Children and their families enjoy the sparkling holiday tree at Friday evening’s Miracle on 23rd Street celebration.
E-mail announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is noon the Thursday before publication. Photos are welcome.

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, 6630 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 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.

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 amy.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.


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. 575 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
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 on 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.

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. The issue is a stretch of land in one of the most historic parts of Arlington — an area west of the Pentagon 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.

“Of 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 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.”

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

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

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

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Lighting the Menorah


Photos by LaShawn Avery-Simon/ The Connection

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• 9 am–6 pm: Christmas Eve
• Closed Christmas Day • 9 am–6 pm: New Year’s Eve
• Closed New Year’s Day

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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 suspect 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 victim 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 suspect 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 suspect 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.
PARIS: The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank will release their annual World Economic Outlook report on Monday, offering a glimpse into the global economic outlook for 2023 and beyond.

The report, which is widely watched by policymakers and financial markets, is expected to reflect a slowdown in the global economy as central banks continue to raise interest rates to combat inflation.

Fed officials have indicated that the Federal Reserve will continue to raise interest rates at a slower pace, but the timing and magnitude of the increases remain in flux. The report will provide insight into the central bank's thinking and its implications for the economy.

The International Monetary Fund has been forecasting a global recession since early last year, and the latest report is expected to reaffirm that outlook. The organization warned that the risk of a recession has risen significantly, with a range of downside risks to growth.

In addition to the economic forecast, the report is expected to address policy challenges, including the need to address climate change and the digital economy. The report will also provide updates on the latest developments in global financial markets and policy-making.

The World Economic Outlook report is scheduled to be released on Monday at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. It will be available on the websites of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
“Flourishing After 55” from Arlington’s Office of Senior Adult Programs for Dec. 26-29.

Arlington senior centers: Aurora Hills, 735 S. 16th St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Culpepper Gardens, 4435 N. Pershing Dr.; Langston-Brown, 2121 N. Culpepper St.; Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Arlington Mill at Fairlington, 3308 S. Stafford St.; also Madison Community Center, 3129 N. Stafford St.; TJ Comm. Center, 3501 S. 2nd St.

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


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


Strength training classes: Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m.-11 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.
In October 2012, 222 Arlington homes sold between $1,700,000-$65,000.

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<th>Postal Code</th>
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<td>Townhouse</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>22209</td>
<td>MONUMENT PLACE</td>
<td>10/18/12</td>
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<td>BROYHILL FOREST/HILLS</td>
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<td>22201</td>
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<td>0.24</td>
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<td>10/16/12</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$1,199,869</td>
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<td>GASLIGHT</td>
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Address ........................................... RR 18 HB ... Postal City .... Sold Price .... Type ...... Lot AC .... PostalCode ......... Subdivision ........ Date Sold
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2 3418 THOMAS ST N .............5 4 1 .... ARLINGTON .... $1,520,000 .... Detached 0.26 ...... 22207 .... BROWNELL FOREST/HILLS .... 10/03/12
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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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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 finding 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

“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
There is no rule that says you can’t use other colors in your holiday 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 of dominant colors in varying tones.”
administrative Asst./Receptionist
Pediatric Ofce in McLean is looking for an Administrative Asst./Receptionist to work part time. Insurance Experience required. Please fax resume to 703-734-9323: Attention: Janice
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 Black Mid Winter, Hannukah, the Seasons 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 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 the 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 performance 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 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.
**HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT**

**THURSDAY/DEC. 12**

**Holiday Photogram.** 15¢ song delivered by Priority Harmony Chorus from 7-9 p.m. Call 703-764-3818 by Tuesday, December 18 to order one of five songs including “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer.”

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY/DEC. 21-22**

**BalletNova’s Nutcracker Tea**

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

**SATURDAY/DEC. 22**

**See, Hear, Sketch in the Winter Woods.** 10-11:30 a.m. for children ages 5-9. Register online 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. Fee free to bring sketchbook and pencils. Call 703-228-3403 to register. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. $5 fee due upon registration. Program #62823-R.

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

**SUNDAY/DEC. 23**

**Holiday Shows.** Holiday Guys and Holiday Follies are limited-run holiday shows, past of Signature Theater’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 ages 5 and up. Spending winter outdoors is easier with a warm, winter 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 #62823-Q.

**SATURDAY/DEC. 29**

**Ballet, Virginia Ballet Company and Ballet Nova’s Nutcracker Tea.** 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 #62823-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 #62823-S.

**NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATION.** $15 covers DJ, entertainment and party favors. Food and drink are separate. 7:30 p.m. doors open at Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Must be 21 or older. Visit Arlingtondrafterhouse.com for tickets.

**WEDNESDAY/Jan. 2**

**Adult Bird Walk.** 9:11 a.m. For adults. Flex your observation muscles at Northern Virginia Bird Club for an informal walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn to search of resident and migratory birds. Experience and beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides. Call 703-228-6355 to register. Meet at the parking lot at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Proctor: Andrew Frye.

**Gemstone Club.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. For children ages 8-12. Register online 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 Gemset session to learn about birthstones and the alternate stones. There will be polished gems and uncult 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 #62823-G.

**FRIDAY/Jan. 4**

**Stand-Up Comedy.** David Alan Grier, from “In Living Color,” “DAQ,” 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 arlingtondrafterhouse.com for tickets.

**SATURDAY, Jan. 5**

**Gemstone Club.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. For children ages 8-12. Register online 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 Gemstone session to learn about birthstones and the alternate stones. There will be polished gems and uncult 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 #62823-G.

**SUNDAY/Jan. 6**

**History Talk.** 5 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 2100 N. Quinn St. Mary Doering, a costume expert at George Mason’s Virginia Community College, will speak on women’s clothing during the Civil War period. 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.”** 6-7:30 p.m. For families and children. Experience the famous French film Georges Méliès. Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. At Crystal City Theatre, 800 S. Bell St. Crystal City. Call 700-449-8467 or visit www.crystalcitytheatre.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 DeLucio 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 Artist Director/Violinist Leo Sushansky. Attendees 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-Alongs 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.

Seán 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 orchestra, 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 soloist 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 Rosslyn. He began learning the violin at age 7 and has been an active member of the Montgomeroy 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 Roslyn 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.

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 she creates and sells other 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 Special Solstice Sonic. Polish those dancing shoes and get ready for some traditional American dancing with loud, high energy music perfect for brightening up the dark winter night. Dance lessons start at 7:30 p.m.; Live music and dance are from 8-11 p.m. $8. In the Ballroom in Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.

Friday, Dec. 21
Scrooged 8 p.m. 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 2012.002 Free. Project 2012.002 will be accompanied by a short explanatory film and slideshow that shows the artists’ process in the Biujo Theater directly across from the installation. At Education Lab + Biujo Theater in Artisphere located at 1101 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-875-1100 or visit www.artisphere.com.
Washington-Lee Gymnastics Team Sets Bar High

By Alex Van Rees
For The Connection

I n 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 Mary Lynn Clark and the Washington-Lee gymnastics team defeated McLean, Marshall, Lee and Wakefield in a rematch from February’s Northern Region championship meet.

Individual wins for the boys’ team coming into the meet to- night,” 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 season 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 Izzy Pasternak (100 fly, 100 back) and Mariah Bowman (100 fly, 100 back) and Mariah Bowman (100 fly, 100 back) finished the meet in third place with 122.9 points.

The Marshall gymnast scored 38.55 points by winning each of the four events during the meet (vault, bars, beam and floor). 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.

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.

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 36th.

O’Connell scored 46.5 points and had two grapplers place in the top eight in their respective weight classes. O’Connell’s Scott Kuzick 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 Riou 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 Faquier 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 TC. Williams (111.5).

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

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 came from Andrew Loranger (200 IM), Drew Hindman (diving), Mike Puppapardo (50 free), Shaan 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, Puppapardo, 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 Bavolack (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.
Call for Nominations.

The County Adaptive/Seated Yoga Tai Chi

From Page 2

Job Seekers’ Support Group

Yoga for Everybody. Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. This traditional approach to yoga reduces stress and increases strength and flexibility. $66. Health Pavilion, 601 S. Carlin Springs Road. Call 703-558-6859.

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 receiving benefits. The group is dedicated to self-help and spiritual growth and discussions to assist and hold jobseekers accountable for their own enrichment. Sign-up is required for participation. Contact amunoffice@verizon.net, 703-525-6075 or www.Merrap.com/jobseeker.

Adaptive/Seated Yoga. Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. This approach to yoga is designed for those who may be feeling more 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/ogr.

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, 4455 North Pershing Dr. To sign up, please contact Navasa Cannon at volunteer@nvsf.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 weekdays 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 wwwemergencyneeds.org.

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Baptist Church...703-527-7204

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The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center...202-331-2122

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St. Agnes Catholic Church...703-525-1166

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– Christian Wolfske, master cello Society

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