Christmas Wishes

It is 75 degrees in Arlington on Sunday afternoon but Santa has kept his scheduled stop at Potomac Overlook Regional Park to get Christmas lists from children counting down the days until Christmas. Sam Miller, 6 years old, confided he wants a police LEGO set. His 3-1/2 year-old sister, Campbell with her list in her hand, tells Santa her top present is “dress up” clothes for Elsa from Frozen. They inform Santa they will be in Georgia visiting their cousins. Santa says he is greatly relieved to know because he would have gone down the wrong chimney.

Jefferson Site: From Rejection to Approval
News, Page 3

Arlington House Resonates With Christmas Carols
News, Page 3

Foster Families Celebrate Christmas Together
News, Page 2
Foster Families Celebrate Christmas Together

Foster parent describes county’s fostering program as “awesome.”

They came in the door of Carlin Springs Elementary School holding hands. One “50-ish” woman and one “10-ish” girl, the latter in black patent leather shoes and a silk party dress in Christmas colors. They were chatting, like any mother and daughter out for a party. The girl’s face was lit up with anticipation; the woman’s face was full of patience and attention.

Patty and Tom Downie’s Christmases have included foster children for four years. In that time, they have sponsored four long-term stays in their home, and seven or eight “respite stays” of short duration. They started when the last of their four children was still at home; three had gone off to college. They felt their home in Arlington had room for children and their hearts did as well. They, and their daughter Heather, who took the sponsoring course with them, were ready to start fostering when they got the first call: would they take three siblings who needed a home, that night?

“Oh my gosh!”, Patty Downie remembered. “We had dinner plans ... so ... we cancelled them.” The children arrived, and they thought: this is great: we are three sponsors and three children. We aren’t outnumbered. But it took a while for the children to settle, and it was a learning experience. Patty Downie had forgotten how hard it was to get three children out of the house in the morning to school or how to get dinner on the table for six. How tough it was on children to adjust. Those children stayed a year. And other children stayed a year.

Now the Downies have settled into a routine where fostering is part of their lives, something they do because it needs to be done, and because they enjoy it. Patty Downie said the children are fostered for a variety of reasons, but each of them has had a rough period of time when a parent was either unable to take care of them, or sick, or otherwise taken out of the child’s life temporarily. Although privacy is strictly protected, and Downie could not reveal information about “her kids,” she said her goal is not to replace the parents, but to care for the child in a way that offers the least amount of disruption to their lives. She said she makes a point of having their current foster child call her mother every night, so the mother-daughter bond can be strong despite the separation. They love watching the families come back together again. And Heather, who has since married, will start fostering once more as soon as her husband finishes the sponsoring course, which involves 30 hours of training, done in the evening or Saturdays.

Eighty-seven children, of the 105 Arlington County has in care, attended the holiday program at the Carlin Springs Elementary School and received a gift. All other children in the program will receive their holiday gifts before next week. Many of the children came with birth parents, many came with foster parents, and some came with both. Some would be reunited with their parents for the holidays. They received lunch and entertainment, in addition to gifts, and spent the time decorating plates or coloring.

Erica Serrano, the resource parent recruiter for Arlington’s Child and Family Services’ foster family program, said she is always looking for help with foster children, whether to donate time or gifts, or to locate people who can parent for the short or long term.

Pattie Downie says she started doing this because her dad was raised in foster care. It means a lot to her to give back to a system that gave him a family he otherwise would not have had. “And Arlington County makes it so simple,” she said. They offer support, they know how to help foster parents be good at fostering, and they are always there when needed. “Arlington really knows how to do foster care,” she said.

Serrano said she could not stress enough the need for foster families here in Arlington so that they can help keep the children in foster care connected to their community. There is always a need for sponsors. Arlington County’s next information session on fostering will be Saturday, Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. Interested individuals can email: openheartsopenhomes@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-1559 for more information. See also www.arlingtonva.us/fostercare.

Details

Arlington County’s next information session on fostering will be Saturday, Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Department of Human Services, 2100 Washington Blvd, Lower Level. Interested individuals can email: openheartsopenhomes@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-1559 for more information. See also www.arlingtonva.us/fostercare.
Arlington House Resonates with Christmas Carols

Robert E. Lee celebrated Christmas during winter leave from the army

By Eden Brown
The Connection

Arlington House, the Lee-Custis residence General Robert E. Lee left behind when he agreed to lead the Confederate Army, once again resonated with the sounds of Christmas, with handbell ringing on Saturday, Dec. 12, and Yorktown’s Chamber Choir on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 13, from 2-4 p.m. The bell ringers attracted visitors from all over the cemetery, who were there to lay wreaths on each grave, and heard the sound of the bells coming from the house on the

See Christmas Carols, Page 5
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Merry Christmas

We wish you hope, peace, love and joy during this holiday season.

The pages of the Connection have been full of holiday spirit for more than a month. Menorah lightings, group and individual efforts to help the needy, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally. Giving locally.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12 “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 25:34-40 “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

 Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

So let us share the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, ‘Fear not: for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.’

— MARY KIMM

Merry Christmas

Adelyn Kellen was hoping the third year would be the charm and that at least 100 volunteers would show up at Bernie’s Café on the Marymount University campus to help make fleece-tie blankets for a local crisis pregnancy center.

Nearly twice that many — 185 people — turned out for the holiday service party she organized. They made 268 blankets and raised $1,500 for HOPE in Northern Virginia, Inc., a nonprofit that offers pregnancy counseling and assistance. The now campus-wide event began two years ago with Kellen and 10 friends making 21 blankets.

“When we started this, I had no idea it would grow as it did,” said Kellen, a junior resident assistant majoring in hospitality management.

“I’m very grateful for everyone who participated and helped out.”

The event, sponsored by the Office of Campus and Residential Services, has grown so much that Kellen has had people say, “Hey, you’re the blanket girl” when they meet her on campus.

She said it was a perfect event to be held on the First Friday of December, following the university’s annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Kimberly Dodds, executive director of HOPE in Northern Virginia, said the blankets mean a lot to its clients. “When they have their babies, we try to give them nice things that they’re proud to bring home,” said Dodds. “These beautiful, handmade blankets are made with love and mean so much to them.”

The nonprofit, staffed with two part-time employees, relies on volunteers and is supported entirely by donations. It helps clients until their babies turn two.

In addition to the annual blanket donations, Marymount students aid the organization in other ways, giving gifts during the holidays, collecting financial donations, organizing its garage, and volunteering to translate or babysit for parents during classes on child birthing or parenting baby seats.

Participating organizations providing volunteers included St. Ambrose Honor Society, the Student-Athletic Advisory Committee, Respect Life Club, Yarn Club and the Film Club. The Honors Program and STA donated funds.

Photos Contributed

Sydney Stryker and Julianna Jaime at work making baby blankets.

Marymount resident assistants Becca Bateman and Maddy Kellen stand in front of the fabric used to make baby blankets at the holiday service party on Dec. 4.
Christmas Carols

From Page 3

Kayley Tuite, Lauren Mead, Amelia Lowe, Emma Theunissen, and Clare Fitzgerald on the steps of Arlington House.

The view out the original windows of Arlington House.

Christian Hudspeth and Thomas Miller in period dress.

Sophie Cummings against the backdrop of Washington.

Henry Torres-Gomez and Bradley Davis enjoy the Christmas spirit.

Joyce Lopez next to the columns on the porch of Arlington House.

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Christmas Carols

Catherine Dowling, a volunteer at the house, said the music and the wreaths, indications that those who gave their lives for the country were not forgotten, moved some to tears.

On Sunday, the Yorktown Chamber Choir arrived in the morning. Dowling was on the scene, helping to dress the girls, whose outfits included hoop skirts, lace collars, many buttons, petticoats, and ribbons. Christmas is celebrated at Arlington House as authentically as possible, said one guide, because Robert E. Lee’s military career offered him a long winter break, when he was able to return home to spend time with his seven children. Lee was a warm and fun-loving father, and he made sure the season was bright. The house was abuzz with Christmas events, then as now.

Russ Glickman, founder of Glickman Design Build, is a Master Certified Remodeler and Certified Aging In Place Specialist. The award-winning Glickman Design Build team has completed hundreds of general remodeling and accessible design projects in the DC area and is passionate about the work they do. Their work has been featured in a variety of publications. For more information, visit GlickmanDesignBuild.com or call 301.444.6663 to learn more.

News

Saint Ann Catholic Church
SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:
Sunday Vigil: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 AM
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy
5312 North 10th Street,
Arlington, Virginia 22205
Parish Office: 703-528-6276
PARISH WEBSITE: www.stanchurch.org

To highlight your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-778-9422

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Usable, Accessible, and Universal Design: What’s the Difference?

Most people are familiar with the word “design.” We base many of our decisions on design. When things look good we are tempted to choose them over the things that are more useful. But it actually is possible to combine great design with function. Here are three practices that do just that.

Usable Design refers to the act of creating an environment or products that are not only efficient, but also easy-to-use. When talking about usability there are three aspects to consider: Learnability, Consistency, and Efficiency.

Accessible Design is a design process in which the needs of people with disabilities are specifically considered. It is about creating an environment that allows for independence and safety in daily-life. Curb-less showers are an example of this.

Universal Design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Grab bars or rollout drawers in the kitchen are popular universal design products.

All Are Welcome!
Ongoing


"West Side Story." Through Jan. 24, various times at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. For Signature Theatre's adaptation of classic musical "West Side Story," no audience member will be further than 20 feet from the stage. Tickets start at $40. Visit www.signaturetheatre.org for more.


The Civil War Grand Review. Through Feb. 1, Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday-Wednesday 1-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Cherry Branch Barracks, 2190 Military Road. View "The Civil War Grand Review: Photos of the Sesquicentennial Reenactment Parade." Free. Call 703-228-6330.

Sci-Fi Book Club. Third Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at Java Shack, 2070 N. Franklin Road. Free. Visit www.library.arlingtonva.us.

Arlington’s Historical Museum.

Open on First Wednesdays. The Arlington Historical Museum is open to the public on the first Wednesday of every month from 12:30-3:30 p.m. The museum contains exhibits chronicling Arlington County’s history from Native American settlements to the present day. The museum will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is located in the former 1891 Home School building at 1800 Arlington Ridge Road. Contact Garrett Peck at 571-243-1113 or at garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.


Karaoke. 8 p.m. on the first Sunday every month at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Free. Visit www.galaxybar.com or call 703-525-8466.

Pub Quiz. 8 p.m. on every Sunday at Whitlon’s on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd. Prizes for first place. Free. Visit www.whitlows.com or call 703-276-9697.

Storytime. Mondays and Fridays. 10:30-11 a.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Storytime with Ms. Laura. Call 703-527-5529.

Leggo Library. Monthly on the first Wednesday. 4-5 p.m. Glencarlyn Branch Library, 500 S. Kensington St. The library provides tabs of legos and a special challenge and after the program the creations are displayed for everyone to see. No registration required. Call 703-228-6548.

Ball-Sellers House Tours. Saturdays, April-Oct., 1-4 p.m. at The Ball-Sellers House, 5620 36th St. S. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Arlington Historical Society receiving the house from Marian Sellers in 1975 for $1. Free. Visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Crystal City Sparkett. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Sparkett — A Creative Market is an extension of DC’s Eastern Market with arts, crafts, and handmade goods. Free to attend. Visit www.crystalcity.org.

Open Mic Night. Wednesdays, at 8 p.m., sign ups are at 7:30 and 10 p.m. at Iota Club & Café, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Free. Visit http://www.iotaclubandcafe.com/.


Brunch at Freddie’s. Third Saturday every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Freddie’s Beach Bar, 555 23rd St. The Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance gathers for an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet ($15). All are welcome. No reservation is required. Visit facebook.com/events/70017439010305.

THURSDAY/DEC. 24

Candlelight Mass. 7-8 p.m. at Wilson Boulevard Christian Church, 3850 Wilson Blvd. The community is invited to evening service. Free. Visit www.wilsonbouldevardc.org.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY/DEC. 26-27

Second City: Holidaze & Confused. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Sketch and improv comedy ensemble the Second City will perform a Holiday Revue. Tickets are $30. Visit www.arlingtondrafthouse.com for more.

SUNDAY-TUESDAY/DEC. 27-29


WEDNESDAY/DEC. 30

Holiday Jeopardy. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4445 N. Pershing Drive. Test your skills in this interactive holiday version of Senior Jeopardy. Free. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

New Year’s Eve at Twisted Vines. 7 p.m.-2 a.m. at Twisted Vines Bistro & Bottleshop, 2803 Columbia Pike. Enjoy a four-course prix fixe menu, dancing, and more. Tickets are $75. Visit www.twistedvines.com for more.

New Year’s Eve at the Drafthouse. 7:30 p.m. at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Watch New Year’s Eve celebrations from around the world on the Drafthouse theater screens. Tickets are $15. Visit www.arlingtondrafthouse.com for more.

New Year’s Eve Bond Ball. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. at Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 N. Glebe Road. Find signature cocktails, champagne, and more. A VIP ticket buys a three-course meal. Tickets are $199-219 plus service fee. Visit www.newyearsevedmv.com for more.

New Year’s Eve Casino Night. 8 p.m.-3 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Hotel, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway. Find casino games, show girls, karaoke, burlesque, and more. Tickets are $60-830. Visit www.eventbrite.com/o/social-architects-entertainment-1124509851.

New Year’s Eve MadSquardade Ball. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Mad Rose Tavern, 3100 Clarendon Blvd. Celebrate the New Year with food, drinks, and a live showing of The Ball Drop in Times Square. Tickets start at $35. Visit www.madrosetavern.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 1-2

Piff The Magic Dragon. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Friday; 7 and 10 p.m. on Saturday at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Piff the Magic Dragon is a dragon costume-wearing comedian who performs magic tricks. Tickets are $20. Visit www.arlingtondrafthouse.com for more.

THURSDAY/ JAN. 7

Fireships. 8:30 p.m. at IOTA Club & Café, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Fireships, a collaboration between Honey Brothers and Andrew Vladeck, will launch their tour. Tickets are $10. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com for more.

FRIDAY/ JAN. 8

Book Signing and Musical Performance. 6:30 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Musician turned author Korby Lenker will be signing his new book of short stories, "Medium Hero and Other Stories." He will also perform. Free. Visit www.onemorepagbook.com for more.

Stand-Up Comedy: Pete Davidson. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. at Arlington...
Entertainment

Indie-folk band Fireships will perform on Thursday, Jan. 7 at Iota Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $10. Visit www.iotabcandufa.com for more.

MONDAY, JAN. 11 Meditation Made Easy. 7-9 p.m. at Real Center, 4001 N. 9th St., Suite 230. Learn about meditation and how to practice meditation practice. The fee is $40. Visit www.lightyourfiremeditation.com for more.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12 Sip & Sample. 6-8 p.m. at Bistro 360, 1800 Wilson Blvd. This reception will benefit Bowen McCaulay Dance company. Tickets are $50. Visit www.bmdc.org for more.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13 “How the C&O Canal and W&OD Railroad Shaped Arlington.” 7 p.m. at Marymount University--Reinisch Library auditorium, 2807 N. Glebe Rd. Leader of C&O Canal Trust and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Michael Nardelli will discuss the connections between the towpath, trail, and the history of Arlington County. Fee. Call 703-942-9247 for more.


FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JAN. 15-17 “Snow White.” 7:30 p.m. on Friday, 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Sunday at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Encore Stage & Studio presents the classic tale of a princess who is banished by her evil, jealous stepmother. Tickets are $10 or children, student, military and seniors, and $15 for everyone else. Visit www.encorestageva.org for more.


SATURDAY, JAN. 23 1K Beer/Wine Walk. 2-6 p.m. at 1750 Crystal Drive. Pass the start line and sip your way along the race course, stopping at “Wine” and “Beer” hydration stations along the course. Sample 20 wines or 20 beers. Tickets are $20 online and $25 at the door. Visit www.march4cystic.org for more.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30 Yoga to Benefit Arlington Free Clinic. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at The Town, 1400 14th St. N. Take a yoga class with Run and Moon Yoga Studio's Nancy Carter followed by an inspirational talk by Spiritual Coach Andrea Haynes: “Stress Less, Live More!” Tickets are $50. Visit www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org/yoga.

MONDAY, FEB. 5 Pet Therapy. 1:30 p.m. at Walter Reed Senior Center, 2999 S. 16th St. The public is invited to meet Zoe, a therapy Yorkshire Terrier. Free. Call 703-608-8314 for more.

SUNDAY, FEB. 7 Yoga to Benefit Arlington Free Clinic. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at The Town, 1400 14th St. N. Take a yoga class with Run and Moon Yoga Studio's Nancy Carter followed by an inspirational talk by Spiritual Coach Andrea Haynes: “Stress Less, Live More!” Tickets are $50. Visit www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org/yoga.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30 “Capirolio Steps.” 7 p.m. at Yorktown Theatre Arts, 5200 Yorktown Blvd. Saturday night is all about dance. The Capirolio Steps will perform to help raise money for Yorktown Theatre Arts program. Tickets for the show alone are $35, but in order to attend the Prem Show Café an additional $10 is required. Visit www.yorktowntheatre.org.

MIDWEEK/FEB. 1 Sightroutes: Michael McDonald. 7 p.m. at Signature Theatre-Al’s Bar, 4200 Campbell Ave. Listen to a reading of “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” by Michael McDonald. Free to attend. Visit www.sight routes.org.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 4-6 Crystalin, 9-11:30 a.m. at The Town, 3800 N. Washington St. A panel of judges, drawn from the area’s rich media arts community, selected the 20 nominees from which five winners, including one Best of Show, will be chosen. Festival winners will each receive a cash prize and will be announced at the Rosebud Film Gala. $15 ticket to the showcase allows free admission to the gala. Visit www.rosebudfilmfest.org for more.

SUNDAY, JAN. 10 Arlington Philharmonic: “Ritmos Festivos.” 3 p.m. at Wakefield High School, 1325 S. Dinwiddie St. The Arlington Philharmonic continues its 10th Anniversary Season with “Ritmos Festivos” featuring Spanish influences on classical music from the Old World to the New. The repertoire includes Borras’s “Carmen Fantasy,” a flute solo, by Aaron Goldman, based on Bizet’s themes, directed by Spanish folk influence. North America will be represented by Gerbiottini’s “Caravan Overdance” and Moncayo’s “Simpatia” (Hupango). Admission is free, $20 suggested donation. Visit www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org for more.

MONDAY, JAN. 11 Meditation Made Easy. 7-9 p.m. at Real Center, 4001 N. 9th St., Suite 230. Learn about meditation and how to practice meditation practice. The fee is $40. Visit www.lightyourfiremeditation.com for more.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 15 Tom Green Live. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Tom Green of MTV’s “The Tom Green Show” (1996-2000) will give a live stand-up comedy performance. Tickets are $25. Visit www.arlingtondrafthouse.com for more.


SATURDAY, JAN. 23 1K Beer/Wine Walk. 2-6 p.m. at 1750 Crystal Drive. Pass the start line and sip your way along the race course, stopping at “Wine” and “Beer” hydration stations along the course. Sample 20 wines or 20 beers. Tickets are $20 online and $25 at the door. Visit www.march4cystic.org for more.

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SUNDAY, JAN. 10 St. Ann Annual Giant Used Book Sale. 9-10 a.m. at St. Ann Church–Parish Hall, 5310 10th St. N. All genres available. Also find a bake sale and free coffee. Free to attend. Visit www.stannchurch.org for more.
Top Arlington Sports Moments from 2015

**Wakefield Football Wins First Conference Title**

The Wakefield football team closed the regular season with a 50-18 victory over Lee, giving the Warriors the Conference 13 championship. It was the first time in program history that the Warriors won a regular-season conference title, according to Wakefield historian Frank Haddock.

Sophomore quarterback Colton Poythress threw four touchdown passes and ran for one against Lee, and senior running back Leon Young carried 18 times for 277 yards and two touchdowns. Wakefield’s season ended with a 21-6 loss to Potomac Falls in the opening round of the 5A North playoffs on Nov. 13, but the Warrior’s record of 8-3 meant Wakefield produced back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 1982-83, according to Haddock. Young earned Conference 13 Offensive Player of the Year honors.

**Yorktown Swimmer Dolan Wins State Titles**

Yorktown swimmer Suzanne Dolan took home individual state titles in the 50 freestyle (22.81 seconds) and the 100 breaststroke (1:02.48).

**W-L Gymnast Hatcher Wins Region All-Around Title**

Sophie Hatcher was part of a Washington-Lee gymnastics program that won three consecutive region championships from 2012-2014. The Generals’ streak ended in 2015 as W-L placed third at the 6A North region meet, but that didn’t stop Hatcher from leaving her mark as an individual. Hatcher won the region all-around championship with a score of 37.55 on Feb. 11 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Yorktown’s Bella Kane placed second with a score of 37. Olivia Giaquinto, seen during a game against Lake Braddock, and the Bishop O’Connell softball team won the 2015 VISAA state championship, giving the Knights four in a row and 12 in 13 years.

**O’Connell Softball Wins Another State Title**

The Bishop O’Connell softball team defeated Paul VI 5-2 in the VISAA Division I state championship game on May 15, giving the Knights four consecutive state titles and 12 in 13 years.

The victory came six days after O’Connell lost to St. Mary’s Ryken in the WCAC championship game for the second straight year. The Knights had won the previous 10 WCAC titles.

O’Connell finished the season with a 27-3 record.
**BUSINESS**

Concannon Joins NVAR Board

Genevieve Concannon, director of Custom Home Division for Arlington-based real estate development firm Smith | Schnider, has been appointed to serve on Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) board of directors.

In accepting the honor, Concannon said that she hopes to “empower members and fellow Realtors… and continue on the path of innovation and education to help keep the real estate industry on the forefront of homeownership matters.”

Concannon was nominated for the Director-at-Large position on NVAR’s 2015/2016 board of directors to serve a one-year term. She was selected to represent small brokerages, builders and developers, and will continue to serve on the Public Policy Committee and Legislative Review Task Force. Additionally, Concannon will co-chair NVAR’s Public Policy Committee for 2016. “I detected great leadership skills in Genevieve, which is why I chose her,” said Virgil Frizzell, the 2016 NVAR chairman of the board in a statement.

“Young, ambitious and driven to help keep the real estate industry on the forefront of homeownership matters, Genevieve Concannon is a top choice for a one-year term on the board of directors,” said Concannon, who will work closely with the Board to maximize the association’s mission, goals and objectives.

Mugga

Agents, all of whom are veterans or military professionals. Concannon is a top choice for a one-year term on the board of directors. Concannon says that she’s passionate about sustainability in both home and business development. She is a certified Military Residential Specialist, EcoBroker, EarthCraft Real Estate Professional and Earth Advantage Broker STAR.

— Marilyn Campbell

**Business Notes**

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

The GW Medical Faculty Associates has chosen Arlington’s 3811 N. Fairfax Drive as its new headquarters. The GW Medical Faculty Associates expect to move to March 2016.

Marymount University’s master’s degree program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling has been ranked number one nationally for mental health counseling programs by GraduatePrograms.com, a website that compiles ratings and reviews from current or recent students.

GHT Limited, an area mechanical, electrical, and plumbing consulting engineering firm, has welcomed 14 new team members to the firm in the past six months. The firm’s staff count is now 78.

Sigal Construction Corporation has received an Award of Excellence from NAOP Northern Virginia.

Cyrus Bonnet, of Windmere Real Estate and the founder of SoldiersAgent.com, has become affiliated with AgentHero, a national network of professional real estate agents, all of whom are veterans or military spouses.

TD Bank has promoted Ronald P. Mugga to assistant vice president, retail or recent students.

Supporting Culpepper Garden

Billy Buck, CEO, and Delk Hamaker, COO, of Buck & Associates, Inc. presented a $5,000 donation to Culpepper Garden’s Executive Director Linda Kelleher at Buck’s office in Clarendon. Culpepper Garden is an award-winning, affordable, nonprofit residential community in Arlington with 340 apartments for seniors aged 62 and older.

Store Manager of the location at 5510 Lee Highway. Mugga joined TD Bank in 2013 as a customer service representative and later served as a financial services representative before his most recent positions as assistant store manager in both the Van Dorn Street store in Alexandria and the Lee Highway location.

Robert T. Hicks has joined Bean, Kinney & Korman as a shareholder. Architectural artist Leisa Collins has completed the first phase of a series of original pen and watercolor architectural portraits featuring Arlington homes. She will reveal these portraits to the community and is currently working to publish a coffee table book.

Arlington Endodontics has recently relocated and the office at 4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 160 Arlington has closed. Patients or referring doctors with questions or concerns relative to the endodontic therapy contact Dr. Feistmer at 751-312-3762 or Feistmer@arlingtonendo1.com.

LMO Advertising has received DC Inno’s “50 on Fire” award.

Buliten Board

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THROUGH JAN. 1

Holiday SoberRide. 10 p.m.-6 a.m. Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the annual Holiday SoberRide program will provide free cab rides up to $30. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

TreeStewards Application Deadline. The TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria are volunteers dedicated to improving the health of urban trees through educational programs, tree planting and care, demonstrations and tree maintenance throughout the community. New volunteer training will be held Tuesday evenings, starting Feb. 2-April 12, 2016, with some Saturday mornings. Free. Visit www.TreeStewards.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6

“Topping Out” of the Springs Apartments. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at APAH Tent–First Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Vermont St. The Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing will celebrate the new new building reaching its highest level with the placement of its final beam. Free. Visit www.apah.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 11

“Moving Words” Poetry Contest Deadline. Six poets will have their work printed and displayed inside area buses April-September. Winners will also each receive a $250 honorarium, and will be invited to give a public reading of their work in April 2016 during National Poetry Month. This contest will be juried by poet Francisco Aragón. Free to enter. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

Money Talks: A Financial Course for Women. 6:20-8:30 p.m. at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Glebe Road. See Bulletin, Page II

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JANUARY

1/6/2016..............Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions
1/13/2016..........................HomeLifeStyle
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 18
1/20/2016.........................A+ Camps & Schools
1/27/2016........................Community Guide
1/27/2016.........................Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment; Valentine’s Preview

FEBRUARY

2/3/2016.......................Valentine’s Dining & Gifts I
2/3/2016.........................Wellbeing – National Children’s Dental Health Month
2/10/2016.........................HomeLifeStyle
2/10/2016.........................Valentine’s Dining & Gifts II
2/17/2016........................A+ Camps & Schools
2/24/2016.........................Pet Connection

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com for more information.

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Cats benefit from being in a foster home. We need long- and short-term fosters for cats of all ages, mothers with litters and kittens on their own. Email cats@lostdogrescue.org.

Consider Fostering

Visit the website, click on Participate

Adopt/Donate/Volunteer at www.lostdogrescue.org
**21 Announcements**

**IMPROVEMENTS**
- Tree Service
- Windows & Glass

**26 Antiques**
- Gutter Cleaning
- Paving
- Masonry

**101 Computers**
- Computers

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**Notice of Trustee’s Sale**

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated October 11, 2013, in the original principal amount of $555,000.00, recorded as Deed Book 4196 at page 1179 among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia, the undersigned Trustee will on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 9:30 a.m., by the front main entrance to the Arlington County Courthouse, 425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22201, offer for sale at public auction the following property, with improvements thereon, which shall be by special warranty including, but not limited to, the preparations of the deed, Regional Congestion Relief fee, sales taxes, real estate taxes, and the grantor’s tax. Real estate taxes shall be adjusted as of the date of sale. The sale is subject to such additional terms as the Trustee may announce at the time of sale. The purchaser will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale incorporating all of the terms of the sale.

The Sale is subject to any reservations, restrictions on use, covenants, obligations, rights of way, conditions, easements, leases and mechanic’s liens, if any, whether of record or not of record, to the extent any of the foregoing apply and take priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust.

Deposit of $30,000.00, or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, by cashier’s or certified check, shall be required to qualify as a bidder prior to the sale, except for the Non-Habitat.

The deposit, without interest, is applied to the purchase price of settlement. Settlement will be held on or before fifteen (15) days after the sale. Upon purchaser’s default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified or cashier’s check, or wire transfer. Settlement shall be at the offices of the undersigned Trustee, or other mutually agreed upon location.

The undersigned Trustee reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify the terms and conditions of the sale, to extend the time of sale, or to withdraw the property from the sale. The undersigned Trustee reserves the right to extend the time of sale.

If tomorrow were never to come, it would not be worth living today. -Dagobert Rueben

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Board Appoints Fire Station #8 Task Force

The County Board has appointed Noah Simon as chair of its Fire Station No. 8 Task Force. The task force is charged with reviewing viable sites for a replacement Fire Station 8 (currently located at Lee Highway and North Culpepper Street).

Simon is an Arlington resident who served on the School Board in 2013-2014. He is a former Capitol Hill staff and previously worked for the American Red Cross. The board appointed 11 other residents to the task force:
- Alisa Cowen – Old Dominion Civic Association
- Michael Hogan – Old Dominion Civic Association
- Margareeth Gooden – John M. Langston Civic Association
- Rodney Turner – John M. Langston Civic Association
- Letitia Wilson-Donaldson Run Civic Association
- Frank McDermott – Bellevue Forest Civic Association
- Richard Samp – Old Glebe Civic Association
- Jim Pebley – Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission
- Patrick Bogdenberger – Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission
- James Schroll – Planning Commission
- Terry Prell – Arlington Civic Federation

The task force will make its report to the County Board in May 2016.

Police Conclude Death Investigation

The investigation of the in-custody death of 53-year-old Edward Straughn on Oct. 10, by the Arlington County Police Department’s Homicide/Robbery Unit has concluded. In conjunction with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, it has been determined that Straughn died of natural causes due to an extensive history of medical issues.

Deputies with the Arlington Sheriff’s Office found Straughn unresponsive in a medical unit cell at approximately 6:55 a.m. on Oct. 10. Resuscitation efforts were performed by deputies and nurses on scene prior to Straughn being transported to Virginia Hospital Center where he was pronounced deceased at approximately 7:38 a.m. Straughn was arrested on Oct. 9 for drunk in public and it was determined at that time he had failed to arrive for weekend detention. He was placed in jail by the Arlington County Sheriff’s Office. This incident marked the second in-custody death in 2015. It was determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in the first instance that the inmate had also died of natural causes.

Transitway to Open In Spring 2016

Arlington’s Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway, which will complete the area’s first dedicated transit lanes, is now expected to be completed in spring 2016, according to county officials.

“We had complications during construction that caused delays and threatened to push the project over budget,” Acting County Manager Mark Schwartz said in a project update to the County Board. “But we have made changes, including scope modifications, that will ensure we finish this project within budget and get it done by next spring.”

Arlington began building the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway, a joint project with the City of Alexandria, in summer 2014. The county’s portion of the project includes 0.75 miles of new transit-only roadway, 1.5 miles of on-street dedicated transit lanes, seven new stations and traffic signal upgrades along the Transitway route. Alexandria’s portion of the project, running from Potomac Yard to Braddock Road, opened in August 2014.

In an update on the project to the County Board made during the Tuesday, Dec. 15 recessed County Board Meeting, staff explained that crews have identified a number of issues as they dug into the ground along the Arlington route, including unmarked utilities, poor soils and obstructions such as abandoned railroad structures, which slowed roadway and station work. The project team also was unable to find a supplier for the size and type of roof panel needed for the Transitway station design.

New County Board Auditor Appointed

The Arlington County Board has appointed Jessica A. Tucker as its first County Board Auditor. This newly-created position reports directly to the board and is responsible for developing short- and long-range work plans for the systematic review of county programs.

Tucker will conduct, at the direction of the Audit Committee, independent program and operational audits and reviews of county departments, operations and/or county-funded programs, focusing on program efficiency, effectiveness and transparencies. The County Board auditor will augment the existing internal audit function within the Department of Management and Finance.

Tucker will start her new position on Jan. 25, 2015. The board approved her contract by a vote of 4-1, with Walter Tejada voting no.

Tucker has 15 years of government audit experience. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Internal Audit Information Sys- tems Auditor (CISA). Since 2010, she has served as deputy auditor of the board for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, including a one-year term as acting auditor of the board.

Previously, she served as a senior-level information technology auditor for the Inspector General of the Library of Congress. She also served as a senior performance auditor and senior financial auditor for the Arizona Auditor General, and as an auditor/evaluator with the California State Au-

Holiday Closings

Arlington County Government offices and facilities will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday.

They will also be closed on Friday, Jan. 1 for New Year’s Day. However, the County Board will hold its traditional New Year’s Day meeting in the County Board Room at 11 a.m.

Trash and recycling services will operate on a normal schedule. Parking meters and parking permit zones will not be enforced.

BULLETIN BOARD

From Page 9

Quincy St. This course is designed specifically for women. This session will cover financial basics. Free. Visit www.hit.ly/ VCFinancePrograms to register.

THURSDAY/JAN 21
Leadership Arlington Town Hall, 6:30-8 p.m.

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Last week I was ‘have and delusional.’ This week, in a particularly sunny mood, I might say ‘have and delusional.’ Meaning: I’m well aware of my circumstances and not minding them usually. To that point, there’s no doubt there are times when I am more challenging than others. And even though I’m a veteran of the cancer wars, seven years and counting, I’ve come to be that I may have been blessed with the proper temperament and attitude for the task at hand: endur- ing the stress and strain of dealing with a cancer diagnosis and all its effects and affects and not going negative/dark in the process. It’s not as if cancer has become my new best friend anymore, but a roommate I’ve learned to accept — who’s not moving out any time soon, but I have learned to manage, mostly. (I am a lady for all intents, and balance is my symbol.)

Still, over time, you do get used to the demands of the illness. So I may not be so disturbed by the symp- toms, not so much that it risks your health, but enough so it doesn’t ‘anguish’ your daily life. Because there’s definitely more — or rather not much of one, when every day becomes an emotional battle to the hopefully-not, death, so to speak. I don’t want to give cancer too much credit, but for a fairly powerless and adversarial and contributing to its strength serves no purpose and creates no advantage; it doesn’t need any help doing all the harmful, physical, emotional and spiritual, things it does. Granted, ripping it all up in the bulb is much easier, garden than it is in the doctor’s office/infusion center, but unless you become the master of your domain, the king of the castle, the lord of the house, the more difficult your cancer experience will be.

This is not to imply that a positive attitude cures cancer. But I do know this: The more positivity I likely will receive in turn.

As a matter of fact, I’ll make the extra effort — or perhaps not much, but enough so it doesn’t “anguish” your daily life. Because there’s definitely more — or rather not much of one, when every day becomes an emotional battle to the hopefully-not, death, so to speak. I don’t want to give cancer too much credit, but for a fairly powerless and adversarial and contributing to its strength serves no purpose and creates no advantage; it doesn’t need any help doing all the harmful, physical, emotional and spiritual, things it does. Granted, ripping it all up in the bulb is much easier, garden than it is in the doctor’s office/infusion center, but unless you become the master of your domain, the king of the castle, the lord of the house, the more difficult your cancer experience will be.

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Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm
Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm
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