

The Fairy Godmother (Zoe Rocchio) uses her magic to get Cinderella (Malena Davis) to the ball.

The Arlington Connection

SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY LARRY McCLENDON

Cinderella On Stage

NEWS, PAGE 3

Growing a Bike Culture in Arlington

NEWS, PAGE 2

School Board Faces Parent Backlash

NEWS, PAGE 3

Take a Hike

NEWS, PAGE 4

Home LifeStyle

PAGE 11

Creating, Growing a Bike Culture in Arlington

Opportunities and challenges emerge in growth of bicycling in Arlington.

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

Even with the recent storm leaving ice coating the Arlington trails, Phoenix Bikes in Arlington was still bustling with activity on Jan. 8. One customer was getting a part of his bike fixed for an upcoming bicycling event, another was getting his wheel replaced. A group of high school instructors filter in to ask about the “Earn A Bike” program for their students.

For many local Arlington bicycle shops, business has never been busier. It’s a sign of the growing cultural emphasis on bicycling in the area, but it’s an emphasis that’s starting to face challenges in a county known more for its contracting and commuting than park space.

Adam Rasmussen is having his bicycle’s chain replaced at Phoenix Bikes in preparation for an adventure race in Maryland. He’s in Arlington resident, but says the county just doesn’t work for adventure racing.

“The population grows, but park space shrinks, so there’s less space per person,” said Rasmussen. “The parks have to compete with affordable housing and schools, all of which are absolutely needed.”

Henry Dunbar, formerly the executive director for Phoenix Bikes, has been the program director at BikeArlington since September of 2014. BikeArlington’s mission is to educate people about biking in Arlington and encourage them to get more involved.

“We’ve seen commuters riding bikes go from 1.7 percent to 1.2 percent,” said Dunbar, describing the two most recent years of change. Dunbar acknowledged the change is pretty small. In Portland, 6 percent of commuters bike to work. In Wash-

ington D.C., 4 percent of commuters bike. Dunbar says that Arlington has made some progress in recent years to increase that number.

“Along with the growing number of bike shops, we’ve really been cheerleaders for the growing bike culture,” said Dunbar. “We aim to incorporate it into everyday life.”

For Dunbar, bike culture is when he sees people taking short trips on their bike instead of their cars, like trips around town on weekend or people taking their bikes to the movies. Dunbar says long-term investments by the county have helped make the emergence of bike culture possible, particularly the decision to build the metro underground. The next big step is one of the most controversial though: building protected bike lanes throughout Arlington.

Protected bike lanes run between regular traffic lanes and the curb, giving a separate space for bike travel. John Harpold, a manager at Papillion Cycles, said he remembers a few years ago when the County Board invited a member of the League of American Bicyclists to Arlington to assess the needs in Arlington. The representative from league told the board that they needed to modernize the existing infrastructure and install dedicated lanes. Harpold, who regularly bicycles through the area, agreed that the installation of protected bike lanes would help keep riders safe and encourage more travel.

“Down by Lynn Street in Rosslyn and by the key bridge, that’s dangerous for cyclists,” said Harpold. “There’s a lot that can be done and it really comes down to the county engineers and VDOT... getting together with urban planners and saying ‘OK, let’s do this.’”

Harpold acknowledged that there are obstacles to implementing protected bike lanes, but said funding shouldn’t be one of



Ever Franco, a Washington-Lee High School Student, working at Phoenix Bikes.

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/THE CONNECTION

road to three lanes, meaning that street would either lose a lane of travel or lose on street parking. Alexandria had considered implementing a protected bike lane on King Street but the proposal was quietly dismissed after a public uproar, largely from businesses who’d lose local parking.

Jay Fisette, Arlington County Board member and an avid local biker who had his bike worked on a Papillion Bikes, said that protected bike lanes were a vital next step.

“We’re evolving slowly, in terms of our bike infrastructure,” said Fisette. “[The goal is] to balance all of the competing needs for curb space and manage the use of the property and right of way between curb lanes. That is what a ‘complete streets’ program is, understanding when and where you can and can’t adjust the parking. Sometimes you can do it, and sometimes you can’t. But separating the cycle track in a protected pathway gives a full range of protection and feeling of safety to a far greater number of people.”

But for local cyclists, like Harpold, the advantages of a greater bicycle culture in the area

outweigh the costs.

“It’s not just about cyclist safety, it helps traffic,” said Harpold. “If the roadways are safe passage for multi-modal transport, it’s going to reduce traffic itself.”

Harpold also mentioned that bicycle paths can help increase property values of nearby homes. Betsy Twigg, an associate broker at McEneaney Associates Inc, said that bicycle paths can definitely be an advantage in selling a home.

“It’s beneficial as part of a larger walkability and proximity issue,” said Twigg. “People want to know if a home is near the library or near the park, and bike paths are a part of that.”

Twigg said she recently sold a house on Fairfax Drive to someone who didn’t care
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Malena Davis plays the role of Cinderella in Encore Stage & Studio's production.



Cinderella (Malena Davis) meets her Prince (Eric Ratliff) at the ball in Encore Stage & Studio's production of "Cinderella," running through Jan. 18.

PHOTOS BY LARRY MCCLEMON

If the Shoe Fits Encore Stage & Studio presents "Cinderella."

A young girl, nicknamed Cinderella by her stepsisters, dreams of leaving her work behind and becoming a princess in this classic musical being presented by Encore Stage & Studio. When the royal family throws a ball she finally gets her chance ...i f she can be home before midnight. This production runs through Jan. 18 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Recommended for ages 4 and older, showtimes are Friday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 17 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 18 at 3 p.m. For ticket information visit www.encorestageva.org or call the box office at 703-548-1154.

From left: Queen (Erin Poplin), Cleopatra (Ana McMenamin), Brunhilda (Gracie Slye), Stepmother (Charlotte Maskelony), Cinderella (Malena Davis) and Prince (Eric Ratliff).



Arlington School Board Faces Parent Backlash

Parents speak out against superintendent plan for boundary changes.

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

The Arlington County School Board faced stiff backlash from local parents at its Jan. 8 meeting. The board had accepted the superintendent's recommendation for how to divide the planning units for the upcoming boundary changes facing Arlington elementary schools.

According to Lionel White, the director of facilities planning, the new plan was designed to improve enrollment balancing.

"Each year, the staff analyzes the capacity data to determine if changes are needed," said White. "The goal is to bal-

ance enrollment between schools and allow us to use existing school facilities more efficiently and effectively. [The new plan] would help us provide students with optimal learning environments."

In the first plan recommended by the Arlington Public Schools staff, plan A, planning units 1607 and 1608 would be kept together, as would planning units 1410 and 1411. According to White, all four would be reassigned to McKinley. However, in the new superintendent plan, plan D, unit 1607 would go to Nottingham Elementary School and unit 1608 would go to McKinley Elementary.

White said the new plan best fit their boundary change criteria, a six-part assess-

ment that focuses on balanced enrollment across the region's schools and seeks to minimize the impact of realignment on students.

Fifteen parents spoke at the School Board meeting, many of them residents of the affected planning units, all of them speaking out against the superintendent's proposal.

Robert Adamson, the Nottingham Elementary PTA president, said that the parents understood the necessity of the boundary changes, especially given that Nottingham would be starting its year at 120 percent capacity in the upcoming fall if some kind of change isn't implemented. Anderson said the superintendent's plan was short sighted. While the projection for

2015 was balanced, by 2016 that estimation rose to 107 percent capacity and 110 percent by 2018.

"We question why the superintendent would propose a plan that would again create an over-crowding issue," said Adamson. "The proposed advantage of plan D is a greater balance, but that balance is only achieved in the near term."

Adamson added that, while 15 parents showed up, 108 members had signed a petition asking for plan A. One of them was Wendy Pizer, another member of Nottingham's PTA, who said she saw extensive problems with the staff's report recommending plan D.

SEE ANALYZING, PAGE 15

Appalachian Trail: As 'Wild' as It Gets for Area Hikers

Film boosts interest in hiking.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

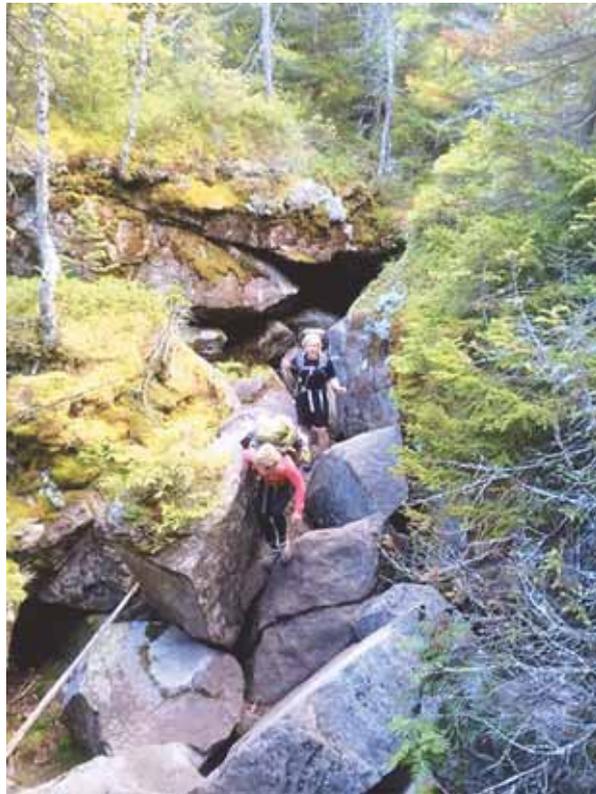
After hiking a few miles into the Appalachian Trail's southernmost point in Georgia, Yorktown High School alumnae James Randle came to a realization of what an enormous task he was taking on, attempting a thru-hike on the 2,180 mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. The first night, March 24, with the temperatures dipped in the teens, he joined 40 hikers bundled up at Georgia's Hank Mountain Shelter — strangers all bonded by a "shared struggle," Randle called it — hiking one of the most famous trails in the country.

"I was not prepared for it, it was just nuts, everybody was frigid," he said, looking ahead at the next five months, walking about 15 miles a day on the trail.

Long distance hiking is once again on the forefront with the recent film "Wild," starring Reese Witherspoon as Cheryl Strayed, a single woman that nearly hiked the entire Pacific Crest Trail by herself a few years ago. Randle read the book on which the movie is based, and with many years growing up as a Boy Scout, he welcomed the challenge, hopping on a bus to Georgia with a one-way ticket. On the bus, he talked about his upcoming adventure to fellow passengers, who thought he was crazy "and then you get there, and it's hard, and you think maybe they were right," he said.

Created in 1936, the Appalachian Trail winds through 12 states. Wildlife, flora and fauna, streams, mountains and other hikers paved the way for unforgettable experiences. From 1936 to 1969, only 59 recorded hikers completed the hike, and it wasn't until 1970, that the numbers of thru-hikers began to rise. In 10 years between 2000 and 2010, 5,890 thru-hikers completed the whole Appalachian Trail.

Edna Baden, staff director at the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club headquartered in Vienna, attempted to hike the Appalachian Trail in 1997. "It's pretty grueling to be out



At Mahoosic Notch in Maine James Randle looks up, emerging from a cave that was part of the journey.

there for a few months," said Baden, even though, technically, she skipped the entire stretch in Virginia because she had walked it before, and fell short of the end in Maine. In the movie "Wild," Strayed, heard noises at night that turned out to be a caterpillar and a rabbit, but they sounded big. "You hear things and they seem so much bigger than they are," said Baden, "you learn to identify the sounds," she added, "bears are really pretty docile."

Randle was lucky that black bears, common on the trail, are so docile. On the trail in New Jersey, he went to pick blueberries that looked like dessert and a bear had eyed them as well. They both were picking from the same bush. "I let the bear have the berries," he said. In another instance, "I was in camp when there was a bear," and fellow hikers were shooing the bear away. With all those things that go bump in the night, "it's hard to fall asleep," he added.

Baden went with three other hikers, who

planned the trip for two years before setting off. They all saved money, made car and mortgage payments ahead of time and "we planned the meals, nutrition wise and planned for what we could carry," she said. Once they are away from civilization and roads, "you become one with nature, that's why I hiked it," she said.

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club is a 7,200-member hiking club that reinforces the spirit of hiking, and maintains 240 miles of the trail from Pennsylvania to Rockfish Gap, Va. "We do all of Shenandoah National Park," she said. Along their stretch, there are cabins that are rented out, shelters and the Bear Den Lodge and Hostel in Bluefield, Va.

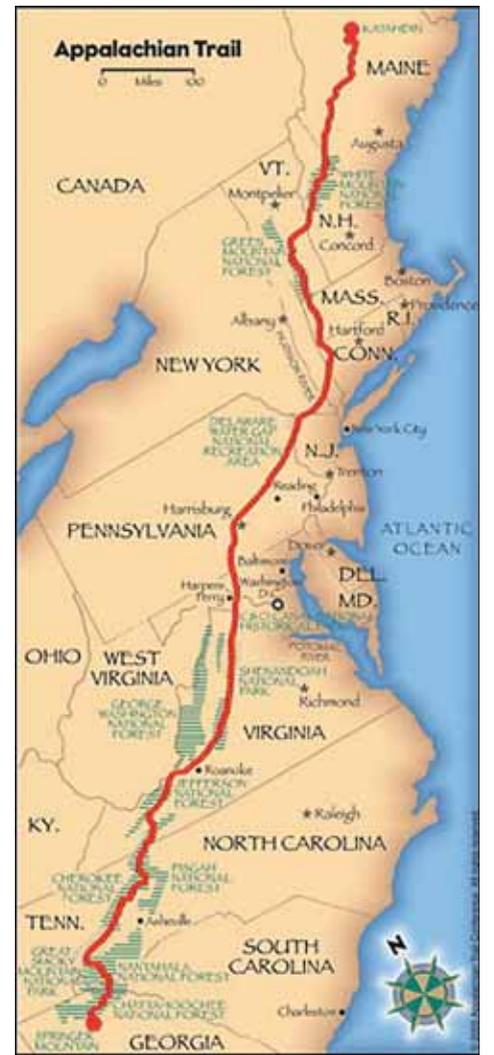
On the trail though, the comradeship and sense of community is irreplaceable. "Hikers learn very quickly that no one hikes so far without help, from friends, family and strangers," said Randle. In "Wild," for ex-

ample, Strayed saw the same faces at the various stops along the way, shared meals and got help when she needed it. At some hiker-oriented stops, there are boxes of equipment and food that are left behind from other hikers that are free for the next group, if needed. Some of the stops, whether it be a camping store, camp site or ranger station, accept packages mailed from home that contain more clothes, food and money the hikers need to keep going. "Trail Magic" is one word they use when some serendipity experiences just happen.

For Randle, townsfolk he met along the way invited him in for dinner and to stay for the night, but "there was some I politely declined," when they got too motherly or judgmental, Randle said. On her four month journey, Baden "made friends that I still have today, it's a hard thing to describe," she said.

Being out on the trail, walking 15 miles a day without a shower, can make things interesting. In the movie, a store clerk with a sensitive nose suggested Strayed practice better hygiene. Randle went for a three-week stretch without a shower. There's always a river or creek bath, but hiker rules suggest going downstream from others. In the myriad of pictures Randle had from the hike, he had a beard and moustache, a common look in Maine where "looking scruffy was helpful," for getting rides he said.

Trail names are a big part of the whole experience. Hikers had their birth names to start until something triggers a change. Strayed had such a big back pack, it was named "monster" and being alone, she got the name "Queen of the Pacific Crest Trail." Baden didn't want someone naming her along the way, and started humming Cat Stevens' "Moonshadow," that became her trail name. Randle was known as "Poncho,"



because on the first few nights cold nights in Georgia, he wore every piece of clothing he brought, topped by a big purple poncho, so folks around the campfire just started calling him "poncho."

"People have different reasons," to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail, Baden said. While Strayed walked to honor her deceased mother and shed drug and relationship demons, "the first thru-hiker was World War II veteran Earl Shaeffer who walked off the war in 1948," Baden said. Baden wanted to get immersed in nature, and for Randle, it started out that his boss didn't believe he could do it, so it was a challenge. It became a bucket-list item he did "before you get locked in and can't get out," with mortgages, family and careers, he said.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club members Lee Sheaffer and Bill Downes are two retirees who also saw the movie. They are planning a thru-hike on the Appalachian Trail in 2016. "A thru-hike has been a dream of mine for a long time," said Sheaffer in an email. To prepare for the hike, Sheaffer and Downes hike and backpack frequently, and test different equipment. Sheaffer wants to bring his dog along too, which is common on the trail.

At REI, an outdoors store, a hiking film such as "Wild," is giving the industry a boost. "We are all excited about the buzz generated for outdoor recreation, wild lands, and expeditionary hiking as a result of that great movie," said Matt Liddle at REI's Outdoor Programs and Outreach department.

SEE TACKLING, PAGE 5

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James Randle and Leah Pope catching their breath in the Shenandoah National Forest



Tackling the Appalachian Trail

FROM PAGE 4

In August 2015, the film adaptation of Bill Bryson's book, "A Walk in the Woods" is being released, starring Robert Redford as Bryson "rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail," as noted on the cover. In the book, published in 1998, Bryson falls short of completing the whole trail.

Edna Baden, staff director at the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in Vienna.



Annual MLK Tribute Set for Sunday

Hundreds of area residents will pay homage to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Arlington's annual MLK Tribute event on Sunday, Jan. 18, from 7-9 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St., Arlington. Now in its 46th year, the program will include live music from the Saint Augustine Gospel Choir, dance from The Dance Institute of Washington and a keynote address from William T. Newman, Jr. with CBS Radio's Justine Love serving as emcee. Prior to the event program visit with non-profit organizations exhibiting at the Volunteer Fair. For additional information about the 2015 program, visit [http://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/2015-tribute-to-dr-mar-](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/2015-tribute-to-dr-mar-tin-luther-king-jr/)

[tin-luther-king-jr/](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/2015-tribute-to-dr-mar-tin-luther-king-jr/).

This year, the program organizers have teamed up with local non-profit Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) to collect non-perishable items for Arlington residents in need. Area community groups and individuals are encouraged to bring food drive collections to the event to "fill the AFAC van" that will be on site at Washington-Lee High School from 6:15-7 p.m.

Requested donations include: Canned tuna, canned beans, canned soup, cooking oil (plastic bottles), corn flour or all-purpose flour and low-sugar cereal.

Ben's Chili Bowl has partnered with Arlington's

SEE ANNUAL MLK TRIBUTE, PAGE 7

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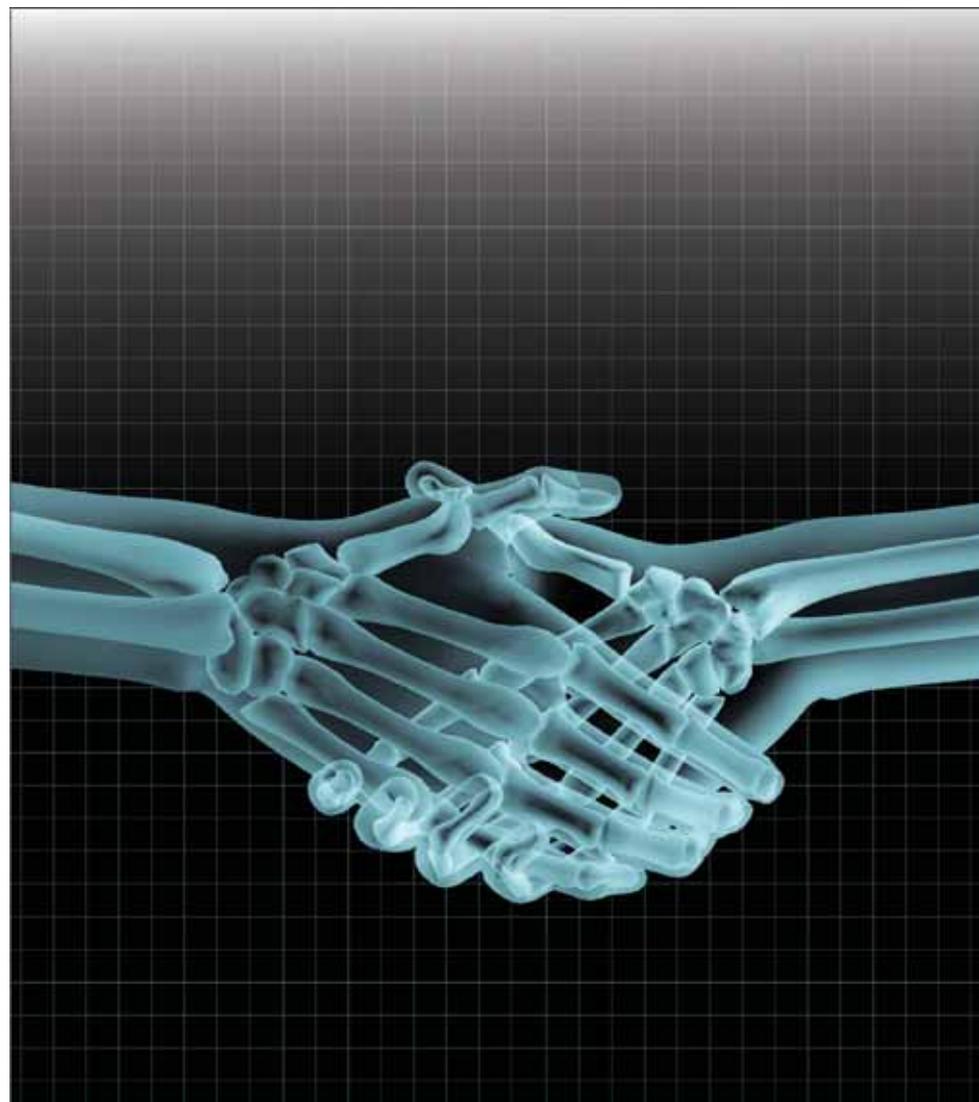
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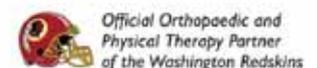
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Steps To Prevent Gun Violence

BY MARTINA LEINZ
PRESIDENT, NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER
OF THE BRADY CAMPAIGN
TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

Legislators convening for the 2015 Virginia General Assembly session this month have a great opportunity to make the Commonwealth a safer place for us all by voting in favor of the modest and responsible recommendations recently put forth by Governor Terry McAuliffe regarding gun violence prevention.

Governor McAuliffe has proposed six key pieces of legislation intended to keep firearms away from dangerous individuals. Three of the initiatives are regarding criminal background checks at gun shows. Currently, only Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers are required to run criminal background checks prior to selling or transferring firearms. Private sellers are exempt from this requirement leaving the door wide open for criminals to easily gain access to guns.

One of McAuliffe's proposals would make unlawful purchases more difficult by prevent-

ing gun shows from advertising that they are not required to conduct background checks. Another proposal would give the State Police statutory authority to process voluntary background check requests of private sellers. The most substantive of the three proposals would close the existing loophole and require background checks for all purchases at gun shows.

None of these three proposals goes far enough. Ideally, criminal background checks would be universal; required on all firearms transactions including online sales. They are, however, a step in the right direction and would do much to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

Another proposal is to return the limit of handgun purchases to one a month so the Commonwealth won't hold the dubious distinction of being one of the most prolific gun-running states in the nation. Other initiatives include a bill to keep guns from people subject to protective orders and one to revoke concealed handgun permits for parents delinquent on child support payments. This later proposal would affect the roughly 9,000 parents with

such permits who are delinquent collectively on child support payments of over \$15 million.

These six modest proposals would be very effective in reducing violent crime by keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have them.

None of the proposals would prevent law-abiding citizens from owning weapons and none would infringe upon Second Amendment rights of responsible adults.

With the Republicans controlling both the House of Delegates and the Senate, there are bound to be disagreements with any legislation proposed by Democratic Governor McAuliffe. However, everyone should agree to these modest proposals to keep Virginians safe. It is not a partisan issue; it is a simple matter of public health and safety.

With great opportunity comes great responsibility. I sincerely hope the General Assembly embraces that responsibility and votes accordingly. If you agree, please contact your elected officials and tell them you are counting on them to vote in support of all proposals to curb gun violence in the Commonwealth.

COMMENTARY

Foundation Hosts Party at Iceplex

The Washington Capitals hosted a holiday party on behalf of Monumental Sports & Entertainment Foundation for families adopted through the Foundation's Family-to-Family program on Dec. 21 at Kettler Capitals Iceplex in Arlington.

Attendees included Capitals head coach Barry Trotz and his wife Kim, forward Troy Brouwer and his wife Carmen and defenseman John Carlson.

The group assisted with distributing gifts to families who were adopted through Family-to-Family, an initiative created by the Wizards 18 years ago that provides holiday cheer to underserved, deserving families in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. They also played street hockey with attendees and mingled with guests, along with Santa, Capitals mascot Slapshot and Red Rockers.

This year 20 families were

adopted by the Foundation through Family-to-Family. The gifts were purchased in November when Capitals' and Wizards' spouses and Mystics players Taylor Hill and Tierra Ruffin-Pratt partnered on a holiday shopping spree at Walmart to benefit the nearly 100 adults and children involved in this year's program. An additional 20 families were adopted by Capitals and Wizards players, Mystics coaches and Monumental Sports & Entertainment staff members.

The party marked the fourth year that MSE sports teams have collaborated on the Family-to-Family program, which allows the Capitals, Mystics and Wizards to "adopt" families in need who are nominated by local schools and nonprofit organizations.

The Wizards delivered presents to a number of the families on Dec. 17.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SALVATION ARMY

Washington Capitals forward Troy Brouwer (left) and defenseman John Carlson (right) play street hockey with children during Monumental Sports and Entertainment Foundation's Family-to-Family holiday party.



Washington Capitals forward Troy Brouwer hugs a child during Monumental Sports and Entertainment Foundation's Family-to-Family holiday party on Dec. 21 at Kettler Capitals Iceplex. Family-to-Family is an initiative created by the Washington Wizards 18 years ago that provides holiday cheer to underserved, deserving families in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Brouwer and his wife, Carmen, adopted a family for the holidays through the program.



Washington Capitals defenseman John Carlson, left, poses with attendees at the holiday party at Kettler Capitals Iceplex on Dec. 21. This year the foundation adopted 40 families for the holidays, including 20 individually adopted by Capitals and Wizards players, Mystics coaches and Monumental Sports & Entertainment staff.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Honored
 Washington-Lee High School senior, **Matias Moreno**, received a silver award from The Hispanic Heritage Foundation. He was one of 21 award recipients at the Washington, D.C. regional Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards ceremony on Dec. 9. As the silver medalist in the engineering and mathematics category, sponsored by ExxonMobil, Moreno was

awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to support his plans to pursue a degree in engineering. Above are, from left, Natalie Diaz, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; Moreno; Laura Vazquez-Bolanos, Tuscarora High School; and Samuel Ortiz, ExxonMobil, at the Washington, D.C. Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards.

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Annual MLK Tribute Planned for Sunday

FROM PAGE 5
 2015 MLK Tribute event by offering a special discount. Now through Monday, Jan. 19 visit the Arlington Ben's Chili Bowl location at 1725 Wilson Boulevard and say "MLK" at the register for a 10 percent discount off the total order.

Beginning at 6 p.m., event attendees have the opportunity to learn more about volunteer opportunities in Arlington from featured area non-profits. The "Arlington During the Civil Rights Era" exhibit will

be on display throughout the evening. The exhibit will feature photos, news articles, and pages from school yearbooks that give a glimpse into what life was like in Arlington during the Civil Rights Era.

Admission is free. The tribute is sponsored by Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation and organized with volunteers. Event partners include Arlington Community Federal Credit Union, Arlington Food Assistance Center, Arlington Public Schools, Ben's Chili Bowl and Teen Network Board.

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ENTERTAINMENT

'In Love and Warcraft' at Signature

Story chronicles when the worlds of online gaming and in-person relationships collide.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

No Rules Theatre Company presents "In Love and Warcraft," a modern day love story where online gaming collides with the real world, now through Jan. 25 at The Ark at Signature Theatre in Arlington.

Written by Madhuri Shekar and directed by No Rules Theatre Company Artistic Director Joshua Morgan, the story chronicles the happenings when the worlds of online gaming and in-person relationships collide on a college campus. It looks at relationships in the digital age through the eyes of an avid female gamer who feels safer in her relationships behind a monitor than in real life.

Joshua Morgan, director of "In Love and Warcraft," said playwright Madhuri Shekar has created a world where sex, science and gaming are all valid, exciting ways to get close to someone.

"I'm always looking for plays that will continue to diversify our audience and explore new contextual topics," he said. "After workshopping Madhuri's terrific play at The Kennedy Center two years ago, I knew this play was different. It explores themes we don't see on stage very often and has the potential of reaching whole new audiences with themes that resonate with all of us."

Anu Yadav plays the main character Evie, a 22-year-old gamer and college student who writes heartfelt love letters for other people, and who's afraid of sex.



Avatars of Ryan (David Johnson) and Evie (Anu Yadav) star in "In Love and Warcraft."

"The play is really about her own discovery of herself, her relationship to her body, and the tenderness and vulnerability of being in a new relationship for the first time," said Yadav.

She said because Evie is in nearly every scene and there are time lapses, her biggest challenge was to stay present and connected to the story. "The story is told through her eyes, and there are so many wild characters in it," she said.

Describing her character, she said, "She is a bold and woman, but in a totally unexpected way, and I really love that."

Kaitlin Raine Kemp plays several vignette characters who are a bold and distinctly different "Woman."

"I had such a vivid image of who each one was, I created a PowerPoint of what I thought they might look like," she said. "I began finding their voice, feeling their words in my mouth, and then developing their story. Once I heard who they were, I could piece together their timeline, and get

Anu Yadav (Evie) and Dani Stoller (Kitty) star in "In Love and Warcraft" at The Ark at Signature Theatre in Arlington.



PHOTOS BY TERESA WOOD

down to the heart of what they were really after."

AJ Melendez plays the role of new guy/boyfriend on campus Raul. "He's sweet, he's nice and giving. He is what most people would consider a ladies' man. On the other hand, we quickly find out Raul is looking for something more."

One particular challenge was the scene where the actors are avatars in the Warcraft Universe. "This scene is challenging because it involves playing two different characters at once," he said.

David Johnson plays the role of the gamer Ryan, the boyfriend from the gaming world who lives in his father's basement.

"He is an avid Warcraft player and is the leader of a very high ranking guild. Outside of the Warcraft universe, however, he doesn't have much of a social life and doesn't leave home very often," Johnson said.

He said the challenge was learning what all the Warcraft vocabulary in the play meant and figuring out what the level of importance was to the things his character mentions from the game.

Johnson said, "I hope audiences get a good and real look into the lives of hardcore gamers, especially multiplayer ones like Warcraft, and have a better understanding of why and how people become so addicted to these games."

Jamie Smithson plays several vignette characters of "Man."

"It's a lot of fun, and I am trying, as of right now, to find the truth in all of them."

Dani Stoller plays Kitty, who exudes a high level of confidence, and tries to impart it on her best friend Evie. "She also finds strength in her sexual prowess and prides herself on her abilities to please others in an intimate way."

She said, "She wants only the best for herself and for her friends, but she doesn't always go about it the best of ways."

No Rules Theatre Company presents "In Love and Warcraft" through Jan. 25 at The Ark at Signature Theatre in Arlington. Tickets are \$25 to \$38 and available at www.norulestheatre.org or through the box office at 703-820-9771. Signature Theater is located at 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"Cinderella." Runs through Friday, Jan. 18, at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road, Arlington. Tickets \$12. Visit www.encorestage.org or Call 703-548-1154 for more.

"Floating, Flying and Racing." 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays only, at the Arlington Historical Museum, 1805 South Arlington Ridge Road. The Arlington Historical Society celebrates the holidays with a new temporary exhibit every year. For the 2014 holiday a collection of more than two dozen toys and models antique toys is on display until Jan. 18. Visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Crime and Punishment in America. Through Jan. 31, at Theatre Two in the Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang St., Arlington. The American Century

Theater begins the new year and its final season with two one-act plays in an evening that echoes the explosive issues emanating from Ferguson, Mo.; New York; Oakland and beyond. In "Cops" by Terry Curtis Fox, police find themselves in a shoot-out with a young African-American male, and in William Saroyan's classic "Hello Out There," a wrongly imprisoned young black man tries to find the best of humanity while trying to survive in a small Texas town. Showtimes are Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; with Saturday-Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. (no matinee Saturday, January 10). Pay what you can performance Wednesday, Jan. 14, 8 p.m.; talkback will follow the Thursday, Jan. 15 performance and others will be scheduled. Get tickets at AmericanCentury.org or by calling 703-998-4555.

LGBT & Straight Friends Social. Tuesdays. Happy Hour, 3 p.m.-7 p.m.; Mikey's "Bar A" Video Wall, 7 p.m.; start time at 8 p.m. IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. IOTA Club & Cafe has designated every Tuesday LGBT & Straight Friends Social Night for those 21 years and older. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com for more information.

Storytime. Mondays and Fridays, 10:30-11:00 a.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Storytime with Ms. Laura. Call 703-527-5929.

CAMPS, 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 for a list of classes.

Synetic Theater. Synetic Studio, 2155 Crystal City Plaza Arcade T-19, Arlington. Synetic offers an introduction to physical theater, acting and dance that inspire students to creativity. Classes include programs for elementary, middle and high school students, as well as adults. Discounted packages and payment plans are available. Visit www.synetictheater.org/studio or call 703-824-8060.

THURSDAY/JAN. 15

Garden Club Presentation. 11 a.m.

at Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Sheila Gallagher, certified horticultural therapist at Melwood, explains her work with disabled people that includes occupational training. Sponsored by Rock Spring Garden Club. Free with optional lunch for \$5. RSVP by Jan. 8 by contacting 703 532-1959 or rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com. See www.rockspringgardenclub.com.

Author Event. 7 p.m. at Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington. Beau Phillips, author of "I Killed Pink Floyds Pig" and a veteran big-market d.j. and former MTV executive, shares outlandish tales of encounters with Led Zeppelin, the Rolling Stones, Van Halen, Paul McCartney and other Classic Rock giants. His presentation will also feature rare photographs shot backstage and from the sidelines. Visit http://library.arlingtonva.us/ai1ec_event/author-event-i-killed-pink-floyds-pig-by-beau-phillips-central/ for more.

Nerf Games. 9-11 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. For people in their 20s and 30s. Free, but registration required. Call 703-228-5988.

SATURDAY/JAN. 17

Children's Theater Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Rosslyn Spectrum Theater, 1611 N. Kent St., 'LL' Level, Arlington. Festival includes two presentations of the family-focused play "Buddies, not Bullies." All activities are bilingual. Adults: \$15; children under 13: \$10; children under 4: free. Call 703-548-3092 or visit www.teatrodelaluna.org.

Dance. 7:30 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Enjoy a live performance by Jane Franklin Dance and Tom Teasley Percussion. Visit janefranklin.com.

Studio Open House. 12-3 p.m. at Synetic Studio, 2155 Crystal Plaza Arcade T-19, Arlington. As a center for American Physical Theatre, Synetic offers an exciting array of classes for professional artists and anyone who is interested in cultivating an active and creative life. Discover new ways of moving and develop a more robust physical vocabulary with any of our classes in fitness, pantomime, dance, acting, or technique. Free workshops for children, teens and adults. Visit

www.synetictheater.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 18

Signature in the Schools. 11 a.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Local high school students will perform award winning shows written by Joe Calarco. Call 703-820-9771 or visit www.signature-theatre.org for more.

Arlington's 46th Annual MLK Tribute, 7-9 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington. This family-friendly program will include live music from the Saint Augustine Gospel Choir, dance from The Dance Institute of Washington and a keynote address from William T. Newman Jr. with CBS Radio's Justine Love serving as emcee. Prior to the event, visit non-profit organizations exhibiting at the Volunteer Fair. Visit http://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/2015-tribute-to-dr-martin-luther-king-jr.

MONDAY-THURSDAY/JAN. 19-22

Charity Citrus Sale. Monday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. at Overlee Pool - Main Pump House, 6030 Lee Highway, Arlington. Fresh Florida Honeybells are on sale to support Lions Community Service Projects on National Service Day - Jan. 19. In addition to fresh citrus, the Lions of Arlington Northwest will be selling Georgia pecans, and Vermont maple syrup. Call 703-528-1130 or email lionskk@earthlink.net for more.

SATURDAY/JAN. 24

Signature in the Schools. 11 a.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Oakton. Local high school students will perform award winning shows written by Joe Calarco. Call 703-820-9771 or visit www.signature-theatre.org.

"Rosebud Film & Video Festival." 12:30-6 p.m. at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. For the showcase, more than 60 films

were received this year and reviewed by an industry jury. Open exclusively to D.C., Virginia, and Maryland media artists, the festival awards cash prizes, public screenings, and other promotional opportunities to the area's best film and video creators. Tickets at www.artisphere.com. Contact Kevin Sampson at kevin@arlingtonmedia.org or 703-524-2388.

Forty+ Concert. 4 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Jane Franklin Dance presents Forty +, a performance by dancers over age 40 in works by local choreographers. \$20 online or at the door. Visit www.janefranklin.com for more.

New Curators, New Ideas. 6-9 p.m. at the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Four rising curators, 16 artists. Exhibition on view until April 4; Gallery Talks: Jan. 31 and March 28. Opening night will feature a performance by Annie Wilson at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. See arlingtonartscenter.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 25

Strategy Gaming Night. 6-9 p.m. at Shirlington Branch Library, The Village at Shirlington, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Free. Join fellow Euro-game enthusiasts for an evening of games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, and Dominion. Call 703-228-6545.

Rosebud Film & Video Festival Awards Ceremony. 7-10 p.m. at Clarendon Ballroom, 3185 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. More than 60 films were received this year and reviewed by an industry jury. Open exclusively to D.C., Virginia, and Maryland media artists. Tickets at www.artisphere.com. Contact Kevin Sampson at kevin@arlingtonmedia.org or 703-524-2388.

MONDAY/JAN. 26

Laughter Yoga. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy St. Arlington. Use breathing, clapping and movement exercises to relax and boost creativity. Session ends with silent meditation. Free. arlingtonlaughteryoga@yahoo.com

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EXTRAORDINARY

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Arlington REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO/THE CONNECTION

2014 Top Sales

3 2724 Nelson Street — \$2,675,500



1 1111 19th Street North #3001 — \$3,750,000



4 1881 Nash Street North #2110 — \$2,600,000



6 4621 35th Street North — \$2,420,000



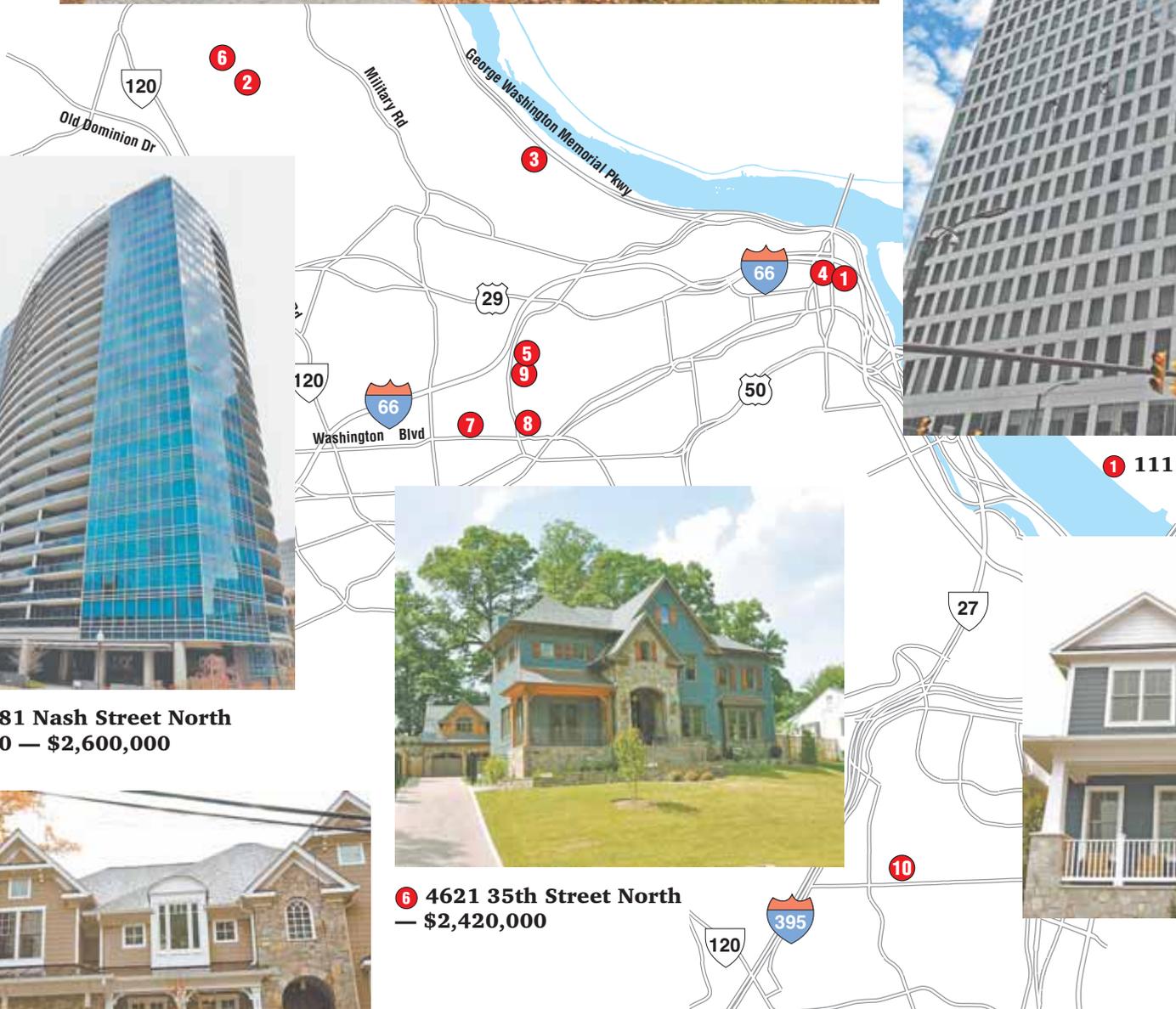
8 1314 Jackson Street — \$2,183,767



9 3164 17th Street North — \$2,155,655



10 2228 Kent Street South — \$2,130,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 1111 19TH ST N #3001	4	..	3	1	ARLINGTON	\$3,750,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22209	THE WATERVIEW	04/04/14
2 4502 32ND RD N	5	..	5	2	ARLINGTON	\$2,860,000	Detached	0.33	.....	COUNTRY CLUB HILLS	10/22/14
3 2724 NELSON ST	6	..	6	1	ARLINGTON	\$2,675,500	Detached	0.55	.....	RIVERWOOD	10/30/14
4 1881 NASH ST N #2110	2	..	2	1	ARLINGTON	\$2,600,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	22209	TURNBERRY TOWER	02/27/14
5 1801 HERNDON ST	4	..	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$2,518,420	Detached	0.25	.....	IYON VILLAGE	06/23/14
6 4621 35TH ST N	5	..	5	2	ARLINGTON	\$2,420,000	Detached	0.33	.....	COUNTRY CLUB HILLS	05/19/14
7 3602 13TH ST N	5	..	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$2,300,000	Detached	0.36	.....	VIRGINIA SQUARE	04/23/14
8 1314 JACKSON ST	6	..	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$2,183,767	Detached	0.12	.....	IYON VILLAGE	09/24/14
9 3164 17TH ST N	5	..	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$2,155,655	Detached	0.18	.....	IYON VILLAGE	09/22/14
10 2228 KENT ST S	5	..	5	3	ARLINGTON	\$2,130,000	Detached	0.22	ARLINGTON RIDGE	03/14/14

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A Kitchen with a View Cramped space transformed into open, airy oasis.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When a local couple decided to purchase a home to accommodate their growing family, they settled on a property in north Arlington. While the charm of the 1960s' home appealed to them, some of its quirky spaces needed new faces, particularly the kitchen.

The family wanted to transform their outdated, cramped, L-shaped space into a light-filled, functional gathering area that flowed into the rest of the home. They hired Arlington-based interior designer Allie Mann of Case Design Remodeling to craft the kitchen to their needs and taste. While the home is child friendly, its polish and amenities make it relaxing for adults as well.

The couple enjoys cooking and entertaining friends, so the duo ordered a culinary dream space, replete with a Thermador Range and Subzero refrigerator, which is disguised behind cabinet fronts.

"They wanted a timeless look, hence the white cabinetry perimeter with complimentary stained island," said Mann. "We widened the window over the sink to allow more natural light to flood the space."

The remodel included dismantling a wall that separated the kitchen from the dining room. The result was a casual, flowing space.

"You can now see from the kitchen to the family room and the home feels more connected," said Mann.

The remodel also included cubbies to accommodate the possessions of the couple's children, three boys all under the age of 5.

"It was one of the focal points in the house, so it needed to look nice," said project manager James Wood.

The countertops, both honed black granite around the perimeter and a honed marble on the island, are also child-friendly. "Honed surfaces can be more durable than those that are not," said Mann. "Marble and granite also create a timeless, classic look."



PHOTO BY CASE DESIGN REMODELING, INC.

The newly remodeled kitchen of this Arlington home has cabinet-front appliances, marble and granite countertops, and an island for family seating.

2015 New Year Remodeling Resolutions

Improving long-term living needs and future home value.

BY JOSHUA BAKER
BOWA



After all the holiday festivities have passed and the ball has dropped to ring in the New Year, many homeowners are inspired to tackle resolutions that relate to their living space. 2015 may be the year you want to remodel your home to allow for the changes occurring in your life. Perhaps you want to build out an office which will allow you to work from home? Maybe 2015 is the year you want to avoid climbing stairs, so moving the master suite to the first floor may be on your resolution list?

One thing is certain in life — family needs are always evolving. As kids come and go, aging parents move in, greener technology becomes available, and we look for more creature comforts in our homes, individuals and families need and want to update living spaces.

So, if you're thinking 2015 is the year to make changes to your home to better suit your changing lifestyle needs, I would encourage you to review some of the following top home remodeling resolutions.

TIP #1: Planning For Your Long-Term Home Needs

Given the fact that a home re-

modeling project can be a significant investment of both time and money, I would strongly recommend that your family has thought through all elements of the remodeling

job to make sure it will work for family's long-term living needs. You want the work done on your home to both improve your day-to-day life and add to the future value of your home, so ensuring the decision makers in your family are all on the same page is critical.

Also, as your family plans to remodel your home, we recommend considering the best times for your home to be under construction. We find that since families tend to travel more during the summer months, that is a good time for a remodeling project as the process may be less disruptive and the work can move quicker.

TIP #2: Research What You Like

One of the best things you can do to prepare for sitting down with a professional remodeler is to find pictures of aspects of homes that you like. Being able to show examples of your preferences is extremely helpful to ensure your tastes are understood and incorporated into the design, and often, the materials selected for your remodeling project.

Websites like Houzz.com or Pinterest.com offer thousands of ideas that you can explore and print out to help you define the look and feel you desire to achieve with your new finished space. You can also save them in an online account that can be viewed by your potential remodel company.

TIP #3: Do Your Homework on the Best Remodeling Company

As with any significant investment, make sure you do due diligence before signing on with a design-build firm. Remodeling remains one of the most reported industries, so be sure to talk with

the firm's client references and visit recent projects they have completed to get a sense for their craftsmanship. You may also want to ask about employee tenure and which professionals will be working with you through the remodeling process. It is important to know who will be your single point of accountability.

With a single point of accountability for the entire design and construction process, you can work alongside your architectural team and other specialists to ensure reliable materials are specified, drawings are clear, and challenges are addressed to lay the groundwork for a smooth production process. Most importantly, this team approach ensures that the project that is being designed

aligns with your budget goals, and finds areas of efficiencies and appropriate cost savings wherever possible.

These three tips will help you to achieve the best approach and find a design-build team that will take accountability and manage the entire process while looking after your best interests. Remodeling professionals become part of your family during the process, so it's important to be extremely comfortable with the firm you choose.

Josh Baker is the founder and co-chairman of BOWA, an award-winning design and construction company specializing in luxury renovations, remodels and additions in the greater Washington, D.C. area. BOWA has more than 25 years of experience and has been honored with 170 local and national awards. Visit www.bowa.com or call 703-734-9050.

HOME SALES

In November 2014, 182 Arlington homes sold between \$1,825,000-\$105,500. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,825,000-\$490,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
4619 27TH ST N	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,825,000	Detached	0.66	22207	FOREST HILLS	
3609 POTOMAC ST N	6	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,723,200	Detached	0.24	22213	STONELEIGH	
3400 GEORGE MASON DR	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,699,900	Detached	0.28	22207	N/A	
3729 WOODROW ST N	4	5	0	ARLINGTON	\$1,585,000	Detached	0.23	22207	COUNTRY CLUB HILLS	
4834 33RD RD N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,475,000	Detached	0.17	22207	ROCK SPRING	
904 CLEVELAND ST N	4	3	2	ARLINGTON	\$1,407,243	Detached	0.12	22201	CLARENDON	
1310 STAFFORD ST N	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,360,000	Detached	0.17	22201	BALLSTON	
2821 23RD ST N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,311,246	Detached	0.22	22201	HISTORIC MAYWOOD	
3710 MILITARY RD	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,300,000	Detached	0.18	22207	NONE	
1881 NASH ST #1209	1	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$1,290,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22209	TURNBERRY TOWER	
3610 14TH ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,280,000	Detached	0.15	22201	CHERRYDALE	
1551 22ND ST N	3	3	2	ARLINGTON	\$1,205,000	Townhouse	0.04	22209	PALISADES PARK	
5105 LITTLE FALLS RD	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.13	22207	SHIRLEY WOODS	
1594 COLONIAL TER	4	3	2	ARLINGTON	\$1,235,000	Townhouse	0.05	22209	HIGHGATE	
2346 FILLMORE ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.12	22207	MAYWOOD	
3705 LORCOM LN	4	3	0	ARLINGTON	\$1,178,000	Detached	0.22	22207	CRYSTAL SPRING KNOLLS	
1240 STUART ST N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,115,000	Detached	0.10	22201	BALLSTON	
4111 RICHMOND ST	4	3	0	ARLINGTON	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.25	22207	ARLINGWOOD	
3653 38TH ST N	4	3	0	ARLINGTON	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.52	22207	RIVERCREST	
2133 SCOTT ST	3	3	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,100,000	Townhouse	0.04	22209	PALISADES PARK	
3929 VACATION LN	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	\$1,093,000	Detached	0.14	22207	LEE HEIGHTS	

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SPORTS

Wakefield's Tham Surpasses 1,000 Career Points

Wakefield senior Dominique Tham scored his 1,000th career point on Friday, Jan. 9 during a game against Hayfield at Wakefield High School. Tham, a 6-foot-4 forward, reached 1,000 points with a dunk. Wakefield went on to win 66-58, improving its record to 10-1.

Tham finished with 14 points, giving him 1,010 for his career.

Tham is in his third season on the Wakefield varsity, led by head coach Tony Bentley. As a junior, Tham was named 5A North region Player of the Year, guiding the Warriors to a 24-5 record, a Conference 13 championship, a 5A North region title and a state tournament berth.

As a sophomore, Tham helped Wakefield win the National District, finish Northern Region runner-up and reach the state playoffs. He recorded a triple-double against Robinson in the regional tournament.

Wakefield faced Edison on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Warriors will travel to face Washington-Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

Yorktown Boys Defeat W-L

The Yorktown boys' basketball team edged rival Washington-Lee 47-46 on Jan. 9 at W-L.

The win improved the Patriots' record to 9-2 and came two days after Yorktown's five-game winning streak was snapped by a 55-38 loss to Chantilly.

Yorktown faced Hayfield on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Patriots will host Centreville at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14, and

Stuart at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

Yorktown's David Sets School Record

Yorktown sophomore guard Sydney Davis set a single-game school record by scoring 34 points during a 51-22 victory over Washington-Lee on Friday, Jan. 9 at W-L, according to the Yorktown athletics Twitter account.

The following day, Yorktown lost to Chantilly, 49-43, dropping its record to 7-4.

Yorktown faced Hayfield on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Patriots will travel to face Centreville at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14, and Stuart at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

O'Connell Boys' B-ball Edges Woodson

The Bishop O'Connell boys' basketball team beat public school Woodson 70-67 on Jan. 12, ending a brief two-game losing skid.

The Knights started 12-0 before losing to St. John's and DeMatha.

O'Connell faced Thomas Dale on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Knights will travel to face St. Mary's Ryken at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

Wakefield's Dominique Tham, seen earlier this season, surpassed 1,000 career points on Jan. 9.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Anne Lacey, of Arlington participated in the Cornell College (Mount Vernon, Iowa) holiday concert on Saturday, Dec. 6 in King Chapel. Lacey is a member of the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers.

Judith McCormally of Arlington was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. McCormally was initiated at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Erik Wagner has earned the rank of Airman First Class in the Air Force JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) program at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal. He is the son of Karl Wagner of Arlington.

A number of APS students have earned spots in the All District Orchestra and Choir.

❖ **All District Orchestra** — The event will take place at Wakefield High School on Jan. 9-10.

Gunston Middle School — **Maura Andy**, string bass

Jefferson Middle School — **Katie Fried**, violin

Swanson Middle School — **Sabrina Shuster**, violin; **Max Herrmann**, violin

Wakefield High School — **Tyler LaPointe**, Concertmaster, violin

Washington-Lee High School — **Lillian Wieland**, viola; **Henry Bendon**, bass; **Constance Stanley**,

viola 2nd alternate

Yorktown High School — **Cait O'Connor**, violin; **Lucy Core**, violin
❖ **All Districts Chorus: High School** — Students will rehearse and perform at Herndon High School, Feb. 13-14.

H-B Woodlawn — **Preston Atkins; Catalina Bennhold-Samaan; Eliza Bracy; Luke Bultena; Rachel Cummins; Christine DeRieux; Ciara Hockey; Miles Kelley; Sarah Linick; Emma Magner; Santiago Mallan; Joey McCloskey; Brian McTyre; Jordi Parry; Nick Saunders; Jamie Staeben; Taylor Steele; Nathaniel Stern; Imogen Thomas; Kiernan Bartlett; Erin Claey; McKinley Dyer; Shaelyn Niblack; Jessica Soforenko; Christine Wanda; Evan McLean (1st alternate); and Pablo Ramos (1st alternate)**

Wakefield — **Asa Meyer; Anise Dorsey; Nathalie Gabutin; Retta Laumann; Carmela Holtz; Sean Romiti-Schulze; Fredo Banzon; Leonard Claire; Kerry Hackes; Abby Brown; and Lwam Bereket-alternate**

Washington-Lee — **Zeke Albro; Miguel Alfaro; Maddie Ashton; Abby England; Abby Fry; Julia Landini; Charlotte Maskelony; Maddie Petroskey; Callie Randall; Caroline Raphael; Nicolas Reeves; Thanos Sarreas; Myles Stremick; Apollo Yong; and Patsy Zetkulia**

Yorktown — **Margot Hanlich and Karuna Shipper**

❖ **All Districts Chorus: Middle School** — Student will rehearse and

perform at Herndon High School, Feb. 12-14.

Gunston — **Athena Butler-Christodoulou; and Paige Wheeler**

H-B Woodlawn — **Maggie Baldwin; Calista Garcia; Casey Ruggiero; Jefferson — Lillian Dunn; Allison Galindo-Hurtado; Grace Kalfatovic; Mayari Loza Munoz; and Christine Siegal**

Kenmore — **Marin Bultena; Paula Romero; and Samantha Rios**

Swanson — **Isabella Gant; Ellie Berenson; Charlotte Howard; Kayla Waddy; Casey Bloome; Noah Troppe; Isabelle Cordero; Zoe Tijerina; Sophia Cummings; Sadie Smith; Rylei Porter; Angela Ramirez; Angela Glover; Camille Beck; Maggie Reinhart; Will Fineman; Rowan Meltmar; Peter Fleckenstein; Matteo Roman; Evan Kilmer; Greg Roberts; Jack Hughes; and Joel Brown**

Williamsburg — **Christian Hudspeth; Sophia Sanz-Kimura; and Katarina Hone**

❖ **National ACDA Honor Chorus** — Students will travel to Salt Lake City Utah to rehearse and perform at the National Choral Directors Association conference, Feb. 25-28.

H-B Woodlawn — **McKinley Dyer**
Swanson — **Grace Barnes; Juliana Clarkson; and Drew Kellenberger**

Arianna Hume and Abigail Spire achieved the dean's list at Belmont University (Nashville, Tn.) for the fall 2014 semester.

Dawson Cannon, an Arlington na-

tive, made the dean's list for the spring 2014 semester at Arizona State University (Tempe, Az.).

Benedikte Hatlehol was one of seven Marymount University students recognized with a \$300 scholarship after their team's work won a juried fashion show on campus Dec. 8. Marymount fashion design and merchandising students worked in teams to create and market golf apparel in the junior and young men's size range for high school students. Hatlehol from Arlington was part of a team that formed its own company, came up with patterns and designs and associated materials to market its own line of golf apparel.

Brendan Counihan and Mian Wang were awarded diplomas from Arizona State University in May.

Brooh Hailu, a junior majoring in global studies, and **Natalia Rodas-Calderson**, a freshman majoring in art, were named to the fall dean's list at Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, Va.).

Harris Teeter announced today that it is donating \$270,926.70 to schools this month through Together in Education, Harris Teeter's fundraising program for schools in its communities. Since 1998, Together in Education has donated more than \$21.5 million to area schools. Two Arlington schools ranked in the top 10 earning schools in the program: **Randolph Elementary School PTA and Hoffman-Boston Elementary School.**

Arlington's **Marymount Univer-**

sity received a 2015 Pittsburgh Conference Memorial National College Grant from The Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation. The maximum funding available this year for each grant is \$10,000 and is awarded to the science departments of colleges with less than 5,000 full-time students for the purchase of scientific equipment, audio-visual or other teaching aids, and/or library materials for use in the teaching of science at the undergraduate level. Approximately 70 proposals were reviewed by the committee.

Michael Ferguson, the son of Matthew and Melissa Ferguson of Arlington, has been named to Randolph-Macon Academy Middle School's principal's list for the first quarter of the 2014-15 school year. Michael is a sixth grade student at Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal, Va.).

Michael Grieg, the son of Cristina Grieg of Arlington and Christopher Grieg of Reston, has been named to Randolph-Macon Academy's president's list for the first quarter of the 2014-15 school year. Mike is Falcon Scholar at Randolph-Macon Academy.

Randolph-Macon Academy students from the area have been named to the dean's list for the first quarter of the 2014-15 school year: **Jessica Neupane**, the daughter of Ram and Goma Neupane of Arlington, is a senior at the Academy; **Erik Wagner**, the son of Karl Wagner of Arlington, is a freshman at the Academy.

Creating, Growing a Bike Culture in Arlington

FROM PAGE 2

about the noise from the nearby road, they were more excited about the bike accessibility right outside their door.

Angie Fox, CEO of the Crystal City Business Improvement District, said her organization has seen first-hand the advantages of an active bike community.

"We're very big advocates of bikes," said Fox. "I get asked all the time, 'what does biking have to do with business?' It's all part of having an active employee. Say you live in Fairfax and you work in Crystal City. You get on Route 66 and it took you 30 minutes or maybe two hours to get to your office. If you hop on your bike and you're there in maybe 45 minutes. You've done something that's good for your environment and good for your health."

Dunbar said the installation of the Capital Bikeshare Program was another big part of creating a bike culture in Arlington.

"We were one of the first counties, along with Washington D.C., to implement a bike sharing program," said Dunbar, who said the program is anticipating the 9 millionth bike ride with the program. There are 78 stations in the bike share program across Arlington. Like the Metro, the Capital Bikeshare is funded by the counties that use the program. Arlington, D.C., and Montgomery County all pay into the program.

Arlington's share is \$318,000.

"The popularity of the capital bike share system has proven that nontraditional riders will adopt a bicycle as an alternative solution to getting around," said Harpold. "Those bikes are red and heavy, but they're convenient and people are using them in surprising numbers. Twenty years ago that wouldn't have happened, but it's cool now."

BikeArlington's annual budget is approximately \$588,000 and Fisette said the organization plays an important, but discreet, role inside the transportation office.

"Their role is to both deal with the education and awareness and implement infrastructure improvements," said Fisette. "[They] look at what the best communities in the united states are doing and look at how to help smoothly ensure a transition to a more bicycle-friendly culture."

While Fisette said bike culture in Arlington is getting stronger, there is still room for improvement. As a cyclist in the area, Fisette says one of his main challenges is finding a practical route for his travels.

"When I bicycle from one place to another, sometimes you've got a direct route, other times there are pinch points or disconnects," said Fisette. "It's the same with driving, you're looking to create an interconnect to make sure there's a direct and safe route."

Harpold started bicycling in Arlington

when he was 14 and working as a bike messenger. He's a manager at Papillion Bikes now, a store he's worked on and off again with for the past 20 years, and said the clientele of the store has dramatically changed and reflects a shift in Arlington's bike culture.

"We've been in Arlington since 1976," said Harpold. "In the last five years, we've almost tripled our gross income. We've tripled the number of bikes we've sold and doubled our square footage in this year. We made \$200,000 in 2009. In 2014, we made over \$500,000. That's incontrovertible. That's people buying stuff, and we don't do a lot of advertising. We've really just seen an increase in people who just want to get bikes."

Mostly, Harpold says it's young people moving into new condominiums and see how accessible their work is by bicycle.

Phoenix Bikes has recently been targeting an even younger demographic. Stephen

Green, who works at Phoenix, said the store has an "Earn A Bike" program with the local school, where students can come into the shop and learn the basic mechanical elements of how a bicycle functions. At the end of this program, the store provides them with the basic materials for them to build their own, which they donate to the community.

After this, the store will provide them with a second set of basic materials for them to build a bike for themselves. The two youngest employees, Evelyn Murcia and Ever Franco are both Washington-Lee High School students who built their own bikes, went through a more advanced mechanics course, and are now working as paid staff at the store. They walked in as Green finished his repairs on Rasmussen's bike, which will also eventually need to get the spokes replaced on the rear tire. It's an investment, but for Rasmussen, he can't imagine living and working in Arlington without it.

"Along with the growing number of bike shops, we've really been cheerleaders for the growing bike culture. We aim to incorporate it into everyday life."

— Henry Dunbar, program director, BikeArlington

BULLETIN BOARD

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

APPLICANTS NEEDED

Arlington Commission on Long-Term Care Residences needs advocates who work or live in Arlington. The Commission is currently seeking prospective commission members and volunteers willing to serve as liaisons to long-term care residences. For more information or an application, go to the Commission on Long-Term Care Residences' website: commissions.arlingtonva.us/ltrc/, or contact the Agency on Aging 703-228-1700, via TTY (703) 228-1788,

or via e-mail ArlAAA@arlingtonva.us.

THURSDAY/JAN. 15

Meet the Chair. 6:30-8 p.m. at George Mason University's Arlington Campus, 3351 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington. Leadership Arlington, co-host George Mason University, and supporting partner Arlington Chamber of Commerce, present this opportunity for the community to get face-to-face with the 2015 Chair of the Arlington County Board, Mary Hughes Hynes. After hearing about her 2015 initiatives, the event will open up for questions from the audience. Free, but RSVP requested. To RSVP visit www.leadershiparlington.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 20

Why Don't More Women Run for

Public Office? 7 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Elementary School, 701 S. Highland St., Arlington. Susan Welford of Running Start will address this question in her presentation. Sponsored by the American Association of University Women. Free. Contact Sara Anderson, 703-532-3830.

SATURDAY/JAN. 24

Teachings of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi z. Immediately after Shabbat services at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Rabbi Leila Gal Berner will be presenting "The Art and Spirituality of Dying - the December Project" It is encouraged to read the book "December Project: An Extraordinary Rabbi and a Skeptical Seeker Confront Life's Greatest Mystery" by

Sara Davidson. Email admin@kolaminvrc.org for more.

MONDAYS/JAN. 26, FEB. 2, FEB 9.

Placement Exams. 5 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. Arlington. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes will be held at Arlington Mill Community Center/Thomas Jefferson School. Exams are free. Call 703-228-4200 or visit www.apsva.us/reep.

MONDAY/JAN. 26

"Meet the Speaker" Series. 3-4:30 p.m. at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 Quincy Street, Arlington. Encore Learning continues its series "Meet the Speaker" in 2015. Dr. James Giordano will speak on "Brain Gain? the Promise and Problems of Neuroscience and the Need for Neuroethics," an overview

of recent developments in the study of brain science. Free, open to the public. Call Encore Learning at 703-228-2144.

TUESDAY/JAN. 27

Small Business Assistance. 7-8:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 South Walter Reed Drive, Arlington. Interested in starting a business or expanding one? Drop-in one-on-one assistance: the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Stop by to learn about the free services for entrepreneurs and small business owners offered by Arlington's non-profit Enterprise Development Group. And pick up small business resource information from BizLaunch, Arlington Economic Development's Small Business Program and Arlington Public Library. Free. Call 703-228-5710.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JANUARY

1/7/2015 Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions
1/14/2015 HomeLifeStyle
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 19
1/21/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
1/28/2015 Neighborhood Outlook
1/28/2015 .. Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment;
Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/4/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/4/2015 Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month
2/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle
2/11/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16
2/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
2/25/2015 Pet Connection Pullout

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For one box of 54 petite Belgian waffle cookies in three delicious flavors: milk chocolate, dark chocolate and vanilla; an extravagance to be sure, available during the holidays; this recipient (actually, my wife, Dina, was the recipient) very happy to oblige and indulge. However, as lucky as I was to receive/be offered some of these desserts: \$36 approximately, for 54 average-sized cookies is a bit out of my price range. The problem/complication is, my wife Dina is often a quality-not-quantity type of person, much different than I. And even though her sweet tooth pales in comparison to my sweet teeth, she is now, as a result of this very kind and generous gift, predisposed more than ever to scoff (I'm being polite) at my regular cookie purchases; typically bought by yours truly at the local supermarket and more often than not, involving some kind of Nabisco-brand product. As much as I'd like to think I'm semi open to change, it's the change back from a five-dollar bill with which I'm likely more inclined to consider.

Not that I didn't/don't appreciate the upgrade in my snacking choices, it's more the arithmetic that boggles. For the same \$36 spent on these delightful alternatives, when on sale at \$3 per bag, take 12 bags of Oreo DoubleStuf cookies – each of three sleeves holding 10 cookies – 30 cookies filling each bag. If one multiplies 12 bags times 30 cookies, 360 cookies becomes the total; meaning for the same \$36, I can enjoy 54 cookies, or with my Oreos, I can enjoy 360 cookies (not at one sitting; I'm bad, but not that bad) instead. Not exactly the heels of a dilemma, but neither is it dollars to donuts. And like my mother before me, when the price is upside down on something, as I would characterize this comparison, digesting the more expensive item (cookies in this example) becomes challenging and not nearly as enjoyable as the upgrade might lend itself to be.

To be fair though, as delicious as these cookies were, they are NEVER going to be a regular item in our pantry, nor do I suspect, a regular gift. I mean, who can afford such an expense? And though I certainly enjoyed eating them (especially considering that I didn't pay for them), buying them myself offers much less satisfaction. Dina however, might (might?) think differently. She might (might?) prefer the upgrade. As she has said many times, she doesn't mind less if it is better than more. And on a related subject, a lot of something is just a lot, not necessarily better. She doesn't see the same value in quantity as I do. Speaking to her cookie interest, it might only be 54 cookies whereas mine would be substantially greater. Thus, my being cut off after only 54 cookies, (time frame not specified) would be a significant consideration; for Dina, not so much.

Quality rules her roost. More often than not, quantity rules mine. And though one might consider this difference as substance over style, I characterize it more as fact over fiction. Yes. The cookies were delicious, but money doesn't grow on trees (it's made out of linen, actually); still, I'd rather have a lot of a little than a little of a lot. Sometimes, too much of a good thing is simply too much. With respect to these Christmas cookies, even though their time here was short, their memory will be long. For now, that will have to suffice.

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

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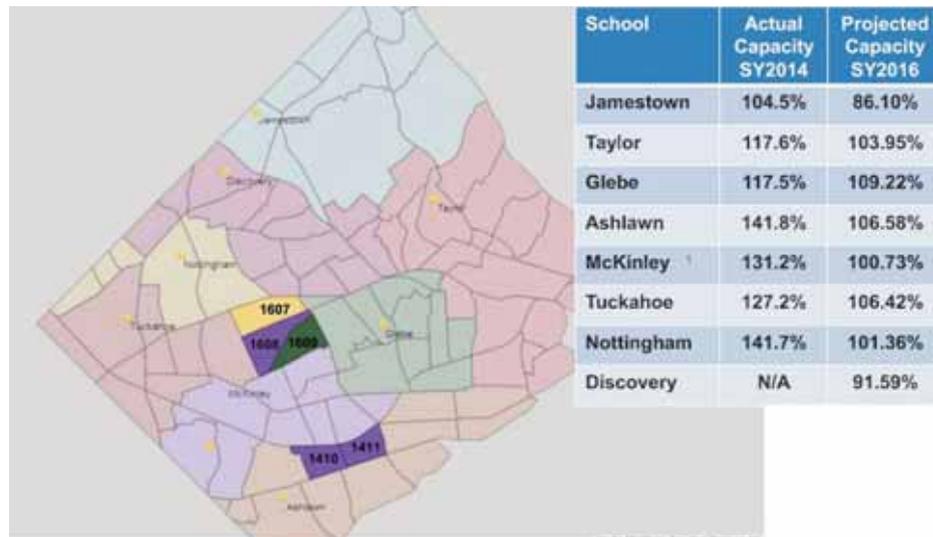
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Note:
1. The utilization percentage at McKinley includes 23 Montessori students that are housed in the Reed building.

New Arlington Elementary School boundaries with 2015 changes highlighted

Analyzing School Boundaries

FROM PAGE 3

"The [plan D] chart included a 23 student pre-school class in McKinley's despite the fact that that class is not at McKinley, it's at Reed," said Pizer. "This throws things off and it made plan D appear to be more balanced than Plan A. If you look at a more detailed view of plan D, it does not look so balanced. Under plan D, Nottingham would again climb to 107.4 percent in just under a year in 2016, making it the most crowded school again. Two other schools would have under capacity at 94 percent and 95 percent. It seems problematic to start this school off at over capacity almost immediately ... Plan A can do at least as well as plan D for balance... with the added benefits of plan a that 1607 doesn't need to separate from 1608."

For other parents, the separation of 1607 and 1608 was unacceptable.

"I'm a parent in 1608," said Jason Herring. "I have a little girl in first grade. We've been a part of the community for nine and a half years. I've come to terms with the fact that we're probably going to be moved, I'm OK with that. I just want to make sure that the right decisions are made for the long term."

Like other parents at the meeting, Herring said he was dissatisfied with the limited options the School Board provided, but said he and other parents had started to accept plan A as acceptable.

"If these are your two options and you have to pick one of them, I would hope you would give some deference to the parents of the kids who are affected," said Herring. "These are parents who've been a part of this process for the past few months and the parents who care enough to be here tonight ... We want to have an elementary school where we're welcomed ... right now our kids are stuck in the middle. My seven

year old is now understanding what's going on and she cried last night."

Nathan Miller echoed Herring's concerns that dividing planning units 1607 and 1608 was creating an unnecessary rift in the community.

"When I explained to my daughters what I was doing tonight and why I had to come here to talk, my daughter in second grade said 'Well what about Gwen? What about Madeline?'" Miller said. "These are all of her best friends who live across the street that she would not be going to school with

... It doesn't make sense to impose this amount of dislocation in a small community. Keeping 1607 and 1608 is what our community wants. We're not asking for a lot, we just want to do what's best for our kids."

James Lander, chairman of the Arlington School Board, said that the parents were underestimating the flexibility of their children.

"Children are very resilient, they make friends wherever they go," said Lander. "They don't have the phobias adults do ... Sometimes parents have

"Children are very resilient, they make friends wherever they go. They don't have the phobias adults do ... Sometimes parents have more anxiety than children."

— James Lander, chairman, Arlington School Board

more anxiety than children."

John Chadwick, the assistant superintendent for facilities and operations, said that the staff no longer felt plan A was feasible.

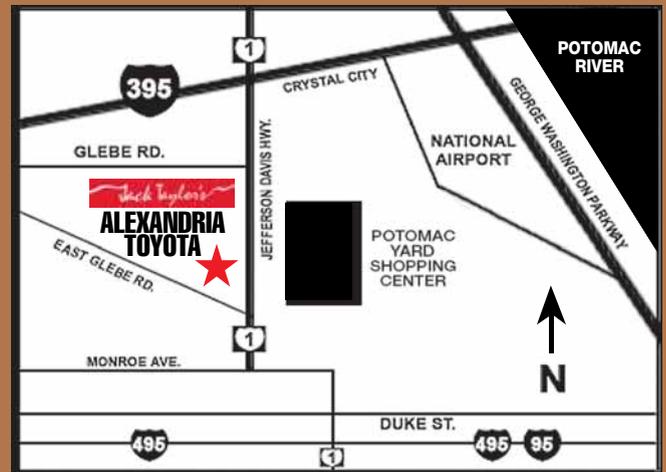
"The preliminary staff recommendation [was] for plan A. In the end, when we looked at it, we felt that the balance of enrollment was stronger with plan D than plan A and were very concerned about the overcrowding at Tuckahoe going even higher in 2015 than it does in 2014. In plan A it goes up to 135 percent."

On Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Arlington Education Center Board Room, the School Board will host a public hearing on the topic. The School Board will vote on the boundary shift plan on Jan. 22.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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