

The Arlington Connection

Lighting Up The Season

NEWS, PAGE 8

All eyes are on the tree as Linden Resources CEO Linda Chandler switches the lights on its holiday tree on Friday, Dec. 2 in front of its headquarters at 750 South 23rd St.

Home Life Style

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DECEMBER 7-13, 2011

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NEWS

Mystery Flag

With the black bird.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
THE CONNECTION

Passers-by at the corner of Lee Highway and North Lexington Street notice three flagpoles. The "Stars and Stripes" are known to all. Many recognize Virginia's state flag.

Pole three, however, holds a mystery. In a child's terms, it is "the flag with the black bird."

The flags fly before a neat little building which is home to The Republic Group, or TRG, founded in 1958. Ten years later, two then-recent graduates of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service joined its staff. A specialty is global marketing of American technology for large engineering projects, such as an entire airport or a country-wide weather forecasting network. Another specialty is selling high technology components for electronic and environmental systems of all kinds. Branch offices in Europe, Asia, South America and Australia fa-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE CONNECTION

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What TRG does, it does well. Evidence is the white pennant with a blue "E" flying low on the center pole. It is the U.S. government's award for excellence in international trade conferred by the U. S. Department of Commerce. TRG was "Exporter of the Year" in 2007.

Michael W. Ueltzen, one of the Georgetown University graduates, has been company president since 1992. He was born in Austria and raised in Germany. The other "Hoya," Bob Rissland, long has held the

SEE MYSTERY. PAGE 9

Come see why...

The October issue of *Washingtonian Magazine's* article "Finding the Right School" features The Howard Gardner School as a top five school for "Nurturing Community."

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 Closed Christmas Day
 Bradlee Shopping Center 3690 J King Street Alexandria, VA 22302 703.820.8600



The 50-foot spruce tree at Linden Resources glows with lights at the annual tree lighting ceremony.



Misty Bastian and Jennifer Russell join in with song as the brass band plays a few holiday favorites.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Linden Resources Hosts 'Miracle on 23rd Street'

Linden Resources, formerly SOC Enterprises, held its annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec. 2 in front of its headquarters at 750 South 23rd Street. Linden Resources, a non-profit, works to provide employment services for people with disabilities. The evening got under way with a concert by members of

the National Concert Brass Band performing holiday tunes. Linden staff members and neighbors joined in with a sing-along. Linden CEO Linda Chandler led the countdown as the 50-foot spruce tree was lit. Immediately following the tree lighting, Santa arrived on top of an Arlington County fire truck by way of Station #5.



The National Concert Brass Band plays holiday favorites as the staff and neighbors gather for the annual holiday tree lighting.



Santa is greeted by dozens of children as he steps off the fire engine.

Trodden Out

Longtime Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney Richard Trodden retires.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Next week, longtime Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney Richard Trodden will step down and hand the reins of power to his chief deputy. He's been the county's chief prosecutor for almost 20 years, going after petty thieves to hardcore criminals. He's been in the position since 1993, when Commonwealth's Attorney Helen Fahey became a federal prosecutor. He had to stand election in 1994 and then again in 1995. He was reelected in 1999, 2003 and 2007.

"I would describe him as the E.F. Hutton of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Association," said Roanoke Commonwealth's Attorney Donald Caldwell. "When he speaks people listen."

Trodden frequently represents the association in Richmond, keeping an eye on legislation that could influence how prosecutors go about their business. Prosecutors across the commonwealth say that Trodden has the intelligence to know how the proposed legislation will work and the demeanor to lobby members of the General Assembly in a way to advocate for their cause.

"One of the things I've always admired about him is his sense of humor, which he's always able to maintain no matter what's going on," said Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel. "If someone is taking themselves too seriously, he has this ability to defuse it and move on."

AN ARLINGTON NATIVE, Trodden grew up in Arlington Forrest
SEE TRODDEN, PAGE 6

Providing Testing On World AIDS Day

No excuse not to know.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
THE CONNECTION

One thousand three hundred and fifty-seven Arlingtonians are living with HIV/AIDS. This World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, The Arlington Department of Human Services sponsored a free, rapid HIV testing.

"I think HIV is a problem everywhere," said Dr. Reuben Varghese, health director for the Arlington County Public Health Division. "It would be nice to someday not have a World AIDS Day. It is preventable. People need to know their status. The only way to get to zero is to prevent transmission or those who have it get treatment and know their status."

AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, is the disease caused by HIV, human immunodeficiency virus. The virus attacks the body's immune system and leaves it susceptible to other life-threatening infections. HIV can be sexually transmitted or blood born,

often spread by IV drug use.

"Men, women, heterosexual, homosexual, all are at risk," said Varghese. "All races are affected."

Varghese said HIV is preventable if people can learn to change their behavior. This is difficult, he said, so programs often focus on starting healthy habits for young people, before dangerous behavior begins. He pointed to the effectiveness of this strategy with programs such as Cover Your Cough and seatbelts.

He encouraged routine testing for sexually active or IV drug-using individuals.

"If people want to be tested, they can be tested any day of the week,"

SEE HIV, PAGE 5

Clinic Hours

Arlington HIV/STD Services
2100 Washington Blvd., Arlington
703-228-1200
Monday
STD Clinic* (including confidential HIV testing) 12-3 p.m.
Wednesday
Anonymous HIV Testing 3-6 p.m.
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10 am - 3 pm

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- Baja Fresh • Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizza • The Cheesecake Factory • Crumbs Bake Shop • Harry's Tap Room • IOTA Club & Cafe • La Tasca • Lime Fresh (coming soon) • Red Mango • Tandoori Nights

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NEWS

Saluting 'Spirit of Community'



Mary Ann Nirschl receives a standing ovation from the audience as she walks to the stage for the presentation of the Spirit of Community Award.



ACF president Jim Whittaker and ACF trustee Jonathan Kinney present William Fogarty, chair of the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing Board of Directors with the first of three ACF innovation and Impact Awards.



John Murphy, Leadership Arlington Class of '99, accepts the third prize for Innovation and Impact on behalf of Leadership Arlington.



Board Chair of Greenbrier Learning Center Shally Stanley addresses the audience after accepting the ACF Prize for Innovation and Impact.

The Arlington Community Foundation held its annual Spirit of the Community luncheon on Monday, Dec. 5, at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel.

The foundation was founded in 1991 by the Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit in Virginia, the Hon. William T. Newman, Jr.

Mary Ann Nirschl was the recipient of the 2011 William T. Newman, Jr. Spirit of the Community Award.

Nirschl was honored for her support of healthcare services for the uninsured and the Arlington Free Clinic. She has served on the board of the clinic for more than 12 years and is key in raising funds for the clinic.

She also served as president of the Arlington Medical Society Alliance, president of the Board of the Medical Society of Virginia Alliance, membership committee of the American Medical Association Alliance, served as health education counselor for Virginia for the Southern Medical Association Alliance, served on the Arlington Hospital Foundation Board and also as hospital-ity chair for the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery national meeting.

Three addition awards were also presented for innovation and impact by non-profits in Arlington. The recipients were the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, Greenbrier Learning Center and Leadership Arlington. For more information on the Arlington Community Foundation see www.alrch.org

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'HIV Is a Problem Everywhere'

FROM PAGE 3

said Varghese. "They are also welcome to go to any other health department in the national capital region."

Jane Ryapolova, a 23-year-old Russian translator, got tested in advance of her upcoming marriage. She said she wanted to know her status — it was negative — because, "If you find out early, you can do something about it."

"If you can't prevent it, you can still treat it," said Varghese. "Treatment is very good for the vast majority of people. On the optimal dose, people are living long lives, into their 70s and 80s. In the past, it was a different situation. It was felt to be a universal death sentence. I think everyone would like life without HIV but life is possible with HIV."

Philip Kane, a clinical psychologist in Arlington



Dr. Reuben Varghese, health director for Arlington County Public Health Division, stands in front of a sign that reads "1,357 Arlingtonians are living with HIV/AIDS; 888 Arlingtonians have died from HIV/AIDS"

ton who works with patients with HIV/AIDS, said they often have issues related to relationships, disclosing their status, physical problems, mental problems, emotional problems and financial problems.

"Because HIV is chronic I think there are a lot of challenges to trying to give people hope but nowadays with medication people are living longer lives than they used to," said Kane. In addition to providing testing each week, the Arlington Department of Human Services sponsors the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) for individuals with HIV/AIDS who have limited or no medical insurance and low income.

"The fear of the disease should not prevent people from getting tested," said Varghese. "Encourage loved ones to get tested."

PHOTO BY MARY HOROWITZ/THE CONNECTION

CRIME REPORT

The following crimes were reported to the Arlington County Police Department for the week of Nov. 24 to Dec. 1.

ABDUCTION-ARREST. Nov. 27. 2300 block of S. Eads Street. On Nov. 27 at 12:32 a.m., a man grabbed his girlfriend to prevent her leaving their residence and assaulted her. A 39-year-old Arlington man was charged with abduction and assault and battery. He was held without bond.

UNLAWFUL WOUNDING-ARREST. Nov. 25. 4300 block of S. 6th Street. On Nov. 25 at 10 a.m., a woman assaulted another in a group home. A 30-year-old Arlington woman was charged with unlawful wounding and held without bond.

BANK ROBBERY. Nov. 29. 900 block of N. Stuart Street. On Nov. 29 at noon, an unknown man entered a bank. He displayed a handgun and demanded money. He fled after receiving cash. The suspect is described as a white male, 5'7" to 5'9" with a thin build. He wore a gray hooded sweatshirt pulled up over his head, a baseball hat and a black vest.

ROBBERY. Nov. 27. 1200 block of S. Forest Drive. On Nov. 27 at 10 p.m., a 15-year-old male was approached by two unknown older male teenagers. The suspects held him by his shirt and stole his cell phone. The suspects were both African American males, 5'10" and 140 lbs. who were wearing dark clothing.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY-ARREST. Nov. 27. 3100 block of Clarendon Boulevard. On Nov. 27 at 1:20 a.m., a man assaulted a bouncer at a bar. A 29-year-old Alexandria man was charged with assault and battery and released on a summons to appear in court.

ATTEMPT BURGLARY. Nov. 27. 200 block of N. George Mason Drive.

SEE CRIME, PAGE 7

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Come and Enjoy these Upcoming Classes by Guest Chef - Gina Stipo.

Guest Chef - Gina Stipo 1/20 Demonstration 7-10 pm \$100 —
Chef Gina Stipo is an Italian-American chef living and operating her cooking school near Siena, Italy where she offers hands-on cooking classes, insights into the cuisine of this beautiful region, and culinary tours. Come in and enjoy this wonderful regional Italian class with Chef Gina as she prepares some of the classic foods from Tuscany. *Antipasto: Sformato di Pecorino con Pere Arroste (Tuscan pecorino flan with roasted pears); Primo Piatto: Zuppa di Funghi (wild mushroom soup); Secondo Piatto: Pollo Arrosto con Carciofi e Limone (roasted chicken with artichokes & lemon); Dolce: Cantucci (almond biscotti).*

Guest Chef - Gina Stipo 1/21 Participation 2-5 pm \$95 —
Come in and enjoy a hands-on pasta class with guest chef Gina Stipo - 3 pastas and potato gnocchi. *Pici al Briciole (hand rolled spaghetti with bread crumb sauce); Spaghetti alla Chitarra con Zucca, Pancetta, e Salsiccia (guiltar-cut spaghetti with squash, pancetta & sage); Pasta di Gragnano con Salsiccia e Rosamarino (Gragnano artisan pasta with sausage & rosemary); Gnocchi di Patate con Sugo di Noci (potato gnocchi with walnut sauce)*

Guest Chef - Gina Stipo 2/24 Demonstration 7-10 pm \$100 —
Antipasto: Bruschetta con Cavolo Nero (toasted bread with Tuscan kale); Crostini con Crema di Dragoncello (bread rounds with tarragon cream) Primo Piatto: Risotto con Zucca e Aceto Balsamico (risotto with winter squash & balsamic vinegar); Secondo Piatto: Maiale Arrosto con Semi di Finocchio (roast pork with fennel seed & pollen); Dolce: Ciostata (jam tart)

Guest Chef - Gina Stipo 2/25 Participation 2-5 pm \$95 —
Ravioli di Ricotta e Spinaci con Burro Salsiccia (ricotta & spinach ravioli with butter-sage sauce); Tagliatelle con Ragù di Anatra in Vin Santo (fresh egg pasta with duck-Vin Santo ragu); Agnolotti di Porcini e Tre Formaggi con Noci Moscato Burro (porcini & three cheese pasta with nutmeg & butter); Pasta di Gragnano con Cimi di Rape e Peperoncino (Gragnano artisan pasta with rapini & cayenne)

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

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Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 7 - 9 p.m.
Lemon Road Elementary School
7230 Idylwood Road, Falls Church VA 22043

Find out about plans to construct sound walls on the Dulles Connector Road/Route 267, for three miles in both directions from Route 123 (Dolly Madison Boulevard) to Interstate 66 in Fairfax County. The sound walls will be constructed to mitigate noise from Dulles Metrorail which is being constructed at-grade in the median of the Dulles Connector Road.

Stop by anytime between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. VDOT staff will be available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting or submit them by December 27, 2011 to Mr. Hamid Misaghian, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Telephone: 703-259-1795 or 800-367-7623. You may also email your comments to: meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Sound Walls Comment" in the subject line.

In compliance with VA Code 10.1-1188 for state funded construction projects, an environmental review determined the project will not have significant impacts to the environment.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project, or about special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed above.

State Project: 0267-029-919, P101, C501 UPC: 98232

Kenmore Junior Dance To Perform 'The Nutcracker'

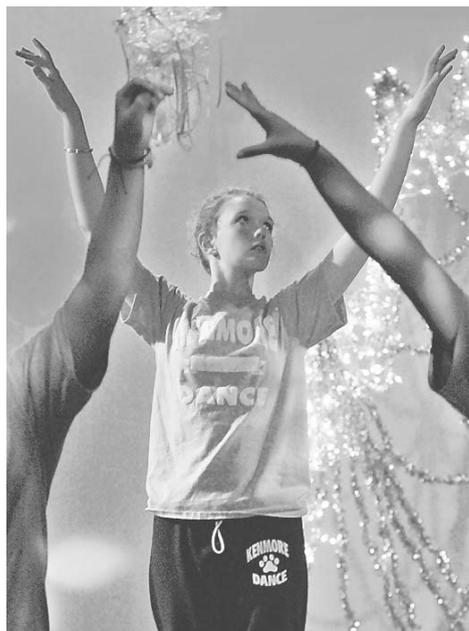
Rehearsals are nearly complete as the Kenmore Junior Dance Company prepares to take the stage at Kenmore Middle School on Carlin Springs

Road on Thursday, Dec. 8, and Friday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. for a performance of The Nutcracker. Tickets are complimentary, but donations are welcome.

With music by Tchaikovsky, Bowen McCauley Dance Company members Michelle de Fremery and Alvaro Palao have set original choreography to "The Waltz of

the Flowers" section for the student performers.

The school orchestra will also perform music for a few of the acts in the ballet.



The Snow Queen, Elle Hawley, dances among the snowflakes.



Maura Reiley as Clara admires her Christmas present of the Nutcracker.



Tara Dolan takes the stage as the Sugar Plum Fairy.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney Richard Trodden Retires

FROM PAGE 3

neighborhood, attending St. Thomas More Cathedral School and graduating from a preparatory seminary boarding school known as St. John Vianney in Goochland County near Richmond in 1964. Although he was interested in becoming a priest as a teenager, that's not how his story unfolds.

"As you can tell, I didn't proceed along that course," he said. "Although there is something similar about practicing law and being a priest in that they are both two of the older professions."

After graduating high school, Trodden returned to Northern Virginia to attend

George Mason College in Fairfax County, which was then a four-building campus of the University of Virginia. He majored in history, and he was particularly interested in the Reformation in England. Despite his Catholic upbringing, Trodden took a scholarly interest in the Church of England.

"I was very interested in the development of the Book of Common Prayer as it changed under the different kings or queens," he said. "They were having a battle in England over how much of Romanism to retain and how much to discard."

TRODDEN GRADUATED from George Mason in 1969, when American culture was

engaged in a conflicts about how much its past it wanted to retain and how much to discard. Trodden, who describes himself as a "nerd," says the revolutionary aspect of the 1960s is overemphasized, although he met the woman who would eventually become his wife at a 1968 rally organized by Martin Luther King for the Poor People's Campaign. "The folklore would have you think it was a wild time, but it wasn't really," he said. "People still worked hard, and not everybody had beads and pony tails."

After graduating from college, Trodden spent three years teaching history and contemporary social problems at a Catholic high school in Norfolk. Then he and his wife moved back to Arlington to become house parents for the first group home for what was then known as "the mentally retarded" in Arlington. The next year, he became a juvenile probation officer and took an interest in the criminal justice system.

"That's what made me become a lawyer," said Trodden, who attended Georgetown law school at night. "It was nice to realize that there is a way to settle disputes without chaos."

AS A YOUNG LAWYER in 1979, Trodden got a job as an assistant commonwealth's attorney in Arlington. It was an era when the county would have 12 or 15 murders a year, compared to one or two a year these days. Trodden credits the abolition of parole, which he supported, as one of the reasons for the decline. Back then, though, he was in charge of prosecuting everything from pickpockets and embezzlers to rapists and murderers.

"A lot of the people that we prosecute aren't evil people, some of them are just

drug-added stupid people," said Trodden. "But there are some cases where you know victims were badly hurt, and some of those stay with you. Some will stay with you for a long time."

Some cases have stayed with Trodden. One was the brutal murder of an elderly woman with a hammer by a man who was freed from a Cuban prison by Fidel Castro. Another is a case Trodden calls "the Big Mac Attack," a case in which nobody was hurt and four men each required a separate trial. And then there is the case that Trodden will be forever linked — prosecuting sportscaster Marv Albert for sexual assault.

"There were guys dressed up in negligees and French waitress outfits out on the platform in front of the courthouse," said Trodden. "The funny thing I always remark about is that we had a much more serious case going on — a homicide case — at the same time, and that got almost no attention but when you combine sex with celebrity, you get this kind of show."

FOR TRODDEN, the show is almost over. He'll be stepping down next month when his chief deputy Theo Stamos takes the oath of office to become the next commonwealth's attorney. In retirement, Trodden and his wife will be moving to Charlottesville to be near their daughter and son-in-law. He's hoping to do some volunteer work and teach law at the University of Virginia. One thing he won't miss is the campaigning.

"It's the least favorable part of the job," said Trodden. "You can't do anybody any favors as a prosecutor and about 50 percent of the people go away unhappy from this courthouse."

BULLETIN BOARD

ONGOING

The Glee Club. A new show choir called The Glee Club is being formed as part of the expanded offerings of the Teens and Theatre Company in Arlington. The Glee Club will meet Wednesdays from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Students will learn and even create routines to show tunes and pop songs. The Glee Club will be broken down into fall, winter and spring sessions so that students who participate in sports or other seasonal programs can still join. Registration forms are available online at www.teensandtheatre.org. Call 703-527-4061.

Our Lady Queen of Peace is seeking to replenish its food pantry. The following are particularly needed: rice (large bags appreciated, the pantry will rebag), dry beans (again, pantry will repackage), canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. 2700 South 19th Street. <http://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org/>

SECOND SUNDAY

PFLAG of Arlington. 3 to 4:30 p.m. PFLAG promotes the equality and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered persons and their families. Meets on the second Sunday of each month, at the Unitarian Universalist

Church at George Mason Drive and Route 50. Contact: aly.pflagdc@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

Sen. Mark Warner Address. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presents Keynote speech to the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. The Annual Meeting and Luncheon will detail the Chamber's highly anticipated key initiatives and developmental plans for the coming year. The event will also include the presentation of the prestigious Chair's Award, President's Award and Committee of the Year Award, along with the introduction of the 2012 Directors and Officers. Admission is \$55/person. At the Sheraton National Hotel.

TUESDAY/DEC. 13

Learn QuickBooks Financial Software. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Free. Sponsored by DEMEO PLLC. At 2009 N. 14th St., Suite 202, Arlington. Visit www.demeo.eventbrite.com or call 703-340-5194.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Telling Arlington's Story. 7 p.m. Meet and Greet; 7:25 p.m. Dinner; 8 p.m. Program. Sponsored by Arlington Committee of 100. At Marymount University, 2807 North Glebe Road, Arlington.

CRIME

FROM PAGE 5

On Nov. 27 at 1:20 a.m., an unknown man opened an apartment window and attempted to enter it. The suspect fled when confronted by the female resident. There is no suspect description.

ATTEMPT BURGLARY. Nov. 23. 3000 block of Columbia Pike. Between 4 p.m. on Nov. 20 and 9 a.m. on Nov. 23, the rear window to an apartment was tampered with, but no one gained entry. There is no suspect description.

LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES). Nov. 23. 1700 block of Arlington Boulevard. On Nov. 23 between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., multiple vehicles were broken into and items stolen. There are no

known suspects.

LARCENY FROM AUTO (SERIES). Nov. 23. 4300 block of N. 26 Street. Between 6 p.m. on Nov. 22, and 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 23, an unknown person broke into multiple vehicles broken into stole items. There is no suspect description.

STOLEN VEHICLES

♦ Nov. 23. VA JBH2847, 2002 Chrysler PT Cruiser, silver, 900 block of N. Monroe Street.

♦ Nov. 28. VA 455389, 2000 Yamaha motorcycle, blue, 1700 block of S. Hayes Street.

Red Top Receives Elder Service Award

Red Top Cab and its founder and owner, Neal Nichols, received an Elder Service award at the Culpepper Gardens 2011 Elder Service Awards Ceremony Monday, Nov. 14 at the Signature Theater. Red Top Cab was recognized for its discount program for seniors, the courtesy taxi hotline phones throughout the county, and its contributions to the development of the county-wide Super Senior Taxi discount program.

Pat Troy's Tour of Ireland



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OPINION

More on Giving Locally

Local organizations need your help right now to help needy families.

Organizations that help needy families and individuals in Northern Virginia have seen a dramatic increase in requests for assistance since the recession hit in 2008, and right now those organizations need your help to meet the need.

Connection reporter Victoria Ross cites the examples of Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) and Food for Others. In 2010, ECHO assisted more than 1,472 households, an increase of nearly 30 percent from before the recession. And Food for Others delivered a record 2.7 million pounds of food to an average of 125 families a day last year.

EDITORIALS

More than 45,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools are from families poor enough to qualify for free or reduced priced meals. That's more than 25 percent of students in the schools. In Arlington, 34 percent of students are poor enough to qualify for free or reduced meals. In the City of Alexandria, more than 54 percent of students are poor.

In Fairfax County, 46,000 live below the poverty line; more than 80,000 have no health insurance.

In Northern Virginia, thousands are unemployed and many more are underemployed. Among the homeless in Northern Virginia, many are working poor, families with at least one wage-earner who doesn't make enough to pay for housing for the family. About half of the homeless in Northern Virginia are children.

Here are some suggestions about how to help, but there are dozens of other opportunities.

Where To Give

In no particular order:

- ❖ **Our Daily Bread** — ODB has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.com.
- ❖ **Food for Others** — Food for Others is the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia, provides the assistance needed by unemployed and low-income neighbors. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com
- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO)**, 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. www.echo-inc.org.
- ❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. While donations are welcome during store hours, visitors are asked to call first at 703-339-8611 before dropping off. www.lortonaction.org.
- ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** — CAUSE ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org
- ❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ **The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic**, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. jsfreeclinic.org.
- ❖ **Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org.
- ❖ **Reston Interfaith**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road,

Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

- ❖ **SHARE** of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards. Gift cards can be dropped off at SHARE, c/o McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road on Wednesdays and Saturdays (except Thanksgiving week) 9:30 a.m. - noon. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. Email Lisa Lombardozi at LisaLombo@signaturecos.com. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org
- ❖ **FACETS** — Information about supply donations and FACETS holiday gifts drive is available on the website at www.facetscares.org. Additionally, FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. People who are interested in volunteering can contact 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org.
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna 703-281-7614
- ❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-222-0880
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, Fairfax 703-691-3178
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-391-0105
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**, Oakton, 703-385-3267
- ❖ **United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306
- ❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org
- ❖ **Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs (AMEN)**, 703-558-0035
- ❖ **Doorways for Women and Families**, Arlington 703-522-8858
- ❖ **Arlington Food Assistance Center** 703-845-8486
- ❖ **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia**, Arlington, 703-521-9890
- ❖ **Arlington Free Clinic**, 703-979-1400

Enthusiasm Marks Wakefield's Performance

BY SIENA RICHARDSON
MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

CAPPIES
REVIEW

A gambling debt, a real estate scheme, and a quest for cinematic fame combine in the zany comedy "The Marriage of Miss Hollywood and King Neptune." This backstage look at the so-called glitz and glamour of the silver screen has audience members in fits of laughter with its crazy characters and outlandish situations. The sheer enthusiasm and effort demonstrated by the cast and crew at Wakefield High School culminated in a light and spirited production.

"The Marriage of Miss Hollywood and King Neptune" is a comedy by Robert Schenkkan. Manny Weisenberg, a talent agent, is facing threats from the mob boss, Joey Bananas, due to unpaid gambling debts, as well as the possibility of losing his beloved girlfriend Cherie out of her frustration with Hollywood life. Three schemers borrow money from Bananas as well, to buy out land on a soon-to-be announced

road from Hollywood to the Pacific Ocean. The solution: Manny and the schemers work together to create a grand pageant, "The Marriage of Miss Hollywood and King Neptune," to create popular support for their efforts and pay off their debts.

Although there were some anachronisms in the costuming, the boldly colored and skillfully constructed pieces were effective at demonstrating character. From shiny teal mermaid costumes, to feather boas and glimmering showgirl dresses, these bold and outrageous items transported audience members to a movie set. Functional and period-appropriate props, such as the real estate schemers' office's old-fashioned telephones suggested the 1920s setting. The sound crew's expert timing of gunshot effects and subtle projection of the actors' voices advanced the plot effectively.

Jose Rodriguez's enthusiastic performance as Manny Weisenberg drove this production. While some actors exhibited an inadequate understanding of their lines, Rodriguez's per-

formance demonstrated a mastery of the language, as Weisenberg attempts to sweet-talk everyone around him into giving him what he wants. His chemistry with Arami McCloskey as Cherie was touching as he tried to convince her of her talent as an actress when she comes to him, fed up with show business.

Although some actors demonstrated inaccuracies in accents, Sofia Navas Sherry's talent was evident in her bold Brooklyn accent and impeccable comedic timing as gun-moll Lola Gotalotta. The sizzling chemistry between her and the equally hilarious Sean Balick (mobster Joey Bananas) was believable as they kissed after he bribed Manny into securing her the win in the pageant. Shelton Siegel was hilarious as Bob "Whiplash" McCord, a flamboyant Shakespearean actor who woefully makes his name by coming to Hollywood to make Westerns.

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

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NEWS

Mystery

FROM PAGE 2

office of executive vice president. He was born and raised in Germany. These personal backgrounds begin to unravel the mystery of the flag with the black bird.

TRG publishes a passing explanation of the third flagpole: "(O)ur international customers ... are welcomed by their country's flying flag upon arrival." Such flags change, but infrequently. Absent any other flag, and rather than leave the pole empty, one flag is seen repeatedly: Bundesflagge mit Staatswappen. Black over red over gold and with a modified national coat-of-arms, it is the "unofficial" flag of Germany — where TRG's senior executives grew up.

Mystery solved? Likely, but not certainly. Ueltzen and Rissland did not respond to multiple requests for comment about the third flagpole, and especially about "the flag with the black bird."

"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. Culpeper St.; Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Arlington Mill at Fairlington, 3308 S. Stafford St.; also Madison Community Center, 3829 N. Stafford St.; TJ Comm. Center, 3501 S. 2nd St.

Senior trips: "Lion King," Hippodrome, Balto., \$98, Tues., Dec. 20; Seasons Greetings, U.S. Botanic Garden, D.C., \$13, Thurs., Dec. 22. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

Armchair tour of West African countries, Monday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Register, 703-228-6300.

Hand and foot massage demo, Monday, Dec. 19, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills. Free. Register, 703-228-5722.

Madison Chess Club, Monday, Dec. 19, 9:30 a.m., Madison Comm. Center. Free. Details, 703-534-6232.

Free blood pressure and glucose monitoring, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m., Lee. Call for instructions, 703-228-0555.

English/Spanish dialogue sessions, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Details, 703-228-6300.

Indoor walking program, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Details, 703-228-6300.

Open gym for women basketball players, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Instructions, 703-228-4771.

Famous Christmas music recordings, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Register, 703-228-4403.

French conversation group, intermediate and advanced vocabulary skills, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Details, 703-228-6300.

Current events roundtable, Thursday, Dec. 22, 10:30 a.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Register, 703-228-6300.

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Home Life Style

Creating the Holiday Table

Local designers offer suggestions for dressing a festive table and caring for guests.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A festive holiday table requires more than prime rib and plum pudding. From incorporating natural elements to maintaining a consistent theme, local entertaining and design gurus dole out advice for creating a table as enticing as the food it holds.

Candlelight creates a warm ambience, but Ann O'Shields, owner of The Nest Egg in Fairfax suggests skipping tall tapers.

"Low candles set a really nice glow on the table and give it a really nice feeling as well," said O'Shields. "I always recommend doing unscented candles so they don't interfere with all the fragrances from your holiday meals."

Vienna-based design consultant Denise Willard of Décor by Denise suggests choosing a color scheme, but limiting the palette.

"A simple way to give your holiday decorations a designer look is to stick to two or three colors at most," said Willard. "This year the silver and green color combination is hot."

O'Shields agrees that simpler is better. "Whether you want to decorate with blues and browns and silver or go more traditional and use red and gold, keep your palate at a minimum for really high impact."

Let the colors of your room inspire you, especially when choosing flowers.

"Pick a color scheme that goes in your environment," said Evelyn Kinville, lead floral designer for Behnke's Florist Shop in



PHOTO COURTESY OF DESIGNER SHAZALYNN CAVIN-WINFREY

Mixing sizes and adding patterns creates visual holiday harmony.

"If you pick a theme and do it well throughout and don't falter, you'll be satisfied."

— Michael Corrado,
Devers Design Group, Arlington

Potomac. "If it is neutral, then you want to add in other colors. Choose colors that go in the room, maybe the colors of the linens. Sometimes people will bring in the china [and try] to pick [the colors in the pattern]."

Bring the outdoors in by using elements from nature, even from your own property, on your table.

"The outdoor, woody, organic feel is really popular right now," said O'Shields. "You can incorporate [things] from your own



Place cards can put guests at ease during a dinner party. These ceramic place cards come with a dry erase marker so they can be reused.

"Keep in mind that the dietary restrictions of the average person are much different than even just a few years ago."

— Scott Hoffner,
Main Event Caterers, Arlington

back yard, whether it is pinecones or holly. [You don't have to purchase] brand new decorations every year. You can freshen up what you have by using new elements from outside."

Rustic floral centerpieces are also popular.

"Woody [arrangements] are well-received in Potomac," said Kinville. "There is a [plant] called angel vine. It looks almost like grapevine except that it is very, very

fine. Add it to a fresh centerpiece to give it a woody look."

But remember that when you're creating concepts for the table, height matters.

"When setting your table for a dinner, keep in mind the height of things that you're putting together and how many people will be at the table," said O'Shields. "You don't want it to be so high that you can't see the person across from you."

For the most polished look, choose a theme and keep it consistent.

"I always think that if you pick a theme and do it well throughout and don't falter, you'll be satisfied whether you spend a lot of money or not," said Michael Corrado, owner and head designer at Devers Design Group in Arlington. "If your theme is candy cane, for example, and everything you do [is] red, white and candy cane oriented, it is going to be very successful looking. If you

SEE HOLIDAY TABLE, PAGE 15

Top 10 Things to Know Before You Remodel

BY JOSHUA E. BAKER

There are very few decisions that can impact your family life, and the value of one of your biggest assets than selecting the right remodeler. Why not approach this as you would when hiring a lawyer, investment advisor, or even a physician?



merous players, and may include an architect or designer, various engineers, landscape designer, lighting expert and others. Having one party who takes accountability and manages the entire process while looking after your interests is key to a successful remodeling experience.

2 Plan Early Government regulations and the permitting process for home remodeling are becoming increasingly restrictive and challenging. An experienced professional who understands the ever-changing requirements can help you to navigate through this process will be invaluable during the early stages of your project.

3 Find a Good Match Ensure that your contractor has a track record of success with projects similar to your own. Ask specifically about projects



PHOTO BY BOB NAROD PHOTOGRAPHY

An Arlington renovation by BOWA features cozy family room addition.

SEE TOP 10 THINGS, PAGE 11

Top 10 Things

FROM PAGE 10

of comparable complexity, magnitude and level of finish, or requiring special areas of expertise, such as green remodeling, or historical restoration.

4 Get First-Hand Info Check the remodeling company's current references and visit recently completed projects to see firsthand if you are satisfied with the caliber of work. The best remodeling firms will be able to provide you with a list of raving fans who will welcome you into their homes. Also, check the company website for examples of recent client testimonials from some of your neighbors.

5 Explore Options "Paper is cheap." Take as much time as you need to make sure that the design addresses all of your priorities. It is better to invest in design which is relatively inexpensive, vs. having missed opportunities or costly changes during the construction process. Look to the remodeler for advice on cost-effective ways to increase your home's value, such as using durable materials, incorporating specialty items you may not know we're available, and investing in green technologies that will pay off over time.

6 Be Wise Beware of offers and deals that appear too good to be true. Remodeling remains one of the most reported industries at the Better Business Bureau. Understanding exactly what you are getting for your investment and taking steps to ensure the remodeler will be able to provide service in the long-term is essential. Asking for bank references, researching employee tenure, and confirming that subcontractors have been paid on time can help you evaluate a company's financial stability.

7 Prevent Stress Especially for larger or more complex projects, insist on a full-time onsite project supervisor to orchestrate the entire process and all the players involved. This will help to keep your project on schedule and surprises to a minimum.

8 Be Firm Insist that a detailed production schedule be tied to your contract, and hold the builder accountable for these deadlines. While it's not commonly provided, ask for a written schedule guarantee with a penalty clause to ensure your satisfaction.

9 Double Check Warranties can vary greatly from one remodeler to another, so make sure you understand exactly what your builder will cover and for what duration after the completion of the project. Also ask about what resources are available to provide service if problems arise in the future.

10 Take Advantage Now is a great time to remodel! Compared to a few years ago, subcontractors are more readily available and their costs are significantly lower, enabling contractors to produce projects more efficiently and deliver greater value.

Joshua E. Baker is founder of BOWA Builders.

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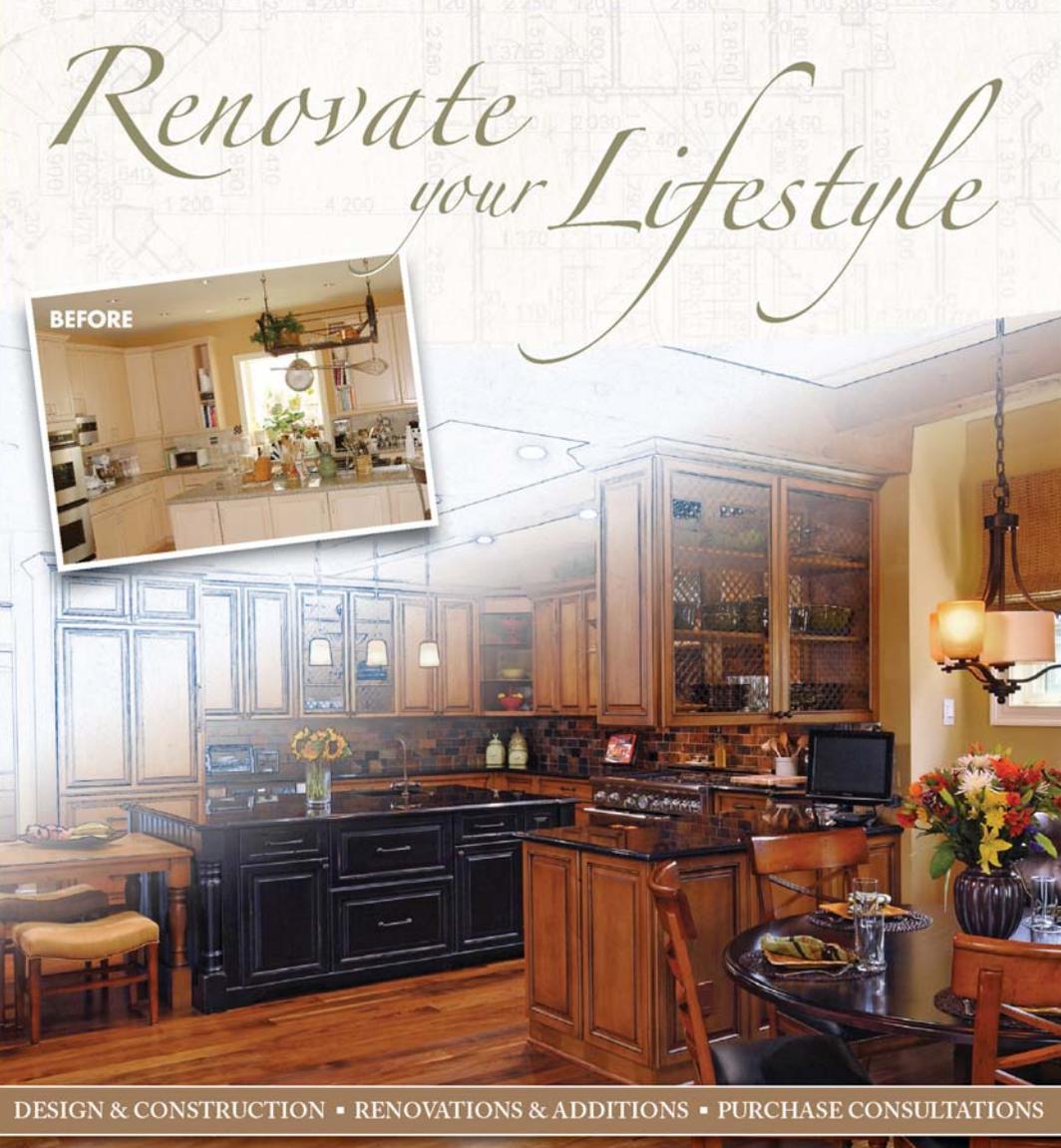
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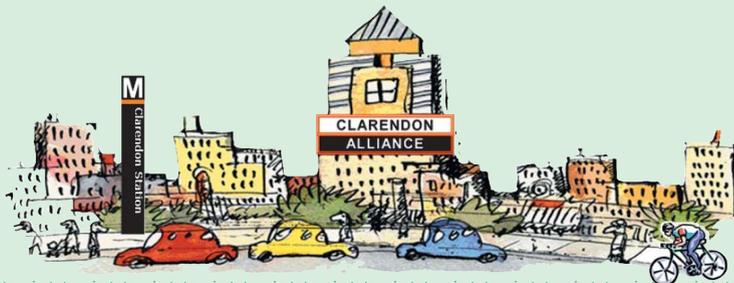
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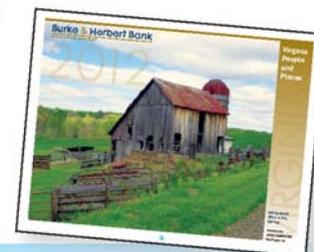
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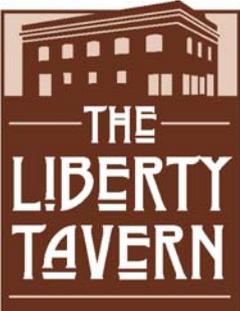
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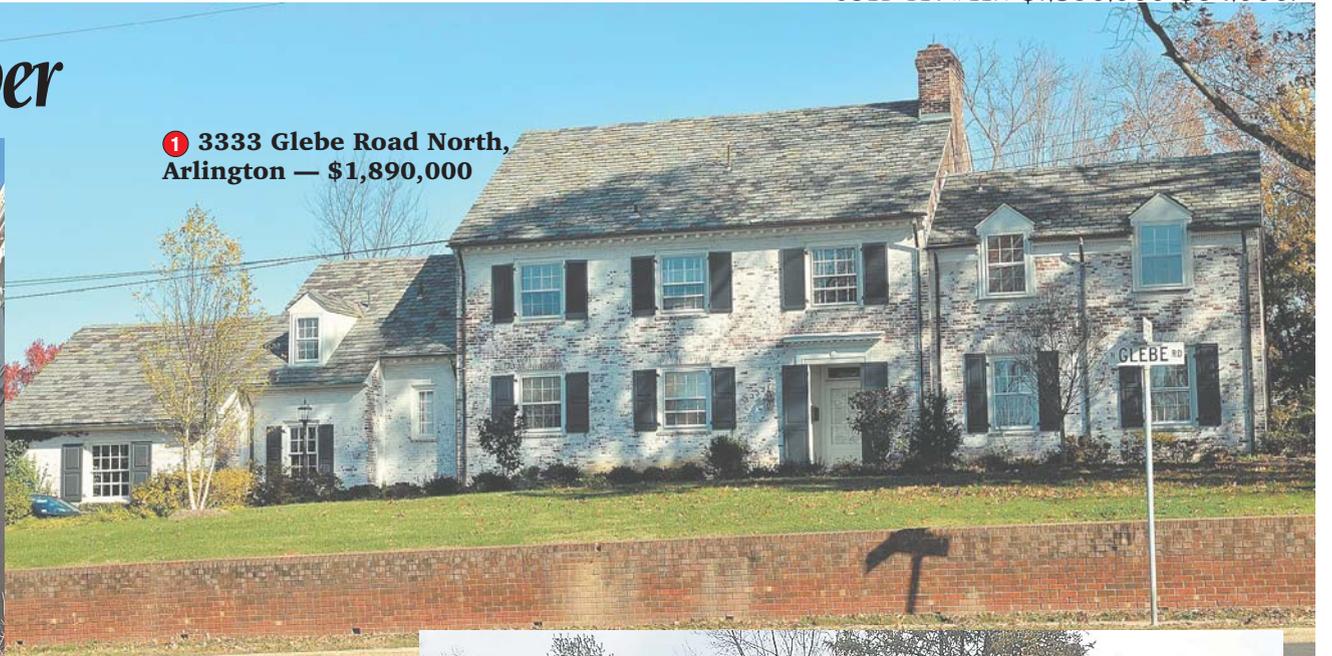
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2 1406 Meade Street North, Arlington — \$1,650,000



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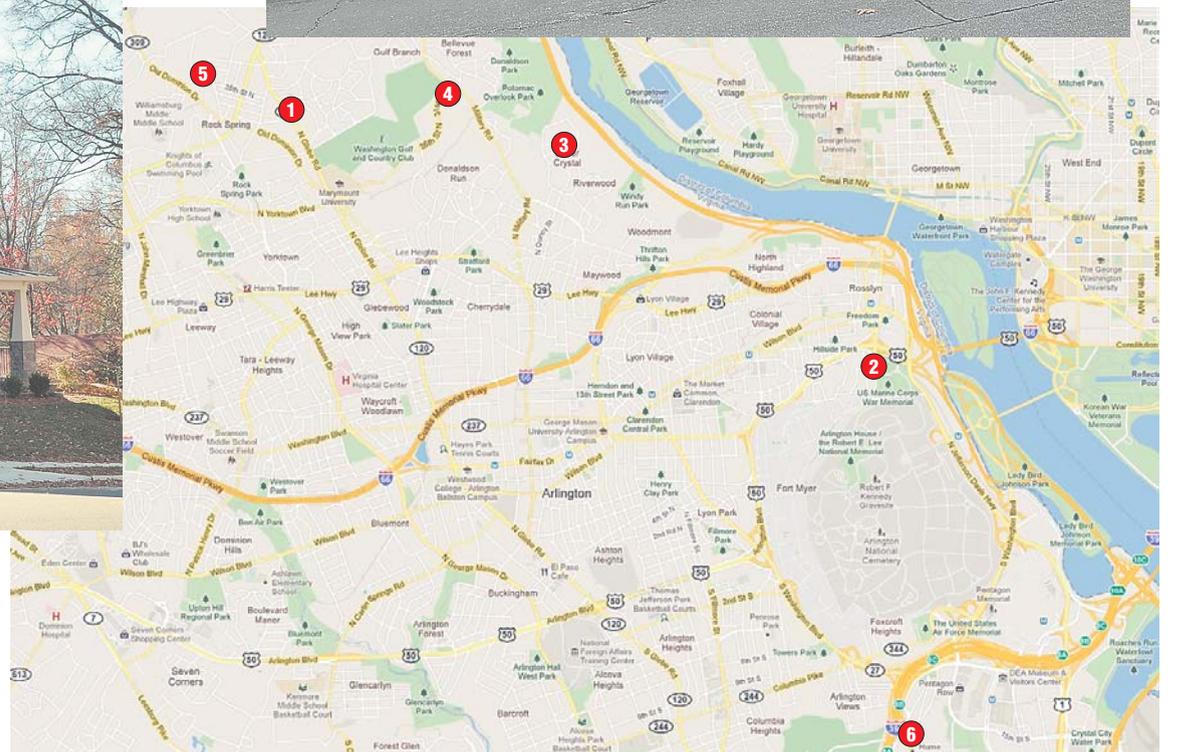
3 3941 27th Road North, Arlington — \$1,600,000



4 4212 31st Street North, Arlington — \$1,530,388



5 5046 35th Road North, Arlington — \$1,405,000



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1	3333 GLEBE RD N	6	..	5	..	2	...	ARLINGTON	...	\$1,890,000	..	Detached	0.65	...	22207	COUNTRY CLUB HILLS	10/05/11
2	1406 MEADE ST N	3	..	3	..	1	...	ARLINGTON	...	\$1,650,000	..	Townhouse	..	0.03	...	22209	.....	MONUMENT PLACE	.....	10/28/11
3	3941 27TH RD N	5	..	5	..	1	...	ARLINGTON	...	\$1,600,000	..	Detached	.....	0.47	...	22207	...	DOVER BALMORAL RIVERWOOD	.....	10/03/11
4	4212 31ST ST N	6	..	5	..	1	...	ARLINGTON	...	\$1,530,388	..	Detached	.....	0.24	...	22207	.....	BROYHILL FOREST/HILLS	.....	10/27/11
5	5046 35TH RD N	5	..	4	..	1	...	ARLINGTON	...	\$1,405,000	..	Detached	.....	0.23	...	22207	.....	COUNTRY CLUB MANORS	.....	10/28/11
6	1702 ARLINGTON RIDGE RD	5	..	4	..	1	...	ARLINGTON	...	\$1,400,000	..	Detached	0.44	...	22202	TOP OF ARL RIDGE ROAD	10/28/11

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Holiday Table

FROM PAGE 10

start faltering, that is when your event looks mish-mashed and not well organized."

Don't be afraid to break tradition. Holly and mistletoe are holiday mainstays, but O'Shields says sometimes it is wise to mix old and new.

"If you have plates that you like that were passed down to you, you can use them and add in some new, modern elements, like mercury glass pieces," she said. "A good way to keep your decorations current is by adding in modern elements."

Kinville suggests looking for ways to personalize your centerpieces and other embellishments.

"A good way to give [your centerpieces] a custom look is to [have them made in] your own containers," she said. "[Choosing accessories] from one's own environment, will make [a centerpiece] look like it was done especially for [you]."

FOR YOUR GUESTS

Use care in choosing a menu, keeping in mind possible dietary restrictions of your guests.

"Make sure you understand all of your guests' needs and are doing your best to make sure that you have food for everyone so that no one feels overlooked or left out," said Scott Hoffner, corporate chef for Main Event Caterers in Arlington. "Keep in mind that the dietary restrictions of the average person are much different than [they were] even just a few years ago. There is a huge turn to vegetarianism and veganism, and you have gluten issues and religious factors in terms of pork or shellfish."

Hoffner believes a menu with farm-to-table fare will make a memorable meal.

"Find food that is local, fresh and in season," said Hoffner. "At the end of that day, that is what is going to give you the best result."

A little planning can make your guests more comfortable.

Place cards can ease anxiety especially when guests don't know each other.

"They put guests at ease," she said. "If you see the table and you see that there is already a place for you, there are not awkward [moments] of looking for a seat [and trying to determine] who you should sit by. They take the anxiety out, especially if guests don't know each other."

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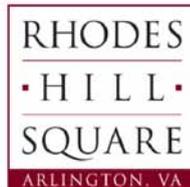
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Wakefield Performs Better During Tribute Game

Warriors, TC honor historically black schools in Arlington, Alexandria.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Last season, Wakefield boys basketball coach Tony Bentley was pleased with everything but his team's effort when the Warriors traveled to face T.C. Williams in a contest paying tribute to historically black schools in Arlington and Alexandria. The teams sported snazzy throwback jerseys and competed in front of a big crowd, but Bentley said Wakefield played "scared" en route to a lopsided loss.

On Dec. 3, the schools once again met at T.C. Williams High School to honor the past. The Titans donned Parker-Gray Bulldogs jerseys while the Warriors dressed as the Hoffman-Boston Trojans. The teams played in front of another sizable audience, but this time Wakefield's performance better resembled the quality of the environment.

Defending Northern Region champion TC defeated Wakefield, 69-58, one year after the Titans throttled the Warriors by 23 points. Last season, the Warriors went scoreless for the first 4 1/2 minutes and trailed by as many as 33. On Saturday, Wakefield led briefly in the second quarter.

"I think we may have focused too much on making sure we didn't get embarrassed [to the point] we didn't play as well," Bentley said. "But I think the main thing is that we didn't look scared this time. We played. We completed."

Corey Aldrich led Wakefield with 13 points. Anthony Chatman finished with 12 points and Khory Moore added nine. But Saturday's contest was about more than what the Titans or Warriors did on the court. It was about bringing members of the Arlington and Alexandria communities together for a fun basketball event. After a freshman game at 2 p.m. and a pair of junior varsity games, the TC and Wakefield varsity girls faced off prior to the boys game.

"To me, winning and losing this game means nothing," Bentley said. "It's about



Wakefield's Devon Adams dribbles up the floor against T.C. Williams' Jordan Byrd on Dec. 3.



Wakefield's Kimari Moore, right, defends T.C. Williams' Daquan Kerman on Dec. 3.

what we're doing for Arlington County and Alexandria. If you've been around, Alexandria and Arlington have had so many fights with each other. [T.C. Williams head coach]

Julian King and I have really tried to bridge the gap with Arlington and Alexandria by doing this game. It's so fun to see the old-timers out there enjoying their old days, so

I'm really happy about that."

The Titans and Warriors honored "old-timers" by sporting the names of former Parker-Gray and Hoffman-Boston players on the back of their jerseys. Bentley helped design the uniforms, which were modeled after the early 1970s Atlanta Hawks (Hoffman-Boston) and the 1970s New York Nets (Parker-Gray). Some former athletes who attended the game sat courtside and were introduced prior to girls and boys varsity games.

"It's just a great feeling to have the kids honor the old players and have the old players come out and see our players give 100 percent effort," King said. "In that aspect, wins and losses really don't matter. As coach Bentley and I have talked about, it's not about us, it's about the two schools."

The loss dropped Wakefield's record to 1-2. The Warriors have nine seniors on the roster, but many are low on varsity experience. Bentley said a team leader has yet to emerge.

Bentley said he is expecting big things from Justin Glenn, but he needs a better effort from the center than the four-point, one-rebound performance Glenn turned in against T.C. Williams. Aldrich is one of the team's top scoring threats, but Bentley said Aldrich has exhibited poor shot selection.

"You can't be a leader," Bentley said, "if guys are going to look up to you and watch you come down one-on-four and shoot a 3-pointer."

Wakefield will open National District competition on Dec. 13 at Washington-Lee.

"To me, winning and losing this game means nothing. It's about what we're doing for Arlington County and Alexandria."

— Wakefield boys basketball coach Tony Bentley

Wakefield Girls Experience Sizable Crowd at TC

Logue leads Warriors with 9 points in defeat.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Wakefield girls basketball team didn't earn a victory against T.C. Williams on Dec. 3, but the Warriors' experience could help the team down the road.

Wakefield traveled to Alexandria to face the defending Northern Region runner-up as part of an event paying tribute to historically black schools Parker-Gray and Hoffman-Boston. After a freshman game and two junior varsity contests between the schools, the TC and Wakefield varsity girls played in front of a sizable crowd at The

Garden. With TC donning Parker-Gray throwback jerseys, the Titans defeated the Warriors, 73-33, prior to the boys varsity matchup.

Simone Mercer and Rachel Logue scored back-to-back baskets to pull Wakefield within 10 at the end of the first quarter, but TC started to pull away in the second. While the Warriors fell short, head coach Marcia Richardson agreed that experiencing the

nerves that come with playing in front of a big crowd could help Wakefield deal with pressure situations later in the season.

"This is a great opportunity for the girls to really be involved in something really special as far as being able to play in front of a big group of people," Richardson said. "You don't find that in a lot of

SEE LOGUE, PAGE 17

SPORTS

Logue Leads Warriors with 9 points

FROM PAGE 16

women's basketball — [especially] high school ball — so it's nice for them to experience it."

Logue, a left-handed point guard, led Wakefield with nine points.

"That is the Rachel Logue that I was expecting last game (against Dominion), but she really played well tonight," Richardson said. "[She is a] natural lefty, she was aggressive, she was in attack mode the entire night. ... She played with a lot of grit."

Richardson said Nahdeya Quarles, who scored eight points, also played well as part of a team effort. Kaitlyn

Lyon finished with five points, Brittany Prosisie tallied four points, Michelle Noelle added three and Krystal Shackelford and Mercer each had two.

Wakefield dropped its first two games of the season, but Richardson said she's hoping the Warriors will be playing well when the calendar turns to 2012. Wakefield will travel to Baltimore to participate in a holiday tournament and will open National District competition on Dec. 13 at Washington-Lee.

"I think that they're going to be fine come January," Richardson said, "and, ultimately, that's the meat of the schedule."

"This is a great opportunity for the girls to really be involved in something really special as far as being able to play in front of a big group of people. You don't find that in a lot of women's basketball — [especially] high school ball — so it's nice for them to experience it."

— Wakefield girls basketball coach Marcia Richardson

SPORTS BRIEF

Wakefield Competes At Elite Opener

The Wakefield wrestling team finished 10th at the Elite Opener last weekend.

Henry Vasquez placed third in the 106-pound

weight class, finishing 3-2. Henry Majano, last year's state runner-up at 130, placed third at 132 with a 4-1 mark.

Ruben Galicia (113, ninth), Deangalo Jones (126, fifth), Jamal Zaggout (138, ninth), Michael Rios (152, sixth), Charles Ramirez (160, 11th) and Anthony Rivas (195, ninth) also competed for the Warriors.



Wakefield's Michelle Noelle (20) jumps against a T.C. Williams' Brooke Ninman to start their Dec. 3 contest in Alexandria.

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20



Not Easy Being Green

Wakefield High School special education instructor Alan Glascock, dressed as the Grinch, poses with 8-year-old Madison Akers following the annual Holiday Parade of Lights boat show along the Potomac River Dec. 3. Glascock was aboard the Dugout II, one of 40 boats that participated in the annual water parade from Washington Harbor to Alexandria.

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PEOPLE

Show and Tell



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Regularly, my wife or I receive an invite/query for something or other from friends, family and/or miscellaneous past, present and future business acquaintances, so that they can “see Kenny.” Concerned and courteous – and caring though it may be, it makes me feel peculiar, sort of, like I’m something of a “bearded lady.” “Come see the lung cancer patient as he continues to live against all medical odds.” And apparently, though I don’t really feel it – and certainly don’t acknowledge it, I am a bit of an oddity, as I have been all my life. But now, near death – in terms of statistical presumption, I need to be seen; not to be believed, but to be congratulated, encouraged, embraced: “The Amazing Kenny,” as the barker might shout it to grab your attention.

Now I’m not about to charge admission or set up a 900 number to answer questions about my life-with-cancer experiences, but people do want to “see me” like I’m the adult version of the baby on the Seinfeld episode when the new mother whined over the phone to Jerry: “Jerry, you gotta see the baby!” (Do you remember the mother described the baby as “breathtaking?”) Well, I don’t think I’m breathtaking – or worth whining about, but I am still taking breaths, which apparently, is worth noting. Moreover, my living and still breathing is interesting to some, as if my continuing to do so provides some sort of wisdom.

I don’t see my continuing to live as any kind of wisdom, however, although I do have a bit of a story to tell. I think it’s more plain dumb luck – without characterizing myself too disparagingly. Sure, I’ve been “compliant,” the term most often used to describe one’s adherence to doctor’s orders. I’ve showed up for all my appointments and scans. I’ve taken all my medications as instructed and prescribed. In addition, I’ve tolerated my treatment with minimal complications. Whatever blips (abnormal labs) which have appeared in my weekly, every-three-week/now every-four-week lab work have always returned to acceptable levels within a reasonable time, which has enabled my treatment to proceed. In summary, I’ve been an excellent patient. As Curly Howard of The Three Stooges said: “I seen my duty and I done it.”

Does this behavior make me some sort of freak? How does one not adhere to medically-instructed protocols (if you believe in that sort of thing) when you’re given a death sentence? “I can treat you,” my oncologist said after a biopsy confirmed a malignancy in my lungs, “but I can’t cure you. Radiation is not an option. You have too many tumors. They’re like weeds.” (My wife, Dina, still hasn’t gotten over that last description.) To me however, it was all sort of amusing, considering that I was basically symptom-free and a lifelong non-smoker. As serious as all of it was – and is, and likely will continue to be, somehow, I’m able to not take it too seriously. Is that wisdom? I think it’s probably more like self-preservation.

As a result, I guess I am fairly well-preserved, given my circumstances. I wouldn’t say I’ve aged like fine wine or a bottle of single malt scotch, but I’m still able to walk (slowly though, the neuropathy and edema in my legs and feet – side effects, are a problem) and talk. And in so doing, I seem to be a sort of curiosity, maybe even a source of bemusement to people. Which bothers me not at all. I’m happy to still be in the game. Seeing is believing and showing can be telling. I don’t think I have too many answers, but maybe the fact that I’m available for questions matters more.

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



Knights of Columbus member Steve Booth prepares fresh vegetables for Thanksgiving dinners to be packaged and delivered those in need of a hot meal on Nov. 24.



John O’Neil prepares hot mashed potatoes as he helps fellow Knights of Columbus members prepare Thanksgiving dinners for the needy inside the Knights of Columbus, Edwards Douglass Council 2473 building.

Volunteering on Thanksgiving Day



Knights of Columbus members and local volunteers package 270 pre-sliced turkeys, mashed potatoes and stuffing for families, shelters and those who may need a hot meal on Thanksgiving day.



Volunteers Frank Lushe and his wife Cheryl toss the salad.



Volunteer Yvonne Kicklighter places slice tomatoes on top of the salad cups as fellow volunteers join the Knights of Columbus members prepare Thanksgiving dinners for needy families in the community.

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/THE CONNECTION

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

minute Petite Performance, suitable for age 5 and under. \$10-\$28. www.balletnova.org.

Service of Lessons and Carols. 10:30 a.m. Presented by the Walker Chapel United Methodist Church choir and the Falls Church Community Band Ensemble. At Walker Chapel, 4102 North Glebe Road, Arlington. Call the church office at 703-538-5200 or visit www.walkerchapel.org.

Winter Delights. 4 p.m. Featuring the NoVA Lights Chorale. A free community concert with holiday music from around the world. At Arlington Presbyterian Church, 3507 Columbia Pike (near Glebe), in Arlington. Visit www.novalightschorale.jigsy.com, or call 703-346-3512.

Holiday Concert and Sing-Along. 3 p.m. Free. A fund-raiser for Doorways, which provides shelter to abused and homeless women and families. The

Potomac Harmony Chorus will perform at the NRECA Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Visit potomacharmony.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Holiday Nature Crafts for Kids. 3:30 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$5. Ages 6 - 11. Register child only. Relax and have some holiday fun. Bring the kids to this special craft workshop where they can make natural-themed gifts and decorations. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington. Call 703-228-3403.

DEC. 13 TO 24

“Holiday Follies.” Part of Signature Theatre’s Cabaret Series. Single tickets for \$35. Call Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or the Signature Box Office at 703-820-9771. At Signature’s ARK Theatre. Visit signature-theatre.org.

DEC. 15

WIT Holiday Party. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Connect with Women in Technology colleagues and win prizes all while supporting the efforts of The Women in Technology Education Foundation (WITEF). Cost is \$45/members; \$65/non-members. At the Gannett Building. Visit www.womenintechology.org.

DEC. 16 AND DEC. 17

Holiday Art Show and Sale. An exhibit at the Arlington Artists Alliance. At the Fairlington Community Center. Features oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics, pastels and sculpture. The artist’s reception is Friday, Dec. 16 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The show will be open Friday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

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 DEC. 11

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play." Presented by the Providence Players of Fairfax. Tickets are \$15. At the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Visit www.providenceplayers.org, or 703-425-6782, and by email at providenceplayerstickets@cox.net.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 28

"The Rough-Faced Girl." Performances are Wednesdays to Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with some weekend 11 a.m. performances. Tickets are \$12/advance; \$15/door. At Signature Theater, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

"The Gift of Art." Small works by many members of the Arlington Artists Alliance. A Meet-the-Artists reception is Saturday, Dec. 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. At the Arlington Arts Gallery, 5179 Lee Highway, Arlington. Call 703-532-4350.

DEC. 9, 10, 11

"It's a Wonderful Life." Dec. 9-10 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10/general; \$5/students and seniors. At Bishop O'Connell High School, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Call 703-237-1448 or visit www.bishopoconnell.org/theatre.

DEC. 9 AND 10

Red Wanting Blue. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12. At Iota Club, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

DEC. 10 TO 18

Holiday House Craft Show and Sale. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m. The Holiday House is a juried arts & crafts sale by local artisans. There is a children's corner with items priced under \$15. At Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 No. 24th St., Arlington. Call Sharon Casey at 703-243-7329.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Holiday Helpers. Noon to 4 p.m. Cost is \$25. Ages 4 to 14. Register child only. We'll watch the kiddies while you shop 'til you drop! We'll keep them busy with fun and educational games, crafts, animal encounters and a few short films. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington. Call 703-228-6535.

"The Nutcracker" with BalletNova. 3 p.m. BalletNova Center for Dance, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Shortened 45-minute Petite Performance, suitable for age 5 and under. \$10-\$28. Visit www.balletnova.org.

Grand Reunion Concert. 7 to 10 p.m. Free. To



DEC. 11

Author Katie Fallon. 3 p.m. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will host author Katie Fallon at Potomac Overlook Regional Park in Arlington. Her book, *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird*, takes readers on a journey across two continents and shows how the plight of an imperiled creature is linked to the health of many other living things. At Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 N. Marcey Road, Arlington. Call 703-528-5406.

celebrate the band's 35th anniversary and release of its new album, *Roses and Memories*. With the Mill Run Dulcimer Band. At Friendship United Methodist Church, 3527 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Visit MillRunDulcimerBand.com.

DEC. 10-11

Christmas Tree Sale. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane at Military Road, Arlington. Call 703-522-1600 or visit www.standrewsnet.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

"The Last Christmas." 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. The Yorktown High School Madrigals will perform at the Arlington House, Robert E. Lee Memorial. Talks will be given throughout the day by park rangers about Christmas, 1860, the last Christmas of peace before the Civil War and the last year the Lee family would ever spend in their home. Arlington House is on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. Call 703-289-2533.

Candle Lighting Service. 6:30 p.m. Free. The Compassionate Friends of Northern Virginia invites all bereaved family members to its Annual Candle Lighting Service in memory of our children



SATURDAY/DEC. 17

World Children's Choir Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20/adults; \$10/seniors and students. Proceeds from this concert will go to the choir's scholarship fund for children and teens from families who are financially disadvantaged. At St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 4250 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. Call 703-883-0920 or info@worldchildrenschoir.org or www.worldchildrenschoir.org.

at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5533 N. 16th St., Arlington. Bring a picture of your child. Refreshments following service. Call Henry Allen: 703-362-6675/hnrallen2@gmail.com.

Winter Waterfalls Walk. 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$3. Families, ages 6 and up. See two creeks and one river on this chance to stretch your legs before holiday madness sets in. We'll hike about two miles over fairly flat but rough terrain. What critters will we see? Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington. Call 703-228-3403.

Noam Pikelný & Friends. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$17. At Iota Club & Café in Arlington.

"The Nutcracker" with BalletNova. 3 p.m. BalletNova Center for Dance, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Shortened 45-minute Petite Performance, suitable for age 5 and under. \$10-\$28. www.balletnova.org.

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DEC. 12 AND 19

Meditation and Buddhism Introductory Class. Every Monday at 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost \$12. *Pearls of Wisdom — Advice from Atisha's Heart.* In this series, we will examine advice given by the great Buddhist Scholar and founder of Kadampa Buddhism, Atisha. By following Atisha's practical advice, we can strengthen our spiritual practice, becoming more happy and peaceful as we progress along the spiritual path. Class includes teaching, guided meditation, and Q&A. Everyone is welcome. Class taught by lay Buddhist Teacher, Chris Jamison. Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Arlington Branch Location — The Griffin Center 3800 Fairfax Dr., Suite 5, Arlington. Call 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org

TUESDAY/DEC. 13

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$10. With the band, Steve Smith and the Meteors. At the Clarendon Ballroom, 3185 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Holiday Nature Crafts for Kids. 3:30 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$5. Ages 6 - 11. Register child only. Relax and have some holiday fun. Bring the kids to this special craft workshop where they can make natural-themed gifts and decorations. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington. Call 703-228-3403.

DEC. 13 TO 24

"Holiday Follies." Part of Signature Theatre's

Cabaret Series. Features Signature favorites Florrie Bagel, Priscilla Cuellar, Jake Odmark, Alan Wiggins, Weslie Woodley, and Steven Walker, as well as special guest performers appearing for each show. Single tickets for \$35. Call Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or the Signature Box Office at 703-820-9771. At Signature's ARK Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Visit www.signature-theatre.org.

DEC. 15

December Happy Hour. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Arlington Arts Center is hosting a "Down Under" Happy Hour, supported by the Embassy of Australia. Explore the exhibit, *Fall Solos 2011*, while enjoying wine, nibbles, and music. Visit <https://www.arlingtonartscenter.org/december-happy-hour>. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

WIT Holiday Party. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Connect with Women in Technology colleagues and win prizes all while supporting the efforts of The Women in Technology Education Foundation (WITEF). Cost is \$45/members; \$65/non-members. At the Gannett Building. Visit www.womenintechology.org.

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SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Encore Chorale Holiday Concert. 4 p.m. Free. Encore Chorale, the nation's largest choral program for older adults, will present over 150 singers between the ages of 55 and 96, performing a concert of holiday favorites directed by Jeanne Kelly. At Kenmore Middle School, 200 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Visit <http://encorecreativity.org>.

Country Western Dance. The Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association will hold its dance on Saturday, Dec. 17, at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Rd., Falls Church. Attendees are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign. Kevin Handy will be the DJ. The line dance "5,6,7,8" will be taught beginning at 7:30 p.m. Keith and Linda Buckle will teach the "Chiquita" couples specialty dance beginning at 8 p.m. Open dancing is from 8:30-11 p.m. and includes Two Step, Waltz, line, Swing, Cha Cha, and specialty dances. Couples and singles are welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5; PSDC members \$10. Snacks and drinks will be available. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941 and leave a message.

Art+Wine Bazaar. Noon to 6 p.m. An afternoon of artisans and a sommelier to benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Wine tickets will be sold to benefit AFAC and local artisans will sell their art ranging from fused glass, pottery, photography, jewelry and paintings. A silent auction will also be held. Sponsored by AFAC, Green Drinks Arlington. Held at Harbour Realty, 875 N. Randolph St., Suite C, Arlington. Call Genevieve Concannon at 512-767-3002



DEC. 1 TO DEC. 18

"The Christmas Cabin of Carnaveen." Tickets are \$15/adults; \$12/students, seniors. Dec. 9, 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 10, 17 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 11 and 18 at 2 and 4 p.m. At ArtSpace Falls Church, 410 South Maple Ave., Falls Church. Visit www.creativecauldron.org or call 571-239-5288.



Melody Tavern Opens in Potomac Yards

Nestled in the Potomac Yards area of Arlington, Melody Tavern is a new 6,700-sq.-ft. restaurant that opened with a series of food-tastings and soft openings earlier this month. It is quickly building a clientele of regular and loyal patrons who enjoy its creative American cuisine, warm and intimate atmosphere and 1940s-style jazz and blues music. The music-themed venue includes a 148-seat main dining area for watching performances, and an enclosed VIP “red room” that seats 32 people for private parties. Its outdoor patio can accommodate an additional 80 people. The restaurant is Wi-Fi accessible, and features a drop down projection screen and six large high-definition televisions for watching sporting events and up-to-date news reports.

The restaurant accepts reservations using “Open Table,” a nation-wide reservation system. Currently, the casual-dining restaurant is open for dinner and plans to

offer a jazz brunch on Sundays. It will open for lunch when a recently-constructed office building, located close by, is leased and occupied.

The owners also hope to benefit from a slowly recovering economy and the real estate expansion in Potomac Yards. The Eclipse on Center Park Condominium is located directly above and adjacent to the restaurant, the large Camden Potomac Yard luxury apartment building is across the street and Pulte Homes is building luxury townhome condominiums nearby.

Melody Tavern is open seven days a week, from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight on Sunday. It is located at 3650 S. Glebe Road, Suite 170, Arlington; and may be reached by calling 703-413-4141, or by visiting its web site at <http://melodytavern.com>.

Calling on Local Bands

Bowen McCauley Dance (BMD) is an Arlington-based non-profit organization with a mission to introduce people of all ages to the joy of dance. BMD’s founder, Lucy Bowen McCauley, is calling upon local bands to submit their music for consideration to be included in the 2012 performance schedule. One chosen musical group will later perform its song live with Bowen McCauley Dance (BMD) during the spring 2012 performance of “Lucy’s Local Playlist” performance on May 11-12, 2012, at Synetic Theater in Arlington.

To enter the Lucy’s Local Playlist Contest, musicians should submit the name of their song, a brief biography, and contact information.

Songs may be entered in any of the following musical categories: Rock, Country, Jazz, Pop, World, R&B, Hip Hop, Alternative, Punk, Metal, Techno, Post-Rock and Alt-Country.

The submission deadline is Dec. 20, 2011. Submission information can be found at: www.bmdc.org/how-to-submit.

2011 ABBIE Award Winners Announced

More than 7,500 Arlingtonians voted for their favorite local businesses and venues in the 2011 People’s Choice, Arlington Best Business “ABBIE” Awards, Arlington County officials announced. Here’s the list of 2011 winners:

- ❖ Arlington’s Best Boutique — ShoeFly
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Brunch — Carlyle
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Community-Based Nonprofit — Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Customer Service — Circa
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Dessert — Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Late Night Spot — Bob and Edith’s Diner
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Performing Arts Organization — Signature Theatre
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Place to Care for Your Pet — Dogma Gourmet Dog Bakery and Boutique
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Place to Dance the Night Away — Clarendon Ballroom
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Place to Learn Something New — Arlington Public Library
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Happy Hour — Whitlow’s on Wilson Bar and Grill
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Neighborhood Bar — Ireland’s Four Courts
- ❖ Arlington’s Best “Bargain” Restaurant — Lost Dog Café
- ❖ Arlington’s Best Family Friendly Restaurant — Lost Dog Café
- ❖ Arlington’s Best New Business — District Taco

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.

In addition to recognition from the Arlington County Board, this year’s ABBIE winners will receive a year’s worth of acknowledgment from Arlington Economic Development, including promotion on the Arlington County Web site, in Arlington e-newsletters, Arlington Virginia Network (AVN) television spots, newspapers advertisements and special placement in the Arlington County Visitors Guide and Map.



NOW THROUGH DEC. 18

“**A Broadway Christmas Carol.**” Created by Kathy Feininger, the show tells the story of the classic Dickens’ tale with uproarious parodies of favorite Broadway show tunes. Performances are Nov. 17-Dec. 18, Thurs. and Fri. at 8 p.m., Sat. at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sun. at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$45-50 (students \$25). TKTS 800-494-8497/www.metrostage.org, Groups/Info 703-548-9044. 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 28

“**The Rough-Faced Girl.**” Performances are Wednesdays to Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with some weekend 11 a.m. performances. Tickets are \$12/advance; \$15/door. At Signature Theatre, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 29

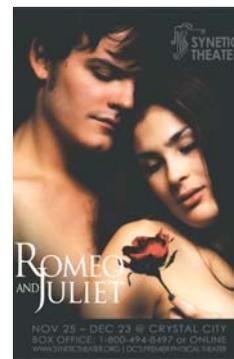
“**Hairspray.**” Weeknights and matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Directed by Eric Schaeffer, starring national radio host Robert Aubry Davis. Tickets start at \$63. Call 703-573-SEAT or visit www.signature-theatre.org. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

New Year’s Eve Bash. Hosted by Signature Theatre, the event includes a performance of “Hairspray” at 8 p.m. and then a count down to the new year with the entire cast. Tickets can be purchased by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or by calling the Signature Box Office at 703-820-9771. Performance prices are \$82 and \$87 (excludes handling fees). The New Year’s Eve party, which includes two drinks, hors d’oeuvres, a champagne toast, and dancing to our DJ’s tunes, are \$100 for the general public and \$75 for Signature season ticket holders. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

THROUGH DEC. 23

“**Romeo and Juliet.**” Tickets are \$45 to \$55. Part of “Speak No More” — The Silent Shakespeare Festival. Wednesdays 7:30 p.m., Thursdays – Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. with some Sunday evenings 7:30 p.m. At Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington. Call 800-494-8487 or www.synetictheater.org.



Alex Mills and Natalie Berk in “Romeo and Juliet.”

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DEC. 9, 10, 11

Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Fusion Indian dance works by the Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company (Dakshina) followed by Bhangra dance parties with the U.S. Department of Bhangra's DJ Beta-G. Tickets are \$25 dance performance and Bhangra Dance Party; \$15 for just Bhangra Dance Party. At the Black Box Theatre and Ballroom, Artisphere.

Arlington Jaycees Host Santa's Visit

The Arlington Jaycees will host Photos with Santa at the Ballston Common Mall, now through Saturday, Dec. 24. All are welcome to visit with Santa and have their photos taken with Santa.

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. At Ballston Common Mall, Lower Level, 4238 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

Dates: Dec. 10 – 11; Dec. 14 – 24

Hours: 3 – 9 p.m. Weekdays; 1 – 9 p.m. Saturdays; 12 – 6 p.m. Sundays. Visit www.VArlingtonJaycees.org

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 DEC. 11

Project 2011: Face to Face. Free. International artist exchange and residency: Aachen, Germany/Arlington, Va. For 10 days, visiting artists from Germany will work together with Arlington-area artists to create a site-specific installation within Artisphere. At the Works-in-Progress Gallery at the Artisphere.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

Chronicles of a Professional Eulogist. Free. By Sarah Jane Lapp. At the Bijou Theater at the Artisphere. Sarah Jane Lapp's short, *Chronicles of a Professional Eulogist* uses hand-drawn animation (India ink, gouache and wax) to explore the role of those who minister to the soul and manage the inflections of individual and communal sentimentality within the process of creating and sustaining social memory.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 28

Handcrafted Harmonica Cases with Robert Hoffman. Robert "Hoff" Hoffman has co-designed over 350 harmonica cases with artists who work in a wide variety of mediums. At the Artisphere in Arlington.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7

"Lucky Ducks" Film. Tickets are \$6. Writer and director Tracey Jackson asks the question—why are today's privileged teens the most unhappy and dysfunctional demographic in America? It's a film about conflict, resolution, growing up and letting go, learning who you are, who you were, and who you can be no matter what your age. At the Dome Theater at Artisphere.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Winter Wonderland at Market Common Clarendon. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Toys for Tots Campaign with MIX 107.3 & USMC; 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.: Santa Claus Arrives by Fire Truck, plus Free Entertainment. Attendees can enjoy free holiday activities and entertainment, including strolling carolers and characters, professional ice sculptors, and more. Call 703-785-5634, or log on to www.marketcommonclarendon.net. Market Common Clarendon is at 2700 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington.

TUESDAY/DEC. 13

Timba Tuesday. 7:30 p.m. With DJ Reyna. Salsa dance class; 8:30 p.m. music and Salsa dance. Tickets are \$6. At the Ballroom at Artisphere.

DEC. 14 TO JAN. 16

Floating Utopia: Mobile Art Gallery Designs. Free. See drawings from and a team of seven German architecture students under the direction of Andreas Queneau for a Step



THURSDAY/DEC. 8

e-Geaux (Beta). 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15. An interactive performance that will change the way you use Facebook. At the Dome Theater at Artisphere. Visit www.artisphere.com or www.pepysinc.com.



DEC. 1 TO 31

QR Designs. Free. "QR codes" are small square barcodes that are very powerful. With a free "QR scanner app" you can scan these codes with your smartphones' camera to unlock mobile content. This show is about the activation of print. At the Ballroom Elevator Landing at Artisphere in Arlington.



SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Soprano Nancy Peery Marriott. 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28/adults; \$15/students. Joins the National Chamber Ensemble for a holiday concert. Also featured in the concert will be guest violinists Andrew Lu (age 12) and Albert Shyu (age 10). Visit <http://tickets.artisphere.com> or call 888-841-2787. At the Rosslyn Spectrum Theater at Artisphere, 1611 N. Kent St., Arlington.

Van Truck designed as a mobile art gallery. Interact with this exhibit by designing your own customized version of this truck. The exhibit also includes utopian plans for a mobile greenhouse and diagrams showing various uses of recycled lunar devices for community engagement. At the Works-in-Progress Gallery at the Artisphere.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

"Family Inc." Film. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6. When filmmaker Emily Ting was asked by her father to return to Asia and take over the family business, she didn't exactly know how to say no. Promising herself she would try it out for just one year, she traded in her friends, her filmmaking pursuits, and her love of New York for a new life as a CEO-in-training in one of Hong Kong's most notorious toy companies. At the Dome Theater at Artisphere.

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Friday Morning Music Club. Noon. Free. A community of music lovers and musicians, the Friday Morning Music Club, Inc., has promoted classical music in the Washington, D.C. area for over 120 years. At the Artisphere, 1611 N. Kent St., Arlington.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

Justin Trawick. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Urban folk artist Justin Trawick celebrates the release of his album *You & I*. At the Dome Theater at Artisphere, 1611 N. Kent St., Arlington.



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