arboreal Mind: Finding Self in Nerve Cell Branching.

1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. With Giorgio Ascoli, Ph.D., Computational Neuroanatomy Group, Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study, George Mason University. At the National Science Foundation, Room 110, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Presented by the National Capital Area Skeptics. 301-587-3827 or ncas@ncas.org or visit www.ncas.org.

'FLOURISHING AFTER 55'

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington's Office of Senior Adult Programs for Dec. 19-23.

Arlington senior centers: Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Culpepper Garden, 4435 N. Pershing Dr.; Langston-Brown, 2121 N. Culpepper St.; Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Madison, 3829 N. Stafford St.; also TJ Comm. Center, 3501 S. 2nd St. Arlington Mill at Fairlington Comm. Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Senior centers will be closed Friday, Dec. 24, Saturday, Dec. 25.

Stress management session for caregivers, Monday, Dec. 20, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Call to register, 703-228-6300.

Monthly wellness clinic, free, Monday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Call for fasting instructions, 703-228-4403.

Employment counseling, one-on-one, Monday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Call for appointment, 703-228-0955.

Seniors-only ice skating, Monday, Dec. 20, 8 a.m. - 9:15 a.m., Kettler Capitals Iceplex, Ballston Mall. \$1 (includes skates). Details, 703-228-4745.

Work out using weight machines, free weights, Monday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Langston-Brown. \$60/15 sessions. Details, 703-228-4745.

Beginners full fitness exercise classes, Tuesday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m., Lee. \$4 per class. Details, 703-228-0555.

Cardio tone exercise program, Tuesday, Dec. 21, 9 a.m., Aurora Hills. \$60/15 sessions. Register, 703-228-5722.

Volleyball games, Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Details, 703-228-6300.

Eight ball pool instruction, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Details, 703-228-0955.

Canasta players welcome, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 10 a.m., Lee and Walter Reed. Free. Details, 703-228-4721.



PHOTO BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/THE CONNECTION

'Miracle on 23rd'

Santa plays with neighborhood children during the tree lighting ceremony on 23rd St. on Dec. 3.

Christmas Open House, Culpepper Garden Senior Center, Thursday, Dec. 23, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free. Details, 703-228-4403.

Ideas for healthy holiday snacks, Thursday, Dec. 23, 1 p.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

Charm strikes the sight, but merit wins the soul.

—Alexander Pope

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- Replace your furnace filter once a month.
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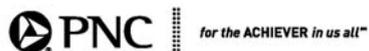
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OPINION

Tough Road Ahead

State, local coffers will continue to shrink in 2011; transportation improvements unlikely.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance quotes Gov. Bob McDonnell's remarks to the Dulles Area Transportation Association earlier this week. "I can't emphasize how important it is to get started now," McDonnell said, to take advantage of favorable infrastructure pricing [due to the recession] by starting to invest more in transportation.

But the Alliance, which advocates for spending on roads and highways, points out that McDonnell "provided few details as to new funding sources, but promised that specifics would surface in the weeks ahead."

Last January was the "now" to get started to take advantage of "favorable infrastructure pricing."

McDonnell has been in office a year now, and won in Northern Virginia largely because of his vigorous campaigning on transportation issues. But he allowed the first year of his tenure, including the first year's session of the General Assembly, to pass without a serious proposal on how to fund transportation improvements in Northern Virginia or elsewhere in the state.

Instead, McDonnell has spent the last months talking up a liquor privatization proposal as a solution to transportation. In fact, that proposal would possibly pay for one intersection or overpass improvement project in Northern Virginia before moving on to cost state funding for education, public safety and social services tens of millions of dollars a year by turning over the revenues for private companies' profit.

Meanwhile, localities in Northern Virginia received essentially zero dollars from the state for transportation improvements in past year.

More on the outlook ahead for public services from Deputy County Executive Ed Long as he prepared the budget forecast for the coming year:

❖ While home values are up for the first time in five years, the county still faces a multimillion dollar shortfall and the future of the local economy is uncertain.

❖ Government contracts are a major component of the Northern Virginia economy. In Fairfax County alone in 2008, federal procurement contracts totaled \$17 billion. Since this is such a large component of the local economy, the discussion of cutbacks in federal contracts

is a major concern.

❖ The Fairfax County budget gets less than 20 cents back from Richmond of every tax dollar it sends to the state.

❖ There are 30,000 unemployed people in Fairfax County, with the current unemployment rate approximately 4.9 percent, or close to half the national rate. Still, 30,000 people is a huge number of unemployed.

EDITORIALS

Share Your New Year's Resolutions

It's early and much of the holiday eating season is still in front of us. But most of us will engage in some soul searching and resolution making around the New Year. In the first issue of 2011, the Connection will share the New Year's resolutions of individuals and offices. Send us your resolutions, plus your tips on keeping resolutions.

Feel free to offer resolutions for local officials as well. Send to smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Please include a photo with your resolutions.

Holiday Stress for the Homeless

BY LINDA DUNPHY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DOORWAYS FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

Working to make ends meet on his meager income, Bob Cratchit, Dicken's lovable underdog character in "A Christmas Carol," symbolizes the struggles of so many parents during the holidays that are barely eking out a living but still thankful and working to make the season special for their families.

Even with the season's joy and celebration, there's still nothing like the holidays to test our financial acumen. The increased spending on gifts for family, colleagues, friends, teachers, child care providers, the mailman, and a variety of other people in our lives — on top of food and everyday items — can really tax a family. Now consider if you're a family that is homeless, struggling to stay afloat and meet the most basic living needs. The holidays can be overwhelming.

That's why financial literacy is so important for everyone — regardless of the time of year, but especially for the homeless and others living in poverty. Most vulnerable families need basic financial management skills to pull themselves out of their desperate situations.

In our community, clients typically come to our programs with poor financial management skills and debt ranging from \$2,000–\$60,000 and annual incomes from \$6,000–\$24,000. They are often challenged by low self-esteem,

depression and feelings of guilt and fear leading to severe deficits in their sense of financial empowerment and control.

Many of our clients are survivors of domestic violence and have suffered years of abuse and control, leaving them in debt and unfamiliar with strategies to successfully manage their own finances. These women typically experience a loss of income due to job inter-

"... our clients often find themselves with excessive debt, a poor and highly damaged credit rating, and minimal knowledge of managing their own finances successfully."

ruption after moving to flee an abuser or job loss after being harassed on-the-job by an abuser. In addition, they often lose control of their finances to their abuser and suffer economic abuse including misuse of their credit cards and bank accounts.

We also serve homeless families, who typically arrive with challenged financial management skills due to lack of knowledge and a constant cash shortfall to pay expenses due to low income, minimal work skills, and/or job jumping. As a result, our clients often find themselves with excessive debt, a poor and highly damaged credit rating, and minimal knowledge of managing their own finances successfully.

Last year, Doorways provided about 800 financial literacy sessions for clients. One such beneficiary was Christina, who entered into Doorways' Domestic Violence Program with

her 15-month-old son when they found themselves in a violent home. After several months, their safety had stabilized and the family moved from the Safehouse to our Family Home.

Christina grew more confident in her abilities, and soon she was able to secure a position as a receptionist. She also became very successful at saving by participating in Doorways' Financial Independence Track, which provides basic, practical education on money management and financial decision-making skills, helping clients gain control over their debt and create a financial safety plan.

Through the program, Christina was able to settle several debts and save more than \$1,500. With her financial house in order, Christina was approved for Permanent Supportive Housing over the summer. This holiday season, Christina is now free from the misery and desperation of her previous life, and like Bob Cratchit, she will be celebrating Christmas with her family in their own home — a two-bedroom apartment.

As I reflect on Christina and all the other struggling families in our community who are working hard to make a better life, I know that one of the best gifts we can give this holiday season are the tools to help them become financially self-sufficient. I can think of no better way to take the "Bah! Humbug!" out of the holidays than by helping vulnerable families feel liberated and prepared for a healthy financial future. For more information about the Financial Independence Track and other Doorways programs, visit www.DoorwaysVA.org.

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NEWS



From left, Sam with dad Robert Boggs and sister, Lucy.



Julie Diers owner of Bumblebee Studios

'Mistletoe Mall'

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington held its annual arts and crafts fair, Mistletoe Mall this past weekend.



Carolina Boude



Chris Allen



From left, Willow with mom Laura Daniels and brother, Cyrus.



Chloe Fugle



Willow Daniels



Nancy Hall

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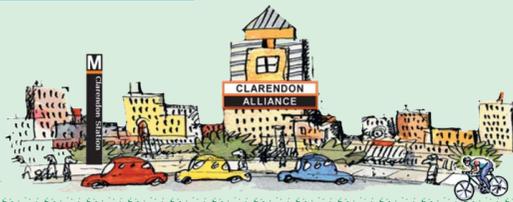
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THURSDAYS, NOW THROUGH JAN. 13

Carpe Vinum: Wine Tastings at Artisphere. \$30 per tasting; \$150 for the series. Hone your palate at wine tastings conducted by four top wine educators from Arlington's wine shops. Demystify the world of wine in a relaxed settings, and expand your wine horizons at Artisphere. At Town Square at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100.

- ❖ Thursday, Dec. 9: Screwtop Wine Bar;
- ❖ Thursday, Dec. 16: Best Cellars;
- ❖ Thursday, Jan. 6: Curious Grape;
- ❖ Thursday, Jan. 13: Arrowine.

Kinder Haus Toys

SANTA APPEARANCE — Sunday, Dec. 12, from 12 to 2 p.m. This gentle Santa will listen to your children's hopes and dreams and provide photo opportunities. Don't forget your camera.

FOOD DRIVE — We are a drop-off point for donations to Arlington Food Assistance Center. Bring your canned goods such as soup and boxed goods such as rice and pasta when next you visit the store.

APC TOY DRIVE — The Arlington Pediatric Center (APC) is the family doctor for Arlington children who lack access to quality, consistent medical care. Help Mothers of North Arlington (MONA) put a smile on APC patients' faces this holiday season. Donate a new, safe unwrapped toy for babies through 12 years. Please ensure no single toy costs more than \$20. Many APC children live in dire poverty. Learn more at <http://www.arlpedcen.org/>.

STORYTIME — We are suspending Storytime for the months of November and December due to the large numbers of holiday shoppers. Starting in January 2011, we will resume reading every Monday and Friday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Ms. Laura will read new and classic stories in a way that captivates.

Kinder Haus is located at 1220 N. Fillmore St., street level on Fillmore St. below Gold's Gym near the intersection with Clarendon Blvd. Located two blocks east of the Clarendon Metro. Call 703-527-5929 or visit www.kinderhaus.com.

Winter Wonderland at Market Common

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

1 p.m. – 5 p.m. — Santa and Mrs. Claus Arrive by Fire Truck
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Toys for Tots Campaign with MIX 107.3 and USMC
Free Entertainment

Market Common Clarendon will present the 10th annual Winter Wonderland on Saturday, Dec. 11, offering plenty of holiday fun for all ages. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fire truck at 1 p.m., and they'll be staying for visits and free photos until 5 p.m. All afternoon, attendees can enjoy free holiday activities and entertainment, including ice sculptures, strolling entertainment — carolers and characters like "Jack Frost" — and more.

MIX 107.3 FM will be broadcasting live from Market Common Clarendon with host, John Martin, for the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign, accepting donations of unwrapped toys and cash from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Call 703-785-5634, or log on to www.marketcommonclarendon.net.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 16

Party Crashers. Comic Culture Invades the Art World. Party Crashers mashes up comic art and contemporary gallery culture, and features artists who pass back and forth between the two worlds. With the artists Rosaire Appel, Victor Kerlow, Rina Ayuyang, Blaise Larmee, Derik Badman, Andrei Molotiu, Gabrielle Bell, Robert Pruitt, Jeffrey Brown, Jim Rugg, Joshua Cotter, Dash Shaw, Warren Craghead III, Deb Sokolow, Anton Kannemeyer, and Olav Westphalen. At the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. call 703-248-6800 or visit www.findyourartist.org

NOW THROUGH JAN. 8

Fields and Networks: Alice Whealin. The solo exhibition by Alice Whealin, Fields and Networks, features a series of ink drawings on acetate that reflect spatially both an expansive universe and small areas of function. These abstract drawings invite references to "fields and networks". They draw upon diverse sources of imagery



"Mary Stuart"



"Richard III"

NOW THROUGH DEC. 12

"Richard III" and "Mary Stuart." Washington Shakespeare Company (WSC) inaugurates the new black box theatre in Artisphere with a rep of plays featuring British monarchs: Shakespeare's "Richard III," directed by Christopher Henley and Jay Hardee, and Friedrich Schiller's "Mary Stuart," directed by Colin Hovde from the new Peter Oswald adaptation. Thursday (7:30 p.m.) - \$25; Friday (7:30 p.m.) - \$30; Saturday (2 p.m.) - Pay-What-You-Can; Saturday (7:30 p.m.) - \$35; Sunday (2 p.m.) - \$30; Sunday (7:30 p.m.) - \$25; Previews & Saturday matinees are always Pay-What-You-Can (PWYC). WSC is the resident theatre company in Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. in Rosslyn.

including animal and human form, popular molecular and space photography, calligraphy, abstract and expressionist art forms, cartoon and graffiti art, primal imagery, natural and man-made structures. Alice Whealin has her studio at the Reeb Hall Studios in Arlington. Most recently her work was exhibited at the American University's Katzen Arts Center in Washington, DC, and her ink drawing was selected for Cream: Washington Project for the Arts Gala Exhibition. At the Mezz Gallery at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100. Visit <http://www.alicewhealin.com>

Arlington Jaycees Host Santa's Visit

The Arlington Jaycees will host Photos with Santa at the Ballston Common Mall, now through Friday, Dec. 24. All are welcome to visit with Santa and have their photos taken with him. During the first two Sundays in December, the Arlington Jaycees will also host Pet Photos with Santa, when pets are welcomed to have their photos taken with Santa. All proceeds will benefit the Arlington Jaycees and local, non-profit charities, including the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.

The Arlington Jaycees are in need of volunteers to help with this event, including students who need volunteer credit. To volunteer, contact Arianna Gleckel at agleckel@gmail.com.

Where: At Ballston Common Mall, Lower Level (Food Court), 4238 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Dates: Dec. 11 – 12; Dec. 15 – 24

Hours: 3 – 9 p.m. Weekdays; 1 – 9 p.m. Saturdays; 12 – 6 p.m. Sundays. Check for the latest schedule and updates at www.VArlingtonJaycees.org

Cost: Free Visit with Santa; \$8 Photo with Frame; \$6 Photo without Frame; \$5 Each Photo Reprint.

SATURDAY NIGHTS AT 11:01

11:01 Saturday Nights. Starts at 11:01 p.m. Late-night dance party. Tickets are \$15/\$12 students. At the Ballroom at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

- ❖ Dec. 11 — Sweatheart & Peeland-Z (Japanese action comic punk)
- ❖ Dec. 18 — Honor by August with The Ruse and Special Guests.
- ❖ Jan. 8 — Non Stop Bhangra (San Francisco) Dance lessons, DJ and Dholi Drummers

WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DEC. 8

Dance Wednesdays. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. dance classes; 8:30 to 11 p.m. dancing. Tickets are \$15/\$12 at door. On Wednesdays, dance the night away at Artisphere, to zydeco, cajun, rock, R&B and swing. The new center features a 3,000 square foot dance floor, one of the best in the area. At the Ballroom at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

- ❖ Dec. 8 — Blue Sky 5 : Swing;
- ❖ Dec. 15 — J Street Jumpers: Swing/Jump Blues;
- ❖ Dec. 22 — The Nighthawks: Blues/R&B;
- ❖ Jan. 12 — JP McDermott & Western Bop: Rockabilly/Honky tonk;
- ❖ Jan. 19 — Dancing by the Bayou: Cajun/Zydeco;
- ❖ Jan. 26 — BG and the Mojo Hands: Blues/swing;

TUESDAYS, THROUGH JAN. 25

Salsa Tuesdays. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. dance class; 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. dancing. At the Ballroom @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington. Call 703-228-1850. The following events are \$15/\$12 students, all tickets at the door only:

The following event is \$20/15 (students with a valid ID, at the door only)

- ❖ Dec. 14 — Sin Miedo;
- ❖ Dec. 21 — Orquestra La Romana;
- ❖ Jan. 11 — Rumba Club;
- ❖ Jan. 18 — Verny Varela;
- ❖ Jan. 25 — Bio Ritmo;

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Lunchtime Chamber Concert. Noon to 1 p.m. Free. Beethoven: Sonata Op. 110, Bora Lee piano; Selections by John Kaboff, cello & Brad Clark, piano; Blake: Trio; Doran: Trio, Michael Bowyer, flute; Nancy Genovese, clarinet; Amy Rothstein, piano. Part of the Friday Morning Music Club (on Thursdays). Bring your lunch and they will provide complimentary tea and coffee. At the Rosslyn Spectrum, 1611 N. Kent Street, Arlington.

THEATER

Two Takes on 'A Christmas Carol'

Traditional and unorthodox versions at Little Theatre of Alexandria.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE CONNECTION

Different playwrights can make very different plays out of the same basic story. Take, for example, two different versions of the tale Charles Dickens told in "A Christmas Carol." That's what the Little Theatre of Alexandria did for its pair of shows for the holiday season. Two different playwrights make different use of the story of Scrooge, the ghosts of Christmas, Bob Cratchit and his entire family including Tiny Tim.

One, a version crafted for the theater by Donna Ferragut, tells Dickens' story straight out with touches of color and sentiment direct from the original text. It is being presented as an early evening or mid-afternoon matinee show through the rest of this week, with 22 adults and children who break into Christmas carols from time to time. It is a very traditional family holiday effort and provides a warm touch of nostalgia that runs just over an hour.

Ferragut's adaptation is under the direction of Jennifer Lyman who lets things start out a bit slowly but accelerates the pace as the play progresses so there's a sense of release when Scrooge finally sees the light on Christmas morning. Her Scrooge is Philip Baedecker, who brings an imposing presence to the role, seemingly more comfortable with the grumpy moneylender than with the giddy convert to the joy of the season.

The quartet of ghosts are played by performers who also play other roles. Cal Whitehurst makes the first visit as Marley, Scrooge's late partner rattling the chains he forged in life. Melissa Ledesma-Leese is the Ghost of Christmas Past. Shawn Perry, who has earlier put just a bit of light-hearted fizz into Fizziwig switches into a red suit for the Ghost of Christmas Present and then Dru Hodges switches from Young Scrooge in one



Maria Simpkins (*The Ghost of Christmas Past*), Steve Izant (*Ebenezer Scrooge*), Kathleen Lovain (*Cratchit Child 1*), Aimee Meher-Homji (*Gladys Cratchit*), Julian Worth (*Cratchit Child 2*) (Front) James Senavitis (*Bob Cratchit*) and Peter Johnson (*Tiny Tim*).

scene to the Ghost of Christmas Future in the next.

Larry Grey is poor Bob Cratchit and he establishes and retains a generosity of spirit. Suzanne Martin gives voice to an other view as Mrs. Cratchit, who has reservations about toasting Scrooge at the Christmas Eve table. Brittany Morgan provides a warm moment as their eldest daughter Martha, and Benjamin Leese delivers the final line, "God bless us, every one" with conviction.

With all that seasonal sentiment, you might think the theater would shy away from a second show from the same source for their "late night" alternative, but the tone and content of the other version of the tale of Scrooge's night of ghostly visits is the polar opposite of Ferragut's adaptation. It is "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" an adaptation by Christopher Durang that turns Dickens' story on its head. My colleague Christopher Rawson of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette correctly observed that the play "is a rollicking parody that caters to our desire to have our traditional holiday and mock it, too."

This unorthodox comic piece is performed on Friday and Saturday evenings starting

at 9:30 p.m., which means few parents will bring younger children. That is a good thing as few children with early bed times are likely to get most of the humor of the Durang version which focuses on the long-suffering wife of Scrooge's clerk. As Durang sees it, she's had it with poverty, with her husband's kowtowing to his skinflint employer, and with the ever-growing brood of mouths expecting to be fed. All she wants to do is head off to the bar, down a few tankards of gin and then jump off of London Bridge to end it all. Her plans, however, are interrupted by a less-than-competent ghost bringing Scrooge to see what's going on.

The evening is sparked by a delightfully daffy set of performances. Maria Simpkins is the bumbling ghost who's powers just are not working quite the way Dickens had written in his version. Steve Izant is a Scrooge whose "Bah Humbug" is a symptom of his "19th century Tourette Syndrome." Most importantly, Aimee Meher-Homji is fun to watch as the fed up Gladys Cratchit. These three head a cast of 15 including Geoff Baskir and Kevin Harr who team up as "George Bailey" and "Clarence



(From left to right): Philip Baedecker (*Scrooge*), Larry Grey (*Bob Cratchit*), and Benjamin Leese (*Tiny Tim*) in the Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol."

Where & When

"A Christmas Carol" plays Wednesday to Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. through Dec. 12 while "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" plays Friday and Saturday at 9:30 p.m. through Dec. 18 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street. Tickets are \$15. Call 703 683-0496 or log on to www.thelittletheatre.com.

the Angel" who drop in from "Its A Wonderful Life." Peter Johnson is, among other things, a less-than-tiny Tiny Tim who doesn't want to use his crutch, hoping that people won't notice he's a cripple despite "falling 24 times a day."

Both shows use a bit of music. The caroling in the Ferragut version is delivered without much enthusiasm but generally on pitch. The four inconsequential songs in the Durang version, on the other hand, are sung with great energy but often sharp, flat or simply wavering. Neither show depends on the songs however, so the damage is generally slight.

2010 ABBIE Award Winners

Nearly 10,000 Arlingtonians voted for their favorite local businesses and venues in the 2010 People's Choice Arlington Best Business "ABBIE" Awards, Arlington County officials announced recently. Among the winners:

- ❖ Whitlow's on Wilson Bar & Grill won Best Neighborhood Bar;
- ❖ Lost Dog Café won for both Best Family Friendly Restaurant and Best "Bargain" Restaurant;
- ❖ Northside Social won Best New

Business;

- ❖ ShoeFly for Best Boutique;
- ❖ Carlyle for Best Brunch;
- ❖ The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) for Best Community-Based Non-profit;
- ❖ Signature Theatre for Best Performing Arts Organization;

COUNTY BOARD Chairman Jay Fiset announced the winners in the 15 ABBIE categories at the County Board meeting.

"The ABBIE Awards help us recognize the

very best of Arlington businesses, especially the small retail stores and restaurants that add to the vibrancy of our urban villages," Fiset said. "Congratulations to this year's winners."

For a complete list of award winners, visit www.shoparlington.org.

All nomination submissions and voting for the People's Choice ABBIES took place online. Those without access to a computer at home or work were encouraged to use Arlington Public Library internet stations.



DEC. 10-12

"**The Lamplighter.**" Bishop O'Connell Theatre presents a musical ghost story adaptation of Charles Dickens' Classic Tale: "A Christmas Carol." Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11; and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12. Tickets are \$5/students, seniors; \$10/general. Call 703-237-1448. At Bishop O'Connell High, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Visit www.bishopoconnell.org/theatre.

ENTERTAINMENT

Know of something missing from our community entertainment Calendar? Send it to *The Arlington Connection*, e-mail it to arlington@connectionnews.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with any questions. Photos are welcome.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 8

"Holiday Show." The Arlington Artists Alliance will hold a Holiday Show. This is an opportunity to purchase original paintings, drawings and mixed media works by Arlington artists. Call 703-979-7527 to confirm the exhibit hall is opened. At Arlington United Methodist Church, 716 S. Glebe Road, Arlington.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 8

AAC Holiday Happy Hour and Food Drive. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$25/door. Raffle prizes, snacks, and wines from Screwtop Wine Bar & Cheese Shop. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. At the Arlington Arts Center (AAC), 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-248-6800.

Dance Wednesdays. With Blue Sky (Swing). Tickets are \$15/\$12 at door. Dancing 8:30 to 11 p.m.; dance classes 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. At the Ballroom @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington. Free parking. Call 703-228-1850.

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Winter Concert: Music for Flute, Viola and Harp. 7:30 p.m. Free. Presented by the IBIS Chamber Music Society featuring trios by Debussy, Genzmer and Jolivet. At Resurrection Lutheran Church, 6201 Washington Blvd., Arlington. Visit <http://www.ibischambermusic.org>.

DEC. 9 TO 11

Lions, Arlington Northwest, Charity Fund-raising. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fresh Florida Citrus and pure Vermont Maple Syrup for sale at the Overlee Pool, 6030 Lee Highway, lower parking lot. Call 703-243-7938.

FRIDAY/DEC. 10

Night at AAC. 6 to 10 p.m. For middle school students in grades 6 to 8. Enjoy a night of pizza, the movie "Alice in Wonderland," and a workshop. Cost is \$55. During the workshop, be prepared to photograph each other for an art project that includes drawing, collaging and the creation of a fantasy world you will appear within. At the Arlington Arts Center (AAC), 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-248-6800.

Sol & Funk Root. 9 p.m. The band performs a unique mix of original funk, blues, and rock songs. At L.A. Bar, 2530 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Visit www.sol-roots.com.

Healthy Muscles & Balance. Learn about the importance of maintaining balance as we age and navigate through our environments. What can we do to maintain or improve our muscle strength so we remain safe and possibly avoid falls? The free lectures are held at 601 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Call 703-558-6859 to RSVP.

DEC. 10-11

Comedian Michael Kosta. Cost is \$18. Michael Kosta recently made his late night debut on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. At the Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Road, Arlington. Visit <http://ArlingtonDrafthouse.com>.

DEC. 10-12

"The Lamplighter." Bishop O'Connell Theatre presents a new musical ghost story adaptation of Charles Dickens' Classic Tale: "A Christmas Carol." Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11; and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12. Tickets are \$5/students, seniors; \$10/general. Call 703-237-1448. At Bishop O'Connell High School, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Visit www.bishopoconnell.org/theatre.



FRIDAY/DEC. 17

With One Look. Signature Theatre will hold a silent film competition called "With One Look" for anyone who loves the Golden Age of Hollywood. Movie-lovers are encouraged to create their very own, original silent films for consideration. Films can be in color or in black-and-white and are not to exceed 5 minutes in length. The contest coincides with the premiere of Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Sunset Boulevard." Prizes will be awarded to five finalists. The submission deadline for all filmmakers is Dec. 17. Contestants simply upload their masterpieces on YouTube, then send us their link at film@signature-theatre.org. The five finalists' films will be screened in the Signature Theatre lobby during the run of the show. Check out www.signature-theatre.org/with-one-look.htm or contact Peter Eramo, Jr. (571-527-1833).

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Art Fest at Arlington Arts Gallery. Reception 4 to 7 p.m. More than 40 artists will be featured with a reception. Pick up last-minute holiday gifts at this all Arlington Artist Alliance all member show, Dec. 1-31. The Arlington Arts Gallery is located at 5179 Lee Highway, Arlington. Regular gallery hours are 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Dance Asia Colors! Showcase. 7 p.m. Craft Market at 5 p.m.; Seating at 6:30 p.m. Artists will present creative pieces based on the color given to reflect their tradition, heritage, culture, identity and experience through the spirit of that particular color and much less parameters. At the Thomas

Jefferson Auditorium, 125 Old Glebe Rd, Arlington. Tickets: \$12/advance; \$15/door. Visit www.danceasia.me.

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

2010 Art + Wine Bazaar. 4 to 7:30 p.m. Music, wine and seven local and free trade artists will have their wares for sale. Suggested donation of a canned-good to benefit AFAC. At 875 N. Randolph Street, Suite C, Arlington.

Home for the Holidays. 4 p.m. With the National Chamber Ensemble. Celebrate the holiday season with the National Chamber Ensemble and special guests, featuring works by Corelli, Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi's "Winter" and other favorites. The Cantus Youth Choir of the group Choralis will join the ensemble to perform seasonal favorites, followed by a sing-along. Admission is \$25/adults; \$15/students. At the Rosslyn Spectrum @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100. Visit <http://www.nationalchamberensemble.com>

2010 Christmas Movie Festival. Noon to 10:30 p.m. A full day of Christmas films and Santa for \$8. Pay once and stay all day or leave and return later. At the Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Visit <http://ArlingtonDrafthouse.com>.

Noon — "How The Grinch Stole Christmas;" 12:30 p.m. — "A Charlie Brown Christmas;" 1 p.m. — "Elf;"

2:30 p.m. — "How The Grinch Stole Christmas;" 3 p.m. — "A Christmas Story;"

4:30 p.m. — "A Charlie Brown Christmas;" 5:15 p.m. — "Fred Claus;"

7:20 p.m. — "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation;"

9:15 p.m. — "Bad Santa."

Duo Alturas Concert. 6:30 p.m. An Intimate Chamber Concert by Dúo Alturas followed by Christmas Pot Luck Supper and Christmas Caroling Accompanied by Dúo Alturas. At Arlington Temple United Methodist Church, 1835 N. Nash Street, Arlington. Call 703-525-6075 or visit www.arlingtontempleumc.org

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846

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

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

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

Churches-Baptist-Free Will
Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church...703-527-7040

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McLean-First Church of Christ, Scientist...
703-356-1391

Churches-Presbyterian
Arlington Presbyterian Church...703-920-5660
Church of Covenant ...703-524-4115
Clarendon Presbyterian Church
703-527-9513
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
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Kol Ami, the North Virginia Reconstructionist Community ... 571-271-8387

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HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome.

All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

or mail to:

Calendar, Connection Newspapers
1606 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314.

For more information, call 703-778-9410.

THE CONNECTION
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

MONDAY/DEC. 13

History Lecture. 3 to 4:30 p.m. "Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls: History, Archeology and Biblical Significance." At the Arlington Central Library, 1015 Quincy Street, Arlington. The speaker is Father Joseph Mindling, chairman of the Department of Sacred Scripture at the Washington Theological Union. Call ALRI at 703-228-2144.

TUESDAY/DEC. 14

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With BG and the Mojo Hands. At the Clarendon Ballroom, 3185 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

A-SPAN Help-the-Homeless Holiday Gala. 6 to 9 p.m. At Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Boulevard in Arlington.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

With One Look. Signature Theatre will hold a silent film competition called "With One Look" for anyone who loves the Golden Age of Hollywood. Movie-lovers are encouraged to create their very own, original silent films for consideration. Films can be in color or in black-and-white and are not to exceed 5 minutes in length. The contest coincides with the premiere of Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Sunset Boulevard." Prizes will be awarded to five finalists. The submission deadline for all filmmakers is Dec. 17. Contestants upload their masterpieces on YouTube, then send their link to film@signature-theatre.org. The five finalists' films will be screened in the Signature Theatre lobby during the run of the show. Check out www.signature-theatre.org/with-one-look.htm or contact Peter Eramo, Jr. (571-527-1833).

Choral Concert. 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$20/\$15. The Combined Choirs of Jesus College of Cambridge, England, present a formal program of works by Gardner, Tavener, Darke, Holst, Britten, Howells, Parry and others. At Saint George's Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington. Email musicandarts@saintgeorgeschurch.org or 703-525-8286, x16.

Doug Parks and the Lonewolves. 9 p.m. At L.A. Bar, 2530 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Call Pike 703-685-1560. Visit www.reverbnation.com/dougparksandthelonewolves.

"It's a Wonderful Life." Cost is \$10. From 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Holiday Wine Tasting and Music; 7:15 to 9:30 p.m. is the screening of "It's a Wonderful Life." Four free movie passes for anyone dressed as one of the following themes ... Santa, Mrs. Claus or Santa Themed Outfit; Reindeer (Must include more than just antlers); Character from "It's a Wonderful Life"; or Ugly Christmas Sweater. To benefit Children's Hospital. At the Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Visit <http://ArlingtonDrafthouse.com>.

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

Music to Cheer the Soul. 8 p.m. The Metropolitan Chorus features the handbell ensemble Virginia Bronze, under the direction of Carol Feather Martin. In addition to a Christmas Carol Sing-Along, the program includes Bob Chilcott's 9 Carols for Mixed Voices and Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata. At the Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 125 South Old Glebe Road, Arlington. Tickets range from \$6 to \$24, with discounts for students, seniors, military, and youth. Visit www.metchorus.org for online tickets.

SUNDAY/DEC. 19

Nutcracker Tea Fund-raiser. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Enjoy afternoon tea, pictures with the Sugar Plum Fairy, a mini-Nutcracker performance, live string quartet, and the chance to get autographs from your favorite Nutcracker character. A benefit for BalletNova. Tickets: \$55 adults; \$35/ages 4-12; \$15 under 4. Tickets are available online at www.BalletNova.org, or can be purchased at the BalletNova Studio at 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church, VA 22041. Call 703-778-3008 or email info@BalletNova.org. At the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel, 801 North Glebe Road, Arlington.

"Prelude." 4 p.m. Free. The Arlington Youth Orchestral Program will present its Holiday Chamber Music Concert. At Lyon Park Community Center, 414 North Fillmore Street, Arlington. Visit



SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Encore Chorale Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. Encore Chorale will present over 150 singers between the ages of 55 and 96, performing a concert of holiday favorites directed by Jeanne Kelly. Free admission. At Kenmore Middle School, 200 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Visit <http://encorecreativity.org>.

PreludeVA.org or call 571-249-5884.

Holiday Concert and Sing-Along. 3 p.m. Free. With the Potomac Harmony Chorus and Doorways for Women and Families. This year, voluntary donations will again be accepted to benefit Doorways. At the Thomas Jefferson Theater on Old Glebe Road, Arlington. Visit www.PotomacHarmony.org. More information about Doorways' services, including volunteer opportunities, is available at www.Doorwaysva.org.

"Vivaldi! including 'Gloria, RV589.'" 4 p.m. Columbia Pike Community Chorus, with Denise Gulley, soprano, Terri Malone, contralto, Barbara Stefan conducting; "Winter" from The Four Seasons, with Janet Bailey, violin, Mariko Hiller conducting; and featuring Justus Parrotta, organ,

and Da'aga Hill Bowman, flute. At Trinity Episcopal Church, 2217 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Call Barbara Stefan at 703-920-7077 or musicmin@tecarl.org.

DEC. 19-21

Advent Journey Inward. 6 to 9 p.m. Clarendon United Methodist Church invites the public to experience a magical and serene "Advent Journey Inward." This self-guided walk through 10 stations set up in the Sanctuary provides a quiet space to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas. Each station offers words, an activity or images that will help you re-focus, relax and enjoy the peace of Christ. At Clarendon United Methodist Church, 606 N. Irving St., at the entrance on the Ivy Street side, Arlington. Call 703-527-8574.

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Wakefield, TC Pay Tribute to Historically Black Schools

Warriors, Titans wear throwback uniforms, TC wins game.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The atmosphere was upbeat, the crowd was loud and the uniforms were stylish: the stage was set for an exciting contest between the Wakefield and T.C. Williams boys basketball teams on Dec. 4.

The Warriors and Titans, dressed in throwback uniforms with names of former players on the back, were set to battle in the Parker-Gray game at T.C. Williams High School, paying tribute to historically black schools in Arlington and Alexandria. Wakefield represented the Hoffman-Boston Trojans, wearing jerseys designed after those worn by the Atlanta Hawks of the early 1970s. TC donned Parker-Gray Bulldogs uniforms, designed after the New York Nets of the 1970s.

Only one thing was missing, according to Wakefield head coach Tony Bentley: the Warriors' intestinal fortitude.

TC held Wakefield scoreless for the game's first 4 1/2 minutes and the Warriors trailed by as many as 33 points en route to a 63-40 loss to the Titans.

The defeat dropped Wakefield's record to 0-2, including a 74-63 loss to Annandale the night before.

"My kids played very scared tonight,"



The Wakefield boys basketball team wore throwback uniforms honoring Hoffman-Boston High School during Saturday's game at T.C. Williams.

Bentley said. "I think it went back to the old T.C. Williams, where kids were afraid to play against TC and my kids fell into that trap. They played scared tonight and you can't coach a scared team — no x's and o's are going to help kids that are scared."

Bentley, whose Warriors won the Northern Region title in 2005, helped design the jerseys worn by both teams. Each school offered VIP seating in the lower sections of the bleachers and several former coaches were recognized.

"The atmosphere was wonderful," Bentley said.

What he wasn't pleased with was the

Warriors' performance on the court. Wakefield trailed 39-16 at halftime and TC embarked on a 13-3 run during the first three minutes of the third quarter to pull away.

Thomas Taylor scored Wakefield's first points with 3:28 remaining in the opening quarter after TC opened the game with an 11-0 run. Consecutive buckets by Corey Aldrich cut the Wakefield deficit to 13-6, but the Warriors got no closer the rest of the game.

Bentley said the team's three guards — Aldrich, Taylor and Jon Remedios — will be depended on for scoring, along with post



Wakefield senior Luca Cagianesa jumps to block the shot of T.C. Williams senior Tyrell Sitton during Saturday's Parker-Gray contest at T.C. Williams High School.

players Luca Cagianesa and Justin Glenn.

Wakefield failed to reach the regional tournament last season, losing in the opening round of the National District tournament. This season, Bentley has his eyes set reaching regionals and seeing what Wakefield can accomplish.

"We just want to finish in the top four in the National District," he said. "We know that every year everyone says [the district] is down and all that good stuff, but if we get a top-four, anything can happen after that."

Wakefield will host Centreville at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 10.

Yorktown Frosh Venson Comes up Clutch in Debut

Point guard buries 3-pionter to beat Robinson in season opener.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

At the conclusion of his first season as head coach of the Yorktown girls basketball team, Dave Garrison, his Patriots fresh off a regional tournament loss to South County in February of 2010, spoke highly of the team's future. Three all-district performers were set to return for Yorktown, but it was a young point guard slated to enter the program who truly had Garrison excited.

Ten months later, Mikayla Venson played her first game in a Yorktown uniform and, with the game on the line, the freshman floor general didn't disappoint. Venson buried a 3-pointer from the right wing in the closing seconds of Yorktown's season opener at Robinson on Dec. 1, propelling the Patriots to a 48-45 victory over the Rams.

Garrison said a play was called for Venson to work left off a high screen, but after the high screen didn't materialize, the freshman, who finished with 14 points, found

an open look on the perimeter.

"First games are tough for any player," the coach said. "She stepped up, had some big plays throughout the game and certainly the one at the end is the one that's going to be remembered."

Robinson sophomore Dhyamond Crenshaw made 1 of 2 free-throw attempts to tie the score at 45 with 18.9 seconds remaining. After Venson's 3-pointer gave Yorktown the lead with 2.5 seconds left on the clock, Robinson's final desperation heave fell short.

After the game, Venson sounded like a freshman who had just played in her first varsity game, saying she was "overwhelmed" and "really shocked." During crunch time, however, Venson performed like a veteran playmaker.

"At first I was thinking about penetrating," she said, "but then they started covering the middle, so I was like, 'I'll just shoot the 3,' and I pulled up and I made it."

While Venson's bucket made for a dramatic finish, senior Lena Negri provided the

Patriots with their most consistent effort of the evening. Negri scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, including six boards in the third quarter. A 6-footer who felt snubbed with honorable mention all-National District accolades last season, Negri showed strong post moves and a willingness to battle for the ball inside.

Senior guard Peyton Lee, an all-district first-teamer last year, scored 11 points. Junior Tricia Leano scored four points and freshman Hayley Molnar added two.

Last season, Robinson defeated Yorktown in the opener by 19 points. Lee said the biggest difference this year was the presence of a total team effort.

"I think it's everyone coming in the game ready to go," Lee said. "The difference between the starting five and the people we had coming off the bench: there was no drop off of energy and no drop off of working hard and I think that's what led to the win."

Yorktown will travel to face George Mason at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 8.

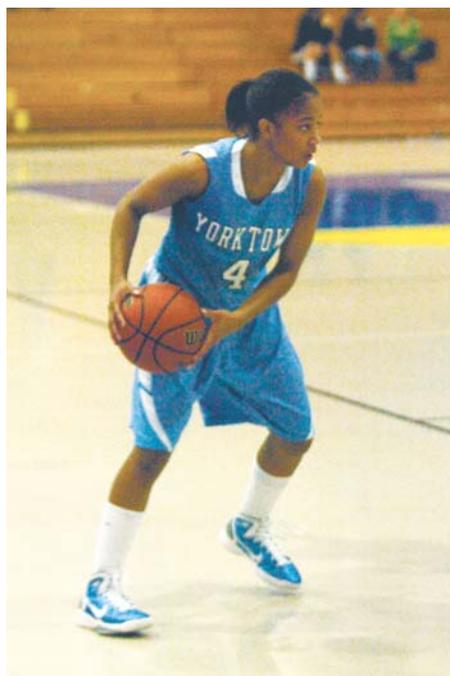


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Yorktown freshman point guard Mikayla Venson won her first varsity game with a 3-pointer in the final seconds against Robinson on Dec. 1.

SPORTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Erik Footland, Natalie Gurson, and Lyle Adams coach the Comets. The Comets White players are: Alexis Parks, Carly Thurman, Eva Arnade, Georgia Nabors, Grace Motta, Grace Tayloe, Gretchen Haga, Isabel David, Macy Monticello, Mya Granadeno, Sabrina Cerqueira, and Samantha Haga. The Comets Blue Players are: Anna Salotti, Caroline Morley, Caroline Rodgers, Donna Corina, Elisa Solorzano, Elizabeth Lundy, Katie Delo, Lucy Greenfield, Megan Tierney, Miranda Philips, Sydney Jones and Zoe Coutlakis. Anna Coutlakis from Comets Red guest played with the Comets Blue.

Comets Blue and White Place First, Second in Tournament

The Arlington Comets Blue and The Arlington Comets White took first and second place in the Girls U-10 NVSC Fall Classic Soccer Tournament held on Nov. 20-21 in Manassas.

The Arlington Comets White advanced to the finals with a win against McLean (4-0), a tie with Chantilly (1-1) and a win against NVSC Majestics (5-0).

The Arlington Comets Blue advanced to the finals with a tie against NVSC Majestics (1-1), a win against Alexandria (5-0) and a win in a penalty kick shootout against Chantilly (4-3). The two Arlington teams faced off in the finals for an intense, yet friendly game against each other. Comets Blue came out ahead (2-0), winning the tournament with Comets White taking second place.

If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives.

—Robert South



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

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AT&T intends to file an application to collocate cellular telecommunications antennas and install new equipment at 2400 South Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 20785. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Country Club Towers" will consist of the collocation of antennas on existing mounts and equipment on the roof. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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AT&T intends to file an application to collocate cellular telecommunications antennas and install new equipment at 4501 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22203. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "AWE Chatham" will consist of the collocation of antennas on existing mounts and equipment on the roof. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

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AT&T c/o Bechtel Communications Inc. intends to file an application to modify/upgrade existing cellular telecommunications equipment at 6404 Williamsburg Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22207. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Berkshire" will consist of the replacement three existing antennas with three LTE antennas. In addition, two TE43 support cabinets for RXAIT and one rectifier will be installed. Twenty feet of one inch conduit will be installed from the Purcell to the Lucent Cabinet. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carol Blitz, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

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AT&T c/o Bechtel Communications Inc. intends to file an application to modify/upgrade existing cellular telecommunications equipment at 1425 South Eads Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Pentagon City Mall" will consist of the installation of antennas on the building rooftop. In addition, LTE equipment frame will be installed inside the shelter. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carol Blitz, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

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AT&T intends to file an application to collocate cellular telecommunications antennas and install new equipment at 1766 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia 22102. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Lewinsville WT" will consist of the collocation of antennas on the top of the water tower and equipment inside an existing equipment shelter next to the water tower. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

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"Bank Error in My Favor"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I received a \$25 check in the mail today. It was sent to me by my bank, the bank with whom I've had a long-standing (through their name-changing) relationship. A bank however, with whom I've had minimal interaction, other than maintaining a checking account and being the recipient of any number of direct mail solicitations. I have no savings account, no money market account, no IRA account, no home equity and/or second trust and no personal loans; I may have a credit card (that I don't use) but it serves as a back-up/overdraft account which I most definitely have. Although, with the passage – and implementation recently of the new banking legislation, I'm not exactly sure what it is I still have, and/or what it is I'll be charged the next time a check presents itself without proper support. So you can imagine my surprise (or perhaps you can't), when I received a plain white business envelope from my bank which contained this mystery money and a brief explanation for its being sent – to me: some refund of a fee I don't remember paying and/or even caring about.

My reaction was to say aloud something like: "The bank made an error in my favor? Wow! That never happens." As soon as I said that 'bank error' line, I was transported – figuratively speaking, since I wasn't in a hot tub at the time, back some 45 years to those youthful days of playing board games, "Monopoly," specifically, on our back porch on Athelstane Road in Newton Centre, Ma., where my brother and I would play for hours on end (I always chose the dog, he chose the iron) until one player had all the money and/or all the property and the other player was unable to pay for landing on their Hotel/Utility/Railroad.

There I was, "Taking a 'Chance' on 'Community's Chest' (as I always intentionally mispronounced them) to see what fortune – or misfortune – would befall me: "Advance Token to Boardwalk," "Take a Ride on the Reading," "Elected Chairman of the Board, Pay Each Player \$50," "Pay School Tax of \$150," "You Have Won Second Prize in a Beauty Contest, Collect \$10," and of course, "Bank Error in your Favor, Collect \$200;" that was as much "found money" as there was in "Monopoly." Granted, the check I received in the mail was only for \$25, but collecting money out of the blue like that, when you're not expecting any – and having done nothing to deserve it, made that \$25 feel like \$200. It was as if "Community's Chest" had advised me to "Advance To Go" and "Collect \$200," or even better, I had landed on "Free Parking" and collected the "kitty," as we called the money paid to the game/placed in the center of the board.

As much as anything though, receiving that \$25 check and remembering "Monopoly" and the simpler, much less complicated days of my board game-playing youth, brought a smile to my face and a slew of wonderful memories to my mind. I had a happy childhood and it all came rushing back to me when I read the explanation for the check: "Bank error," a refund of a fee or overcharge, or something to that effect. It was a warm and fuzzy moment, that's for sure; one which always included milk and cookies because if my brother and I were in the house playing a game like that, there was always milk and cookies; my mother saw to that.

She (I can still hear my father admonishing my brother and I: "Don't call your mother 'she'") was determined to make sure my brother and I drank our eight glasses of milk every day; the medical prescription in the 50s and 60s to guarantee children consumed enough calcium in order to develop strong bones. And to make sure we drank our milk, we needed to eat something for it to wash down and cookies were the obvious choice: Oreos (before there was "Double Stuf"), Chips Ahoy or some other kind of chocolate chip cookie and Keebler's Fudge Town or Fudge Stripes; these were the most popular, there were others. And though it was a board game we were playing, we weren't bored. We were "Monopolized." It made us happy and it made our parents happy. No wonder it's a fond memory, everybody was happy and the living was good, so far as we knew.

Ah, the innocence of youth. There's no recapturing it, but it was sure nice remembering it.

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

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