

# The Arlington Connection

Ariel (Katelyn Sparks) trades her voice with Ursula (Maddie Ashton) for a chance to live on land in Encore Stage & Studio Theatre's "The Little Mermaid Jr." Final performances are this weekend.

## Vocal Sacrifice

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### Fluid Numbers

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### School Board Approves New School's Plans

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### Creating Books With Children

A+, PAGE 5







Eric Gittens, an Inova employee, signs up donors at table.

## Giving Blood

The Washington Capitals and Inova Blood Donor Services held the Capitals annual winter blood drive on Saturday, Jan. 4, at Kettler Capitals Iceplex. To donate blood, see [inova.org/donateblood](http://inova.org/donateblood).



Ryleigh Fisher gets an autograph from Slapshot, the Caps mascot, at the gift table. Donors received T-shirts and bobble-heads.

PHOTOS BY  
CORRIN REID  
THE CONNECTION



Donors in waiting area.

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## Fluid Numbers

County Board chairman says aquatics center always has a range of potential operating costs.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**F**or Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fisette, the Aquatics, Health and Fitness center at Long Bridge Park isn't just a political debate about capital spending. It's a passion. Fisette swam through high school, and he played water polo through his college years. His love of aquatics is well known, and so is his advocacy for the \$80 million project.

**"I discussed in black-and-white, on the screen, the range of operating costs could be from \$700,000 to \$2.5 million."**

— Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fisette

has seven or eight of these 50-meter facilities. We're looking at getting one."

Unfortunately for Fisette and other

"I know from my experience in competitive swimming that very few Arlingtonians who compete in swimming can do it in the county. They have to go elsewhere," said Fisette. "Fairfax



**Operating costs for the Aquatics, Health and Fitness center at Long Bridge Park are higher than originally expected, although County Board Chairman Jay Fisette says he outlined a range of operating costs before voters approved a bond referendum to finance the facility.**

supporters of the project, those plans have been complicated by red ink. Late last year, county officials doubled the estimated annual operating costs from \$2 million to \$4 million. Then early this year, County Manager Barbara Donnellan announced that she would not be bringing the contract for construction before the County Board in early 2014 as expected. For many critics of the \$80 million project, the cost overruns were yet another argument that the facility should be downsized.

During a recent interview at Long Bridge Park, though, Fisette disagreed with that assessment. He said that Arlington officials made a mistake by releasing an estimated

operating cost that was wrong. Shortly before county voters approved a \$40 million bond referendum in back 2012, Fisette spoke to the Arlington Committee of 100 and outlined a wide range of potential operating costs.

"I discussed in black-and-white, on the screen, the range of operating costs could be from \$700,000 to \$2.5 million," said Fisette. "The difference between that and what has garnered so much attention is 15 percent."

**THE AQUATICS CENTER** has become a matter of controversy in recent weeks. Critics say the project is a boondoggle, sucking

up county money at a time when resources are scarce and the list of projects seems to continue indefinitely. Even before the county manager announced that the project was delayed indefinitely, concern was growing about the viability of the project. During the annual New Year's Day organizational meeting, County Board member Libby Garvey said county officials should go back to the drawing board on the aquatics center.

"I think we should circle back to our community and have perhaps a difficult but I think very important conversation and discussion about the aquatics center, how it will benefit Arlington and what it will cost before we move forward," said Garvey.

Then Donnellan dropped a bomb. Elected officials would not even be considering the construction bid in early 2014 as planned because bids came in "significantly higher" than expected. County officials refused to disclose the dollar amount of the bids, citing Virginia Public Procurement Act.

"Those bids are still open, so if we were to say anything about it we would be in violation of the code of Virginia," said Mark Schwartz, deputy county manager. "And you wouldn't want us to do that."

Fisette says the indefinite delay of the aquatics center is no reason to doubt that the facility will eventually be constructed on the northern edge of the Long Bridge Park, named for the historic bridge across the Potomac River that was a gateway for many generations. In more recent times, the site has been an industrial wasteland that's

SEE FLUID NUMBERS, PAGE 9

## New School School Board approves plans for \$47 million facility in Williamsburg.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Williamsburg neighborhood is about to get new \$47 million elementary school, and plans for the facility have now been approved by members of the Arlington County School Board. The 97,000-square-foot school will have 28 classrooms and a capacity of 630 students.

"We are very excited to have reached this milestone in our capital planning program," said School Board Chairwoman Abby Raphael. "The community should be proud of this school and what it represents."

School officials say the building will re-

quire less maintenance, provide healthier air and reduce storm water run-off while saving operating costs. In addition to general classrooms, the building will include a cafeteria and cooking kitchen, two art rooms, three music rooms, a library, administrative suite, special needs spaces, flexible classrooms and breakout spaces that can be used for various functions and a high school sized gym floor.

The final design is the culmination of extensive collaboration between APS, the Public Facilities Review Committee, the Building Level Planning Committee, Arlington County staff and the design team led by the project architect VMDO. Construction will



begin in February and the school will open in September of 2015.

"It is the product of hard work and collaboration between APS, our county colleagues and the entire community, and will

provide more seats for more students in a new and exciting learning environment," said Raphael. "I look forward to September 2015 when our students, parents, staff and the community will enjoy this new school."



ARLINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS





# OPINION

## From Late Night Comedy to Your Bedroom

### Why the General Assembly matters more in Virginia than most states.

**T**he Virginia General Assembly began its annual session last week on Jan. 8. The actions of the Virginia General Assembly matter more to localities than it would in many other states. In Virginia, localities have only the power specifically granted by the General Assembly, the Dillon rule.

So, for example, Montgomery County and Prince Georges County in Maryland recently voted to increase the minimum wage in those localities. They didn't need permission from Maryland General Assembly to do so. Arlington and Alexandria might be inclined to follow suit (the District government also voted to increase the minimum wage) but do not have that power.

The General Assembly limits how localities can raise revenue, what kinds of traffic regulations they can implement, whether they can control where guns are allowed, whether school districts can begin classes before Labor Day, and much more.

Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria sent their members of the Northern Virginia delegation of state senators, all Democrats, and delegates, overwhelmingly Democrats (13-5), to Richmond, where the House of Delegates is overwhelming Republican and control of the Senate is still up in the air pending special elections. Del. Ken Plum (D-36) filed HB536 which would "increase the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.25 per hour effective July 1, 2014, and to \$9.25 per hour effective July 1, 2015, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act." It isn't likely to see the light of day.

Anyone can watch the Virginia House of Delegates or Senate on streaming video when either is in session, and the Virginia General Assembly proved last year that it can be worthy of national attention for entertainment. It is in fact well worth tuning in once or twice or

more. Visit <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for video links.

Legislators will consider literally thousands of bills between now and March 8.

Some quite random examples of proposed legislation from local delegates and senators:

❖ Del. Dave Albo (R-42): Driving while intoxicated; refusal of blood or breath tests. This bill would allow a person who has been arrested for driving while intoxicated and who has refused to submit to a blood or breath test be given another opportunity to consent to testing after the arresting officer has advised the person of the consequences of his refusal.

❖ Del. David Bulova (D-37): One bill would allow the employment of lights for the observation of deer (spotlighting) for certain activities authorized by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Another would provide that property used in connection with certain crimes associated with human trafficking is subject to forfeiture to the Commonwealth.

❖ Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) has propose the repeal of last year's hybrid tax, plus a bill that would place a cap on the compensation that may be paid to a special counsel appointed to handle certain legal matters where it would be improper or uneconomical for the Attorney General, or the Attorney General is unable, to handle such matters. That cap would be the same as allowed for a court appointed attorney, a very small amount.

❖ Del Barbara Comstock (R-34) proposes to allow local school districts to set their own calendars. Another bill would include non-motor vehicles including bicycles among vehicles that any driver must not tailgate. Another would require most state colleges and universities to allocate 75 percent of their slots for in-state students by 2019-2020 school year.

❖ Del. Patrick Hope (D-47) proposes to prohibit firearms on the floor of the House of Delegates. Another bill would require public institutions of higher learning in Virginia to provide a dedicated page on its website to information on mental health resources available to students.

❖ Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45) proposes that an unexpired Virginia driver's license remains

### See for Yourself

Visit <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for live video links, information on who your legislators are and how to track bills. Every resident is represented by one state delegate and one state senator; look up your and email to be placed on their mailing lists. Consider attending their local meetings.

valid for purposes of voter identification at the polls notwithstanding the fact that it has been suspended or revoked under certain circumstances. Another bill would clarify that vehicles must stop to allow pedestrians to cross highways at marked crosswalks.

❖ Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67) proposes an amendment to the U.S. Constitution; "Makes application to the U.S. Congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing a constitutional amendment that pertains to the subject of balancing the federal budget."

❖ Del. Kaye Kory (D-38) also proposes to allow local school districts to set their own calendar and to repeal the hybrid tax. Another bill would clarify a law which prohibits a person from overtaking or passing another vehicle stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection when a pedestrian is present.

❖ Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49) proposes a Virginia version of the Dream Act, allowing in-state tuition for students who came to the U.S. as children without documentation when certain conditions are met.

❖ Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) proposes to create the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, which will be established and operated by a new division within the State Corporation Commission.

❖ Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) proposes the repeal of the constitutional amendment dealing with marriage that was approved by referendum at the November 2006 election.

❖ Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for the owner of a website to both post an arrest photo and solicit, request, or accept money for removing the photograph.

❖ Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) proposes to require drivers and passengers to wait for a reasonable opportunity to open vehicle doors on the side adjacent to moving traffic, an effort to prevent the "dooring" of bicyclists.

### EDITORIAL

## Day of Service

Arlington for a Clean Environment coordinated volunteers to clean up Barcroft Park at 4200 S Four Mile Run Drive on Saturday, Jan. 4, as part of Gov. Terry McAuliffe's Commonwealth Day of Service events.

PHOTOS BY  
CORRIN REID  
THE CONNECTION



**Elenor Hodges, ACE organizer, addresses the participants at the beginning of the cleanup, advising of them of which areas to clean up, what to look for and the proper discarding methods (recyclables vs trash).**



**Del. Alfonso Lopez stopped by and thanked the group for their help.**

The  
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Connection

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# Creating Books with Children

Experts say helping little readers become authors can deepen a love of reading.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**K**.J., 8, and his sister Kalina, 3, love reading books, particularly books they've written themselves or with their mother. In fact, K.J. is an avid reader of both homemade and traditionally published books, and his sister is following in his footsteps.

"When they were younger, I took pictures and copied them on a home printer," said their mother, Holly Karapetkova, an associate professor of literature at Marymount University in Arlington. "Once they were older, they illustrated the books or chose the item they wanted to include like for a specific letter in an alphabet book."

Karapetkova and other researchers said that creating books like this with children is not only easy and inexpensive, it's one of the best ways to help them develop a love of books and reading, which Karapetkova said is one of the greatest gifts a parent can give a child.

"Reading is one of the fundamental ways that we interact with the world and particularly with knowledge," she said. "As a college professor, I find that my students who can read well can also think well and write well. They are thinkers on a much deeper level. Research has shown that reading makes you more contemplative, builds patience, concentration, and you have to use your imagination."

**MAKING YOUR OWN BOOKS** stretches the imagination. M. Susan Burns, Ph.D., a member of the early childhood education and human development and family sciences faculty at George Mason University says there are a few things that parents should keep in mind when making books with their children, however.

"Parents need to make it a positive experience," she said. "Children need to have books available [on topics] that are of true interest to them. When a book is being made with parents, it may not be engaging if the book is only of interest to the parent."

"Sometimes it gets sickening to have your kid tell you another princess story or another train story, but it is really important though to go with the child's interest," she continued. "You can take a little bit of a twist on the story by maybe adding a map that shows the places where the train might go."

Children may also want to turn to real-life for their books. "Children love to create stories based on their own experiences, and begin to develop a love of art and literature at an early age," said Sharon Fishel, ArtReach director for the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. "Parents can foster the link between drawing, writing and reading by having their child draw pictures of their daily routine or special events, such as field trips, family outings or unplanned adventures."

When creating a homemade book, the text doesn't have to be original either. "You can take a familiar song and adapt the lyrics," said Karapetkova. "For example, a book



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLY KARAPETKOVA

**K.J., 8, and his sister Kalina, 3, make books with their mother, Holly Karapetkova, a professor of literature at Marymount University in Arlington. Experts say making books with children can help them develop a love of reading.**

about a daily routine can say "This is the way we brush our teeth, brush our teeth, brush our teeth early in the morning."

The techniques for young children are a little different. "You want a little one to engage with a book," said Fishel. "A parent-child idea is nice. We do a lot of parent-child workshops here [at the McLean Project for the Arts] where one parent does one side [of the page] and child does the other."

The books children and their parents create don't have to be fancy, however. "When I've made books like this with my children, we've taken photos, we cut out pictures from magazines, glue sticks, something to put the picture onto," said Burns. "You can make those books fun by using artifacts. If you're doing a book from your beach trip, your child may want to put some sand in the book, but it is important to have a child initiate it."

"I like the thicker paper stock and sometimes it makes it easier to hold onto," she added. "The other thing is to get the clear laminating paper and putting a plastic sheet over it."

Even "folded paper, bound with a pencil becomes a writer's journal," said Karapetkova. "You can also take plastic zip-lock bags, punch holes in the bags, fill them and they become bath time books because they are waterproof."

Fishel suggests sticking with the basics: "Composition book, crayons, colored pencils. Go to a crafts store [and get] bags of origami papers or printed pattern papers," she said, noting that "each part of it can be come a lesson plan. Get a patterned piece of paper and explore with your child what makes that a pattern. Don't assume that your child knows."

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS** at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac create their own books as part of the el-

ementary school curriculum. Jordan Love, head of the Lower School, said that parents can "create a writing center at home by providing a child with an area dedicated

to their work and ideas. All children need is blank paper, coloring crayons or markers, and a quiet place to work, preferably at a table that is their size. Elementary-age children should be provided paper that has a blank section at the top and lines on the bottom.

"For preschool age children," Love said, "parents can ask their child to dictate or describe in order the illustrations. Parents should describe what they are writing while the child watches them transcribe their ideas to the paper. This reinforces that language can be printed."

Experts add that it's important to emphasize that mistakes, corrections and changes are OK. "I usually say don't let them erase what they write or draw 150 times. It is not about perfection," said Fishel.

Burns agrees. "In books for pleasure you don't want to make big corrections," she said. "It's the relationship with parents that will make it positive."

Love suggests that parents display their children's books. "Writing and reading go hand in hand, and through supporting the writing process, parents are enhancing their child's ability to be a more effective and efficient reader. Writing together helps to expand a child's vocabulary, encourage creativity, activate prior knowledge, and build self-esteem."

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## ‘Curtain Up!’

Alexandria actress takes the stage in Signature’s production of “Gypsy.”

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

She was always more tease than strip, and ever since she first shared the stage with Tessie the Tassel Twirler in the 1920s, she was determined to be famous for more than feathers and falsies. She was Gypsy Rose Lee, the queen of burlesque, whose 1959 memoirs inspired the award-winning Broadway musical “Gypsy,” now playing at Shirlington’s Signature Theatre.

Born Rose Louise Hovick, we meet her as Louise, the gawky daughter of the quintessential stage mother Rose. When her prettier and more talented sister June (later to become the actress June Havoc) abruptly runs away from the family’s vaudeville act, Louise awkwardly steps into the spotlight and out of her clothes in an effort to fulfill her mother’s show business aspirations.

But while the title may suggest that the show is about the famous stripper, it is really about Mama Rose, the unrelenting stage mother played by such legendary actresses as Ethel Merman, Rosalind Russell, Angela Lansbury, Bernadette Peters and Patti LuPone. Add to that list Sherri L. Edelen, who takes command of the stage to belt out a vibrant score by Jules Styne and Stephen Sondheim that includes “Let Me Entertain You,” “Together, Wherever We Go,” and the signature “Everything’s Coming Up Roses.”

From her first entrance into the theatre, barking “Sing out, Louise!” as she marches up the audience aisle, Edelen completely inhabits the role of Rose, a mother who steamrolls her way onto vaudeville stages across the country. Too late to achieve her own stardom, Rose is undaunted in pursuing it vicariously through her two daughters.

Edelen, a two-time Helen Hayes award winner, portrays a dangerously obsessive Rose whose need for success is palpable from the opening strains of “Some People” to the bittersweet finale “Roses Turn.” From belting to ballads, Edelen is spellbinding as she nails the challenging range of songs with a performance that outshines her Broadway peers.

Mitchell Hebert is Herbie, an endearing but lonely soul who hooks up with Rose after a chance meeting at an audition. Hebert delivers a tender performance as Herbie falls painfully in love with Rose and endures far more and stays far longer than any man should. He and Edelen have a visible chemistry that is ultimately doomed by Rose’s unquenchable need to succeed no matter the cost to those around her.

Maria Rizzo plays the title role of Gypsy, and her unexpected conversion from self-conscious wallflower to the voluptuous star is convincing and captivating. She particularly shines in the touching and melancholy ballad “Little Lamb,” yet with each step across the stage, Rizzo visibly transforms from the sweet Louise into the savvy stripper who became world renown.

Joe Calarco directs the multitalented and multi-generational cast and coaxes engaging performances from Erin Cearlock as Baby June and Ellen Roberts as Young Louise. In an especially clever use of staging and strobe lights, Calarco magically transforms the tots into teens during the Karma Camp choreog-



PHOTO BY TERESA WOOD

**It’s “Rose’s Turn” to be a star as Momma Rose (Sherri L. Edelen) imagines a different life for herself in the musical “Gypsy,” playing now through Jan. 26 at Signature Theatre.**

raphy to “Baby June and Her Newsboys.”

Vincent Kempinski stands out as Tulsa, one of the older newsboys, with an enthusiastic song-and-dance routine in “All I Need is the Girl.” But it’s Sandy Bainum, Donna Migliaccio and Tracy Lynn Olivera as the trio of strippers who long ago should have hung up their G-strings that stop the show with an uproarious rendition of “You Gotta Get a Gimmick.”

Under the talented baton of Jon Kalbfleisch, Styne’s musical score is superb and the 11-piece orchestra, punctuated by the richness of bright brass and woodwinds, electrified the audience and earned an ovation of its own.

Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer and Managing Director Maggie Boland have staged a production full of vitality that is enhanced by James Kronzer’s scenic design and impressive period costumes by Frank Labovitz.

But in the end, the success of any production of Gypsy will always be determined by the strength of its Rose, and Edelen, with an aching in her voice, perfectly nails the brash humor, the manicured tyranny and even the faint glimmers of vulnerability as Rose’s determination turns to disappointment and despair.

“Make them beg for more and then don’t give it to them!” was the mantra of Mama Rose, and the real Gypsy never actually appeared nude on stage — her art was in being sexy, funny and clever all at once. So, curtain up! Let Signature Theatre entertain you with a spectacular production of one of theatre’s consummate and most enduring musicals.

“Gypsy” is playing now through Jan. 26 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. For tickets or more information, call 703- or visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

Email announcements to [arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is noon Thursday. Photos are welcome.

### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit.** See “Season’s Greetings from Arlington: Christmas Cards & Ornaments to Decorate the Holidays: 1920-1940” at the Arlington Historical Museum at the Hume School, 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Free. Through Jan. 19. Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Visit [arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

**Theater Performance.** Jan. 1-19 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., “Late: A Cowboy Song” will be showcased. Tickets start at \$31. Visit [www.signature-theatre.org/](http://www.signature-theatre.org/) or call 703-820-9771 for tickets.

**Theater Performance.** See “The Little Mermaid Jr.” presented by Encore Stage and Studio at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Performances are Jan. 10-19, Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Visit [www.encorestageva.org](http://www.encorestageva.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** Through Sunday, Jan. 26, see “Gypsy” at Signature Theatre’s MAX Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Performances run Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets start at \$40. Visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

**Theater Performance.** See “Gypsy” from Dec. 17-Jan. 26 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Tickets range from \$40-\$87. Visit [www.arlingtonarts.org](http://www.arlingtonarts.org) for tickets.

**Theater Performance.** See “Bang the Drum Slowly” at Gunston Theatre Two, 2700 S. Lang St. The show runs Jan. 10-Feb. 1 with shows Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and matinees at 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Visit [americancentury.org](http://americancentury.org) or 703-998-4555 for tickets.

**Art Exhibit.** See “Everything You Are Looking For” by Alicia Eggert through Feb. 2 in the Terrace Gallery at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Free. Visit [www.artisphere.com](http://www.artisphere.com) or call 703-875-1100 for tickets.

**Theater Performance.** Mount Olivet Players presents “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” Jan. 25-Feb. 8. Performances are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Dinner theater for Saturday shows at 6 p.m. Located at 1500 N. Glebe Road. Dinner is \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit [mountolivetum.org/event/alice](http://mountolivetum.org/event/alice) or 703-527-3934 for reservations.

**Art Exhibit.** See “H2O - Encaustic Paintings by Marilyn Banner and Photography by Peggy Fleming” from Jan. 17-Feb. 13 in the Barry Gallery at the Reinsch Library at Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Free. Visit [marymount.edu/barrygallery](http://marymount.edu/barrygallery) or 703-284-1561.

**Theater Performance.** See the “Silent Shakespeare” adaptation of “Twelfth Night” through Feb. 16 at Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$35, with a student, senior and military discount. 866-811-4111 or visit [www.synetictheater.org](http://www.synetictheater.org) for tickets.

**Art Exhibit.** See the gallery members’ show at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Runs Feb. 3-28. Free. Visit [www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org](http://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org) or [www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org).

**Art Exhibit.** See “Easter Island Today: Images by Arlington Photographer Greg Embree” at Cherrydale Branch Library, 2190 Military Road. Runs through April 7. Hours are Monday and Thursdays 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesdays 1-9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

**Art Exhibit.** See “CSA: Forty Years of Community-Sourced Art” curated by

Laura Roulet at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Free. Runs Jan. 22 through April 13. Visit [www.arlingtonartscenter.org](http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org) or call 703-248-6800 for hours.

### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Theatre Classes.** Encore Stage & Studio is holding classes and mini camps for children in grades K-8 at on Saturdays at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road and Tuesdays and Wednesdays after-school at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Visit [www.encorestageva.org](http://www.encorestageva.org) for a list of classes.

**Choral Rehearsal.** Encore Chorale’s spring season will start Jan. 14 from 2-3:30 p.m. at Langston Brown Senior Center, 2121 Culpeper St. Anyone over the age of 55 can participate. Registration information is available at [encorecreativity.org](http://encorecreativity.org), or by calling 301-261-5747 or via e-mail to [info@encorecreativity.org](mailto:info@encorecreativity.org).

### THURSDAY/JAN. 16

**Tiny Tot.** 10:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 3-5 years can discover nature through a themed program. \$5 due at registration. 703-228-6535. Program #622914-R.

**Drop-in Storytime: Over 2s.** 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. For children age 25 months to 5 years. Free. 703-228-6545.

**Drop-in Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-6330.

**Drop-in Storytime: Under 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-5715.

**Floral Design Talk.** 11 a.m. at Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road. Sandi Smith Plccirillo, a member of the National Garden Club, will speak on traditional and Ikebana floral designs. Free, with an optional \$5 lunch. RSVP by Jan. 9 to [www.rockspringgardenclub.com](http://www.rockspringgardenclub.com) or [rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com).

**Drop-in Storytime: Over 2s.** 11:15 a.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St. For children age 2-5. Free. 703-228-5715.

**Film.** 3-5:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Watch “The Stunt Man” (1980). Free. 703-228-5710.

**Bilingual Story Time.** 4:15 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children can enjoy stories, songs and crafts in English and Spanish. Free. 703-228-5990.

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

**Author Talk.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Local mystery authors Donna Andrews, Barb Goffman, Tracy Kiely, G.M. Malliet, Sandra Parshall and Lane Stone will discuss their latest novels and the craft of mystery fiction. Free. Hosted by One More Page Books. Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or 703-300-9746.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 17

**Story Time: Baby Steps.** 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to 1 year old can enjoy stories. Free. 703-228-5710.

**Story Time: Baby Steps.** 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children up to age 1. Free. 703-228-5260.

**Story Time: Over 2s.** 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children age 25



months to 5 years. Free. 703-228-5946.  
**Story Time: Under 2s.** 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-5946.

**Story Time: Wobbly Walkers.** 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children age 13-24 months. Free. 703-228-5260.

**Tiny Tot.** 1-2 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. Children ages 3-5 years can discover nature through a themed program. \$5 due at registration. 703-228-3403. Program #622814-O.

**Opening Reception.** 5-7:30 p.m. meet the artists of "H2O - Encaustic Paintings by Marilyn Banner and Photography by Peggy Fleming" in the Barry Gallery at the Reinsch Library at Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Free. Visit [marymount.edu/barrygallery](http://marymount.edu/barrygallery) or 703-284-1561.

#### SATURDAY/JAN. 18

**Drop in Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-228-5710.

**Dance Performance.** 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs "Mouse in House," adapted from the book "The Mouse of Amherst" by Elizabeth Spires. \$15/adult; \$10/child. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or 703-933-1111.

**Family Film.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "Despicable Me 2." Free. 703-228-6545.

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

**Dance Performance.** 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs "The Trickster," a multidisciplinary work in collaboration with percussionist Tom Teasley. \$20/person. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or 703-933-1111. Tickets available at the door.

**Animal Feeding: Raptors.** 3 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 N. Marcey Road. Learn what the raptors are fed and how. \$5/person. Visit [www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac\\_overlook](http://www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac_overlook) or 703-528-5406.

#### SUNDAY/JAN. 19

##### "From Board Game to Book"

**Workshop.** Noon-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Create a hand-bound notebook or journal with a board game as the cover. \$48/member; \$53/non-member. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org/](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org/) or bookmaking to register.

**Staged Reading.** 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4000 Lorcom Lane. Hear "The Busy World is Hushed," a play by Keith Bunin,

perform as a staged reading. Free. Donations accepted. 703-522-1600.

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

#### MONDAY/JAN. 20

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

**Author Visit.** 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Local author Jill Foer Hirsch will discuss her memoir "When Good Boobs Turn Bad: A Memoir." Free. Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or 703-300-9746.

**Book Club.** 7:30 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. Discuss "Midnight in Peking: How the Murder of a Young English Woman Haunted the Last Days of Old China" by Paul French. Free. 703-228-6330.

#### TUESDAY/JAN. 21

**Dance Performance.** 10:30 a.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance presents a performance by Forty+, featuring dancers past the age of 40. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com).

**Story Time.** 4:15 p.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-5260.

**Drop-in Story Time: Over 2s.** 4:30-5:15 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. For children age 25 months to 5 years. Free. 703-228-6330.

**Film.** 6-8 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "Hidalgo." Free. 703-228-6545.

**Family Story Time.** 6:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For all ages. Free. 703-228-5946.

**Mystery and Suspense Book Club.** 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Discuss "The Hangman's Daughter" by Oliver Popsch. Free. Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or 703-300-9746.

#### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22

**ASL Club for Kids.** 4 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children in grades K-5 can enjoy activities, songs and more exploring American Sign Language. Free. 703-228-5710.

**Art Club for Tweens.** 5 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children in grades 4-6 can make a folk-inspired art project. Free. 703-228-5910.

**Family Story Time.** 6:30 p.m. at Glencarlyn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. For all ages. Free. 703-228-6548.

**Author Discussion.** 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N.

Westmoreland St. Margaret Placentra Johnson will discuss "Faith Beyond Belief: Stories of Good People Who Left Their Church Behind." Free. Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or 703-300-9746.

#### THURSDAY/JAN. 23

**Book Club.** 10:30 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Discuss "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison. Free. 703-228-5946.

**Film.** 3-5:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Watch "My Favorite Year" (1982). Free. 703-228-5710.

**Bilingual Story Time.** 4:15 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children can enjoy stories, songs and crafts in English and Spanish. Free. 703-228-5990.

**Teen Fun.** 4:30 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Teens can experiment to make the tastiest hot chocolate drink possible. Free. 703-228-6545.

**Knitting Group.** 6:30 p.m. at Glencarlyn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. Drop-in for knitting support and instruction. Free. 703-228-6548.

**Commuter Book Club.** 7 p.m. at Le Pain Quotidien, 2900 Clarendon Blvd. Discuss "Death Comes to Pemberley" by P.D. James. Free.

**Music Performance.** Hear music by Broken Social Scene's Brendan Canning at IOTA Club & Cafe is located at 2832 Wilson Blvd. Visit [www.iotaclubandcafe.com](http://www.iotaclubandcafe.com) or call 703-522-8340 for tickets and times.

#### SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**Genealogy Class.** 10 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. Learn about Heritage Quest, the online database that provides researchers access to historical census records and other documents. Free. 703-228-5260.

**The Evergreen Scene.** 1 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 N. Marcey Road. Take a hike and learn about the species of evergreens in the park. Free. Appropriate for children over 8 up to adults. Visit [www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac\\_overlook](http://www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac_overlook) or 703-528-5406 to make a reservation.

**Dance Performance.** 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs "Penelope's Pesky Pen," inspired by a children's book by Frank Dormer. \$10-\$15/person. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or 703-933-1111.

**Opening Reception.** 6-9 p.m. meet some of the artists of "CSA: Forty Years of Community-Sourced Art" curated by Laura Roulet at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. The exhibit celebrates 40 years of AAC's role as incubator of talent, and features work by artists whose careers were launched at AAC. Free. Visit [www.arlingtonartscenter.org](http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org) or call 703-248-6800 for hours.

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Washington-Lee junior Annie Hatcher finished third on floor during a Jan. 13 gymnastics meet at Mount Vernon High School.



Washington-Lee junior Sophie Hatcher won the all-around during a Jan. 13 gymnastics meet at Mount Vernon High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## W-L Gymnastics Winning Despite Loss of 'Fab Four'

**Hatcher twins,  
freshman Shea  
lead Generals.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ed by the "Fab Four" from the class of 2013, the Washington-Lee gymnastics program last season completed a four-year run of dominance.

From the time Mary Lynn Clark, Kylie Auble, Maia Mandel and Madeleine Sendek were freshmen until the end of their high school careers, the Generals won every

single regular-season meet in which they competed. W-L captured four consecutive National District championships, took home the 2012 and 2013 Northern Region titles and twice finished state runner-up.

With the Fab Four having graduated, W-L returned only one gymnast who consistently competed at the varsity level — junior Sophie Hatcher. But that hasn't stopped the Generals from continued success. For Washington-Lee, the 2013-14 season has been about a group of gymnasts finding a balance between maintaining the winning ways of the Fab Four and creating a new identity.

"We've all improved a lot from last year," Hatcher said, "so I think we still have a chance to do really well in the bigger meets coming up."

On Jan. 13, W-L won a five-team meet at Mount Vernon High School, giving the Generals four victories in five meets this season. W-L posted a score of 135.875, finishing ahead of Mount Vernon (109.9), West Springfield (89.1), Falls Church (87.375) and Wakefield (72.9).

Hatcher won the all-around with a total of 35.325. She finished first on floor (9.175), beam (9.15) and bars (8.6), and tied for eighth on vault (8.4). W-L freshman Sylvia Shea placed second in the all-around (34.5) and Hatcher's twin sister, Annie Hatcher, finished fourth (33.675).

Joe D'Emidio, who has coached gymnastics at Washington-Lee for more than three decades, said this year's team has done well maintaining the program's success.

"I think it's been one of the best transitions I've ever coached," he said. "Because of the caliber that we had the last four years, I think a lot of the underclassmen saw that

caliber and learned this is the level of gymnastics we should be competing at, so they're doing that. We were undefeated for four years, so it's in their system to win every meet. They get up on it with confidence that they're going to win and that's very important in gymnastics because you have a couple of falls on beam and your team just falls apart."

The Hatcher twins have been two of W-L's top performers. Annie Hatcher competed at the varsity level last season but missed time due to an ankle injury. On Monday, she placed second on beam (8.975), third on floor (8.775), fourth on bars (7.625) and tied for 10th on vault (8.3).

Sophie and Annie Hatcher compete at the club level for the YMCA Arlington Angels.

"[Coaching identical twins is] a joy because they are twins that support each other," D'Emidio said. "To watch them compete at the same type of caliber is a joy. When you're coaching one, the other one is listening, so it's like you're really coaching one kid but they're both getting it."

Shea, a club gymnast for Arlington Aerials, is having a strong freshman season. On Monday, she placed second on floor (8.85), third on beam (8.925), third on bars (8.225) and tied for fifth on vault (8.5).

"She was very hesitant about trying high school gymnastics, but the twins and the other kids told her this is fun," D'Emidio said. "She was very hesitant with the first meet, but once we went through that first meet she went, 'this is fun.' Now she just enjoys competing. There's not as much stress like at the club level, where there's a lot of stress on the individual. Here, it's a team. If you fall, it's fine. We're here as a team and we cheer each other on."

"I think she likes it and I think she could be an outstanding gymnast in the next three years of her high school career."

Annie Siddle, Kristen Castro and Jennifer Laredo also competed for W-L. Siddle placed second on vault (8.7) and, while Castro and Laredo tied for third (8.6).

While W-L has four victories this season, the Generals had their undefeated-regular-season streak snapped on Jan. 8, when they finished behind Yorktown during a meet at Yorktown High School. However, finishing second wasn't necessarily a bad thing, Sophie Hatcher said. "We had that expectation that we were going to win every meet," she said. "Honestly, I wish we would have won, but it was kind of a little pressure off of us to keep winning each of the meets. We hope to beat them in the next couple weeks." While the Generals have continued winning, they've made some changes to help build their own identity — something with which senior captain Siddle has played a major role.

"[Siddle is] really the glue of the team," D'Emidio said. "She really has brought the girls together. She also wanted to identify the new team. She wanted to show that, OK, the seniors are gone, we're a new team, we're going to be champions. ... She ordered new leotards, she got new shirts for the kids. ... they're not saying, 'I wish we have Mary Lynn Clark.' Not once have they said anything about the seniors."

W-L will host meets on Jan. 23 and Jan. 25 before competing in the Liberty Conference meet on Feb. 3.

"It would be nice to make it regionals again — hopefully with McLean or Yorktown," Annie Hatcher said, "and maybe even states."

### Wakefield's Cortz Places Third at Gymnastics Meet

Wakefield's Leah Cortz placed third in the all-around competition at a Jan. 13 gymnastics meet at Mount Vernon High School.

Cortz finished with a total of 33.825. Washington-Lee's Sophie Hatcher won the competition with a score of 35.325, followed by W-L's Sylvia Shea (34.5).

Cortz placed first on vault (8.75), second on bars (8.525), sixth on floor (8.5) and eighth on beam (8.05).

Wakefield finished fifth as a team with a score of 72.9. W-L finished first with a score of 135.875, followed by Mount Vernon (109.9), West Springfield (89.1) and Falls Church (87.375).



# OBITUARY

## Allan R. Plumley, Jr.

Allan R. Plumley, Jr. died on Dec. 26, 2013 at Virginia Hospital Center, in Arlington, due to complications following a fall. He was 80 years old. A fourth generation lawyer, Mr. Plumley was born in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 14, 1933, and raised in Wilmington, Del., where his father, a patent attorney, was an executive with DuPont. Mr. Plumley was graduated from Wilmington Friends School and attended the University of Virginia, George Washington University, and the George Washington University Law School, earning A.B., B.S., and Juris Doctor degrees. He served for two years (1956-1958) in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps.



He completed the three-year course of study at GWU Law School in one and one-half years, and in 1961 became law clerk to the late David A. Pine, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He joined the Arlington law firm of Adams, Porter, Radigan and Mays, becoming a full partner in 1965.

In 1975, he was elected president and CEO of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Arlington, which became the publicly traded CFS Financial Corporation

and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Continental Federal Savings Bank. When CFS was sold to Crestar Bank in 1992, Mr. Plumley became vice chairman of the Greater Washington Area for Crestar. He retired from Crestar in 1995. Mr. Plumley also served as chairman of the Virginia League of Savings Institutions.

In 2000, he became founding chairman of the board of First Service Bank in McLean. When the bank was sold in 2006 to Southern National Bank of Virginia, Mr. Plumley became a member of its Advisory Board. In addition to serving as president of Washington Golf & Country Club, he was president, trustee and director of many corporate, charitable and social organizations.

In a eulogy

Mr. Plumley had resided in Arlington since 1958. He is the sole surviving son of the late Elizabeth Sutherland Frost Plumley of La Grange, Georgia and Washington, D.C. and the late Allan R. Plumley, Sr. of Northfield, Vt. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marie Chapin Plumley; three children, Allan R. Plumley III of Fairfax, Carolyn Stombeck (D. Michael, Sr.) of South Riding, and Christopher W. Plumley (Elizabeth) of Fairfax; and six grandchildren, Allison B. Plumley, William W. Plumley, D. Michael Stombeck, Jr., Christopher W. Stombeck, Matthew R. Stombeck, and Reese M. Plumley.

Visitation was held at Murphy's Funeral Home, 4510 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, on Jan. 2. A funeral service was held at St.

Mary's Episcopal Church, 2609 N. Glebe Road, Arlington on Jan. 3 where his son, Allan R. Plumley, Jr., gave his eulogy, ending with: "Dad, now that you aren't with us any longer, you have left an awful hole. But that is actually a positive thing, for it signifies that you have accomplished so much, influenced so many, and been truly and deeply respected, admired, loved, adored and cherished. We are going to miss you, and it is painful, but as you knew, we will be fine. And we will live in such a way as to make you proud of us. We will honor you. Yours was a life well lived, Dad."

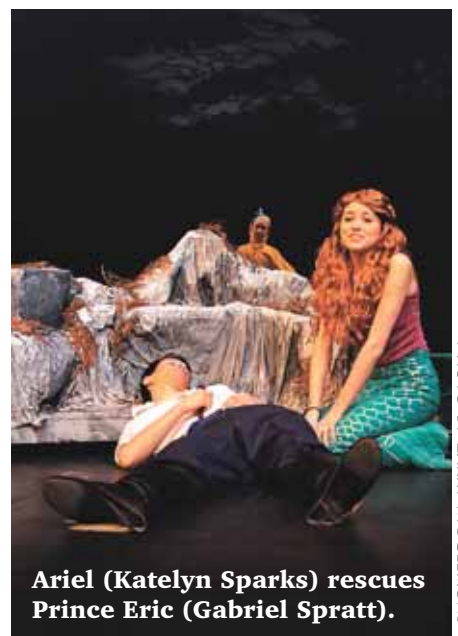
Donations may be made to Capital Caring, 2900 Telestar Ct., Falls Church, VA 22042.

## Fluid Numbers

FROM PAGE 3

now being transformed for a facility with a 50-meter competition pool in addition to teaching, family and therapy pools as well as "wet classrooms" and "party rooms."

"This is an area that has a need for additional recreational opportunity as this community grows, both for the kids and young adults as well as seniors," said Fisette. "The site will be within reasonable distance from Metro. It will have bus access and bicycle access and it's immediately off the highway so it will have car access. So it's an idea location."



Ariel (Katelyn Sparks) rescues Prince Eric (Gabriel Spratt).

PHOTO BY LARRY MCCLEMONS

## Encore Presents 'Little Mermaid Jr.'

Final performances of the Encore Stage & Studio Theatre's "The Little Mermaid Jr." are Friday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. in Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. For ticket information, visit [www.encorestage.org](http://www.encorestage.org) or call the box office at 703-548-1154. The show is recommended for ages 4 and up.

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## In Case Someone Is Wondering

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I don't mind being alive, really I don't. Occasionally though, I receive well-intended inquiries – electronic and otherwise, from people (who know my cancer story) who are sort of wondering if perhaps I'm not. When people haven't heard from me in a while – and this is a category of people with whom I don't have regular/recurring interactions, but rather a group of people who reach out and attempt to touch me (figuratively speaking) every three or four months or so – there is a presumption on their part that my silence (so far as they know) is not in fact golden, but rather ominous, as in the cancer might have won and yours truly didn't. And when I respond, their pleasure/relief at my not having succumbed to the disease is quite positive, generally speaking. Their honesty and joy in learning that I'm still alive is both rewarding and gratifying. Rewarding in that they care and gratifying in that I must be doing something right which enables me to sustain myself through a very difficult set of medical circumstances: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, the terminal kind (is there any other kind?).

Statistically speaking, stage IV (there is no stage V) non-small cell lung cancer patients, according to various studies by The American Cancer Society, The National Cancer Institute, N.I.H. are not long-term survivors (the understatement of the year). Those of us who survive five years should have a parade, but very few would be alive to attend. February 27th, 2014 will be my five-year anniversary. Lucky doesn't begin to accurately describe my feelings. Amazing begins to scratch the surface.

Obviously, I understand the underlying concern of those individuals who don't hear from me and can't help but wonder (presume even; let's be realistic) that I've joined the ranks of the undesirables: those who have died and not left a forwarding address. In a peculiar way, these queries are my most favorites. They reinforce to me everything I've done right and minimize anything I've done wrong. They make me proud of who I am and how long I've survived with a "terminal" disease. And the longer I continue to receive them, the longer I will have survived. What's better than that? (That's a rhetorical question). Nothing is better than that!

Still, there are many ongoing challenges I face every day. Perhaps as alluded to in the previous paragraph, grasping at straws (figuratively) is one of my enduring pursuits: attempting to find solace, comfort, understanding, support and an indescribable number of non-quantifiable emotions which build me up and make me feel whole again despite being splintered into a million figurative pieces when unexpectedly diagnosed with an inoperable, incurable, terminal disease at age 54 and a half. After having never suffered a broken bone in my entire life or even spent a single night in a hospital (and only one visit to the E.R.), here I was, in the prime of my middle age, being told in effect that my life (certainly as I knew and understood it) was over. If I was in college, I would have put that in my pipe and smoked it. However, as a mid-fifties-aged adult, recently orphaned, I was left to ordinary devices, which had never been so thoroughly tested.

Presently, five years after the fact, the tests still left to be taken mostly involve well-meaning friends and acquaintances wanting to know my status. A little awkward? Sure. A lot of care and concern? Absolutely! Inquiries I can live without? Not a chance.

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

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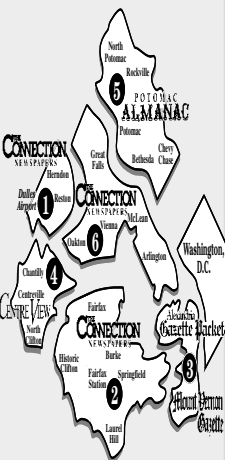
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## NEWS

### Three Earn Eagle Scout Rank

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on Jan. 11 for Jethro Torczon, a senior at Bishop O'Connell High School, Billy Schwanke, a senior at Yorktown High School, and Andrew Kiser, a freshman at University of Virginia, all members of Boy Scout Troop 638 affiliated with the Little Falls Presbyterian Church in Arlington. Jethro's Eagle Scout Project involved redeveloping a trail at Sharp Park in



Arlington County. Under his guidance, scouts cleared off the existing path, removed old timbers and nailed down new ones, then spread cloth and covered the path with gravel. Billy's Eagle Scout project was a continuation of this trail work. He led scouts in leveling additional ground, laying cloth, nailing down new timbers and spreading gravel, extending the path to a nearby bus stop. Andrew's Eagle Scout project was to build an observation platform in the wetlands preservation area at Campbell Elementary School. Under Andrew's supervision, the scouts leveled the ground, then used pressure-treated lumber and plastic decking boards to construct an elevated platform from which students and teachers can observe the wetlands without damaging the environment.

### Mason Honored As Eagle Scout

Boy Scout Troop 505 of Arlington honored its newest Eagle Scout, Daniel M. Mason, in an Eagle Scout Court of honor on Dec. 28, 2013 at the Mount Olive Baptist Church, 1601 South 13th Road. More than 20 Eagle Scouts were in attendance. Daniel is one of four Eagle Scouts — two sets of brothers who are first cousins — within the same family unit from Troop 505. All four Eagle scouts grew up in Prince William County and are members of Mount Olive Baptist Church which is Troop 505's Chartered Organization within the Chain Bridge District of the National Capital Area Council. Daniel earned 21 merit badges, served in various leadership positions and completed a major service project at Garfield High School in Woodbridge, where he designed, supervised and led a group of boys and adults in cleaning, painting, building storage cabinets, installing shelves with hooks and overall equipping a storage room into the football team's equipment room. Daniel has been a member of Boy Scout Troop 505 since July 1997 where he has served in various leadership positions. Above, he is joined by his parents Denise and Reginald Mason.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for Jan. 27-Feb. 1.

**Senior centers** will be closed Monday, Jan. 20.  
**Senior trip:** Tuesday, Jan. 28, The Kennedy Center, open rehearsal, Marjinsky Ballet Troupe, D.C., \$25; Wednesday, Jan. 29, Rawlings Conservatory and lunch, Baltimore, \$44; Saturday, Feb. 1, Chocolate Lover's Festival, Fairfax, \$10. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

**How to treat a common cold,** Monday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Register, 703-228-4403.

**55+ Pilates class** begins Monday, Jan. 27, 1:30 p.m., Arlington Mill. \$22.50/5classes. Register, 703-228-7369.

**Ice skating,** Mondays, 8 a.m. – 9:10 a.m., Kettler Capitals Iceplex, Ballston Mall. \$1 (includes skate rental). Register, 703-228-4745.

**Famous animals that changed history,** Tuesday, Jan. 28, 11:15 a.m., Lee. Free. Register, 703-228-0555.

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

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

**Healthy cooking demo,** Wednesday, Jan. 29, 11 a.m., Arlington Mill. Free. Register, 703-228-7369.

**Preventing identity theft,** Wednesday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.



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