

Miracle on 23rd Street Celebration

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Children and their families
enjoy the sparkling holiday
tree at Friday evening's
Miracle on 23rd Street
celebration.

New Heritage

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Decorating Trees and Fundraising

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Lighting Up Rosslyn

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Washington-Lee Gymnastics Team Sets Bar High

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Home LifeStyle

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BULLETIN BOARD

E-mail announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is noon the Thursday before publication. Photos are welcome.

items, along with a vacation raffle. \$180 if purchased by Dec. 21 or \$200/ticket from Dec. 22-Jan. 18. Visit www.arlingtonchamber.org or 703-525-2400.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 13-15

Fundraising. Arlington Northwest Lions Charities Inc., will be holding a fundraiser by selling fresh Florida citrus, pecans, and pure Vermont maple syrup at the Overlee Pool, 6030 Lee Highway, lower parking lot. The hours are Dec. 13 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 703-528-1130.

MONDAY/DEC. 31

Make Your Yard Sustainable. Building on the highly successful June 2012 Sustainability Symposium held at the Fairlington Community Center, Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners will hold a series of six workshops on the topic of Making Your Yard Sustainable, during which participants will create a sustainability plan for their own yard with coaching from local experts. The workshops will be held on six successive Saturday mornings, starting on Jan. 19, 2013. Class size is limited to 20 households. A fee of \$75 per household (two participants) covers soil test and all workshop materials. Register by Dec. 31. Call 703-228-6414 9 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday or email mgarlalex@gmail.com. Visit www.mgnv.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26

Business Gala. 6:30 p.m.-midnight at Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City. Features more than 100 silent and live auction

ONGOING

PFLAG of Arlington. Second Sunday at 3 p.m. PFLAG promotes the equality and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered persons and their families. Meets on the second Sunday of each month, at the Unitarian Universalist Church at George Mason Drive and Route 50. Contact aly.pflagdc@gmail.com.

Free Mall Walking Program for Seniors. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Walk at your own pace in a safe and friendly environment. Group stretch and cool down led by hospital staff. Call 703-558-6859. Ballston Common Mall (Food Court Level), 4238 Wilson Blvd.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group. Third Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Carlin Springs. Free. Call 703-558-6859.

Strength & Stretch For Seniors. Mondays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. Improve range of motion, strength & bone health. All abilities welcome. \$42. Mondays at Virginia Hospital Center, 1701 N. George Mason Dr. Thursdays at Health Pavilion, 601 S. Carlin Springs Road.

Gentle Pilates. Saturdays at 9 and 11:35 a.m. A non-traditional mat Pilates class with modifications to suit all abilities. Learn proper form, strengthen core muscles and improve posture. \$78. Virginia Hospital Center, 1701 N. George Mason Dr.

Gentle Yoga. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Restore flexibility, strength and ease tension. All levels

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 19

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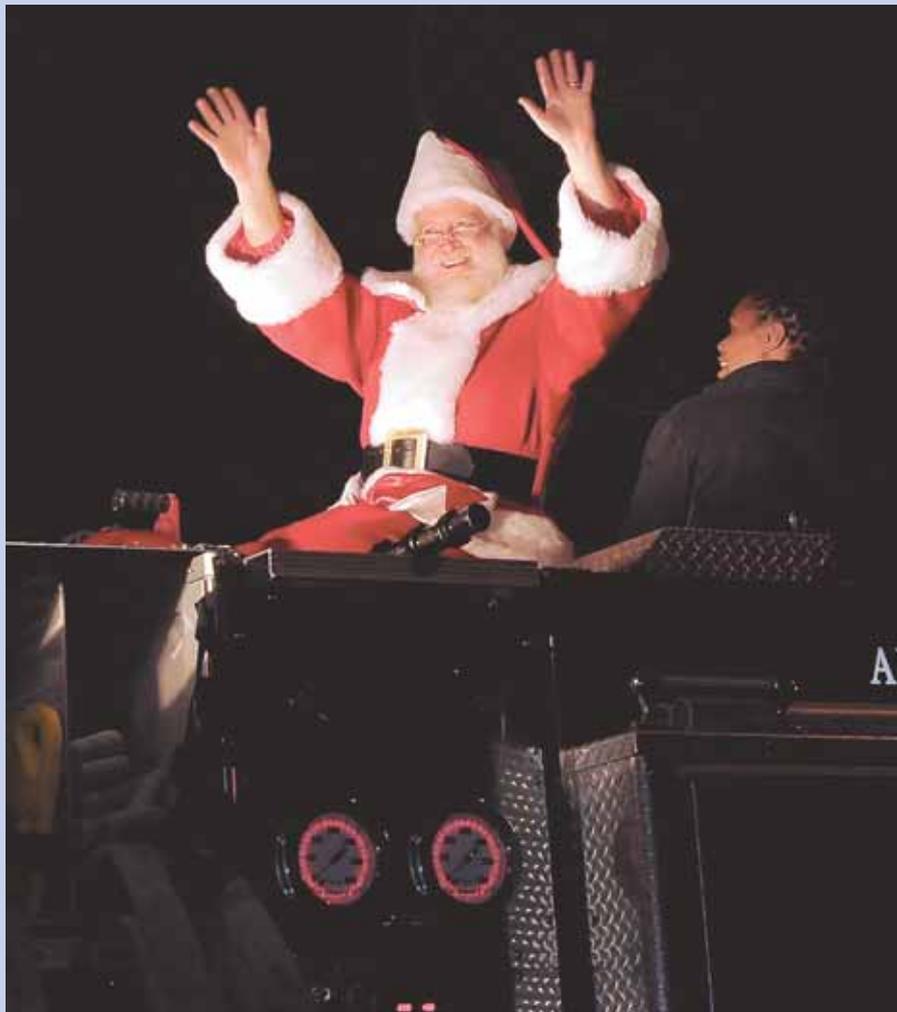
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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Santa arrives on top of an Arlington County fire truck for a visit at Linden Resources.

Miracle on 23rd Street Celebration

More than 100 neighborhood children and their families along with staff and clients of Linden Resources participated in the annual tree lighting ceremony at Linden Resources on 23rd Street last Friday evening, Dec. 8. In 1959, a group of Northern Virginia parents seeking jobs for their adult children with disabilities founded The Sheltered Occupational Center of Northern Virginia (now known as Linden Resources). Twenty-six individuals were included in the first year's program and received nearly \$3,000 in wages. The

program has grown to offer job placement, employment and other services and programs to more than 270 individuals annually.

On Friday evening, carolers greeted the guests with song as the crowd gathered. The switch was turned and the evergreen outside of Linden Resources sparkled in holiday lights.

Moments later, lights filled the roadway as trucks from the Arlington County Fire Department delivered the evening's special guest, Santa. For more information on Linden Resources visit www.linden.org



As the roadway lit up children turn to watch the approaching fire trucks.

New Heritage

Arlington officials and Army leaders negotiating new land swap to create Arlington Heritage Center.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The ghosts of the Civil War are still haunting Arlington National Cemetery, where county government officials and the U.S. Army are negotiating a land swap that could save the long-planned Arlington Heritage Center. The center's future was cast into doubt earlier this year, when the Army backed out of a deal negotiated years ago that gave the cemetery land to expand the cemetery and the county space to create a heritage center.

Now county leaders and federal officials are trying to cobble together a new deal.

At issue is a stretch of land in one of the most historic parts of Arlington — an area west of the Pentagon and south of the cemetery. Army officials backed out of the non-binding contract because they were concerned that the existing swap did not

maximize the acreage of land they could get to expand the cemetery. The new land swap under negotiation now will give the cemetery more land on the outskirts of the existing cemetery so it can increase the number of graves by four acres, pushing the land for the county south of Columbia Pike.

"If the two sides can reach an agreement that I feel meets the needs of the community and the cemetery, I'll insert language in the Defense bill authorizing its enactment," said U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) in a written response to questions. "Otherwise, no deal will move forward."

THE BIGGEST outstanding issue is whether or not the federal government would contribute to the redevelopment of Columbia Pike. Meanwhile, the Army is hoping to pick up an extra four acres of space for burial. And the county is hoping to land a spot for the long-awaited heritage center. Stakeholders are apparently awaiting the results of a survey that would detail which acres could be swapped, although it's unclear when the survey would be completed or where the money would come from to complete the survey.

"It's not like the Army walked away from the deal," said Ali Ganjian, president of the Arlington Historical Society. "It's more like all the parties have had a change of interest."

For Army leaders the goal is to increase

the amount of land it can use for burials by expanding into land the county currently maintains for Southgate Road. For Arlington officials, the goal is to straighten Columbia Pike. To facilitate that swap, county officials will need to conduct a survey to determine how much land to swap — a deal that includes local, state and federal land. After the survey is conducted, county leaders would need to cut a deal with the Army then get congressional approval. Depending on how the deal is negotiated, the Virginia Department of Transportation might need an "interchange justification report."

"There's not a disinterest to do the land swap," said Ganjian. "All parties are still interested. It's just that the land that would be given to the county is what's in question."

"All parties are still interested. It's just that the land that would be given to the county is what's in question."

— Ali Ganjian, President,
Arlington Historical Society

THE STORY of the Arlington Heritage Center dates back to the 1860s, when the federal government seized the plantation estate of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Within six hours after Virginia announced secession, the Union invaded and began a long occupation of Alexandria and Arlington. Former slaves steamed into the Washington area from throughout the south, newly emancipated by war and in need of housing. So the government established a Freedman's Village at the Arlington plantation — a settlement that included about 100 homes, a school and a church.

"This was not the 40 acres and a mule everyone thought they were going to get," said Michael Leventhal, historic preservation coordinator for Arlington County. "It was there to teach freed blacks a trade, give them some land around it so they could garden and be self sustaining, and it was to be for a temporary time."

The Arlington freedman's village was one of several established throughout the Washington area. Others were on Roosevelt Island and south of Old Town. Many of the people from Arlington's freedman's village ended up staying in the area, establishing African-American communities in Nauck, Green Valley, Hall's Hill, Penrose and Queen City. By the 1890s, the federal government was no longer willing to be a landlord for the village. "The government was not in the business of helping people," said Leventhal. "It was in the business of helping businesses and defending the country and that was it. It wasn't until the 1930s that there was a sense that the government has a responsibility to its citizens."

For Army leaders the goal is to increase

NEWS

Decorating Trees and Fundraising

Georgetown Jingle supports MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's pediatric cancer programs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A few local designers are using their talent to bring holiday cheer to some local pediatric cancer patients. Arlington resident Allie Mann, a senior designer at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., and Alexandria resident Allison Priebe Brooks, owner of Queen Bee Designs, were among the tastemakers selected to participate in the Georgetown Jingle, a fundraising effort for pediatric oncology programs at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington.

The Georgetown Jingle was created in 2006 to raise money for the Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program at Georgetown University Hospital. Over the past six years, the Jingle has raised \$1.5 million.

Members of the Washington area design community are each paired with a Georgetown patient ambassador who has undergone or is undergoing treatment at the hospital. Mann was assigned to patient ambassador Sophie, whose neuroblastoma is currently in remission.

"I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to meet my partner Sophie, her wonderful family, and share their story," said Mann. "It makes you really take a step back and appreciate the gifts/blessings in your life, especially good health."

Sophie is a fan of Dr. Seuss, so Mann designed and created a Seuss-themed Christmas tree, and Sophie helped make ornaments.

"Sophie and Allie met in June and instantly hit it off," said Ashley Myler Klick, an Alexandria resident and event manager for Georgetown Jingle. "The Seuss tree is definitely one of the more popular ones at the hotel right now. Everyone loves Dr. Seuss."

Brooks, a jewelry maker, decorated a mantle using many of her own designs. "Georgetown Jingle is such a wonderful organization, and I am really proud to have done the display," she said. "We donated more than 30 necklaces, 10 pairs of earrings and 12 bracelets. All of it is going to help fight pediatric cancer."

The trees and other decorations are on display at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown. Additional events include a family fundraiser

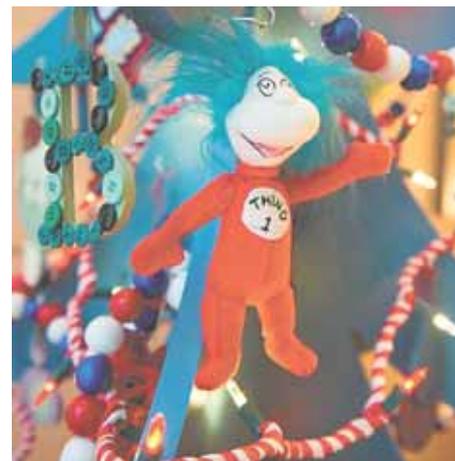


PHOTOS BY KEVIN ALLEN

Arlington-based designer Allie Mann created a Seuss-themed Christmas tree for the Georgetown Jingle, an annual benefit for pediatric cancer programs.

from 1-4 p.m., Dec. 16, followed 11 p.m. For more information visit by Jingle the Night Away from 7- www.georgetownjingle.com.

Fresh Ideas for Tree Trimming at Home



Arlington designer Allie Mann used Dr. Seuss characters as inspiration for the Christmas tree she created for the Georgetown Jingle.

When it comes to holiday decorating tips, take a page from the Grinch: "What if Christmas he thought, doesn't come from a store, what if Christmas means a little bit more?" Christmas doesn't have to be entirely store bought. Get creative: "homespun" ornaments are the best kind.

❖ Take those so-so Christmas lights and jazz them up with ribbon or go for unconventional garlands, such as one made from gumballs.

❖ Take old holiday cards and repurpose them as thoughtful ornaments.

❖ Change the tree topper this year. It doesn't have to be a traditional star or angel: Go for something different like a monogrammed letter for your family.

— ALLIE MANN,
DESIGNER



The cover is black and red on white and 11¼"W x 10¾"H. Open, the calendar is 11¼"W x 207/8"H. All illustrations are in black and white and may be viewed on the website.

\$13⁹⁹

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20	21 MLK Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

PEOPLE



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/THE CONNECTION

The first Columbia Pike Holiday Bazaar was held at the Arlington Career Center on Saturday, Dec. 9. Hedy Watson and Marilena Amoni from The Arlington Food Assistance Center greet guests with a display of southern Italian cookbooks and a limited addition silkscreen print by George Mason University graduate Nahid Navab. Donations for both items support the Arlington Food Assistance Center.



Columbia Pike Bazaar

Designer and artist Stephanie Gleichsner display frog-themed greeting cards and paintings at Columbia Pike's Holiday Bazaar.

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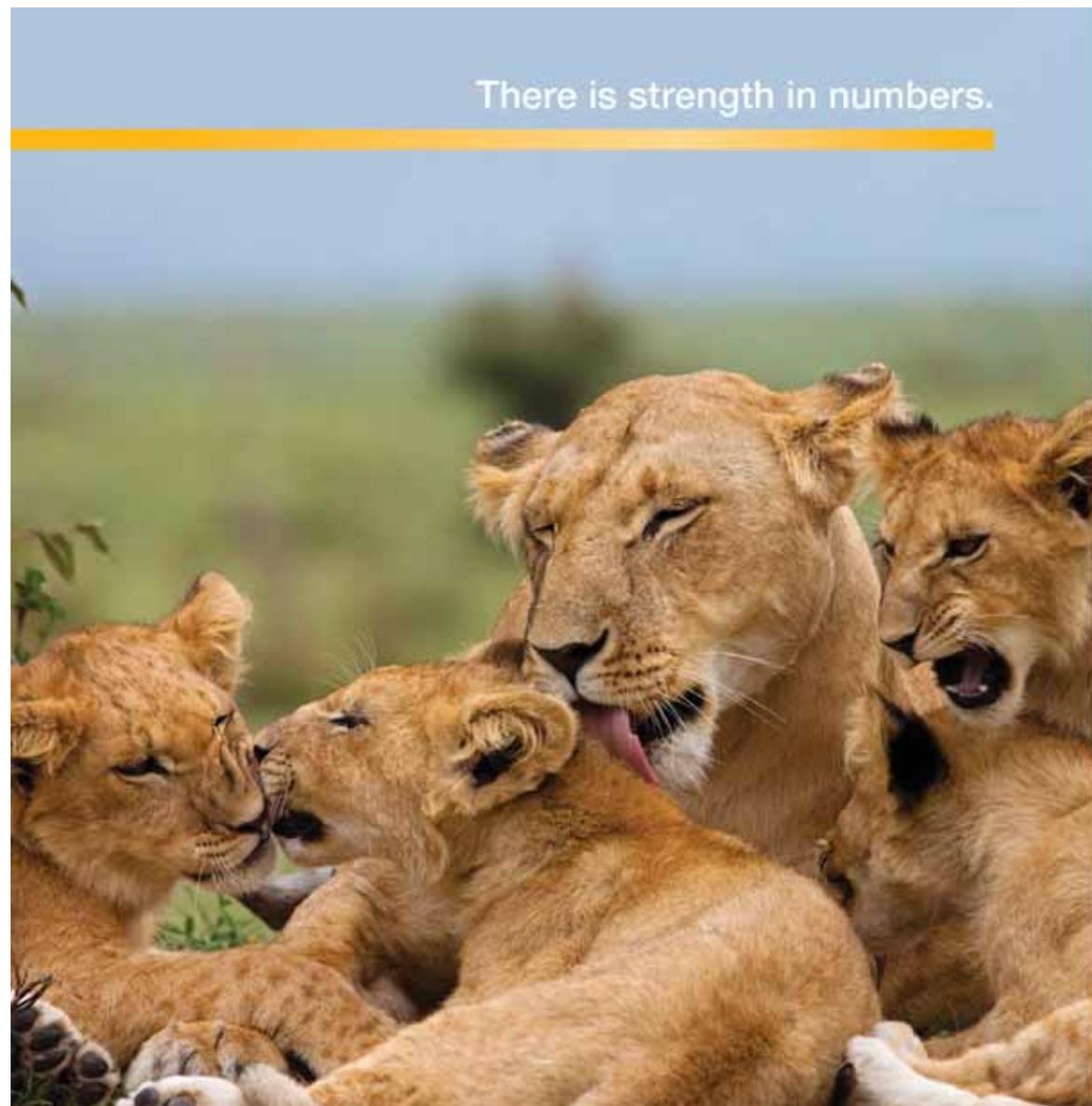
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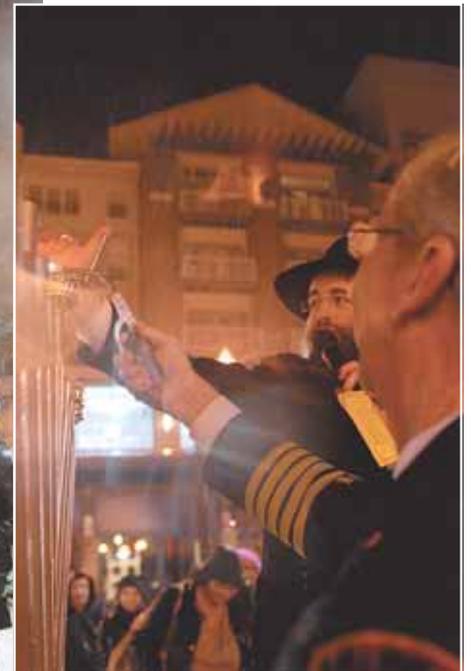
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Lighting the Menorah
Fire Chief James H. Schwartz and Rabbi Mordechai Newman light the menorah together.

Fire Chief James H. Schwartz joins Rabbi Mordechai Newman and members of Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington as they gather for a Chanukah ceremony at Pentagon City skating ring on Sunday, Dec. 9.

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/
 THE CONNECTION

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CRIME

The Arlington Police Department issued the following listing of crime incidents:

ARMED ROBBERY, 1100 block of N. Taylor Street. At 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 30, a suspect allegedly attempted to rob a victim at gunpoint. The victim was able to throw dirt at the suspect and run away. The subject fled the scene in the opposite direction. The suspect is described as a black male in his late 30's, approximately 6'2" tall and 250 lbs. He had a full beard and was wearing a shiny black shirt and black pants. The weapon was described as a black .45 caliber handgun.

ROBBERY, 2100 block of S. Jefferson Davis Highway. On Dec. 1 at 7:35 p.m., a victim was allegedly

punched and then robbed of her cell phone by an unknown subject. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, approximately 30 years old. The subject was wearing a black leather jacket, a white hat, and white gloves during the incident.

ROBBERY, 1200 block of S. 23rd Street. Between Dec. 1 at 11 p.m. and Dec. 2 at 8 a.m., an unknown subject entered a residence through the garage. The subject stole two cell phones, a wallet, and money. There is no suspect description.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING, 4300 block of N. Wilson Boulevard. At 7 a.m. on Nov. 28, two male employees got into a verbal dispute at work. The verbal confrontation escalated and the

suspect poured a bucket of boiling water onto the victim in addition to hitting him several times. A fellow employee separated the two males and the police were called. The victim was taken to Medstar where he was treated for burns. A 55-year-old Arlington man was arrested and charged with malicious wounding. He is currently being held without bond.

SEXUAL BATTERY, 2700 block of N. Greenbrier Street. At around 7:45 p.m. on Nov. 28, an unknown suspect inappropriately touched a young woman while she was running on the Yorktown High School track. The suspect has been described as a 40-year-old Hispanic male with a muscular build. During the time of the incident, the sus-

pect was wearing a blue muscle shirt and dark shorts.

SEXUAL BATTERY, 10 block of S. Glebe Road. At 4:25 p.m. on Nov. 30, a victim was shopping in a store when a suspect inappropriately touched the victim and whispered vulgar comments in her ear. The suspect was holding the victim against him for several minutes until the victim was able to break free. Police located the suspect nearby. A 40-year-old man of no fixed address was arrested and charged with abduction and sexual battery. He was held without bond.

BURGLARY, 2900 block of N. Key Boulevard. At 3:42 p.m. on Nov. 30, a burglary was reported at a vacant home. An unknown subject(s) broke through the east side door. No items have been

reported missing at this time. There is no suspect(s) description.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT, 3700 block of N. 27th Street. At 11 a.m. on Nov. 30, police responded to an industrial accident. A worker was struck by one of the trusses of a crane while working on an unfinished roof and fell 40 feet onto the ground. The victim sustained several broken bones and was transported to George Washington Hospital for treatment. The injuries do not appear to be life threatening.

STOLEN VEHICLES Nov. 29: VA WZB3442, 1999 Honda Civic, red, 3900 block of N. Fairfax Drive.

Dec. 1: VA XAU7165, 2001 Mercedes-Benz, gold, 500 block of N. Oxford Street.



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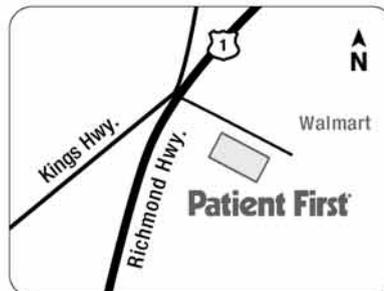
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Peter Greenwald, Rosslyn BID Executive Director Cecilia Cassidy, Jose Ortiz, Kathleen Sibert and Mary Hynes, chair, Arlington County Board, flick a switch to light up Rosslyn on Dec. 6.



Lynn Hoffmann from the All Spice Cafe and Catering hands out chili to guests as they arrive to the 19th annual Light Up Rosslyn.



The Beltway Brass perform at the lighting ceremony.



The Artisphere offered a free digital exhibit after ceremony.

Lighting Up Rosslyn



The singing group Snowday performs as guests eat chili and drink hot apple cider.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Conflict Not So One-Sided

To the Editor:

In "Dodging Rockets from Gaza" (Arlington Connection, Nov. 27), George Meek describes his "fact-finding" trip to Israel/Palestine with Interfaith Peace Builders. While there, he volunteered with the International Solidarity Movement. What he conveniently leaves out is that these two groups, with intentionally neutral sounding names, are notorious Palestinian supporters and provokers of Israel. This article exemplifies that. His conclusion to no one's surprise: the "underlying cause of violence in the Holy Land" is due to Israel.

Truth is, in the West Bank, it is the other

way around from how Mr. Meeks describes. Jewish neighborhoods need to be surrounded by fences and watchtowers for protection — they are not needed by the Palestinian towns. The Jews must build fences around their communities to keep out Palestinian terrorists. Just last year, a Palestinian terrorist broke into the Jewish town of Itamar and murdered Mr. and Mrs. Fogel and three of their six children, the youngest being an infant of three months old.

Mr. Meeks also conveniently leaves out why there is a need for him to be "dodging rockets from Gaza." Ever since Israel left Gaza in a bold move for peace, instead of building a nation there, the Palestinians launched thousands of rockets and mortars targeting Israeli civilians in densely populated cities including Tel Aviv. This has gone on for years.

As far as finger pointing on whose fault the current conflict should fall on, it doesn't really help in solving the problem. One thing though must be changed: The Hamas charter explicitly states that their goal is the destruction of Israel. It says it in many different ways. The Palestinians must give up this pervasive attempt to decimate Israel. Israel has said on many occasions that they are willing to sit down and negotiate with the Palestinians with no pre-conditions for a two-state solution. The Palestinians currently refuse to sit down as they demand pre-conditions be met. For the hopes of both sides, the Palestinians must choose for a better future and sit down and negotiate an end to all this suffering.

Michael Berenhaus
Potomac, Md.

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"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington's Office of Senior Adult Programs for Dec. 26-29.

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.

Arlington senior centers will be closed Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25.

Senior trip: Afternoon High Tea, Hillwood Mansion-Museum, D.C.,

Friday, Dec. 28. Cost \$51. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

Free legal counsel, Wednesday, Dec. 26, 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m., Culpepper Garden. Call for appointment, 703-228-4403.

Open Tai Chi practice, Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2 p.m., Aurora Hills and Langston-Brown. Free. Details, 703-228-5722 (AH), 703-228-0955 (L-B).

Strength training classes, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m., TJ. \$60/15 sessions or \$4 per drop in. Details, 703-228-4745.

Women's basketball program, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-4771.

Winter Wonderland

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Arlington REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

IN OCTOBER 2012, 222 ARLINGTON HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$ 1,700,000-\$65,000.

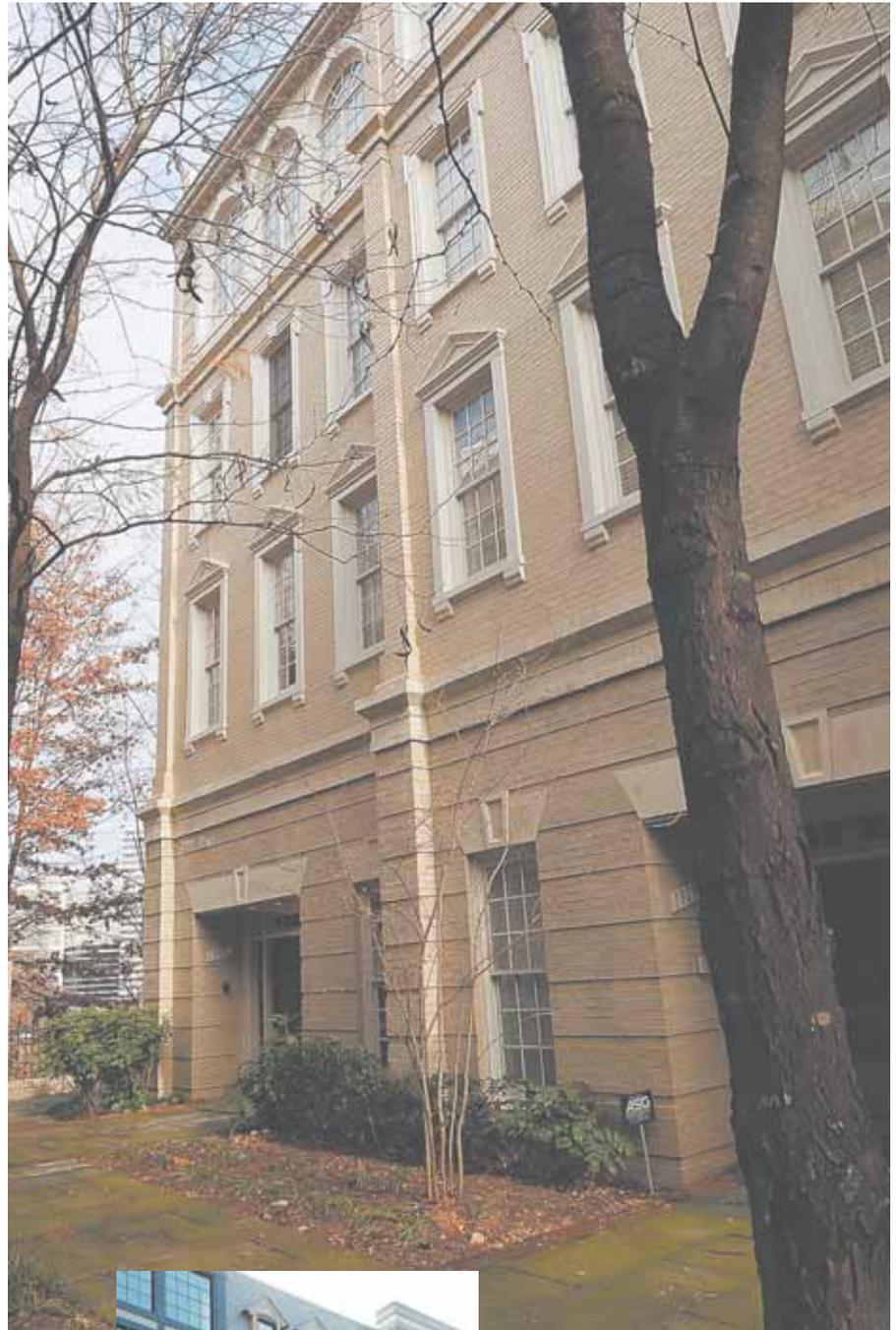
Top Sales in October 2012



2 3418 Thomas Street North, Arlington — \$1,520,000



3 3118 17th Street North, Arlington — \$1,480,000

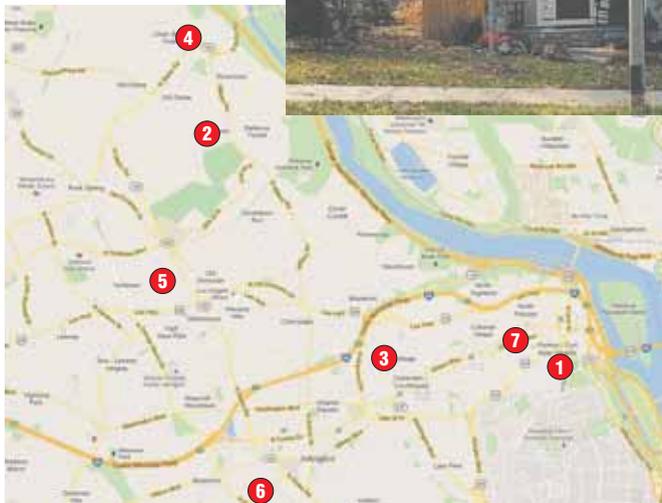


1 1317 14th Street North, Arlington — \$1,700,000

5 2418 Columbus Street North, Arlington — \$1,279,000



7 1700B Clarendon Boulevard #121, Arlington — \$1,199,869



© Google Map data

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 1317 14TH ST N	3	3	2	ARLINGTON	\$1,700,000	Townhouse	0.02	22209	MONUMENT PLACE	10/18/12
2 3418 THOMAS ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,520,000	Detached	0.26	22207	BROYHILL FOREST/HILLS	10/03/12
3 3118 17TH ST N	4	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,480,000	Detached	0.13	22201	IYON VILLAGE	10/26/12
4 4010 38TH PL N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,325,000	Detached	0.24	22207	CHAIN BRIDGE FOREST	10/31/12
5 2418 COLUMBUS ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,279,000	Detached	0.14	22207	LIVINGSTON HEIGHTS	10/05/12
6 495 WAKEFIELD ST N	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,257,736	Detached	0.17	22203	ENCLAVE OF BALLSTON	10/16/12
7 1700B CLARENDON BLVD#121	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$1,199,869	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22209	GASLIGHT	10/01/12

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Home LifeStyle Decking the Halls

Local designers share holiday decorating suggestions.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Looking for inspiration for decking the halls this season? Three local home design experts offer doable tips for capturing the magic of the holidays.

Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, believes that the secret to a beautiful Christmas tree is layering: "If using a garland, put that on first," she said. "You can get creative with [garland]. Besides the traditional ribbon, we've used newspaper chains, twig garlands, felt shapes strung together and burlap. Nestle large ornaments deeper in the tree to fill in any holes. Then use smaller decorations on the outer branches."

Consider forgoing store-bought ornaments. "Take old holiday cards and repurpose them as thoughtful ornaments," said designer Allie Mann of Arlington. "Change the tree topper this year. It doesn't have to be a traditional star or angel. Go for something different like a monogrammed letter for your family."

Incorporate tradition into holiday decorations. "Use ornaments handmade by your children through the years, the nativity set that has been in the family for generations or a new treasure that's on its way to becoming a family heirloom. [These] are just as beautiful as anything in the decor magazines and will definitely be more meaningful to your family," said Thomas. "It's always fun to unwrap those special pieces year after year."

When it comes to holiday décor, Angela Phelps, owner of Le Village Marché in Arlington says that mercury glass is popular this year. "The good thing about mercury glass is

that you can use it at other times of the year too, especially for New Years," she said.

Thomas adds, "Mercury glass also blends well with many decorating styles. Whether your decor is traditional or contemporary, a few mercury glass pieces will add some shine."

Greenery can be used during the holiday season and beyond. "A lot of boxwood topiaries and wreaths can be used throughout the year," said Phelps. "You can prolong the life by just changing out the ribbon and using them in the spring."

For those on a budget, Phelps suggests "going out and find[ing] greenery in your own yard or the woods. You can do a lot with red ribbon."

Combine old and new. "Place a

SEE DECKING, PAGE 12



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

When trimming a tree Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, suggests nestling "large ornaments deeper in the tree to fill in any holes. Then use smaller decorations on the outer branches."

"If you like red and green, mixing in some burgundy or lime green will add another dimension to your decor."

— Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke



Designers say those on a budget can create holiday decorations with greenery.

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In October 2012, 222 Arlington homes sold between \$1,700,000-\$65,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$715,000-\$649,900 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Decking the Halls

FROM PAGE 11

tabletop tree in a vintage urn," said Thomas. "Fill a wooden tool caddy with some greenery and vintage ornaments to make a unique centerpiece."

Think beyond red and green. "There is no rule that says you can't use other colors in your holi-

day decorating," said Thomas. "You'll also get a richer look by adding various shades of colors. If you like red and green, mixing in some burgundy or lime green will add another dimension to your decor. But don't mix too many different colors. It will look more cohesive if you stick to a couple dominant colors in varying tones."

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
2307 TRENTON ST	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$715,000	Detached	0.25	22207	LORCOM GROVE
6312 29TH ST N	3	3	0	ARLINGTON	\$706,000	Detached	0.15	22207	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD
832 GLEBE RD S	5	4	2	ARLINGTON	\$699,900	Detached	0.21	22204	ALCOVA HEIGHTS
888 QUINCY ST N #1512	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$699,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22203	RESIDENCES@LIBERTY CT
2004 ILLINOIS ST	3	1	1	ARLINGTON	\$685,000	Detached	0.16	22205	LEEWAY HEIGHTS
4303 4TH CT N	3	3	1	ARLINGTON	\$680,700	Townhouse	0.02	22203	BUCKINGHAM COMM VILLAGE
930 16TH ST S	3	3	1	ARLINGTON	\$680,000	Detached	0.15	22202	ADDISON HEIGHTS
1730S FILLMORE ST	5	3	1	ARLINGTON	\$680,000	Detached	0.16	22204	JOHNSON'S HILL
4834 25TH RD N	4	3	0	ARLINGTON	\$680,000	Detached	0.12	22207	COUNTRY CLUB
805 BARTON ST	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$679,000	Detached	0.08	22201	CLARENDON
4311 4TH CT N	2	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$678,500	Townhouse	0.02	22203	BUCKINGHAM COMM VILLAGE
1321 ADAMS CT #403	3	3	0	ARLINGTON	\$665,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22201	PENROSE/ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
1020 LIVINGSTON ST N	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$655,000	Detached	0.14	22205	COURTHOUSE HILL
3200 JOHN MARSHALL DR	5	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$655,000	Detached	0.28	22207	DOMINION HILLS
2316 BUCHANAN ST N	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$653,000	Detached	0.11	22207	MINOR HILLS
3400 GEORGE MASON DR	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$650,000	Detached	0.28	22207	COUNTRY CLUB
5835 19TH ST N	3	1	1	ARLINGTON	\$649,950	Detached	0.14	22205	WILLIAMSBURG VILLAGE
1312 TAYLOR ST	3	3	0	ARLINGTON	\$649,900	Detached	0.12	22201	PARKHURST

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IN ARLINGTON DECEMBER 15 & 16

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Florann Audia, Long & Foster, 703-790-1990

2211 Greenbrier Street • \$1,299,000 • Sat 1-4
Florann Audia, Long & Foster, 703-790-1990

805 N. Florida Street • \$1,149,500 • Sun 1-4
Larry Smith, Keller Williams, 703-201-4400

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Instincts...



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

...related to having been diagnosed with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, the terminal/"incurable, but treatable" kind, according to my oncologist. The kind whose median life expectancy at diagnosis is eight months. The kind that John Rhys Davis as Sallah from the 1981 movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark" might have described as "very bad," just as he had described the asps slithering below on the floor of the tomb he and "Indy" had just unearthed. So the news I received in late February, 2009 – such as it was, was never very good. In fact, for an asymptomatic, non-smoking, 54-and-half-year-old male with an immediate-family history of NO cancer, it was, well, "shocking" barely scratches the emotional surface of what I was feeling.

Forty-five months later, I am still dealing with feelings – as in still living, for which I am amazingly fortunate. However, those feelings seem to sometimes have a mind of their own, and accordingly tend to take over and rewire one's brain (figuratively speaking). Moreover, thoughts, actions and behaviors change, and not always for the better, and rarely for the best; most likely a direct result of the cancer's emotional wallop. Thoughts you don't want/never had seep in despite your best attempts at minding them. Behaviors previously uncharacteristic manage to exert more control than you ever imagined. Actions previously unfamiliar cause one to wonder if who you were – pre-cancer, you will ever be again. You don't want to lose yourself inside the whole cancer culture, but being told you're going to die prematurely: in "13 months to two years," has a way of rewriting your record books, whether you intended to or not. Not giving in to this cancer consequence has been my greatest struggle.

Early on, I remember asking my oncologist: "Is it OK to still buy in bulk?" For all you know, based on much of what your doctor is saying, and what you are sensing, your future is tenuous and extremely unpredictable (a version of the humorous advisory to "not buy green bananas"). I mean, the diagnosis is terminal cancer; "HELLO." What are you supposed to think? This is how your mind takes over and you sort of lose it/lose control of it. As former Vice President "Dan" Quayle said in a speech to the United Negro College Fund (not about cancer), "What a terrible thing it is to lose one's mind." Still, it certainly applies.

Another brain drain has to do with specific events scheduled in the future, a future whose guarantee – for me, has been invalidated. I'm watching television during the summer of 2012 and I see ads for Downton Abbey's third season premiere in January, 2013, and instinctively I wonder, will I be alive to see it?

Road projects are another example. At the beginning of the construction of the Intercountry Connector in Maryland (a cross-county highway being built near my house), regularly I would be stuck in the project's related road closures/redesigns and bridge-type flyovers and I would always think to myself: "Am I going to be alive when this project is finished or am I just going to suffer its building pains?"

Next May, the LUNGeVity Foundation (www.LUNGeVity.org), the largest foundation in the country dedicated to lung cancer research (and on whose Web site my cancer columns are now being posted) will be hosting their annual "Hope Summit" in Washington, D.C. I have been invited to attend and/or speak. My first thought upon receiving the invite: "Am I going to still be alive in May?"

I want to be positive. I am positive. But cancer is a huge negative. It's a constant battle of good versus evil. Sort of like the Indiana Jones movies. But this isn't the movies. This is real. This is cancer, the true definition of "very bad."

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

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THE CONNECTION
 NEWS PAPERS

21 Announcements

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Virginia Encore Chorale Presents Holiday Concert

Encore Chorale, the nation's largest choral program for older adults, will present our Virginia Encore Chorales in a Holiday Concert. These 175 talented singers, ages 55+, will perform a concert consisting mainly of secular holiday tunes including Jingle Bells Hallelujah, a truly new and creative take on the Hallelujah Chorus, Alleluia Brasileira by Ralph Manuel, In the Bleak Mid Winter, Hannukah, the Season of Light, The Twelve Days After Christmas and the very clever Christmas Goes Classical, which includes the top hit orchestra and opera tunes with holiday words. Guest Artists include the Arlington Children's Chorus conducted by Kevin Carr.

Virginia Encore Chorales include Langston Brown, Goodwin Houses of Alexandria and Baileys Crossroads, Leisure World, Potomac Academy at GMU, and Springfield.

Encore Chorale is the nation's largest and fastest growing choral program for older



Encore Chorale, the nation's largest choral program for older adults

adults and has 13 Encore Chorales in the Baltimore/Washington area serving more than 620 singers. They were recently featured on Voice of America and in a full page article in the Washington Post. All chorales will perform at the Kennedy Center on Sunday, Dec. 23 at 6pm.

Encore Creativity for Older Adults is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to providing an excellent and accessible artistic environment for older adults, either beginning, intermediate, or advanced levels, who seek arts education and perfor-

mance opportunities under a professional artist.

Encore's Executive Director is Jeanne Kelly. While Director of the Levine School of Music, she formed three chorales to participate in the study on the impact of participation in professionally conducted cultural programs on older adults, led by internationally known gerontologist Dr. Gene Cohen. The three year study showed positive results: better health, fewer doctor visits, less medication usage, more positive responses on mental health measures and

more involvement in overall activities. This community based arts program under professional leadership also appears to be reducing risk factors that drive the need for long-term care. The lead sponsor of this study was the National Endowment of the Arts in Washington, D.C.

Saturday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. in the Kenmore Middle School Auditorium at 200 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. The concert is free and no tickets are needed. Arrive early for free parking. Call 301-261-5747 or visit <http://encorecreativity.org>.

CALENDAR

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is noon the Thursday before publication. Photos are welcome.

ONGOING

Food Truck Thursdays. In the surface parking lot at the corner of Crystal Drive and 18th Street.

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

Woodland Reveries: Photos of East Tennessee by Tammie George. At Cherrydale Branch Library, 2190 Military Road through Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013. Call 703-228-6330. Hours: Monday and Tuesday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday: 1-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

Family Skate Opening Night. Saturdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., through March 30, 2013. Thomas Jefferson Center, 3501 2nd St. Fees: \$2 entry, \$3 skate rental, \$2 re-entry for students attending both family and teen skate. Cash only. Save time in line by bringing skates. Visit www.arlingtonva.us.

Flying Squirrel Lore & More. For families and children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Flying squirrels are found throughout the wooded neighborhoods of Arlington, but are seldom seen. Learn about these nocturnal acrobats. After an indoor presentation, go outside to see them glide in for an evening meal. Call 703-228-6535 to register. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road.

- ❖ Saturday, Dec. 15, 5-6 p.m. Program #622953-D
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Program #622953-E
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Program #622953-F
- ❖ Sunday, Jan. 13, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- Program #622953-G
- ❖ Sunday, Jan. 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Program #622953-H
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 26, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Program #622953-I
- ❖ Saturday, Feb. 2, 6-7 p.m. Program #622953-J
- ❖ Sunday, Feb. 3, 6-7 p.m. Program #622953-K
- ❖ Saturday, Feb. 16, 6-7 p.m. Program #622953-L
- ❖ Sunday, Feb. 17, 6-7 p.m. Program #622953-M
- ❖ Saturday, Feb. 23, 6-7 p.m. Program #622953-N
- ❖ Sunday, Feb. 24, 6-7 p.m. Program #622953-O

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Powderwhore: Choose Your Adventure. 7:30 p.m. This year's movie is a mixed bag of characters, exotic locations and action. Explore an abandoned mining town in the Arctic, drop cliffs with Hugo Harrison in British Columbia, plunge into the Antarctic Ocean in speedos, blast through deep power, catch up with some crusty locals in the Wasatch and more. Admissions are \$10. At Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Visit www.ArlingtonDrafthouse.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

Daytime Book Club. 11 a.m. The Daytime Book Club chats about The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes. One More Page Books is located at 2200 North Westmoreland St. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

Comedy Performance. 10 p.m. at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Tommy Johnagin has appeared on Conan, "The Late Show with David Letterman," "Last Comic Standing" where he placed second. \$20. Visit ArlingtonDrafthouse.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Free Holiday Concert. 3-4:15 p.m. Encore Chorale, the nation's largest



Holiday Toy Collection

Now through Dec. 17, every Red Top Cab is an authorized Toys For Tots collection site. Red Top customers can bring a donation of a new unwrapped toy with them when they ride with Red Top Cab. Red Top has made arrangements to deliver the toys to the Marine Corps Toys For Tots Foundation for distribution to needy children in the community.

and fastest growing choral program for older adults and Arlington County Office of Senior Adult Programs will hold a free holiday concert at Kenmore Middle School, 200 South Carlin Springs Road. Call 301-261-5747 or visit <http://encorecreativity.org>.

Gemstone Club. 10:30-11:30 a.m. For children age 7-11. Register children only. Budding geologists and gem lovers are invited to join for a year's worth of fun and collecting at the Gemstone Club. Attend the Turquoise session to learn about birthstones and the alternate stones. There will be polished gems and uncut crystals to examine. Find out about the geology, mining, legends, and literature for each gem. All participants will take home a beautiful gemstone in a protective display box. Collect a year's worth of gems, as well as an attractive color photo card to go with each month's birthstone. Call 703-228-3403 to register. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. \$10 fee due upon registration. Program #622823-B.

Comedy Performance. 10 p.m. at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Tommy

Johnagin has appeared on Conan, "The Late Show with David Letterman," "Last Comic Standing" where he placed second. \$20. Visit ArlingtonDrafthouse.com.

Art & Pints Bazaar. 2-5 p.m. at P. Brennan's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 2910 Columbia Pike. Green Drinks Arlington of Arlington and Sweet Root Village are showcasing items by local and free-trade artists, such as jewelry, photography, fused glass and more. Donations of non-perishable food items benefiting Arlington Food Assistance Center encouraged. A portion of beer sales and proceeds from a silent auction will also benefit AFAC. Cash and checks accepted by all vendors. Visit greendrinks.org/arlington.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Free Concert. 11 a.m. Harpist Holly Avesian will blend harmonies of the Sanctuary Choir of Cherrydale United Methodist Church at Sunday's service. Musical selections ancient and modern are included. Cherrydale Methodist is located at 3701 Lorcom Ln.

Christmas Movie Festival. A full day of Christmas films. Admission is \$8

— pay once and stay all day or leave and return later. At Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Visit <http://ArlingtonDrafthouse.com>

Movies and hours are:

- ❖ noon: How The Grinch Stole Christmas
- ❖ 12:30 p.m.: A Charlie Brown Christmas
- ❖ 1 p.m.: Elf
- ❖ 2:30 p.m.: How The Grinch Stole Christmas
- ❖ 3 p.m.: A Christmas Story
- ❖ 4:30 p.m.: A Charlie Brown Christmas
- ❖ 5:15 p.m.: Scrooged
- ❖ 7:20 p.m.: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Holiday Nature Crafts for Kids. 1-2 p.m. For families and children age 5 and up. Register children and adults. Relax and have some holiday fun. Bring the kids to this special craft workshop to make natural-themed gifts and decorations. Call 703-228-3403 to register. \$5 fee due upon registration. Program #622853-G. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road.

Music Performance. 6 p.m. at Shining Star Community Church, 2937 Strathmeade St., Falls Church. Hear the choir perform Handel's "Messiah." Free. Nursery care provided. 703-205-3900.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Holiday Concert and Sing-Along. 3 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Theater, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Potomac Harmony Chorus presents "Letters to Home," a free family event. Donations to benefit Doorways, a year-round safe shelter to benefit abused and homeless women and families. For more about the shelter, www.doorwaysva.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Invasive Removal. 2-5 p.m. For adults, families and teens. Help improve wildlife habitat. Join for the monthly work parties to remove

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15

destructive invasive plants, and make a real difference. No registration required. Free. At Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road.

THROUGH DEC. 16

Craft Show and Sale. The Hendry House at Fort C.F. Smith Park in Arlington is hosting the 7th annual Holiday House, which is a juried arts & crafts sale by local artisans. The hours are Wednesday from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. There will be a children's corner with items priced under \$15. Fort C.F. Smith Park is located at 2411 24th St. North. Call Sharon Casey at 703-243-7329.

TUESDAY/DEC. 18

Birding Trip. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For adults. Piscataway's boardwalk through the marshes on the Maryland side of the Potomac offers waterfowl viewing opportunities. Participants should dress for the weather and bring binoculars, a bag lunch and a drink and snacks for the day. Call 703-228-6535 to register. \$30 fee due upon registration. Program #622943-A. Meet at Lubber Run Center parking lot, 300 N. Park Drive.

Book Club. 7 p.m. The Mystery/Suspense Book Club discusses *Gaudy Night*, the third book in the Lord Peter Wimsey Mystery series by Dorothy L. Sayers. One More Page Books is located at 2200 North Westmoreland St. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 18

Holiday Music. 11-11:45 a.m. at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Terminal B near Cibo Bistro and Wine Bar. Free performance by Wilson High School Choir.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Graduate Gemologists. 4-5 p.m. For children age 8-12. Register children only. Kids who have completed 12 months of the Gemstone Club at Gulf Branch Nature Center can add to their knowledge of gems and increase their collections at this monthly program. Zircon is a popular alternate birthstone for December. It has almost as much fiery brilliance as diamonds, and like the diamond is also found in a range of colors. Call 703-228-3403 to register. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. \$10 fee due upon registration. Program #622823-G.

Holiday Show. 8 p.m. at Ballston Common Mall, 4328 Wilson Blvd. Free. Songs by Potomac Harmony Chorus.

Holiday Music. 10:45 a.m. - noon at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Terminal B near Cibo Bistro and Wine Bar. Free performance by Carl Sandburg Middle School Symphonic Orchestra and Choralettes.

THURSDAY/DEC. 20

Holiday PhoneGram. \$5/song delivered by Potomac Harmony Chorus from 7-9 p.m. Call 703-764-3896 by Tuesday, Dec. 18 to order one of five songs including "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 21-22

Brian Posehn Live. Best known for his trademark deadpan delivery and behind-the-mic evocations of the stoner mentality, comedian,

character actor, and television mainstay Brian Posehn will come to Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse. The hours are 10 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 22. Tickets are \$23. Visit <http://www.arlingtondrafhthouse.com>. At Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse located at 2903 Columbia Pike.

FRIDAY/DEC. 21

Holiday Film. 7 p.m. Join for the Drafthouse Holiday Social and a special screening of *It's A Wonderful Life* — A Christmas Classic. Fifty percent of gate proceeds go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.arlingtondrafhthouse.com. At Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse located at 2903 Columbia Pike.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

See, Hear, Sketch: Deer in the Winter Woods. 10-11:30 a.m. For children age 5-9. Register children only. What are the wintertime habits of Arlington's white-tailed deer? Learn about coat colors, falling antlers, deer tracks and other changes and signs, and sketch deer portraits. Art supplies will be provided. Feel free to bring sketchbook and pencil. Call 703-228-3403 to register. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. \$5 fee due upon registration. Program #622823-R.

Comedy Performance. Colin Kane will perform at the Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike at 10 p.m. \$20. Visit arlingtondrafhthouse.com for tickets.

SUNDAY/DEC. 23

Holiday Film. 7 p.m. Join for the Drafthouse Holiday Social and a special screening of *It's A Wonderful Life* — A Christmas Classic. Fifty percent of gate proceeds go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Visit www.arlingtondrafhthouse.com. \$10. At Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike.

Film and Comedy. 10 p.m. Raspberry Brothers take on the 1990's Christmas classic *Home Alone*, listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the highest grossing live-action comedy ever. Tickets are \$15. At Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse located at 2903 Columbia Pike. Visit www.arlingtondrafhthouse.com.
"The Holy Land Today." 10 a.m. Arlington resident George Meek, back from four weeks in Israel/Palestine, reports on the reality of the occupation and what can be done about it. Free. At Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5533 N. 16th St.

THROUGH DEC. 23

Holiday Shows. Holiday Guys and Holiday Follies are limited-run holiday shows, part of Signature Theatre's 2012/2013 season. Holiday Guys plays in the ARK Theatre. Tickets start at \$41. Visit www.signature-theatre.org Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave.

THURSDAY/DEC. 27

Feathers and Fur. 2-3 p.m. For families and children age 5 and up. Spending winter outdoors is easier with a warm coat. Discover how feathers and fur keep animals warm and dry in the coldest, snowiest weather. Examine some real fur and feathers and then search for birds and mammals around the nature center. \$5 fee due upon registration. Program #622953-Q.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 27-29

Ballet. Virginia Ballet Company and School will present the 63rd season



BalletNova's Nutcracker Tea

See a performance of a mini-Nutcracker and have a photo taken with the Sugarplum Fairy during BalletNova's Nutcracker Tea at Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel, 801 North Glebe Road. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$58 for adults; \$38 for children age 4-12; \$18 for children under 4; \$500 per table of 10; \$200 per table of 4. Purchase online at www.BalletNova.org or call 703-778-3008 or email info@BalletNova.org.

of the classic Nutcracker ballet. The performances are at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. each day at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus in the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater. Ticket prices for reserved seating are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, students and seniors, plus a \$3 fee per ticket. Tickets may be purchased online at www.virginiaballetcompany.org. Call 703-249-8227.

SATURDAY/DEC. 29

See, Hear, Sketch: Owls in the Winter Night. 10-11:30 a.m. For children age 5-9. Register children only. Arlington's three owl species are active hunters in the winter months. Learn about their cold-weather habits and make detailed drawings of some of their unique features - feathers, eyes, and feet. Art supplies will be provided. Feel free to bring your own sketchbook and pencil. Call 703-228-3403 to register. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. \$5 fee due upon registration. Program #622823-S.

MONDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Stroll & Campfire. 6-7:30 p.m. For families and children. Children must register with an accompanying adult. Explore the park as the last night of the year settles in. Then ring out the old and bring in the new by tossing your resolutions into a "wishing campfire." Bundle up and bring a flashlight. Call 703-228-3403 to register. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. \$5 fee due upon registration. Program #622853-H.

New Year's Eve Celebration. \$15 covers DJ, entertainment and party

favours. Food and drink are separate. 7:30 p.m. doors open at Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Must be 21 or older. Visit ArlingtonDrafthouse.com for tickets.

THROUGH DEC. 31

Art Exhibition. An exhibition called *Illuminations* is offered at Northern Virginia ART Center. Artists bring creations in the form of glass, sculpture, painting, drawing, jewelry and ceramics. At 2100 Crystal Drive. Call 571-483-0652 or visit www.novaartcenter.org.

Exhibition. *Metroscapes: NOVA/DC* is an exhibit that involves artists looking closely at the everyday landscape around us. Artists are invited to paint familiar scenes, and those that depict everyday life as we know it in the Metro area. At 2100 Crystal Drive. Call 571-483-0652 or visit www.novaartcenter.org.

THROUGH JAN. 1

Light Show. Enjoy a light display and help homeless animals. Tom & Jo's Light Display is located at 5612 24th St. North. The show runs Sunday through Thursday from 6-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 6-11 p.m. The show is run by one computer and six Light-O-Rama controllers and consists of almost 10,000 lights. Tom and Jo will be collecting donations for the Animal Welfare League of Arlington at the light show. Cash and various pet donations will be accepted. Dry and canned food, pet beds, toys, etc. can be placed in the bin provided, while cash and check donations can be placed in the secure donation box on the left side of the yard.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 2

Adult Bird Walk. 9-11 a.m. For adults. Free. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for an informal walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides. Call 703-228-6535 to register. Meet at the parking lot at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Program #622943-E.

Gemstone Club. 4-5 p.m. For children age 7-11. Register children only. Budding geologists and gem lovers are invited to join for a year's worth of fun and collecting at the Gemstone Club. Attend the Garnet session to learn about birthstones and the alternate stones. There will be polished gems and uncut crystals to examine. Find out about the geology, mining, legends, and literature for each gem. All participants will take home a beautiful gemstone in a protective display box. Collect a year's worth of gems, as well as an attractive color photo card to go with each month's birthstone. Call 703-228-3403 to register. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. \$10 fee due upon registration. Program #622823-C.

FRIDAY/JAN. 4

Stand-Up Comedy. David Alan Grier, from "In Living Color," "DAG," and "Life with Bonnie," will perform at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, at 7:30 p.m. and again at 9:50 p.m. \$25. Visit arlingtondrafhthouse.com for tickets.

SATURDAY, JAN. 5

Gemstone Club. 10:30-11:30 a.m. For children age 7-11. Register children only. Budding geologists and gem lovers are invited to join for a year's worth of fun and collecting at the Gemstone Club. Attend the Garnet session to learn about birthstones and the alternate stones. There will be polished gems and uncut crystals to examine. Find out about the geology, mining, legends, and literature for each gem. All participants will take home a beautiful gemstone in a protective display box. Collect a year's worth of gems, as well as an attractive color photo card to go with each month's birthstone. Call 703-228-3403 to register. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. \$10 fee due upon registration. Program #622823-D.

Stand-Up Comedy. David Alan Grier, from "In Living Color," "DAG," and "Life with Bonnie," will perform at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, at 7:30 p.m. and again at 9:50 p.m. \$25. Visit arlingtondrafhthouse.com for tickets.

SUNDAY/JAN. 6

History Talk. 5 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Mary Doering, a costume expert at George Mason University, will speak on women's clothing during the Civil War era. Her presentation will include a display of examples of authentic clothing from the time period. Free. 703-228-6334.

THROUGH JAN. 6

Theater: "A Trip to the Moon." From D.C. theater artist Natsu Onoda Power, this original piece is based on the 1902 silent film by Georges Méliès. Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.. At Crystal City Theater located at 1800 S. Bell St. Crystal City. Call 800-494-8497 or visit www.synetictheater.org. Regular tickets are \$35-55.

National Chamber Ensemble Celebrates the Season

The National Chamber Ensemble (NCE) celebrates the spirit of the holiday season on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m. with a show for the whole family.

The performance will feature great music, an international guest artist and outstanding young musicians. Four local young violinists ages 11 to 21 will perform Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins with the ensemble. Another highlight will be the performance of Bach's beautiful concerto for Violin and Oboe with member of the "Presidents Own" Marine Band Joseph DeLuccio oboe and guest violinist Rimma Sushanskaya. Sushanskaya is the last international award winning pupil of the legendary violinist, David Oistrakh. She is also the first teacher and mother of NCE Artistic Director/violinist Leo Sushansky. Audiences will enjoy three generations of violinists performing together. Also on the program, the spiritually uplifting finale of Schumann's great Piano Quintet. Rosslyn BID Executive Director, Cecilia Cassidy returns as host.

An annual tradition, the concert will include seasonal favorites like Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," a Hanukkah Medley and more. Patrick D. McCoy, tenor, radio host and Washington Life Magazine columnist will join NCE to lead the Carols Sing-Along to conclude the performance.

Karen Cueva, 21, is a native of Northern Virginia, a former pupil of NCE Artistic director Leo Sushansky. Cueva is senior at the Juilliard School in New York. She began her violin studies at the age of 4 and has won various competitions and awards, including a Certificate of Commendation from the U.S. Marine Corps for her musical service to the veterans of the Armed Forces.

Sean Ganous, 20, performs regularly as a member of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra. A graduate of Washington-Lee High School, he was an Arlington Arts Apprentice in music and Concertmaster for his high school or-



chestra, the Arlington Youth Symphony Orchestra and the McLean Youth Orchestra.

Sebastian Coupe, 17, is a violinist who has been playing for 10 years. He is currently a senior at Washington-Lee High School and was concertmaster of their orchestra for two years. In April of 2012 he performed as a solo-

ist with the violinist Midori and played with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra in the debut of

Maestro Kluge's piece Meibuki.

Albert Shyu, 11, is a seventh grader at Julius West

Middle School in Rockville. He began learning the violin at age 7 and has been an active member of the Montgomery County Youth Orchestra since 4th grade. During his second year with MCYO he was concertmaster of the

MCYO Chamber Strings Orchestra and performed as soloist with the group at Carnegie Hall.

Details

Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m. at Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre at Artisphere, 1611 N. Kent Street (off Wilson Blvd.), two blocks from the Rosslyn Metro, free garage parking in the Spectrum Garage, entrance in back from Arlington Ridge Road. \$28 adult, \$15 student. For tickets call 888-841-2787 or visit www.NationalChamberEnsemble.org.

CALENDAR

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos are welcome. Deadline is noon Thursday.

ONGOING

Yarn Bomb Meet-ups + Stitch Session. Wednesdays through February, 6-9 p.m. Free. Create a yarn bombing temporary public art project in Rosslyn. Meet other knitters at Town Hall, 1901 N. Moore St. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Free. Visit <http://pinklineproject.com>. No meet-up on Dec. 12 or 26.

Holiday Music at Rosslyn Metro. Enjoy the sounds of the season during as musicians perform holiday favorites at Rosslyn Metro every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in December from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Coordinated by Mitchell's Entertainment and sponsored by the Rosslyn BID.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 15-16

Christmas Music. The public is invited to attend the inaugural Victorian Christmas Music Hall, produced by the Maryland Renaissance Festival and presented at The Comedy Spot, located in Ballston Mall. Saturdays at 7:30 and 10 p.m.; Sundays at 5 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes before each performance. Suitable for ages 12 and older. Visit www.rennfest.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

Ellen Cherry + Naked Blue. 8 p.m.

\$12. At Dome Theater in Artisphere located at 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.
Music. 8:15 p.m. Taylor Carson and Justin Trawick will be performing together with their full bands at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Doors will open at 8 p.m. and special guest Cassidy Ford will play an opening set at 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and available at the door. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Grump At Artisphere. 12-6 p.m. Free. Ballroom Grump is the best ever alternative holiday craft show. Artisphere located at 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.

Ethan Lipton + His Orchestra: No Place To Go. 8 p.m. \$22. At Dome Theater in Artisphere located at 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.

Winter Wonderland. From 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve will accept donations of new, unwrapped toys and cash for their Toys for Tots campaign from 4-7 p.m. enjoy free holiday entertainment and photos with Santa Claus in Market Common Clarendon gazebo, 2700 Clarendon Blvd. Call 703-785-5634 or visit www.marketcommonclarendon.net.

THROUGH DEC. 15

Beth Baldwin: Artist-in-Residence. Free. Open studio hours Nov. 12-Dec.

15: Friday 6-10 p.m.; Saturday Noon-6 p.m. In a 500-square-foot studio located off of Artisphere's main entrance lobby, Baldwin will create her one-of-a-kind animals and houses made from recycled materials in full view of the public eye. Artisphere is located at 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15, 29 & JAN. 12, 26

Elizabeth Graeber Hand Drawn Bazaar. 5:30-10 p.m. Graeber has created a flea market of her original work in the WIP Gallery. During her residency, she will be making placards to display on Art on the Art Bus while creating and selling new work in her Hand Drawn Bazaar. Artisphere located at 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Annual Holiday Concert. 4:30 p.m. \$28; \$15 for student. Presented by the National Chamber Ensemble, the performance will feature music, international guest artists and young musicians ages 11 to 21. Spectrum Theatre, 1611 N. Kent St. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Holiday Show. 8 p.m. at Ballston Common Mall, 4328 Wilson Blvd. Free. Songs by Potomac Harmony Chorus.

THURSDAY/DEC. 20

The Dark Side Of The Earth: A

FRIDAY/DEC. 21

Scrooged. 8 p.m. \$8. A modern twist on Charles Dickens' classic holiday tale A Christmas Carol. Artisphere is located at 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

It's A Wonderful Life. 8 p.m. \$8. Jimmy Stewart stars in this endearing holiday classic, listed by the American Film Institute as the most inspiring film of all time. Artisphere is located at 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.

THROUGH DEC. 23

Project 2012.002r. Free. Project 2012.002r will be accompanied by a short explanatory film and slideshow that shows the artists' process in the Bijou Theater directly across from the installation. At Education Lab + Bijou Theater in Artisphere located at 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.

East Falls Church

Ballston-MU

Virginia Sq-GMU

Clarendon

Court House

Rosslyn

Washington-Lee Gymnastics Team Sets Bar High

Generals beat McLean, Marshall, Lee, Wakefield at Monday meet.

BY ALEX VAN REES
FOR THE CONNECTION

In a rematch from February's Northern Region championship meet, the Washington-Lee Generals again defeated the McLean Highlanders in a girls' gymnastics meet on Monday, Nov. 10 at McLean High School.

About 10 months ago, the Highlanders and the Generals battled each other down to the wire with a region championship on the line. W-L was able to squeak past McLean by less than four-tenths of a point (145.191-144.851) to take home the title. Although it was not as close on Monday night (139.55 to 131.35), it was still a thrilling competition.

"I'm getting used to this over the last three years or so," Washington-Lee head coach Joe D'Emidio said. "This is our fourth year going undefeated. So, the team I have is great and I'm savoring the moment. It seems like we're always very close with McLean. I'm enjoying the ride because things will change next year."

Most of the girls are seniors on the team, and D'Emidio is referring to the notion that much of the team will be headed off to college; he will have almost an entirely new squad on the mats come next winter.

Senior Kylie Auble finished second individually in the all-around with a score of 36.5, two points behind the winner, senior Morgan Stahl of Marshall High School.

"I think we did really well as a team out there tonight," Auble said. "We've practiced really hard and put everything together. There wasn't that much pressure on us. It's more of something fun to do. I wanted to enjoy myself, but at the same time win."

Monday was the second meet of the sea-

son for the Generals, so although they won the meet, there are still aspects of their game they need to improve upon before heading to Mount Vernon on Thursday afternoon.

"It's the beginning of the season, so we're trying to get all the cobwebs out," D'Emidio said. "We're trying to get their routines worked out after the long summer and break. We are moving in the right direction and they are enjoying themselves. For a lot of these kids, we need to get them back into it and get them rolling into the season."

Although the Highlanders were not able to win on their home turf, it was a strong start to the season. "The girls were a little nervous this evening because it was their first meet of the season and it was at home," McLean head coach Courtney Lesson said. "We didn't care too much about the competition. We mainly just wanted to focus on hitting our routines and doing what we have been practicing. We need to continue to grow and work as a team."

McLean and Washington-Lee could end up having another showdown at regionals.

"Washington-Lee was definitely our biggest competition coming into the meet tonight," McLean sophomore



Mary Lynn Clark and the Washington-Lee gymnastics team defeated McLean, Marshall, Lee and Wakefield in a meet on Dec. 10 at McLean High School.

Madi Schuman said. "Although they are not in our division, we are looking forward to competing with them at regionals and this gives us something to work on throughout the season."

Lesson was very pleased with the outcome and she has an idea of what the team needs to work on in order to improve for the next meet.

"We are definitely going to go through the score sheets and check out the bonuses to see what we need to work on specifically," Lesson said. "We're going to focus on another strong lineup next time out." Although the battle between the Highlanders and the Generals was the meet's main focus, Stahl stole the show in her own respect.

The Marshall gymnast scored 38.55 points by winning each of the four events during the meet (vault, bars, beam and floors). Although she performed well, it was not enough to help Marshall push past McLean as the Statesmen finished the meet in third place with 122.9 points.

Both Robert E. Lee High School and Wakefield High School failed to break 100 points. The Lee Lancers finished in fourth place with a score of 96.5, edging the Warriors, who collected 95.5 points to round out the event in fifth place.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STRUBITZEL/THE CONNECTION

Yorktown Swim at Wakefield

The Yorktown swim and dive team traveled to Wakefield High School on Dec. 7 for its second meet of the season. The girls' (140-37) and boys' (138-35) teams each won.

Crosby Sensibaugh was a double winner with first-place finishes in the 500 free and 100 back events.

Individual wins for the boys' team came from Andrew Loranger (200 IM), Drew Hindman (diving), Mike Poppalardo (50 free), Shahan Jayasinghe (100 fly), Griffin Romanek (100 free) and Tim Aldinger (100 breast). The boys' team also won the three relay events: 200 medley relay (Jason Henley, Romanek, Emson and Aldinger); 200 free relay (Aldinger, Poppalardo, Sensibaugh and Henley) and 400 free relay (Connor Bock, Jayasinghe, Henry Love and

Loranger).

Double winners for the girls were: Izzy Pasternak (100 fly, 100 back) and Elizabeth Romano (200 IM, 500 free). Individual wins came from Megan Day (200 free), Elena Bavalack (diving), and Mariah Bowman (100 breast). The girls also won the three relay events: 200 medley relay (Romano, Bowman, Pasternak and Sidney Stocks); 200 free relay (Bowman, Diana Hare, Claire Slevin and Stocks) and the 400 free relay (Greenwood, Rebecca Poutasse, Romano and Stocks).

The Yorktown Patriots return to the pool next weekend with two meets. They will face Mount Vernon on Friday, Dec. 14 and Hayfield on Saturday, Dec. 15. Both meets will be at Yorktown and begin with diving at 6:30 p.m.

O'Connell, Wakefield, Yorktown Compete at NOVA Classic

The Bishop O'Connell, Wakefield and Yorktown wrestling teams competed at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.Com NOVA Classic Dec. 7 and 8 at Fairfax High School.

O'Connell tied for 26th with Marshall at the 32-team tournament.

Wakefield finished 29th and Yorktown was 31st.

O'Connell scored 46.5 points and had two grapplers place in the top eight in their respective weight classes. O'Connell's Scott Kurtzke placed fourth in the 126-pound division and Bobby Kurtzke placed seventh in the 113-pound bracket with a 7-5 decision against Fairfax's Jhony Beltran.

Wakefield scored 42 points and also had two

wrestlers produce top-eight finishes. Michael Rios placed sixth in the 152-pound bracket and Daquan Holmes finished seventh in the 106-pound division by pinning Annandale's Alex Joya.

Yorktown finished with 32 points and had one top-eight finish. Omar Al-Dulami finished sixth in the 106-pound division.

Battlefield won the event with 194.5 points. Centreville and Fauquier tied for second with 180 points.

Paul VI finished fourth with 154.5 points, followed by Lake Braddock (151.5), Mount Vernon (135), Annandale (131.5), McLean (115.5) and T.C. Williams (111.5).

Edison and South County tied for 10th with 105 points.

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Job Seekers' Support Group Meeting. Second and fourth Sundays, through Dec. 9 at 12:15 p.m. Arlington Temple United Methodist Church located at 1835 N. Nash St. is hosting Job Seeker and Career Enrichment Group meetings. The group is open to job seekers and those who are employed and wondering "what's next." Sessions are composed of readings, exercises and discussions to assist and hold members accountable for their own enrichment. Sign-up is required for participation. Contact atumoffice@verizon.net, 703-525-6075 or www.Meetup.com/jobseeker.

Adaptive/Seated Yoga. Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. For older or physically challenged adults with limited mobility, chronic pain or neuropathy. Adaptive yoga emphasizes breathing, gentle stretching and going at your own pace. \$66 Health Pavilion, 601 S. Carlin Springs Road. Call 703-558-6859.

Call for Nominations. The County Department of Parks and Recreation is accepting applications for the Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteers Award, now in its 8th

year. Submissions will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Feb. 15, 2013. Nominations are judged on the basis of the nominee's direct involvement with an activity or contribution. Award criteria includes: 1) a contribution is the giving of personal time, expertise, a tangible gift or financial donation; 2) the activity or contribution upon which the nomination is based must have been completed prior to the year of selection and 3) the award may be for a specific accomplishment or for an accumulation of accomplishments over an extended period of time. To complete a nomination form, visit www.arlingtonva.us/dpr.

Volunteers Needed. Northern Virginia Family Service seeks volunteers to serve as mentors to low-income seniors, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Volunteers will work one-on-one with seniors to help them plan and maintain monthly budgets, enroll in appropriate benefit programs and provide friendly support to lift the spirits of aging clients, among other duties. The position is located at Culpepper Gardens, 4435 North Pershing Dr. To sign up, please contact Navara Cannon at volunteer@nvfs.org or call 571-748-2536.

Volunteers Needed. Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs (AMEN Inc.) seeks volunteers who will take social workers' calls from home 1-5 p.m., one or two week days afternoons per month. Approve requests for emergency financial assistance for their clients. Must have some computer skills to record requests on AMEN's laptop computer. Training and ongoing consultation provided. Contact 703-558-0035 or amen@emergencyneeds.org. Visit www.emergencyneeds.org.

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