

# The Arlington Connection

Erica Petrillo and her dogs Inky (left) and Nieve (right) enjoy an afternoon in Shirlington.

# A Day At The Dog Park

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JULY 27-AUGUST 2, 2011

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# Apartment Living Limited for Four-Legged Friends

Half of Arlington apartments accept cats, a fraction accept dogs.

BY ABIGAIL GEIGER  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hile Arlington generally offers a variety of large parks, pet-owning communities and pet programs, when it comes to encouraging life with pets in an urban area, the area stops short of satisfaction.

Out of approximately 200 apartments in the greater Arlington area, half allowed cats with limits, 25 allowed dogs and 22 allowed cats and dogs, according to the official online apartment guide for the County of Arlington.

Washington Humane Society Chief Operating Officer Stephanie Shain said cats are more preferable to apartment owners because they are relatively easy to maintain in a city.

Jack Mutty, a consultant for Meridian at



Cats are more welcome in apartments than dogs.

Courthouse Commons, an Arlington apartment complex, said the pet policy depends on the property management companies and the building owners. "Each building is different. Obviously, dogs are different animals than cats, as far as indoors and outdoors, so it's basically just a preference," Mutty said.

Another Arlington apartment complex, Park Adams, said there was no particular reason behind their cat-only policy.

"We do realize how difficult it is to persuade landlords and rentals," Animal Welfare League of Arlington Executive Director Neil Trent said. "We find the biggest problems to be pit bulls and 'bully breeds' because apartment complexes have pre-con-



About 75 percent of Arlington apartments will not accept dogs.

ceived notions against these dogs. It's a challenge for some individuals to not only have a dog with them, but to also have one of these specific dogs."

Trent said there has been great success, with some rare exceptions, with the welfare league's adopting out of pit bulls since 2008. Trent said the exceptions to these good reviews and freak cases related to "aggressive" dog breeds are blown out of proportion and lead to judgments against certain dogs.

"We've suggested taking these dogs to training class so that the landlord can see that the owners have gone the extra mile to train the dog and are responsible owners. We're encouraging that positive activ-

ity," Trent said. "If landlords would just be persuaded to give these dogs a chance, I think a lot more of them could be in apartments."

Aside from the face value of pet policies in apartment complexes, add-ons like additional costs to own a pet, restricted dog breed types and weight limits decrease the pet-friendliness of the area.

"One thing that's a constant is the issue of money," Shain said. "Many pet owners love their animals but they just can't afford to take care of them."

Shain said there is a surplus of animals that are not being taken care of — the Washington Humane Society takes in hundreds a month — because pet owners simply do not know how to take care of them, in addition to not being able to afford a pet's lifestyle and needs.

Cara Martin, a tenant at the Millennium apartment at The Gramercy at Metropolitan Park in Pentagon City, has two mini dachshunds named Thisby and Pyramus. Martin and her husband, an attorney, have been living in their apartment for two years, after a two-year residency in D.C.

When they lived in the district, Martin and her husband chose not to bring their dogs

SEE APARTMENT LIVING, PAGE 3



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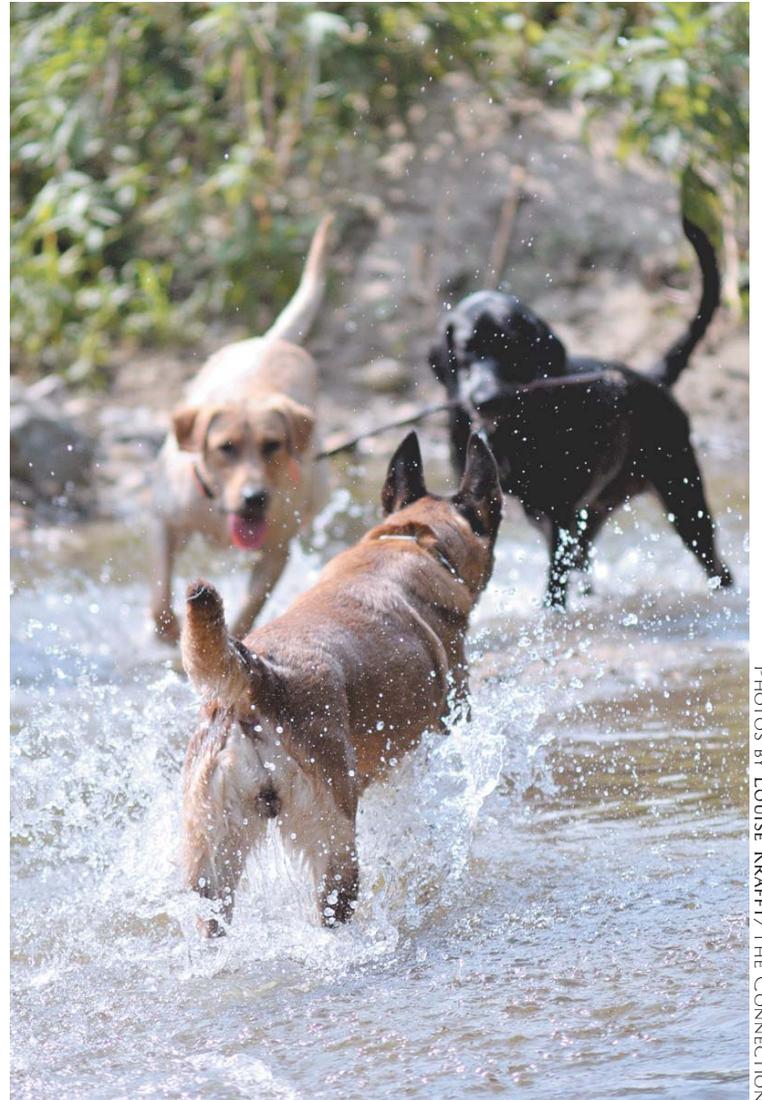
# PET CONNECTION



**Bastian looks back to the shore from the creek at Four Mile Run as Shelby Ochs calls out to him.**



**Robert Neese's dog Jemma spots a few ducks in the creek and takes off after them.**



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

**The dog park at Four Mile Run in Shirlington is open daily until a half hour after sunset.**

## A Day at the Dog Park

**Off-leash and having fun.**

BY MEGHAN MARVILLE  
THE CONNECTION

**A**rlington County is home to eight dog parks — or “Community Canine Areas.” Here, local residents can bring their dogs to have a good run.

Shirlington resident Erica Petrillo brings her two dogs, Inky and Nieve, over to the Shirlington Park twice a day. “I live across the street and it’s so convenient to come here. Inky loves to be off the leash and Nieve really enjoys playing with other little dogs. I think this is the best park in Arlington, it’s all enclosed, got a long length of dirt and grass, and even a creek for them to swim in.”

“At 7:30 on a Sunday you’ll find the best dogs at the best park,” said Nicole Mayerhauser. “I actually live in the city but bring my dog Bo here for a much better atmosphere. The park is better and the dogs are much friendlier, it’s not just a square with the dogs in one corner and the people in the other.”

Rebecca Davison, who brings her little dog (Silly) Tilly here often, said, “It’s like our second home.”

Ballston resident Betsie Vason likes to bring her German Shepherd Ros to the dog park in Clarendon. “I think it’s really important for dogs to socialize and the leash laws are constrictive. It’s hard to get that neighborhood feel in Arlington sometimes. The houses are pretty but the yards are so small. It’s great to have an open space to bring Ros and let her off



**Bo patiently awaits a treat.**

the leash for a good run and to play with other dogs.”

Arlington’s dog parks give furry, four-legged pals a place to be themselves and still enjoy city life. Friendlier, more socialized dogs add to Arlington’s affable nature. For more information on Arlington’s Community Canine Areas, or to find the park that’s nearest to one’s home, visit:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/dogs/CommunityCanineAreas.aspx>

**Rebecca Davison’s Silly Tilly enjoys running amok in Shirlington — and enjoys her treats too.**



**Betsie Vason and her German shepherd Ros.**



PHOTOS BY MEGHAN MARVILLE/THE CONNECTION

## Apartment Living Limited for Four-Legged Friends

FROM PAGE 2

with them out of monetary frugality, and left them with in-laws. Maintaining a pet in D.C. can be even more expensive than in surrounding areas.

The Martins moved out of D.C. for a more spacious apartment for their money and for a more dog-friendly environment.

Cara, originally from Texas, drives her dogs with her husband to larger parks outside of Arlington.

The apartment complexes that do offer generous pet policies, such as Siena Park in Columbia Pike and The Gramercy, are attractive to Arlington residents like the Martins. However, like most complexes, these apartments do charge additional costs for

owning a pet.

Shain said the best thing to do for pet owners in a city is to start looking early for a place that is open in their pet policy. She said the main mistake people make is choosing a less-friendly yet more convenient place to live too close to the moving time, instead of planning ahead.

Shain said smaller rental properties are

normally more flexible, and speaking to property owners may help them make an exception or become more open-minded in the future. She said in order to open the door to pet-friendliness, property owners could let a few apartment complexes allow animals to gauge the success of pet owning in an urban environment.

# PET CONNECTION

# Take Paws

Arlington dog boutiques specialize in grooming, daycare, nutrition, treats.

BY EDISON RUSS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**rlington has a wide selection of stores and services to satisfy pet owners who are concerned with their pet's diet, appearance or even with homeless or rescued animals.



Leti Woodside (left) and Chelsea Ragen wash Bella, a Cavishon.

## THE MUDDY MUTT

2603A South Oxford Street, Arlington; 703-888-2303  
www.themuddymutt.com

The Muddy Mutt is a self-wash service for dogs. Washes include shampoo and conditioner, ear and eye wipes, brushes and nail clippers, towels and blow dryers. Additional grooming supplies are available upon request. The Muddy Mutt uses shampoo and conditioner from Quadruped and Earthbath.

Founder of The Muddy Mutt Mitch Jones got the idea to start it from having to wash his two large Lab mixes after taking them swimming in Four Mile Run Creek, located behind the store.



Dogs in the Dog Paws 'n Cat Claws facility.

## DOG PAWS 'N CAT CLAWS

940 S. George Mason Drive, Arlington; 703-931-5057  
dpncc.com

Dog Paws 'n Cat Claws offers daycare, dog walking, in-home care, training and dog and cat grooming. It's open all year, including holidays. There is a surcharge for boarding over the holidays. Obedience training is offered for the American Kennel Club Good Citizenship test.

"Our first day evaluation is a full day, not just a couple minutes where we like to get our dogs to play and interact so we can slowly introduce dogs to the new dog," said owner Ryan Fochler.



Dogs in the cage-free daycare at Wag More Dogs.

## WAG MORE DOGS

2606 S. Oxford Street, Arlington; 703-845-3647  
wagmoredogs.com

Wag More Dogs opened Sept. 15, 2010, and offers no-cage daycare, boarding and grooming. All dogs coming in for daycare or boarding must pass a 15-minute evaluation. "We look at any breed on its own merit," said owner Kim Houghton. Owners provide food for their dogs, and facility employees will feed their dogs breakfast and dinner, and lunch upon request. Wag More Dogs gives each dog a collar for identification, and its website offers surveillance of the area where the dogs are kept.

Houghton worked in advertising for The Washington Post for 21 years. She is a certified pet care technician and a former board member of Arlington Dogs. She volunteers with Lost Dogs Rescue and Pets on Wheels, driving a van to get dogs to adoption centers.

## HAPPY GROOMING

3301 Lee Highway, Arlington; 703-528-7292  
www.happygroomingva.com

Happy Grooming is a full-service pet spa that offers grooming and washing to all breeds of cats and dogs. Grooming takes about two to three hours. Additional services include teeth brushing, facial scrubbing, nail trimming and others. Grooming is scheduled by appointment. Prices depend on the size of the animal and the amount of hair.

Happy Grooming was founded by Mary Asawatangsathian, who loves animals. The spa is owned by her sister, Ann. The sisters have been grooming pets for eight years, and the Arlington location has been open for two



Happy Grooming founder Mary Asawatangsathian.

years.

## DOGMA BAKERY

2772 S. Arlington Mill Drive, Arlington; 571-422-0370 or 2445 N. Harrison Street, Arlington; 703-237-5070  
www.dogmabakery.com

Dogma Bakery bakes its own dog treats using "human-grade" ingredients. Some treats look like pizza, doughnuts or gingerbread men. None of the treats contain salt or preservatives. Dogma Bakery also sells ice cream for dogs in flavors like peanut butter and bacon.

Dogma Bakery also offers puppies the opportunity to socialize at puppy parties at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. A trainer from K to 9 Dog Training is also available on Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m. for puppies and from 8-9 p.m. for adult dogs.



Fur-Get Me Not sells toys that serve to educate dogs in some way, such as toys that require the dog to figure out how to get the treat out of them.

## FUR-GET ME NOT

4140 South Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington; 703-933-1935  
www.furgetmenot.com

Originally an out-of-home business, Fur-Get Me Not now offers dog daycare, boarding, training, walking and sitting and washing.

Fur-Get Me Not sells toys that complement their dogs' training programs, like toys that require dogs to figure out how to get treats out of them.



Orijen is one of Wylie Wagg's more popular brands of dog food.

## WYLIE WAGG

2509 N. Franklin Road, Arlington; 703-875-2007  
wyliewagg.com

Founded by Laura and Larry Clark in 2003 in Middleburg, Va., the Clarks opened the Arlington location this year. Wylie Wagg specializes in nutritious food for dogs and cats, and the Clarks research pet nutrition every day. Wylie Wagg also sells toys for cats and dogs and offers commissions for various artworks of pets, including sketches and oil paintings. Wylie Wagg also helps homeless animals through its Give program by accepting donations of money and supplies.



PetMAC donates a percentage of the gross sales of its products toward helping animal rescues.

## PETMAC

822 N. Kenmore Street, Arlington; 703-908-7387  
www.petmac.org

PetMAC is a joint operation between Pet Pantry Express founder Cindy Williams Alvey and Homeward Trails Animal Rescue founder Sue Bell that sells pet food and supplies and offers adoptions. A percentage of money from the gross sales PetMAC makes each quarter goes toward animal rescue organizations.

Alvey said Pet Pantry Express was a "great opportunity to get my feet wet" learning about pet nutrition before opening PetMAC. Pet Pantry Express was an online service for pet food and delivery. Alvey said even though running Pet Pantry Express was easier because all she had to do was maintain the site, that she prefers running a physical store. "I like the personal interaction of working with customers and helping them solve problems."

# READERS' PETS



From left: Lily (4), Willow (4) and Max(13). Lily and Willow were rescued from an outdoor kennel near Richmond. What little contact they had with humans left them terrified. The only way to get them into the car was to introduce them to Max. They followed him into the car, house, around the neighborhood for walks, to the vets, anywhere.

— Susan Abbott, Douglas Park, South Arlington



PHOTO BY AMANDA MARTIN

This is my 2-year-old son Charlie and his kitty G.K. (grey kitty). We adopted G.K. and her sister from HART about three years ago — their previous owner got engaged to a woman that was allergic to cats. We were able to visit them in their home and get to know them before we adopted them. They have become part of our family and have adjusted well to us having a baby, now a toddler, in the house very well. Our son Charlie likes to sit on his bed and read books to his kitty. He also likes to pet their soft fur. Having the cats for pets teaches him how to be gentle with animals. Our kitties have abbreviated names, because when we adopted them we couldn't remember which kitty was which, by name so we started calling them by color, "The grey

kitty did this today" or "The brown kitty was chasing her tail." So we ended up calling them G.K. and B.K. The cats also like to watch soccer on TV and were disappointed that the women's team lost to Japan.

— Amanda Martin



Katie Amend enjoys killing rodents, indulging on wet food, and snuggling next to her owners in the wee hours of the morning as they read the newspaper with their morning coffee. She lives with Kurt Amend and Alice Wells, and their three daughters Helen, Isabel, and Phoebe in Arlington.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dexter Bartalon appreciates a chickadee from a safe distance.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kate Pernia and her adopted Bichon, Poco Loco at a Memorial Day picnic in Falls Church two years ago — just a couple of months after adopting him from the Arlington Animal Welfare League. He was 2 years old at the time. Poco was found and lost on the street and starving. He had a lot of phobias when he was adopted him (hence his name). He's doing great now they live in Douglas Park just blocks from the Animal Welfare League.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Colleen Cox and Laurel Bartalon check back on August before the drive back home for Dewey Beach, a delightful but exhausting vacation destination for a pet.

## Culinaria

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For more information and to register for classes, please go to [www.culinariacookingschool.com](http://www.culinariacookingschool.com)

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## PET CONNECTION

# Here Come the Kittens

Summer kitten population increase is difficult for shelters and their partners.

BY CORYN JULIEN  
THE CONNECTION

**K**ittens are usually the first to find homes when it comes to picking a cat at an animal shelter. The summer season's influx of kittens, though, makes finding a place for all of them challenging.

The summer months are busy for animal shelters and their partners due to increasing births of kittens. These kittens need special care during their early days and must later be adopted or put into foster homes. Places to house the kittens, temporarily or permanently, become scarce during this time of year. Foster homes fill quickly and there are too few adopters to take all of the kittens and cats that currently inhabit shelters in Arlington and beyond.

"Summertime is an incredibly difficult time of year for rescues helping cats and kittens," said Sue Bell, founder of Homeward Trails, an Arlington-based animal rescue that works to place animals in foster and permanent homes. "We are inundated with calls

when people find kittens in their yards, under their decks, living in alleys and on streets. With so many volunteers taking summer travel, the number of available foster homes drops dramatically, making it very hard to find space to take in these cats."

The seasonal nature of cats ensures that the kitten population will continue to multiply. Most cats give birth during the spring months and those kittens come of age throughout the summer. According to Bell, many of those kittens arrive at shelters underweight, dehydrated, and/or suffering from issues like tapeworms or flea infestations. The increased amount of kittens in shelters also makes it harder to find homes for the older cats, as kittens tend to steal the spotlight.

Local organizations such as the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA), the official animal shelter of Arlington, are very aware of the stresses that the increase in kittens can cause. As of July 21, the shelter has 30 kittens that are too young to be adopted in foster homes, seven kittens that are available, and 17 that are in the shelter but not yet ready for adoption. The AWLA receives more than 200 kittens a year that are 5 months or younger, and the highest number comes in the months of July, August, September, and October. For example, in March 2010 the AWLA adopted out two kittens. In August of the same year, 58 kittens were adopted. Homeward Trails also has many kittens spread throughout foster homes in the area.

SEE KITTEN INCREASE, PAGE 7

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# PET CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/THE CONNECTION



**Forrest, 2 years old**



**Lucy, 9 years old**



**Tasha, 7 years old**

## Free

Residents can adopt a free cat at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington throughout July. Visit the shelter at 2650 South Arlington Mill Drive, Arlington or call 703-931-9241. Adoption hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, noon – 7 p.m.



**Mr. Dot, 2 years old**



**Fern, 6 years old**



**Sophia, 10 years old**

## Kitten Increase Engulfs Shelters

FROM PAGE 6

Susan Sherman, deputy executive director of the AWLA, explained that “kitten overpopulation is very typical during this time of year because people don’t spay or neuter their cats. It’s very important for owners to be responsible for their pets and make sure those procedures are done early.” She added that “all cats that come to the Animal Welfare League of Arlington are spayed or neutered so they won’t contribute to the growing population.”

Many shelters, including the AWLA, offer low-cost or free spay/neuter programs to help fight pet over-

population. The AWLA’s program features reduced cost for people with incomes below \$40,000, where the prices range from \$75 to \$122 for cats depending on gender and weight.

Anyone interested in adopting or fostering a cat can call the AWLA at 703-931-9241 or go to its website at [www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org) to fill out an application. Homeward Trails is available at 703-766-2647 and its website, [www.homewardtrails.org](http://www.homewardtrails.org), has more information about adoption or fostering procedures.

The Animal Welfare Society of Arlington is located at 2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr. Arlington. Homeward Trails is at PO Box 100968 Arlington, VA 22210.

### “FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

“Flourishing After 55” from Arlington’s Office of Senior Adult Programs for Aug. 8-13.

**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 trip:** Wolf Trap matinee performance, “Guys and Dolls,” Saturday, Aug. 13. Cost \$78. Call Arl. Co. 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

**Healthy snacks demo,** Monday, Aug. 8, 2 p.m., Aurora Hills. Free. Register, 703-228-5722.

**Poetry lovers group,** Monday, Aug. 8, 11 a.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Register, 703-228-4403.

**Rehab services available to Medicare recipients explained,** Monday, Aug. 8, 1 p.m., Lee. Free. Details, 703-228-0555.

**Senior Olympics registration open,** \$10 plus \$1 per event. Over 25 events. Details, 703-228-4721.

**Beginners’ full fitness exercise classes,** Tuesday, Aug 9, Thursday, Aug. 11, 10 a.m., Lee. \$4 per class. Details, 703-228-0555.

**How to be an executor and how to choose one,** Tuesday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

**Financial planning for long-term care explained,** Wednesday, Aug. 10, 10:30 a.m., Lee. Free. Register, 703-28-0555.

**Weekly bicycle ride,** Wednesday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m., starts at Bluemont Park. Free. Details, 703-228-4745.

**Women’s drop-in basketball,** Wednesday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Details, 703-228-4771.

**Fast-paced walking group,** Friday, Aug. 12, 8 a.m., Aurora Hills. Free. Register, 703-228-5722.

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Check website for schedule of other events: [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us)

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# OPINION

## What's Your Advice?

Be part of the Connection Insiders edition.

**T**he Connection staff and interns are already preparing the annual newcomers and community guide. We invite our readers to help with providing insiders' advice and information.

Below are several suggested questions, but we encourage you to participate in any way.

We'll print selections from the answers along with your name. Answer one question or all of them; give as many answers as you'd like to each question.

What "insider's tip" about your town would you share with a friend? Places to go, things to do, can't-miss events, ideas on what it means to live here.

### EDITORIALS

What advice would you give new residents on how to make themselves at home and get involved here?

What tips do you have for someone new to your town? What interesting, almost secret, places would you like to have learned about earlier when you moved in?

We invite you to share the expertise you've

gained in living in your hometown with your neighbors and with people new to the area.

Send us a short letter: what do you love about your community? Tell us about one special place you've discovered. Does your family have different favorites in different seasons? How did you get involved in your town? Share your favorite park. Tell us about your favorite annual event. Send us a photo of your family at one of your favorite spots or engaged in a favorite activity.

We also ask for input from local arts organizations, civic organizations, houses of worship, clubs, schools, businesses and other community institutions. Send us information on dates and details for major events for the upcoming year, information on how to get involved in nonprofits and charities, details about your club or other organization.

The Insiders Guide will publish the last week in August. Please send in your tips and answers by Aug. 17 to [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

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Email your name, your snail-mail address, email address and the paper or papers you would like to receive to [GoingGreen@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:GoingGreen@connectionnewspapers.com). (We will not sell or share your personal information.)

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## Opening a New Door for Women and Families

Jones brings "Bright Futures" to Doorways for Women and Families.

BY ADAM BASILE  
THE CONNECTION

**C**aroline Jones was promoted recently to executive director at Northern Virginia's Doorways for Women and Families, a non-profit organization headquartered in Arlington dedicated to ending domestic violence and homelessness. "Doorways and I really connect," Jones said. "We are open to continue to evolve in what makes sense to help those in need of our services."

As Doorways changes its approach to the prevention of homelessness and domestic abuse, Jones embraces the challenge head on.

Jones has been serving as interim executive director since March, but, with the support of the board of directors, she was installed permanently to the position after three months.

Jones joined Doorways in summer 2003. She initially served as the director of the Transitional Housing Program, where she learned about helping homeless families and domestic abuse victims. "No two families are alike, no one solution works for everybody," Jones said, "You have to be very flexible and innovative and tap into their intrinsic motivation. I need to keep that connection in this position."

Jones's fervor for philanthropy dates back to her childhood in Appalachia, where her grandparents encouraged her to help others.

They directed a school that focused on social work, where Jones would volunteer during the summer. She could "see and feel the rewards of her work" and "had fallen in love with social work" at an early age.

She went on to major in psychology at University of North Carolina Wilmington with a focus on child development. From there, Jones pursued and received her master's degree in

social work from Boston College.

Jones has helped to implement several programs during her tenure at Doorways, including Doorways' Children's Services program, Doorways' Family Home program and the HomeStart program, but Jones feels that her most significant contributions were made to the Financial Independence Track and the Child Mental Health Services program. Jones called these "my proudest accomplishments as a professional."

The Financial Independence Track helps people who are poor or in debt to develop better spending habits and budgeting techniques. The ultimate goal of the project is to help these people to reach financial stability.

"It's very difficult to escape poverty. When [our clients] get paychecks they don't know what to pay first," Jones said. Jones added that many clients do not know how to properly use their paychecks, and that the Financial Independence Track teaches these clients how to use their money efficiently. Jones emphasized that "paying utilities, rent and gas, and pulling out secondary costs" are all steps that are vital to the program.

The Child Mental Health Services program is more poignant. Jones said that you "can't gloss over the damages" that homelessness and abuse cause to children. Homeless children are often behind in school because of their migrant lifestyle. On top of this, many of the children blame themselves for the violence and abuse that surrounds them. "Kids as young as five feel like they cause the violence ... We expect the children to cope. It's unfathomable," Jones said. However, once the children are provided with a stable living environment, they consistently show improvement in both their school-work and, more importantly, their self-esteem.



**Executive Director Caroline Jones (right) with a client at a Brighter Futures Breakfast.**

While these advances are reassuring, they are not an end goal. Jones feels that Doorways' ultimate goal is to "change the patterns for generations to come. We have to stop these cycles."

**JONES HAS** a "collective vision" for Doorways. In order for Doorways to flourish, she believes that the corporate sector, the community, the government, the for-profit and the nonprofit must all work together. If this collaboration can be achieved, Jones believes that Doorways can accomplish anything.

One of her goals under this "collective vision" is to move Doorways' main focus away from the use of long-term shelters and towards prevention of homelessness and domestic abuse all together.

Last year, due in large part to the organization's participation in Arlington County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, Doorways was able to prevent 29 families from becoming homeless.

SEE DOORWAYS, PAGE 19

## ARLINGTON CONNECTION

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REAL ESTATE

# Crystalizing Crystal City

Transforming the underground city into a “complete urban community.”

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

When Crystal City was created in the 1960s and 1970s, the idea of what an ideal urban community should be was vastly different from what’s in vogue today. The original idea was to create large highways so automobiles could zoom through without being obstructed by pedestrians, who would be hidden underground in a warren of tunnels featuring a shopping plaza. Planners and developers conceived of Crystal City as a city of the future, modernizing a series of old junkyards and low-rent motels.

Yet what once was a city of the future has become a dated relic.

These days, the idea that highways should dominate the landscape has long been abandoned. And the thought of resigning pedestrians to underground tunnels is a relic from a bygone era. That’s why county leaders have embarked on a new plan to recreate Crystal City for the 21st century as a modern mixed-use community with open space and ground-level retail, transforming the Jefferson Davis Highway into a pedestrian friendly boulevard. The 40-year plan calls for a 60-percent increase in density and a 100-percent increase in population.

“That doesn’t mean that all the buildings are go-

ing to be torn down this week,” said Christer Ahl, chairman of the Crystal City Citizen Review Council. “Over the course of the next 40 years, Crystal City is going to become more clearly urban and more reminiscent of a city or downtown.”

**THE PLANNING PROCESS** emerged as a reaction to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission’s 2005 decision to relocate 17,000 Department of Defense jobs out of Arlington, vacating 4.2 million square feet of office space. The commission decided Crystal City was no longer secure because it lacked setbacks, which the Pentagon insisted on after 9/11. So county leaders hired a consultant who started making recommendations, including a controversial suggestion to get rid of the underground mall — viewed by many as an outdated relic.

“I found the initial plan sorely lacking,” said Sally Cooper, who resigned from a task force in protest. “The consultant’s view was very myopic, and there was no appreciation for how unique and wonderful the underground space is.”

After a long debate, county planners changed course. The Crystal City community rallied around keeping the underground mall, and the sector plan was amended to keep the subterranean features. Although there’s still a debate about whether or not the mixed-use, ground-level retail would compete with the underground retail, the plan calls for different kind of stores in the different locations.

SEE CRYSTALIZING, PAGE 11

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# Arlington REAL ESTATE

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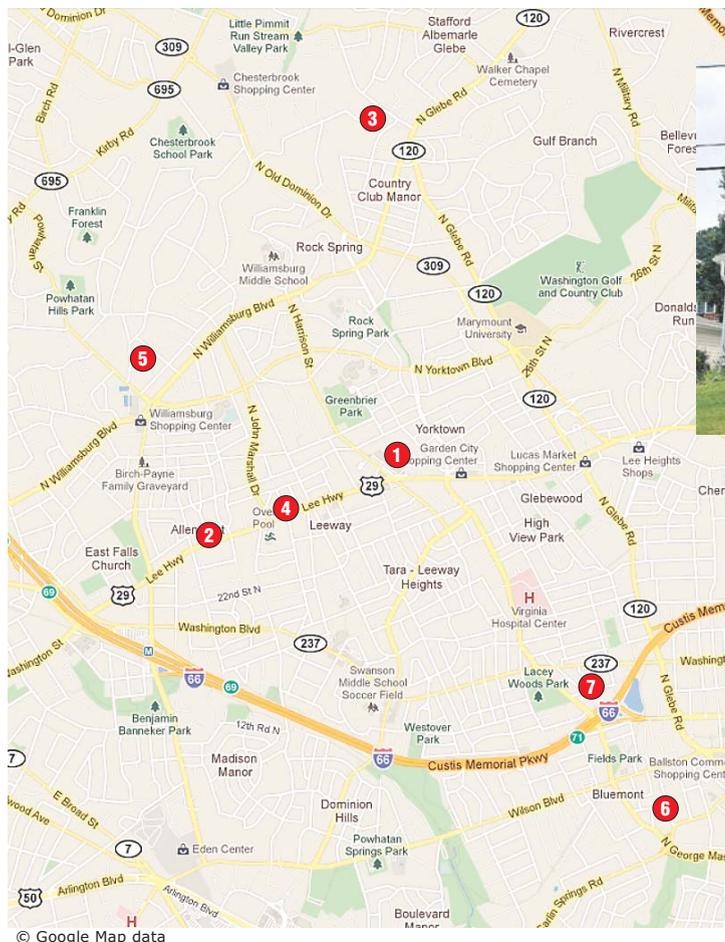
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# REAL ESTATE



ARLINGTON COUNTY

Plans call for a reconfiguration of an airport access ramp to provide increased pedestrian access across 26th Street along Jefferson Davis Boulevard, creating a new area that will be called National Circle.

## Crystalizing Crystal City

FROM PAGE 9

**THE PLAN OPENS** the door to development on a scale that would transform Crystal City from a nine-to-five office park to what county planners call “a complete urban community” with 18-hour a day activity. The key to achieving that goal is flipping the current ratio of office and residential land use, adding 1.8 million square feet of office development and with 4.1 million square feet in residential development.

“This ratio of residential to office growth in the next 20 years would help achieve the goal for more residential while also helping to limit any potential increases in vehicular traffic,” said Anthony Fusarelli, a senior planner with the county.

Doubling the amount of density in Crystal City would be a bonanza for developers, who would be able to maximize their return while substantially increasing the tax base. Yet it’s also opened up the plan to criticism. Some neighborhood residents say that would undercut efforts to retain existing parks and maximize open space while increasing traffic to intolerable levels.

“The basic underlying assumption that the density can be doubled without affecting open space and, for that matter, traffic creates a planned disaster,” said Don Gay, Crystal City resident, at a September public hearing. “The plan takes leftover bits of scattered space as a result of the development and classifies them as parks to give the appearance that nothing has been lost.”

The history of Crystal City begins in the mid-1960s,

when a growing demand for office space near Washington made Arlington more attractive. The neighborhood’s first generation of planned development was a series of offices, apartments and hotels along Jefferson Davis Highway. The name “Crystal City” was taken from one of the early apartment buildings, the Crystal House on South Eads Street, which featured a large crystal chandelier in the lobby. Over the years, the word “crystal” became attached to many condominiums, apartments, offices, restaurants and hotels.

“It became crystal this and crystal that,” said Ahl. “Even people who have lived here for a while have trouble keeping them straight.”

The federal government’s decision to locate Patent Office and the Institute of Defense Analysis in Crystal City stimulated more construction of office and residential buildings in the late 1960s. By the time the Crystal City Metro Station opened in 1977, the neighborhood had evolved into a major regional employment center. Since that time, millions of square feet of mixed-use development have been built, and Crystal City has become one of the region’s primary activity centers. Now the city of the future will take on a much more traditional look as it prepares for a massive influx of people and development.

“This is the latest attempt for county government to put lipstick on a pig,” said Arlington resident Jim Hurysz during the public hearing. “The Crystal City sector plan is more of the same type of development for the sake of development planning that we recently saw in East Falls Church.”

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Rosslyn



## THURSDAY/JULY 28

**Dervish** — Celtic Folk Band. 8 p.m. Cost is \$22/\$20. Matching a vigorous, intense performance style with a thorough understanding of both the musical and social elements of traditional Irish music, the Dervish is one of the foremost Celtic folk bands on today's scene. At the Spectrum Theatre, 1611 N. Kent St., Arlington.

## WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

**Lunchtime Concert Series.** 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. The Thursday Lunchtime Concerts Series, which will be held from now through Oct. 20 at Wilson Boulevard and N. Oak Street, will entertain Rosslyn Farmers Market visitors as they shop. The Wednesday Lunchtime Concert series will run from now through Aug. 31 at the CentralSpace to CentralPlace plaza located at Wilson Boulevard and N. Moore Street. Local performers will provide music from a variety of genres including jazz, blues, funk, pop, folk and more.

## 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.

## DANCE WEDNESDAYS

**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.

## SALSA TUESDAYS

**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.

## NOW THROUGH AUG. 31

**Sketch3D.** Free. Create 3D Drawings Using a Giant "Etch-a-Sketch." Sketch3D is an interactive, integrated software/hardware system that enables users to create their own anaglyphic 3D drawing using a giant "Etch-a-Sketch". At the Upper Town Hall at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 27

**Zydeco Dance Party.** 8:30 to 11 p.m. With Nathan and the Zydeco Chas Chas. Admission is \$15. Introductory Cajun Dance Lesson from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.; dancing from 8:30 to 11 p.m. At the Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or the Artisphere at 703-228-1850.

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 27

**"Before the Devil Knows You're Dead."** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6. Part of the Sidney Lumet Retrospective. At the Dome Theater at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 5

**Cane & The Sticks With Heavy Breathing.** 9 p.m. Rock out with local bands Cane & the Sticks' Peter Hayes, Liz DeRoche, Arthur Noll and Heavy Breathing's Erick Jackson, Amanda Kleinman, and Jeff Schmid. At the Ballroom at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.



## THURSDAY/JULY 28

**Yvonne Johnson.** 4:30 p.m. With influences ranging from Herbie Hancock to Miles Davis, Yvonne Johnson has performed at such venues as Harlem's Apollo Theatre and New Orleans' The National Jazz and Heritage Festival. At the Here Café/Town Hall at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.



## Spooky Movie Film Festival

Six features and more than three hours of short films will make up the Spooky Movie Midsummer Night's Scream at the Artisphere Dome Theatre this summer. Start time is 8 p.m. with admission for all nights are \$10. At the Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Boulevard in Arlington. Open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit [www.artisphere.com](http://www.artisphere.com). The schedule for the series is:

## SATURDAY, AUG. 6

❖ **Television Legend,** Count Gore De Vol, hosts 13 of the wildest short films from around the world, as well as presents an exclusive preview for the 6th Annual Spooky Movie International Horror Film Festival (Oct. 13-16).

## SATURDAY, AUG. 20

❖ **"George's Intervention"** — George is a zombie. And his friends are hoping to convince him to stop eating people and to enter 'zombie rehab'. It's morally wrong to eat people, plus, it's unhealthy. An undeniable crowd-pleaser. (92m, U.S.A.)  
❖ **"Morgue Story"** — A comic book artist, a life insurance salesman and a coroner meet in a morgue in this brilliantly written and directed modern classic. (78m, Brazil)

## SATURDAY, SEPT. 3

❖ **"Murder Loves Killers Too"** — A modern take on the vintage 1980s "maniac in the woods" movies, this outstanding feature follows all of the rules (to a point), but ultimately takes you places that conventional horror leaves out. A wonderful scary and provocative film with an exceptional ending. Directors' Choice Award: Best Feature Film: A Night of Horror International Film Festival. (78m, U.S.A.)  
❖ **"The Uh Oh Show"** — Herschell Gordon Lewis' blood-drenched love letter to his fans of "Two Thousand Maniacs," "Blood Feast," "The Gore Gore Gils," and "The Uh-oh Show" is a wonderfully perverse and funny late night satire of the world of horror films and their fans. (85m, USA)



## THURSDAY/AUG. 4

**Flute Visions.** 4 to 5:30 p.m. Latin jazz trio influenced by the Caribbean Islands, Central and South America. At the Here Café/Town Hall at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 11

**Steve Abshire Trio.** 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Steve Abshire's modern jazz style and ease on guitar come from years of experience with jazz greats such as Charlie Byrd, Diane Shuur, and Herb Ellis. At the Here Café/Town Hall at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 12

**Pistolera.** 9 p.m. Pistolera's accordion-driven melodies invite you to a dance party at the Brooklyn-Mexico border. At the Ballroom at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 16

**Derek Evry and Heather Aubrey Lloyd of Ilyaimy.** 8 p.m. From rock to blues to folk, listen to the music of local singer/songwriters and learn about their creative process. At the Dome Theater at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 16

**Contra Sonic.** 8 p.m. Contra dancing with a club twist! Contra dancing is American folk dance with roots in square dancing, but when you add free glow sticks, a DJ and laser display you get Contra Sonic. At the Ballroom at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

## THEATER

# Staying Power

LTA's 'Hairspray' opens to raves.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

The dreams are big but the hair is bigger as plump and plucky Baltimore teen Tracy Turnblad longs to dance on the local American Bandstand-style show in the energetic blockbuster musical "Hairspray," now playing to rave reviews at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

"I have never seen such talent in my life," said longtime theater veteran Ernie Sult. "This is as good a cast — if not better — as any you'll find on Broadway. What an incredible, cohesive performance."

Based on the 2002 Tony Award-winning musical, itself based on the original 1988 John Waters film, "Hairspray" follows plus-sized protagonist Tracy Turnblad in her 1962 crusade to integrate the Corny Collins show. Allies in her fight against both racism and girls of girth grow to include Tracy's best friend Penny, teen heartthrob Link Larkin and Motormouth Maybelle, hostess of the once-a-month Negro Day on Corny's show.

Playing unlikely heroine Tracy, Shannon Kingett opens the show in overdrive belting out one of the show's signature songs, "Good Morning, Baltimore." In the role that made film stars of Rikki Lake

and Nikki Blonsky, Kingett is a delightful dynamo with a siren-like voice that effortlessly carries a charging score of 20 infectious melodies.

"This show has so much heart," said Arlington resident Jaclyn Young, who channels her inner Mary J. Blige as Tracy's duck-to-swan best friend Penny. "It really sneaks up on you and has been so much fun to do."

Determined in their opposition to all this rhythmic righteousness are the bratty Amber Von Tussle, played by Christina Kidd, and Janette Moman as her maniacal mama Velma. Both are hilarious in their over-the-top wickedness.

Sam Jones is effortlessly adorable as Elvis wanna-be Link, and Gardner Reed personifies Corny Collins with flawless period precision.

In a company of standouts, Brenda Parker's Motormouth Maybelle brings the audience to its feet with vocals that soar to stratospheric heights in the gospel-infused "I Know where I've Been."

One of the finest performances in the show is given by Christopher Harris as Tracy's mother, Edna.

"I knew that with my height and build there really was only one role for me in this show," said the deftly hilarious Harris, who added



Reeny Eul as Louann, Shannon Kingett as Tracy Turnblad, and Sam Jones as Link Larkin in "Hairspray," which runs through Aug. 13 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

a luminous poignancy and vulnerability to the role originated by Harvey Fierstein on Broadway and John Travolta in the subsequent movie. "This is such a great story to tell and I channeled a lot of my mother for the part."

Harris' duet, "Timeless to Me," with Larry Grey as Tracy's father Wilbur, is an unqualified show stopper and one of the most touching moments of the evening.

Sue Pinkman and Ivan Davila provide the creative direction and non-stop energetic choreography.

With colorful and inventive sets by Myke Taister, vivid costumes by Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley, a 13-piece orchestra conducted by Christopher Tomasino and brilliant performances by the entire 30-plus member cast, the exuberant LTA production provides as perfectly in-tune musical ensemble as any you'll find on Broadway.

The relentlessly upbeat score closes the show with the driving rhythm of "You Can't Stop the Beat," and the LTA version will long be remembered as one of the

best dance finales ever performed in community theater.

With a flawless cast, dazzling performances and a contagious score that is as impossible to shake off as Tracy's lacquered beehive, LTA's "Hairspray" is a blockbuster musical with staying power.

"Hairspray" runs through Aug. 13 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. For tickets or more information, call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

## Opening Night at 'Hairspray'



Arlington's Jaclyn Young, right, with cast members Brenda Parker, Sam Jones, Shannon Kingett, Christopher Harris, director Sue Pinkman and Adrian Cubbage at the opening night reception of 'Hairspray' at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.



Arlington's Jaclyn Young, right, celebrates with fellow cast members Brenda Parker, Christopher Harris, Shannon Kingett and Adrian Cubbage following the opening night performance of 'Hairspray' at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Young plays Penny Pingleton in the award-winning musical.



Arlington's Jaclyn Young, second from right, relaxes with fellow cast members Shannon Kingett, Scott Strasbaugh and Adrian Cubbage following the opening night performance of 'Hairspray' at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

# ENTERTAINMENT



## SATURDAY/JULY 30

**Justin Trawick Band.** 8 p.m. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

## FRIDAY MORNINGS.

**Line Dancing Class.** 10 to 11 a.m. Line dancing with Barbara Allen. Covers the basic steps, then combines them to music for a gentle, social, aerobic workout. More experienced line dancers are welcome as they can assist the newer dancers. At Aurora Hills Senior Center. Call 703-228-5722.

## NOW THROUGH AUG. 27

**Creative Minds Multiplied.** Free. A showcase of three painters with signature styles. Bryan Jernigan, Bud Hensgen and Jennifer Brewer Stone team up for a painter's exhibition in the mini-gallery at Lee Arts Center. At Lee Arts Center, 5722 Lee Highway, Arlington. Visit <http://www.leeartscenter.org>

## NOW THROUGH JULY 30

**"Titus Andronicus" by William Shakespeare.** Tickets are \$5 to \$15. Show times: July 21-23, 26-30. Presented by the Empty Chair Theatre Company. At the Theatre on the Run Black Box at 3700 Four Mile Run, Arlington. Visit <http://www.emptychairtheatre.org/> or contact [boxoffice@emptychairtheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@emptychairtheatre.org).

## NOW THROUGH AUG. 6

**Signature's Sizzlin' Summer Cabaret.** Cabarets will include "Let Me Sing" and "I'm Happy" ("The Music of Irving Berlin"), a collection of Berlin favorites featuring Sherri L. Edelen, James Gardiner, Matt Pearson and Bayla Whitten. Solo cabarets include Erin Driscoll ("[title of show]," "Sweeney Todd"), and last year's Sizzlin' Summer artists Bob McDonald and Sandy Bainum ("Sunset Boulevard"). Tickets for all cabarets are \$25 each. Signature offers a special All-Access Pass for \$125. At Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Call 703-820-9771.

## JULY 28 TO SEPT. 11

**Photo 2011.** Annual Juried Mid-Atlantic Photo Exhibition. Opening reception is July 28 from 7 to 10 p.m. At the Terrace Gallery at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100 or visit [www.artisphere.com](http://www.artisphere.com)

## THURSDAY/JULY 28

**Summer Concert.** 7:30 p.m. The U.S. Army Blues Band features Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed and Everything Blues. At Washington-Lee High School



PHOTO BY LARRY MCCLEMONS

(From left): Samantha Kobor ("Tin Man"), Mike Holland ("Cowardly Lion"), Nora Walls ("Dorothy"), and Joey Hamilton ("Scarecrow")

## JULY 29, 30, 31

**"Wizard of Oz."** Presented by Encore Stage/Act III. Showtimes are Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$10/children/students/seniors. At the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 South Old Glebe Road, Arlington. Reserve tickets by calling 703-548-1154, ext. 1, or [www.encorestage.org](http://www.encorestage.org).

Auditorium, Arlington.

## FRIDAY/JULY 29

**Mary Ann Redmond.** 8 p.m. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

**Summer Concert Series.** 8 p.m. "A Tribute to Stan Kenton." The U.S. Air Force Band, The Airmen of Note, and a 15-minute pre-show demo at 7:45 p.m. by the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team. At the U.S. Air Force Memorial, One Air Force Memorial Drive, Arlington. Call 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil)

## JULY 29 AND 30

**Politicos Unplugged.** Tickets are \$25.

Friday at 9:55 p.m.; Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and 9:55 p.m. Starring Reggie Brown, a Barack Obama Impersonator. At the Arlington Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington.

## SATURDAY/JULY 30

**Book Talk.** 3 p.m. "My Signature" by Signature Theatre Co-Founder Eric Schaeffer. At the Shirlington Branch Library in Arlington. Co-sponsored with the Opera Guild of Northern Virginia.

**Justin Trawick Band.** 8 p.m. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

**Sharif in Concert.** 9 p.m. Sharif will preview songs from his upcoming new five-song EP, *Almost There*. At the Front Page in Arlington.

**"The Mikado."** 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$10/seniors/students/children. At St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 4250 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. For tickets: 703-734-0621, [harnesselwayarts@me.com](mailto:harnesselwayarts@me.com), or [www.harnesselwayarts.com](http://www.harnesselwayarts.com)

## FRIDAY/AUG. 5

**Origem.** 8 p.m. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

**Summer Concert Series.** 8 p.m. "Tunes of 'Toons." With the U.S. Air Force Band, Concert Band and members of the Singing Sergeants. At the U.S. Air Force Memorial, One Air Force Memorial Drive, Arlington. Call 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil)

## AUG. 5 AND 6

**Broken Lizard's Kevin Heffernan and Steve Lemme.** Friday, Aug. 5 at 9:55 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and 9:55 p.m. Admission is \$25. At the Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 6

**Movie: "Fast and Furious."** (2001). 8 p.m. With Teen Talent Night. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 12

**Margot MacDonald.** 8 p.m. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

## AUG. 12-13

**Comedian T.J. Miller.** Friday, Aug. 12 at 9:55 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 13 at 9:55 p.m. Tickets are \$20. At the Arlington Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 13

**Russkie Musikanti — Russian Folk Ensemble.** 8 p.m. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 14

**Pike Hike II Walkabout.** 9:30 to 11 a.m. Free. A guided tour led by County Board Chairman Christopher Zimmerman. The Walkabout route highlights culinary hot spots, one-of-a-kind shops, landscaped apartments, rolling parkland, quaint bungalows, historic churches, a campus of County facilities and resources, and the Sunday Columbia Pike Farmers Market. Meet at Arlington Career Center, Columbia Pike Library, 816 South Walter Reed Drive, Arlington. Contact [info@walkarlington.com](mailto:info@walkarlington.com).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 19

**Texas Chainsaw Horns.** 8 p.m. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 20

**Rocknoceros.** 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$12/adults; \$8/children 12 and under. At the Dome Theatre at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1101. <http://www.artisphere.com>.

**Andrew Acosta.** 8 p.m. With the Old Time String Band, Speedy Tolliver and John Kaparakis. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 26

**Eric Scott.** 8 p.m. Free. At Lubber Run Amphitheatre, N. Second and N. Columbus St., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.



**Italian Singer Songwriter, Giada Valenti**



**Washington's Premiere Commedia dell'Arte Troupe, Faction of Fools**



**PBS' Ciao Italia TV Host/Chef/Author, Mary Ann Esposito**

## THURSDAY/AUG. 4

**Taste of Italy.** 4 to 9 p.m. Will include Italian culture, artists, fashion, luxury car display and cuisine featuring cooking demonstrations, wine tastings, entertainment, an online to live auction and more. Features an Italian marketplace expo featuring celebrity chef /TV Host of PBS' Ciao Italia Mary Ann Esposito. Live performances by Italian singer-songwriter, Giada Valenti and Classical tenors Micheal Castaldo and Elio Scaccio, Commedia dell'Arte Theatre by DC's Faction of Fools. Online to live auction with items including an Italian Villa getaway; a private opera performance and a chance to cook with Ciao Italia TV Host, Mary Ann Esposito. Tickets \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Visit [http://www.ciaodc.com/ciao\\_dc\\_events.htm](http://www.ciaodc.com/ciao_dc_events.htm) or by calling 202-368-7379. At the Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington.

## PEOPLE

# Virginia Blakes Continues To Inspire at 97

Setting the pace in community involvement.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t 97 years old, Virginia Blake actively participates in numerous Arlington organizations, including the AARP, the women's club of Arlington and the senior adult council.

"It is very inspiring to see her enjoying life and helping others and volunteering," said Dinesh Tiwari, director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources for the County of Arlington. "I look up to her. I hope I'm like her when I'm her age. She is not only active behind the scenes but actually physically at the events."

Blake's spirit has touched others at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.

"She is the most fantastic person," said Barbara Karro, program manager of community engagement. "She has insatiable curiosity. She has such a fast mind ... She's amazing. I felt that she provided me invaluable guidance."

Blake serves as the program chairman for the AARP, the chaplain of the women's club of Arlington and the co-chair of the senior adult council.

As the program chairman for the AARP, she organizes programs and arranges for

speakers. She is looking forward to a program on the history of hats in the month of October.

As the chaplain of the women's club of Arlington, her duties include opening the meeting, sending cards to anyone who is sick or in need of special attention and doing the blessing when they have a luncheon.

As a member of the senior adult council, she has an advisory role over local senior centers. As co-chair, she would take over if the chair weren't able to run the meeting. "So I told him, you take your vitamins every day and you keep healthy," she said.

**VIRGINIA KALAMYRA BLAKE** was born Virginia Pappas, Feb. 13, 1914, in Bushnell, Ill. Her father, Angel Pappas, owned a confectionary store. She had a sister, Myra, and a brother, Morris, who died young of scarlet fever.

When she was an early adolescent, she got her first job as a volunteer in a nursery at the Methodist church.

"Every Saturday we would wash down the baby beds with Lysol. We would change the crib beds," she said.

She went to the University of Illinois. She was doing well, but she dropped out in her junior year to get married.

"As they said in those years, getting your



Virginia Blake

PHOTO BY MAYA HOROWITZ/THE CONNECTION

MRS degree. A lot of us, that's what we looked for in college more than anything else."

Blake met her husband, William Blake, on a blind date. She was in Alpha Gamma Delta — a sorority she still keeps up with — and he was in Theta Chi.

"Then I found that he was such a nice person and he treated me so well and I thought, 'Oh my!'"

They married in 1933. William Blake was a military man, who served during World War II. They lived at Fort Leavenworth, Fort Knox and Fort Rudder over the course of his military service.

William and Virginia Blake were in the Hotel La Salle fire in Chicago in 1946 that

killed 61 people. "We took the fire escape from the 19th floor," she said. "I shudder every time I think of that. And that hotel was supposed to be fire proof."

They came to Arlington in 1951, but moved in 1952 for a military assignment. Finally, they settled in Arlington in 1962.

They had two children: William Blake Jr. and Richard. Later, those children would bring about three grandchildren: Amanda, William and Barbara.

In 1965, her husband died of cancer. Blake took a job as a postmistress at the Soldiers and Airmen's Home to keep busy. She ended up working there for more than seven years.

In the 1970s, she joined the National Association of Federal Employees, then AARP, then the Illinois State Society.

"I just got adjusted to living by myself," Blake said. "I find the best thing to do is to keep involved and keep busy. It's a good way to keep track of your friends and make new ones."

She plays bridge every Thursday and regularly plays canasta.

Her advice to young people is: "They say it's always better to give than to receive. And when you think about it, I think everybody should give back to wherever they live. Be a part of the community. With whatever talent they have to help keep the community going."

## Author Mixes Food with Characters

Jael McHenry speaks at 'One More Page.'

BY ORRIN KONHEIM  
THE CONNECTION

**N**early 40 people crammed into "One More Page" bookstore to listen to Jael McHenry read the first chapter of her novel "The Kitchen Daughter" which is pretty unusual for someone who has never published a novel before but it's not often that a first-time author gets rave reviews from Library Journal, Publisher's Weekly and Oprah Winfrey's Magazine "O!"

Her novel is about a young woman with Asperger's Syndrome who takes solace in the deaths of her parents through cooking and encounters ghosts in the progress. For McHenry, a novel involving cooking was an easy transition because she's known for her blog "The Simmer Blog" which is advertised as a blog on "food, writing and writing about food."

"I like food and use food to connect with people so I wanted a character who also connected to people through food," said McHenry in a question and answer session.

McHenry describes herself as "a professional amateur" when it comes to cooking.

"The food element [in "The Kitchen Daughter"] is really well-done," said attendee Suzanne Hayes on her experience reading the book. "If you cook, if you really



Jael McHenry, author of *The Kitchen Daughter*, who spoke at One More Page bookstore in Arlington on Saturday, July 16, is joined by store owner Eileen McGervey (left) and staff member Katie Fransen (right).

are a foodie, it's true and the story around that is very entertaining."

On the origins of her interest in cooking she said, "When my husband was in grad school, he had all these classmates who were really into eating home-made food and were students so they couldn't make it themselves. So there would always be some 20 students coming over and they'd eat anything, so that allowed me to experiment."

Boasting an MFA in creative arts, Jael McHenry has cultivated a fan base of more than 1500 twitter followers through her cooking blog as well as her work for other publications. She's a contributor to the website about writing "Writerunboxed" and is editor-in-chief of the internet publishing house intrepidmedia.com.

"She writes blog posts at "Writer Unboxed" and I follow her through twitter," said attendee Kelly Robinson about how she found out about the event.

McHenry has previously written four novels but none were published. One of the stories she regaled the crowd with was that a past novel of hers, about a woman who ages backwards, became unpublishable after the film "Curious Case of Benjamin Button" came out since it would have looked like she copied that film.

"It took me a while to get around to watching the film," said McHenry.

To ease the financial pressures of a writing career, McHenry has a day job writing brochures and marketing material for a

SEE MCHENRY, PAGE 19

## Spotlight on Edwin Fontáñez

Author examines animal-human bond.

BY LINDA SMOLKIN  
THE CONNECTION

**E**dwin Fontáñez, who resides in Arlington, is an award-winning author and illustrator. Fontáñez's newest book, "I Promise You: An Introduction to Living the Animal-Human Bond," explores the causes of animal abandonment and offers tips on strengthening the emotional bond between a person and his or her pet.

In addition to "I Promise You," Fontáñez has written three other books, including a collection of poetry. All books are published by his company, Exit Studio, and are available in English and Spanish.

**Q: The name of your recently published book is called "I Promise You." How did you choose the title?**

SEE AUTHOR, PAGE 19

## WGCC Ends Regular Season With Win

On July 18, the Washington Golf and Country Club Lightning hosted Division A rivals the Congressional Seals. Although Congressional has established one of the strongest swim programs in the league, the Lightning's depth and speed proved to be too much for them. The Lightning improved their record to 3-1 with a 265-215 victory.

One of the highlights of this meet was the acknowledgement of WGCC's graduating seniors. The team honored three of their long-time swimmers, all of whom graduated from high school in the spring and will head away to college in the fall. These seniors —

and the schools they'll be attending — are: Timmy Anderson (New York University), Nick Knise (Northwestern University) and Bailey Nassetta (New York University).

The only triple winner for this meet was Richard Gentry (boys 10U back, breast, and fly). Gentry has dominated the competition this season and is on the verge of breaking team records in all three events. Double winners were David DiMeglio (boys 12U IM, breast), Alex Gerlach (boys 8U free, breast), Wilson Ricks (boys 18U free, breast), Amanda DiMeglio (girls 8U back, breast) and Paddy McCarthy (boys 8U back, fly). Single winners were Avery Nassetta (girls 8U free), Zach Tripodi (boys 10U free), Kate Rita (girls 12U free), Julia Green (girls 10U back), George Cranwell (boys 14U breast), and Mason Nassetta (girls 18U fly). The medley relay teams for both the junior 14U boys (Ryan Baker, Richard Gentry, Spencer Lukehart, and Paddy McCarthy) and the junior girls (Caitlin O'Berry, Faith Palmer, Petie Nassetta, and Avery Nassetta) won their events. This meet was the final dual-meet for WGCC — and they finished the season 3-1 against their Division A rivals.

Then, on July 19, the 2010 CCSDA defending champions WGCC returned to Kenwood for the CCSDA Division A Championships, where they competed against the other four teams in the top division of the league. Although WGCC took second and third places in many of the freestyle events, it wasn't until Nick Knise took to the pool in the boys 18U free that the Lightning took a first-place finish. Ellison Soobert (boys 8U) and Richard Gentry (boys 10U) both took first place in their backstroke events. Amanda DiMeglio (girls 8U), Gentry (boys 10U) and Will Soobert (boys 12U) all finished first in their breaststroke events. In addition, several of WGCC's relay teams finished first. The boys 14U medley relay (Ryan Baker, Will Soobert, Gentry, and Ellison Soobert) not only won their event but they also broke the team record they had set a week earlier. The girls 18U medley relay team (Mason Nassetta, Grayson Offutt, Annabel Ricks, and Petie Nassetta) and the boys graduated free relay team (the Soobert brothers, Zach Tripodi, Baker, and Knise) won their events. In spite of the many top-three finishes, the Lightning finished second best for the night. The final scores were: Kenwood (342.5), WGCC (307), Congressional (242.5), Columbia (164) and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**G.G. Richmond swims breaststroke for Washington Golf and Country Club.**

Bethesda (164).

In spite of this second-place finish, the Lightning look forward to defending their title as they host all of the teams in the league at the two-day CCSDA Championships on July 25-26. The league was formed in 1952 and, prior to the last two years, WGCC had only won the swim championship once — in 1956. Perennial powerhouse Kenwood has won 41 times.

## Dominion Hills Beats Rolling Forest

The Dominion Hills swim team defeated Rolling Forest, 229-173, on July 23.

Dominion Hills double winners: Gwen Bobst, Andrew Dietrich, Mia Landeck, Sophia Moses, Eric Weiner and Abby Young.

Single winners: Charlotte Ellis, Matthew Ellis, Tommy Ellis, Kara Fox, Meghan Fox, Emily Larsen, Jacob Larsen, KJ Morris-Larkin, Nathan Prange and Haley Sanner.

Dominion Hills finished with a 4-1 record and shared the Division 10 championship with Highland Park.

## AKC Grabs Six First-Place Finishes

The Arlington Knights of Columbus Holy



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**The Hollin Meadows all-stars are front row (8 and under boys relay) Cole Peverall, JR Newman, John Degnan, Reilly Clautice, and back row (15-18 boys relay) Paul O'Hara, Mark Mattis, Andrew Hohman and Brian Frescas.**

Mackerels grabbed six first-place finishes at the Colonial Swim League's Gold Divisional meet July 23 at AKC. The Mackerels successfully hosted the six-team showdown as temperatures hit the mid-90s before noon in Arlington.

Thirteen-year-old India Seldin grabbed AKC's first first-place finish of the day in the girls 13-14 50M freestyle. Malia Rivera, 16, then won the girls 15-18 50M freestyle. The Mackerels dominated the backstroke category with three first-place finishes: 8-year-old Paris Thornburg won the girls 8 & Under 25M, 12-year-old Ben Brooks won the boys 11-12 50M, and 14-year-old Shahan Jayasinghe won the boys 13-14 50M. Kathleen Butler, 16, earned the final first-place finish for the Mackerels in the girls 15-18 50M breast stroke.

Seldin also later took third place in the girls 13-14 50M butterfly. Thornburg took third in the girls 8 & under 25M breast stroke. Jayasinghe took second place in the boys 13-14 50M freestyle and butterfly. Butler took second place in the girls 15-18 50M freestyle and 100M IM.

Other Mackerels with top-three finishes were: Jeanie Laybourn, 8, second place, girls 8 & Under 25M freestyle and breast stroke; Jake Smerchansky, 13, third place, boys 13-14 50M freestyle, backstroke and butterfly; Lucas Moreno, 9, second place, boys 9-10 50M backstroke, and third place,

boys 9-10 100M IM; Elizabeth Dufrane, 9, third place, girls 9-10 50M backstroke and 25M butterfly; Grace Douthit, 13, third place, girls 13-14 50M backstroke and breast stroke; Drew Hudspeth, 12, third place, boys 11-12 50M backstroke; Charlie Beirne, 16, second place, boys 15-18 50M backstroke; Aubrey Metcalfe, 17, third place, girls 15-18 50M backstroke; Zach Rosenthal, 11, third place, boys 11-12 50M breast stroke; Lucy Stumpo, 11, third place, girls 11-12 50M breast stroke; Meghan Galvin, third place, girls 15-18 50M breast stroke; Natalie Moreno, third place, girls 8 & Under

25M butterfly; Adam Howard, 14, second place, boys 13-14 100M IM; and, Aidan Hennessey-Niland, 14, third place, boys 13-14 100M IM.

AKC swims next July 30 at the CSL All-Stars at Countryside.

## Donaldson Run Drops Final Meet

The Donaldson Run Thunderbolts lost their final meet of the season to host Wakefield Chapel, 205-197. Donaldson Run's final record is 1-3-1 in Division 3.

Donaldson Run double winners were John Sloan (8 & under boys freestyle and breaststroke), Andrew Fleckenstein (13-14 boys freestyle and butterfly) and Stasi Gustafson (13-14 girls freestyle and backstroke).

Single winners were Sean Conley (9-10 free), Billy Cowden (15-18 free), John Ford (8 & under back), Bryan Meade (13-14 back), Jack Storrs (13-14 breast), Max Fish (15-18 breast), Christian Tiernan (15-18 fly), Kate Rita (11-12 free), Lydia Carpenter (15-18 free), Ann Carpenter (15-18 back), Olivia Cox (11-12 breast), Ellie Belilos (15-18 breast) and Haley Gordon (15-18 fly).

The 13-14 boys 100M medley relay team of Meade, Storrs, Fleckenstein and Michael Poppalardo set a new team record with a time of 56.08 seconds. This is the third time this season they have set a new team record in this event.

## Overlee Diving Wins

The Overlee diving team defeated Cardinal Hill, 55-17, on July 19. The Overlee girls swept the junior, intermediate and senior age groups. The top placers were: Annika Creedon (first in freshman girls); Adam Packard and Ben Schifsky (first and second in freshman boys); Marisa Fritz, Hannah Karlin, and Emily Hay (first, second and third in junior girls); Gaelen Creedon and Thomas Hassett (first and third in junior boys); Juliette Mitrovitch, Lizzie Grossman, and Abby Didawick (first, second and third in intermediate girls); Jacob Kreider (second in intermediate boys); Meghan Flynn, Becky Nardacci, and Jessi Mitrovitch (first, second and third in senior girls); and Carson Barry and Colin Johnston (first and third in senior boys).



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**Kelly Melnick, Ellie Cowan and Claire Helsel gather after swimming free style at Overlee's developmental meet on Monday, July 18. Overlee hosted McLean that evening.**

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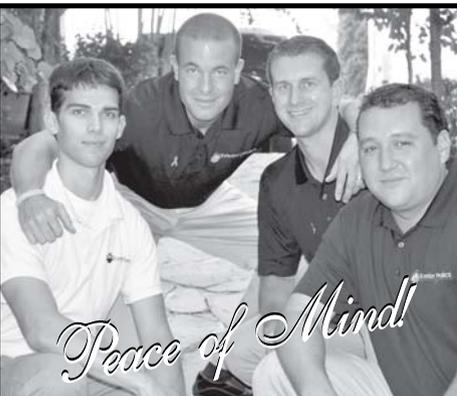
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## Clothes to a Decision



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

To say that I have a tired wardrobe is an affront to all wardrobes, tired or otherwise. To say that my clothes could use a bit of an update is a bit like saying Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie were undermanned at The Alamo. My lack of initiative with respect to such purchases has been a problem my entire life, beginning with my involvement in the "Husky" department at a very young age. It was primarily my mother's problem until I left home to attend college. College presented its own unique set of circumstances which prevented any significant clothing evolution (maturation?) — on my part. Marriage, a few years later, further complicated these clothing indecisions. Though I held fast and firm to my lack-of-clothing instincts — and deferred my purchases as much as possible, eventually, there were fissures and newer clothes occasionally were purchased, against my worse judgment. However, my wardrobe was never one to be proud of; it was — simply put, one that couldn't be avoided, by my wife, Dina, which of course presented all kinds of discussions.

Time passed. Heck, decades passed; there were some good clothing purchases and some not so good. Generally speaking, it wasn't pretty. After so many years, it became apparent — even to my wife, that perhaps she didn't have the proper training to deal with my preference for "casual attire," shall we say. Juxtaposing the fact that she always dressed nicely and appropriately for the situation, my clothing appearance left a lot to be desired, to put it kindly. To put it succinctly: it was atrocious. But I didn't care too much. I always rationalized that "It's what's inside that counts." I was never a clothes-make-the-man kind of person. I was more of a clothes-cover-the-man kind of person.

Then two-and-a-half years ago, I was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, "a terminal disease," according to my oncologist, if there ever was one; rather convincingly when he suggested that perhaps I should take that trip I've always dreamed of taking. "WHAT!" At that point, normal had left the building, and whatever "normal" life I thought I had — good or bad, was over and subject to major re-evaluation. There was a new sheriff in town and his name was cancer. Everything changed, especially priorities. And new clothing was hardly a priority, and unlikely to move up the list of things I now cared about, given the seriousness of my diagnosis/prognosis. And when I stopped working and began chemotherapy the next week, followed soon thereafter by a deteriorating physical condition, my house-bound status didn't seem to necessitate much of a clothing upgrade.

Eventually I got off the couch and out of the house and tried to resume/re-start a semi normal life (the new "normal," diagnosed-with-cancer normal). I happily wore what clothes I had and didn't concern myself — too much, with my outward appearance, other than always wearing a ball cap to cover my bald head. More time passed and I lived (survived seems so negative) beyond the back-end of my oncologist's original prediction: "two years." Accordingly, Dina has started suggesting that since I'm still alive, perhaps I should buy some new clothes. After all, if I've lived this long, maybe I'm going to live a little bit longer, and dressing like I have a future might help me in the present. A present which I'm grateful to have and a future I always hoped to see.

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

## PEOPLE

# Author Examines Animal-Human Bond

FROM PAGE 15

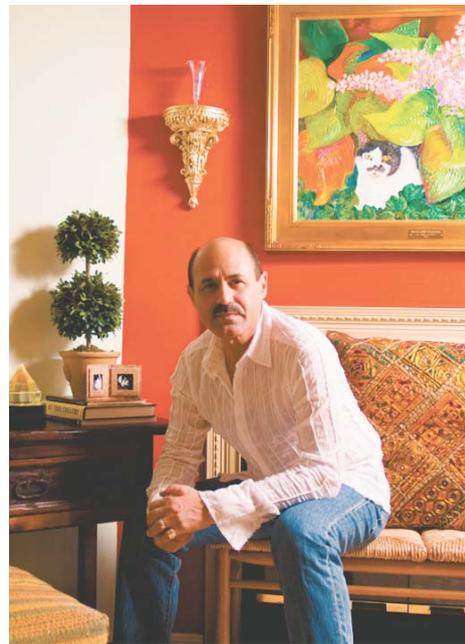
A: The title of the book refers to the implicit promise we make to an animal, whether we realize it or not, the moment we bring it into our homes. From my own point of view, I believe that the commitment to care for a pet should be as strong as the one we reserve for our loved ones.

**Q: What age group is it best suited for?**

A: Ages 10 and up should enjoy it, and it's purposely designed to spark a dialogue on how to curb animal abandonment and abuse. The book offers some surprisingly simple tips on how to strengthen the emotional bond between guardian and pet. The stronger the bond, the lesser the chance the animal will end up in the street.

**Q: Please describe your book to us in a few sentences.**

A: "I Promise You: An Introduction to Living the Animal-Human Bond," is a very personal guide about the proper and ethical treatment of animals. It is not intended to make people feel guilty about the small mistakes we make, but rather emphasize all the good things we do for our pets to maintain their quality of life. Hopefully readers will share the knowledge with other people, especially with those who plan to get a pet for the first time. The book was written based on personal anecdotes and my experiences as an animal caretaker.



Edwin Fontánez

FOTOHIGHWAY

**Q: Did a particular event happen to make you want to write this book?**

A: I wrote "I Promise You" due to the many experiences I've had rescuing animals; one of them led to the happy event of finding Chelo, the handsome cat on the book cover. But the event that really pushed me to take action was a horrible animal massacre in Puerto Rico in 2008, when nearly 100 confiscated pets were thrown to

their deaths from a bridge. This event was a tragic example of my point: when there's no emotional bond between man and animal, the latter is perceived as a disposable inconvenience. Although it pains me to know that animal abuse in many countries is rampant, it's hopeful to know people are becoming more aware and taking action.

**Q: What is the message/theme of this book?**

A: The main message of the book is that all animals — even the ones destined for human consumption — deserve to be treated respectfully and humanely. A loved pet is one less animal roaming the streets, one less animal abused and one less animal abandoned. We initiate a loving relationship with our pets to love, care for and respect them because caring for a pet also has its rewards, such as affection and companionship.

**Q: Are there any upcoming events, such as book signings or workshops, where people can meet you?**

A: We're still shaping up the series of activities, but readers are encouraged to visit [www.ipromiseyou.net](http://www.ipromiseyou.net) to acquire a copy of the book (also available in Spanish) and find out more about the initiative. We'll be posting the schedule of activities within a couple of weeks. "I Promise You" was written from the heart, and I'm sure readers will see themselves in it too.

## Working Toward 'Bright Futures'

FROM PAGE 8

Client Services Director Marielle Filholm said that this has been and still is an ongoing effort. "This is a community effort. It's not only the organization. We've all worked really hard."

Anita Friedman, chief of the Economic Independence Division at the Department of Human Services, worked with Doorways and Jones collaboratively on the Ten Year Plan. She said that Jones is a "a strong advocate for homeless families. She thinks outside the box and brings in new ideas."

She added that Doorways' ability to garner community support distinguishes it from other nonprofits.

Friedman also emphasized Jones's ability to identify with clients as an Arlingtonian. Ultimately, Friedman felt that Jones's intrinsic motivation is what sets her apart. She said that Jones "doesn't do it because she's an executive director, she does it because her kids go to school [in Arlington.] She lives and breathes what she does."

On another front, the organization's Project Peace is focused on preventing domestic violence. Project Peace's efforts resulted in only one percent of domestic abuse victims returned to their abusive partners, compared to the national average of 11 percent to 20 percent.

**JONES CONSIDERS** the present to be an exciting time. "A lot of change is happening, we're trying approaches we haven't

tried before," Jones said. One of her short-term goals is to reduce the clients' time spent in shelters. "Lengths of stays at our shelters have gone up substantially," Jones said. On average, shelter stays were normally 30 days — now they're six to seven months.

"It's not a normal living environment. It's not their home," Jones said. Doorways is determined to get those people out of the shelters, and into affordable housing.

Jones described her hopes for the future: "I would love for us to be closed and mission accomplished." Then she said that she would like for Doorways to reduce the number of urgent services it provides and shift its focus on more preventative services in the future.

Under Jones's leadership, that future may not be far. Filholm said that Jones "is as genuine as you're going to get. She embodies a true collaborative spirit." Filholm appreciates Jones's "collective vision" and says that she can already feel its effects. "One agency should have one approach — she made that happen."

Jones is convinced that if her "collective vision" is realized, it will provide Doorways for Women and Families with the strength it needs to grow. "We all really get a lot stronger by ... working together, I don't think any one or two of us can do it alone."

To donate to Doorways for Women and Families, go to [www.doorwaysva.org/donate/](http://www.doorwaysva.org/donate/) or to volunteer go to [www.doorwaysva.org/volunteer/](http://www.doorwaysva.org/volunteer/)

## McHenry

FROM PAGE 15

Fortune 500 company. A number of her friends from the D.C. branch of her company were on hand at the event to help celebrate the release of her book.

Asked by an audience member whether she had to do a lot of research, she replied that while writing about food was easy, she was uneducated about Aesperger's Syndrome (a lower form of autism) and read a lot of first person narratives on Aesperger's to get a feel for the character's voice.

McHenry resides in New York but has ties to the area from living in Washington for 10 years and received her master's degree at American University. She's not on an official book tour but is independently promoting herself and traveling to a couple places a month.

Information about McHenry's book and other writing projects of hers can be found at [www.jaelmchenry.com](http://www.jaelmchenry.com).

One More Page Books at 2200 North Westmoreland St. has author readings approximately twice a week. Its number is 703-300-9746.

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