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Doug Wedding, a wine expert at Arlington's Arrowwine store on Lee Highway, shows a bottle of Volnay 1er Cru Clos des Angeles, a deep red wine suitable for holiday festivities.



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The Washington-Lee Madrigals fill the hallways with holiday cheer and song during the annual holiday bazaar on Saturday.

Washington-Lee Hosts Holiday Bazaar



Pat Fisher, Lorene Schneider and Jeanie Payne of the Women's Club of Arlington offered numerous handmade gifts for sale.



Washington-Lee cheerleaders sell school t-shirts, reusable bags and more to raise money for the group. Above are Deniz Gurler, Lauren Rivera, Lauren Walker, T'Chynna Carpenter, Andrea Rodriguez and Selena Fernandez.

Caroling and holiday cheer filled the hallways and commons of Washington-Lee High School all day Saturday, Dec. 7, as hundreds of shoppers perused the gifts and treats for sale at the annual bazaar. The hallways were lined with tables promoting school clubs

and activities while vendors filled the commons offering a selection of gift ideas.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
THE CONNECTION



Latin club members Charlotte Kropf and Lydia Cawley sold cookies and brownie cupcakes.

Apollo Yong in character for his part in the upcoming performance of "Macbeth." The play opens Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Washington-Lee auditorium and runs through Saturday, Dec. 14.



Girl Scouts from middle school troop 1014, Kate Meredith and Jillian Zarro offer handmade fabric wreaths and ornaments to raise money for a field trip to New York City.

Stepping Up

Three Democrats emerge for County Board, more may be on horizon.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Three Democrats have thrown their hats into the ring for the special election to replace longtime County Board member Chris Zimmerman. Meanwhile, Republicans and Green Party leaders say they are still looking for candidates, and any independent candidates would have the next few weeks to announce their intentions to run. Although Democrats have a traditional advantage in Arlington politics, Republicans and independents have a better chance during a special election when other races aren't drawing Democrats to the polls.

"It's almost impossible to beat an incumbent in Arlington, said John Reeder, a leader in the Arlington Green Party. "So these special elections are really the only chance to defeat a Democrat."

During a recent meeting of the Arlington Democratic Committee, three candidates formally announced their intention to run and made brief speeches. One is planning commissioner Peter Fallon, who was unsuccessful candidate for County Board in a 2012 special election. Another is IBM management consultant Alan Howze, who who lost a primary race for House District 47 back in 2009. The third candidate is a relative newcomer to Arlington politics, Cord Thomas, who is a co-founder of the Envirocab taxi company and is now co-owner of Elevation Burger. Republicans and Green Party officials say they hope to be able to run candidates, or at least throw their support behind an independent candidate.

"There is a growing unrest about the streetcar, and the County Board is not listening," said Charles Hokanson, chairman of the Arlington County Republican Committee. "So I think the streetcar is likely to be the central focus of the special election."

Zimmerman plans to submit a formal resignation to the County Board in late January or early February to take a position as vice president for economic development for Smart Growth America, a Washington-based advocacy group that promotes walkable neighborhoods near public transit. Once that happens, the county attorney will notify the court and the chief judge of

SEE ON THE WAY, PAGE 9

Democratic Caucus

- ♦ Jan. 30: Democrats will hold a caucus at Key Elementary School from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- ♦ Feb. 1: Democrats will hold a caucus at Kenmore Middle School from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Alexandria resident and runway model, **Tameka Young**

EXTRAORDINARY

Alexandria

Find holiday events, gifts and dining info at VisitAlexandriaVA.com/holidays



GIFT GUIDE



The Holiday House at Fort C. F. Smith is open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday this week.



Quilted table runners and hand-made glassware.



Handmade mittens fill a table and tree in the hallway on the second floor of the Holiday House.



Hand drawn designs decorate a selection of children's Fantastic Tees.



Crayon keepers for the young artist include crayons and coloring books.

Holiday House at Fort C. F. Smith



Forty-inch square table square and tea cozys come in a variety of different fabric designs.

Hundreds of handmade crafts and original art fill two floors in the Hendry House at Fort C. F. Smith for the last three days of the Holiday House. Twenty artists created work for this year's juried craft show and sale. Baskets, ceramics, hand-woven and knitted items, paintings, quilts, holiday cards and more are available for sale. There is also a "Children's Corner" where all gifts are priced under \$15.

The Holiday House craft show and sale will be open Wednesday, Dec. 11, from noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 14 hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15, noon to 5 p.m.

The Hendry House at Fort C. F. Smith is located at 2411 24th Street North in Arlington.



Entertaining designs in glassware and party utensils by Melanie Barry.



Fringe Benefits by fiber artist Anne Alden.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
THE CONNECTION



Hand woven door knob basket.

CRIME

The following incidents were reported by the Arlington Police Department.

ROBBERY, 200 block of N. Glebe Road. Between 1:50 p.m. and 2:05 p.m. on Dec. 3, a female victim had her purse forcefully taken from her by a known suspect. The suspect left her purse and took her wallet. Investigation ongoing.

ROBBERY, 1600 block of S. Joyce Street. At 10:10 p.m. on Dec. 3, a female victim was pushed down to the ground from behind as an unknown suspect grabbed her purse and fled the scene. An investigation is still ongoing.

ROBBERY, 1200 block of S. Eads Street. At 10:54 p.m. on Dec. 3, a female victim was robbed by two subjects. The items stolen were later recovered and

returned to the victim. The victim described the suspects as two black males in their late teens or early 20s, about 5'7" and with a small build. The suspects were wearing dark clothing at the time of the incident. Investigation ongoing.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING, 131129047, 3600 block of S. 3rd Street. At 2 p.m. on Nov. 29, an intoxicated male subject's ear was severed in a fight. An investigation is ongoing.

UNLAWFUL WOUNDING, 3500 block of S. 16th Street. At approximately 11:36 a.m. on Dec. 2, the victim was struck and injured with a baseball bat during a dispute. A 53-year-old Arlington man was arrested and charged with unlawful wounding. He was held without bond.

BURGLARY, 4300 block of N. Pershing Drive. Between 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 1, victims returned to their house to find their front door ajar and electronics missing from inside. It appeared that the suspect forced open a rear window to gain entry. A witness' description of a possible suspect is a Hispanic male in his early 30s with short brown or black hair and about 5'10" with a medium build. The suspect was wearing a blue short sleeve t-shirt at the time of the incident.

BURGLARY, 5100 block of N. Lee Highway. At approximately 3:40 a.m. on Nov. 27, an unknown suspect entered a store by smashing a door and window and stole items. The suspect is described as an Asian male in his 20's.

He was wearing a dark hoodie jacket and blue jeans at the time.

BURGLARY, 1200 block of N. Stafford Street. Between 8 a.m. and 11:48 a.m. on Dec. 2, officers responded for a burglary alarm and found a residence had been entered by an unknown suspect(s) through a broken window. It is unknown if anything was taken and the investigation is ongoing.

BURGLARY, 1000 block of N. Stafford Street. Between 10 a.m. and 4:23 p.m. on Dec. 2, an unknown suspect(s) entered the residence through a broken window and stole electronics and jewelry. The investigation is ongoing.

SEXUAL ASSAULT, 1400 block of N. Courthouse Road. Between 10:30

p.m. on Nov. 24 to 12:07 a.m. on Nov. 25, a female victim reported she was allegedly sexually assaulted after leaving a bar. An investigation is ongoing.

FELONY ELUDING, 600 block of N. 395 Interstate. Between 2:21 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 29, a vehicle matching a robbery description traveled North on 395 and eluded police. Eventually the car stopped in Southeast D.C. and all three suspects bailed out of the vehicle. Suspects were shortly found and apprehended.

ARSON, 400 block of S. Long Bridge Drive. Between 3 p.m. on Dec. 2 and 7 a.m. on Dec. 3, an unknown subject lit one of the field markers on a soccer field on fire. No suspect description is available.

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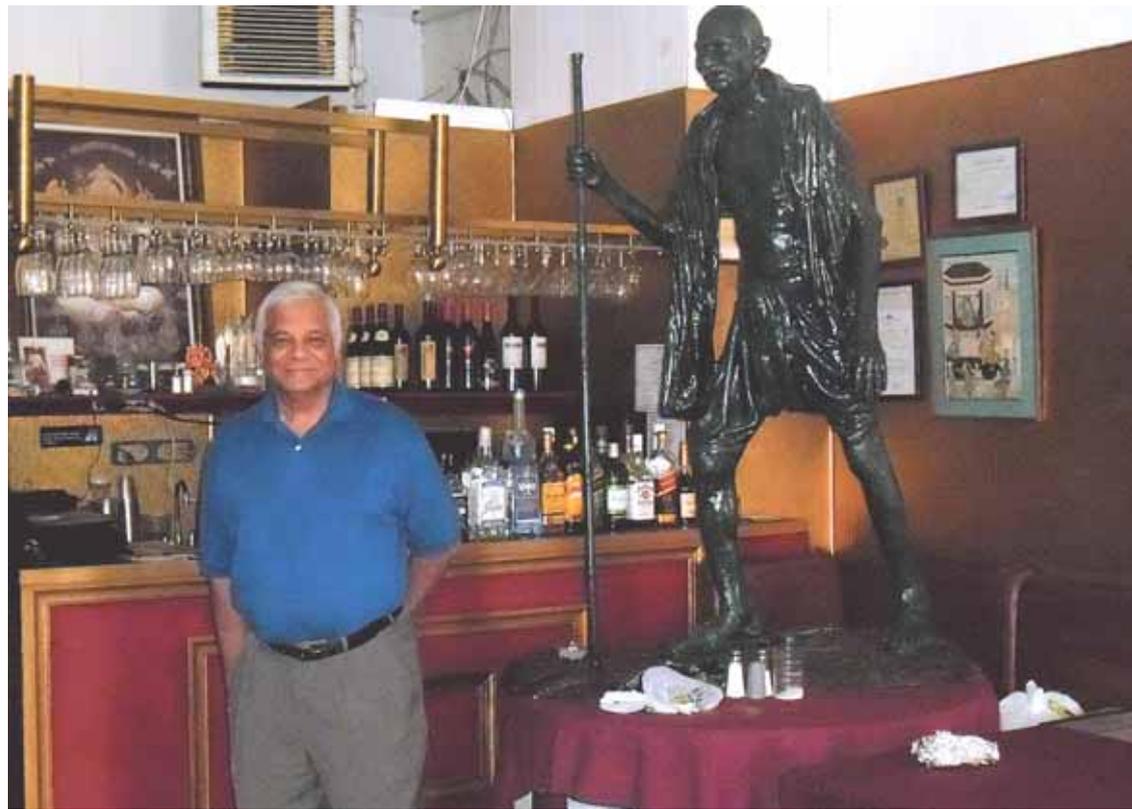
BUSINESS

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcomed.

SIGAL Construction Corporation in Arlington recently completed renovation of the south wing of Letts Hall at American University. The SIGAL team used fast-track techniques to meet an accelerated schedule of 79 calendar days, while the lowest level and adjoining buildings remained occupied. To learn more about SIGAL Construction Corporation, visit www.sigal.com.

An Arlington-based small business earned national recognition for its achievements in government contracting at the recent Summit for Success event in Washington D.C. **Rose Wang**, founder and CEO of **Binary Group** was recognized as the 2013 Women Government Contractor of the Year by American Express OPEN as part of the OPEN for Government Contracts program. Binary Group is a woman-owned small business providing technology solutions, training, program management and consulting to the federal government.

The newest **Zinga Frozen Yogurt** store is located in the Beacon Shopping Center, 6676 Richmond Highway in Alexandria. The new store is the first Northern Virginia store to be opened by Zinga franchisee Ashley Langland, an Arlington resident. Langland indicated that the new store would be involved with local charities and civic organizations, high school groups and local sports programs. To celebrate the opening, there will be a free Frozen Yogurt Grand Opening blast to anyone who "likes" the new store on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ZingaBeaconCenter. Store hours are Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Call 703-341-6797.



The Tandoor has expanded into Ballston Common. Owner Jack Katyl, a New Delhi emigrant, is a pioneer in Tandoori cuisine. He wrote "Famous Indian Recipes Made Easy: From the House of Tandoor" that sold over 100,000 copies.

James R. Schroll, of **Bean, Kinney & Korman**, has been recog-

nized as a "Leader in the Law" honoree by Virginia Lawyers Weekly. Each year, Virginia Lawyers Weekly presents this award to those in the legal field who are changing and advancing the law, improving the justice system, serving the community and setting the standard for

other lawyers. Schroll is the fifth attorney from Bean, Kinney & Korman to be honored with this award since 2008.

Neil A.G. McPhie, has been recognized as a leader in the law in the state with the second highest concentration of

federal executive branch employees. Virginia Lawyers Weekly recently named McPhie, a former chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, to its 2013 class of "Leaders in the Law," which features attorneys who are "setting the standards for other lawyers in Virginia." In 2011, McPhie joined **Tully Rinckey PLLC** as its managing partner in Virginia. At the firm's Arlington office, he oversees Tully Rinckey PLLC's MSPB practice – one of the firm's largest practice areas. McPhie received his juris doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center in 1976. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from Howard University in 1973, graduating magna cum laude.

Writer, book artist, and educator **Sushmita Mazumdar** is opening StudioPAUSE at 2421 S. 26th Road. StudioPAUSE was created to provide a safe space for individuals to be creative while exploring art and writing and celebrating community. The studio offers clients the opportunity to learn about themselves and challenge their own presumptions about others. With a variety of art and writing PAUSE Sessions, plus free CommunityPAUSE and CausePAUSE sessions, Mazumdar will be able to provide individualized and group support as visitors explore their role in the world and interact with local leaders, neighbors, and social and advocating organizations. Mazumdar has many years of experience teaching people to share experiences and heritage through art and stories and has done many programs in schools, museums, and art organizations in the DC Metro area. Sushmita Mazumdar is a graduate of Empowered Women.

SEE BUSINESS NOTES, PAGE 7

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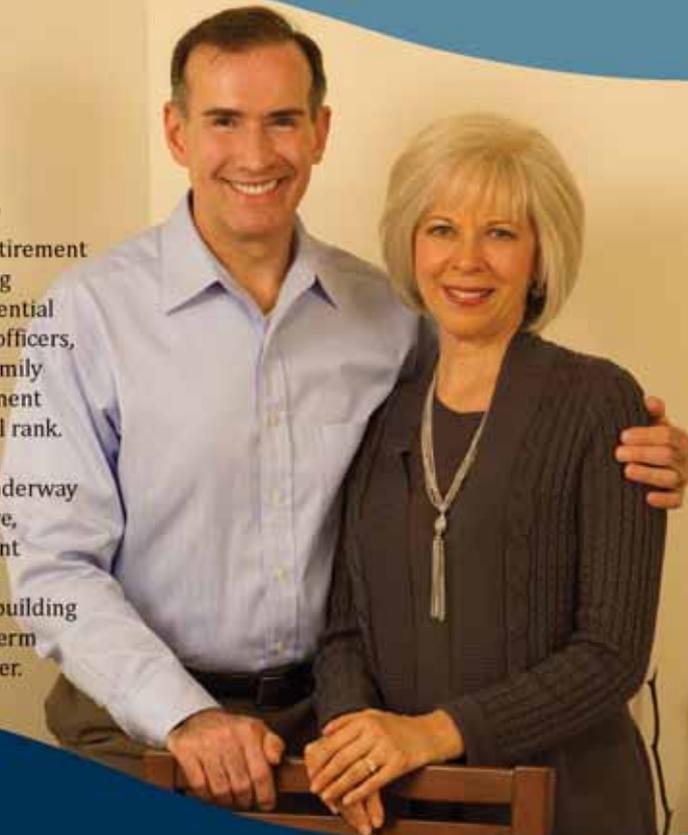
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'An Astronomer Looks for a Christmas Star'

Volunteer-produced show debuts at David M. Brown Planetarium.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE CONNECTION

Just a few years ago, the David M. Brown Planetarium in Arlington was on the verge of closing. Now a fully renovated planetarium at Washington and Lee High School, it is the host of several holiday-themed shows open to the public. One of the shows, "An Astronomer Looks for a Christmas Star," is the planetarium's first amateur created and produced show. The planetarium will present the volunteer-produced show on Dec. 13 and 14 at 6:30 p.m.

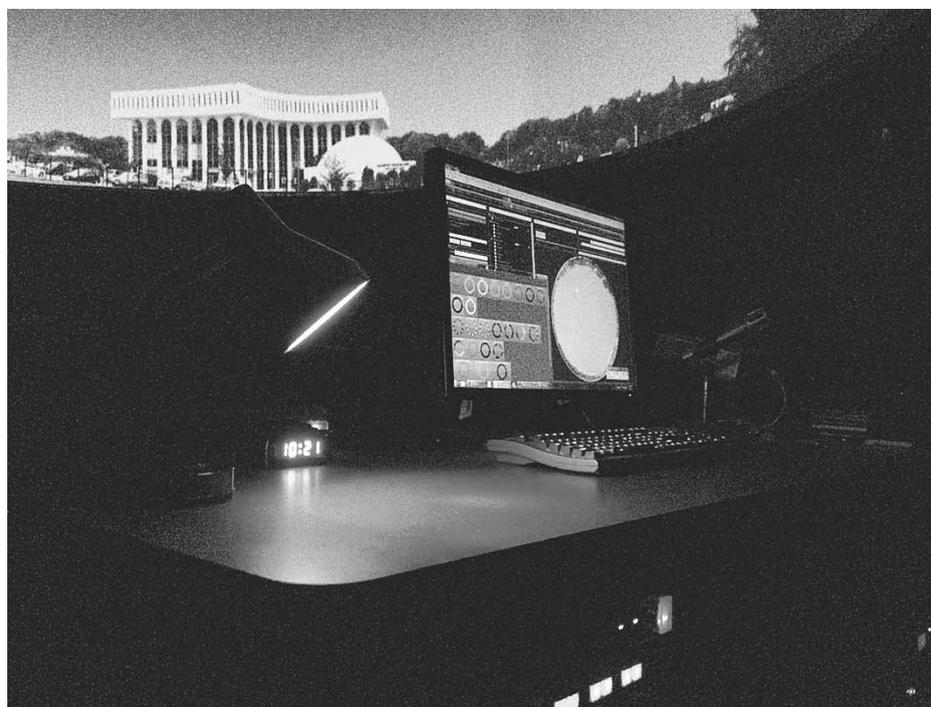
Alice Monet, president of the Friends of the Planetarium, said the group formed in 2010 to raise more than half of the money needed for the planetarium's necessary renovations. The School Board provided the rest of the funding.

"The planetarium was built in the late 1960s, but just a few years ago, there was a question as to whether or not it should stay open," Monet said. "It was a campaign called 'Save the Planetarium' that involved thousands of residents in Arlington. The happy ending is that we did raise the money, and the School Board put in the rest. There is state of the art stuff now."

Renovation occurred during the 2011 school year and reopened with full capabilities in September 2012.

Manufacturers of the first-class equipment trained Friends of the Planetarium members so that they could put on their own show for the holiday season. Their show will run alongside the annual professional production the planetarium has hosted for 14 years, "Stars Tonight," a live sky show under its dome.

"Part of the excitement about the new equipment is that it is possible now to create shows ourselves in the planetarium on any topic," Monet said. "It should also be possible for students to create shows. We are very excited about the possibility that kids in high school in Arlington will have an opportunity to create their very own program so students can get into teaching. We are hoping that it will be the go-to place



The David M. Brown Planetarium was saved and renovated with help from the Friends of the Planetarium.

for kids to get excited about math and science. Maybe, because of the planetarium, some students will even go into science as a profession."

While Monet said their show won't look as polished as the planetarium's typical products, she is excited for what it means for the school system. The planetarium is officially part of Arlington Public Schools, and is included in science curriculum.

"An Astronomer Looks for a Christmas Star" is the first show produced by regular folks, and this will be a demonstration of what we can do on our own," Monet said. "I am working with an astronomy teacher at Washington and Lee High School who is going to try to get his students involved into creating these shows. This is really a new venture."

She added that the shows can be easily created with personal computers and a little bit of creativity.

"We are having fun with it," Monet said. "We are doing this with laptops and software and recording our own narratives and writing our own stuff. It is a level of effort that our students, realistically without any kind of extensive studio or equipment, can do."

Ticket sales for all planetarium shows provide funding for the planetarium and its upkeep.

Jonathan Harman, director of the Plan-

etarium and its only staff member from Arlington Public Schools, said the group's continued dedication to the planetarium is something Arlington County Public School staff appreciates wholeheartedly.

"One would have thought the Friends would have disbanded, but they wanted to be sure they were around to help support planetarium and drum up interest," Harman said. "They elected

to continue operating as a non-profit."

Harman said the ability to put on shows will be exciting for teachers, students, and planetarium affiliates. He said the school

staff members involved have always enjoyed facilitating the professional shows throughout the year. They have always relished the opportunities to entertain and educate the public.

"The planetarium is part of Arlington Public Schools, and as such, our primary weekday job is supplementing the science curriculum for the Arlington schools, from Kindergarten through high school," Harman said. "Historically, ever since we were built, we have always done weekend shows as well. It gives us the chance to take off our teacher hats and put on our public hats."

Harman said even before the renovations, the planetarium certainly played an important role in the community.

"We provide an opportunity for local community and region to come see a weekend show," Harman said. "We have always prided ourselves in being a small and accessible place. When I am doing a live show, which is one weekend per month, I encourage the audience to stop me mid-sentence if they have a question. I will flesh out a question for them while I am on the fly. It is a more folksy show."

He said "Season's Life" has been a crowd favorite and will run every weekend, now through Dec. 22. The Friends of the Planetarium Christmas show will provide additional funding for the planetarium.

"It will be supplemental program that the Friends are doing once a month as part, providing alternative fundraising for the planetarium," Harman said. "It is coming together nicely."

Monet said Arlington would have lost a true gem had the planetarium shut down as suggested three and a half years ago.

"I think that this place as a great treasure to the community," Monet said. "I think the community is appreciative of our existence here."

Harman agreed that the planetarium offers a unique and unusually affordable weekend opportunity for Arlington at large. Tickets for all planetarium shows are \$3 for adults, and \$2 for children.

"You can't go over to the Ballston Commons movie theaters and see a show for that kind of price," Harman said. "We also do private shows for private groups and events, like for Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout troops and birthday parties."

The planetarium provides a variety of opportunities for locals. He added that the planetarium will even serve as a wedding venue for two engaged couples in the next year.

The planetarium's shows generally run for about an hour, and tickets are sold at the door.

"The only caveat is that there is no cake and ice cream," Harman said.

Tickets for "An Astronomer Looks for a Christmas Star" are available and can be reserved at FriendsOfThePlanetarium.org.

"I think that this place as a great treasure to the community."

— Alice Monet, president of the Friends of the Planetarium

BUSINESS NOTES

FROM PAGE 6

International's Entrepreneur Training for Success program.

The **Tandoor** will be expanding to Ballston Common at the end of this month. Jack Katyl, a New Delhi emigrant, has been a restaurateur for 43 years, and has appeared in cooking segments on Oprah and NBC 4 News. He is primarily famous for

being a pioneer in Tandoori cuisine with his book "Famous Indian Recipes Made Easy: From the House of Tandoor" that sold more than 100,000 copies. He is one of the first restaurants with a Tandoor oven in the region or nation. At the end of September 2013, Tandoor will move into Ballston Common Food Court on the bottom floor of the mall adjacent to the Chick-fil-A.

Licensed Professional Counselor **Dr.**

Carrie Barone has joined **Peak Neurofitness, LLC**, as a neurotherapist. Peak Neurofitness is a neurofeedback center, providing brain fitness training and counseling at offices in Arlington and Burke. Barone comes to Peak Neurofitness from The Georgetown Family Center, where she has been a family therapist and clinical associate since 2007. Barone received her master's degree in rehabilitative counseling from the University of South

Carolina School of Medicine in 1999 and her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland in 1996. In January 2013, Barone completed her Ph.D. in counselor education at The George Washington University. She is interested in alternative treatment for mental conditions without labeling and without using heavy medication and inpatient services. Barone and her fiancé live in Alexandria.

Professional SportsCare & Rehab, a provider of physical therapy, aquatic therapy and sports medicine services, is opening a new clinic in the Crystal City Shops in Arlington. The location is the second location in Arlington and joins a network of more than 50 clinics throughout the region. Monday through Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit www.prosportscare.com

OPINION

Happy Holidays, Safely SoberRide 1-800-200-TAXI.

Holiday party season is well underway, along with winter weather advisories. It's up to individuals to make good decisions about celebrations that involve alcohol and how to handle transportation.

Plan to abstain. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you will be comfortable for some period of time. Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation. And if all of that fails, the Washington Regional Alcohol Project has a safety net for you.

WRAP, a local nonprofit organization, will offer free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout Northern Virginia during the winter holidays.

More than 10,000 died in drunk driving related accidents in 2010. Tens of thousands more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas and New Year season in particular.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, and continuing until Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

EDITORIAL During these times, area residents celebrating with alcohol can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. Callers will be responsible for fare amounts over \$30. Last December 1,927 people took advantage of this program. On New Year's Eve alone, 387 people call on SoberRide for a safe trip home.

SoberRide is offered in throughout the Northern Virginia and Maryland suburbs. In these areas, local taxicab companies will be providing this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who might otherwise have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 58,576 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

We know that many young people over 21 are living at home with parents, or will be visiting for the holidays. Parents, be brave. Have a conversation with your children whether they are under or over 21. Be sure those over 21 have a plan, and are equipped with the SoberRide number.

SoberRide is not available for underage drinkers, but parents still should talk to their children about their plans, and tell them out loud that you expect them not to drive impaired and not to get into a car with an impaired driver. Tell them to call, and you'll come get them if necessary.

It's a good time for a conversation about the risks of drinking to excess beyond drinking and driving as well.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

HOLIDAY NEEDS

The Rosslyn BID's annual **winter clothing drive** to benefit clients of A-SPAN (Arlington Street People's Assistance Network) has started. Look for a gift-wrapped donation box in the lobby of your building. Donate new or gently used winter coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, socks and jeans. Or bring donations to the BID offices, 1911 N. Fort Myer Drive.

"Home for the Holidays" Campaign. The Animal Welfare League of Arlington, 2650 S.

Arlington Mill Drive, would like to find homes for 100 pets during the month of December. Cats and kittens have a half-off adoption fee. \$50/cats over five months; \$75/kittens less than 5 months. The adoption fee includes a certificate for a free exam, spay or neuter surgery, vaccines and more. Visit www.awla.org for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 12-14

Charity Fundraiser. Arlington Northwest Lions will have fresh Florida citrus, Georgia pecans, and Vermont maple syrup for sale at the Overlee Pool, 6030 Lee Highway, in the lower parking lot. Hours are Thursday and Friday 8 a.m.-5 P.M. and Saturday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 703-528-1130.

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

Donate Bikes. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bikes for the World warehouse, 1420 S. Eads St. Visitors can donate bikes, volunteer to work with simple hand tools to reduce bikes in size for efficient shipping, and help load 500 bikes into a 40-foot sea container, for education and jobs in Sierra Leone, Africa. Free. Suggested \$10 donation to accompany a donated bike, receipt for tax purposes provided. 571-212-4139 or www.bikesfortheworld.org.

Holiday Project. 2-4 p.m. at Manor Care Arlington, 550 S. Carlin Springs Road. Join AARP Virginia and the Holiday Project and visit with the residents at a nursing home and

assisted living residence. Contact Robin Wiley at robingwiley@yahoo.com or 703-548-3606 on how to help. Visit www.holidayproject.org for more on the event.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Donate Bikes. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bikes for the World warehouse, 1420 S. Eads St. Visitors can donate bikes, volunteer to work with simple hand tools to reduce bikes in size for efficient shipping, and help load 500 bikes into a 40-foot sea container, for education and jobs in Sierra Leone, Africa. Free. Suggested \$10 donation to accompany a donated bike, receipt for tax purposes provided. 571-212-4139 or www.bikesfortheworld.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Christmas Concert. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Cherrydale United Methodist Church, 3701 Lorcom Lane. Adults can hear the choir perform while children shop in the Secret Santa Shop. After the service there will be a potluck luncheon and activity. Free. E-mail cmuc@erols.com or 703-527-2621.

MONDAY/DEC. 16

Application Deadline. Leadership Arlington is seeking applicants for the Leadership Arlington Young Professionals Program Spring Class of 2014. The Leadership Arlington Young Professionals Program is an initiative of Leadership Arlington that provides four months of experiential learning alongside 25-30 peers in which they expand their footprint in the community, connect with established community leaders, develop an awareness of community needs and expand their circles of influence. Applications are available online at <http://leadershiparlington.org/programs/apply/yopro-apply/yopro-programapply-spring>.

Lecture. 3-4:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 1015 Quincy Street. Encore Learning and the Arlington Public Library present "Swastikas on Wilson: A History of Rockwell's Nazi Party." The lecturer, Charles S. Clark, will speak on the presence of the American Nazi Party in Arlington from 1958-1983. The public is invited. Call Encore Learning at 703-228-2144.



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

Seasons Greetings

The holidays are a time for intergalactic friendship, as evidenced by this trio of characters on a lawn on Danville Street in Arlington Sunday afternoon.

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NEWS

On the Way to Special Election

FROM PAGE 3

the Arlington Circuit Court will set a special election date within 45 to 60 days. That means a likely date for the special election would be mid-March, although candidates would

"I would guess early February would be the deadline for any candidate to qualify," said Arlington registrar Linda Lindberg. "We need to turn that around very quickly and get ballots out to our absentee voters."

Turnout is hard to predict for a special election, although the county has several recent precedents to draw from. Back in 2003, the death of County Board Chairman Charles Monroe prompted a spe-

cial election that added Walter Tejada to the County Board. That election had an 18 percent turnout, which was about 21,000 voters. Then in 2012, long-time County Board member Barbara Favola resigned because she was elected to the state Senate prompting a special election in which School Board member Libby Garvey was elected. That special election had a 12 percent turnout, which was about 14,000 voters. Lindberg says she expects the March 2014 special election to have a 14 percent turnout, which would be about 20,000 voters.

"In some ways, it's just a guess," said Lindberg.

To qualify for the ballot a candidate would need 125 signatures.

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for Dec. 23-28.

Senior trip: Tuesday, Dec. 24, Mansion on "O" Street Holiday Buffet, Cost \$104. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

Popular Christmas music, Monday, Dec. 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Details, 703-228-4403.

Madison Chess Club, Mondays, 9:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m., Madison Community Center. Free. Details, 703-534-6232.

Ice skating, Mondays, 8 a.m. - 9:10 a.m., Kettler Capitals Iceplex, Ballston

Mall. \$1. Register, 703-228-4745.

Foreign language conversation groups, Russian, French, Spanish, German, Langston-Brown. Call for days and times, 703-228-6300.

Pickleball, Tuesdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Walter Reed. Free. Call to register, 703-228-0955.

Low impact aerobics class, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., Thursdays, 11 a.m., Aurora Hills, \$60/15 sessions. Register, 703-228-5722.

Indoor walking program, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Register, 703-228-6300.

Table tennis, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Spreading Holiday Cheer: Sharing Wine

Wine shops from around the region give their suggestions for bottles to bring to holiday parties.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Holiday season means parties, hostess gifts, office Secret Santas and other occasions where many people bring a bottle of some spirit or other to spread good tidings.

So what to pick up? What's right? What kind of wine goes with what kind of food? And where to go for some good advice?

A handful of wine shops provide some advice for Connection readers for a happy party season.

ARROWINE, 4508 Lee Highway

The holiday party season used to be limited to the time between Thanksgiving and New Years, but some companies are scheduling parties into January, making the festivities last a little longer, said Doug Wedding, a clerk at Arrowwine in Arlington.

A good choice for holiday parties during cold weather are "high-end big reds, Champagne, ports and aged Malbecs," he suggested. Red wines are popular when the weather gets colder because they make the drinker feel warmer and compliment many heavy, festive dinners, including roasts.

If bringing wine as a hostess gift to a dinner party, "try to assess what you're having for dinner," Wedding said. "If you don't know, taking a Meritage or blend, maybe a Bordeaux with Cabernet, Merlot or Cabernet Franc," as those wines tend to compliment heavy dishes with delicate flavors that don't overwhelm.

For his Christmas dinner, Wedding said

his family enjoys paella, a Spanish dish that typically contains a variety of spices and meats, ranging from chicken and sausage to shrimp. His personal favorite wine for that dish is an Abariño, "a wonderfully delicate wine that pairs well" with a complex, flavorful dinner.

If the main course, or any course, involves fish, don't automatically assume white wine is the only way to go, Wedding said. "You can start with a white with some weight to it," he said. A Pinot Grigio, which is slightly acidic and can cut the oiliness of the fish, is a good choice. After that? "Red all the way," he said.

Of course, for New Years Eve and other festive times, it's hard to go wrong with bubbly beverages, from French Champagne to Italian Prosecco or Moscato.

"The myth is that champagne is only for celebrations," Wedding said. "I'd drink it every day."

For those who would rather talk to someone before purchasing a bottle or 10, find a wine store that can be trusted, or look on the back of a bottle that was enjoyed. See who distributed that bottle locally, and find out what other kinds of wines come in through the same importer or distributor, Wedding said. That can be a good way of paring down what can be an intimidating selection process.

All else fails? Ask. Ask the people at a local wine store, especially if it's a place where a customer is used to going. Be honest and forthcoming about wine preferences, either of the purchasers or the ones who will be enjoying the bottle, and discuss the person who will be enjoying the wine to make an educated guess.

GRATEFUL RED, 2727 Wilson Blvd

Specializing in small production vintners, Grateful Red carries a variety of wines from traditional Chardonnay, Rosé, bubbly selections and Pinot Noir. But there's also acting manager Alicia Calfee's current favorite, a blend of Zinfandel, Syrah and Petite Syrah called Sexual Chocolate. The bottle, with

Grateful Red, a wine store in Arlington's Clarendon neighborhood, offers a variety of wine-based gifts, ranging from custom-made gift baskets to richly scented candles made in old wine bottles.



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/ THE CONNECTION

what appears to be a hand-written label drafted in pencil, is part of the story that comes with the selection, made by Slo Down Wines in California's Napa Valley.

Some customers come in looking for something safer, but others want something a little funkier, a little unexpected, a little different, Calfee said.

"You have to feel out the customer and find out what they're looking for," she said.

Slo Down Wine also makes a Chardonnay, called Broken Dreams, which also comes with a story about the winemakers and a third friend, who had some complications that led to his departure from the company.

If it's hard to decide on just one bottle of wine, or if a customer wants to combine wine, cheese or other snacks, and gifts like candles, glass charms or stoppers, the store makes custom gift baskets. A short conversation with store employees and at least 24 hours' notice can result in a gift basket that meets the receiver's personality in an unexpected way.

Prices for baskets range by what's inside, but there's a flat \$10 fee for wrapping and the basket, in addition to a \$15 fee for delivery within 25 miles of the store, located in Clarendon.

"You'd be surprised how far that will get you around here," Calfee said.

Grateful Red also sells craft brewed beers, including some local varieties, and hard ciders, which are sold by the six-pack or individual bottle.

CHEESETIQUE, 2411 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 2056 Campbell Ave., Arlington

When buying wine, environment can be important, said Missy Pankow, front-of-house manager with the Cheesetique location in Del Ray.

"If you're going to a dinner, you'll want to bring something nice, unless it's a big party," where many bottles will be opened,

SEE HOLIDAY WINE, PAGE 12

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Theater Performance. See "A Matt Conner Christmas" at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Matt Conner will perform and sing. Performances are Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 12 and 13 at 8 p.m., Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. or 8 p.m., and Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. Buy tickets at www.signature-theatre.org or 703-573-SEAT.

Theater Performance. See "Holiday Follies" at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Performances are Dec. 17 and Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 19 and 20 at 8 p.m., Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. or 8 p.m., Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m., and Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. Buy tickets at www.signature-theatre.org or 703-573-SEAT.

Art Exhibit. See "Yes, It's Colored Pencil" from Dec. 2-28 at Gallery Underground, in the Crystal City Shops, 2100 Crystal Drive. Free. Features works by members of the Colored Pencil Society of America. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit www.galleryunderground.org or call 571-483-0652.

Art Exhibit. See "Faces of Afghanistan: Images by Arlington Photographer Kenneth Chadwick" at Cherrydale Branch Library, 2190 Military Road. On display through Jan. 6. Hours are Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday from 1-9 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

Art Exhibit. See "Season's Greetings from Arlington: Christmas Cards & Ornaments to Decorate the Holidays: 1920-1940" at the Arlington Historical Museum at the Hume School, 1805 S. Arlington Ridge

Road. Hosted by the Arlington Historical Society. Free. Runs from Nov. 30 through Jan. 19. Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

Ballet Performance. 5 p.m. at BalletNova Center for Dance Studios, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Watch a petite performance of BalletNova's "The Nutcracker." Performances are 45 minutes and include a narrative of the story and highlights from Act II. Appropriate for children ages 3-5. Tickets are \$15/child; \$20/adult. Add \$3 if purchased at the door. Visit www.BalletNova.org, or call 703-778-3008 for tickets.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Watch "A Christmas Carol"

from The Providence Players. A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Young Hearts Foundation. \$17/person. Visit www.providenceplayers.org or 703-425-6782.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 18-35 months can discover nature through a themed program. \$5 due at registration. 703-228-6535. Program #622914-B.

Mischiefous Mittens. 4-5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 6-10 can learn about metamorphosis and transform plain winter mittens and gloves into funky friends. \$5 due at registration. 703-228-6535. Program #622924-G.

Holiday Ready Market. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. near Cupid's Garden Sculpture at 1500 Wilson Blvd. Shoppers can enjoy a sampling of sweets, snacks and refreshments while indulging in

an array of services such as massages, spirits tastings, boutique shopping and more. Free talks and demos will be offered, along with a gift-wrapping station and holiday photo booth. There will also be a clothing drive to benefit A-SPAN. Visit www.rosslynva.org/holidayready for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. 8 a.m. at Potomac Overlook Park, 2845 N Marcey Road. Join the park staff in the annual Christmas Bird Count by keeping eyes and ears open while walking all the trails of the park to survey what birds are hunkering down for the winter at Potomac Overlook. Meet in the shelter building at the main parking lot. Some binoculars available, but feel free to bring a pair. Call 703-528-5406.

Winter Wonderland. 10 a.m. at Market Common Clarendon. MIX 107.3 will be on site accepting donations of toys and cash in support of the US Marine Corps' Toys for Tots drive from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and from 2-5 p.m. there will be free holiday activities and entertainment, including visits and photos with Santa Claus, who will be arriving by fire truck. For event information, call 703-785-5634, and visit www.marketcommonclarendon.com.

Holiday Craft Fair and Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wakefield High School, 1325 S. Dinwiddie St. Enjoy demonstrations, music and dance performances and more while browsing items from artisans and crafters. Free.

Holiday House. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Enjoy a juried arts and crafts sale by local artisans. There will be children's corner with items priced under \$15. Call Sharon Casey at 703-243-7329 for information.

Theater Performance. 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. at BalletNova Center for Dance Studios, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Watch a petite performance of BalletNova's "The Nutcracker." Performances are 45 minutes and include a narrative of the story and highlights from Act II. Appropriate for children ages 3-5. Tickets are \$15/child; \$20/adult. Add \$3 if purchased at the door. Visit www.BalletNova.org, or call 703-778-3008 for tickets.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. at The James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Watch "A Christmas Carol" from The Providence Players. A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Young Hearts Foundation. \$17/person. Visit www.providenceplayers.org or 703-425-6782.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 18-35 months can discover nature through a

themed program. \$5 due at registration. 703-228-6535. Program #622914-C.

Family Film. 2:30-4 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "The Polar Express." Free. Snacks will be provided. 703-228-6545.

Paws to Read. 3-4 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. Children in grades K-5 can read to therapy dogs. Free. Register for a slot by calling 703-228-6330.

Flying Squirrel Lore & More. 5-6 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can learn about these animals and then watch them glide in for a meal. \$5/person due at registration. 703-228-6535. Program #622954-A.

Clarendon's Finest Bar Crawl. 3-9 p.m., starting at Sobe. Raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Dress us in holiday costumes, prizes will be awarded. \$10/person. Buy tickets at tickets.ontaponline.com.

Rescheduled Concert. The U.S. Army Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. at Fort Myer. The concert was originally scheduled for Dec. 8. If you have tickets for the Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. concert, then the ticket will be honored at this concert. Visit www.usarmyband.com/concerts-events/american-holiday-festival.html for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Christmas Music and Family Activities. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Cherrydale United Methodist Church, 3701 Lorcom Lane. Enjoy a Christmas concert during the 11 a.m. service, followed by lunch and family Christmas activities. Free. 703-527-2621.

Holiday House. Noon-5 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Enjoy a juried arts and crafts sale by local artisans. There will be children's corner with items priced under \$15. Call Sharon Casey at 703-243-7329 for information.

Holiday Crafts Workshop. 1 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Park, 2845 N Marcey Road. Come make a wreath or centerpiece from local greens, pine cones and other natural materials. \$20. Call 703-528-5406 for reservations.

Santa Visits Potomac Overlook. 1 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Park, 2845 N Marcey Road. Meet Santa during his only visit to Potomac Overlook this year. Take photos and make family memories. Light refreshments available. Reservations required. A donation of \$5 per Santa visitor is requested and appreciated. Call 703-528-5406 for reservations.

Old Glebe Walkabout. 1-3 p.m., starting at Madison Community Center, 3829 N. Stafford St. Enjoy a two-mile walk around the Old Glebe neighborhood, featuring a behind-the-scenes look at a new exhibit and more. Open to all ages, plenty of stops. Free. Visit www.walkerlington.com for more.

Notable Nature: Winter Stories and Sketches. 1:30-3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can learn about nature journaling by constructing a journal and then going out in nature and recording what you see. Free. 703-228-6535. Program #622954-I.

Remove Invasives. 2-4 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families with children ages 9 and older, adults and teens can help clear the plants from the park. Free. 703-228-6535.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. at The James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Watch "A Christmas Carol" from The Providence Players. A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Young Hearts Foundation. \$17/person. Visit www.providenceplayers.org or 703-425-6782.

Annual Holiday Concert & Sing Along. 3 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Theater, 125 S. Old



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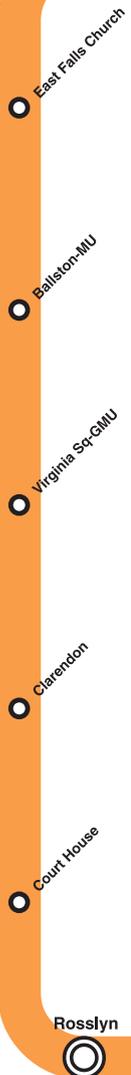
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ONGOING

Restaurants and Rhythms. The BID's free happy-hour live music series inside Rosslyn restaurants. Origem brings Brazilian jazz to Le Méridien. Dave Chappel and friends performs blues rock at the Hyatt Arlington and Mary Ann Redmond sings jazz standards at the Key Bridge Marriott. Visit www.rosslynva.org.

Comedy. Every Saturday at 3 p.m. at Comedy Spot, in Ballston Common Mall, 4238 Wilson Blvd., children can enjoy ComedySportz for Kidz. \$10. Visit www.comedyindc.com or 703-294-LAFF.

Comedy. Every Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. is ComedySportz ("clean") and at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday is the Blue Show ("unclean"), both at Comedy Spot, in Ballston Common Mall, 4238 Wilson Blvd. \$15 each. Visit www.comedyindc.com or 703-294-LAFF.

Poetry Series. 6-8 p.m. second Sunday of the month at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Hosted by poet Miles David Moore. Featured artists share their poetry followed by open readings. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

Open Mic Nite. 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. every Wednesday at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Sign-up times are 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Bring instruments, fans and friends. Featured musicians will perform from 9:30-10 p.m. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

Karaoke. 8 p.m. on the first Sunday every

month at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Visit www.galaxyhut.com or call 703-525-8646.

Pub Quiz. 8 p.m. every Sunday at Whitlow's on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd. Prizes for 1st place. Free. Visit www.whitlows.com or call 703-276-9693.

Art Exhibit. See works by Kristina Bilonick, Amy Chan, Matthew Fishel and others at the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Exhibit runs through Dec. 22. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or 703-248-6800.

Solo Exhibit. See works by Katie Lynch Thibault at the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Exhibit runs through Dec. 22. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or 703-248-6800.

Exhibit. See "Western Mountain: Lovesong" through Jan. 4 in the Mezz Gallery at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Free. Visit www.artisphere.com for more.

Art Exhibit. See artist in residence Emily Francisco through Jan. 12 at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. every Friday from 6-10 p.m. and Saturdays from noon-6 p.m. Her exhibit is called "May I Have the Piano Delivered to You?" Free. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

Theater Performance. See "Gypsy" from Dec. 17-Jan. 26 at Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave. Tickets range from \$40-\$87. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org for tickets.

Art Exhibit. See "Everything You Are Looking For" by Alicia Eggert from Nov. 21 through Feb. 2 in the Terrace Gallery at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. The exhibit draws on her background in sculpture, design and dimensional studies. Free. Visit www.artisphere.com or call

Farmers Markets...

Clarendon Farmers Market. Year-round, has locally produced breads and pastries, organic vegetables, flowers, soap, sorbet and more. Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Courthouse Parking Lot, 3195 North Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Also year-round on Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. at Clarendon Metro Station. Visit www.Clarendon.org. Call 703-812-8881.

Arlington Farmers Market at Courthouse. Adjacent to the Arlington County Courthouse Parking Lot, at the intersection of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th Street. This is a 'producer only' market with more than 30 producers. Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon, through December. Each Saturday through September, Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners will answer any gardening question. Visit www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com for a list of vendors.

703-875-1100 for tickets.

Theater Performance. See the "Silent Shakespeare" adaptation of "Twelfth Night" from Jan. 9 through Feb. 16 at Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$35, with a student, senior and military discount. 866-811-4111 or visit www.synetictheater.org for tickets.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Music Performance. "Billy Martin's Wicked Knee" features Medeski, Martin and Wood's Billy Martin at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Visit www.artisphere.com or 703-875-1100 for times and tickets.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. at Theater on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Prelude Youth Orchestra will perform free. Visit <http://www.preludeva.org/> for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Holiday Concert. 4 p.m. at Williamsburg Middle School, 3600 N. Harrison St. Prelude Youth Orchestra will perform free. Visit <http://www.preludeva.org/> for more.

Holiday Show and Sing-Along. 3 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. Potomac Harmony Chorus will perform a free concert. Donations welcome. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 19

Holiday Comedy Songfest. 8 p.m. at Iota Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Watch "JEW MONGOUS," a comedy song concert featuring guests Cynthia Kaplan and Mike Hunter. \$15/person. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or 703-522-8340 for tickets. Visit www.jewmongous.com for more about the show.

CALENDAR

Glebe Road. Potomac Harmony Chorus will perform. Free. Donations will be accepted to benefit Doorways.

Holiday Show and Sing-Along. 3 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. Encore Chorale will perform a free concert. Donations welcome. Visit encorecreativity.org for more.

Book Dating for Singles. 6 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Adults in their 40s and older can bring a couple of books – favorites, disappointments or ones to be read. Free. RSVP to 703-228-6545.

MONDAY/DEC. 16

Author Event. 3 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Charles S. Clark will discuss the presence of the American Nazi Party in Arlington from 1958-1983, part of his book "Swastikas on Wilson – A History of George Lincoln Rockwell's Nazi Party in Arlington." Free. 703-228-5710.

Poetry Workshop. 7 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Members write and read original poetry and exchange constructive criticism. Free. 703-228-6545.

TUESDAY/DEC. 17

Tiny Tot. 2 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 3-5 years can discover nature through a themed program. \$5 due at registration. 703-228-6535. Program #622914-L.

Jan Brett Storytime. 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy stories about winter's creatures. Free. Program #622924-D.

Holiday Concert. 12:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Enjoy holiday music by the third graders from Patrick Henry Elementary School. They will perform on their recorders. Free.

703-228-5710.

Book Club. 2-3:30 p.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. Discuss "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford. Free. 703-228-5260.

Winter Crafting for Teens. 4:30 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Teens can make a craft gift for someone special. Free. 703-228-5946.

Film. 6-8:30 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "The Avengers." Free. 703-228-6545.

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

TUESDAY/DEC. 17-SUNDAY/JAN. 19

Theater Performance. Through Sunday, Jan. 19, see "Gypsy" at Signature Theatre's MAX Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Performances run Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets start at \$40. Visit www.signature-theatre.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 18

Nanny Club. 10 a.m.-noon at Columbia Pike Library, Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-5710.

Prose Out Loud. 11 a.m.-noon at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Hear "A Christmas Story" by Charles Dickens read by library staff. Free. 703-228-6545.

Youth Services Holiday Open House. 4-6 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children, teens and families can enjoy snacks, story times, crafts and more. Free. 703-228-5710.

Book Club. 7:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Discuss "Almost French" by Sarah Turnbull. Free. 703-228-5710.

Tiny Tot. 3:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 3-5 years can discover nature through a themed program. \$5 due at registration. 703-228-6535. Program #622914-M.

Wild Ones: Planting Pines. 4-5 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. Children ages 6-10 can learn how to ID native evergreens, make a wreath and more. \$5/child due at registration. 703-228-3403. Program #622824-K.

THURSDAY/DEC. 19

Holiday Concert. 12:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Enjoy holiday music by the third graders from Patrick Henry Elementary School. Free. 703-228-5710.

Tiny Tot. 1:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 3-5 years can discover nature through a themed program. \$5 due at registration. 703-228-6535. Program #622914-N.

Film. 3-4:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Watch "Twelfth Night" (1996). Free. 703-228-5710.

Paws to Read. 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18th St. Children in grades K-5 can read to therapy dogs. Free. Register for a slot by calling 703-228-5715.

FRIDAY/DEC. 20

Holiday Concert. 12:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Enjoy holiday music by the third graders from Patrick Henry Elementary School. Free. 703-228-5710.

Christmas Tour. 7 p.m. at The Falls Church Anglican, 6600 N. Little Falls Road. Andrew Peterson will perform. \$18. For Tickets, visit thefallschurchanglican.eventbrite.com.

Holiday Wines

FROM PAGE 10

she suggested. While the holiday season tends to be a time in which people are willing to spend a few more dollars on a bottle of wine perceived to be nicer or of better quality, that will be less impressive if a bottle's sitting on a table with a dozen or so other options.

"If that's the case, you might want to go for something easier to drink, like a California Cabernet," something that's easily recognizable and people will know what to expect with the first sip.

If a bottle is to be given as a hostess gift, and might not be opened right away, consider a smaller batch, like Prisoner by David Phinney, a Grenache blend, or a Grand Reserve Rioja.

"Everyone is in the mood to indulge a little bit," Pankow said. "Even when buying for themselves, they go for heavier reds," and sometimes even more expensive bottles, regardless of their normal buying habits.

Those looking to buy a Virginia wine should consider Viognier wines, as it's the official grape of the commonwealth, she said. Viognier is a crisp white wine with "great aromatics, and it pairs well with turkey. It's a winner all around."

Also, consider not just the main dish of a dinner but sides and desserts as well, she said. One of her favorite pairings is apple pie with Sauternes, a sweet French white wine blend made from Sémillon, Sauvignon blanc and Muscadelle grapes.

"It's one of the lesser known and under appreciated classes of wine," Pankow said.

Another great option for dinner is a good German Riesling, a slightly sweet wine that's popular during the holiday season.

"Wine by itself has so much going on, it can be hard to pair with food," she said.

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A "Scancer" Update



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since you asked, or rather indulged me the past few weeks by wading through my two "Scanticipation" columns anticipating a result, I am happy to finally share that result with you: "Stable and better." These are the exact words e-mailed to me by my oncologist in response to my post-Thanksgiving inquiry about my CT Scan completed on the 27th. Then, as you most recent Kenny-column readers may recall, I had my regularly scheduled post-scan appointment this past Friday, December 6th to discuss those results, and of course have my oncologist examine and question me about any facts, feelings or failings, concerning the previous three months since my last appointment (and four months since my last scan) as a terminal cancer patient. He's not exactly Hubert H. Humphrey, but nevertheless, he was "pleased as punch." And if there's one dominant recollection I'll take home with me from my appointment, it was my oncologist's ear-to-ear smile when sharing his assessment of all things concerning Kenny-with-cancer.

In fact, and in reality-check truth, if you've been characterized as "terminal" by your doctor, whether "diseased" by cancer or some other deadly condition, and you're still undergoing treatment, there's no better feeling – or hope, quite frankly, than seeing your doctor happy and encouraging when sharing/discussing your most recent diagnostic scan/lab work, urine specimen, etc. And considering that Team Lourie has seen my oncologist with less than positive news on previous occasions, hardly do I ever take it for granted when he's as upbeat and enthusiastic as he was during Friday's appointment.

Unfortunately, the process is ongoing and subject to change; after all, stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer is incurable/inoperable. But I am finding out that at least for me/for awhile, it is/can be treatable, albeit non-surgically. Moreover, as long as my body continues to tolerate the every-three-week chemotherapy infusions, I am good to go, or as described by my oncologist: on maintenance. Meaning, we can continue to do this for awhile. And though "awhile" is never defined or discussed, really, given the predictable/unpredictable nature of cancer – and its interactions with the diagnosee, I can live with the indeterminate sentence that I've been fortunate to receive. It certainly beats the alternative.

Originally, I was "prognosed" to live "13 months to two years" by my oncologist. As of November 27th, I have lived four years and 9 months, so I am accustomed to being life-expectancy challenged. And since I've surpassed my oncologist's initial prognosis by years, I don't see any reason to stop now, especially considering the results from my most recent scan and associated lab work. As my brother Richard has said: "If the oncologist is happy then I'm happy." Well, as of Friday, December 6th, I am very happy.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Police Investigate Struck Pedestrian

The Arlington County Police Department's Critical Accident Team responded to a pedestrian struck incident at 2:39 a.m. on Dec. 6 in the 2200 block of Jefferson Davis Highway. The victim, a 38-year-old Arlington man, was transported by emergency personnel to George Washington Hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Preliminary investigation reveals that the victim was attempting to cross a five-lane portion of Jefferson Davis Highway when he was struck by a taxicab driving southbound. A passerby reported the incident and the driver of the striking vehicle remained on scene. As a result of the investigation, the driver of the striking vehicle was not charged. The southbound lanes of Jefferson Davis Highway were closed for several hours during the investigation and were re-opened by 6 a.m.

Donovan Receives Inaugural Award

The Arlington Special Education PTA has named special education coordinator Kathleen Donovan as the first recipient of the Eileen K. Crawford Award in Recognition of Excellence in Special Education.

The award was created to honor the memory and contributions of Eileen Crawford, who served as a special education coordinator at the Arlington Public Schools Special Education Parent Resource Center from 2004-11.

Donovan joined Arlington Public Schools in 1989. She taught as a special education teacher at Randolph Elementary School and Tuckahoe Elementary School before joining the Office of Special Education as a kindergarten integration facilitator in 1994. In 1995, Donovan was appointed as the Special Education Child Find Coordinator, and served in that position until becoming the first educator to work at the Special Education Parent Resource Center in the fall of 1999.

APS Receives Budget Award

The Association of School Business Officials International has awarded Arlington Public Schools its Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in budget presentation. The award is given only to school districts that have met or exceeded the Meritorious Budget Award criteria.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Arlington Public Schools has received this recognition. To earn this award, the school district submitted its 2013-14 budget for a review based on specific criteria. The MBA Criteria Checklist provides a foundation for developing a reader-friendly budget document that:

- ♦ Presents clear budget guidelines;
- ♦ Promotes communication between departments and the community;
- ♦ Encourages short- and long-range budget goals.

Come Home to a Luxury Bedroom

Local designers unveil inviting spaces that are perfect for dreaming of sugarplums.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Bedrooms are no longer just for sleeping, at least according to some local designers. They're for relaxing and watching television, but they're also for reading and for eating a lazy weekend breakfast. In fact, some modern bedrooms are probably larger than their owners' first apartments. Three local tastemakers unveil master bedrooms that are so opulent and amenity-filled that it's surprising their owners ever want to leave.

Lavish textiles and luxury characterize a bedroom in Old Town Alexandria that was designed by Sydne Pettengill of Sydne Pettengill ASID Interior Design, Inc. in Alexandria. "The owner enjoys luxury and finer things," said Pettengill. "She wants to surround herself with that luxury in her home and private spaces. When I think of this bedroom, I think of Marie Antoinette and traditional French style."

Pettengill created an opulent but cozy bedroom with a custom-made headboard featuring an iron panel, custom-painted to coordinate with the pale green and rich gold hues in the bedroom.

"There is an abundance of custom-designed pillows and a cozy reading space," said Pettengill. "We did a custom shelf in the alcove behind the headboard that provides additional storage for books and tea. A chair is on the other side of the room and a beautiful piece of art."

The room is decorated with luxurious fabrics and trims. "The pillows are silks," said Pettengill. "We have sheer drapery that filters soft light, creating a romantic hide-away."

Visitors to one Potomac home take an elevator to the bedroom suite and emerge in its foyer. "You then walk into a set of double doors that is the beginning of their master suite," said Carole Lindenberg of Potomac Designs. "This bedroom was my inspiration and I called in Natelli Homes to build it."

The suite comes complete with a kitchen that holds a sitting area and breakfast table that allows for a leisurely morning of newspapers and brunch. "The suite also includes a library with a replica of President Lincoln's desk," said Lindenberg.

The library leads to the bedroom, which has a Louis VX-style fireplace and a sitting area with two Bergere chairs with matching ottomans, which are accented with



PHOTO COURTESY OF SYDNE PETTINGILL

Designer Sydne Pettengill created an opulent, but cozy bedroom in Old Town Alexandria using silk fabrics in pale green and rich gold hues.

French-inspired drum tables. Over the fireplace sits a flat screen television. "Years ago we used to put a mirror above them. Now we put TVs above them," said Lindenberg.

"There is a window wall with three dormer windows," she continued. "And there is an entrance on either side of the fireplace."

The expansive bathroom has two showers and a free-standing tub. "There is marble on the floor of the bathroom and matching marble on the walls," said Lindenberg. "The bedrooms are carpeted, the library has hardwood flooring with rugs, as does the foyer."

A master suite in a Great Falls home was reconfigured recently to include a bathroom with his and her vanities, a large walk-in shower and an enlarged walk-in closet.

"People want more space for their clothing, shoes [and] jewelry, where their beds are typically only display pieces during the day and then used for sleeping at night," said Beth Walters, the director of communications at Sun Design, Inc., which has offices in McLean and Burke.

Walters says the bathroom cabinetry is made from alder wood in a Blackstone finish, the counter tops are Caesarstone in a Yukon Blanco finish and the floor is Timber Glen Contemporary tiling in a Thatch finish, while the walls are Time Levigato Rettificato porcelain tiling in white with river glass and stone mosaic tile accents.

Holiday Décor: Make it Sparkle

Local designers offer suggestions for home decorating.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Tis the season for decking the halls. Whether your style is traditional and colorful, muted and demure or metallic and glittery, three local designers offer distinct holiday decorating ideas to spark your creativity.

Victoria Sanchez, who opened Victoria at Home, a home furnishings boutique and interior design studio on King Street in Old Town Alexandria earlier this month, said the décor begins with an aroma.

"Holiday scented candles immediately say 'holiday,'" said Sanchez. "Fresh greens tucked behind artwork and intertwined into tablescapes add a wonderful scent."

She recommends filling bowls with colorful holiday ornaments and displaying holiday cards to add a touch of nostalgia. "What I love most about the holidays is [that] each ornament and every tradition evokes memories of family, friends and

childhood," said Sanchez.

Designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman in Potomac, said Christmas is no time for minimalism. "The Christmas season is the perfect time to go all out decorating the main areas of your home," she said. "I love the smell of fresh pine, so fill your home with it. Starting at the front entrance, hang a pine wreath on the door."

Kleinman recommends purchasing fresh wreaths. "Many local nurseries like American Plant and Benke's make some really beautiful ones," she said. "Local florists are also a good source."

There are a multitude of uses for fresh winter foliage. "Place pine boughs, candles of varying heights and decorative accessories such as painted wooden toys [like] trains, toy soldiers, blocks or colored balls among the pine branches," added Kleinman.

Another idea, says Kleinman, is to wrap small boxes in colorful paper, top them with brightly colored bows and place them on the mantel. "Decorative stockings hung on the mantel are traditional and a must in my book," she said. "Stair rails can be wrapped in pine boughs, ribbon and/or tinsel."

To add splashes of festive Christmas red to a home, Kleinman recommends "Placing pots of poinsettias throughout the house.

Personalize your Christmas tree with homemade ornaments, sentimental items, colored bows and lots of tinsel."

When it comes to holiday tablescapes, Kelley Proxmire and Emily Wallace of Kelley Interior Design suggest adding a touch of shimmer. "Try breaking out of a set color scheme of red, white and green," said Wallace. "Try popular metallic finishes that could be used in fabric for pillows, gold accessories for the table [like] tiny vases [or] salt and pepper shakers and napkin rings with 'bling' metallic finishes."

Mix decorative objects with foliage to create a warm and inviting table. "Incorporate 'organic' items of the season, like greens from pine trees, magnolias, pine cones, and some fruit," said Proxmire.



This holiday sideboard, designed by Emily Wallace of Kelley Interior Design, breaks from traditional red and green décor by making use of a metallic color palette.

PHOTO BY GEOFFREY HODGDON

Unconventional items can be used as vessels for a wintry, holiday centerpiece. Wallace and Proxmire found a

"tortoise shell-like urn ... for next to nothing at a consignment store" and used it to hold a centerpiece. "You could buy a new vase or container, but it certainly could also be a vintage find and not necessarily brand new," said Proxmire.

"Use lots of little LED lights in votive holders, either clear votives or ones with a metallic tone finish," said Wallace. "This is a case where more is better."

Arlington REAL ESTATE

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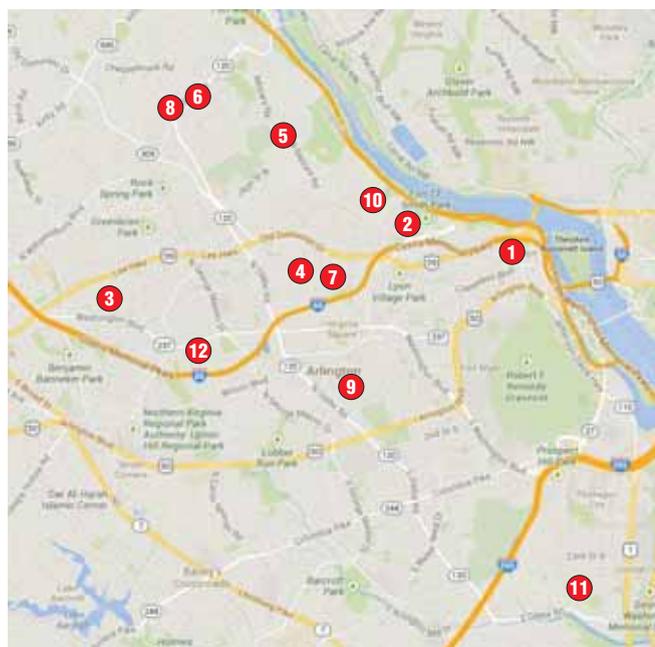
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3 6105 22ND ST N	5	5	2	ARLINGTON	\$1,462,500	Detached	0.18	22205	OVER LEE KNOLLS	10/08/13	
4 1908 TAYLOR ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,450,000	Detached	0.18	22207	CHERRYDALE	10/11/13	
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6 3815 WAKEFIELD ST N	4	3	2	ARLINGTON	\$1,400,000	Detached	0.16	22207	ARLINGWOOD	10/24/13	
7 3805 18TH ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,392,000	Detached	0.14	22207	CHERRYDALE	10/22/13	
8 3712 ALBEMARLE ST	6	5	2	ARLINGTON	\$1,385,000	Detached	0.27	22207	ROCK SPRING	10/23/13	
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A New Luxury Kitchen for the Holidays

Designers describe the perfect spaces for baking, cooking and entertaining.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

With the holiday season in full swing, many people are finding themselves spending more time in the kitchen. Whether you hate to cook or love it, it can be more enjoyable when done in the kitchen of your dreams, complete with state-of-the-art appliances and custom-made marble topped islands.

Some homeowners really are that lucky, and local designers offer a glimpse into a few homes where the owners will be celebrating the season with newly remodeled kitchens.

In Fairfax Station, an active family who enjoys entertaining will have an elegant space which includes state-of-the-art appliances that can stand up to their heavy-duty holiday cooking needs.

Designer Jacquelin Lluy of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield, created the chic, but family-friendly space that includes a large porcelain farm sink and a white marble-topped island in the center of the kitchen. She accented the stark white marble with deep gray cabinetry to warm the room. The family's cooking needs will be met with a Wolf 36-inch range, a microwave and convection oven, and a Sub Zero refrigerator.

At the heart of this kitchen is a mantle hood with concealed spice cabinets and drawers below to house pots and pans. Then, to give the kitchen a polished look, Lluy added details like large chrome cabinetry pulls, detailed crown molding and delicate tile work.

"This is an amazing luxury kitchen," Lluy. "We achieved the elegant yet family-oriented kitchen they were looking for."

Lluy also integrated custom doors, which conceal an opening for an expansive pantry. Adjacent to the pantry is a beverage center with a wine refrigerator and coffee bar for entertaining.

In Potomac, designer Carole Lindenberg of Potomac Designs turned a photograph into reality for one family. "The client showed me picture of a kitchen she liked, but when I looked at it, I knew we would have to do an addition to accomplish it, so we added a six-foot addition," said Lindenberg. "I designed the space and we called in an engineer to put in the details."

The kitchen and butler's pantry feature white custom cabinets by Prevo Custom Cabinetry. "The color of the cabinets is called snow and the counter tops are Brown

Lapiz Granite," said Lindenberg. "The island, bar and the banquette are espresso stain with an Alaska white granite top. The table was also made at Prevo according to my specifications."

"The kitchen's backsplash is white, beveled porcelain installed in a subway pattern," said Lindenberg.

A Bethesda kitchen was transformed from a tiny, dimly-lit space into a larger, light-filled expanse that includes custom designed and built cabinetry, quartz countertops and glass backsplash.

"This kitchen was designed for a couple that wanted a clean and modern gathering space for their young family," said Richard Rossi, an architect at Rill Architects in Potomac. "The existing kitchen and dining room, both small and dark, were combined to create the main workspace of the new kitchen. We increased the footprint of the existing house by adding a new glass-walled dining area."

To create additional storage space, Rossi and his team added toe kick drawers in the cabinetry, while a fully integrated refrigerator with flanking pull out pantries creates a divider between the kitchen, dining and living rooms.



COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

Designer Jacquelin Lluy of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths created a chic but family-friendly space that includes a large porcelain farm sink and a white marble-topped island in the center of the kitchen.



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Wakefield Boys' Basketball Beats TC in Memorial Game

Warriors win despite shooting 9-for-30 from the free-throw line.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

When the Wakefield boys' basketball team defeated T.C. Williams in February during the opening round of last season's regional tournament, it was believed to be the Warriors' first victory over the Titans since 1996 and propelled Wakefield to a postseason run that reached the state semifinals.

Nearly 10 months later, the schools met in the fourth annual Parker-Gray/Hoffman-Boston memorial game, during which the teams wear throwback jerseys to honor the historically black schools in Alexandria (Parker-Gray) and Arlington (Hoffman-Boston). T.C. Williams won the first three meetings, with each game played in the Titans' home gym.

Saturday's contest was a game of firsts for the schools located two miles apart. Wakefield hosted the memorial game for the first time. It was the first boys' game in the school's new gym. And when it was over, Wakefield had earned its first win while donning the Hoffman-Boston Trojan jerseys, helping prove last year's victory over T.C. Williams was no fluke.

Wakefield closed the game on a 6-1 run and beat T.C. Williams 56-51 on Dec. 7 at Wakefield High School. The Warriors held on despite standout forward Dominique Tham getting in early foul trouble and the team shooting 9-for-30 from the free-throw line. But while Wakefield's performance left room for improvement, it also gave the Warriors a 1-0 record and a confidence-building victory.

"It's always good to beat T.C. Williams," Wakefield head coach Tony Bentley said. "T.C. Williams is who you model your program after. ... We've never beat them in the Hoffman-Boston/Parker-Gray game, so that



Wakefield senior Re'Quan Hopson, with ball, scored 19 points and grabbed 12 rebounds against T.C. Williams on Dec. 7.

was an accomplishment. Beating them in the regional tournament was getting over the hump, so I think tonight we had the confidence we could beat them."

Re'Quan Hopson led Wakefield with 19 points and 12 rebounds. The senior forward's transition bucket, with an assist from Jalen Carver, gave Wakefield a 54-50 lead late in the fourth quarter. Hopson said he enjoyed the environment inside the Warriors' new gym.

"It was great," he said. "It kind of felt like T.C. [Williams' gym], but this one was more enclosed, so it felt even louder and amplified. I liked it a lot."

How did this win compare to beating the Titans in last year's regional tournament?

"I think it's more of a big deal now," Hopson said, "because now we can say we did it more than once."

Yorktown was scheduled to face Oakton on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Patriots will travel to face Mount Vernon on Friday, Dec. 13.

Mark Vincent Basketball Camp

Registration ends Dec. 15 for the Mark Vincent annual basketball camp will be held Dec. 27, 28, 30 and 31 at Accotink Academy, located at 8519 Tuttle Road in Springfield.

Camp hours are from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Boys and girls are invited.

Go to markvincentbasketballcamps.com for more information. Enter "hardwork" as the promotional code when enrolling child.



Wakefield boys' basketball coach Tony Bentley talks to the Warriors during a game against T.C. Williams on Dec. 7.

Wakefield led by 10 in the first quarter and held a 42-36 advantage entering the fourth. T.C. Williams battled back with 9-2 run, taking a 45-44 lead when sophomore guard Jordan Jones buried a 3-pointer with 5:34 remaining. Twenty seconds later, Wakefield guard Marqua Walton knocked down a 3-pointer to put the Warriors back in front. Walton's second 3-pointer gave Wakefield a 50-47 advantage, but T.C. Williams guard Andrew Hill tied the game with a 3-pointer from the left corner with 3:36 left on the clock.

Hill's 3-pointer was the Titans' last field goal, however, while the Warriors got buckets from Tham, Hopson and a pair of free throws from Carver to pull out the win.

"Once we made a run, Wakefield stayed tough and stayed true to the way they play," T.C. Williams head coach Julian King said. "And that kid (Walton) hit a couple big [3-pointers] and took the air out of us."

Walton finished with 11 points and seven rebounds.

"The facility, it's beautiful," he said. "... It felt really good to pull a victory for our first win in this new gym."

Wakefield's poor foul shooting kept the game close. The Warriors made just 9 of 30 attempts, including 7 of 22 in the second half.

"We were terrible from the free-throw line," Bentley said. "Someone said if we would have made our free throws we would have won by 20."

Walton, who went 1-for-2 from the line, expected repercussions from the team's performance from the line.

"All I've got to say," Walton said, "is on Monday we're going to be shooting a lot of free throws."

Carver finished with 13 points and went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line. Tham scored two points and grabbed six rebounds. The junior forward went to the bench after being called for two early fouls.

"He plays aggressive," Bentley said. "He picked up some stupid fouls. He's only a junior, but he's a veteran and he's got to learn we need him on the court."

Bentley praised junior forward Xavier Cooper, who finished with eight points and five rebounds.

"My guy tonight was Xavier Cooper," Bentley said. "[He] really shined for us tonight on the boards. ... He was a kid who didn't play much for us last year. He had [dreadlocks] last year. He cut his hair [and] everyone thinks he's a transfer. He played his butt off tonight and I was very excited to see him bang down low and get going."

White, a transfer from Bishop O'Connell playing in his first game as a Titan, led T.C. Williams with 15 points.

"First game, I think we played pretty well together," he said. "We need to build more chemistry as a team — hang out more, get to know each other more so we can play better as a unit."

Jones scored 13 points for the Titans. "Jordan Jones played a great game," King said. "He's only a sophomore. He's fearless."

Junior forward Jamison Clark scored 10 points for T.C. Williams and senior guard Mert Ozkaynak added eight.

Wakefield will travel to face Anacostia at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11. T.C. Williams will host West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13.

King said he hopes Saturday's loss is a wake-up call for the inexperienced Titans.

"You can preach over and over in practice that, hey, we're not working hard enough. We need to do this, we need to do that," King said. "Because they're going against themselves or they've had maybe a little success in scrimmages ... they don't really understand the speed of the game and the effort you have to put in the game until we actually arrive at the season, which, now I think they know. Now I think I may have their attention. Maybe we'll pick it up a little more in practice and pay a little more attention to detail."

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STRAUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

SPORTS BRIEFS

Wakefield Girls' Basketball Falls to T.C.

The Wakefield girls' basketball team lost its season opener to T.C. Williams on Dec. 7, 43-35.

The Warriors will travel to face Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11 before returning home to host Stuart on Friday, Dec. 13.

Yorktown Boys' Basketball Starts 1-1

The Yorktown boys' basketball team opened the season with a 52-43 win over Lee on Dec. 3 before losing to Montrose Christian 54-31 on Dec. 7.

GIFT GUIDE

Gifts for the Foodie in Your Life

Local gourmets share their favorite products for food lovers.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Whether you're shopping for a seasoned cook or a budding culinary enthusiast, buying presents for a foodie can be a daunting task. What's the best pan? The coolest gadget? The latest trend in desserts? Local gourmets come to the rescue with culinary goodies to entice even the most discerning of food aficionados.

Nancy Pollard, owner of La Cuisine in Old Town Alexandria, suggests the Therman cooking thermometer. "This is clearly the best probe thermometer on the market," said Pollard. "It has gotten a lot of kudos from chefs and test kitchens."

Also on Pollard's list are mortars and pestles made from Carrara marble. "We buy these in Carrara, Italy, said Pollard. "They are made of pure white Carrara marble so it is so much easier to see what you are doing. The one that that is particularly useful is 22 centimeters because it is big enough to make mayonnaise, pesto and other sauces."

Chopping vegetables can even be made more interesting with a custom-made cutting board, says Lenora Lawson chef faculty at The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Washington in Arlington. "You can get a cutting board in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF LA CUISINE

Nancy Pollard, of La Cuisine in Alexandria, suggests giving the food lover in your life a mortar and pestle made from white Carrara marble.

shape of your home shape or even a cutting board that has Van Gogh's art on it."

When it comes to kitchen tools, "I'd suggest a nonstick baking mat ... a lovely wooden French rolling pin, a beautiful olive wood cheese board — with a cheese for sampling, of course — or a fun, colorful, Swiss-made Kuhn paring knife," said Nichole Ferrigno, a certified holistic health coach and chef at L'Academie de Cuisine in Bethesda. "It comes in lots of bright colors and with a safety sheath, making it a great

addition to a picnic basket."

Culinary instructor Andie Nelson of Creative Kids Kitchen, LLC in Arlington, says her top recommendation is a Vitamix blender. "[This is] the blender that seems to have become a religion among foodies," she said. "This big-ticket item would definitely make any foodie or health-conscious person very, very happy. It even makes soup."

ANOTHER GIFT SUGGESTION on Nelson's list is aimed at helping save a few trees while adding an elegant touch to the kitchen. "I think that having great linens in the kitchen is highly under-rated," she said. "Many cooks buy lots and lots of paper towels, but I can tell you that having a great set of dish towels — French dish towels are the best — can be a worthwhile and beautiful investment for the kitchen."

Help keep clothing stains at bay with an apron by Marcy Butler Designs. "This is a local designer," said Pollard. "The aprons are made from Italian linen, but they were made in the United States."

If your foodie prefers cookbooks, sweet treats abound in "Fat Witch Brownies: Brownies, Blondies, and Bars" from New York's Legendary Fat Witch Bakery by Patricia Holding. "This book has great recipes for brownies," said Pollard. "We usu-

ally suggest that people give this book along with a set of Italian seven-inch disposable square pans. Her recipes will make two perfect square pans of brownies and you can put one in the freezer."

For young cooks, Pollard suggests "Best Lunch Box Ever: Ideas and Recipes for School Lunches Kids Will Love" by Katie Sullivan Morford. "This is a great book for teenagers or anyone over the age of 7," said Pollard. "It encourages them to make their own lunches for school."

Ferrigno suggests going a step beyond cookbooks and sending your foodie back to school. "There is such an array of options available," she said. "One could sign up for a knife skills class, a topic specific class like 'puff pastry,' or something more fun and experience oriented, like a couples cooking class, or 'girls' night out.' This is such a fun gift."

CONSUMABLE GIFTS are also on Ferrigno's list: "A bottle of good Champagne or Scotch, beautiful pink or grey sea salts, a spice collection ... or a box of homemade baked goodies" are always hits, she said.

For beer lovers, Lawson suggests a beer brewing kit. "It is something different," she said. "Rather than buying beer, they can make their own and appreciate the beer-making process."

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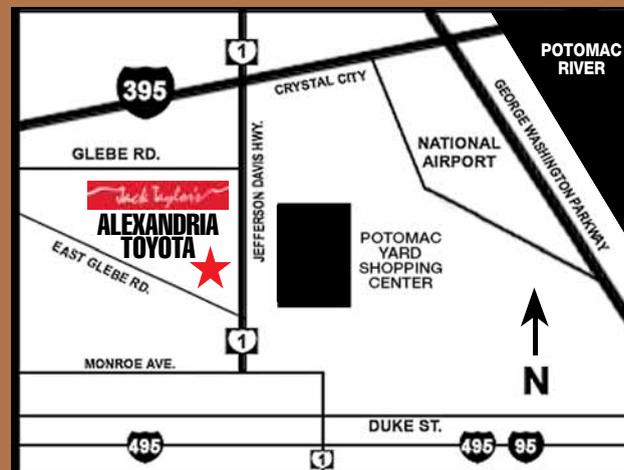
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