

The
Arlington
Connection

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PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/THE CONNECTION

DECEMBER 6-12, 2017

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'Tis the Season Santa visits Shirlington.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

*Twas the month before Christmas and the town
gathered near
Because in Shirlington Village: Santa was here.
There were families with children and those
with sweethearts
All waiting in line for the horse-drawn carts
The crowd was gathered that beautiful night
To see the Shirlington Christmas tree light*

All of Campbell Avenue not cleared for the horse carts was packed with eager faces, young and old, watching the stage closely for any sign of the man in red. The tree was a dark silhouette against the bright Signature Theater. After a series of Christmas songs performed by the cast of The Holiday Follies, Santa made his appearance to a roar of applause.

The Shirlington Christmas Tree lighting, held on Nov. 30, is an annual tradition in the small Arlington community that draws residents from the area and visitors from across the region. This year, the tree lighting was accompanied by activities up and down Campbell Avenue in local businesses and a carriage ride.

"It feels so great," said Andrea Strange. "This is a small community but there's a lot to offer. I love to bring my dog down or hang out with friends."

Strange, a Fairlington resident, said she's been to the Shirlington tree lighting for the last five years in a row.

"We really embrace [the holidays] here," said Strange. "There's so many festivities. There's something new every day."

Sitting next to her, Emily Haimowitz was attending the tree lighting for her first time, but said she was loving it and would be back.

Patrick Mooney always drives by Shirlington with his family and sees the tree, so when they found out there was going to



The newly-lit Christmas tree in Shirlington Village

be a tree lighting ceremony, this year the Mooneys decided to get out of the car and explore.

"We're having a great time," said Mooney. "It's much more organized than I thought. They really went all out this year. We didn't even know about the sleigh rides."

Natalie Mooney noted that the weather was perfect for the evening, which longtime Shirlington Tree-Lighting attendees say is a refreshing change of pace.

"Last year it rained and they had to cancel," said Ruby Miller, a local resident. "But this year, I love it. It's so much fun. I moved appointments, changed the work schedule, got out early just to be here."

Miller saw the lighting with her friend, Betty Squatrito-Martin.

"It's very family friendly here," said Squatrito-Martin. "I think it's great. I didn't even know all these kids were out here, and I'm old so I think that's great."

At the lighting, Miller and Squatrito-Martin reflected on their holiday traditions. For Miller, one of her favorites has always been going Christmas tree shopping with her son. Every year, they pick out two, one for her home and one for his. Now that he's married, Miller said he's continuing the tradition with his wife. Squatrito-Martin said some of her favorite traditions were making cookies and going to see Scrooge at the Forest Theater, which she does every year.



Families pet the horses pulling carriages.

Dwelling in Accessories

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

Andrea Walker had a pretty simple request, but one that had been in the works for 10 years. Accessory dwelling, an arrangement in which a portion of a property is enclosed as its own living space with its own entrance, is allowed in Arlington but an ordinance passed in 2008 came with a set of restrictions. Since then, only 20 accessory dwelling units had been approved. At the Nov. 27 County Board meeting, the board voted in favor of revisions that would ease the restrictions on accessory dwellings.

The ordinances removed the restriction on the number of new accessory dwellings created each year in the county, relieved limits on dwelling unit sizes, and allowed detached accessory dwelling

units in properties with existing accessory dwelling. The new ordinance did spark concerns, from members of the public and County Board members, particularly surrounding the offset of detached accessory units from property lines. As written, detached accessory units can be built within a few feet of a property lines. Staff was told to assess more options for setback requirements for detached units, but in the meantime, most of the discussion surrounding accessory dwelling was supportive.

"I want to see robust accessory dwelling in my lifetime," said Walker. "I'm having surgery on Thursday, so no pressure. I agree with many concerns raised, but I know and we all know regulatory perfection is impossible."

Walker, who has been a resident of Arlington since

SEE REVIEWING, PAGE 14

County Board relieves accessory dwelling restrictions.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Detached accessory dwelling in a county rendering, highlighting concerns about how close buildings could get to neighbor properties.

Police Cruisers Burst with Holiday Toys

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

It is 6:11 p.m. at Harrison Shopping Center, and one police cruiser is almost full of Christmas toys stuffed into the backseat and even the trunk. Last year they filled four cruisers. Officer Michael Keen says people were stopping by before they even started accepting donations at 6 p.m.

The parking lot is blocked off with bright flashing cruisers ready for the Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive sponsored by the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD.) Other locations in Shirlington Village and Our Lady of Lourdes are also collecting toys on Nov. 28 with Pentagon Row collecting on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Cars drive by slowly and children jump out, clutching boxes of airplanes and Star Wars and all of their own favorite toys to donate, and officer Kwame Domfe says, "Here comes a stuffed bear; they love those." He says that Legos were the big thing last year.

Three-year-old Alex Pollack struggles to lift the large Fisher-Price box with an airplane to Corporal Beth Lennon. He pushes the red button, and a large noise reverberates through the parking lot. A woman brings unwrapped toys in plastic bags because she doesn't want to risk having them get dirty.

Keen says they get hundreds of toys, which are taken to a location for sorting into age-appropriate piles. Then when a child approaches them in line for Operation Santa they can just reach to the right place. Keen says they get a good variety of toys.

Keen says the toys will be distributed to children in low-income areas of Arlington during the month of December. "We know a lot of these kids because we interact with them all year in literacy programs or summer camp. It's great when they come running up to give you a hug. This is continuity, seeing the full circle."



Three-year-old Alex Pollack pushes the red button to show off the beep on his donated airplane before he hands it over to Corporal Beth Lennon.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Officer Michael Keen accepts children's gifts as a steady stream of donations is delivered to Harrison Shopping Center on Nov. 28.



Cruiser lights flashing in the parking lot draw attention to the Arlington County Police Department Holiday Toy Drive. Officers Kwame Domfe, left, and Michael Keen inspect an art kit that has just been dropped off. Domfe says that last year Legos were the most popular gift.

OBITUARY

Fr. Gerard Creedon

Longtime area priest dies at 73.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Father Gerard Creedon, who served for 15 years as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Arlington, died Nov. 16 at Washington Hospital Center following complications from heart surgery. He was 73.

Known as a crusader on behalf of the poor, Creedon served as pastor for several area parishes, including Holy Family Catholic Church in Dale City, where he was serving at the time of his death.



Fr. Gerard Creedon

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Born Feb. 16, 1944, in Inchigeelagh County Cork, Ireland, Creedon was the fourth of 14 children of John J. and Margaret Creedon. He attended seminary at All Hallows College in Dublin and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Richmond on June 16, 1968.

Creedon earned a bachelor's degree in English and Latin from University College in Dublin, a master's degree in theology from Washington Theological Union and a second master's degree in social work from The Catholic University of America.

Well-known within the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Creedon served at a number of area parishes. He served as parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament Church in Alexandria, 1968-75; St. Luke Church in McLean, 1975-78; and St. Agnes Church, 1978-79; and pastor of Good Shepherd Church in Alexandria, 1979-91.

While serving at Good Shepherd, Creedon was appointed director of diocesan Catholic Charities, a position he held from 1981 until 1988. In 1991, he moved to the Dominican Republic, where he was founding pastor of the Arlington Mission in the parish of San Francisco de Asis Bánica.

Creedon returned to Virginia in 1995 when he became pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, where he served until his appointment to Holy Family in 2010.

Among his many contributions, Creedon founded Gabriel Homes for people with disabilities and the dioc

SEE FR. CREEDON, PAGE 5

NEWS

Arlington Sheriff Beth Arthur and Steven Rubloff, president of the Virginia Hospital Foundation, hold the oversized check for \$3,000.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Shaving for a Cause

The impact of cancer on many throughout the world is devastating, so Lt. Rob Lutz of the Arlington County Sheriff's office came up with the idea for No-Shave November in his office, and managed to talk 58 fellow officers to join in the effort, raising \$3,000 for the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation to use for cancer prevention, research and education.

"Everybody knows somebody with cancer," said Lutz as he sat in the temporary barber chair outside the Arlington Courthouse on Friday, Dec. 1. "We wanted to raise awareness and funds," he added.

They incorporated the help of Hasan Gurel, who owns InStyles Barber Shop around the corner, and all the participating officers had their turn in the chair for the 10-minute procedure. The Arlington Sheriff's Office does not allow beards, so even if the officers had gotten used to the stubble, they had to take a turn in the chair.

Sheriff Beth Arthur supported the fundraiser. "It's been a great opportunity for us to work together," she said.

— MIKE SALMON



Lt. Rob Lutz of the Arlington County Sheriff's office is putting an end to No-Shave November where he helped raise money for cancer prevention, research and education.

Fr. Gerard Creedon Dies at 73

FROM PAGE 4

esan Peace and Justice Commission, where he served as chair from 2002 until his death.

Additionally, he served as diocesan director of Catholic Relief Services and the Campaign for Human Development; founder of Catholics for Housing; diocesan representative on the board of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; board member of Social Action Linking Together (SALT); and strategy team member of Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE).

Fluent in Spanish, Gaelic and French, Creedon served on the Virginia Catholic Conference's Respect Life, Health and Social Concerns Policy Committee from the organization's beginning in 2005.

In April, Creedon received the Della Strada Award from the Ignatian Volunteer Corps and on Nov. 18 was posthumously awarded First Home Alliance's 2017 Alliance Leadership Award.

Creedon was preceded in death by brothers Cornelius D., Richard and Michael Anthony Creedon. Survivors include sisters Therese Wilson, Nora Mary Hyde, Miriam O'Connell and Margaret



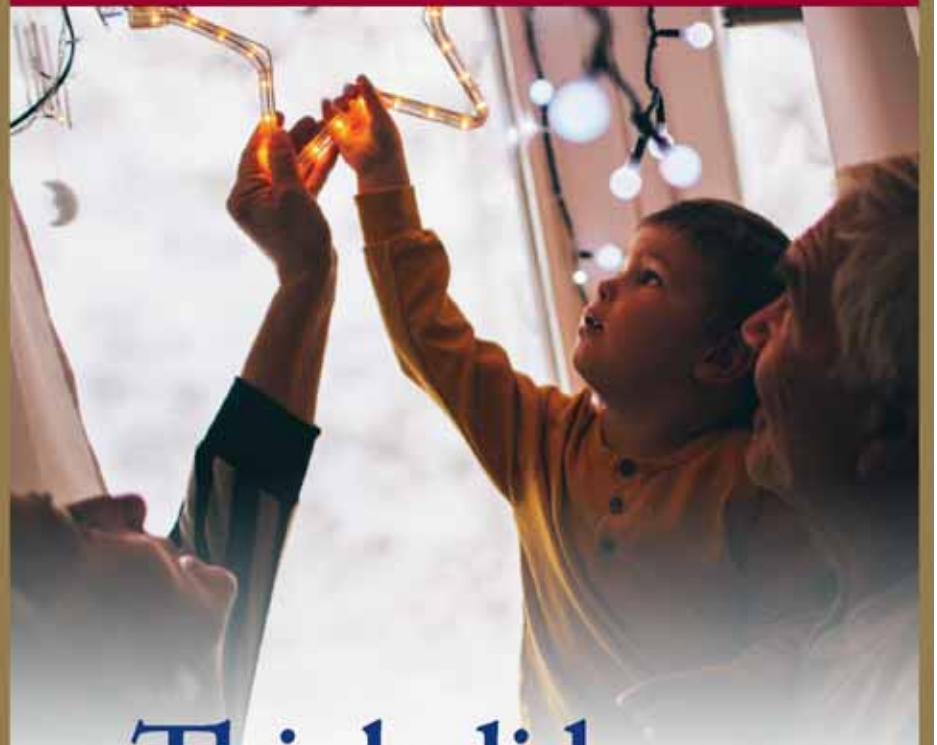
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Fr. Gerard Creedon died Nov. 16 at the age of 73.

O'Shea, and brothers Oliver, Bernard, Thomas, Joseph, Dominic and Willie John Creedon.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Nov. 21 at Good Shepherd Church. Burial will take place in Inchigeelagh, Ireland at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Holy Family Building Fund at 14160 Ferndale Road, Dale City, VA 22193.

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OPINION

Give Locally in Arlington County

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger for tens of thousands of poor children in our area.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about helping those in need, those less fortunate than themselves.

GIVE LOCALLY

In no particular order:

- ❖ Arlington Free Clinic provides medical care for low-income, uninsured adults in Arlington. www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org 2921 11th St. South, Arlington, VA 22204, 703-979-1425
- ❖ Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, 703-525-7177, www.aachhomeless.org
- ❖ A-SPAN provides services for Arlington's street homeless. Its mission is to secure permanent housing for one of Arlington's most vulnerable populations. P.O. Box 100731 Arlington, VA 22210, 703-820-4357, www.a-span.org/
- ❖ Arlington Thrive provides one-time, same-day emergency financial assistance to Arlington residents facing a financial crisis, and also has programs to help prevent homelessness. 703-558-0035, www.arlingtonthrive.org
- ❖ Doorways for Women and Families provides services to help women out of domestic violence and homelessness toward safe and stable lives, Arlington, www.doorwaysva.org, 703-504-9400.
- ❖ The Arlington Food Assistance Center provides supplemental food assistance to Arlington County residents, on average serving 3,500 adults and 1,500 children a week, plus weekend backpacks for about 300 homeless children attending the public schools in Arlington. 2708 South Nelson Street, Arlington, VA 22206, www.afac.org/, 703-845-

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Arlington, about 8,000 (more than 30 percent) of the 23,300 Arlington public school students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals.

The median family income in Arlington rose to \$140,838. But among families with children, more than 9 percent have income below the poverty level. That's \$20,420 for a family of three. That's about \$1,700 a month. Median rent in Arlington is more than \$1,800, meaning the cost for half the rentals is more than that.

These are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who

- 8486.
- ❖ Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Arlington, 703-521-9890.
- ❖ Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, Kim Honor Matkovsky, volunteer chair, APAH Holiday Gift Drive, khonor@macrodg.com, 703-624-9583
- ❖ Northern Virginia Family Services, 571-748-2500, www.nvfs.org, Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families.
- ❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182. 703-506-9191, second-story.org. Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children.
- ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 1100 N Glebe Road, Suite 373, Arlington, VA 22201, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org.
- ❖ **Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia** offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of

must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food.

Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger — a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/

- ❖ **The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** has launched its Permanent Fund campaign, a community endowment which is a forever source to provide critical support for those in need in the Northern Virginia region; Consider leaving a legacy through a current or planned gift to the Permanent Fund at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. www.cfnova.org/permanentfund.

- ❖ **The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia**, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA 22042, 703-237-0866, lcnv.org, teaches adults to speak, read, write and understand English at the most basic level. The organization has been around for 55 years, and serves Fairfax and Arlington Counties and the cities of Falls Church and Alexandria. Most of the students are immigrants, and they are mostly women, and low income.

- ❖ **Neighborhood Health Clinics** www.neighborhoodhealthva.org, Improving health and advance health equity in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax by providing access to high quality care regardless of ability to pay.

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for Dec. 12-16.

Senior centers: Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Arlington Mill, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.; Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.

Senior trips: DC ZooLights, Monday, Dec. 11, \$5; Mormon Temple Visitor Center and Festival of Lights, Kensington, Tuesday, Dec. 12, \$5; Washington National Opera Costume Tour, D.C. plus buffet lunch at National Press Club, Thursday, Dec. 14, \$34; ICE! at Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor, Friday, Dec. 15, \$47; Cathedral Choral Society, "Joy of Christmas," Saturday, Dec. 16, \$65. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

NEW PROGRAMS:

Winter herbs /spices for seasonal favorites, Monday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m., Walter Reed. Register, 703-228-6300.

Pickleball for beginners, Mondays, 9 a.m., Arlington Mill, 703-228-7369; 10 a.m., Walter Reed, 703-228-0955.

Hearing screening, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lee. Free. Call for appt., 703-228-0555.

Travel writer Jeff Moss shares info on planning a trip to Africa, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m., Walter Reed. Register, 703-228-0955.

Illustrated program on famous work by Renoir, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1:30 p.m., \$6, Lee. Register, 703-228-0555.

Army Band Trio, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m., Arlington Mill. Register, 703-228-7369.

Singles night for adults 55+, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Arlington Mill. Details, 703-228-7369.



Volunteer Group of the Year

The Marymount Women's Lacrosse Team was honored in October as Volunteer Group of the Year by AHC Inc. for its efforts volunteering with the affordable housing organization's After-School Program for elementary students. The team has volunteered once a week for three years. Three Arlington residents were also celebrated as top volunteers. From left are: Jamie Usrey, After-School Program volunteer; Marjorie Macieira, College and Career Readiness volunteer; Tim Bellaire, Teen Tutoring volunteer; Marymount University Women's Lacrosse Team Coach Kate Athing; and Bridgette Stacom, Marymount University Lacrosse Team member.

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NEWS

\$227 Million to Fix Arlington Memorial Bridge

The National Park Service (NPS) has approved \$227 million to initiate a contract to repair and rehabilitate the 85-year-old Arlington Memorial Bridge.

The Virginia and D.C. congressional delegations, with support of D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, advocated for a federal FASTLANE project grant, as well as secured additional appropriations to launch the Memorial Bridge rehabilitation project in January. Construction will begin in the fall of 2018, with the project being completed in 2021, giving the bridge a lifespan of an additional 85 to 100 years.

During construction, at least three lanes of traffic will remain open at all times to allow for continued use of the span. Identifying the remaining required funds allows the NPS to save \$35 million in costs by completing the project in one phase rather than two, and will allow the project to be finished 18 months sooner than previously estimated.

"After years of work to secure funding to fix Arlington Memorial Bridge, today's announcement gives us hope that the bridge will remain safe and serviceable into the 22nd century," U.S. Rep. Don Beyer said. "Our tour of the bridge and press conference in 2015 crystalized the dire need for this funding. Since then I have worked together with my colleagues in Congress, leaders from Virginia and the District, and two Administrations to secure the money

for these structural repairs. This truly is great news, and I thank everyone whose efforts brought us here."

Beyer hosted a press conference next to Memorial Bridge in 2015 with the regional delegation and members of President Obama's Cabinet to call attention to the urgent need for funding to repair key surface infrastructure. In 2016 he and his colleagues in Congress supported an application for a grant which successfully secured \$90 million to fund the first round of repairs.

The Memorial Bridge, which carries 68,000 vehicles daily between Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Va., was originally opened in 1932 with a 75-year design life. It is now structurally deficient, having never undergone a major rehabilitation. As a result a 10-ton load limit remains in effect, and large vehicles, including trucks and buses, are prohibited from crossing. Without a major overhaul, it has been expected that the bridge would have to be closed to vehicular traffic beginning in 2021.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has previously estimated that closing the Memorial Bridge could cost local governments \$75 million per year in transportation outlays alone. Moreover, transit studies suggest that traffic from the bridge would spill over onto other area bridges, particularly the 14th Street Bridge and Roosevelt Bridge.




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HOLIDAY FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING

Holiday House Craft Show and Sale. Through Dec. 10, various times at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. The Holiday House is a juried arts & crafts sale by local artisans. Call 703-243-7329.

Drafthouse's 2017 Christmas Movie Festival. Various times at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Featuring "Elf," "It's A Wonderful Life," "Home Alone," "Miracle on 34th Street," "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," "Scrooged," and "Gremlins." \$10 for unlimited admission. Visit arlingtondrafthouse.com/ or call 703-486-2345.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

Winter Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Stories and signs of winter will be the topic. Free. Ages 2 and up. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 8-9

The Groundlings Holiday Show. Various times at the Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. The Groundlings presenting an evening of holiday sketches and improvisation. Visit arlingtondrafthouse.com or call 703-486-2345.

SATURDAY/DEC.9

Operation Santa Holiday Show. 11 a.m. at the Nottingham Elementary School parking lot, 5900 Little Falls Road. The men and women of the Arlington County Police Department are doing a public performance of the Operation Santa 'All I Want for Christmas' holiday show featuring many popular characters including: Santa, Rudolph, the Grinch, and others. Free. Visit police.arlingtonva.us/.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

St. Nicholas Gift Mart at St Mary's. 10:15 a.m. at St. Mary's, 2609 N. Glebe Road. Sunday School classes have each adopted an outreach organization to support and have handmade items to sell: s'mores, ornaments, bean soup kits, care packages for the needy, Christmas bulbs, dog and cat treats. The proceeds will go to support their charities. Supplementing the

children's gifts will be granola and cookies from Together We Bake, and beautiful items from Iglesia San Jose's craftswomen. Visit stmarysarlington.org/.

Kids' Winter Celebration. 3:30-5 p.m. at Syntetic Studio, 2200 Crystal Drive. Make a gingerbread house, meet Syntetic cast and see a mini-performance in the studio. Free. Call 703-824-8060.

The Arlington Chorale Concert "Winter Fun." 4 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Under the leadership of Artistic Director and Conductor Dr. Nancia D'Alimonte, the Chorale will perform a collection of holiday favorites. Visit arlingtonchorale.org.

Dinner with Hansel and Gretel. 5-7 p.m. at Syntetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. \$75. Call 703-824-8060.

Christmas Caroling. 6 p.m. at St. Mary's, 2609 N. Glebe Road. Here We Come A-wassailing...Parishioner ages 1 to 101 are invited to join St. Mary's Youth and Choirs for Christmas caroling. All singing abilities welcome. Visiting the homes of older parishioners. Visit stmarysarlington.org/.

Candlelight Christmas Concert. 7 p.m. at the Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, 1500 North Glebe Road. Featuring the Mount Olivet Choir, Brass and Timpani. Call 540-539-3731 or email cindynewcomb27@gmail.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 11

Ugly Holiday Sweaters. 7-8 p.m. at the Shirlington Branch Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Bring your own sweater, the hot chocolate and festive decorations will be supplied. Adults 18+ only. Call 703-228-6545.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 13

Youth Services Winter Open House. 4-6 p.m. at the Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For preschoolers and elementary age kids: Crafts, snacks and cozy winter storytimes. For middle and high school age kids: Hot chocolate bar, make a present to take home, or make a holiday card. Call 703-228-5990.

Happy Holidays Dinner-Dance. 6:30 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall, 5115 Little Falls Road. Featuring entertainer Dillon of Piano d'Amore. Will be collecting donations of unwrapped toys to be contributed to the USMC's annual Toys for Tots drive. \$45. Email BSCRSVP@gmail.com or call 703-241-0390.



2015 FIE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Lighting of the Menorah

"Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay." Children will sing traditional Jewish songs at Chanukah on Ice at the Pentagon Row Ice Skating rink in Arlington on Dec. 14. This annual event includes family ice skating, hot dogs and latkes with applesauce, as well as lighting of the traditional Menorah.

THURSDAY/DEC. 14

Rosslyn Carols Holiday Concert. 5-10 p.m. at the Central Place Plaza across from the Rosslyn Metro station, 1800 N. Lynn St. Enjoy holiday games, food and special winter drinks in addition to a life-size snow globe that attendees can step into and bring home a holiday picture card. Visit www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-carols-holiday-concert.

Chanukah On Ice. 6-8:30 p.m. at Pentagon Row Ice Skating, 1201 S. Joyce St. The program will begin with open skating where children and adults can ice skate to contemporary Jewish music and classic Chanukah songs. It will continue with a lighting ceremony,

greetings from local dignitaries, Kosher food, Chanukah songs and a free raffle. \$13 at the door, and \$10 in advance. Visit ChabadAA.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

National Chamber Ensemble Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Soprano Rebecca Littig joins National Chamber Ensemble in "Holiday Cheer." Visit www.uucava.org/.

SUNDAY/DEC. 17

Nutcracker Tea at the Ritz. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City, 1250 S. Hayes St. Presented by Ballet Nova. High tea

and pictures with the Sugar Plum Fairy, crafts, raffle prizes and a mini-performance of excerpts from The Nutcracker. Adults: \$75, Children under 12 - \$44. Visit www.BalletNova.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 30

Winter Bird Walk. 10-11:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. What birds are around in the winter? Some are familiar, year-round friends but others are winter-only visitors such as Winter Wrens and Brown Creepers. Beginners welcome and loaner binoculars are available. Free. Ages 6 and up. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Local Artist Exhibition. Through Dec. 1, various times at Long & Foster, Real Estate's office, 4600 Lee Highway. Local artist Stanley Piotroski has exhibition titled "Piotroski New Works," on display at newly renovated office through Dec. 1. Call 703-998-3111.

Drafthouse's 2017 Christmas Movie Festival. Through Dec. 13, various times at Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Featuring "Elf," "It's A Wonderful Life," "Home Alone," "Miracle on 34th Street," "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," "Scrooged," and "Gremlins." \$10 for unlimited admission. Visit arlingtondrafthouse.com/ or call 703-486-2345.

"Crazy for You." Through Jan. 14, various times at the Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. A musical comedy with Gershwin tunes including "I've Got Rhythm," "Someone to Watch Over Me" and "Nice Work If You Can Get It" fuse with tap dancing. Visit www.sigtheatre.org.

Artists' Exhibition. Through Jan. 31, various times at the Courthouse Plaza lobby. Through the Lens of Frank Hallam Day and Anne Rowland images of Arlington's built and natural environments. Visit <https://publicart.arlingtonva.us/>.

Arlington Farmer's Market. Every Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon at the corner of N. 14th Street and N. Courthouse Road. A weekly celebration of local food including fresh produce, meats, dairy, cheese, baked goods, free range eggs, specialty items, cut flowers, plants and herbs. Email csingiser@cfwdc.org or call 917-733-6402.

FRESHFARM Market. 3-7 p.m. on

Tuesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Shop from local farmers and producers with seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh-cut flowers, container plants and herbs, farm-raised eggs, all-natural meats, artisan baked goods, and specialty foods. Visit www.crystalcity.org.

DEC. 1-23

Holiday Hansel and Gretel. Thursday-Friday, 11 a.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Syntetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. During the bustle of holiday crowds, Gretel tries to keep her brother, Hansel, out of trouble while their unengaged babysitter leaves Gretel to fend for them both. Visit syntetictheater.org/.

DEC. 2-3

Petite Nutcracker. Saturday and Sunday, 1 and 3 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs

Road. Presented by Ballet Nova. Advanced Sale: \$16-\$26, additional \$3 at the door. For 3-5 year olds. Visit www.BalletNova.org.

DEC. 2-10

Holiday House Craft Show and Sale. Various times at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. The Holiday House is a juried arts & crafts sale by local artisans. Call 703-243-7329.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

Winter Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Stories and signs of winter will be the topic. Free. Ages 2 and up. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

DEC. 6-13

Lions Club Fundraising Event. Various times at the Overlee Pool

(Bath House - Lower Level), 6030 Lee Highway. Entrance off John Marshall Drive. Fresh Citrus, Pecans, and Maple Syrup for sale. Call 703-528-1130.

THURSDAY/DEC. 7

Student Art Reception. 5-7 p.m. at Marymount's Barry Gallery, Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Marymount University invites the public to an opening reception for its annual senior art exhibition, which this year is titled "Location." The exhibition will run through Jan. 16. Visit www.marymount.edu/.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 8-9

The Groundlings Holiday Show. various times at the Arlington Cinema Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. The Groundlings presenting an evening of holiday sketches and improvisation. Visit

ENTERTAINMENT



Summit by Elizabeth M. Beach.

Meet the Artists

On Thursday, Dec. 7 enjoy the Student Art Reception, 5-7 p.m. at Marymount's Barry Gallery, Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Marymount University invites the public to an opening reception for its annual senior art exhibition, which this year is titled "Location." The exhibition will run through Jan. 16. Visit www.marymount.edu/ for more.



Eppur Si Muove by Altyn Ashyrova.

CALENDAR

arlingtondraftshouse.com or call 703-486-2345.

539-3731 or email cindynewcomb27@gmail.com.

3:30 p.m. at Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive, Falls Church. Seeking individuals who are seasoned and aspiring communicators and leaders. Free. Call 703-475-3208.

National Chamber Ensemble Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Soprano Rebecca Littig joins National Chamber Ensemble in "Holiday Cheer." Visit www.uucava.org/.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Operation Santa Holiday Show. 11 a.m. at the Nottingham Elementary School parking lot, 5900 Little Falls Road. The men and women of the Arlington County Police Department are doing a public performance of the Operation Santa "All I Want for Christmas" holiday show featuring many popular characters including: Santa, Rudolph, the Grinch, and others. Free. Visit police.arlingtonva.us/.

Birds of a Feather. 2-3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Learn about birds flocking together. \$5. Ages 6-10. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

Remove Invasive Plants. 2-4 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Help assist the return of ferns and wildflowers, and the animals that depend on them, in areas once covered in destructive invasive plants. Call 703-228-3403, or email gulfbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

St. Nicholas Gift Mart at St. Mary's. 10:15 a.m. at St. Mary's, 2609 N. Glebe Road. Sunday School classes have each adopted an outreach organization to support and have handmade items to sell: s'mores, ornaments, bean soup kits, care packages for the needy, Christmas bulbs, dog and cat treats. The proceeds will go to support their charities. Supplementing the children's gifts will be granola and cookies from Together We Bake, and beautiful items from Iglesia San Jose's craftswomen. Visit stmarysarlington.org/.

Christmas Caroling. 6 p.m. at St. Mary's, 2609 N. Glebe Road. Here We Come A-wassailing...Parishioner ages 1 to 101 are invited to join St. Mary's Youth and Choirs for Christmas caroling. All singing abilities welcome. Visiting the homes of older parishioners. Visit stmarysarlington.org/.

Candlelight Christmas Concert. 7 p.m. at the Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, 1500 North Glebe Road. Featuring the Mount Olivet Choir, Brass and Timpani. Call 540-

TUESDAY/DEC. 12

Casual Monthly Drawing Meet-Up. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Westover Branch Library, Westover Branch Library, 5618 Lee Highway. A place for like-minded creatives to work on art, and socialize in a relaxed atmosphere. Call 703-534-2230.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 13

Youth Services Winter Open House. 4-6 p.m. at the Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For preschoolers and elementary age kids: Crafts, snacks and cozy winter storytimes. For middle and high school age kids: hot chocolate bar, make a present to take home, or make a holiday card. Call 703-228-5990.

Happy Holidays Dinner-Dance. 6:30 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall, 5115 Little Falls Road. Featuring entertainer Dillon of Piano d'Amore. Will be collecting donations of unwrapped toys to be contributed to the USMC's annual Toys for Tots drive. \$45. Email BSCRSPV@gmail.com or call 703-241-0390.

THURSDAY/DEC. 14

Rosslyn Carols Holiday Concert. 5-10 p.m. at the Central Place Plaza across from the Rosslyn Metro station, 1800 N. Lynn St. Enjoy holiday games, food and special winter drinks in addition to a life-size snow globe that attendees can step into and bring home a holiday picture card. Visit www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-carols-holiday-concert.

Human Rights Award Winners

Ceremony. 7-9 p.m. at the Arlington County Board Room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. The Arlington Human Rights Commission selected this year's recipients and will present the awards at a ceremony and reception. The Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, Claire G. Gastañaga, will be the keynote speaker. Visit www.arlingtonhumanrights.org/.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

SALT Toastmasters Meetup. 1:30-

SUNDAY/DEC. 17

Nutcracker Tea at the Ritz. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City, 1250 S. Hayes St. Presented by Ballet Nova. High tea with pictures with the Sugar Plum Fairy, crafts, raffle prizes and a mini-performance of excerpts from The Nutcracker. Adults: \$75, Children under 12 - \$44. Visit www.BalletNova.org.

Flying Squirrel Lore and More. 5-6 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Learn about these engaging nocturnal acrobats. After an indoor presentation, tiptoe outside to see these little pixies glide in for an evening meal. Free. Ages 6 and up. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

THURSDAY/DEC. 21

Solstice Eve Hike and Campfire. 6-7:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Celebrate the longest night of the year with candle making and roasting marshmallows for s'mores. Then take a night hike under the crescent moon. \$5. Call 703-228-3403, or email gulfbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

SATURDAY/DEC. 30

Winter Bird Walk. 10-11:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. What birds are around in the winter? Some are familiar, year-round friends but others are winter-only visitors such as Winter Wrens and Brown Creepers. Beginners welcome and loaner binoculars are available. Free. Ages 6 and up. Call 703-228-6535, or email longbranchnaturectr@arlingtonva.us.

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Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Concession Payment Projects

Public Hearing

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018
Open house at 6 p.m.; hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

If cancelled for inclement weather, the alternate date will be **Friday, Jan. 5, 2018.**

The **Commonwealth Transportation Board** invites you to comment on projects to be funded by a concession fee to the Commonwealth as part of the financial agreement with Express Mobility Partners for the I-66 Express Lanes Outside the Beltway project. At a future meeting, the CTB will vote to amend these projects in the Commonwealth's Six-Year Improvement Program.

Information related to the following projects will be available:

- Rt. 234/Balls Ford Road interchange and relocation in Prince William
- Virginia Railway Express Manassas Line upgrade - Phase I
- Balls Ford Road widening from Groveton Road to Route 234 Business (Sudley Road) in Prince William
- I-66 median widening at Route 29 for WMATA in Fairfax
- Commuter parking garage at Fairfax Corner
- George Synder Trail in Fairfax City
- Widen Jermantown Road bridge to four lanes over I-66 in Fairfax
- Western bus maintenance facility in Prince William
- East Falls Church Metro Bus bay expansion in Arlington
- Monument Drive bridge pedestrian improvements in Fairfax
- Rt. 50/Waples Mill Road intersection improvements in Fairfax
- Construct Poplar Tree Road bridge to four lanes over Route 28 in Fairfax
- Lee Highway pedestrian improvements in Fairfax
- Nutley Street SW multi-use trail to Metro in Vienna

If you cannot attend the hearing, email comments to meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov and reference "I-66 Concession Projects" in the subject line, or mail them to Maria Sinner at VDOT's District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 through **Jan. 8, 2018.**

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

Extension Showcase Highlights 2017 Achievements

Arlington County Board Chair, Jay Fisette, receives an award from Judy Connally, Executive Leadership Council of Virginia Cooperative Extension and former Virginia state representative, for his long-standing support of extension activities. And because he is a “gardener and nice human being,” Connally also gives him an itea virginica for his yard or his garden. Fisette commented he had hoped the award would be someone to take care of his garden. The Arlington County and the City of Alexandria held their annual Extension Showcase on Dec. 1. Virginia Cooperative Extension builds local relationship and collaborative partnerships, helping people put scientific knowledge to work through the commonwealth’s land-grant universities.



Diane Charles, executive director of ALIVE! in Alexandria, discusses mutual food goals and concerns for low-income families with Jennifer Abel, senior extension agent at the annual 2017 Extension Showcase on Dec. 1. In 2017 1,234 volunteers worked in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria with almost 35 hours donated on average by each volunteer. The volunteers participate in five different program areas such as Energy Masters where 180 volunteers have made improvements in 744 Alexandria and Arlington apartments.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Haregowoin Tecklu represents a diverse community in cooperation with Virginia Cooperative Extension as she demonstrates Eritrean coffee. She says she roasts the beans and grinds them then puts them in water in the jebenn (pot). “Everything is from back home.”



The Master Food Volunteers of Virginia Cooperative Extension have prepared a breakfast for everyone. Nancy Broff, Master Food volunteer, points out the array of different colors displayed on the long buffet table “because we eat with our eyes” and because it calls attention that foods of different colors have different nutrients. She says they offer vegan alternatives such as the avocado tartines as well as gluten-free flourless chocolate chip muffins. The Extension breakfast is held each year to introduce the community to extension activities and to thank them for their support.



Joan McIntyre, a Master Gardener of Northern Virginia (MGNV), talks about sustainability and an overall focus on reducing the amount of fertilizer and energy that goes into maintaining a yard. She stresses the importance of native plants. The Junior Master Gardener and Outdoor Explorer program at six elementary schools in 2017 reached 130 students with the support of 31 volunteers. MGNV is available to assist in plant selection, planting practices, pest and disease control in Arlington and Alexandria.

40 Leaders

Leadership Center for Excellence held its fourth annual 40 Under 40 honoree luncheon at Army Navy Country Club on Nov. 30. The event honored 40 trailblazers who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in the personal or professional spheres and who are devoted to making positive change within the community. The honorees included: Robert Blake, Blake Willson Group; Wilmer Castro, Arlington Public Schools – Arlington Career Center; Hector Cendejas, City of Manassas Park; China Dickerson, NARAL ProChoice America; Maribel Duran, The Aspen Institute; Nikki Ferraro, HITT Contracting; Jennifer Fioretti, Arlington County Government – Department of Parks and Recreation; Lynsi Garvin, Virginia Hospital Center; Amina Gilyard James, Influence by AG; Phillip Green, Green Powered Technology; Karim Guirguis, American Bankruptcy Institute; Molly Haines, Arlington Public Schools – Hoffman-Boston Elementary School; Katharine Hale, Arlington Public Schools – Gunston Middle School; Katie Hickey, Caliber Home Loans; Francis Homer, Whiting-Turner; Megan Jordan, Oceana; Alex Karkeek, Cassaday



& Company, Inc.; Mercedes Kirkland-Doyle, The Good News Community Kitchen; Paul Kohlenberger, Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce; Patrick Kunze, GHT Limited; Roy Lee, Accenture; Nicole Lewis, Generation Hope; Jacqueline Malkes, SAS Institute; Molly McIntosh, CNA; Alison McNeil, McNeil Creative Enterprises; Jennifer Mellon, Trus-

tify; Adele Nelson, Share Our Strength – No Kid Hungry; Liz Norton, NAMI; Yadira Sanchez, Mi Familia Vota; Michael Spotts, Neighborhood Fundamentals, LLC; Aubreana Stephenson Holder, Federal Management Systems, Inc.; Camille Stewart, Deloitte; Chris Sundlof, Arlington Community Federal Credit Union; Elinor Tesfamariam,

Plenpovo Law, PLLC; Charles Thomas, Data Intelligence; Danielle Vogel, Glen’s Garden Market; Andrew Watson, Alexandria City Public Schools; Shanta Whitaker, LMI; Zuberi Williams, Maryland State Judiciary; and Slavomir Zapata, Department of Veterans Affairs -Washington DC VA Medical Center.

Season of Giving, Healing

Acts of kindness can boost wellbeing.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As Terrance Puller surveys boxes wrapped in holiday paper and filled with tubes of toothpaste, sticks of deodorant and other self-care toiletries, he says he can feel his heart well up with gratitude. The packages were part of a donation drive to benefit So Others Might Eat (SOME), a local nonprofit organization with a mission to provide services to the poor and homeless. Puller, who is now both a SOME employee and volunteer, reminisces about a period in his life when he was a recipient of such generosity.

Five years ago, Puller says he was alone, homeless and deep in an alcohol and crack cocaine-induced haze. He would later recall that he was so staggeringly intoxicated one holiday season that he would miss an opportunity to say goodbye to his dying mother. What he did receive that year however, was life changing.

"I was able to come into the shelter and get treatment, food and eventually a job," said Puller. "I volunteer my time because ... being here reminds me of my story and makes me grateful. It keeps me uplifted, less depressed and clean

and sober."

Mounting research validates Puller's assertion. "Giving of our talents and time is an important way to improve our well-being," said Carolyn Lorente, professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "What many of my colleagues are looking into is the connection between volunteerism and sense of self. It turns out that when we give to others, it not only helps those we are assisting but also boosts our sense of agency, gives us a sense of purpose and belonging and informs our sense of identity."

During the holidays, which are often emotionally charged, a focus on helping others can lead to feelings of gratitude and happiness, says psychologist Jerome Short, Ph.D. In fact, he points to a 2010 study published in the journal *Clinical Psychology Review*, which shows a link between benevolence and contentment.

"Kind acts increase personal happiness because we naturally empathize with others and take pride in our ability to make others smile and feel good," he said.

Even for those who haven't experienced levels of need such as Puller's, acts of altruism can have a positive effect on one's mood. An example is Jennifer Carter, a senior at Marymount University in Arlington, who spent last weekend in the center of a



Charitable activities, such as this toy drive by Interfaith Works, can improve one's overall well-being.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INTERFAITH WORKS

crowded auditorium on the university's campus frantically tying strips of fleece cloth. Along with nearly 300 other volunteers, she was making blankets for newborn babies for an organization called HOPE, a nondenominational crisis pregnancy center in Fairfax County.

"When these new mothers leave the hospitals it's usually with a thin cotton blanket," she said. "A lot of times, the things that they're missing are warm blankets for the babies. It feels good to be able to give these mothers something that many people take for granted. It makes you realize how fortunate you are."

Short points to a 2016 study from the University of California at Riverside which shows that volunteerism can lead to gratitude and happiness. "Grateful people pay more attention to the cost, effort, and value of helping acts than the average person does," he said. "They are better at coping with life stress because they trust others to help them and then reach out and accept

help."

Christabel Sampson experienced this metamorphosis first hand when she relocated to the Washington, D.C. area and was unable to find a job. She had mounting bills, but no income. Her financial outlook spiraled further downward and she became homeless. She moved into a shelter run by Interfaith Works, a nonprofit organization in Montgomery County Maryland that works to meet the needs of the poor. Through the organization's job training program, she was able to gain skills training, clothing and shelter. As a result of the services she received, Sampson says she found a job. Now she volunteers her time to helping others at Interfaith Works and has even become a member of the organization's board of directors.

"The experience of being homeless and now helping other women definitely made me stronger," said Sampson. "Sometimes even a spoken word can be said to help someone to a better place. I have empathy because I have been there."

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

COMMUNITY INPUT WANTED

Arlington County is in the process of updating the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan, which provides strategies for the future for our public spaces, including parks, natural resource and recreational needs that make up that system. As part of the fine tuning of the draft document, additional community input is needed for certain specific areas of focus. (Final draft will be available in 2018.) Visit parks.arlingtonva.us. Come to any or

all of these meetings:
❖ Deeper Dig on Strategies to Expand Field Capacity with Synthetic Turf & Lights: Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6:30-9 p.m. at Navy League Building
❖ Stewarding Tree Canopy, Natural Resources and Casual Use Spaces: Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30-9 p.m. at Central Library

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET

The Arlington County Board will hold a public hearing on establishing standards for requesting historic preservation overlay studies at its Dec. 16 County Board meeting. Staff developed the changes in response to concerns raised regarding the current, informal process for

requesting initiation of historic preservation overlay district studies. The goal is to improve the process without unnecessarily burdening the public's ability to request historic preservation overlay district status for historic properties. Visit www.arlingtonva.us for more.

FRIDAY/DEC. 8

Lunch and Learn. Noon at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. RSVP Northern Virginia will hold a free Lunch and Learn program on community service and the health benefits of volunteering for prospective and current RSVP volunteers. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch

will be provided. To sign up, email chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call the RSVP hotline at 703-403-5360.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

Red Cross Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Refreshments served. Email nancyb700@gmail.com or call 703-847-5735.

FRIDAY/DEC. 15

Information Session. 8-9 a.m. at at Leadership Center for Excellence, 4420 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 102. The Young Professionals Program is accepting applications on a rolling

basis until Jan. 5, 2018. Interested parties may RSVP for information sessions and apply for the program at leadercenter.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 5

Application Deadline. Leadership Center for Excellence is accepting applications and holding information sessions for the Young Professionals Program Spring Class of 2018. The application has a rolling admission deadline until Jan. 5, 2018 and may be found online at leadercenter.org.

ONGOING

Aging Matters. 2-3 p.m. Tuesdays on

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15



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GIFT GUIDE

What To Buy for That Special 3-Year-Old?



Johnny Cooney is celebrating his 3-year-old birthday and has come to One Two Kangaroo Toys on Campbell Avenue in Arlington to choose his present. He inspects an alligator, then a tiger on a display of Schleich animals. Owner Charlie Majdi says, "They are very realistic and I sell them individually instead of in sets so a kid can come in with a few dollars and walk out with an animal." He adds, "after all, it's all about the kids." But then Johnny spots a truck high up on a shelf. As Johnny walks out the door he is serenaded with "happy birthday ... and many more."



A wall is lined with Green Toys including fire trucks, dump trucks and work trucks made out of recycled plastic milk cartons and cardboard. Owner Charlie Majdi says they are super tough and you can put them in the dishwasher.

Does your favorite three-year-old like to play dress up? Zoom with dump trucks? Snap magnetic tiles or costumes together? Read a fun book complete with stuffed animal? Play with toys that light up? They have it all at Arlington neighborhood gift stores.

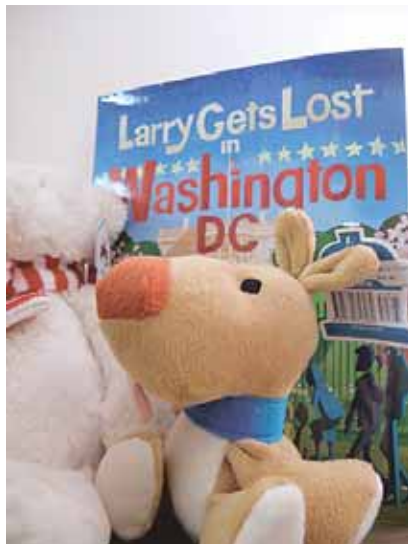


PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Tucked in a corner are the all-in-one costume packages such as the firefighter. It comes complete with helmet, bullhorn, fire extinguisher and badge. Close by are the Magna-Tiles that stick together. "They are 'super popular,'" Charlie Majdi (Mr. Man) the owner says, "We have so much for 3-year-olds. I like to avoid things on TV. I emphasize educational toys so the child can assign their own personality."



Johanna Braden, owner of Two the Moon, a neighborhood gift store at Williamsburg Shopping Center, says, "These magnetic dress-up kits are like an updated version of old-fashioned paper dolls." The "Best Friends" kit includes 52 magnets that stick on the figures to make more than 200 outfits.



"Larry Gets Lost in Washington D.C." is an easy book to read and you can also buy Larry, the small brown and white dog, to go with the book. Johanna Braden, owner of Two the Moon, says she also has big silicon wipe-off mats with child-safe markers that have Washington monuments on them. "They are currently out of stock and we just have the farm animals because the monuments are so popular but we should have more in next week. They are perfect for the car. You just wipe them off and use them again."



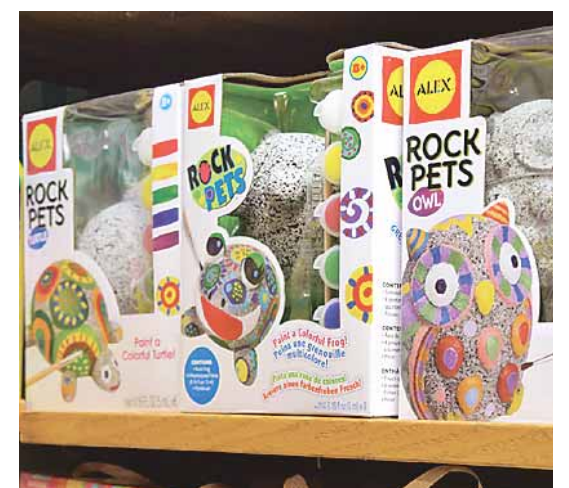
Push a button on Light Stax and you have light-up building blocks, a much larger version of Legos. A 12-piece starter pack is \$20.



Trains and accessories cover a wall at Kinder Haus Toys on N. Fillmore Street. Tammy Hayes, a store employee, says they are big sellers because the parts are interchangeable between Brio and Melissa and Doug. My First Railway Train sits alongside Farm Animal Train with roller coaster sets and Ferris wheel kits as backdrops along with additional pieces of track. Children can use their imagination to create their own railroad scene.



Around the corner there is a sports section with all kinds of choices. The air-propelled rocket is a hit because the rocket is foam so it can be used inside and out "and some of them glow." This year, Tammy Hayes at Kinder Haus Toys says, "Fisher Price has also re-released the retro toys like those little plastic camera and cash registers. 'They're selling like crazy.'"



You can buy your own pet rock and paint it to suit your own vision. Kinder Haus has three choices of a turtle, owl or frog with a new one added to the collection this year.

News

Chamber To Honor 2017 Award Winners

Outstanding members of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce will be honored as 2017 award winners at the chamber's 93rd Annual Meeting. With over 200 attendees anticipated, the 93rd Annual Meeting will celebrate the chamber's 2017 accomplishments, while looking ahead to 2018. This year's event will feature County Board Chair Jay Fiset as the keynote speaker. The event will be held Friday, Dec. 8 from 11:30-1:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel.

The 93rd Annual Meeting award winners are:

❖ 2017 Chair's Award: Apartment and Office Building Association. Recognizes the member organization and its representative(s) who have made an outstanding contribution of resources to the Chamber and the business community.

❖ 2017 President's Award: Christine Searle - Searle Business Solutions, LLC. Recognizes the individual who has made an outstanding contribution of volunteer assistance to the Chamber.

❖ 2017 Committee of the Year: Ambassador Committee. Recognizes the committee that has done an exceptional job of executing the mission of the Chamber membership and Arlington business community.

Board Directive: Maintain Current Tax Rate

The County Board on Nov. 28 directed the County Manager to propose a budget for Fiscal Year 2019 within the existing tax rate.

The county expects to see moderate revenue growth, but the board noted it will not be enough to meet budget pressures. A budget gap of \$10-\$13 million is projected for Fiscal Year 2019, which begins July 1, 2018. The board also noted that there is uncertainty regarding the impact of the state and federal budgets on the county, and that it is providing its guidance to County Manager Mark Schwartz while real estate assessments are still unknown.

The board directed the manager to include a maintenance-of-effort level of funding for the Affordable Housing Investment Fund, the county's primary source of financing for affordable housing. AHIF funding in FY 2019 should be consistent with the \$13.7 million the manager included in his Proposed FY 2018 Budget, using one-time and ongoing funds with an effort to shift more of that funding into the ongoing base budget.

Funding for the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, should not exceed WMATA's proposed three percent cap on annual increases to jurisdictional contributions for the operating budget, the board said. The board directed the manager to assume that increases in WMATA capital funding beyond sustainable growth will come from a new state or regional source.

The manager should hew to the Revenue Sharing Principles and apply the County/School revenue allocation reflected in the FY 2018 budget, the board said. Under the allocation formula, 53.4 percent of revenues will go to the county and 46.6 percent to schools. Given projected tax rate and real estate assessment growth, a minimum of \$15.6 million of projected new ongoing revenue should be available to APS for FY 2019.

SEE NEWS, PAGE 15



Bridge Closing

The North Carlin Springs Road Bridge over North George Mason Drive will be closed to all traffic from 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 through 5 a.m. Monday, Dec. 11 for partial demolition of the existing bridge. The closure will also affect the section of North George Mason Drive underneath the bridge. When reopened on Monday, Dec. 11, the remainder of the Carlin Springs Road Bridge will be limited to one travel lane in each direction and a single sidewalk until completion of the project to replace the bridge.

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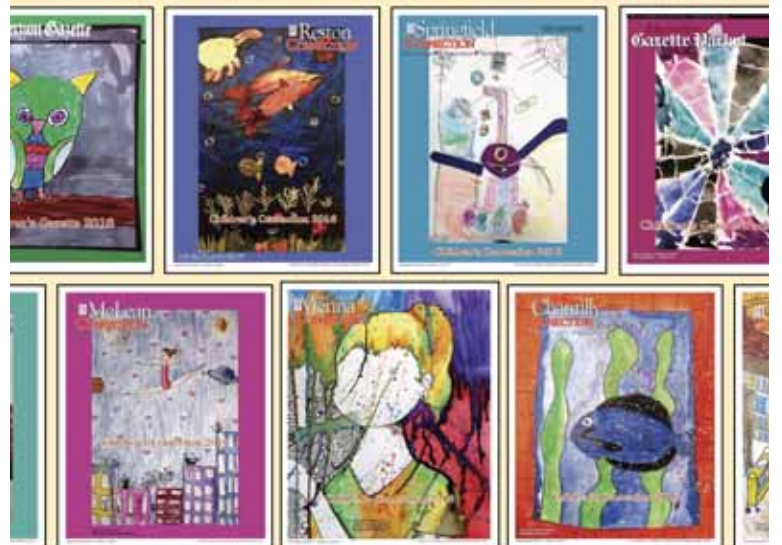
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News

Reviewing Accessory Dwellings

FROM PAGE 3

1967, is a part of Arlington's growing senior population. Michelle Winters, executive director of the Alliance for Housing Solutions, said accessory dwellings can help provide a moderate income to elderly residents who have more space in their homes than they need to live in. Additionally, these arrangements can also help provide cheaper housing options in a region facing a dwindling supply of affordable market rate housing. However, like others, Winters noted that current ordinances have too many restrictions on accessory dwelling units, particularly the size limitation on basement accessory units.

"I want to age in place, and converting my second floor into accessory dwelling could help," said Walker. "Did I mention that my surgery is on Thursday?"

But for others, there was concern that greater allowances for accessory dwelling could contribute to what many see as an erosion of Arlington's neighborhoods.

"How does having two houses on one small lot support single family residential use?" asked Barbara Taylor. "There's a limit to the number of people we can squeeze into the already densely populated neighborhoods."

Arthur Fox, representing the Arlington Ridge Civic Association, said he was concerned about the detached accessory dwellings made possible in the proposal.

"Our concern is predicated on the assumption that homeowners will be careful renting space in their

walls than in detached buildings in the back yard," said Fox. "Short-term transients may have little respect for neighbors."

These concerns were shared by the County Board. "Nowhere in code requirements was there envisioning second homes," said Dorsey. "This was not what was imagined in setback requirements when we set that to a foot."

Dorsey, with support from the board, directed the manager to return with recommendations for new detached accessory dwelling recommendations that would include a look at height, setbacks, and other variables.

"Detached is a different animal," said Dorsey. "I think the desire is to make sure we are working with homeowners to make sure we allow existing homes to be used with this purpose, but with new buildings, not sure we've accounted for all [the variables]. It makes a lot of sense over next couple of months to look at the way others have done it."

But while the proposal to review detached setbacks at a later date was enough to satisfy the rest of the County Board, member John Vihstadt, the lone opposition to the ordinance, said it still gave him pause.

"There is a lot of anxiety in this community about this ordinance," said Vihstadt. "Detached units and grandfathered units within a 1 foot setback ... we don't know how many people are going to take advantage of this."

Though he was voting to oppose the ordinance, Vihstadt still said there was a lot of good in it. The County Board voted 4 to 1 to approve.

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News

FROM PAGE 13

The board also voted 4 to 1 to close-out Fiscal Year 2017's Budget, and allocate \$11.1 million in funds surplus not needed for reserves, restricted funding, allocations already approved by board action, or for continuing projects that straddle fiscal years. Board Member John Vihstadt voted no.

The \$11.1 million is 1.4 percent of the revised FY 2017 County General Fund budget, excluding schools. Of that \$11.1 million, \$5.2 million was set aside for the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, to be used as one-time funding for the Affordable Housing Investment Fund.

The remainder of the \$11.1 million will be allocated for unanticipated near-term needs in Fiscal Year 2018 as follows:

- ❖ Critical Life Safety Needs: \$2.0 million for investment in continued safety and access to the detention center and courts building.

- ❖ Public Safety Position Reclassifications: \$1.75 million in one-time funding for several positions in public safety that were reclassified to reflect changes in federal law.

- ❖ Operating contingent: The county manager has historically maintained a contingent to address unforeseen needs that arise during the current fiscal year (\$1.25 million).

- ❖ Facility Studies: \$0.9 million for follow-up work on the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee work, as directed by the County Board.

Aquatics Center Contract Approved

The County Board on Nov. 28 approved a \$60 million contract with Coakley & Williams Construction, Inc. to complete Phase 2 of Long Bridge Park, including the design and building of the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, Arlington's first free-standing aquatics center.

The project also will include development of 10.5 acres of the park, including environmental remediation, continuation of the Esplanade, public gathering areas and casual use space, one or more rain gardens, parking and other associated infrastructure. This new phase of the park is expected to open to the public in late 2020/early 2021.

The board voted 4 to 1 to approve the contract. Board Member John Vihstadt voted no.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

WERA 96.7 LP FM on Arlington's community radio station. Each week host Cheryl Beversdorf interviews individuals with expertise about a broad array of aging related topics affecting the lives of older adults and their loved ones. Visit www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera to listen to programs.

Public Financial Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline. On Nov. 15, the Arlington County launched a new public hotline that offers a confidential and secure way to report suspected incidents of financial fraud, waste and abuse. Anyone can submit a complaint to the hotline at 1-866-565-9206 or at arlingtonva.ethical@advocate.com. The hotline website is available in English and Spanish. Phone calls can be taken in many languages.

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Context of Having Written



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't want to self-indulge too much about last week's column but, sometimes in my unexpressed desire to fulfill my writing obligation/not let me cancer/cancer treatment affect my schedule, I write my column under less-than-ideal circumstances.

Post chemotherapy (last week) – the immediate week after, is about as challenging as it gets for me. I'm a bit irritable. I'm a bit out of sync/unable to focus. I'm somewhat impatient. My hands are shaky. My eyes are "squeaky." I'm hungry yet I can't eat. My self-editing skills are below average – more than usual. And finally, my reading comprehension is mostly lost in the toxic haze. Still, I'm determined to make my deadline.

Not that any of the preceding paragraph is an excuse. It's more of an explanation as to why a column written with the best of intentions may have missed the mark in tone and substance. Though I've not received any feedback as yet confirming my sense of what I had written last week; nevertheless, my feeling upon submitting it to editorial was that I had wavered a bit. Unfortunately, I didn't have the balance emotionally or the ability physically to assess its content. I apologize in arrears for attempting to maintain its regularity.

And to that point, specifically to that word, that's what my attitude as a cancer patient has been about: regularity. Doing the things that I regularly/normally/typically do without deviating from my norm. Because for me, deviating from my norm, living/doing outside of my box – within reason, would be – to me anyway, reinforcing the negative that is most definitely a cancer diagnosis. A diagnosis with which I have long ago made my peace, made my choices and moreover, made my it goal to face the present/future with a positive attitude infused with as much self-effacing good humor as possible. It's nothing I really did intentionally, it is simply who I am: my father's son, with inherited sensibilities to live my life thinking the glass is half full, until it's not.

And so far, nearly nine years into a "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I'm living proof that either whatever I'm doing is working (and there's a bit more to the story) or I'm an incredibly lucky act of kindness for which there's no quantifiable explanation. Regardless, I'm not the least bit inclined to look a gift horse in the mouth and/or deny the possibility that my tumors are necrotic (dead). I'm very happy to accept the inexplicable fact that, statistically speaking, I'm an official anomaly: a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor.

However, since I'm not one to presume facts not yet in evidence, I'm still infused every six weeks, scanned quarterly and seen by my oncologist every three months. I don't for a second believe that somehow, after being diagnosed with a "terminal disease" in late February 2009, that life goes merrily along without consequences. Not that I'm a fatalist – Rebecca, I'm merely evaluating/introspecting/compartmentalizing and allocating precious emotional resources so I can live my life as I'm accustomed to doing.

And what I'm most accustomed to doing, especially dating back to December 1997, is writing a weekly column for Connection Newspapers. Though the columns published previous to June '09 were not "cancer" columns, as we call them, they were nonetheless written with the same passion and nonsensical prose as my "cancer" columns are. So, generally speaking, I am able, as my brother Richard says, "to churn out the dribble."

Still, writing is not like reading. Though a similar commitment is needed, writing requires a bit more effort. And it's been an effort I've sustained before, after and during my lung cancer diagnosis. Some weeks are harder than others. Last week was difficult. This week not so much.

Perhaps you agree?

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

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