

The Arlington Connect

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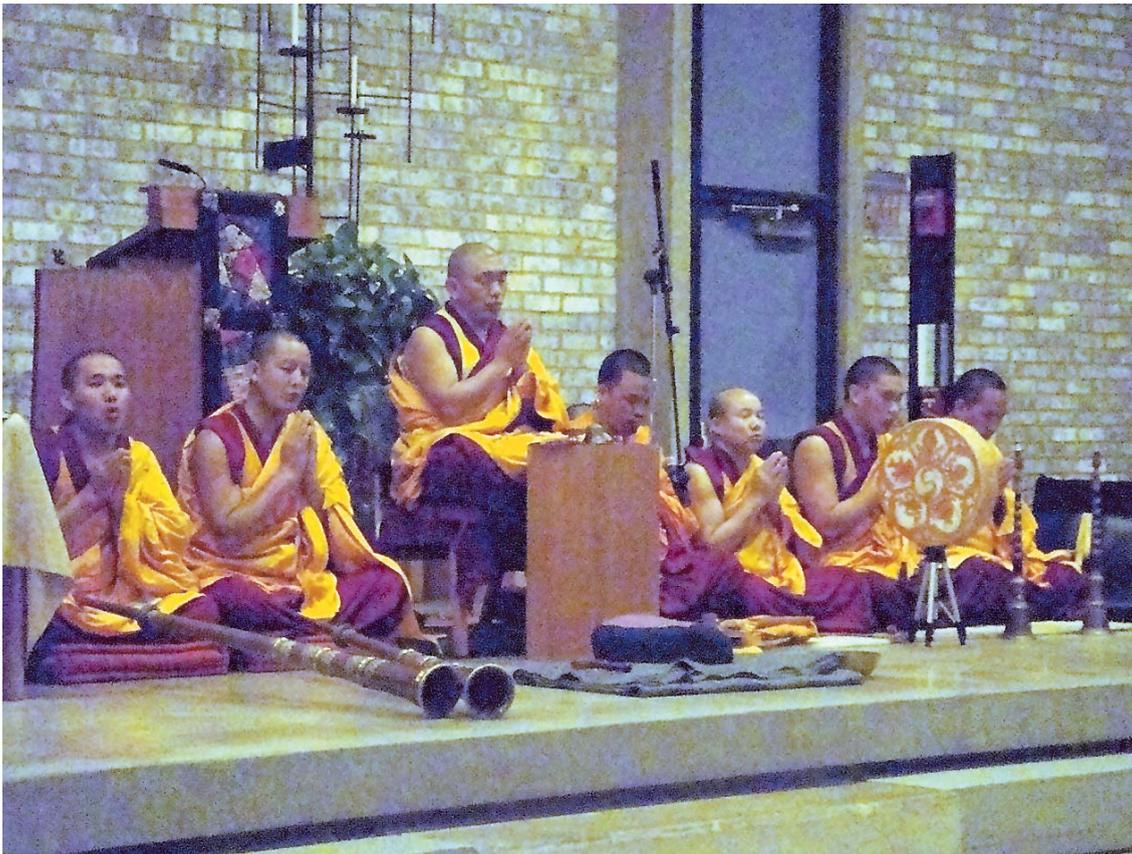
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Geshe Dr. Dorji Wangchuk and six monks from the Gaden Jangtse monastery recite a prayer for health at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington on April 9.

Sharing Culture, a Plea for Freedom

Tibetan monks stop at local Buddhist meditation group.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
THE CONNECTION

The Gaden monks of Tibet ended their tour of Northern Virginia Monday, April 9 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. The group concluded their visit with a 50-minute prayer for health, and a political message aimed at the plight of Tibetans who live under the governance of the People's Republic of China.

"We are here to make a case for our independent country, to show our culture, plead to look at us and see what is going on," said Geshe Dr. Dorji Wangchuk, the group's leader. "The situation is changing everyday. This is a difficult time, a scary time."

Since 2009, 34 Tibetans have ended their lives through the practice of self-immolation in protest of hardening Chinese rule in Tibet. Many of the Tibetans feel the double blow of losing their country as well as their culture, and attempt a dangerous crossing of the Himalayas to escape.

"Education is very useful, share your culture, then suddenly there will be peace."

— Geshe Dr. Dorji Wangchuk, leader of the Gaden monks

"We lost our country, now we lose our culture," said Wangchuk. "Sometimes young Tibetans cross mountains to escape, and so many of them have lost their lives. The lucky ones make it to India."

On March 17, 1959, the 14th Dalai Lama fled Tibet in the face of a determined Chinese army. Today there are approximately 100,000 Tibetans who live in Dharamsala, India. The exiled community continues to advance peaceful ways to return to their homeland.

The Chinese government, however, maintains Tibetans were faced with a humanitarian crisis under the Buddhist system of governance. As the 50th anniversary of the flight of the Dalai Lama approached in 2009, Chinese authorities proclaimed March 28 to be "Serf Emancipation Day," a holiday that celebrates the arrival of the People's Liberation Army, which is considered to have saved one million Tibetans from serfdom and slavery.

"They are just talking, it is just the opposite," said Wangchuk. "China is a large country and Tibet is small. They invaded because Tibet has many precious places, holy places."

This year China issued a commentary against the Dalai Lama. In a March 24 editorial carried by Xinhua News, China's official media outlet, the Dalai Lama was equated as being on par with the worst of the Nazi offenders.

"You must deal with that kind of hatred through peace and truth, not fighting," said Wangchuk. "We are here to show you our truth."

It was with this need for healing, physically, spiritually and mentally, that the Gaden monks delivered their 50-minute recitation prayer. While the length of the prayer may seem long by western standards,

SEE TIBETAN MONKS, PAGE XX

Buddhist Meditation Groups

Buddhist meditation groups meet every Monday at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington at 4444 Arlington Blvd. Regular sessions include a 30-minute guided prayer, followed by a conversation about practice in every day life. For more information visit: uucava.org.

Liberating Libraries

Bucking regional trends, Arlington is poised to increase library hours.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Even as Fairfax County and Alexandria consider yet another round of budget cuts, members of the Arlington County Board are poised to restore almost all the hours that were eliminated during the recession, restoring \$605,000 into the system and adding eight new employees. The move comes at a time when libraries across the region are seeing a steady increase in demand, stretching library resources thin at a time when they are needed the most. County Board member Chris Zimmerman says he's been fighting to make sure Arlington County

restoring the hours and staffing that was lost when Northern Virginia governments began cutting back in 2008.

"They're one of the great levelers in American society that give everybody a fair shot," said Zimmerman.

"They are equal and open to all, and give opportunities for anybody to, in one way or another, improve themselves."

So far, it's a trend that has not caught on. In Fairfax County, attendance is up and demand has increased over the last five years. And yet since the recession hit, members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors have slashed

\$5 million from the library system. Outgoing County Executive Tony Griffin's proposed budget suggests another \$300,000 in cuts, although several members said they would like to see some restoration in staffing and hours.

"Shifting the chairs on the Titanic doesn't really do it," said Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross. "We need to make sure that what we decide is sustainable in the long run."

Alexandria is also seeing an increased number of visitors and a spike in circulation, even as City Manager Rashad Young's proposed budget suggests slashes another \$156,000 by eliminating three vacant positions. Although Young

"They're one of the great levelers in American society that give everybody a fair shot."

— Arlington County Board member Chris Zimmerman

suggests reallocating \$110,000 to fund part-time help across the system, the library system would see a net reduction of \$46,000. Currently, no effort has been made to restore any of the reduced hours to the local history special collections, which is

open only one Saturday a month. "For people who have an everyday job, that leaves a very limited time to do research," said Ted Pulliam, author of "Historic Alexandria." "The books in special collections don't circulate, so you have to be there to do the research. And when it's only open two nights a week and one Saturday a month,

SEE LIBRARIES, PAGE 11

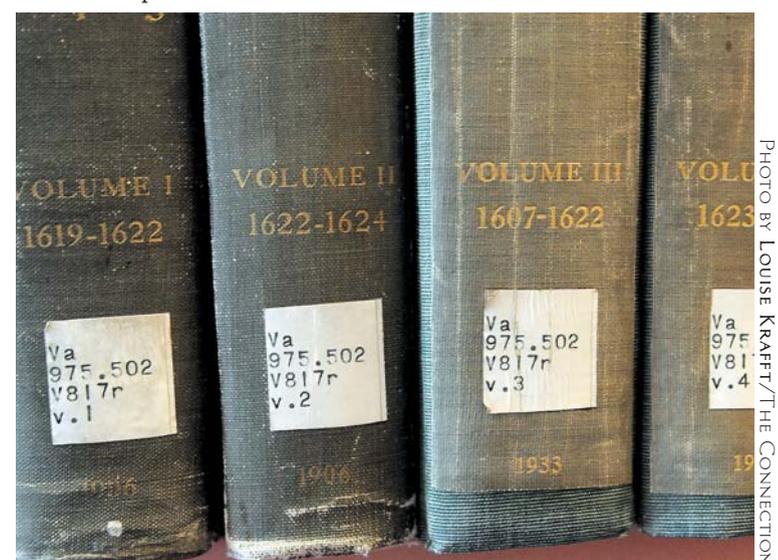


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Even as demand for libraries grows, most Northern Virginia governments have been slashing hours and staffing.

Titanic Centennial

A local connection to historic story.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
THE CONNECTION

This month marks the centennial of a great sea tragedy. The “Women’s Titanic Memorial” is located in Washington and sits against the west wall of Fort McNair near the water at the end of “P” Street, SW. Its inscription is “To the brave men who perished in the wreck of the Titanic April 15, 1912. They gave their lives that women and children might be saved.” This is the story of one such man.

Five passengers in the Titanic were self-declared residents of Washington, D.C. Two survived to live out their lives elsewhere and be buried far away. Two who died had little or no connection with Northern Virginia. The remaining individual, with a posthumous connection to Arlington, is Major Archibald Willingham Butt, U. S. Army.

BUTT WAS BORN in Augusta, Ga. He arrived in the Nation’s capital as a newspaperman serving as eyes and ears for several Southern papers. Along the way he became a novelist. He also served as an embassy official in Mexico City, a post he left to don a uniform at the start of the War with Spain in 1898. When his volunteer commission ended, he joined the regular army. Over the

years, Butt became friends with President Theodore Roosevelt and his successor, William Howard Taft, serving both as military aide in the White House. Stresses of those friendships were factors in Butt’s death.

Roosevelt had been president and was irked by the conservatism of his successor, Taft. Failing to win over Republican leaders, Roosevelt started a third party under the “Bull Moose” banner. With the Republicans split, Democrat Woodrow Wilson would win the White House. However, through 1911 and into 1912, Butt’s presidential friends waged a bitter battle. He stood in the middle torn in both directions. Thinking a trip abroad might improve his situation, Butt sailed to Europe and met with the Pope as Taft’s emissary. His booking for the voyage home was on the Titanic.

Shortly before midnight, Saturday evening, April 14, 1912, the ship hit an iceberg. She sank at 2:20 a.m. Those 150 or so minutes forever defined Butt, the man.

All survivors of the mishap were interviewed in depth. Several recollected Butt helping to load and lower lifeboats with

women and children, and sternly blocking men who stepped forward. One survivor remembered a group of hysterical women. Butt stepped up, calmed them and gave assurances they would get through the situation safely. This woman ended by remarking “His was the manner we associate with the word aristocrat.” Another woman confessed that “The sight of that man, calm, gentle and yet firm as a rock, will never leave me.”

“The sight of that man, calm, gentle and yet firm as a rock, will never leave me.”

— Titanic survivor

With all lifeboats launched, Butt repaired to the First Class Smoking Room located on the uppermost level of the ship (A Deck) directly in line with the fourth smokestack. In a last game of cards, he joined Washington sportsman Clarence Moore and two Philadelphians, Harry Widener and William Carter. They played until after 2 a.m. and all went down with the ship.

UNTIL RECENTLY, grave sites in Arlington National Cemetery could be “reserved.” Career military officers and other eligible personages took care in selecting a special spot. Butt chose the crest of a hill alongside

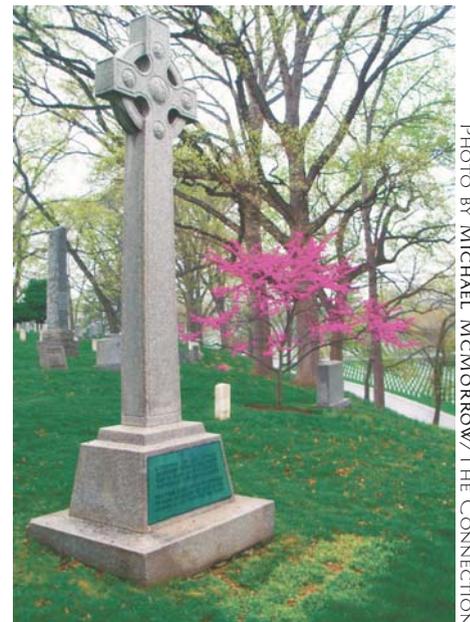


PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE CONNECTION

The Butt Cenotaph, Arlington National Cemetery

Porter Drive in Section 3. Today, the site is about 900 feet due south of the amphitheater behind the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Since his body was not recovered, a large Celtic cross serves as Butt’s cenotaph (Greek: “empty grave”). One tablet is biographical and ends with the Biblical quotation (John XV 13) “Greater love hath no man than this: That a man lay down his life for his friends.” The other plaque reads, in part: “A devoted son and brother, an efficient officer, a loyal friend, who in death, as in life, served faithfully God and humanity.”

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Dolly (Rosemarie O'Connor) pays a visit to Horace Vandergelder's office (David Gillick).



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Minnie (Ali Roaquin) and Mrs. Malloy (Lisa Young) trim a hat in lace at the shop.

Thornton Wilder's 'The Matchmaker' at O'Connell

The drama students at Bishop D.J. O'Connell are far into rehearsals and set design for the upcoming performances of "The Matchmaker." The play opens on Friday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. Additional shows will be held on Saturday, April 21 and Sunday afternoon. Elizabeth Milam directs the play.



Karen Rosenberg of KSR Pet Care LLC met with Joyce Darrell and Mike Dickerson, founders of Pets with Disabilities.



Chrissy Thomas with her medal for third place Potomac Rifle League and plaque naming her to the First Team All-Met.

KSR Pet Care Donates to Pets with Disabilities

KSR Pet Care LLC, serving North Arlington, Falls Church and McLean, traveled April 8 to the rescue site of Pets with Disabilities to hand over \$900 in donations to Joyce Darrell and Mike Dickerson, founders and constant caretakers of the dogs in the rescue. Some are blind, others deaf, others on three legs or even paralyzed. For the dogs who are paralyzed there are wheel chairs to keep them happy and mobile.

On an annual basis KSR Pet Care tries to give back to the community and pets in need with a donation raised with the help of income profits and customer support. Pets with Disabilities was chosen to be the donation recipient this year by KSR Pet Care customers. Last year, KSR Pet Care donated \$800 to Friends of Homeless Animals.



Karen Rosenberg, owner/principal of KSR Pet Care LLC with her dogs Lexie and Luka.

Student Qualifies for Junior Olympics

Christian "Chrissy" Thomas, a junior at Yorktown High School in Arlington, has qualified and received an invitation to shoot in the National Junior Olympic Rifle Championship to be held in Colorado Springs, Colo., April 13-18. She will compete in the small bore category.

The National Junior Olympic program provides competitions year-round for shooters to partake in. The program runs matches throughout the country, making it accessible for all interested juniors. Junior shooters are able to participate in State Competitions sanctioned by USA Shooting, allowing them the chance to receive an invitation to shoot at the National Junior Olympic Championships hosted by USA Shooting in Colorado Spring, Colo. The program serves as part of the pipeline development system in promot-

ing the shooting sports. Junior Olympic goals are to allow the skilled junior athletes to obtain National competitive experience for future development. The program also serves as an opportunity to appoint the top finishers to the National Junior Team.

Chrissy serves as co-captain of the Yorktown High School Competitive Rifle Team coached by Traci Yates. As a member of the YHS team shooting in the Potomac High School Rifle League, Chrissy placed third overall in the small bore category and was named First Team-All Metropolitan.

Chrissy began shooting as a freshman at Yorktown and has gone on to earn an NRA expert designation for air rifle and small bore. She is also a member of the Arlington Acorns Combined Junior Rifle Club, sponsored by the Arlington Optimist Club (<http://www.aroptimist.org/>).

PEOPLE



Ginger Evans, Parsons, a Premium Emerald Sponsor of the Event, with her husband, Peter Evans, Interstate Council on Water Policy, Leadership Arlington Class of '12.



Patrick Hynes with his wife, Mary Hynes, chair, Arlington County Board.



Dr. Matthew Shank, president, Marymount University, with Ron Sommerville, Marymount University, Leadership Arlington Class of '12.

Leadership Arlington's Monte Carlo Night Draws Crowd

A record-setting crowd of more than 450 community stakeholders attended Leadership Arlington's Annual Monte Carlo Night on March 17 at Reagan National Airport. The event raises money to support Leadership Arlington's Youth Program for high school students.

Guests enjoyed dinner, dancing, gaming and an auction featuring items donated by local businesses and friends of the organization. Metropolitan Washington

Airports Authority provided the venue in the Historic Terminal A Lobby. Premium Emerald Sponsors Parsons, the JBG Companies, and Clark Construction also contributed to the success of the night.

Among other items, this year's "Evening of Emeralds and Elegance" featured live auction vacations to Emerald Isle, N.C. and plane tickets to Dublin, Ireland. The live auction kicked off with a flash mob of dancers from Bowen McCauley Dance.



Red Peg Marketing, the Red Carpet Sponsor of the Event: Garrett O'Shea, Red Peg Marketing, Leadership Arlington Class of '12 with his wife, Jeanne O'Shea, and Brad Nierenberg, Red Peg Marketing, with his wife, Callie Nierenberg.

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PEOPLE



WWE PHOTO

At Arlington National Cemetery

WWE Executive Vice President of Creative Stephanie McMahon and WWE Superstar Kofi Kingston participated in a wreath-laying ceremony on March 22 at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. After the ceremony, they were joined by WWE Superstar Mick Foley and WWE Divas The Bella Twins to pay a special visit to wounded military personnel at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Horwitt, Garden Club To Be Honored

Joan Horwitt (individual winner) and the Rock Spring Garden Club (group winner) have been named 2011 Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteers Award winners for their contributions to Arlington's natural resources and public spaces. They will be honored at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24 at the recessed Arlington County Board meeting in the County Board Room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., 3rd floor.

Horwitt, founder of the Lawns 2 Lettuce 4 Lunch initiative, wanted to give Ashlawn Homework Club students she mentored a hands-on learning experience about soil composition. So, she took them outside to garden where they could see, feel and analyze the soil. The lesson grew into a much larger vision of planting lettuces and other greens not only around the elementary school, but in yards and gardens in nearby neighborhoods. The main theme of Horwitt's healthy food-growing mission is sustainability, education and community-building, which includes a bi-annual salad-eating celebration for students and staff.

She is also chair of the Reevesland Learning Center steering committee dedicated to the rehabilitation of the Torreyson-Reeves farmhouse located near Bluemont Park. The house once featured an iconic vegetable garden that had turned to grass. In 2011, her group's proposal to build eight raised growing beds in the former garden was approved and Horwitt and Reevesland neighbors got to work.

Before she launched the Lawns 2 Lettuce 4 Lunch initiative, Horwitt taught Spanish for Arlington Public Schools, was a food writer for The Washington

Post, and been involved in civic activism.

The 1953 undertaking was to save three stately oak trees in what was then a grassy area near Rock Spring. Since then, the Rock Spring Garden Club (RSGC) has myriad achievements in the area — the most prominent being the establishment of Rock Spring Park.

RSGC member Florence Taylor spent several months of meetings with the Arlington County Board in 1970 to turn a dream into reality. The RSGC wanted to turn what was a continuation of George Mason Drive into a beautiful, well-maintained park. Since the park was founded in 1970, the club has worked to plant thousands of daffodils, crocus, and many native plants, shrubs and trees. Two years ago, RSGC's Civic Development Committee decided that they would focus on planting only native plants in the park, furthering the sustainability of the plantings.

In 1994, member Emily DeCicco proposed the addition of a "tot trail" to introduce the joys of walking in the woods. Recently, member Kathy Diggs donated a Dawn Redland and a Japanese maple to the park just before she died. The group also works with Marymount University and Arlington Public Schools students as well as neighbors in the Rock Spring Civic Association and the Yorktown Civic Association on educational and clean-up projects.

The Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteer Award was established to pay tribute to lifelong parks volunteer Bill Thomas, and to honor and encourage those residents who demonstrate a dedication and support for park programs, natural resources and public open spaces.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

24th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Thousands of volunteers of all ages will pick up trash from different cleanup sites around the region. Find a cleanup site by visiting www.PotomacCleanup.org, or calling 202-973-8203.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

Open House. 7 to 9 p.m. Join in an update and overview of the status of Long Bridge Park and Aquatics Health & Fitness Facility in Arlington. To be held at Arlington County Board Room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., third floor, Arlington.

MONDAY/MAY 21

Arlington Free Clinic announces this year's Destination Trip Raffle. Participants purchase the chance to win a four-night stay for two at a Marriott property anywhere in the world (excluding Ritz-Carlton properties). The prize includes transportation costs up to but not exceeding \$2,500. Each raffle ticket costs \$100, and only 350 raffle tickets will be sold. The winning ticket will be drawn on May 21. The

winner will be notified May 22. No need to be present to win. Proceeds from the Destination Trip Raffle provides medical care for low income, uninsured Arlington County residents. To purchase a ticket, go to the Arlington Free Clinic website, www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org and click on the Donate Now button, or contact Emily Billingsley at 703-979-1425, Ext. 143, ebillingsley@arlingtonfreeclinic.org

MONDAYS/APRIL 16, 23

Meditation and Buddhism Introductory Class. Every Monday at 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost \$12. Living Meditation Series. Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Arlington Branch Location — The Griffin Center 3800 Fairfax Dr., Suite 5, Arlington. Call 202-986-2257 www.meditation-dc.org

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Gonzaga Football Coach Aaron Brady is running a football camp at Alexandria Country Day School in Alexandria and Saint John Academy in McLean

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DRPT

Interstate 66 Multimodal Study Inside the Beltway Open House

Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
The Navy League Building, Main Floor Board Room
2300 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School
7130 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

The I-66 Multimodal Study, underway since July 2011, is now completing the evaluation of transportation options to reduce highway and transit congestion and improve overall mobility within the I-66 corridor between the Capital Beltway (I-495) and the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. The study team will share evaluation results of the multimodal transportation alternatives and preliminary recommendations. The alternatives represent packages of mobility options that combine transit, bicycle, pedestrian, demand management, technology and roadway improvements to address congestion in the I-66 corridor.

Give your written comments at the meeting or email them by May 10, 2012 to info@i66multimodalstudy.com. You may also submit comments to Valerie Pardo, VDOT, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

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 need more information in regards to your civil rights on this study or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, call 855-788-3966, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

I-66 Multimodal Study
Inside the Beltway
i66multimodalstudy.com

On Funding the Silver Line

Commonwealth will collect the dividends, but refuses to invest; Northern Virginia pays.

Northern Virginia localities should together commission a study now to determine how much growth is stimulated by the opening of the Metro stations in Tysons and along the toll road out to Dulles, how many new jobs created, quantify how much that growth leads to increased income and sales tax, and how much revenue (taxes) would get shipped off to Commonwealth coffers.

There should be a way to keep that money here in Northern Virginia.

Residents from around the region will pay for the majority of the construction of rail to Dulles via the Dulles Toll Road.

Virginia is all too happy to benefit from one of the biggest drivers of the Northern Virginia economic engine, Dulles Airport. Rail to Dulles, part of the plan for the airport since its conception, is a key part of supporting the expected volume growth in passengers and other commerce at the airport. But at every turn, the state has pushed paying for the rail line onto Northern Virginia, onto Fairfax and Loudoun county

EDITORIAL

governments, onto property owners in the corridor and especially onto drivers on the Dulles Toll Road.

While Virginia had committed to contributing an additional \$150 million to the rail project, and at various points the governor and the General Assembly dangled \$200-300 million, it now appears that money will not be forthcoming. It was never enough.

This is one more example of the Commonwealth of Virginia happily collecting revenues, including income and sales taxes, generated from the economic vitality of Northern Virginia, then forcing Northern Virginia residents to pay for the infrastructure of that economic activity out of local funds and personal pockets.

The most recent Virginia Department of Aviation report identifies at least \$17.5 billion in annual economic activity in Virginia from Dulles and Reagan National airports, with Dulles providing the majority of that. The num-

ber of jobs created and maintained by this activity is staggering, and in Virginia, the state collects 100 percent of the income tax; there is no local income tax.

The state collects the income tax from the good jobs generated here in Northern Virginia by the airports, by the high tech firms, by the business innovators, by proximity to the Pentagon and the federal government. Then the governor celebrates the result, that Virginia is top ranked as business friendly.

The Commonwealth collects much of the tax revenue that results from this activity, but would pay only three percent of the \$6.2 billion cost of rail to Dulles. This will force more than 80 percent of the costs of building rail to Dulles to local drivers and property owners. The toll road contribution is projected at 57 percent of the total.

Having major airports adequately served by rail and other transportation options is more than an amenity, it is part of sustaining the economic benefit that comes from major airports. The question is not whether we should be building rail to Dulles, but about who benefits and who pays.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Argentina National Day Celebration

To the Editor:

It is interesting to share the wonderful and challenging moments in the history of the Argentinean National Day Festival Celebration. The committee pioneered the idea of sharing with the Argentine, Hispanic and international communities some of the food, arts, and culture of Argentina. It has always been a pleasure to showcase events in Arlington and to present young artists and famous performers at the acclaimed "Festival Argentino."

With great enthusiasm the Argentinean National Day Celebration Committee invites you to become acquainted with its long commitment to promote cultural activities to benefit humanitarian causes and schools in Argentina. For over 25 years, we are honored to participate, to serve, and to share our cultural heritage with diverse communities. The Festival Argentino has been Washington, D.C. area's only local National Day Festival celebrating Argentina's diverse musical traditions with live Argentine performances by artists based both in the United States and Argentina.

Our 25th anniversary goal is to celebrate with MC Mario Martinez y Palacios and Patricia Romiti and Top Level Folklore, TAIS "Luna Testigo", Son Ellas a young vocal trio of folk, ballads-latino rhythm, Daniel Bouchet "Tango Showman," Miguel Dur-Rioplattense acclaimed singer folk & tango, Pampa Cortés, a former principal dancer of "Forever Tango" has enjoyed a 50-year career as a professional dancer. His clean footwork and elegant masculinity have inspired thousands of people,

encouraging them to achieve greater skill in their own dance. All Pampa Cortés's workshops are very popular and in high demand. Pampa brings two dancers to share the stage with him. He will perform the sensual and elegant tango with Lisette Perelle and the charming country dances with Gigi Jensen. Pampa Cortés and Gigi Jensen will teach "two days workshops" of Tango Argentino! Visit www.pampatangosoul.com www.festivalargentinousa.com.

Victorio Menghi will present two songs from "Tango Fusion World Tour." Additional performers include the locals Cristian Perez 'Ensemble,' a guitar ensemble that interprets Tango in a fresh, elegant, and passionate way, and draws heavily upon the repertoire of the great Astor Piazzolla; Cantoral TR3S showcases the best of Argentine and Latin American Folklore and celebrates the great Argentine poets. The well-known local Capital Tangueros Dancers round out the program, including dancers Tino and Susan judging a tango contest; Carlos Gutierrez and Victoria Bakhtina are doing a tango show and Camilla Ng with Rana Karjawayally in Milonga "Honoring Pablo Fontana and Anne Sophie's Villé," and Patricio Lizárraga and his Latin Dancers.

We are extending our invitation to join our celebration to all people to partake in our culture and musical traditions. All artists performances will be held inside the theater, where you also will find that this community-based festival also features Argentine cuisine a menu of choice Argentinean foods by Il Bastone will be available for purchase. The committee is selling indoor-outdoor food tickets sales so that attendees will be able to taste famous Argentinean food such as asado, chori-pan, empanadas, tartas, and pastries. The Series

Festival-Embassy 2012 also features exhibits, arts and crafts, truco, jewelry makers, tourism, the book of Emilio Mignone, "Honoring Malvinas Argentina."

As an additional incentive and token of appreciation to all attendees, a raffle of two round trip tickets from Miami to Buenos Aires via Argentine Airlines is included in the admission ticket. This event will occur May 19, at the Thomas Jefferson Theater, 125 South Old Glebe Road in Arlington. Admission (\$20 in advance at www.Tickeri.com; or \$30 at the door) (some proceeds benefit a school in Argentina). For information, visit www.festivalargentinoUSA.com, or 703-212-5850.

We hope that the newly appointed Argentinean ambassador to the United States of America, Jorge Argüello, will continue to support the cultural activities of the community, and the Argentinean Festival. On behalf of the Argentinean Committee, I hereby extend my most sincere appreciation, and would especially like to thank the members of the committee for all their dedication, commitment and hard work, and for the support they have given me in the past years.

My gratitude also goes out to our collaborators: Eduardo Zavala, Carmen Martínez, Nelly Salay, Ernesto Rosell, Norberto Requejo, Stan Weinstein, Juan Carlos Fuentes, Eddie Arrossi, Andrea y Leo Ruggeri, Pedro Gutiérrez, Martha, Mauricio y Kenny Manzano, Alicia Vicentini, Bret Tate, LTC José María Martínez Rodríguez, Francisco Pizzi, Silvio Puccio, Eduardo Varas, Juan Gonzalez, Mario Martínez y Palacios y Patricia Romiti, Alfonso Berthier Latinbag.com, Elba Agusti,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

Centro Cultural BIB, C. Virgen del Luján, Alex y Laura of Il Bastone, Secretary of International Defense Lic. Alfredo Forti and all participants.

I want to convey my most sincere thanks to Francisco Lopez Achaval Cultural Secretary Embassy of Argentina, Mary Hynes, Walter Tejada, Chris Zimmerman of the Arlington County Board, Sherri L. Perper, Joan J. Lynch of the Arlington County Cultural Affairs, Hal Crawford, and Karen M. Vasquez, director of the Arlington County Cultural Affairs and our media story collaborator The Washington Post.

The program is supported in part by Arlington County Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts www.ArlingtonArts.org. The auspices of the Embassy of Argentina. Co-Sponsors: Argentine Airlines; Telemundo; Hola Ciudad.com, Romántica 900; Turismo Buenos Aires La Provincia; PNC Bank; Verizon Wireless, CapitalWirePR; GWICC; El Comercio Newspaper; Eco de Virginia, McKenna Long Alridge; Washington Hispanic, Que Creative; LatinBag.com; Kesta Happening; Embassy of Uruguay; Gestión Argentina, Dr. Bauman & Stoleru & Crisp & Juicy. Thanks to all volunteers, local and direct Argentine artists, advertisers, media supporters, Data Eventos - exhibitors, books, and collaborators. Festival Argentino is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington's Office of Senior Adult Programs for April 15-21.

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: Hagerstown Outlets, Md., Monday, April 23, \$12; Richmond Garden Tour, and lunch, Va., Wednesday, April 25, \$92; Winterthur and Longwood Gardens, DE, Friday, April

27, \$92. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel to register, 703-228-4748.

Life's Lessons, Monday, April 23, 10:30 a.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Register, 703-228-6300.

Tax implications on portfolios, Monday, April 23, 7 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Register, 703-228-6300.

Seated exercise classes, Monday, April 23, 9 a.m., Madison. \$4 per class. Register, 703-228-0555.

Assistive listening devices, Tuesday, April 24, 10:15 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

Free legal counseling, Tuesday, April 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Walter Reed. Call for appt., 703-228-0955.

Chinese cultural exchange program, Tuesday, April 24, 10 a.m., TJ. Free. Register, 703-228-4403.

Weekly bicycle ride, Wednesday, April 25, 9 a.m., starts at Bluemont Park. Free. Details, 703-228-4745.

Parts of the brain affected by Alzheimer's, Wednesday, April 25, 11 a.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Register, 703-228-4403.

Billiards, men and women, Wednesday, April 25, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

Armchair tour of Galapagos Islands with Sandy and Gail Cohen, Thursday, April 26, 10:15 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

Painting pottery techniques, Thursday, April 26, 7 p.m., The Jefferson, 900 N. Taylor Street. \$35. Register, 703-228-4744.

Register for 55+ Pass to access senior programs, travel, \$20 annual fee, Thursday, April 26. Call 703-228-4744.

Fast-paced walking group, Friday, April 27, 9 a.m., Aurora Hills. Free. Register, 703-228-5722.

Theatre appreciation, Friday, April 27, 10:30 a.m., Madison. \$4 per session. Register, 703-228-4878.

Medicare and federal retiree discussion, Friday, April 27, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills. Free. Register, 703-228-5722.

RETIREMENT SALE! EVERYTHING GOES! STORE CLOSING!

Fixtures For Sale

New Mark Downs Taken!

Mae's Dress Boutique, the premier After 5 store you've trusted for over 35 years, is closing the doors forever. Beginning Wednesday, we've taken new mark downs on hundreds of items throughout the store. Hurry in for the best assortment while we still have stock and sizes available.

- Take **ONE THIRD OFF** our entire stock of cocktail dresses!
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New mark downs taken in every category, from After 5 to casual separates! Receive 500,000 bonus prize points for every SPECIAL ORDER and always receive 20% off! Choose from Daymor, Ursalla, Jovani, JSS Knits, Damianou, and Sara Mique! Subject to designer availability. (these offers good through 4/17)

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Store Hours: Monday - Saturday, 10am - 5:30pm. Sale Terms: All Sales Final.
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Wall-To-Wall...Nothing Held Back!

Directions: NORTH on the Beltway take Exit 46B onto Rt. 123N.-McLean. Go 3 miles- Turn right onto Old Dominion Dr. (Rt. 309). Go 1/2 mile thru two traffic lights. We are on the right next to Shell Gas. SOUTH from Md.- Cross over the Amer. Legion Bridge.- Take the VERY first right Exit 43-44 to VA 193 toward Langley - Go 1/2 mile and turn right onto Balls Hill Rd. Go .9th mile - Turn left onto Old Dominion Drive - Go thru 3 traffic lights - We are on the right next to Shell Gas. We are less than 5 minutes from the Bridge.

COUPON GREAT PRIZES

Bring in coupon for
100,000 points

These prizes to be awarded

1. **Samsung** 40" LCD TV, \$549 Value.
2. **Canon** PowerShot Camera, \$400.
3. **Saeco** Espresso Maker, \$350.
4. **Canon** Camcorder, \$290.
5. **DeLonghi** Food Processor, \$250.
6. **Garmin** GPS System, \$160.
7. **Keurig** Coffee System, \$160.
8. **Frigidaire** Toaster Oven, \$150.
9. **Kick** Sound System, \$115.
10. **Tiger** Rice Cooker, \$100.

Game Ends 6/16/2012

No Purchase Necessary

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

NEWS

Tibetan Monks Share Their Culture

FROM PAGE 3

it is considered to be the shortest version with only the inner core of verses.

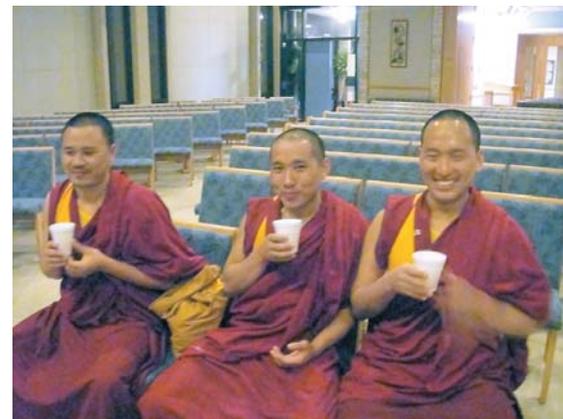
“This is an aspect of the Buddha known for healing physical sickness, which are mental manifestations,” said Losang Tendrol with the Guhyasamia Center, a Washington, D.C.-based community center that focuses on Tibetan Buddhism. “Music is considered a sound offering, it will purify negative karma helping you lose negative emotions.”

While those unfamiliar with the Tibetan language might have found the monastic chants impossible to understand the words, the message was clear. Within the rhythms of the chant could be heard a recitation for peace of mind. Sprinkled throughout the chant were jarring bells, drums, horns and symbols meant as a further offering to the Buddha.

REGULARS of the Monday evening Buddhist meditation sessions were quick to note the uniqueness of a group willing to share prayers and their culture.

“This is a great opportunity to sit with them and share prayer,” said David Carlson, a professor of art at Marymount University who regularly attends Monday night meditations. “It’s a different script, a healing prayer. The energy channels wherever it needs to go, physical, spiritual, or mental.”

As the Gaden monks emphasized, cultural exchange is the best way to support world peace. “World peace is something we need to do,” said Wangchuk. “Education is very useful, share your culture, then suddenly there will be peace.”



Gaden monks enjoy a cup of tea following the 50-minute prayer for health. Although the prayer may seem long by western standards, Monday evening’s event was a truncated version that only presented the inner core of verses.

Influx from Tibet

To support Geshe Dr. Dorji Wangchuk and the Gaden Tibetan monks, consider a donation to the not-for-profit Chokhor Gepel Ling center. Proceeds help fund the cultural tours of Tibetan monks, as well as facilities at the Gaden Jangtse monastery in India in order to accommodate the influx of monks from Tibet. Checks can be made out to Chokhor Gepel Ling Center, and sent to 3536 McLaughlin Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90066. For more information visit: chokhor-gepel-ling.org.



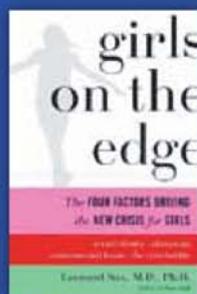
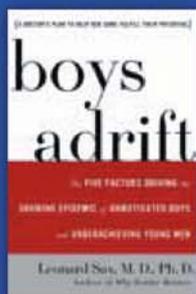
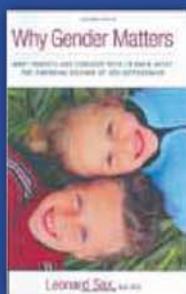
Join Us
For Our
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Join the Conversation About Education:



APRIL 16
7pm-9pm

**Facebook
Ate My
Daughter**

Dr. Leonard Sax, psychologist and author of *Why Gender Matters*, *Boys Adrift*, and *Girls on the Edge*, talks about the role of technology in the lives of teenagers – social media, video games, and the effects of growing up in virtual worlds. Dr. Sax will answer questions that parents have today – Should I be my child’s Facebook friend? Which video games are OK? How much time spent playing video games is too much?



APRIL 30
7pm-9pm

Race To Nowhere

A documentary film examining the pressures faced by young people, teachers, and parents in our high stakes education system and pressure-cooker culture. Generate dialogue and examine assumptions about how to best prepare the youth of America to be healthy, bright leaders. The movie will be followed by a panel of educational experts including:

Patrick F. Bassett – President of the National Association of Independent Schools

Mary Ellen Weissman, Ph.D. – Clinical Psychologist



The Madeira School • 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Virginia 22102

Please register at www.madeira.org/parents/race-to-nowhere-and-dr-leonard-sax
For more information contact 703.556.8273

NEWS

PROPOSED FY 2013 CENTRAL LIBRARY & LIBRARY BRANCH HOURS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total Hours	Difference from FY 2009
Central Library	10am-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	1pm-9pm	66	(6)
Aurora Hills	10am-9pm	1pm-9pm	1pm-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	Closed	52	3
Cherrydale	10am-9pm	1pm-9pm	1pm-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	Closed	52	3
Columbia Pike	10am-9pm	1pm-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-6pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	1pm-9pm	60	7
Glencarlyn	10am-9pm	1pm-9pm	1pm-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	Closed	52	3
Plaza	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	Closed	Closed	45	-
Shirlington	10am-9pm	1pm-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-6pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	1pm-9pm	60	7
Westover	10am-9pm	1pm-9pm	10am-9pm	10am-6pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	Closed	52	3
Total								439	20

ARLINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Liberating the Libraries

FROM PAGE 3

that really puts people who are doing original research at a disadvantage.”

Last fall, Arlington County officials held two planning sessions and conducted two public surveys to engage the community on the future of the library. Members of the public who participated in those sessions overwhelmingly supported access to neighborhood libraries that are open full days, Monday to Saturday. Last year, members of the County Board issued guidance to County Manager Barbara Donnellan to consider restoring services and hours that had been reduced in the recent downturn. When she issued her budget earlier this year, the proposal restores all but six hours at the county's central library.

“If we could afford it, I would like to see our libraries open even more hours than this,” said Zimmerman. “I think these are assets that should be made available to the community, and I would like to see all of our branches open seven days a week.”



Arlington County Central Library.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Meslar Named ‘Inspiring Champion’

Keri Ann Meslar of Arlington received the Inspiring Champions Award for her leadership for Blondes vs. Brunettes in the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter.

The Inspiring Champions Awards program recognizes valuable “above and beyond” contributions of time, talent and resources to the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. The program also serves to thank and honor volunteers who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

Meslar is the district marketing manager at Coca-Cola Refreshments, and was chair of the 2011 Blondes vs. Brunettes, a volunteer-driven flag football game for women designed to bring the passion and spirit of young community leaders together to support the Alzheimer's Association. Meslar, who lost her grandmother to Alzheimer's, has consistently been one of the top fundraisers in this



PHOTO BY JESSICA INMAN

Keri Ann Meslar and Susan Cherney, vice president of development, Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter.

event.

To learn more about Blondes vs. Brunettes, visit www.alz.org/nca or call 703-359-4440.

6th

Arlington

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SATURDAY

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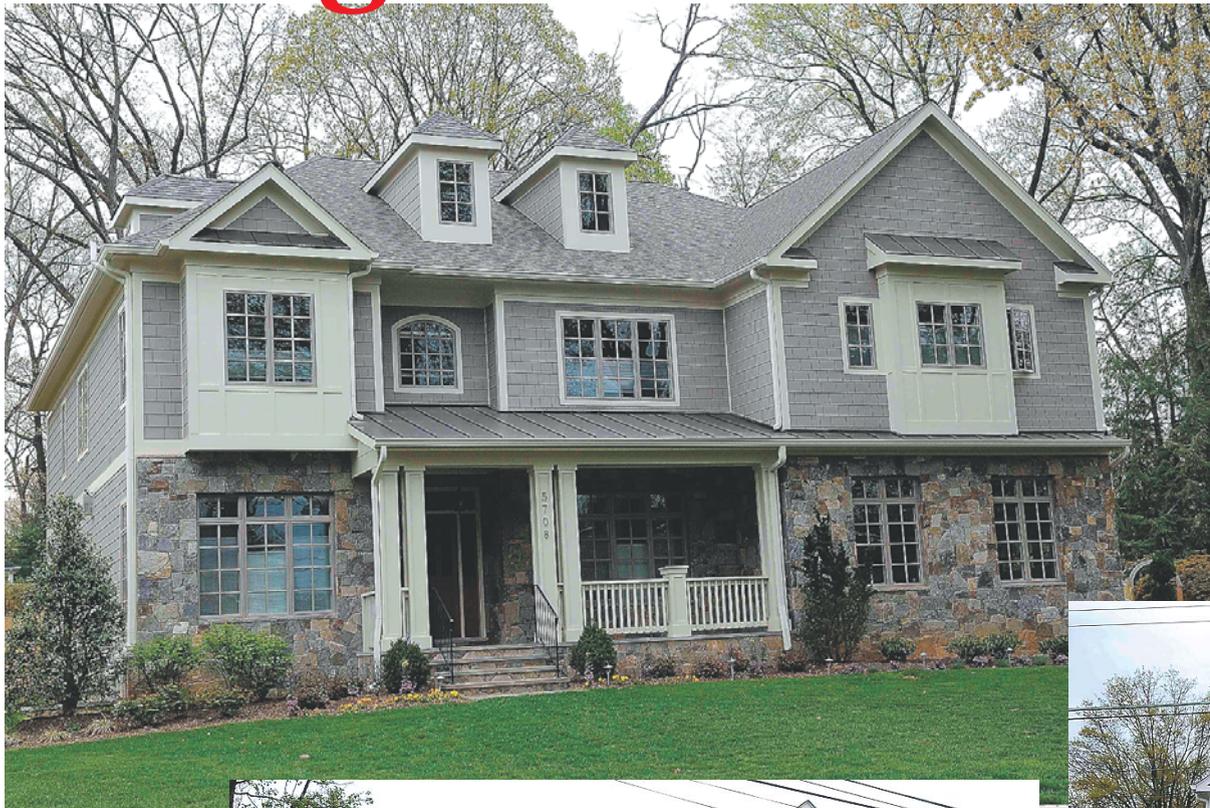


Arlington REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

IN FEBRUARY 2012, 174 ARLINGTON HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$2,023,700-\$91,100.

Top Sales in February 2012



1 5708 Little Falls Road, Arlington — \$2,023,700



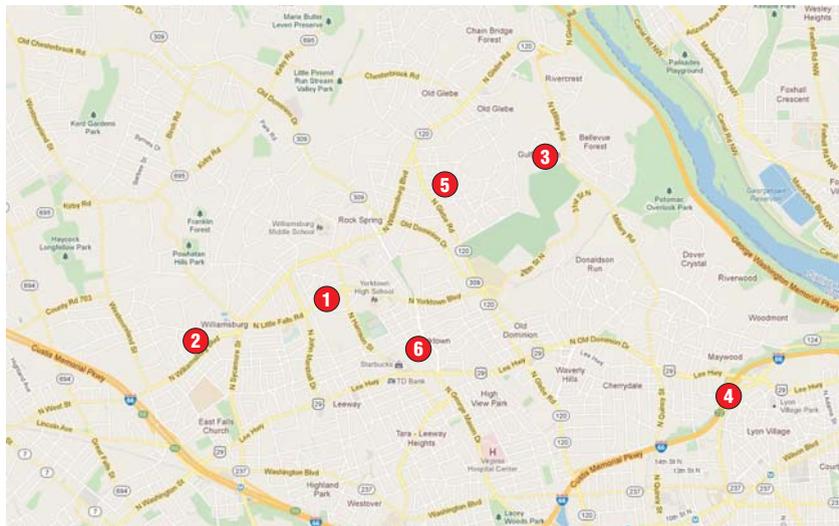
2 3008 Toronto Street North, Arlington — \$1,542,500



3 4127 33rd Road North, Arlington — \$1,523,606



5 4733 34th Road North, Arlington — \$1,440,000



© Google Map data



6 2521 Granada Street, Arlington — \$1,380,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City ..	Sold Price ..	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 5708 LITTLE FALLS RD	6	..	6	..	1	ARLINGTON ..	\$2,023,700	Detached	0.45	22207	COUNTRY CLUB	02/10/12
2 3008 TORONTO ST N	5	..	5	..	1	ARLINGTON ..	\$1,542,500	Detached	0.27	22213 ..	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	02/27/12
3 4127 33RD RD N	5	..	5	..	1	ARLINGTON ..	\$1,523,606	Detached	0.23	22207	BROYHILL FOREST	02/10/12
4 1815 NELSON ST	5	..	5	..	1	ARLINGTON ..	\$1,485,000	Detached	0.14	22207	CHERRYDALE	02/24/12
5 4733 34TH RD N	4	..	4	..	1	ARLINGTON ..	\$1,440,000	Detached	0.32	22207 ..	COUNTRY CLUB HILLS	02/27/12
6 2521 GRANADA ST	6	..	5	..	1	ARLINGTON ..	\$1,380,000	Detached	0.20	22207	GARDEN CITY	02/07/12

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

Creating a Dream Bathroom

Local pros share the latest design trends for this essential space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Updating or renovating a bathroom can be a daunting project. From selecting tile and fixtures to choosing a tub and vanity, options are overwhelmingly plentiful. One source of inspiration when transforming a boring bath into a luxurious, spa-inspired retreat is the newly released National Kitchen and Bath Association's annual design trend survey. The 2012 list offers a snapshot of the latest in bathroom decor. Local designers and association members discuss the list and share their ideas for making stunning visual statements in this essential space.

“We’re seeing the emergence of the bathroom as a retreat or spa experience.”

— Megan Padilla of Aidan Design

FREESTANDING TUBS. The focal

point of any bathroom is the tub. Local designers say a freestanding tub can transform a bathroom into serene sanctuary. “It is like your master bathroom is like a hotel,” said designer Megan Padilla of Aidan Design. “We’re seeing the emergence of the bathroom as a retreat or spa experience.”



PHOTO BY DAVID DOUGHTON/KITCHEN AND BATH FACTORY

One option for additional bathroom storage space is a furniture-style vanity cabinet like the one that Arlington-based designer David Doughton installed in the bathroom of this Great Falls home.

POLISHED CHROME. Bathroom accessories are increasingly bright and shiny as polished nickel and chrome finishes gain popularity. “Polished chrome tends to work especially well with grays, blues and white. It is also an easy choice if you are budget-conscious,” said Falls Church-based designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling.

WATER CLOSETS Designer April Case Underwood of Case Design/Remodeling has

seen a spike in the demand for bathrooms with a separate room for the toilet. “If the bathroom is large enough, a lot of people like to add water closets. Even though they are sharing a bathroom with a spouse or partner, water closets give them the opportunity to be a little bit more private when they are using the toilet.”

Some designers say that brushed metal finishes are still a practical choice for many homeowners. “Many people prefer brushed nickel because it shows fewer water spots and looks cleaner,” said David Doughton, kitchen and bathroom designer at the Kitchen and Bath Factory in Arlington.

MEDICINE CABINETS. As homeowners look for effective ways to add additional storage space, shelving and cabinetry in the bathroom, the time-tested medicine cabinet is making a re-emergence after a decline in



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING

Falls Church-based designer Allie Mann incorporated several 2012 design trends, including polished chrome fixtures, gray paint and large tile in the bathroom of this Arlington home.

SEE BATHROOM DESIGN, PAGE 14

From Home to Dream Home: Split Foyer to French Colonial

Sun Design Remodeling’s design solution for Mulligan home tops category in “Contractor of the Year” Awards.

BY JOHN BYRD
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Tastes change; so, too, an owner’s requirements of their home. In the early 1960s, for instance, no floor plan concept seemed better suited to the demands of modern life than the split level — which deployed half-levels to apportion interior space into sleeping zones, family gathering rooms and service areas.

Carrying the social engineering a step further, designers next introduced the “split foyer” which directs traffic up and down from a locale between two floors — giving equal value to kitchen and bedrooms above; family recreation and laundry below. But such schemes aren’t for everyone and, more to the point, after years of application, restrictive rules — like walls — can wear thin.

Consider, for instance, the case of Gini and Bob Mulligan, 25-year occupants of a circa-1960s split-foyer situated on a wooded set-



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS

The biggest challenge to re-designing a split foyer is the mid-level front door. Raising the entry half a level and introducing a wrap-around elevation porch is logical and an appropriate choice for the home’s wooded setting.

ting in Fairfax.

“We were really attracted to the extraordinary country setting when we bought this house in 1988,” Gini Mulligan said. “It’s very private, wooded acreage that really brings your attention to the beauty of nature. We

were less attracted to the house itself, but thought, well ... we can make some changes once we’re settled in.”

Fast-forward a couple of decades, and the re-thinking process is still underway. “We solicited ideas from a lot of remodelers, but

modifications to a split foyer that worked for us weren’t easy to come by. In the end, we decided that our surroundings called for a farmhouse with a big welcoming porch. Unfortunately, the conceptual drawings we

SEE DESIGN AWARD, PAGE 20

Bathroom Design

FROM PAGE 13

popularity. "In [the Washington, D.C. area] where bathrooms are small, every inch of space is premium," said Doughton. "Medicine cabinets are definitely a must in this area. I've even made units that are 60 inches tall that go behind a door to give people the ample amount of storage space."

Another option is a furniture-style vanity cabinet. "They are different from traditional cabinets because they look like a piece of furniture and can add a 'wow' factor to a bathroom," added Doughton.

SOLID SURFACES. When it comes to vanity tops, granite, quartz and marble are the top choices. "Quartz vanity tops are low maintenance, but some people want the natural look of granite," said Doughton.

As an alternative, Mann suggests an engineered stone known as Cambria. "It is man-made and is a good solid surface," said Mann. "It is not a porous material and does not require a lot of maintenance."

A National Kitchen and Bathroom Association survey found that another trend is the use of glass vanity tops. "It gives a bit of flair," said Mann. "It adds a little bit of interest to the space and gives it a little bit of charm and personality."

SHADES OF GRAY. While whites and off-whites continue to be the most popular color for bathrooms, gray is gaining ground as a versatile option. When used skillfully, gray color schemes can provide a distinguished backdrop without overpowering a design.

"What's nice about gray finishes is that it can accent just about any palette, especially blues or greens," said Doughton.

Mann used gray paint and white marble to turn an Arlington bathroom into a tranquil sanctuary. "Gray is pleasing and calming," she said. "It has become the new neutral. [Designers] say it has become the new beige."

LARGE TILE. Local designers say that large tiles for the floor and walls of the shower are a practical and popular choice. "What people like about larger tiles is that there is less grout involved so there is less maintenance and cleaning. It ends up looking like you have one piece of solid flooring in your bathroom," said Doughton.

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Design with Children in Mind

BOWA Builders share tips for design that works for the whole family.

BY JOSHUA BAKER
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Whether it's a closet, the kitchen or a study area, there are numerous ways to incorporate child-friendly design into any space, and children today are becoming more and more involved in the process. Even if the child is toddler-aged, simple tasks, such as picking colors, themes or bedding, can help them feel that they are part of the process. Besides being used more frequently, greater input in the planning stage should result in more pride in the space later and a desire to keep it neat and tidy.

STUDY SPACES. A well-designed study area can be invaluable when it comes to helping a child stay focused and motivated. The kitchen is a popular choice for such a designated area, as parents are readily available to answer questions, keep their young scholar on task, and supervise internet usage.

Have a wide hallway or nook elsewhere in the home that doesn't receive a lot of traffic? As another option, consider transforming this unused space by placing a desk against the wall, adding wall cabinets or shelving above it for holding supplies, and providing the area with adequate lighting.

A recent project in Vienna features a whimsical study that was built in one of the turrets of the house. The study opens up from the bedroom into an octagonal room, and includes a storage bench for additional seating, lots of windows streaming in natural light, and a high ceiling with three-dimensional hanging stars.

In another recent project, a reading nook was carved out under the stairs. This little hideaway features a daybed with big, comfy pillows and built-in shelving for holding the children's favorite books.

STORAGE SPACES. Children have stuff. Lots and lots of stuff. Books, toys, clothing, sports, hobby and school stuff. The question is: where to put it all? Collecting it as soon as it comes through the door can help to avoid it being strewn all over the place, as children (and their clutter) come home in a whirlwind of excitement from school, games and play dates.

Individual cubbies for each child in a foyer or



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB NAROD PHOTOGRAPHY & BOWA BUILDERS

Design-build addition by BOWA features family foyer with plenty of space to organize children, adults and pets.

mudroom can help to keep family members organized and prevent any mix-ups of belongings. A closet that features built-ins with plenty of drawers, cubbies, hooks and shelving will help encourage independence by giving children the ability to grab what they need and easily tidy up too. Some parents choose to remove the doors to make a closet even more inviting for their little ones to use. Hanging a set of curtains or draping fabric from a rod can add color and complement the overall design scheme, while hiding the contents at the same time.

KITCHEN DESIGN FOR THE SOUS CHEF. There are a number of things to do to help a future chef feel at home in the kitchen.

If it's time for a kitchen renovation, consider creating a set of counters at a lower, child-friendly height so they can help with the cooking. As children grow, this area will continue to come in handy when baking and doing other tasks.

Also consider placing light-switches at lower
SEE RENOVATIONS, PAGE 20

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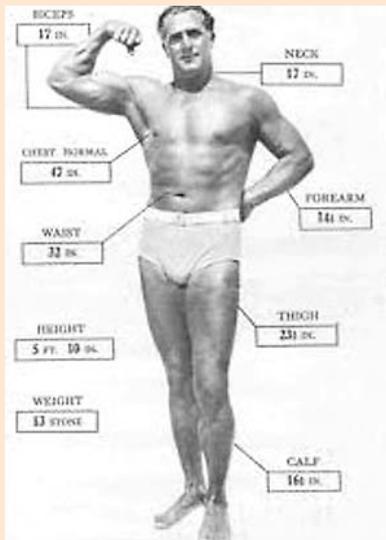
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APRIL 13 TO APRIL 22

UrbanArias: Positions 1956.

Tickets are \$22. Positions 1956 is a 90-minute "self-help" opera in three parts. Both scathingly funny and heart-breakingly bittersweet, the opera is based on a different type of instructional material from the 1950s: a fitness manual (think Charles Atlas, 98-pound weaklings, and titles like "Physique and Delinquency"); a ballroom dancing manual (think Arthur Murray's famous "Footprints"); and a sex manual (think titles like "How to Please Your Husband"). Friday, April 13 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, April 17 at 8 p.m.; Thursday, April 19 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 21 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. At the Black Box Theater at The Artisphere.



SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Countdown to Yuri's Night. 8

p.m. to 2 a.m. Featuring 15 visual artists, 20 performers, a burlesque performance, and two bands. In celebration of the 51st Anniversary of Human Space Flight. Tickets are \$25/advance; \$30/door. At the Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Visit www.c2yn.com.



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.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 15

Art by Jenny Sidhu Mullins. Part of the Art on the Art Bus Project and Interactive Reincarnation Machine. Jenny creates paintings and electronic, interactive sculptures that explore ideas related to national identity, American spirituality and corporate mythology. At the Works in Progress Gallery at the Artisphere. Visit www.artisphere.com.

THROUGH MAY 31

Donna Cameron. Free. Donna Cameron is a new media artist from Arlington who creates highly sensual visual and aural collages through a process of paper emulsion which she developed specifically for her work; a process that helps her create surreal combinations of poetry, color, light and sound. At the Bijou Theater at the Artisphere.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 11

Good Mourning by Florence Minder. 8 p.m. Cost is \$15/\$10. Co-presented by Alliance Française. Part of the Small is More Belgian theater and dance showcase. Followed by Q&A session with playwright and actress Florence Minder. At the Dome Theatre at the Artisphere.

APRIL 14 TO APRIL 22

UrbanArias: Before Breakfast and The Filthy Habit. Saturday, April 14 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, April 18 at 8 p.m.; Friday, April 20 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22. At the Black Box Theater at the Artisphere.

APRIL 18 TO MAY 13

Mickael Broth. Free. Richmond-based visual artist will be demonstrating his work at the Works in Progress Gallery. At the Artisphere.

APRIL 18 TO MAY 31

David Carlson. Carlson is an artist, teacher and community activist that lives and works in the Northern Virginia area. He has collaborated with composers, visual artists and dancers on video projects that deal with concepts of humanism on an international scope. Shown at the Artisphere's Video Wall.

APRIL 18 TO MAY 31

Kevin Palomino: Dead Ghosts. Free. Palomino is a multi-medium artist from Wichita and Washington, D.C. Through his works with film, painting, screen printing, drawing and graphic story Palomino attempts to explore issues of identity, culture, nationality,



THURSDAY/APRIL 12

"Almost Famous." 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Part of the Music in Film Series. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on the shifting landscape of music journalism. A panel will be moderated by Jennifer Vinson of DC Setlist, and featuring panelists Chris Richards (Washington Post), Valerie Paschall (DCist), Aaron Leitko (Pitchfork) and Sarah Godfrey (freelancer). At the Dome Theater at The Artisphere.



FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Jason Masi Band & Three MTS. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Jason Masi Band official launch party for the new album, "Life is Wonderful" with The 3MTs. Visit www.jasonmasi.com or www.3mtsmusic.com. At the Dome Theater at The Artisphere.

modernity and technology as they relate to himself and his generation. At the Artisphere.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

"Better Than Something: Jay Reatard". 7:30 p.m. "Better Than Something" is a feature documentary about the controversial and prolific garage rock icon Jimmy Lee Lindsey Jr, better known to the world as Jay Reatard. This intimate portrait, captured just months before his untimely passing, provides an incredibly close look into Jay's complicated punk-rock world in Memphis, Tenn. At the Dome Theater at The Artisphere.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

Friday Morning Music Club (On Thursdays). Noon. Free classical music. At the Ballroom at The Artisphere.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

Sierra Maestra: Masters of Cuban Son. 10 p.m. Direct from Cuba. Tickets are \$25; \$22 student/senior/military. With five of the original band members still playing, the group has played a key part in the recent worldwide boom in Cuban traditional music. At the Ballroom at The Artisphere.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

"The Last Waltz." 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Thanksgiving, 1976, San Francisco's Winterland: The Band performs its last concert after 16 years on the road. Director Martin Scorsese's camera explores the interactions onstage in the making of music. Offstage, he interviews The Band's five members, focusing on the nature of life on the road. At the Dome Theater at the Artisphere.

FRIDAY/MAY 4

"The 39 Steps." Alfred Hitchcock: The Early Years Film Series. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8. This screening is part of Artisphere's Alfred Hitchcock: The Early Years Film Series. Before there was Vertigo, The Birds and Rear Window, Hitchcock directed films for over a decade that—beyond simply laying the groundwork for his later works—are considered masterpieces in their own right. Every Friday in May, Artisphere will screen a different classic from the "master of suspense" released before 1940. At the Dome Theater at the Artisphere.

THEATER

'Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You'

A riveting saga of survival at MetroStage.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

He was just 4 years old when his father hurriedly whisked him away one dark, moonless night into the unknown. For Jay Alvarez, the journey was profound and one he shares in a riveting performance of "Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You," a one-man show written and performed by Alvarez chronicling his family's flight from Fidel Castro's Cuba in 1964.

"The show is an intimate solo journey of my life as a Cuban-American," said Alvarez following his April 7 performance at MetroStage. "Much of the text is taken from a recording done by my father before he passed away."

Alvarez brilliantly reconstructs his family's struggles as Castro's regime takes hold and Cubans risk their lives for the freedom of America. Central to the story are his father Humberto and mother Chiqui as they leave behind their homeland in hopes of a better future for their children.

"It's the American story, really," Alvarez said. "Just my story about one family and how we survived."



Jay Alvarez in "Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You" at MetroStage.

Alvarez engages the audience in a personal, honest and dynamic piece of theater that follows Humberto as he masterminds a dangerous escape for 24 family members and friends. The fear and doubt are palpable as Alvarez takes us out to sea for 30 hours on boats held together with wooden screws.

"So much of the focus with immigration is on the numbers of people seeking visas," said Thomas Jefferson High School student Nick Arango, whose grandparents fled Cuba in 1959 under the threat of imprisonment. "But this story reminds us there are people behind those numbers risking their lives."

Directed by Theresa Gambacorta, "Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You!" played to sold-out audiences at Stage Left Studio



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

Jay Alvarez chats with Nick, Karen and Dan Arango of Reston following the April 7 performance at MetroStage.

in New York in June 2010, and was chosen to be performed at the United Solo Theatre Festival on Theatre Row in New York in November of 2010. It won Best Solo Performance at the 2011 New York International Fringe Festival and The Best of Fringe at the Hollywood Fringe Festival.

"I passionately want to share my story and reach out to both the Latino and American communities in our country," said Alvarez,

who greets and talks with audience members about his story following each of his performances. "These communities have become very insular and the established American communities forget at times what people go through to get to our shores."

"Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You!" runs thru April 22 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St, Alexandria. Call 703548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

Melody Tavern, 3650 S. Glebe Road, Suite 170 Arlington. Call 703-413-4141.

- ❖ Thursday, April 12: Meredith Seidel (jazz, pop, gospel)
- ❖ Friday, April 13: Pluckerland Band (honky tonk, pop, blues)
- ❖ Saturday, April 14: John Lewis Trio (jazz, pop)
- ❖ Sunday, April 15: Brunch featuring Jaared (jazz)
- ❖ Thursday, April 19: Geno & Friends (jazz)
- ❖ Friday, April 20: Jaared (jazz)
- ❖ Saturday, April 21: David Cole & Main Street Blues (blues, jazz, pop)
- ❖ Sunday, April 22: Brunch featuring Jaared (jazz)
- ❖ Thursday, April 26: Barry Gurley (jazz, pop)
- ❖ Friday, April 27: David Cole & Main Street Blues (blues, jazz, pop)
- ❖ Saturday, April 28: Rhapsody Blue (jazz, R&B)
- ❖ Sunday, April 29: Brunch featuring Jaared (jazz)

NOW THROUGH JULY 3

"Eternal Washington: **Black and White Photographs by Greg Embree**", At Cherrydale Branch Library, 2190 Military Road, Arlington (703-228-6330); through July 3, 2012. Hours: Mon.: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Tue.: Closed; Wed.: 1 p.m.-9 p.m.; Thu.: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri. & Sat.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Opening reception on the library balcony on Thursday, Apr. 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

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.

FEBRUARY TO APRIL

Artwork by Tweety Thuy Dong. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 300 Park Ave., first floor hallway, Falls Church. Artist's reception is Feb. 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. and April 11 from 3 to 5 p.m.

APRIL 4 TO JUNE 10

This is My City. Local and international student photography show. Opening reception is April 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. The show provides students with



Rosemarie O'Connor and David Gillick.

APRIL 20 TO 22

"**The Matchmaker.**" Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Apr. 20 and Saturday, April 21, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 22. General admission tickets are \$10, students and senior citizens are \$5. Senior Rosemarie O'Connor stars as Dolly Levi and Senior David Gillick as Horace Vandergelder in their spring production. They are supported by seniors Allison Roaquin as Minnie Fay and Lisa Young as Mrs. Malloy with Juniors Tyler Fritz as Cornelius Hackl and Michael Bonini as Barnaby Tucker. At Bishop O'Connell High School. Call 703-237-1448 or visit www.bishopoconnell.org/theatre

an opportunity to learn photography fundamentals while exploring their own communities and to have their best works exhibited at the Arlington Arts Center (AAC). At Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd, Arlington. Call 703-248-6800.

APRIL 6 TO NOVEMBER

National Cherry Blossom Photo Contest.

Cherry Blossoms are blooming inside and outside in Crystal City this spring with a new partnership between the Crystal City Business Improvement District, Vornado/Charles E. Smith, and FotoDC. Some 150 finalists and judges' favorites from FotoDC's Second Annual National Cherry Blossom Photo Contest will be exhibited along Crystal City's interior walkways. This year's contest will feature photography from four different categories such as landscape, people, festivities and vintage. Visit www.crystalcity.org.

APRIL 13 AND 14

Used Book Sale. More than 40,000 books for browsing and buying. Sponsored by the Falls Church Area American Association of University Women. Friday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the Falls Church Community Center, 233 Little Falls St., Falls Church. Call 703-534-5345.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

The Mouse of Amherst. 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10/children; \$15/adults. This original work for children, adapted from the book by Elizabeth Spire, tells the story of a lively mouse who strikes up an unlikely friendship with reclusive poet, Emily Dickinson. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Shoebbox Volunteer Event. 1 to 3 p.m. Help decorate and pack shoeboxes for low-income seniors, the homeless and those who visit food pantries. At Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Burke Hall, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington. For details, rsvp@ccda.net or visit www.ccda.net.

Arlington Home Show and Expo. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring 60 exhibitors. The event is a way to learn about remodeling kitchens and baths, finishing or waterproofing basements, replacing windows and doors, as well as flooring, roofing, siding, gutter, and paving solutions, security systems, insulation, shelving, decks, and more from a wide variety of top-rate companies. At Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 South 16th St., Arlington. Email: arlingtonshow@columbiapike.org or call 703-892-2776.

Service Expo. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 3900 Howard Street, Annandale. Representatives from 20 different community agencies will be available to talk about their services and volunteer opportunities. Contact Lexie Staton at 703-978-2475 or staton7@verizon.net.

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Join in the Alice Ferguson Foundation's 24th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup where thousands of volunteers of all ages will pick up trash from different cleanup sites around the region. Find a cleanup site near you by visiting www.PotomacCleanup.org, or calling 202-973-8203.

Little Hunting Creek Cleanup. Volunteers are needed. At Sequoyah Condominiums Parking Lot, 7950 Seven Woods Drive, Arlington.

APRIL 15 TO JUNE 9

A Life in Art: A Retrospective of Works. By John Bryans. Opening Reception and Talk: Sunday, April 15, 2012, 4-6 p.m. Primarily a watercolorist, Bryans also works in acrylics, ink, silk screen, oils and assemblage of found objects. At the Crossroads Gallery, Goodwin House Baileys Crossroads, 3440 S Jefferson St, Falls Church.

TUESDAY/APRIL 17

Pershing's Own. 7:30 p.m. Solo works for cello by American composers Henry Cowell, Elliot Carter, George Crumb, and others, performed by SSG Ben Wensel. Live Audio Broadcast via www.usarmyband.com. At Brucker Hall, Ft. Myer.

Arlington County Gangs: Exploring the Shadows of Our Urban-Mayberry. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Registration is \$40/general; \$30/Leadership Arlington members. At Leadership Arlington, 4420 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 102, Arlington. Call 703-528-2522 or visit www.LeadershipArlington.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

DREAM Project. 7 p.m. Free. Scholarships for Immigrant Children. The Arlington Branch of the American Association of University Women will hold a meeting at Nottingham School, 5900 Little Falls Road, Arlington, on the DREAM Project. The discussion will be led by Emma Violand Sanchez, a member of the Arlington School Board, who founded the DREAM Project, which provides scholarships for some of the immigrant students. Students will share their stories about their struggles to pursue higher education due to their immigration status. Parking is available on the school parking lot. Call 703-534-6837.

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Look What I Saw, Really



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A male patient sitting directly across from me being infused with his unique chemotherapy cocktail, a bit too far for a conversation, but certainly close enough for a knowing/empathetic glance. He didn't look too well; jaundice in the face, a baseball cap covering up a chemotherapy-affected hair line (as I can similarly attest) and a thin physique exuding the type of stress commonly found in cancer patients being infused. Dressed casually in blue jeans and a long sleeve cotton shirt; with his sneakers pointing toward the ceiling resting on the elevated foot support of the Barcalounger as the I.V. continues its drip. Accompanied by his wife, as I overheard her described, sitting supportively to his left.

Though I had never seen this man during my three-plus years of regular (every month, basically) infusions, he looked eerily familiar, or at least his circumstances and appearance did. The more I thought about it, more so after I had left the facility, the more obvious it became: he looked like me, or rather, I looked like him. It wasn't quite like looking in the mirror, but it was a bit like seeing the truth (of my appearance). Whatever I thought I looked like (see 3/7/2012 column titled "Look What She Saw, Really") or denied what I actually looked like, it became ever more apparent and clear the longer the two of us sat across from one another. Then the clincher: I found out from my oncology nurse that this man and I were approximately the same age. Which was extremely distressing because, by looking at his gaunt and frail appearance, I would have guessed that he was much older than me. Finding out that we were close in age was in fact was unsettling. Unsettling because this revelation came on top of my observation that he and I looked similar. And if I thought he looked much older than me, then maybe I too looked much older – and less healthy than I thought I did. If so, then maybe the woman in the supermarket whom I wrote about in my March 7th column had every reason to stare at me the way she did that day.

Seeing my fellow patient for what he and I apparently are, was not exactly like seeing a ghost, but it wasn't like seeing George Clooney, either. Whatever I think in my head about how I feel/how I look; presumably, if looks could kill, I'd be dead already. And since I don't want, nor think that I am dead already, considering now that my appearance might actually reflect the severity of my underlying diagnosis – in spite of how I think I feel and in spite of how people say I look, would be (A) news to me and (B) news that isn't very good.

The question is, whether it's news with which I can live. I have always tried to take this cancer diagnosis in stride and not let it effect my demeanor. Part of that strategy has involved a bit of denial to the seriousness/inevitability of it all. Seeing this fellow cancer patient sitting across from me, however, looking so familiar – and similar to me, caused not my life to pass before me, but rather my death. It's not what I had in mind when I went to the Center that day and it's rarely how I want to begin my day. Nevertheless, his image and its reality is in my head now. No wonder I felt the need to write about it.

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

Design Wins 'Contractor of Year' Award

FROM PAGE 13

received mostly just showed we weren't being heard. It was very frustrating."

Compounding the issue was the couple's extensive "wish list" — which included a large master bedroom suite; a gourmet kitchen; substantially enlarged living and entertainment spaces; private places for billiards and studio painting, and lots of natural light and visual continuum in all directions.

Ranked above all this, however, was a call to dramatically re-design the front façade. "A split foyer puts the front door midway between the first and second levels," Gini Mulligan said. "How do you modify a feature like that?"

Enter Craig Durosko, founder and chairman of Sun Design Remodeling.

"A split foyer is a fascinating challenge," Durosko said. "For starters, you have to eliminate the mid-level front-facing stairwell, and create alternatives that really advance the owner's vision. Typically, this is going to entail structural changes and a re-definition to the home's basic architecture."

The starting point is to concentrate on solving functional considerations, Durosko said. This drives the search for an architectural language that satisfies a broad criteria including the appropriateness of the home's design to its setting. Interesting, then, that what evolves out of routine space-planning is a rural variant of French Colonial style, associated with Louisiana and the Delta states — places where the indoor-outdoor component is a lifestyle essential.

"Relocating the front door to the second floor main level wrapped by a porch called for distinctive front stairs," Durosko said. "We designed the pavilion roof to reconcile the porch to the higher pitch of a new third level hipped roof. Three dormer windows — needed for natural light — followed from this."

THE NEW STYLE emerges in the details. The entry way is a glass-facing double French door. Six divided light windows now grace the re-imagined front elevation. Porch support piers are perfectly aligned with its roof columns. The broad flaring stairway



Window walls, glass-facing sliders and other glazing solutions mean that any seat in the primary living area is visually linked to the wooded setting.

narrows towards the top. Old brick was deployed to extend the existing chimney. In its essence, Durosko and team create a spot-on evocation of a "raised rural" French Colonial, a look originally created in the 18th century for just such a country setting.

By contrast, the remade interior explores "open" floor plan sensibilities — emphasizing uncluttered sightlines and easy circulation.

A footprint above the garage is allocated to a sizeable master suite with 15-foot cathedral ceilings and generous views of the leafy lot from front and back. Three small bedrooms on the home's south side are converted into a generous guest suite complete with its own rear entrance. Front-facing rooms are converted into a library (which accesses both suites) and the new locale for a mid-house staircase linking both the existing lower level and a new third floor.

Other small changes expand the home's primary living area. Deleting just 90 square feet of mid-level foyer permitted designers to reconfigure the living room and dining room into an L-shaped "great room" wrapping a new gourmet kitchen which opens

on two sides.

The kitchen's cathedral ceiling — crowned with an extensive window wall — invites natural light and visual continuity. As Gini Mulligan tells it: any seat in the primary living area is visually linked to the wooded setting from all sides.

On a similar note, relocating the stairwell and opening some walls transforms the lower level into a light and airy family entertainment center. The third floor — which Gini Mulligan plans to use as an art studio — likewise, gains light from dormers in both the front and the back.

For the Mulligans, though, what really matters is how well the new house validates a long-forested personal vision.

"Rocking on the front porch in the morning or the evening surrounded by trees is just deliciously satisfying," Gini Mulligan said. "The house is a perfect realization."

On this point, others concur. The makeover was recently named the region's best residential addition in the \$100,000-\$250,000 category by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry's metro Washington chapter.

Renovations with Children in Mind

FROM PAGE 15

heights for a youngster's easy reach, or installing light-switches with automatic sensors to avoid bumps in the dark.

Worried about a little one climbing on the countertop? Providing children with their own set of dishes in a base cabinet will eliminate the need for them to reach those items on high shelves.

In addition, placing the microwave at a lower height allows for easier accessibility and can help foster an earlier sense of autonomy for one's loved one. Consider having a pull-out drawer-style microwave installed for easy access. A designated "kid's drawer" in the refrigerator is a great way for them to conveniently grab snacks with-

out risking spillage from a high shelf or pestering mom and dad.

And throughout the home, soft-close drawers and door dampers will help avoid pinched fingers.

Designing for children requires creativity, innovation and the input of an experienced remodeler, as the space should be fun and functional. Whatever the space is, and whether remodeling existing space or creating an addition, a residential design build contractor can help in figuring out the best options for a family's needs, budget and lifestyle.

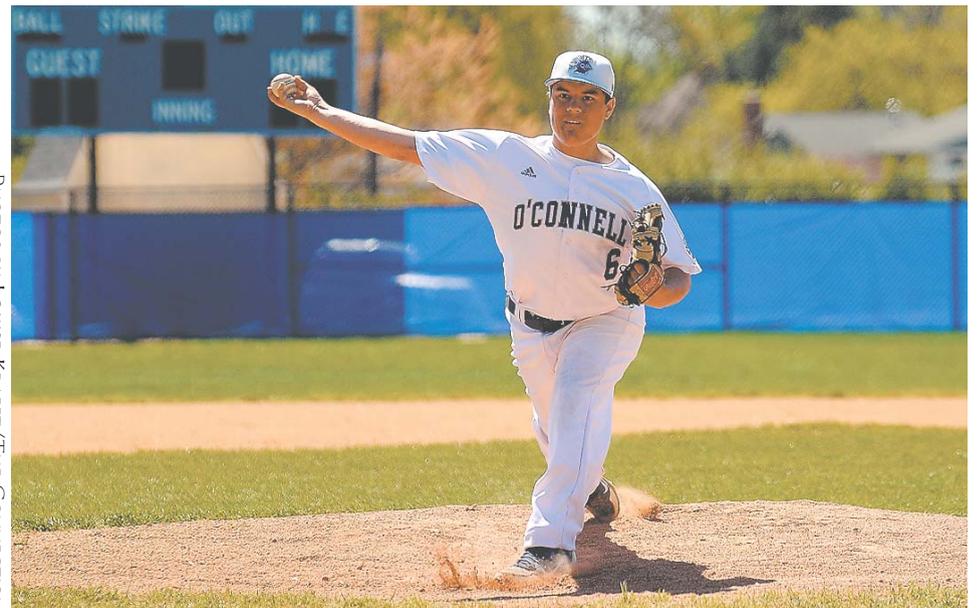
Josh Baker is founder of BOWA. Learn more at www.bowa.com.



BOWA kitchen remodel features child-friendly seating at the end of the island.



O'Connell sophomore Andrew Tessier had three RBIs against St. Mary's Ryken on April 7.



O'Connell junior Nick McIntyre pitches against St. Mary's Ryken on April 7.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

O'Connell Baseball Struggles with Fundamentals

Carson home run goes for naught in loss to St. Mary's Ryken.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Facing a 3-1 count with the score tied in the bottom of the first inning against St. Mary's Ryken, Bishop O'Connell designated hitter Brooks Carson took what he thought was ball four and headed toward first base. The home plate umpire called the pitch a strike, however, forcing Carson to return to the batter's box.

Rather than sulk in disappointment, Carson made the most of his opportunity, blasting the following delivery over the left-field fence for a two-run homer. Back-to-back singles to open the inning, a sacrifice bunt and an RBI groundout helped the Knights secure an early lead.

The Bishop O'Connell baseball team's level of execution early in the April 7 contest in Arlington was what head coach Rick Hart expects from his players. Starting pitcher Nick McIntyre worked his way out of a bases-loaded jam in the top half of the first inning and the Knights found a way to score runs in the bottom half. But as the game progressed, O'Connell's execution faltered and the Knights wound up on the wrong end of a 12-6 final score, dropping their record to 7-8. After the game, Hart had a lengthy talk with his team, calling the Knights' performance unacceptable.

"We are not the best offensive team — I know that, we all know that — but there are a lot of different ways to win a baseball game," Hart said about the Knights, who averaged four runs per game through 15 contests. "What I cannot take and what I cannot accept — and what I will never accept — is [poor fundamental play]. We work every single day on fundamentals, respect-



Bishop O'Connell baseball coach Rick Hart talks to the Knights during an April 7 loss to St. Mary's Ryken in Arlington.

ing the game and playing the game the right way and that is why I am so hot right now. I'm not hot about our record — I don't like our record — [but] ... we teach playing the game the right way and that group that was out there today, I don't know what else they could have done to screw it up anymore than they did."

O'Connell took a 3-1 lead in the first, but an uncaught third strike and a poor throw to first base in the second inning led to four runs for St. Mary's Ryken. The Knights trailed 7-5 after five innings, but a poor throw across the diamond in the sixth inning led to two more runs for SMR.

"As a team, we didn't do what we needed to do to win," McIntyre said. "We didn't play a good game defensively. We started out well offensively but kind of got lost in the approach, which was to get a lot of hits into play and make the defense make plays. [Hart] has a right to be mad. We didn't play [well]."

McIntyre suffered the loss for O'Connell, running into some tough luck at times. The

junior right-hander allowed seven runs — three earned — on eight hits in 4 2/3 innings. He walked three, hit one batter and struck out five.

"We didn't help him," Hart said of the Knights' performance around McIntyre. "We're not helping him offensively, and then we start kicking the ball around. ... We can't throw the ball 90 feet. It's hard to watch."

A throwing error and two infield hits contributed to a four-run second inning for SMR.

"I can only do my job, which is throw strikes and I think I did a pretty good job of it," McIntyre said. "But they did the thing that we tried to do, which is hit the ball into play and make the defense make plays and unfortunately, they had some hits that found holes and, at the end, they had a couple good hits ... which were solid-hit balls."

Offensively, sophomore first baseman Andrew Tessier had a single and three RBIs for O'Connell. Freshman center fielder Doug Gressly had two hits and an RBI, and senior left fielder Jackie Beaver, senior shortstop Charlie DiGuilian and sophomore Hayden Basse each had one hit.

"We need to get back to playing passionate baseball," Tessier said. "We need to start caring a lot more about what we do."

O'Connell will travel to face Gonzaga at noon on Saturday, April 14.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Yorktown Baseball Starts 8-1

The Yorktown baseball team dropped its season opener to Oakton, but responded by winning its next eight games. The Patriots won three games during spring break, beating Gloucester (9-8) on April 3, Walsingham Academy (9-5) on April 4 and Jamestown (7-6) on April 5 to improve to 8-1.

Yorktown hosted Washington-Lee on April 10. Results were not available prior to The Connection's deadline. The Patriots will travel to face Hayfield at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 13 in a rematch of last

season's National District championship game.

Yorktown/W-L Boys' Soccer To Play April 16

The Yorktown and Washington-Lee boys' soccer teams will face off at Yorktown on Monday, April 16 at 7 p.m. The girls' teams will play on April 11 at 7 p.m. at W-L.

NEWS

The Boss Never Says 'Stop Clowning Around'

From pharmacy technician to clown.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
THE CONNECTION

Clown alley of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey has a vacancy. Across the entire United States, the odds of being chosen are 308 million to 1. Narrow it to Estill Springs, Tenn. and the odds become 2,100 to 1. Chris Sullivan, pharmacy technician, beat both odds and is the newest and youngest clown in the alley.

The choice of career was not made for him, as with generations of so many circus performers. At home in Tennessee, Dad worked for the Postal Service and Mom was a manager with Walmart. Neither his sister nor his brother ever thought of running away to join the circus. The question is: What happened to Sullivan?

Well, he constantly was involved with performing arts. In middle school, high school and afterward, he appeared in school productions and with mid-state theatre groups large and small. Touring Europe in the choir of a youth group, Tennessee Ambassadors of Music, broadened his perspective.

Sullivan saw his first circus only three years ago with a friend arranging backstage visits. Intrigued, he attended two sessions at the Mooseburger Clown Arts Camp, Maple Lake, Minn. There he picked up juggling, which has come in handy, and studied physical comedy under a faculty of retired circus performers. The most important lesson learned, said Sullivan, "is that you can never stop studying and you must never stop growing." He notes that his clown character is evolving and may wind up quite different from today's version.

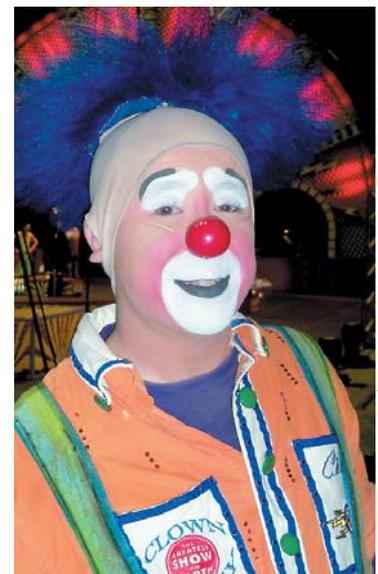
Ringling announced auditions in summer 2010 and he competed in Dallas, Texas. At the end, it was a "We'll call you if something turns up" situation. He returned to his hometown and his job. The call came the following March.

Look closely during the circus and notice there are three types of clown: Whiteface, Auguste and Tramp. Sullivan is an Auguste, the type wearing over-sized clothing and using mostly flesh-colored makeup. He acts an innocent fool, is silly and moves blithely from



Four Days

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus will be at the Patriot Center, George Mason University, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax, on Thursday, April 12, 7 p.m.; Friday, April 13, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 14, 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 15, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.



Chris Sullivan of Ringling's Clown Alley

PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE CONNECTION

failure to failure never losing confidence in the next improbable scheme. He also slips, falls and pulls gags on his mates and on the audience.

"I really enjoy making people laugh," he said. "Sometimes after a show and out of costume, I will mingle with the patrons. Nothing makes me feel better than hearing how much they enjoyed the clowns, and watching them smile as they recall the acts. If I can make some people laugh, I'm satisfied." He is content to remain an Auguste.

Circus people usually have more than one job. Sullivan's other duties include advance visits, that is, appearances in hospitals and orphanages and before local civic and social welfare groups. He also offers pre-show tours to local media and others. These activities require his voice, so the choir training proves useful.

The 23 year old is having the time of his life as the first full year of professional clowning is celebrated. His room — admittedly quite small — is on the mile-long train crisscrossing the country. Commissary department staff provides meals and snacks.

Unmarried, all these arrangements suit him "just fine."

Pay for 11 months of full-time work is "decent," and more than the old drug store job, he reports. Whether he could earn a living worried the family. "My father was concerned because he once said I would work for a bag of peanuts as long there was an audience," Sullivan said.

These days those concerns have passed.

Residents Asked To Donate Dresses for Prom

Washington-Lee High School will once again be holding its annual "Formals For Five" sale on April 25 and 26. To enable all girls to afford a dress for Prom, gently used formal and semi-formal dresses are being collected, as well as jewelry and handbags. The sale will be open to

girls at all Arlington high schools. All proceeds will be donated to Arlington Public Schools. Tax receipts can be obtained for value of donation.

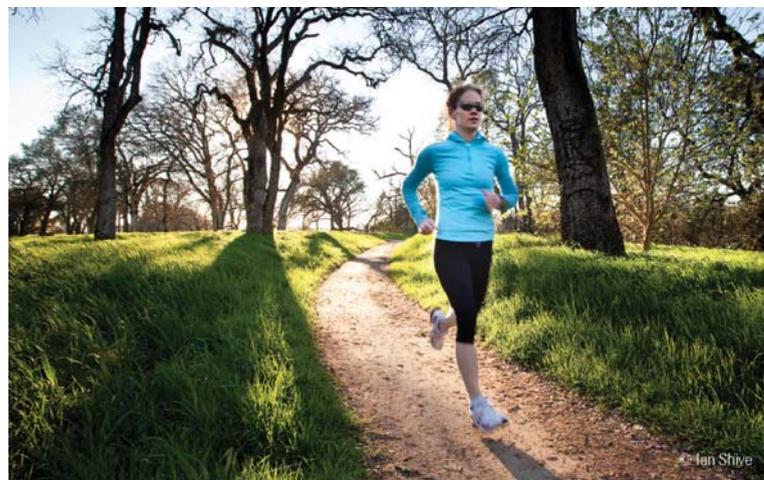
To donate a dress, contact Coordinator Kristi Berkland at promdressdonation@gmail.com for information on drop-off locations.

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Before ClearChoice, getting implants could take over a year and involve endless visits to multiple providers. Our state-of-the-art facilities bring everything together under one roof. The doctors, technicians and cutting edge technology needed for a fast, convenient result can all be found in one place. That is how ClearChoice can deliver beautiful smiles in just one day.*

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MYTH: Tooth loss affects a relatively small group of people.

FACT: By the age of 50, the average American is missing 4 or more teeth.

MYTH: Tooth loss is almost always a result of poor oral hygiene.

FACT: Oral hygiene is important, but genetics and age are significant drivers of tooth loss.

MYTH: Dental problems caused by gum disease and tooth loss resolve themselves quickly.

FACT: Most dental problems do not "self-resolve" and usually become worse with time.

MYTH: Dentures are the only option for those dealing with tooth loss.

FACT: Dental implants look and feel like your natural teeth and are a modern alternative to dentures.

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ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers provide comprehensive implant treatment professionally and affordably. That's why an independent survey of thousands of patients showed *they would overwhelmingly recommend ClearChoice to others*[†]. At ClearChoice, we work to ensure that no one leaves until they are happy with their smile.

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