



Jackson Wamsley holds his little sister Juliana's hand in an effort to let her know that this big guy in a red suit is really OK. The Potomac Overlook Regional Park volunteer says this is the reaction by the little ones about half of the time.

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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## New Catholic Bishop: To Listen and Learn

**A ministry to the faithful and the community beyond.**

BY DAN BRENDL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Most Rev. Michael Burbidge assumed full authority last week as the new bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. He succeeds the Most Rev. Paul Loverde, who retired after 17 years as bishop. Burbidge begins his new ministry with a commitment both to conservatism and bridge building.

Early in his homily at his Mass of Installation, held Dec. 6, he said people live in “unsettling times.” He called for renewed public engagement of several issues that have been hallmarks of the culture war. These include protection of the unborn, religious freedom, and the sanctity of marriage. He warned that Catholics’ faithfulness on such issues might result in ostracism, acknowledging society’s deep and persistent divisions.

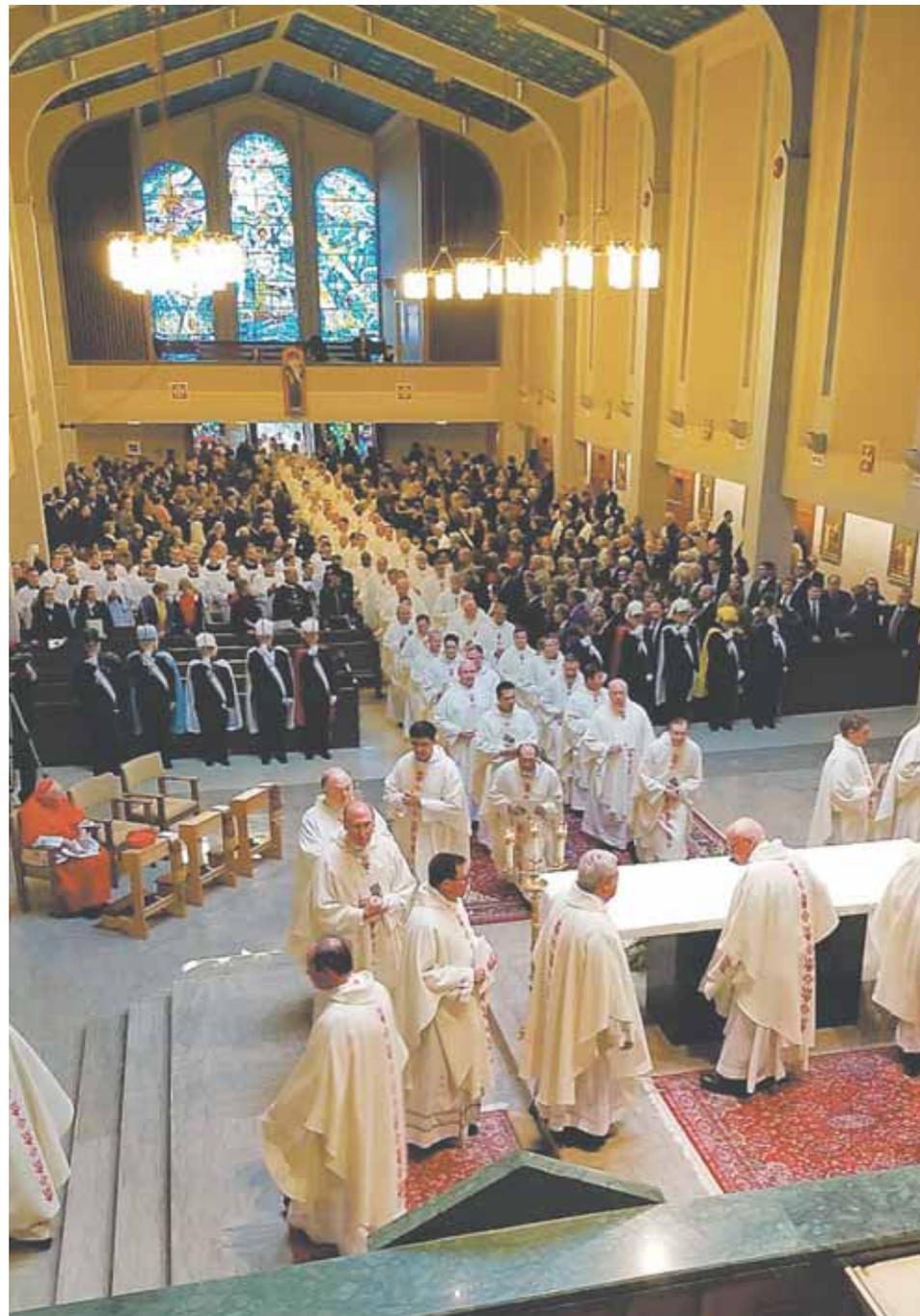
Equally, the Mass conveyed a yearning to unite and serve across boundaries. Burbidge preached on having a disposition of thankfulness and sharing God’s mercy. People of various ethnicities read Scripture, prayed, and sang in as many as six different languages, underscoring the diocese’s repeated commitment to promote cultural diversity. Burbidge stood to greet ecumenical and interfaith clergy. Among them, Rabbi Gerry Serotta is the executive director of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, which represents 11 different faith traditions.

Before reading aloud the papal letter directing Burbidge’s transfer, the Most Rev. Christophe Pierre framed the bishop’s mandate as being constructive for the whole society. Pierre is the Apostolic Nuncio, or Pope Francis’ personal representative in the U.S.

“An Apostle must make an effort to be courteous, serene, enthusiastic, and joyful, a person who transmits joy everywhere he goes,” he said, quoting Francis. “We pray ... for your faithful episcopal ministry to this beautiful family of faith, and to the community beyond.”

Francis transferred Burbidge from the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C., where Burbidge served as bishop for 10 years. Burbidge’s new diocese contains twice as many registered Catholics, who number about half a million; it abuts the seat of American government; and many of its parishioners are prominent government leaders. For these reasons, the transfer represents “a very strong vote of confidence in his leadership abilities,” said the Rev. Thomas Ferguson, the diocese’s second ranking clergyman.

Francis wrote to Burbidge in his letter of appointment, “[You] have clearly shown



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED  
**Mass of Installation was held Dec. 6 at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More in Arlington.**



**The Most Rev. Michael Burbidge is the new bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.**

that you are endowed with many outstanding episcopal qualities and virtues.”

**IN AN INTERVIEW** Dec 5, Burbidge said he will not pursue any specific agenda too quickly.

“You cannot implement a diocesan plan or mission statement until you take the time to listen and learn. So one of the first things I’m doing upon being installed is, I’ll be celebrating seven or eight Masses around the diocese, and then I’ll have the opportunity to be with the priests and the lay faithful. ... That’s my first goal: just get out, listen and learn.”

Nevertheless, he expounded repeatedly his general commitment to break down walls.

When asked how he will promote unity and charity in society following a divisive election season, he replied: “We’ll continue to preach the gospel — right! — reminding us that we are all created in God’s image and likeness. We are all united as brothers and sisters. We’re part of the human family and share the common responsibility to build up the common good. And we can only do that when we respect and listen to one another. Even when we disagree, even when we have different perspectives, that we do not label, we do not dismiss one another, but truly listen and respectfully engage each other.”

Burbidge has experience with political engagement. He and a fellow bishop in North Carolina established the public policy advocacy web site “Catholic Voice NC.”

“CVNC seeks to influence legislation at both the state and national levels,” according to the web site. “Beginning in 2008 Catholics in North Carolina who joined CVNC received email alerts from the bishops requesting they contact legislators to support or oppose various pieces of legislation.”

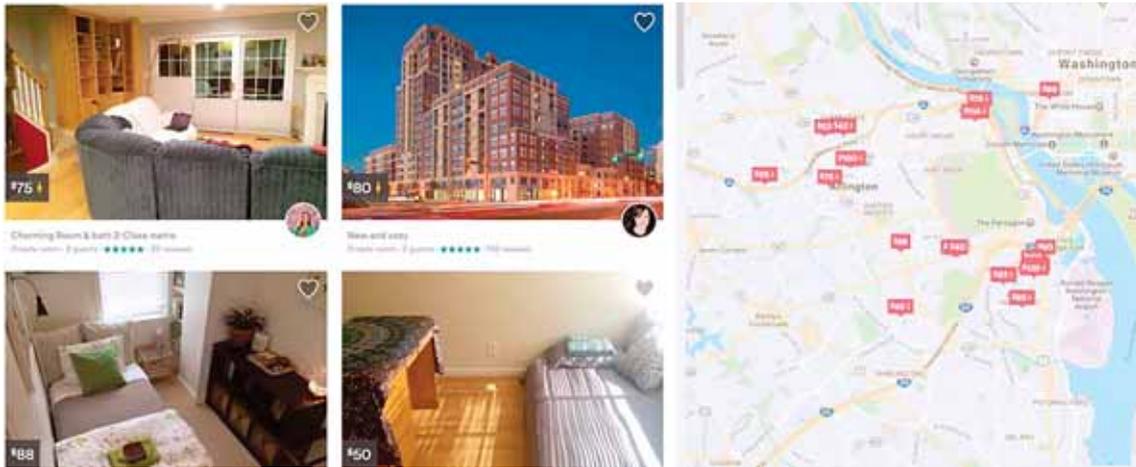
Burbidge said he will continue in his new position to engage the various levels of secular governance.

“Yes, as a bishop, I’m mandated to. I’m mandated to bring the gospel into the public arena. We’re very blessed here in this diocese where we have a Virginia Catholic Conference that assists us in that process. And part of that Conference is working with elected officials ... not always out front, many times privately, personally, where you can really have a true dialogue. So I will continue to do that, but always respectfully.”

Ferguson assures that Burbidge will be conservative in his values and priorities, as was his predecessor. But he cautions that conservatism in a Catholic sense does not necessarily mean the same thing as conservatism in a partisan sense.

“[I]t’s very hard to equate the term ‘conservative’ as it’s used in the Church with the way it’s used in the political process in this country,” he said. Conservative Catholicism “means really to be committed to the

SEE A MINISTRY, PAGE 13



FROM AIRBNB WEBSITE

108 apartments are available to rent in Arlington starting Dec. 16.

# For Rent **Arlington County legalizes Airbnb and homesharing.**

BY VERNON MILES  
THE CONNECTION

If looking for a place to stay in Arlington this weekend, there are at least 108 rooms available on Airbnb. Airbnb is a growing peer-to-peer homesharing network, where homeowners can rent a spare bed to visiting strangers.

According to William Burns, senior advisor for Airbnb's mid-Atlantic pod, there are 740 active hosts in Arlington County. Starting on Dec. 31, those hosts will be able to legally post their houses as rentable.

Prospective Airbnb hosts will need to obtain a license from the county to operate. The license, which shows that the residence meets building codes, will be free for the next six months. However, members of the County Board said a fee for the license will likely be revisited over the next few months.

The regulations on homesharing were limited before they reached the County Board and only loosened once there. The County Board ultimately changed language in the legislation to make it easier for residents to rent their homes out while they are away. Airbnb hosts will need to occupy the residence for at least half the year and visitors will only be allowed to live there for 30 days or less.

Discussion of homesharing regulations took up the majority of the Dec. 10 meeting. Opinions in the public comment were more varied than just those in favor and those opposed. Some supported Airbnb in Arlington but believed the legislation needed more time to be carefully crafted. Others opposed Airbnb and homesharing, but said they felt the county was taking a much needed step towards regulation.

Nancy Iacomini, speaking for the Planning Commission, said the topic had generated the most public interest of any issue they dealt with in 2016. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the regulations. Iacomini said that no one speaking at the Planning Commission meeting had any opposition to allowing short-term rentals. Several of the 14 speakers who came forward said, despite its illegality, that they were Airbnb hosts. Ryan Michie, an Arlington Heights resident, said he utilized Airbnb when he moved to Northern Virginia in 2012. Michie said living in an Airbnb allowed him to find local employment and even meet his fiancée.

"Without services like Air BnB, I would not have been able to find employment and the love of my life," said Michie.

But other residents expressed concerns that homesharing could pose a safety risk to other residents and put an undue burden on neighbors to monitor rented homes.

Dusty Horwitt, a Columbia Pike resident, noted that Airbnb properties are often not listed publicly, which makes it difficult to determine if a neighbor's home is being rented. Horwitt said he had found one listing that included pictures of communal laundry and amenities as features in the rental, and said it made him concerned for resident safety.

Among those sharing concerns about the new regulations was County Board Member John Vihstadt. Vihstadt attempted to have the issue delayed until January to allow for time to craft regulations, but the motion found no support. The homesharing legalization and regulations were approved in a 4 -1 vote.

## 'FLOURISHING AFTER 55'

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs, for Dec. 11-17.

**Senior centers:** Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St.; Culpepper Garden, 4435 N. Pershing Dr.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St.; Arlington Mill, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.; Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St.

**Senior trips:** Fauquier Community Theatre, Gospel Christmas show, Sunday, Dec. 18, \$30; U.S. Botanic Gardens, Monday, Dec. 19, \$8; The Kennedy Center, "Into the Woods," Wednesday, Dec. 21, \$77; Maryland Live! Casino, Thursday, Dec. 22, \$9. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

- NEW PROGRAMS:**  
**Current events,** Monday, Dec. 19, 10 - 11:30 a.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.  
**Just Plain' Country,** Monday, Dec. 19, 11:15 a.m., Lee. 703-228-0555.  
**Normal aging versus dementia,** Monday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills. Register, 703-228-5722.  
**Rubber Stamp workshop,** Tuesday, Dec. 20, 11:30 a.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.  
**Eating smart during the holidays,** Wednesday, Dec. 21, 12 p.m., Aurora Hills. Register, 703-228-5722.  
**How to use Apple products,** Wednesday, Dec. 21, by appointment, 9:30 a.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.  
**Open watercolor studio,**

- Wednesday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Arlington Mill. Details, 703-228-7369.  
**Ballroom dance,** Friday, Dec. 23, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill. Free. Details, 703-228-7369.  
**Lee Walkers,** Lee Senior Center, Fridays, 9:30 a.m., \$4. Register, 703-228-0555.  
**Fast-paced walking group,** Fridays, 8 a.m., Aurora Hills. Free. Register, 703-228-5722.  
**Mah Jongg,** Saturdays, 12 p.m. - 3:45 p.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.  
**Weight room, seniors only,** Saturdays, 7 a.m.-10 a.m., Madison Community Center, 3829 N. Stafford St., \$60/15 sessions, register, 703-228-4771.



## Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland, an annual event hosted by the Market Common Clarendon, welcomed more than 500 people on Dec. 10. More than 150 toys were donated and \$531 was raised. For entertainment, Winter Wonderland had various holiday characters: an elf on stilts, a dancing ballerina in a giant snow globe and more.



Many stores at Market Common participated in the day including Melinda Modica of Lou Lou out on the Loop.



PHOTOS BY RIKKI GEORGE/THE CONNECTION

Labib Nasir, Dana Nasir and 18-month-old son Kameel Nasir at the giant snow globe.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

### An Early Visit from Santa

While it was -20 degrees back home at the North Pole on Sunday, it was below freezing in Arlington when Santa dropped in for a visit with children. Charlie Ferraro has made out a list for Santa beginning with a drone and ending with a punching bag. Santa says he has left his reindeer home today because they can get too rambunctious. They might eat all of the pancakes.

Santa's granddaughters, 6-year-old Lily and 2-year-old Brigit, have stopped in to visit Santa at Potomac Overlook Regional Park on his trip to Arlington from the North Pole on Sunday, Dec. 11. Lily gives Santa a big hug while Brigit zooms around the room. Lily tells Santa that her mom says she has to go to bed by 8 p.m. on Christmas eve. She tells Santa she wants Pokemon cards and a Barbie.



Regina Brooks (left), Brian-Kobe Brooks (middle), and Brian Brooks (right) work on a gingerbread house together. Regina Brooks said her family has gone to the event for three years: "We love working together on this. It's become a family tradition."



Sebastian Harper applies rooftop icing to his gingerbread house.

## Candyland Families build gingerbread houses together at Arlington County event.

Sometimes, families need a chance to unwind. On Dec. 10, Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation offered families a chance for families to celebrate the holidays together and craft gingerbread houses. The gingerbread event is part of the Families Unplugged program, a year-round parent-child class that helps both groups disconnect from electronics and do fitness or cooking activities together.

Emily Thrasher, family programs coordinator for the Department of Parks and Recreation, said the program offers all of the fun of being a parent while county staff do the cleanup.

"This event is our most popular," said Thrasher. "Both our [morning and evening sessions] today are full with a waitlist." 2016 is the fourth year the department has hosted the gingerbread house event. The event was \$8 per person and fee reductions pushed some costs as low as \$2.

— VERNON MILES



PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/THE CONNECTION

Jay Nadiga applies some structural support for his gingerbread roof.

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## Broaching That Conversation about Death

Discussing end-of-life care and more.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE CONNECTION

Conversations surrounding a new baby are easy to have, rarely met with hesitation. On the other hand, conversations surrounding how a person wants to leave this world are difficult despite how important these discussions are.

Because so many families find the subject hard to broach, a non-profit organization, The Conversation Project, seeks to ensure people's end-of-life care wishes are always known and respected. Last year, the organization launched Conversation Sabbath to encourage religious groups to highlight the importance of having end-of-life care discussions.

Arlington's Bethel United Church of Christ participated, led by Associate Pastor Carolyn Richar. As both a minister and a nurse of more than 30 years, Richar has long known the how crucial it is for families to have these conversations before it's too late. Too often, people fail to explicitly document certain wishes when it comes to their health in life-and-death situations, leaving families in difficult situations.

Through a sermon and Bible Study series in November, Richar enlightened Bethel congregants about strategies on how to approach end-of-life decisions.

"The sermon went well," Richar said. "I got good feedback from the congregation. It was Stewardship Sunday, so I had a great opening to my talk. I told everyone in the congregation, 'I have both good news and bad news for you. The good news is that I'm not going to ask for money this Sunday, but the bad news is that I'm going to be talking about death.'"

The ultimate goal of Conversation Sabbath, now in its second year, is to increase humanity's opportunity to leave the Earth in the exact way they choose when all their mental faculties are on their side.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Exemplary Care Appreciated

To the Editor:

Amidst the holiday season that abounds with glittering decorative lights in the Arlington community, there is more that glistens beyond that. For patients who are hospitalized at Virginia Hospital Center and unable to be outside to enjoy the festive scenery, they are fortunate to be touched by staff that glisten with smiles on their faces, demonstrate kind and caring ways and exhibit compassion for their patients.

My elderly mother was recently hospitalized there for a week, and she received exemplary care in all respects. The nurses on Unit 8B shined as bright as the decorations outside the hospital boundaries. They did not miss a beat and carried out their duties with dedication, diligence and genuine enthusiasm.

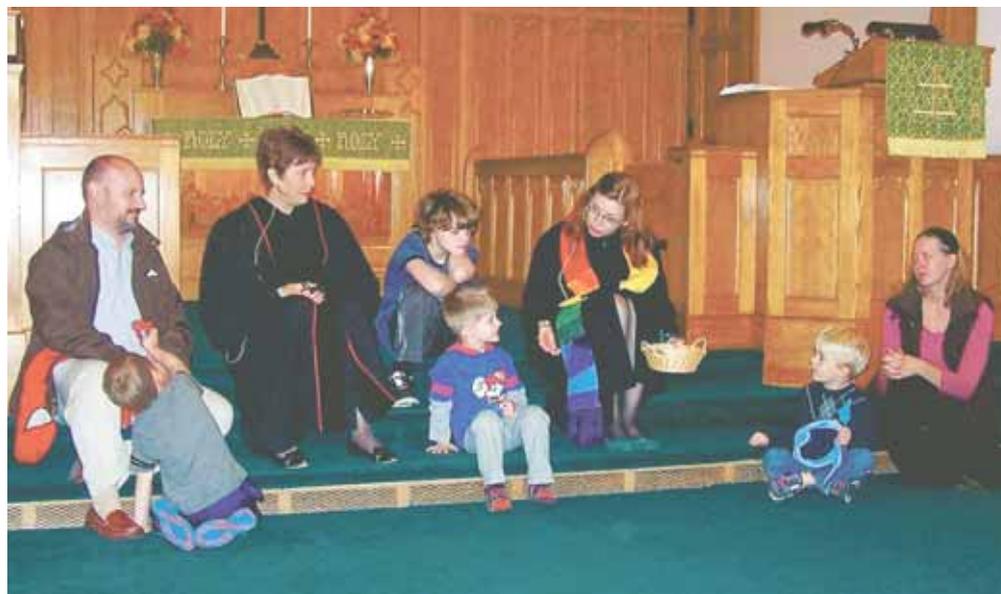


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Bethel United Church of Christ participated in Conversation Sabbath last month.**

"Conversation Sabbath emerged as an idea for a campaign to reach congregations of all faiths in 2014," the Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, advisor to Faith Communities for the Conversation Project, said. "We launched Conversation Sabbath as a test in the Greater Boston area in 2015. More than 30 congregations of various faiths participated: clergy preached and taught and congregations held Conversation Starter Kit workshops.

"In 2016, we aimed to reach five communities beyond Boston," Lloyd said. "We extended the invitation to clergy to teach and preach about the importance of having these crucial conversations about the kind of care we want to receive in the event that we cannot speak for ourselves. We already know of congregations in Texas, New Mexico, Florida and Ontario, Canada that took part in the Conversation Sabbath this year."

Lloyd is both a nurse and a minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church, so she has seen firsthand the impact of end-of-life preparation — or lack thereof — on families and survivors. Examples of end-of-life decisions include, but

The various departments and personnel — including the Emergency Department, lab, radiology, wound care, environmental services, dietary, respiratory, physicians, nurses, techs, security, patient relations, registration and all other allied departments and personnel — were engaged, responsive, communicative and sensitive to patient needs and desires.

The excellent care my mother received is appreciated with profound gratitude. As her daughter, I could rest assured she was in good hands with top notch professionals who are certainly role models to emulate in the medical arena. The greatest gift this season, and all year around, for the Arlington community is having Virginia Hospital Center in its midst replete with outstanding staff that make it a proven quality organization.

**Karen L. Bune**  
Arlington

*The writer is an adjunct professor at Marymount University in Arlington.*

are not limited to, when and when not to resuscitate, and whether or not a person should be kept alive by feeding tubes or ventilators.

Richar, who has belonged to Bethel since 1985, felt called to deliver a sermon on Conversation Sabbath teachings. She delivered the message on Sunday, Nov. 13, and remains optimistic that important conversations have happened in the wake of her Conversation Sabbath sermon.

While Conversation Sabbath is intended for any faith-based group, Richar said she had plenty of Biblical scripture to work with, which clearly upholds the importance of taking ownership of your body in its final days.

"There is usually a theme to sermons," Richar said, "and, there is a consistent reading from the Bible that meets that theme and upholds the message of the sermon. It was no different for the Conversation Sabbath in November. The title of my sermon was 'Walking through the Valley,' and I was able to find great scripture for my message. In the Gospel of John, there is a short passage where Jesus talks about preparing a home for his followers in His Father's house."

Richar said she's confident in concluding its success since her sermons at Bethel tend to be pretty interactive. It was crucial to Richar that she make the topic as comfortable as possible to think about and discuss.

"I do a lot of congregation participation," she said. "So, for this sermon, I asked the people in front of me, 'what would you do if you were getting ready to go on a trip? You talk about it, you prepare. So, first of all, I just encouraged people to have a conversation about preparing for death.'"

Easing her way into the nitty gritty, she asked everyone in the congregation who had made certain concrete decisions regarding medical care at the end of their lives. And, the responses only reinforced just how important the Conversation Sabbath is.

"Up to 90 percent of people hadn't had a conversation about this topic with the person they designated as their decision maker," she said. "These days, you can specify all these decisions through what's called an Advanced

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# Discussing End-of-Life Care

FROM PAGE 6

Directive, a way of designating someone to make certain decisions for you if you cannot make them yourself. You can be pretty specific in this document too. For example, people clarify exactly how many days they would want to be on a ventilator, or on other machines.”

At the end of the sermon, Richar left her listeners with resources to help make the best personal decisions.

“We don’t tell people what decision to make, but we emphasize that they should start thinking about what they want,” she said. “The Virginia Bar has a great set of resources, so I brought in the Advanced Directive form to church that Sunday. I brought in a lot of handouts and other resources created by the Conversation Project. There are great forms for people to write about what they want, their preferences surrounding different cases, and then they have tips on how to start a conversation with people and how to get around the typical ‘push aways’ from people uncomfortable talking about this topic.”

As the executive director of Capital Caring, an organization that seeks to improve care for people facing life-limiting illness, Richar is familiar with the challenges that arise from the all too common case of families not defining choices preferences in cer-



**Carolyn Richar**

tain end-of-life scenarios. “I see every day how important it is to create a space where people feel safe talking about these issues, and how certain people need to be pushed into making decisions that ultimately benefit themselves and their families,” Richar said. “People don’t know. We encounter this with hospice and hospice care all the time — situations where kids will not know what their parents want, in terms of drastic measures or to what extent they would want their life preserved in worst-case scenarios. Even when decisions have been laid out, there are so many cases where children have different interpretations of what their parents would want.”

Richar said religious communities surprisingly don’t differ too much from secular groups in avoiding conversations about death.

“In general, our culture does not have to deal with death very often,” she said, “and, in the faith tradition, at least in the last few

decades, the focus has been on praise music and praise worship, and there’s nothing wrong with that, but it involves mostly uplifting ideas. Worship today is different from that of earlier centuries, when hymns involved death and addressed going to Heaven one day. Today, it’s not even all that common in church to talk about death and dying.”

Richar, a certified hospice and Palliative Care nurse, said it’s never too soon or morbid to have these types of discussions with loved ones.

“As soon as you’re an adult, it’s the right time to start talking about this,” she said. “My daughter and I have had these conversations since she was a teenager. I started thinking about it myself when I was a chaplain in a hospital years ago, and I cared for people with permanent brain damage that left them in a comatose state.”

An even more personal experience has also reinforced the importance of these frank, honest discussions in Richar’s family.

“Five years ago, I fell off my roof,” she said. “At the time, I was — and still am — fairly healthy, but then, out of nowhere, that emergency happened. You never know when your family is going to need to know how to proceed when you don’t have the ability to speak for yourself.”

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

### BORROW A SNOWBLOWER

**The Department of Parks and Recreation** lends a limited number of snow blowers to civic associations and community groups, increasing the number of passable sidewalks during snow events. Their goal is to ensure snow blowers are geographically distributed throughout the county. Snow blowers are loaned to groups who agree to plow for the public good and who meet

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 15

### SPORTS BRIEF

## Swim and Dive

The Yorktown Patriots split their Dec. 9 swim and dive meet against Reston’s South Lakes High School Seahawks. The boys’ team won the night, prevailing in six of 12 events and scoring 171-144.

The girls’ team won four of 12 events for a score of 133-182.

Ryan Soh was a double-winner. Single winners included Cate Barrett, Jack Browne, Natalie English, Lily Miller, Petie Nassetta, Thomas Outlaw, and diver Jacob Kreider.

The Patriots next face the McLean High School Highlanders on Dec. 16 in the season’s first away meet at the Spring Hill Recreational Center.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Synetic Theater Stages 'Sleeping Beauty'

Story of a princess, an evil sorceress, and sleeping curse in this wordless Grimm Brothers' fairy tale.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**S**ynetic Theater will present the wordless production of "Sleeping Beauty" from Dec. 7 to Jan. 8, 2017 in Crystal City. Synetic's ensemble takes on the classic tale of a princess, an evil sorceress, and a centuries-long sleeping curse in this adaptation of one of the Grimm Brothers' most beloved stories.

Director Paata Tsikurishvili said the play is so iconic in many ways, but he wanted to get back to the story's roots and give audiences a visceral experience of it. "By producing this tale without any spoken word, we can emphasize the well-known characters in a different way and bring out the story's sense of "magical realism," he said.

He wanted to breathe new life into the 700-year-old fairy tale while at the same time appealing to younger audiences. "Our 2014 adaptation of 'Beauty and the Beast' was so successful, especially with younger viewers and families, that we wanted bring the entirety of our base back together by presenting this magical tale that is perfect for the holiday season," he said.

He added: "Sleeping Beauty' is a fascinating combination of real-life human struggles — sacrifice, loss, redemption — but it is overlaid with a supernatural layer that ties everything together. We wanted to emphasize this combination in a purely vi-



Eliza Smith plays the role of Sleeping Beauty and Zana Gankhuyag plays the Prince in Synetic Theater's production of "Sleeping Beauty," from Dec. 7 to Jan. 8, 2017 in Arlington.

sual manner."

As the director, he said it was a great challenge to bring the different art forms together. "To fuse our unique visual aesthetic with music, dance, movement, acting, multimedia — using our entire emotional palette to create a single theatrical language that is greater than the sum of its parts and speaks louder than words. To find the form, style, manner, and expression of the storytelling, all without saying a single word, was probably the biggest challenge. But I think we have found our 'art of silence,' which, I hope, will transport you into a magical world that will leave you speechless too," he said.

He said there's a lot of darkness and divineness these days and he hopes that people take away from this show that the

darkness will not win in the end. "The story's moral, as with many fairy tales, is that basic love and goodness ultimately triumphs," he said. "However dark things get, that is how it tends to work out. I hope our audiences take heart from this story and get that message as they leave the theater. A simple hope maybe, but union, coming together — a realization that, whatever our grudges, we're all more alike than we are different — for me, this is inevitable."

Choreographer Irina Tsikurishvili also plays the role of the Witch, who she says is not the standard villain that you see in so many adaptations of this story. "She has suffered tremendous loss and is very conflicted, as we show in a backstory which we've added to the traditional fairy tale. It is always fascinating to play these conflicts

— as well as playing a supernatural being with some pretty awesome, earth-shaking powers," she said.

For her, the challenge in working on this piece was a question of synchronicity. "Having to bring this character's inner world to life, to keep her from being more than a stock villain, and showing her struggle between good and evil while at the same time matching perfectly with the choreography and multimedia elements. This wasn't easy, but we have a great cast and director to rely on, which always makes things easier," she said.

She said she hopes people enjoy her new take on the Witch, something maybe a little more complex and nuanced than is usually seen. "I hope they also realize that even the most evil characters can be won back 'to the light,' so to speak — that love and kindness is the single most powerful force in the world, and can put virtually anyone and anything back on the right path," she said.

Eliza Smith plays the role of Briar Rose, a young girl full of life and trust. "She is someone who completely embodies innocence and purity, so those around her cannot help being affected by her blissfulness," she said.

She said a challenge was the changing choreography, music, and scenes in the improvisational process. "When an element was changed, I found it difficult at times to remember the latest version, as well as adapt my characterization to fit the changes," she said. "This is a piece that is constantly evolving; therefore, it is challenging to evolve smoothly, taking the alterations in stride."

She added: "Sleeping Beauty' is a show of magic and wonder where audiences will be whisked away into another world. It seems to be the perfect time for it during

SEE 'SLEEPING BEAUTY.' PAGE 10

### CALENDAR

Email announcements to [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

#### ONGOING

**The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program.** Through Dec. 15, Pentagon City shoppers can select an Angel Card from the Angel Tree, located at the Santa Set on the First Level near Nordstrom, and return their unwrapped gift with the Angel Card to the Mall Office, located on Metro Level. The Mall Office will receive gifts Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit [simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity](http://simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity).

**Secret Santas Sought for Neighbors in Need.** Through Dec. 16 mail or hand-deliver gift cards/checks by Dec. 16 to: Secret Santa Program c/o Kurt Larrick, Department of Human Services, 2100 Washington Blvd., 4th Floor, Arlington, VA 22204. Brighten the holiday season for some of

Arlington's most vulnerable residents by taking part in the County's annual Secret Santa program. 703-228-1775.

#### Exhibit: "Día de los Muertos."

Through Dec. 18. Gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Artists living in the Mid-Atlantic states submit work that responds to the concepts, themes, and imagery of this beloved holiday. Free. Visit [www.arlingtonartscenter.org](http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org) for more.

#### Fall SOLOS 2016.

Through Dec. 18, gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. More than 100 artists living in the Mid-Atlantic Region submitted proposals for this semi-annual exhibition. Jurors Sarah Newman, Independent Curator, and José Ruiz, Co-Director of Present Co. (NY), Director of Furthermore (DC), and Professor in the Curatorial Practice Program at MICA, recommended 14 applicants for inclusion in the SOLOS 2016-17 edition. Fall artists: Michael Booker, Amanda Burnham, Lewis Colburn, Marion Colomer, Liz Guzman, Andrew Hladky, and Michele Montalbano. Free. Visit [www.arlingtonartscenter.org](http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org) for more.

#### Alice Whealin: "Third Patterns."

Through Dec. 18, gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Alice Whealin's artworks reflect personal concerns and experiences through alternative landscapes and imagery of internal bodies. Free. Visit [www.arlingtonartscenter.org](http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org) for more.

#### Raise Funds for "Colby's Ride" Nonprofit.

Through Dec. 18 at Smoothie King 1101 S. Joyce St., Suite B-9, Pentagon Row Shopping Center. Raising funds from now until Dec. 18, 2016 for local nonprofit, Colby's Ride. Colby's Ride, which provides bicycles and helmets to under-privileged children in the community, was formed to honor 11-year-old Colby Thomas Smith who died in a dirt bike accident in 2015. [www.colbysride.com](http://www.colbysride.com)

#### Photos with Santa Claus.

Through Dec. 24. Various times at Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, 1100 S. Hayes St. Santa's photo chair will be on the ground level near Nordstrom. Visit [www.simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity](http://www.simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity) for Santa's daily schedules and photo package pricing.

#### Holiday Gift Wrap.

Through Dec. 24

at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. All proceeds benefit Simon Youth Foundation and Arms Outstretched Ministry. Visit [simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity](http://simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity).

#### Silver Belles Holiday Play.

Through Dec. 24 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. When Oralene, the longtime director of small town Sylva Ridge's Christmas Pageant, suddenly passes away, the Silver Belles must come to the rescue. With the spirit of Oralene looking on, the sterling-hued vixens band together, discover their talents and pull out all the stops to keep the beloved pageant alive. Call 703-820-9771 or go to [sigtheatre.org](http://sigtheatre.org).

#### Wordless Production of "Sleeping Beauty."

Through Jan. 8, Wednesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. Ticket \$35 and up. Student tickets start at \$15. Senior citizens and military receive \$5 off. Recommended for ages 7 and older. Visit [synetictheater.org](http://synetictheater.org).

#### Moving Words Poetry Contest.

Through Jan. 12. The annual poetry contest Moving Words is now open for submissions. The work of six winning poets will be printed on

placards and displayed for three months between April and September inside Arlington Rapid Transit (ART) buses. This year's Moving Words competition is juried by Arlington County's Poet Laureate, Katherine E. Young. Submit entries to [movingwords@arlingtonva.us](mailto:movingwords@arlingtonva.us). Visit [www.arlingtonarts.org/](http://www.arlingtonarts.org/) for rules.

#### Signature Theater's "Titanic."

Through Jan. 29 at Signature Theatre 4200 Campbell Ave. A voyage through stories of love, ambition, hope and courage on board the fateful ship. [www.sigtheatre.org](http://www.sigtheatre.org)

#### Friday Night Live.

8 p.m. at the Church at Clarendon, 1210 N. Highland St., Suite A. Local musicians perform. Free. Visit [1bc.org](http://1bc.org) for more.

#### 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 consists of exhibits chronicling Arlington County's history from Native American settlements up 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

# ENTERTAINMENT

is located in the former 1891 Hume School building at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Contact Garrett Peck at 571-243-1113 or at [garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

## LGBT & Straight Friends Social.

Tuesdays. Happy Hour, 3 p.m.-7 p.m.; Mikey's "Bar A" Video Wall, 7 p.m.; start time at 8 p.m. IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. For 21 years and older. Free. Visit [www.iotaclubandcafe.com](http://www.iotaclubandcafe.com) for more information.

**Open Mic Comedy.** Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. at Ri Ra Irish Pub, 2915 Wilson Blvd. Doors open at 7 p.m. Age 21 and up only. Free show, \$25 cash prize for best joke. Call 703-248-9888 or visit [www.RiRa.com/](http://www.RiRa.com/) Arlington for more.

**Food Truck Thursdays.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the corner of North Irving St. and Washington Blvd. Find a round-up of regional food trucks. Free to attend. Visit [www.dmvfta.org](http://www.dmvfta.org).

**Invasive Plants Removal.** Work parties are held every month to keep the parks free of destructive invasive plants. Teens, adults and families welcome. Every second Sunday of the month 2-4:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road; call 703-228-3403. Every third Sunday of the month 2-5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road; call 703-228-6535 or visit [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us). Free, no registration required.

**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](http://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. Visit [www.iotaclubandcafe.com](http://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](http://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 first place. Free. Visit [www.whitlows.com](http://www.whitlows.com) or call 703-276-9693.

**Storytime.** Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30-11 a.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Storytime with Ms. Laura. Call 703-527-5929.

**Lego Club.** Monthly on the first Wednesday. 4-5 p.m. Glencarlyn Branch Library, 300 S. Kensington St. The library provides tubs 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 for more.

**Crystal City Sparket.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Wednesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Sparket — A Creative Market is an extension of DC's Eastern Market with arts, crafts, and handmade goods. Free to attend. Visit [www.crystalcity.org](http://www.crystalcity.org).

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

**Art for Life.** Third Thursday of each month. The Hyatt Regency Crystal City's "Art for Life" Partnership with National Kidney Foundation brings a new artist each month to The Hyatt for a reception. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

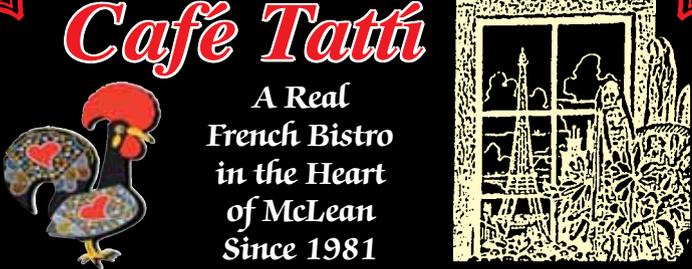


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Forty+, with eight performers, offers short works combined to traverse relationship, the inventiveness of situation, and the progression of life. \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. Saturday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. 703-933-1111, [janefranklindance@gmail.com](mailto:janefranklindance@gmail.com)**

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# ENTERTAINMENT

**Brunch at Freddie's.** Third Saturday of 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 (\$9.99). All are welcome. No reservation is required. Visit [www.facebook.com/events/700174390103305](http://www.facebook.com/events/700174390103305).

**Fall Food Drive.** Through December, Always Best Care of Arlington at 2708 S. Nelson St. is partnering with Arlington Food Assistance Center to collect food for the holiday season. 703-845-8486

## FRIDAY/DEC. 16-SUNDAY/JAN. 1

**WRAP Sober Ride Program.** 10 p.m.-6 a.m. each evening as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period. Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$ 30 fare), safe way home. (AT&T wireless users can dial #WRAP for the same service.)

## SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER

**Holiday Photo Booth.** Noon.-5 p.m. at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. Visit [simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity](http://simon.com/fashioncentreatpentagoncity).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 16

**U.S. Coast Guard Band.** 7-9 p.m. at Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail. Free tickets are required for this concert and can either be picked up at Falls Church High School or call 202-372-4630

## SATURDAY/DEC. 17

**Family Skate Night.** 6:30-9 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second St. S. Live DJ, moon bounces and snack bar, \$2 to skate; \$3 to rent skates. Cash Only. Moon bounce and concessions are additional. 703-228-5920

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 17-18

**Santa at Kinder Haus Toys.** noon-1 p.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Photo opportunity with gentle Santa that is ready to hear children's hopes and dreams. 703-527-5929 or [kinderhaus@comcast.net](mailto:kinderhaus@comcast.net)

## SUNDAY/DEC. 18

**Coat & Toy Drive for Arlington Pediatric Center.** At St. Mary's Church, 2609 N. Glebe Road. Bring gently used (and clean) coats for men, women, and children as well as new, unwrapped toys for children up to age 18. Drop off in the Glebe Road lobby area. Also accepting donations to the coat and toy drive by writing a check to St. Mary's with "Coats & Toys" in the memo or making an online donation via St. Mary's online application. Alternatively, purchase items on AmazonSmile and have it sent directly to Aaron Hale at 6190 Adeline Ct., McLean, VA 22101. [aaronhale63@gmail.com](mailto:aaronhale63@gmail.com)

**Flying Squirrel Lore.** 5-6 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center at 3608 North Military Road. Learn about these engaging nocturnal acrobats and then go outside to see as they glide in for an evening meal. Activity #: 622957-A \$5 703-228-4747

## MONDAY/DEC. 19

**Poetry Workshops.** 7-8 p.m. at Campbell Room, Shirlington Branch Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Join an onformal group of local poetry writers. Members write and read original poetry, and exchange

constructive criticism. Meets every third Monday of the month, except on holidays. 703-228-6545

**Normal Aging vs. Dementia.** 1-2 p.m. at Gunston Middle School, 2700 S. Lang St. Join Christi Clark, education director with Insight Memory Care Center, as she discusses the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's Disease and when it might be time to seek a doctor's advice. 703-228-5722

## TUESDAY/DEC. 20

**Homemade for the Holidays: Snow Globes.** 4-6 p.m. at Connection: Crystal City, 2100 Crystal Drive. Learn to make homemade gifts for others or yourself in this series of three holiday craft programs. Let it snow... use Mason jars to create original own snow scenes. All supplies will be provided. [arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2963898](http://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2963898) 703-228-7520

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 21

**Eating Smart Over the Holidays.** noon-1 p.m. at Gunston Middle School, 2700 S. Lang St. Avoid common holiday pitfalls and approach holiday gatherings in a healthier way. Join Michelle Atkin to gain tips to manage temptations. 703-228-5722

**Solstice Eve Campfire.** 7 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center at 3608 North Military Road. Celebrate the longest night of the year with candle making and S'mores and then under the glow of a halfmoon come out to hike. Activity #: 622857-L \$5 703-228-4747

## THURSDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 22-23

**Bah, Humbug! An Improvised Christmas Carol.** 5-8 p.m. at The Arlington Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. An irreverent take on "A Christmas Carol" largely improvised with the performers using audience suggestions and interaction to inspire wild deviations from a standard retelling. [Arlingtondrafthouse.com](http://Arlingtondrafthouse.com)

## DEC. 27-30

**Winter Break Camps for Kids.** At Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. For a variety of engaging holiday-themed activities including fitness, nutrition, dynamic play, creative arts and even a field trip for only \$153. Register online with Camp Code 710115-O or call 703-228-4747

## DEC. 27-30

**Winter Break Camps for Teens.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, at 3501 S. 2nd St. For games and trips with friends during winter break. Ages 10-14, \$125 [ebravo@arlingtonva.us](mailto:ebravo@arlingtonva.us) or 703-228-4747

## JAN. 6-15

**Encore Stage & Studio's "A Little Princess."** Fridays, Jan. 6 and 13 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, Jan. 7 and 14 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; Sundays, Jan. 8 and 15 at 3 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. \$15 Adults, \$10 Children, Students, Military, and Seniors. Tickets to the 11 a.m. performance are sold separately. Tickets are available online at [www.encestage.org](http://www.encestage.org) or by calling the box office at 703-548-1154.

## THROUGH JAN. 9

**Call for Artists.** Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. seeks applicants for the Artist Residency Program. The primary goal of the Artist Residency Program is to provide a space in

which artists can work and grow, in a community environment that encourages interaction, dialogue, and exploration. [Arlingtonartscenter.org](http://Arlingtonartscenter.org)

## THROUGH JAN. 8

**Sleeping Beauty.** Wednesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Synetic Theater, Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell St. Synetic Theater's award-winning ensemble takes on the classic tale of a princess, an evil sorceress, and a centuries-long sleeping curse in this adaptation of "Sleeping Beauty," one of the Grimm Brothers' beloved stories. \$35 and up. Student tickets start at \$15. Senior citizens and military receive \$5 off. Group discounts are available. [www.synetictheater.org](http://www.synetictheater.org)

## TUESDAY/JAN. 10

**Scam & ID Theft Prevention Workshop.** noon-1 p.m. at Connection: Crystal City, 2100 Crystal Drive. This interactive class from the Virginia Cooperative Extension will help participants recognize different types of scams and red flags, and reduce potential for identity theft. [arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2919964](http://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2919964), 703-228-7520

## Langston Brown Encore Chorale.

1:45 p.m. at Langston Brown Community Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St. Encore Creativity for Older Adults. \$175 for 15 weekly rehearsals, sheet music, CD in your music part and performances. 301-261-5747 or [info@encorecreativity.org](mailto:info@encorecreativity.org)

**LEGO Club.** 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Shirlington Branch Library, The Village at Shirlington, 4200 Campbell Ave. Future engineers get free build time with the library's supply of LEGO blocks. [arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2855613](http://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2855613), 703-228-6545

## NVCC Community Chorus

**Invitation.** Rehearsals start for all interested singers to join for its spring 2017 season. No audition is required. Join by registering for this one-credit class at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. on Tuesdays at the NVCC Alexandria campus, 3001 N. Beauregard, with some optional extra Saturday morning rehearsals. The college waives tuition for seniors 60 and older. Dr. Mark Whitmire, 703-845-6097 [mwhitmire@nvcc.edu](mailto:mwhitmire@nvcc.edu)

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 11

**Shut Up and Write: YA Authors on Writing.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. The path to a finished book is fraught with peril - here's a chance to learn from authors Jon Skovron and Jessica Spotswood who have successfully made the journey. The authors take questions from the audience, and their books are available for signing after each discussion. [arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2815019](http://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2815019) 703-228-5990

## SATURDAY/JAN. 14

**Forty+ Movement and Theatre.** 7:30 p.m. at Theatre on the Run 3700 S. Four Mile Run Dr. Forty+ features a collection of works grounded in movement and theatricality. With eight performers, the short works combine to a collective whole to traverse relationship, the inventiveness of situation, and the progression of life. \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. 703-933-1111, [janefranklindance@gmail.com](mailto:janefranklindance@gmail.com)

**The Big Meow.** 3 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Specially adapted for young audiences, Jane Franklin Dance offers a family-friendly performance



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Irina Tsikurishvili plays the role of the Witch in Synetic Theater's production of "Sleeping Beauty."

# 'Sleeping Beauty'

FROM PAGE 8

this holiday season when miracles happen and hope and faith in goodness and love are renewed. Our gift to our audiences is allowing them to find the child in each of them and believe that anything is possible."

Zana Gankhuyag plays the role of the Prince, a young and relentless character who comes into his own through the progression of the show. "His journey to find Sleeping Beauty/Briar Rose is not easy. It forces him to question what he knows and who he trusts," he said.

He added: "There is an undeniable innocence about him at the beginning; he has this burning passion to explore, but he never allows himself to stray too far from the familiar, until he meets the young girl in the woods. His encounter with her becomes the catalyst in his personal arc, and flips his world

upside down."

One of his challenges has been the use of fabrics and projections that has been a beast to tackle. "Our set is made completely of long drapes of aerial silks that can be utilized in any way to create new images and shapes, as well as act as a screen for the projections," he said. "The fabric has a life of its own, and we have been working very diligently to learn its behavior. Especially for our dance and fight scenes, trying to manipulate the fabric to act as an extension of ourselves is quite challenging."

Synetic Theater will present "Sleeping Beauty" from Dec. 7 to Jan. 8, 2017. Show times are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$60. The venue is located at 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. Visit [www.synetictheater.org](http://www.synetictheater.org) or call the box office at 866-811-4111.

of "The Big Meow. Ó Little Cat is taunted by neighborhood felines because his meow is just too darn loud. "The Big Meow" is a story of hope, disappointment, courage and the need for belonging. \$15 general admission, \$10 children. [janefranklindance@gmail.com](mailto:janefranklindance@gmail.com) or 703-933-1111

## Bilingual Children's Theatre

**Festival.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Rosslyn Spectrum Theater, 1611 North Kent St. Six hours of continuous theatre, magic, dance, music and other activities, including a bilingual play. Adults \$15; children \$10; 4 and under free. 703-548-3092 [www.teatrodelaluna.org](http://www.teatrodelaluna.org), [info@teatrodelaluna.org](mailto:info@teatrodelaluna.org)

## TUESDAY/JAN. 24

**Finding a Job, a Career, and a Passion.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Washington Post columnist and New York Times best-seller Jeffrey J. Selingo will share tips for students and their parents choosing a college, getting the most out of the

undergraduate years, and mastering post-college life. [arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2844425](http://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2844425), 703-228-5990

## SATURDAY/JAN. 28

**Forty+ Movement and Theatre.** 7:30 p.m. at Theatre on the Run 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Forty+ features a collection of works grounded in movement and theatricality. With eight performers, the short works combine to a collective whole to traverse relationship, the inventiveness of situation, and the progression of life. \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. [janefranklindance@gmail.com](mailto:janefranklindance@gmail.com)

**The Big Meow.** 3 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Specially adapted for young audiences, Jane Franklin Dance offers a family-friendly performance of "The Big Meow." Little Cat is taunted by neighborhood felines because his meow is just too darn loud. \$15 general admission, \$10 children. [janefranklindance@gmail.com](mailto:janefranklindance@gmail.com) or 703-933-1111



PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

A granite-surfaced food preparation island and dining counter now facilitates the easy circulation needed for entertaining; the “built-in” was custom-designed to support a wide-range of storage, cooking and clean-up requirements.

## Floorplan Eases Entertaining

Open house helps homeowners looking for ideas.

BY JOHN BYRD

It's one thing to talk a good game; quite another to put your ideas to the test by inviting a long list of perceptive critics to inspect your wares. “We like to see how well our plans work first hand whenever we can,” Bob Gallagher said, as he describes a holiday tour his home remodeling firm held at one of this client's homes last Saturday.



PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

The new makeover features well-defined appreciably private activity zones within a warm ambiance that affords sight-lines in all directions.

“Our designers spend a lot of time conferring with clients on specific needs and learning from case histories — but what really counts is seeing your plan in action. A holiday tour is a test drive, but it's also a chance to explore ideas, brainstorm on breaking trends — and just enjoy being around people who are enjoying what we create.”

Case in point, the Arlington home of Steve and Louise Brooks.

Two years ago, the Brooks hired Sun Design to convert the primary living area of their raised rambler into space that would serve a multitude of purposes, including a place for frequent gatherings of friends and family.

Last weekend, the remodeler hosted an open house for anyone who wanted to see how their freshly-minted new space plan would perform under real life home entertainment conditions.

There were about 50 visitors in all. Standing in one corner, one could see fluidly organic pockets of revelers — but all flows smoothly, a far cry from the past.

In the past, one's guests were usually in another room.

The original small kitchen with its adjacent living room and dining room actually felt crowded whenever the head-count exceeded six or seven.

The eight-foot ceiling and small-scale windows didn't help either; ditto, the “builder grade” interior finishes and restricted space-use options.

“We're a host site for our church, so we wanted a place that would allow us to comfortably meet with friends,” said Louise Brooks. “We just weren't at all sure how to make that happen within our existing floor plan.”

Fortunately, Gallagher and team knew the way. In fact, Gallagher notes that there's been something of a revolution in how

SEE OPEN FLOORPLAN, PAGE 12



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## HomeLifeStyle

# Open Floorplan Eases Entertaining

FROM PAGE II

homeowners are now configuring living space: Emergent interior design styles now allow for well-articulated activity zones integrated into a visually distinctive spatial continuum. "The end result feels generously-sized, yet unified."

To effect the changes Brooks sought, Sun Design concentrated on strategic improvements inside the envelope of the existing structure: a nearly 800-square-foot great room was formed by eliminating walls separating the kitchen, dining room, living room and foyer; to create the 14-foot cathedral ceiling, the new interior incorporated a seldom-used attic.

A granite-surfaced food preparation island and dining counter now facilitates the easy circulation needed for entertaining; the "built-in" was custom-designed to support a wide-range of storage, cooking and clean-up requirements.

The plan also increased natural light. A south-facing trapezoidal-shaped window provides a hill-top view of the neighborhood. Distinctive finish work details delineate key activity zones within a warmly cohesive ambiance that features sight-lines

in all directions.

Meanwhile, back at the tour, Bob Gallagher is talking to a drop-in guest about how the new space is used on an everyday basis.

"It works extremely well," he said. "The open plan allows people to happily pursue different tasks within the same continuum without loss of personal space. You have privacy, but you're in eye-contact. It's a very popular trend."

Gallagher also stresses the value of an open house to homeowners looking for ideas.

"We've been doing tours of newly remodeled homes for about 10 years," he said. "We've found that the open houses often become neighborhood meet-up opportunities where people naturally start exploring matters of mutual interest."

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently has a second office in McLean. For information, call 703-425-5588 or visit [www.SunDesignInc.com](http://www.SunDesignInc.com).

John Byrd ([byrdmatx@gmail.com](mailto:byrdmatx@gmail.com)) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

## HOME SALES

In October 2016, 239 Arlington homes sold between \$2,057,000-\$60,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$555,000-\$445,000 range. For the complete list, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Address	BR	FB	HB	....	Postal	City	....	Sold Price	....	Type	....	Lot AC	Postal Code	....	Subdivision
2720 ARLINGTON MILL DR #707	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$555,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22206	.....	22207	SHIRLINGTON VILLAGE CONDO
4448 20TH RD N	4	1	1	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$550,000	....	Detached	.....	0.13	.....	22207	WAVERLY VILLAGE
1000 RANDOLPH ST #207	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$545,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22201	.....	22201	THE BERKELEY
2013 RANDOLPH ST	3	1	1	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$540,000	....	Detached	.....	0.11	.....	22204	DOUGLAS PARK
4100 33RD ST S	3	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$539,000	....	Townhouse	.....	22206	.....	22206	FAIRLINGTON
2021 QUINCY ST S	3	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$528,000	....	Detached	.....	0.12	.....	22204	DOUGLAS PARK
1645 HAYES ST S #2	3	2	1	1	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$520,000	....	Attach/Row Hse	.....	22202	.....	22202	SOUTHAMPTON
1530 KEY BLVD #1030	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$520,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22209	.....	22209	ATRIUM CONDO
1107 S. WALTER REED DR #403	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$519,900	....	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	.....	22204	.....	22204	COLUMBIA PLACE
2012 S QUEBEC ST	3	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$515,000	....	Detached	.....	0.11	.....	22204	DOUGLAS PARK
2522E ARLINGTON MILL DR S #5	3	2	2	1	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$515,000	....	Attach/Row Hse	.....	22206	.....	22206	WINDGATE
1107 S. WALTER REED DR #303	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$500,000	....	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	.....	22204	.....	22204	COLUMBIA PLACE
1708 EDGEWOOD ST	3	3	3	1	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$500,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.02	.....	22204	FAIRVIEW MEWS
2101 EMERSON ST	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$500,000	....	Detached	.....	0.11	.....	22207	ARLINGTON
1001 RANDOLPH ST N #301	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$497,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22201	.....	22201	EASTVIEW AT BALLSTON
880 POLLARD ST #804	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$495,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22203	.....	22203	BALLSTON
3050 WOODROW ST S	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$495,000	....	Attach/Row Hse	.....	22206	.....	22206	FAIRLINGTON VILLAGES
1001 RANDOLPH ST N #201	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$493,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22201	.....	22201	EASTVIEW AT BALLSTON
4778 21ST RD N	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$490,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	22207	GLEBEWOOD VILLAGE
1001 VERMONT ST N #201	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$489,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22201	.....	22201	WESTVIEW AT BALLSTON METRO
1300 CRYSTAL DR #601S	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$485,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22202	.....	22202	CRYSTAL GATEWAY
4817 14TH ST S	5	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$485,000	....	Detached	.....	0.15	.....	22204	BARCROFT FOREST
2500D ARLINGTON MILL DR #4	2	2	2	1	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$485,000	....	Townhouse	.....	22206	.....	22206	WINDGATE
1827 COLUMBIA PIKE	3	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$483,000	....	Detached	.....	0.06	.....	22204	COLUMBIA PIKE
4181 FOUR MILE RUN DR S #B	3	2	2	1	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$480,000	....	Townhouse	.....	22204	.....	22204	WEST VILLAGE OF SHIRLINGTON
2100 LEE HWY #443	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$475,000	....	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	.....	22201	.....	22201	ASTORIA
3241 UTAH ST S	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$469,900	....	Townhouse	.....	22206	.....	22206	FAIRLINGTON
5012 11TH ST S	3	1	1	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$460,000	....	Detached	.....	0.12	.....	22204	COLUMBIA FOREST
3650 GLEBE RD #352	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$450,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22202	.....	22202	ECLIPSE
900 STAFFORD ST #1015	2	2	2	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$447,500	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22203	.....	22203	ALTA VISTA
1800 WILSON BLVD #106	1	1	1	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$446,000	....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	22201	.....	22201	1800 WILSON
1530 KEY BLVD #512	1	1	1	0	.....	ARLINGTON	.....	\$445,000	....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22209	.....	22209	THE ATRIUM

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12/21/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide III

12/21/2016.....Connection Families: Safe for the Holidays

12/28/2016.....Children's Connection 2016

**JANUARY**

1/4/2017.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

1/11/2017.....HomeLifeStyle

1/18/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

1/25/2017.....Community Guide

1/25/2017.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

**FEBRUARY**

2/1/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month

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# A Ministry to the Faithful and the Community Beyond

FROM PAGE 3

idea that we have a tradition that's rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Against that reference point, the Church always considers its teachings to be conservative, regardless of where they fall on the partisan spectrum.

"[S]ometimes the positions that we take in the public forum are going to align ourselves with people who are known politically as conservative. But at other times the positions that we take to protect and promote human life and dignity will align us with people who are sometimes known as liberal in the public forum," said Ferguson.

For example, Catholic Voice NC supported an amendment to the N.C. state constitution that would have banned same-sex nuptials. It also supported the DREAM Act, bipartisan legislation to provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrant youth. Similarly, the Virginia Catholic Conference supported legislation to restrict access to abortions. It also opposed allowing concealed handguns on school property.

**BURBRIDGE ALSO** has experience with ecumenical diplomacy. He served five years as co-chair of the International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue, a Vatican-sponsored program to improve relations between the historically estranged Christian traditions.

"It was a wonderful opportunity. I was honored. ... What I learned from it is that there is a scholarly approach to the work of ecumenism, where we really have to study and learn, 'What do you believe? And why do you believe that? And what's the history of that?' And so we get to teach each other. ... And then what you try to do is you try to find, where is there common ground? What are the things — the statements, the core beliefs, the convictions — that we agree upon? And let's put them on the table, too, and celebrate them. Now if it's a true dialogue, you also have to say, 'And where do we disagree? ... What are those things that separate us?' And then we begin to try to explain that to each other.

"And then every part of the dialogue was always rooted in prayer. We prayed together every single day. And one day the Pentecostals would lead the prayer, and the next day the Catholics would lead the prayer. One time they would

take us to a Pentecostal celebration, and we would take them to a Catholic celebration. So you experience each other, how they live and celebrate the faith.

"So I think if you put all those principles together, then any ecumenical dialogue would be fruit-

ful. ... And here, I know the work in the Diocese of Arlington — the ecumenical efforts — is very, very strong. So I look forward to continuing that dialogue."

In any case, Burbidge believes his diocese must engage beyond itself with both principled tradi-

tion and charity. The two go hand in hand: "As God's servants first, we are called to bring the truth and the joy of the Gospel into the public arena, with conviction and, always, in love."

Any public officials seeking to engage the diocese should con-

tact the Office of the Bishop at 703-841-2511. Other religious leaders should contact either the Office of the Bishop, or the Rev. Donald Rooney, the director of the diocese's Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs at 703-451-8576.

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# No Urge



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's not often; heck, it's extremely rare, that I don't write a cancer column, as I call them. And my reaction to not having the 'urge' to write yet another cancer column is, somewhere between simply taking a break/brake in the action and having no need to impose my cancer-centric self-indulgence on you faithful readers.

I'll be the first to acknowledge that I write these columns because I need to, and because I'm allowed to; thank you Mary Kimm. Not that the related purpose is to avoid therapy (however, I did go on a handful of appointments with a psychologist but it seemed pointless and especially so, when the therapist expressed that she felt I was fairly well-adjusted). Ergo, I really didn't see a purpose per se.

Oh sure, I will admit that the writing of these columns gets out of me some very personal and occasionally painful prose outlining the anxieties and fears of a cancer patient undergoing life-sustaining treatment that is better out than in, if professionals are to be believed. And maybe I'll further acknowledge that, based on feedback I've received in the six-plus years that I've been writing them, that the content is, generally speaking, much appreciated (I'm not ready to characterize them as having served a greater purpose/been for the greater good however, because it's only me I'm writing about and there's a much bigger world than what I perceive in my head) and helpful. Nevertheless, I can't imagine that it's just me I'm writing about, mostly; and a la Las Vegas, sort of: in that what happens to me only happens to me. Hardly.

Just because I've made public something very personal and presumably private doesn't make me the go-to-guy for cancer chat, it just makes me a person willing to open the doors wider than are typically opened. So what? A little honesty never hurt anyone; self-indulgence though, can be really boring and tiresome. (I mean, sometimes, too much of a good thing is simply too much. To quote my deceased mother: "It's enough already.") And as much as I'm cognizant of possibly droning on and wasting what attention-span you've allocated in my direction, I am trying not to drone on and trying not to lose you in the process.

Possibly there is a means to my hopefully not premature end. Perhaps admitting the error of my ways and/or addressing the cancer concerns as I regularly do has contributed/caused my rather unexpected (based on my oncologist's original "13 month to two-year prognosis from FEBRUARY 2009) living "unexpectedly." Perhaps laughing in the face of danger extends one's life more than giving in to it. All I know is, whatever I've done/been able to do emotionally was not/has not been thought out. I've just continued to be me, myself and I — which has included my weekly cancer columns. Moreover, the three of us, collectively, have likely survived for so long because so much that could have bothered us/me, didn't.

Whether it was the outlet I had/have in my column, my personality, encouragement from family and friends, or my connection to The Connection, there's no way to know. What I do know is, the weeks when I don't write a cancer column are my favorites. Those are the weeks when I feel that cancer doesn't have a hold on me and in turn, I feel that I have a hold on cancer. And if there's one thing us cancer patients want to feel, it's control. Even if it's only for a week or two, here or there, the benefit is exponentially greater than the time we actually get to experience it.

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

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

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FROM PAGE 7

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**NEW DMV CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER**

In an effort to provide more convenient service options to residents who live, work or attend school in Arlington, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles opened its first commuter-friendly office recently at 3434 Washington Blvd. in the Ballston area. 804-367-6834 [brandy.brubaker@dmv.virginia.gov](mailto:brandy.brubaker@dmv.virginia.gov)

**FIRST TUESDAY EACH MONTH**

**Volunteer Bike Repair Night.** 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Volunteers gather to refurbish bikes, sort parts or help with essential tasks. No experience necessary. [raymond@phoenixbikes.org](mailto:raymond@phoenixbikes.org)

**BEFORE DEC. 15**

**U.S. Postal Service Letters from Santa Program.** The U.S. Postal Service can help with Santa replies to a child's letter — complete with a North Pole postmark. Visit [about.usps.com/holidaynews/letters-from-santa.htm](http://about.usps.com/holidaynews/letters-from-santa.htm) to learn how a child can get a letter back from Santa. "Letters from Santa" must be received no later than Dec. 15. Santa's helpers at the Postal Service will take care of the rest.

**SUNDAY/DEC. 18**

**Unwrapped Donations Due** for Adopt-A-Room for Doorways for Women and Families. The Adopt-a-Room program allows Doorways to replenish much-needed kitchen supplies for their Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home and Domestic Violence Safehouse. [suzanne@thestrups.com](mailto:suzanne@thestrups.com)

**SATURDAY/DEC. 31**

**Grant Application Deadline.** Transurban, the Virginia Department of Transportation's partner on the 395 Express Lanes project, has launched the "395 Express Lanes Community Grant Program." The quarterly grant program seeks to respond to the needs of direct-impact communities within the I-395 corridor during the project's development and construction phase. It will provide organizations with grant awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to implement projects that sustain, enhance or protect residents along the project corridor. The program accepts applications and distributes grant awards each quarter. Visit [395ExpressLanes.com/grant-application](http://395ExpressLanes.com/grant-application).

**TUESDAY/JAN. 3**

**County Board Organizational Meeting.** 8:30 a.m. at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard in Room 307. 2017 Organizational Meeting is the first business day of 2017.

**THURSDAY/JAN. 5**

**General Assembly Delegation Public Hearing.** 7-9 p.m. in Arlington County Board Room, 2100 N. Clarendon Blvd., #300. Seeking input from citizens of the 30th District prior to the 2017 legislative session. 571-384-8957 or [District30@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:District30@senate.virginia.gov)

**WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25**

**Student Screenwriting Contest Deadline.** New screenwriting contest for all middle and high school students in Arlington Public Schools, made possible by grants from the Washington Forrest Foundation and the Arlington Department of Arts Education, as well as APS students and parents. [www.instagram.com/arlingtonstudentfilmfest/](http://www.instagram.com/arlingtonstudentfilmfest/)

**TRAINING STARTS FEB. 17**

**Tree Stewards.** Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria are volunteers who take the lead within their communities to enhance a sustainable urban forest through volunteer activities and public education programs including:

- ❖ planting, pruning, mulching and watering of street, park and school trees
- ❖ staffing informational booths at farmers' markets and local festivals, in conjunction with Virginia Cooperative Extension
- ❖ leading neighborhood Tree Walks and speaking at community gatherings
- ❖ advocating for trees wherever and whenever needed. For details on what the training sessions involve and registration forms, go to [treestewards.org](http://treestewards.org)

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 The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

**Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection  
 The Burke Connection  
 The Fairfax Connection  
 The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection

**Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
 The Mount Vernon Gazette

**Zone 4:** Centre View North  
 Centre View South

**Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac

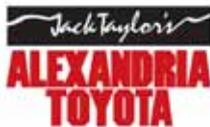
**Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
 The Vienna/Oakton Connection  
 The McLean Connection  
 The Great Falls Connection

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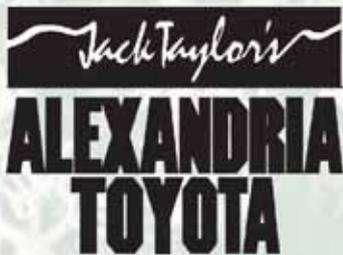
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