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PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/THE CONNECTION

Outdoor enthusiasts can ride their bikes on George Washington Parkway bike trails and stop at Roosevelt Island.

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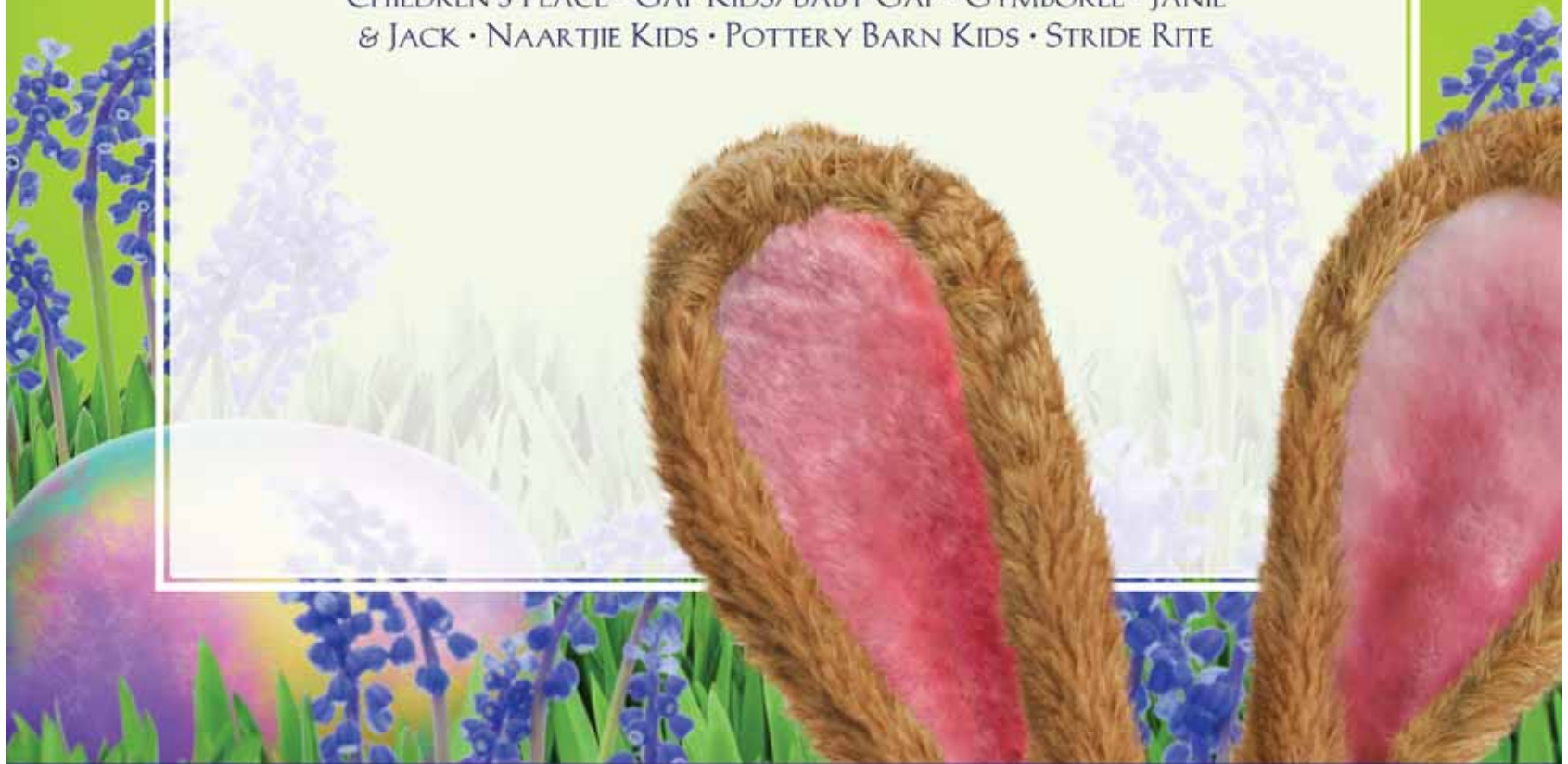
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## ArtStream Performances Return

### Inclusive Theater Companies debut original musicals.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**his spring, two original theatrical productions are hitting the stage of Gunston Theater One in Arlington. Brought to audiences by the non-profit organization, ArtStream, the productions have casts of talented adults with a range of disabilities.

Each of ArtStream's Inclusive Theater Companies in Arlington will debut a show on March 27. The original productions, "The Legend of Blarnia" and "The Vegas Way," are each one-act plays.

The Inclusive Theater Companies have been putting on original productions since 2005, when a group of artists founded ArtStream to provide quality arts programming for people in the community.

"We focus primarily on the underserved, people with disabilities and wounded veterans," said Patricia Woolsey, one of ArtStream's five founders. "We saw there was a need in the community and a lack of meaningful experiences and we wanted to change that."

That, Woolsey said, is when they launched ArtStream's most public program, the Inclusive Theater Companies. They set up four theater companies, one in Arlington, one in Silver Spring, Md., and one in Gaithersburg, Md.

The programs were so popular that they have since expanded to eight companies, two being in Arlington and one in Raleigh, N.C.

"There was such a need and hunger, it became



Caroline Harpel (mentor) and Frank Stephens in Arlington Company B's "The Vegas Way."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

a much bigger nonprofit than I ever dreamed," Woolsey said.

The actors all audition for the spots, but priority is given to previous members of the program. There are waiting lists for many of the theater programs. ArtStream does its best to work with as many people as possible.

"This is our eighth season and we have auditions open to people in the community, though there is a preference for returning members," Woolsey said. "We do our best to accommodate as many people as we can, but there has to be the ability to perform in a group and a general willingness to express themselves."

The Inclusive Theater Companies begin to de

SEE ARTSTREAM, PAGE 11

## Blizzard of Spending

### Polar vortex sends financial chill through local governments.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he unusually hard winter has created a blizzard of spending for local governments across Northern Virginia — bursting through budgeted amounts for snow removal and treating roads, leaving a lasting legacy of potholes that will be plaguing roads this spring. Officials at the Virginia Department of Transportation say they spent \$175 million on snow removal this winter, more than twice as much than they were planning to spend. And that's just for starters.

"This is going to be a much worse pothole season than in years past," said Jennifer McCord, spokeswoman for VDOT. "We've been filling them, basically, since the winter started."

Alexandria spent \$1.6 million on snow control. That's more than twice the amount city officials set aside in the budget, which was \$836,000. And Arlington officials say they've already spent more than \$2 million even though they had budgeted only \$1.1 million. Local governments across the region will be forced to dip into their contingency funds to deal with the record amounts of snow dumped on Northern Virginia this year.

"If they don't deal with these potholes quickly, the cost will become much greater," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Leadership. "Waiting longer means they have to dig up the road bed, which is way more expensive than filling a pothole."

**POTHOLES FORM** when roads experience moisture and then a rapid freeze and thaw. Moisture gets into cracks in the road, which undermines the road surface. Then traffic pummels the already undermined road surface over and over until the cracks become larger and larger. Over time the cracks start to peel away as pieces of asphalt fly away. When that happens over and over, the cracks start to grow larger and larger.

"That creates a minor depression that can sometimes grow into something much larger that we affectionately call a pothole," said Yon Lambert, deputy director for operations of the Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

Alexandria currently has 574 requests since the beginning of January to March 21, a 552 percent increase over last year, which

SEE POLAR VORTEX, PAGE 13

## The Libby Garvey Show

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ast week, County Board member Libby Garvey debuted a segment in the ongoing drama of the Columbia Pike streetcar debate. During the County Board meeting, Garvey launched the inaugural installation of what she says will become a regular feature of the televised meetings.

The pilot episode was called "A Realistic Look at Streetcars," an attempt to portray streetcars as "19th century" transit that would be slow and inflexible — inconvenient for those who want to travel long distances and uncomfortable for those who want to sit. Perhaps most importantly, she said, streetcars are unable to maneuver around parked cars, waiting ambulances or objects in their path.

"It's a huge cost for extremely low benefits," said Garvey. "This is a pattern of streetcars across the nation, and I'll prob-



County Board member Libby Garvey presents criticism of the streetcar system during a recent County Board meeting.

ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

ably be making other presentations at other meetings."

One pattern she noted was cost escalation, including the cost of the Columbia Pike streetcar going from the original estimation of \$120 million to \$310 million. She said the streetcar system in Norfolk presented a cautionary tale for Arlington because it has

### Arlington County Board member launches formal presentations against streetcar.

an \$8.5 million operating subsidy every year because ridership pays for only about 13 percent of the cost. She also played a news clip of a winter weather storm creating problems for the new Washington, D.C. streetcar when it first launched.

"If you showed the rest of the segment, you would have seen some buses in the ditch," observed County Board Chairman Jay Fisetto.

"The buses do better," responded Garvey. "They just don't cost a whole lot."

"I was just going to say the rest of that segment did provide a more balanced picture of the fact that there are certain weather incidents that affect many forms of transit."

**REVIEWS** of the inaugural broadcast were mixed. One of the harshest critics was sitting a few feet to Garvey's right, County Board member Mary Hynes. During her turn at the microphone, she presented a slide with the headline, "Streetcar: Investing in

Our Future." Hynes took issue with some of Garvey's conclusions about the streetcar, especially the idea that streetcars are an inefficient way to service the growing transit needs along Columbia Pike.

"During the next 30 years, 65 percent of Arlington's population growth and 44 percent of our employment growth is planned to be on these corridors," said Hynes.

Hynes said the population growth along Columbia Pike in the coming decades would present Columbia Pike with a crunch that a bus system would not be able to handle. Because a streetcar can handle about double the number of people as a bus, she said, the vehicles were ideally suited to move people up and down Columbia Pike as new development brings waves of new residents to the corridor.

"We are going to need a much more work-horse and larger capacity vehicle to solve the problem of how do you move all these folks around and give them options other than their cars," Hynes said.

# Arlington Lifestyle Blooms in the Spring

Residents share favorite places to be out and about.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE CONNECTION

The days are getting longer, temperatures are on the rise, and Arlington residents are ready to finally enjoy the benefits of their urban neighborhoods. After what felt like an exceptionally long winter, people throughout Arlington have paid their dues and are planning their recreational activities for the upcoming months.

Longtime locals and newer transplants to the area agree that a world of opportunities opens up in Arlington as springtime weather approaches. Whether in search of an endorphin rush, or somewhere to mingle with other Arlingtonians, places to go are aplenty and the area has more luster after the snow banks melt and the air loses its bite.

**ARLINGTON IS HOME** to several bars and restaurants that convert to outdoor hot spots in the spring. Kristin Yuknus lives in South Arlington, but enjoys going to North Arlington's Clarendon neighborhood for springtime happy hours. Yuknus, who



Kristin Yuknus (left) and Quinlan Bergh

moved to the area from Philadelphia three years ago, said Whitlow's on Wilson quickly became one of her warm weather favorites.

"My favorite spring time spot for happy hour is the Whitlow's rooftop," Yuknus said. "It is a chill atmosphere with a tiki bar, and different groups can settle all around. It is pretty good about accommodating big crowds of people."

She said Whitlow's will typically alert people through social media when its rooftop is open for business.

Other venues in Arlington with rooftop options include but are not limited to Clarendon Ballroom, Eventide and Arlington Rooftop Bar & Grill.

A longtime resident of the D.C. metropolitan area, Arlington's Eric Cantrell said all the best bars for warm weather are in walking distance from his house. One of the benefits to living in Arlington is a limited need for a car to get around. Residents especially reap the benefits of these perks as spring weather envelopes the area.

"The patio bars are a focal point of Arlington nightlife for a good reason," Cantrell said. "After being pent up all winter, it is nice to get outside and meet friends at places like Rooftop and A-Town."

Arlington resident of two years Quinlan Bergh said she particularly enjoys Ballston's World of Beer in the spring.

"I really like going to World of Beer and sitting outside in the springtime," Bergh said. "I like trying all their spring brews. It's more fun to sit outside, and much better for people watching."

There are also appealing outdoor options on the south side of Arlington, where venues are not as crowded and the atmosphere is a bit more low-key. Yuknus, for example, said she always looks forward to brunch with her friends at William Jeffrey's Tavern.

"I love William Jeffrey's for brunch outside," Yuknus said. "It's a nice alternative to busy Clarendon."

Some of Arlington's greatest appeal stems



Eric Cantrell



Alison E. Mathey



Kathy Hsu

from its close proximity to the Washington D.C. and all of its monuments and memorials. Arlington is within walking distance of its sites, and its residents are more apt to take advantage of this when they don't have to bundle up in parkas, gloves and ear muffs.

**ARLINGTON IN THE SPRING** is the ideal place for a scenic run, bike ride, or stroll. The running and bike trail possibilities are endless, from the Custis trail starting in Ballston, to the Washington and Old Dominion trail that stretches through parts of Arlington and ends in Shirlington.

Longtime Arlington resident Alison Mathey said she often takes advantage of all of Arlington's trails for exercise.

"I love living so close to Arlington's wonderful trails, the Custis Trail, W&OD Trail, Mount Vernon Trail and Four Mile Run," Mathey said. "I'm an avid runner and cyclist and these trails are perfect for either activity. They offer many water spots and lots of great views. I feel really fortunate to live near such great routes."

Mathey said she has been training for long races on these trails for years, and that her favorite place to begin her run on a warm, spring day is the Custis Trail, which begins just steps away from her house in the Ballston area.

"My favorite route is to start on the Custis Trail downhill, and then bike into the Mount Vernon Trail, by the Potomac River," Mathey said. "Biking by the water offers amazing

views of the city. It's especially pretty when the cherry blossoms are in bloom."

Yuknus said that she too is enthralled by her views on runs through Arlington in the spring.

"I run on the upper part of the Mount Vernon trail, along Route 395," Yuknus said. "As you run, you can see the Washington Monument, the Pentagon and the Air Force Memorial. Nothing beats those views nestled in the cherry blossoms."

An area transplant from Northern California, Kathy Hsu said she was particularly rattled by this winter and is looking forward to sitting outside of some her favorite coffee shops.

"I love both working from and just catching up with friends over coffee in Northside Social's outdoor seating area," Hsu said. "People-watching is a guilty pleasure of mine, and all sorts of people come through there."

Bergh noted how perfect Arlington is because of easy access to an urban feel, all while having the luxury of a backyard. Perhaps she will spend Friday night sitting outside of a Ballston bar enjoying a beer, but on Saturday, she can kick off her sandals and enjoy a homemade meal right in her backyard.

"I love sitting in my backyard," Bergh said, who came to Arlington from Cincinnati, Ohio. "While it's nice to go out and the urban atmosphere, it is also really fun to take a break from the social scene and barbecue in the backyard with bonfire."



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMPSON/THE CONNECTION

## Wine Tasting

Residents can enjoy a free wine tasting every Thursday, 5 p.m., Friday, 5 p.m., and Saturday, 4 p.m. at the Crystal City Wine Shop located at 220 20th Street South. Visitors can sample such wines as Le Saint Andre Vin de Pays du Var Rose and Le Fruit Defendu Blanc. Above, Magda Good pours guests a sample glass of wine on Saturday, March 22.



The Arlington garden of Pam and Paul Gibert on 35th Street North took second place in the Rock Spring Garden Club's 2013 Garden of the Year competition.

## Compete for Garden of the Year

The Rock Spring Garden Club is holding its fifth annual Garden of the Year competition this spring for Arlington County residents.

Applications can be downloaded from the club's website, [www.rockspringgardenclub.com](http://www.rockspringgardenclub.com), and will be accepted until April 30. Judging of up to 12 gardens will take place on May 14.

The first, second and third place winners will be announced on Thursday, June 12, at the club's June meeting at Little Falls Presbyterian Church in Arlington.

# SPRING FUN



PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO/THE CONNECTION

**Moscow, a white, fluffy Samoyed, chases other dogs on a “play date” in the open community canine area.**

## Spring Fun for Dogs

Say goodbye to the dreadful polar vortex and ring in warmer weather with your dog at James Hunter Park. Located in the middle of Clarendon, the park offers plenty of opportunities for “play dates” with other dogs and a chance for your canine to socialize.



**Kentucky, a mixed-race Papillon rescue dog reflects by the urban waterfall and pool area. The water was turned off that day, but hopefully will be back on when warmer weather abounds in the spring.**

Newly renovated since last year, the urban park contains a new plaza terrace, open lawn, demonstration gardens, a multi-purpose water feature and community canine area. Dogs can frolic in the water pool and drink from several communal water bowls while people relax in the picnic area or enjoy the demonstration garden.

sustainable park with an automated water management system that captures and reuses rainwater on-site. The ecological design also integrates renewable solar power.

James Hunger Park is located at the interface of the Lyon Village and Clarendon-Courthouse neighborhoods, at the corner of N. Herndon Street and N. 13th Street. The park underwent a \$1.6 million renovation and re-opened last year. It is a fully-

The park is open at sunrise and closes at 10 p.m. The community canine area closes at 9 p.m., and it is closed for maintenance on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon.

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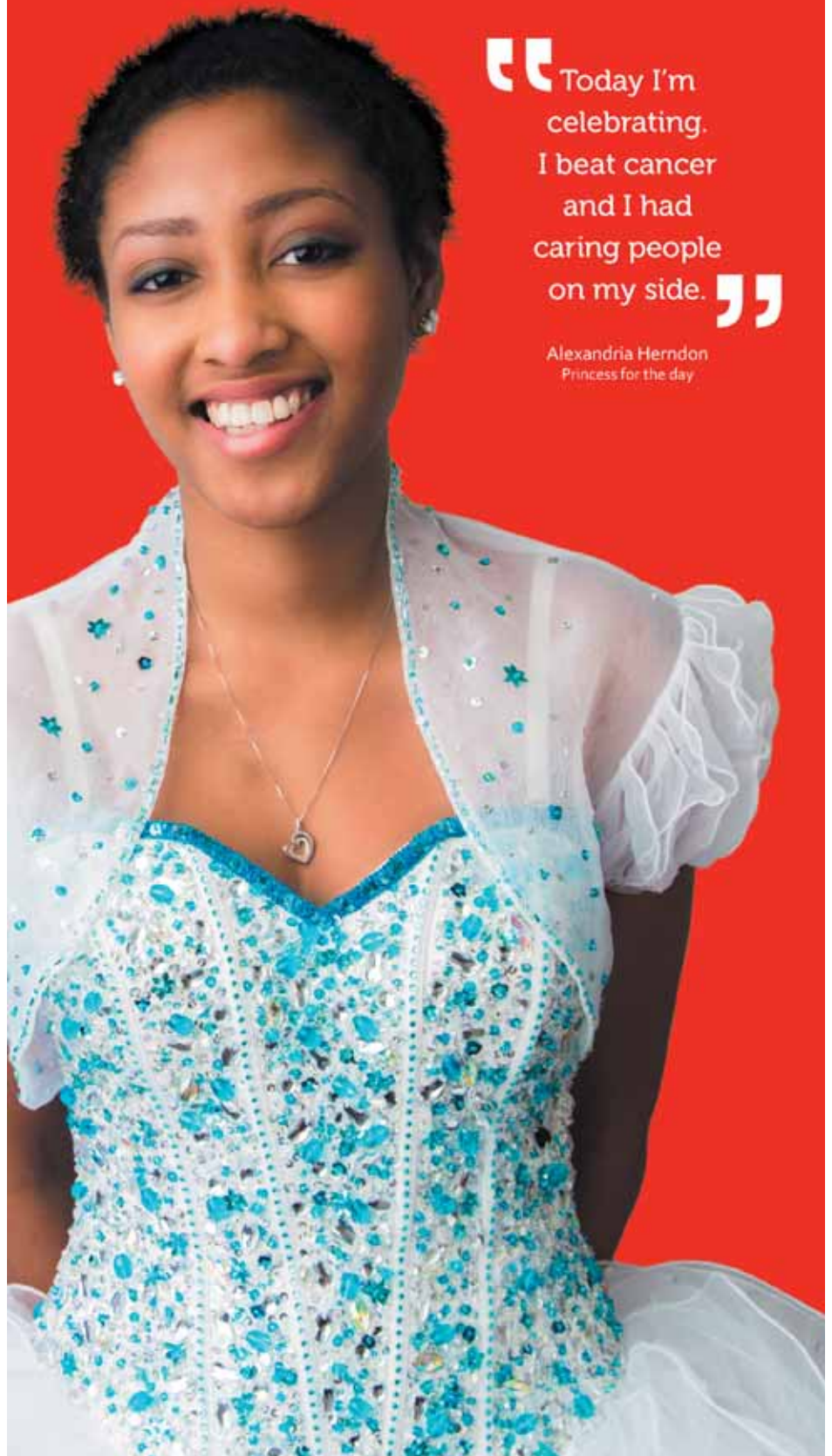
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“Today I’m celebrating. I beat cancer and I had caring people on my side.”

Alexandria Herndon  
Princess for the day

# OPINION

## Challenging Budgets

Local Government should be able to access income taxes to give relief on real estate taxes.

Northern Virginia governments are facing shortfalls in the classic budget sense: projected revenues are less than last year's expenditures plus increases in costs.

Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young Young: "This is the seventh straight year of budgetary challenges, where the cost of current services and previous commitments exceeds our revenue growth." His proposed budget includes \$190.6 million for Alexandria City Public Schools, a 2.62 percent increase over FY2014 but \$2.5 million less than requested by the Alexandria School Board.

Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova: "This will be a very challenging budget." Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza proposed an increase of 5.7 percent, \$98 million more than the schools requested last year, but supervisors have said to expect an increase of 2 percent.

Fairfax County, along with Arlington and Alexandria, is wrestling with how to fund increasing financial requests from schools, increasing needs for human services and providing a safety net, and many other areas of local budgets.

In Virginia, localities are allowed few areas

of revenue, and local budgets are funded primarily through real estate property taxes. Property values have increased this year, and local governments are also considering increases in the property tax rate, meaning homeowners will pay more in taxes.

Fairfax County Real Estate Assessments increased 5.8 percent for single family homes, 8.4 percent for townhouses and 10.5 percent for condos. In Arlington, property values grew about 5.8 percent this year. That includes single-family houses and townhouses, which went up 6.2 percent, as well as condominiums, which went up 5.9 percent. In Alexandria, residential assessments increased 4.8 percent.

But just because a home is worth more this year than last year doesn't actually put any more money in anyone's pocket. The increases are mostly modest and necessary in an area that prides itself on providing an exceptional quality of life and thriving business environment.

Employment and jobs are also strong in Northern Virginia, with unemployment at 3.7 percent in Fairfax, 4.1 percent in Alexandria and 3.2 percent in Arlington. Northern Virginia is the economic engine of Virginia. The overall unemployment rate in Virginia is 5 percent,

with these statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These rates are far below the national rate.

But state income tax, paid disproportionately by workers in Northern Virginia, are collected by the state for the state budget. The exact percentage of money that returns to Northern Virginia is debated, but it is definitely small. Localities should have the ability to add a piggyback tax to the state income tax in order to provide needed and expected services while giving relief to homeowners.

Anyone familiar with the political process in Virginia knows that this is a pipe dream with essentially zero chance. It would have to pass the Virginia General Assembly. Nevertheless, it makes no sense for Northern Virginia to pay income taxes to the state without being able to benefit.

Meanwhile, Arlington FY 2015 tax rate public hearing is March 27 at 7 p.m. More on Arlington's budget: <http://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/budget/>

Fairfax County's public hearings, all in the board auditorium at the government center: Effective Tax Rate Hearing 3 p.m., April 8, 2014; Budget Public Hearing 6 p.m., April 8; 3 p.m., April 9; 3 p.m., April 10. More on Fairfax County Budget, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

For more on Alexandria's budget <https://www.alexandriava.gov/budget/info/default.aspx?id=75641>.

A favorite guideline on testimony at budget hearings comes in Arlington: "Repetitious testimony is discouraged." Good luck with that.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Mental Health and Expansion of Medicaid

BY BARBARA FAVOLA  
STATE SENATOR (D-31)

There is a growing consensus forming in the General Assembly that now is the time to improve the safety net for mental health services. Both the House and Senate budgets increase funding for these services by millions of dollars (House proposed a \$10 million increase and the Senate \$20 million) above the proposed budget of \$36 million that Governor McDonnell presented in December.

What Virginians may not know is that under Marketplace Virginia in the Senate budget, the State would gain approximately \$200M a year for mental health services and 77,000 uninsured Virginians needing these services would benefit from this plan.

These dollars would support medication, therapy, community based treatment programs



and inpatient hospitalization that individuals could access when the first signs of mental illness show themselves. In a recent study funded by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services with the University of Virginia's Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy, (A Study of Face-To-Face Emergency Evaluations Conducted By Community Services Boards In April 2013), we learned that nearly 50 percent of the voluntary admissions to psychiatric hospitals could have been avoided if early treatment and community based services had been available; 25 percent of involuntary admissions could have been avoided.

A recent report from the organization, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, entitled "Cut Violence, Cut Prison Costs" noted that "If low-income families receive medical insurance, they are more likely to be routinely screened and treated for their health problems such as substance abuse, depression or excessive aggression. Health care professionals tell us that early treatment can prevent more serious escalation of behaviors that can be harmful to the individual, to family members and to the general public."

Senator Deeds' bill (SB 260) and other bills before the General Assembly take important steps to improve the crisis safety net. I applaud those steps but I believe that treating mental illness must begin at a much earlier stage and this will only happen if more people have insurance to pay for these services. In fact, Margaret Nimmo Crowe, executive director of Voices for Virginia's Children, notes: "There is 'no way' Virginia can successfully reform its mental-health-care system without addressing the uninsured."

This is why it is so critical that Virginia seize the opportunity to leverage Federal dollars by adopting Marketplace Virginia. The House budget conferees should not hold Virginians hostage in an ideological lock. Marketplace Virginia has the potential to make us all healthier and safer while the Federal government absorbs a significant amount of the cost. Now is the time to act.

Barbara Favola (D-31) is a state senator representing parts of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 27

**Fundraising.** 8 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Overlee Pool Bathhouse, 6030 Lee Highway, in the lower parking lot. The Northwest Arlington Lions Club will be selling fresh Florida citrus, Georgia pecans, and Vermont maple syrup. Call 703-528-1130.

**Job Fair.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Sheraton Pentagon

City Hotel, 900 South Orme St. More than 45 Military-friendly companies will be present. Job seekers are encouraged to pre-register to help facilitate an effective pre-matching process. Find registration information and the full schedule at [CivilianJobs.com](http://CivilianJobs.com).

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 28

**Legislative Breakfast.** 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Westin  
SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 7

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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# Spring in the Offing Power tool retailer celebrates season.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n the day before Spring arrived this year, a stubborn bank of snow signaled the “pre-season” event held at Virginia Outdoor Power Equipment Co.

For 15 years, the company has held an open house at the store and shop on Lee Highway at Merrifield, nearby the Regional Post Office. Staff welcomes all comers, both homeowners and commercial operators. However, mid-week timing especially attracts professionals in lawn keeping, gardening and landscaping businesses. Noting the light rain and chilly air, General Manager Rick Thomas said, “Bad weather is not that bad for our open house. If warm and sunny, customers and guests would be hard at work and could not attend.”

The centerpiece of open house is the covey of factory representatives of power tool manufacturers. Every big name is present. Tradesmen who use the machines are able to ask questions and see new models and, thereby, increase efficiency — and profits.

Homeowners are content with their questions. Secondary attractions are door prizes and “free eats off the grill.”

One exhibit stands apart but never fails to attract with its whining chainsaw sound. Andrew Mallon is a carpenter “in real life.” With the saw dancing across a block of wood, he becomes an artist and owner of Potomac Tree Sculptures. Surrounded by samples of eagles in flight and other animal forms, an observer can watch a bear emerge from a log through the rhythmic sway of Mallon’s arms.

Questions and answers, food, prizes and art aside, one fact cannot be escaped: There is a lot of work in the season immediately ahead. Power tools can make some of it easier.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE CONNECTION

**Andrew Mallon, chainsaw sculptor**

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

Arlington Gateway, 801 N. Glebe Road. Leadership Arlington invites members of the community to hear from local legislators. Legislators confirmed to attend include: delegates Bob Brink, Pat Hope, Rob Krupicka and Alfonso Lopez; and state senators Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola and Janet Howell. Visit [www.leadershiparlington.org](http://www.leadershiparlington.org) for more.

**Fundraising.** 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Overlee Pool Bathhouse, 6030 Lee Highway, in the lower parking lot. The Northwest Arlington Lions Club will be selling fresh Florida citrus, Georgia pecans, and Vermont maple syrup. Call 703-528-1130.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 2

**Combat Financial Fraud.** 9:30 a.m. at Ernst Cultural Center, NOVA Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia Speaker’s Forum presents Nora Dowd Eisenhower who will discuss the complicated financial decisions about retirement, home equity, long-term care, and financial care taking responsibilities for seniors. Free. Garage parking is \$2 per hour. Call 703-503-0600.

### Crisis Intervention Team

**Awards Ceremony.** 7 p.m. in the John T. Hazel Auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center, 1701 N. George Mason Drive. CIT law

enforcement will be honored.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 3

**Bus Hack Night.** 6-8:30 p.m. at Mobility Lab, 1501 Wilson Blvd, Suite 1100. The Washington, D.C. region’s buses provide the bulk of coverage, without the buzz and glamour that trains and trolleys get. ART and WMATA have provided data sets just for this meetup. Visit <http://transportation.arlingtonva.us/events/transportation-techies-bus-hack-night/>.

**Fundraiser.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Top of the Town, 1400 14th Street North. Support veterans/soldiers who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress disorder. Visit [www.eventbee.com/event?eid=113511573](http://www.eventbee.com/event?eid=113511573). Email [laura.black@stopsoldiersuicide.org](mailto:laura.black@stopsoldiersuicide.org) or call 336-404-2667. Visit [www.stopsoldiersuicide.org](http://www.stopsoldiersuicide.org).

**Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. “Eminent Domain Destroys a Community: Leveling Queen City for the Pentagon,” presented by Arlington Historical Society and hosted by Nancy Perry. Free. Visit [www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

### PenPlace Open Space

**Workshop.** 7-9 p.m. at Aurora Hills Community and Senior Center, 735 18th Street S. Help determine the best plan for the open space network within the PenPlace project. Visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us> and search PenPlace.

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Matthew Poggi, MD, Medical Director



# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Tender Napalm' at Signature

Two actors perform raw and tender love story in ARK Theatre-in-the-round.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

Signature Theater is staging the Washington premiere of the violent and sexually charged "Tender Napalm" by playwright Philip Ridley now through May 11. Directed by Matthew Gardiner, the show is the story about a man and a woman at a crucial point in their relationship in the aftermath of an extraordinary loss. Using fantastical and dream-like language, it is a multifaceted exploration of their love in scenes wrapped in allegory and metaphor.

"It's a very simple love story, told in a very original way," said Gardiner. "My hope is that the audience will be willing to open their ears and eyes to a very unique and remarkable playwright."

He adds, "I'm at a point as a director where non-linear storytelling and playwrights that are really trying to break rules and expectations of writing are the most exciting to me."

With its mix of tenderness and fierceness, the play explores the contradictory nature of love. It stars two actors speaking in East London accents — Laura C. Harris and Elan Zafir — acting barefoot, with no props, in the 100-seat ARK Theatre-in-the-round. They give wild monologues of fantasies about dead combat monkeys, tsunamis, unicorns, sea serpents, UFOs — punctuated with dialogue like this: "I could squeeze a bullet between those lips."

The only effects are by composer/sound designer Eric Shimelonis who adds echoes and bombing noises, dimmed lighting effects by Colin K. Bills, as well as dry ice falling from the ceiling. The end result is simmering metaphorical explosions throughout.

Harris describes her character, named "Woman," as in a moment of transition and realization. "The life she had, that she wanted, was taken from her, and she's navigating her conflicted emotions about what happened and what remains," she said. "She has an immense capacity for love and joy, but when love and joy are gone; her capacity is equally as expansive for anger and blame."

She adds: "It's rare to be a part of a show in which so many metaphorical — and literal — muscles are stretched at the same time."

Zafir describes his character, named "Man,"

as a good man who falls deeply in love at a young age and essentially becomes a parent while still a child himself. "Then a tragedy happens that no one could prepare for, which ultimately rattles their relationship, and who they are as individuals," he said. "Things get very dark, and in an effort to protect his family he goes to horrifying lengths."

This play does not have massive sets, projections, multiple costume changes or props. It's just two people on stage telling stories and having a conversation. Gardiner said it was the most challenging piece he's ever directed. "Engaging the imagination



PHOTO BY TERESA WOODS

Laura C. Harris and Elan Zafir star in "Tender Napalm" at Signature Theater in Arlington now through May 11.

of the audience is difficult when all you have are words," he said.

Harris said her character's journey presented a big challenge for her ... "Figuring out the path she takes throughout the play and then being willing to travel to the highs and, particularly, the intense lows along the way."

She said, "Every aspect of working on this play has been enjoyable, truly. To get to navigate the above challenges while working on a piece that strikes such a significant emotional chord with me is invigorating."

"Make no mistake... the play makes you work," said Zafir. "It doesn't spoon feed you the facts. It puts you into the story, like an injection to the vein." He said he enjoyed his long monologues and small cast. "We have history. We are parents; we are lovers, combatants, partners, dancers, fathers, and mothers. We need each other." He adds, "It's fun to explore people who have so much history."

Gardiner hopes that audiences will really listen to the message of the play. "Too often I think audiences just let any form of entertainment wash over them without really listening," he said. "And I hope they leave with a reawakened idea about the power of words and more specifically how we express ourselves to the people we love."

Harris said, "We have all loved and we have all lost, and the beauty of Philip Ridley's script is that, while the details of the plot and the characters who experience it are intensely specific to the world of the play, the poeticism with which he explores what are ultimately expansive, universal themes allows everyone a path in emotionally, to the joyful and the devastating and everything in between."

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

### ONGOING

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

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

**Poetry Series.** 6-8 p.m. second Sunday of the month at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Hosted by poet Miles David Moore. Featured artists share their poetry followed by open readings. Free. Visit [www.iotaclubandcafe.com](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. Featured musicians will perform from 9:30-10 p.m. 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 1st place. Free. Visit [www.whitlows.com](http://www.whitlows.com) or call 703-276-9693.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Illuminations" the art of Linda Maldonado and Elise Ritter at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Both artists use acrylic, watercolor, and collage to achieve imaginative expression in abstract and symbolist styles. The exhibit runs March 3-28. Free. Visit [www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org) or 571-483-0652.

**Theater Performance.** "Beaches" will run Feb. 18-March 30 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Performances are Tuesday-Sunday evenings with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets start at \$40. Based on the book by Iris Rainer Dart. Visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

**Art Exhibit.** See Arlington resident Howard C. Smith's "Over Kansas," featuring watercolor paintings at House of Steep, 3800 Lee Highway, through March 31. The show is an exploration in color and space, and includes abstracts inspired by the photo, along with a series of still lifes. Visit [www.bethsingerdesign.com/watercolors](http://www.bethsingerdesign.com/watercolors) or [www.houseofsteep.com](http://www.houseofsteep.com) for more.

**Theater Performance.** See "The Legend of Blarnia" and "The Vegas Way" at Gunston Theatre One, 2700 South Lang St. ArtStream presents the two productions. Shows run March 27-29 and April 3-5, with showings Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 presale; \$15/door; \$5/ArtStream actors. Visit [www.artstream.org](http://www.artstream.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** Synthetic Theater reimagines their original "silent Shakespeare" production "Hamlet ... the rest is silence" from March 13-April 6. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. at Synthetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. Tickets start at \$35; student tickets start at \$15. Visit [www.synthetictheater.org](http://www.synthetictheater.org) for tickets.

**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. 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. Runs through April 13. Visit [www.arlingtonartscenter.org](http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org) or call 703-248-6800 for hours.

**Art Exhibit.** See "George McQuinn: Arlington's All-Star First Baseman" at the Arlington Historical Museum, 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. The museum is open from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Visit <http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/visit/arlington-historical-museum>.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Bodies of Work: Art in Series" in the main gallery at Gallery Underground in the Crystal City Shops, 2100 Crystal Drive. The exhibit will showcase works by the gallery's 43 members. The show runs April 1-30. Free. Visit [www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org) or call 571-483-0652.

**Registration Now Open.** Register for the Phoenix Derby, a garage race and fundraiser on Saturday, May 17 from 2-6 p.m. at the underground parking garage at 1851 S. Bell St. Some of the events are free, some have cost. Visit [phoenixderby.kintera.org/home](http://phoenixderby.kintera.org/home) to register and find information.

### 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).

**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).

**Register Now.** Winter and Spring break classes are open for registration at [www.arlingtonartscenter.org](http://www.arlingtonartscenter.org). There will be weekend workshops for children, and more.

### THROUGH SATURDAY/APRIL 12

**Theater Performance.** See "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad," the tale of Madame Rosepettle, who travels to a luxury resort in the Caribbean, bringing along her stuttering son, a man-eating tropical plant, a piranha, and her deceased husband, preserved and in his casket, at American Century Theatre. Pay-What-You-Can performance on Wednesday, March 26, 8 p.m. Post-show talk-back on Thursday, March 27. Regular show times are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. The Gunston Arts Center, Theater II, 2700 South Lang St., Arlington. Visit [americancentury.org](http://americancentury.org) or call 703-998-4555.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 27

**Book Club.** 10:30 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Discuss "Flight: A Novel" and "Reservation Blues" both by Sherman Alexie. Free. 703-228-5946.

**Drop-in Story Time: Over 2s.** 10:30-



11 a.m. or 11:15-11:45 a.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. For children age 25 months-5 years. Free. 703-228-6545.

**Drop in Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories. 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.

**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 p.m. at Columbia Pike, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Watch "A Late Quartet," starring the late Philip Seymour Hoffman. 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 Author Club.** 4:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. High school students can bring works-in-progress or imagination and discuss about writing, writer's block and more. Free. 703-228-5946.

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

**Live Music.** IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Natalie York will be at IOTA with Bells and Hunters. Visit [www.iotaclubandcafe.com](http://www.iotaclubandcafe.com) or call 703-522-8340.

**Author Visit.** 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 North Westmoreland St. Louis Bayard appears to talk about "Roosevelt's Beast," a re-imagining of Teddy and Kermit Roosevelt's ill-fated 1914 Amazon expedition. Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or call 703-300-9746.

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 28

**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.

**Film.** 2 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Watch "Hunger Games." Free. 703-228-5946.

**Scholarship Benefit Concert** at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Boulevard. Email Amy Yamashiro at amydyama@yahoo.com, or call 571-405-9300, or 703-942-9748.

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 28-FRIDAY/APRIL 4

**Spring Art Celebration.** ArtFest Week at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th St. North. An opening reception will be held Friday, March 28, 6-8 p.m., meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments in the historic 1902 Hendry House. Events will take place throughout the week. This yearly event is free and open to the public. Visit [www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org](http://www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org) for more.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 29

**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 presents, "The Big Meow," a performance for children adapted from the book by Elizabeth SpireTickets (\$10 -\$15) may be ordered in advance at [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or purchased at the door. Partnering with Homeward Trails animal rescue, guests will be able to meet cats available for adoption or donate cash, wet food or kitty litter. Call 703-933-1111.

**Dance Performance.** 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance presents "Sway," a suite to Dean Martin classics, a barbershop "Some Enchanted Evening" and a brass "Downtown." Tickets are \$16-\$20. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or call 703-933-1111.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Luisa Maita will perform. \$18. Visit [www.artisphere.com](http://www.artisphere.com) or call 703-875-1100.

#### SUNDAY/MARCH 30

**Ballet Performance.** 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Classical Ballet Theatre Studios, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. Classical Ballet Theatre Presents: The Sleeping Beauty Experience, the enchantment of The Sleeping Beauty in a one-hour children's series performance (Act I only). Tickets \$10. Visit [www.cbtnva.org/sleepingbeauty](http://www.cbtnva.org/sleepingbeauty) to purchase tickets.

**Dance Performance.** 2 p.m. at

Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance presents, "The Big Meow," a performance for children adapted from the book by Elizabeth SpireTickets (\$10 -\$15) may be ordered in advance at [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or purchased at the door. Partnering with Homeward Trails animal rescue, guests will be able to meet cats available for adoption or donate cash, wet food or kitty litter. Call 703-933-1111.

**Concert.** 4 p.m. at Rock Spring United Congregational Church of Christ, 5010 Little Falls Road. Ibis presents a free concert featuring Joseph Scheer, violin, Sean Neidlinger cello, and Edward Newman piano. Donations appreciated. Visit [www.ibischambermusic.org](http://www.ibischambermusic.org) for more.

#### MONDAY/MARCH 31

**Story Time: Under 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Glencarlyn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-6548.

**Drop-in Story Time: Under 2s.** 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-6545.

**Story Time: Baby Steps.** 2 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For children up to age 1. Free. 703-228-5946.

**Film.** 6-9 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "The Aviator" (2004). Free. 703-228-6545.

**Drop in Family Storytime.** 6:45 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. For all ages. Free. 703-228-6330.

**Author Event.** 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Charles David Kleymeyer will discuss his book "Yeshu." Free. 703-228-5946.

#### TUESDAY/APRIL 1

**Dance Performance: Forty +.** 10:30 a.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance is proud to present \*Forty + a performing group of dancers past the age of 40. The program includes Sandra Atkinson's "Happenin'" to the jazz improvisations of John Coltrane, Emily Crews' "Sunflower Salutations" highlighting the symbolic significance of flowers in celebration and remembrance, Wayles Haynes new work offering insight into military families, and Jane Franklin's exploration of stillness to music by local composer Mark Sylvester. \$5. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com). Group rates by phone 703-933-1111.

#### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 2

**Book Launch.** 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 North



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## ENTERTAINMENT

Westmoreland St. Book launch and signing for former National Geographic editor Paul Martin, author of "Villains, Scoundrels, and Rogues," a biography collection of America's 30 most outrageous characters. Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or call 703-300-9746.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 3

**Benefit Luncheon and Silent Auction.** 11 a.m. at Washington Golf and Country Club, 3017 N. Glebe Road. Hosted by The Commonwealth Circle, Inc. and features Peter Earnest, founder and executive director of the International Spy Museum. Proceeds will benefit Arlington and Falls Church high school seniors pursuing their education in community and public service. 703-536-9873.

**"Tender Napalm" Off Book.** 7 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Elan Zafir makes up half the cast of Signature's production of Signature's "Tender Napalm." Elan will discuss his career and work on the show. Free, no reservations needed. Call 703-228-6545.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 4

**Opening Reception.** 5-8 p.m., meet the artists of "Bodies of Work: Art in Series" in the main gallery at Gallery Underground in the Crystal City Shops, 2100 Crystal Drive. The exhibit will showcase works by the gallery's 43 members. Free. Visit [www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org) or call 571-483-0652.

**Wine and Chocolate Tasting.** 6:30 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 North Westmoreland St. One More Page hosts a wine and chocolate tasting with local chocolatier Kingsbury Chocolates & Confections of Alexandria. Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or call 703-300-9746.

**Wine & Words.** 7-10 p.m.; 6 p.m. VIP reception. Arlington-based The Reading Connection will celebrate 25 years with this Wine & Words fundraiser at Jones Day Rooftop Terrace, 300 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. This year's fundraising goal is \$100,000. Tickets are \$50-\$150. Visit [www.thereadingconnection.org/contribute/of-wine-and-words](http://www.thereadingconnection.org/contribute/of-wine-and-words) for details.

**"Hunger is No Joke."** 8 p.m. at Cafe Asia, 1550 Wilson Blvd. White Ford Bronco, DC's favorite 90s cover band, is headlining the Arlington Food Assistance Center Young Professionals' 4th Annual "Hunger is No Joke" benefit. Advance tickets are available at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/596201](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/596201) for \$30 each or \$55 for a pair. On-site ticket prices are \$35 for one or \$60 for a pair.

**Cuban Music.** 8 p.m. in the ballroom at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Cuban music group Tiempo Libre will perform, celebrating Cuba's musical heritage. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 day of, \$35 lounge level. Visit [www.artisphere.com](http://www.artisphere.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 5

**Dance Performance.** 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance presents, "The Big Meow," a performance for children adapted from the book by Elizabeth Spire. Tickets (\$10-\$15) may be ordered in advance at [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or purchased at the door. Partnering with Homeward Trails animal rescue, guests will be able to meet cats available for adoption or donate cash, wet food or kitty litter. Call 703-933-1111.

**Ballet Performance.** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Ernst Theater, NOVA — Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Classical Ballet Theatre Presents "The Sleeping Beauty." \$25/adults, \$22/seniors, students, and children. Discounts for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and military families. Visit [www.cbntva.org/sleepingbeauty](http://www.cbntva.org/sleepingbeauty) to reserve seats and purchase tickets. Call 703-471-0750 or visit [www.cbntva.org](http://www.cbntva.org).

**Dance Performance.** 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance presents "Sway," a suite to Dean Martin classics, a barbershop "Some Enchanted Evening" and a brass "Downtown." Tickets are \$16-\$20. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or call 703-933-1111.

### MONDAY/APRIL 7

**Documentary Film.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 1015 Quincy St. Encore Learning presents "Never Stand Still: Dancing at Jacob's Pillow." The film tells the story of how the famous dance company evolved into a place

## Farmers Markets...

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

**Arlington Farmers Market at Courthouse.** Adjacent to the Arlington County Courthouse Parking Lot, at the intersection of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th Street. This is a 'producer only' market with more than 30 producers. From January through March, the market is open on Saturdays at 9 am, closing at noon. Visit [www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com) for a list of vendors.

The Crystal City **FRESHFARM Market** is open April-November on Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m. with a selection of foods and goods from local producers, in front of 251 S. 18th St. Visit [www.crystalcity.org](http://www.crystalcity.org).

where dance from ballet to jazz to contemporary is created and performed by legendary dancers and choreographers. Free, open to the public. Call Encore Learning at 703-228-2144.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

**World Book Night.** 6:30 p.m. at One More PageBooks, 2200 North Westmoreland St. One More Page hosts a World Book Night reception and wine tasting for World Book Night givers. Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or call 703-300-9746.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 17 AT

**Historical Society Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Mad Fox Brewing Company, 444 West Broad Street, Falls Church. Mad Fox hosts the Arlington Historical Society's monthly meeting, featuring author Garrett Peck speaking about "Capital Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in Washington, D.C." One More Page Books will be on site offering books for sale and signature. Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or call 703-300-9746.

**Cookbook Demonstration.** 7:30 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Joe Yonan demonstrates and offers samples from his vegetarian cookbook "Eat Your Vegetables: Bold Recipes for the Single Cook." One More Page will be on site offering books for sale. Registration can be done online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com) or call 703-300-9746.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 5-SATURDAY/APRIL 19

**Easter Bunny.** At The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, 1100 S Hayes St. Photos with the Easter Bunny in the Ground Level Nordstrom Court. Visit <http://www.simon.com/mall/the-fashion-centre-at-pentagon-city> or call 703-415-2401.

### MONDAY/APRIL 7

**"Tender Napalm" Brown Bag.** 1 p.m. in the Mead Lobby at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Laura C. Harris, will discuss her first appearance at Signature in "Tender Napalm." Free, no reservation needed. Visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

### TUESDAY/APRIL 8

**Benefit Breakfast.** 8:30 a.m. at Washington Golf & Country Club, 3017 N. Glebe Road. Encore Stage & Studio's presents their 2014 Sunny Side Up Benefit Breakfast, breakfast and networking, followed by a program featuring Encore Stage & Studio participants and performance by their Musical Theatre Intensive class. RSVP. Visit [www.encorestageva.org/special-events/annual-breakfast/for-more](http://www.encorestageva.org/special-events/annual-breakfast/for-more).

**Culinary Tasting Event.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at CSC, 3170 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Taste savory treats and decadent desserts created by local chefs. Each chef has been partnered with a Best Buddies participant. There will be a silent and live auction. Tickets can be purchased at [www.bestbuddiesvirginia.org/lis](http://www.bestbuddiesvirginia.org/lis).

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Painting by Torpedo Factory Art Center artist Anna Shakeeva

# ArtStream Performances Return

FROM PAGE 3

velop the productions in September. ArtStream hires professional artists to help develop the script, music and choreography. The actors all have input as well. The directors also incorporate the actors' strengths and talents within the stories.

"All of our shows are original and designed to highlight strengths of our actors," she said. "They are all original musicals. The director and the group come up with an idea together at the beginning of the season and the actors have strong influence on the direction of plot."

Though the shows are tailor made, the Inclusive Theater Companies are like any other professional theater troupe in its artistic process.

"A script is developed by the director and then a musician, composer and lyricist will write the music," Woolsey said. "Then, it is just like any other rehearsal process. It is staged, blocked and then we go up."

Woolsey is director of "The Vegas Way," which is set in 1960s era Las Vegas. The other play is a fantasy tale, "The Legend of Blarnia."

Kelly DeRoy is one of the actors in "The Legend of Blarnia." She had ideas that were ultimately incorporated into the plot and script.

"It's about fairies, dragons and trolls," said Kelly DeRoy, who added that she has made great friends through the program. "And the best part is being on stage."

Kelly's mother, Paula DeRoy, said ArtStream has been an amazing program for Kelly and for their entire family, and really for anyone in the audience.

"I thought ArtStream would just contribute to her development, but in actuality, it contributes to how other people see her," Paula DeRoy said. "They see that she is a person who can really stay on task, can follow a role, and she can focus. So what we've noticed is after people see her in a show, they are more likely to engage with her."

Paula DeRoy said she loves watching her daughter approach her roles in the ArtStream plays.

"With ArtStream, Kelly is completely independent," Paula DeRoy said. "She practices her whole script at least twice a day, and she is very motivated to do it."

Woolsey said that business partnerships, volunteers and donations all are integral to ArtStream and all of its programming, including the Inclusive Theater Companies. Some of the volunteers are on stage with the actors during the

shows.

She said that she hopes to continue challenging stereotypes and changing the public perception of people with disabilities with the Inclusive Theater Company plays.

"It's the most public thing we do," Woolsey said. "We have some programs not open to the public, but it is still an important part of our mission to serve the underserved. I always hope we put on a great show so that audiences will really enjoy it. One of the other things really important to our mission is that we challenge our audience members about what people with disabilities are capable of doing. It is sometimes the first meaningful experience that people have with a disability."

Woolsey said she hopes to open more companies, and is constantly on the lookout for unused theater space.

"It's a very expensive process, but our goal is to go into communities where people want this,"

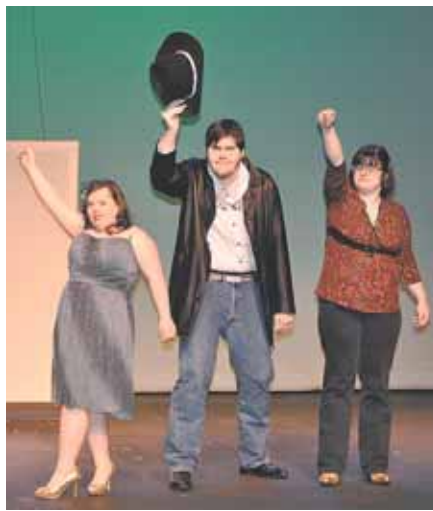


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left are Kerry O'Brien, Tom Davis and Kelly DeRoy from Arlington Company A's show last year, "The Final Showdown."

Woolsey said. "All communities could benefit from programming like this. We have been lucky that Arlington has been so generous with us."

Shows will run at the Gunston Theater One in Arlington, March 27-29 and April 3-5, Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m. and Saturdays, 3 p.m. Performances include two one-act plays, each play lasting about 45 minutes.

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# O'Connell Softball Suffers Rare Defeat

After losing two all-Americans, Knights fall to Lake Braddock.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

The Bishop O'Connell softball program has won 10 consecutive WCAC championships and was nearly unbeatable the last two seasons. Led by a pair of all-Americans — pitcher Tori Finucane and catcher Jillian Ferraro — the Knights compiled a 57-2 record, including the program's first 30-win season in 2013, and captured two state championships. Finucane and Ferraro helped O'Connell dominate the competition, but their decorated high school careers came to a close at the end of the 2013 campaign. Finucane is now pitching for the University of Missouri and Ferraro is catching for the University of North Carolina.

On Saturday, the Knights could have used the all-American duo.

O'Connell suffered just its third loss in three seasons on March 22, falling to Lake Braddock 2-1 in Burke. Bruins pitcher Ashley Flesch entered the seventh inning with a perfect game, but hit O'Connell lead-off batter Hayley Metcalf with a 3-2 pitch. After a strikeout and a pop out, Knights first baseman Olivia Giaquinto broke up the no-hitter with a single to right. A Lake Braddock error on the play allowed a run to score and put the tying run in scoring position, but pitcher Erin Sweeney flew out to left field to end the game.

"We lost a lot," O'Connell head coach Tommy Orndorff said. "... It's very obvious that we lost probably the best pitcher in the country and one of the best catchers — she got national catcher of the year for the NSCA. We lost two first-team all-Americans and we lost [outfielder and No. 2 hitter] Mary Burk, so we lost three Division I players.

"... [If] we got one or two [runs] last year, we get a win. We had Tori on the mound. This year, that's all different. We're going to have to have some production throughout our lineup."

Sweeney, a junior, takes over in the pitcher's circle for the Knights. She faces the challenging task of replacing Finucane, who Orndorff described as a "legend." On Saturday, Sweeney allowed two runs on six hits. She walked four and struck out three. Orndorff praised Sweeney's effort.

"Erin did a good job," Orndorff said. "I don't think it had anything to do with pitching today. We've got to get some runs. ... It wasn't her fault. She should win, giving up two. Hell, [Nationals pitcher Stephen] Strasburg would be [mad] if he lost 2-1."

Sophomore Jenna Spille takes over at catcher for O'Connell.

The Knights return their infield from last season: sophomore first baseman Giaquinto, senior second baseman Amanda Ehlers, junior shortstop Shannon Murphy and senior third baseman Metcalf.

Field issues and inclement weather have limited the Knights to practicing in a gym early in the season. However, Orndorff said he expects the team to find its groove.

"I think we'll be fine," Orndorff said. "I like our team. We are in no way going to win the way we won last year, but we can still be — and I expect to be — very, very successful. We've won [the WCAC] 10 years in a row. I would think [St. Mary's] Ryken should be considered, like, a favorite, maybe, but it's still gotta come through Arlington. ... Until you slay the champion — and winning it 10 years in a row, I think they've got to overtake us."

O'Connell (1-1) is scheduled to travel and face Bishop McNamara at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26.

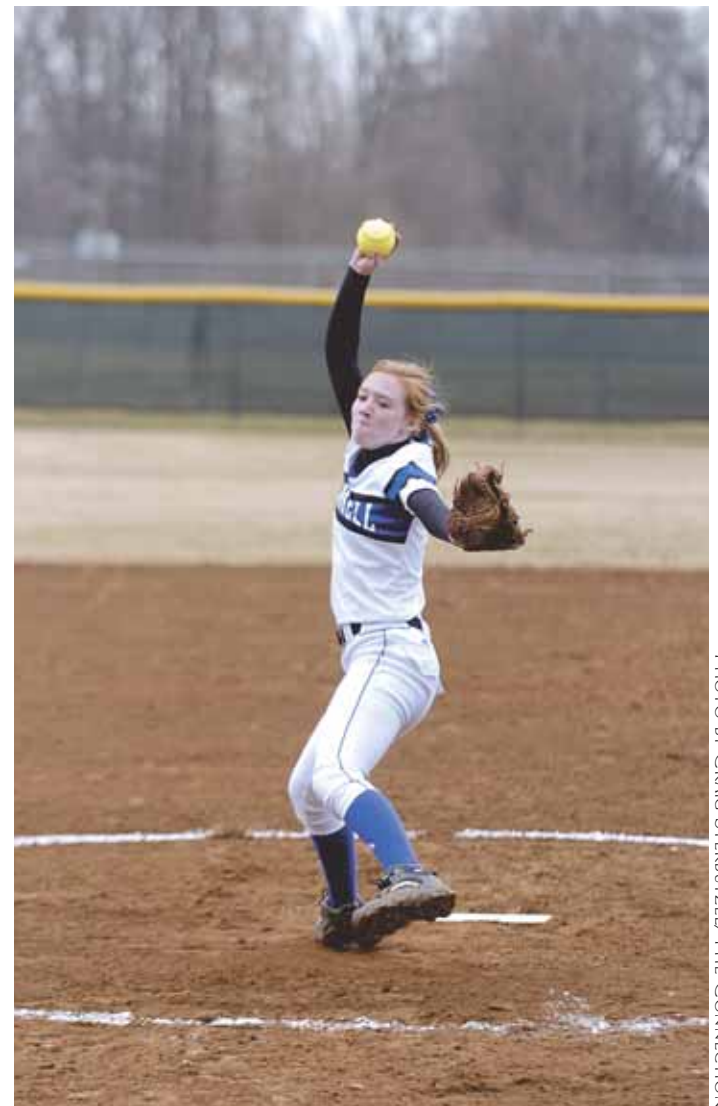


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

O'Connell junior Erin Sweeney faces the tough task of following all-American Tori Finucane as the Knights' pitcher.

## East All-Stars Beat West in Suburban Classic

McLean's Prock named East MVP.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

McLean senior guard Cami Prock "took a couple emotional days off" following the Highlanders' season-ending loss to T.C. Williams in the opening round of the 6A North regional tournament on Feb. 24.

Following her decompression session, Prock returned to the gym to work on her game. While her time with the McLean girls' basketball team was over, Prock's hard work paid off a month down the road with a strong performance in Sunday's 10th Suburban Classic all-star game at Oakton High School.

As a member of the East all-stars, Prock scored a team-high 12 points and earned team MVP honors as the East defeated the West 78-64 on March 23.

The Suburban Classic featured some of the top seniors from the 6A North and 5A North regions. The Northern Virginia

Women's Basketball Coaches Association sponsored the event and helped raised scholarship money for athletes.

The East all-stars, coached by Edison's Dianne Lewis, led the West squad, coached by Madison's Kirsten Stone, 34-30 late in the second quarter. Prock helped the East pull away, scoring six points in the final 90 seconds of the first half as the team built a 41-30 halftime advantage.

Prock described the environment as a combination of competitiveness and fun.

"It was definitely a great mixture of both," she said. "I know when I'm competing and having fun at the same time, it's a great feeling."

Prock will attend the College of William & Mary next year and is debating whether to attempt to join the university's women's basketball team as a walk on.

Wakefield senior Michelle Noel was a starter for the East all-star team and made the game's first field goal. Her transition bucket with 6:04 remaining in the fourth

quarter gave the East a 61-43 lead and gave Noel eight points for the contest. Noel will play for the University of Charleston next season.

South Lakes guard Caitlin Jensen, a member of the West all-stars, was another athlete who didn't take long to return to the gym after her high school season had ended. Jensen said she went back to work the following day after the Seahawks lost to Centreville in the regional quarterfinals on Feb. 25.

On Sunday, Jensen led all scorers with 22 points, including four 3-pointers.

"I've been working really hard since the season ended," Jensen said. "It's a great feeling."

Jensen will continue her basketball career next season at the University of Mary Washington. On this afternoon, she got to play once again with South Lakes teammate Abby Rendle, and with girls she had competed against during her high school career.

"It was a good experience," Jensen said. "It was nice because I've played against these people forever and now playing on

SEE ALL-STARS, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Wakefield senior and East all-star Michelle Noel scored eight points during the 10th Suburban Classic on March 22 at Oakton High School.

# McAuliffe Talks Medicaid Expansion at Clinic

Patients share stories at Medicaid expansion roundtable.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Just a few days before the Virginia General Assembly convened in a special session in Richmond to decide on the budget and the possibility of Medicaid expansion, Gov. Terry McAuliffe met with patients of Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services in Arlington, as they shared with him how Medicaid expansion would change their lives for the better.

"The idea that we could not cover the 400,000 Virginians and provide quality care to me is morally unacceptable," McAuliffe said. "I take this very seriously."

At the roundtable, McAuliffe said he hopes to get the special session of the General Assembly over quickly. The governor announced Monday that he has proposed a two-year pilot program for Medicaid that has been approved by the federal government.

McAuliffe told patients and administrators of Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. that Medicaid expansion will happen this year.

Patients of the Alexandria clinic feel that



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

**Gov. Terry McAuliffe, ANHSI Board Chair Keith Hearle, and ANHSI Medical Director Basim Khan listen to patients' stories at a Medicaid expansion roundtable in Arlington.**

Medicaid expansion cannot come soon enough.

Ted Woynicz, a veteran with PTSD, told McAuliffe that due to his health problems, he is unable to work. He also cannot afford the treatment that would make him better.

Because they cannot afford primary care, many Virginians such as Woynicz use the emergency room for health care. Now, Woynicz is afraid to go due to the high costs.

"It's a really scary thing when you're afraid now even to take yourself to the emergency room," Woynicz said.

According to McAuliffe, Medicaid expansion will allow more people to receive primary care and prevent people from going to the emergency room as much.

Woynicz said he is also unable to make it to the University of Virginia Medical center to receive specialized treatment.

"I really put off what could be an oncological issue for about a year," Woynicz said.

Lori Piper worked as a business executive until five years ago when she was diagnosed with several auto-immune diseases.

After she went through chemotherapy and her conditioned worsened, she had to quit her job.

"Chemotherapy made me much worse. I lost my job and I was not able to work after that. I became homeless and my mother died while I was homeless," Piper said.

Piper needs to see an oncologist at UVA,

but can't afford to go.

"There are days when I don't have enough money to eat," she said. "ANSHI clinic is my only care. Thank God for them, or I wouldn't have any medical care."

McAuliffe said that if Medicaid expansion doesn't go through, medical centers at the University of Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University will face cutbacks.

"That's why I'm so passionate about this topic," McAuliffe said.

Virginia House Republicans are opposed to Medicaid expansion. At the discussion on Thursday, McAuliffe said he wishes Republicans would sit down and listen to patients' stories.

"Every day we wait, it's another \$5.2 million that we are giving up," McAuliffe said.

McAuliffe has spent the last two weeks before the reconvening of the General Assembly to tour Virginia and talk to patients who would be impacted by Medicaid expansion.

"Hearing your stories brings, I think, tears to everyone's eyes in this room," McAuliffe said.

Attendees of the roundtable discussion also included some members of the Virginia General Assembly, including Sen. George Barker (D-39) and Delegates Bob Brink (D-48) and Charniele Herring (D-46).

"I'm lucky. I have health insurance. But it shouldn't be a matter of luck. It should be a matter of our state's priorities," said Herring.

## Polar Vortex Sends Financial Chill through Local Governments

FROM PAGE 3

was 88 requests for service. About 42 of those are still being investigated to see what kind of remedy would be appropriate. That's part of a regional effort to address potholes throughout Northern Virginia, a region that has been hit with a disproportionate amount of precipitation and freezing weather this year. All local governments are trying to figure out how much this year's winter will cost them as the next budget season approaches.

"All invoices for snow-related costs for the last event have not been paid. Some not received yet," said Arlington budget director Richard Stephenson. "In addition, the

cost of pot hole repairs will not be known for some time."

**THE COSTS** of the polar vortex are not easy to grasp, partially because it's difficult to know what the final bill will be and partially because nobody knows how much the damage will be inflicted. Anecdotal evidence is overwhelming. Drivers know that their roads are deteriorating rapidly. Alexandria and Arlington have dominion over their own streets, although the roads of Fairfax County are maintained by officials at the Virginia Department of Transportation, who are scrambling to meet all the requests they have been confronted with

since the polar vortex swept into town.

"Our roads are in pretty sorry shape," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "The snow removal expense has now begun to eat into the repaving expense for this year, and so VDOT is having to look at deferring paving projects that were planned for 2014 because of the amount of money that it has to spend on snow expenses."

Budget officials across Northern Virginia will not know the final expense of the polar vortex for some time. That's because all the invoices have not yet been received by local governments. Those expenses will probably become more digestible for budget officials during the mid-year review or

the third-quarter review, long after the snow has melted and the spring flowers have wilted. Until that time, government leaders will be working overtime to fix the damage of the polar vortex. One day last week, for example, Alexandria had four crews out repairing 375 potholes using six tons of hot-mix asphalt.

"We can't do a really active and intense period of pothole repairs when temperatures are very cold," said Lambert. "We've had more than 30 inches of snow this year whereas we had less than two inches last year, and that combined with the very cold temperatures has a very big impact on our roads."



Photo by Ed Knepley

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# Another Milestone



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

March 30, 2014. My age 59 and a half (9/30/54 is my date of birth). The age at which money deposited into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can be withdrawn without incurring a 10 percent early-withdrawal penalty from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Not that I'm retiring. I am remembering though when this cancer-centric life of mine began.

I was diagnosed – in person – on February 27, 2009. Coincidentally around the time of the year when I contribute to my/our previous calendar year's IRA. On that fateful February day, I was age 54 and nearly one half, approximately five years away from having penalty-free access to my own "qualified" money. Having just received a "13 months to two years" prognosis by my oncologist, decision-making on subjects A-Z and/or everything in between – from the sublime to the ridiculous – was challenging at best, and practically impossible at worst. Throw in a time consideration – such as the future – to factor into your planning, and topsy-turvy becomes turvy-topsy.

Now complicate the process further by introducing financial issues – past, present and future – along with the incredible uncertainty of a totally unexpected terminal diagnosis (stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC) and you have inaction, inattentiveness and insecurity overwhelming you at every step – and at every stagger, too; physically and emotionally.

As awkward and unfamiliar as this experience was at the time, I recall pondering the merit of investing money then that I would have limited access to until later, five years later in fact (without penalty that is). I mean, who knew/knows what expenses I might incur during my treatment? Fortunately I had health insurance, but considering co-pays, deductibles, "reasonable and customary"-type reimbursements leaving a balance to be borne by yours truly, alternative medicines/treatment options available (likely a total out-of-pocket cost), home health care, caregivers, loss of employment/income and miscellaneous expenses I was too clueless and uneducated to even contemplate and prepare for, and once again, you have potential trouble at every turn. Thinking positively and maintaining a good sense of humor can only keep so many wolves at bay. At some point – or certainly you think so, you are going to have to pay the piper, figuratively and most definitely, literally.

Still, I remember thinking even then, in the haze of this terrible diagnosis/set of unbelievable circumstances, that if I didn't act/live as if I had a future, I likely wouldn't have one. But five years seemed like an eternity, and given my prognosis, didn't seem like time I should necessarily plan for. After all, my doctor had suggested that perhaps I "take that vacation I had always dreamed of."

Well, here I am, five years later, having invested every year in my/our IRA, still alive and extraordinarily lucky to be so. In truth, given the facts and feelings I was presented with in late February, 2009, I didn't think I'd live to see this day. But I have. And even though I'm not retiring and not needing to withdraw any funds – prematurely or otherwise – from my IRA, March 30, 2014 is a date, to me, worth acknowledging. Having lived this long, I suppose it's time to pick another date – in the future. If I don't plan for it, I likely won't get there.

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

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## All-Stars

FROM PAGE 12

the same team with [Centreville point guard] Jenna [Green] and all them, it's a new feel, but I liked it."

Madison senior Katie Kerrigan has also been working hard, but in a different sport. After the Warhawks lost to Stonewall Jackson in the region semifinals on Feb. 27, Kerrigan transitioned to her primary sport of lacrosse, which she will play at Ohio State University. On Sunday, she was back on the hardwood as a member of the West all-stars.

"It was definitely a lot of fun playing with the best players in the region," Kerrigan said. "It's definitely a little hard because I haven't touched a basketball in three weeks. It was fun. It was a great experience. I got to play with a lot of my close friends. It was a great way to end my high school career."

Kerrigan scored six points, played aggressive defense and got to play for Coach Stone one more time.

"It was fun," Stone said of coaching Kerrigan in the all-star game. "She's just a workhorse. You don't really see many of those. ... I turned to the girls on the bench and I'm like, 'I would hate for her to have to guard me.' And they were like, 'it's awful.'"

The East all-stars led by as many as 22 points, when West Springfield's Amy Berglund scored to give the team a 76-54 advantage in the fourth quarter. Berglund finished with 10 points. She was one of four East players to reach double figures, and one of seven to score at least eight points.

Samantha Porter (Mount Vernon/Christopher Newport) and Amber Bryson (Lee) each scored 10 points for the East all-stars. Tykera Carter (T.C. Williams) finished with nine points, while Tatianna Torres (Edison) each had eight. Caitlyn Mandela (Lake Braddock) and De'Ja Jeanpierre (Mount Vernon/Barton College) each had four points for the East and Angie Schedler (T.C. Williams) had three.

For the West all-stars, Centreville's Green finished with 13 points and earned team MVP honors. Arnelle Collins (Freedom) scored 12 points and Alexia Johnson (Broad Run) had nine. Kayla Hix (Stonewall Jackson) and Bailey Dufrene (Osborn) each had one point. Freedom's Nicole Lubovich also competed for the West team. Centreville's Katie Blumer was a member of the West all-stars but sat out due to injury.

Lewis, who coached Edison to its second consecutive region championship this season, said players having fun was a priority, but she takes pride in winning.

"Absolutely," she said. "I hate to lose."

There was a 3-point shootout prior to the main event, which Berglund won with nine points in the final round. Dufrene produced a final-round score of eight, while Prock and Green each had a score of seven.

Berglund put up 19 points in the first round.

"My heart was racing, I don't know why," Berglund said. "I was pretty nervous. It was fun. I felt like I was in the NBA all-star [shootout]. My legs got tired in the second round, that's why my score dropped so much, but it was fun."

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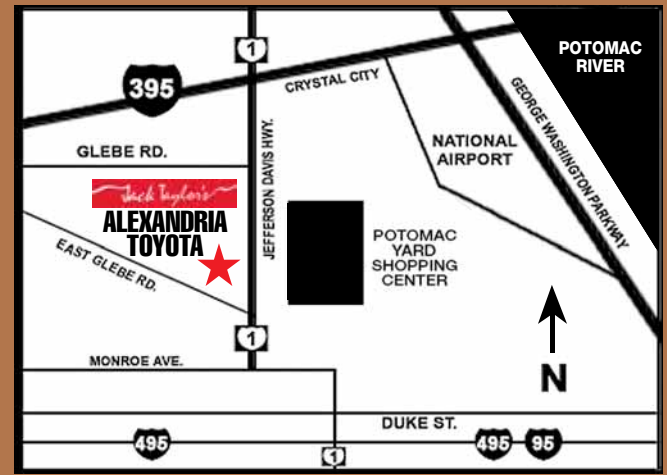
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