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# NEWS

## On School Budget's Eve

### Public petitions School Board for Montessori and arts funding.

BY VERNON MILES  
THE CONNECTION

When Jonathan Hui first heard about Montessori schools, he thought they were just for rich people. The schools had long had a reputation of association with trendy new-wave schooling that's far from the strict public school regimen. But looking at his child's classroom photo, Hui realized that the school is composed of a diverse student body. Two-thirds of his child's class are from low income families and Hui says it's helped his child get exposed to new cultures. At the March 22 School Board meeting, the last public hearing before budget approval, Hui was one of several parents to make a last ditch appeal to the School Board for more funding to keep Montessori fully funded.

"Arlington County is the only county that offers public Montessori, but if that is diminished in any way it makes less sense for my family to be in Arlington," said Hui. "Please invest in our future. Please invest in our children's future."

Superintendent Patrick Murphy's proposed \$636.7 million budget is an increase, 3.8 percent over last year, but a more modest increase compared to the 5.4 percent increases in the previous two years. This means Arlington schools will face some belt tightening, with class size increases and lower overall spending per student.

Among the reductions in the budget are several changes that hit the Montessori program at Drew Model School. Tuition at the school is expected to increase four to six percent. Elementary classrooms will no longer be supported with teacher assistants, eliminating 13 total positions and leaving 12 classrooms without assistants that can be critical for the Montessori teaching method.

The Montessori Method of Education is a teaching method devised by Dr. Maria Montessori that focuses on offering students choices and nurturing mutual respect. Students are offered a range of learning options and free range of movement around a classroom. The Montessori method encourages guided learning rather than direct instruction. Part of this involves breaking students up into smaller groups overseen by assistant teachers.

**"We're in the stage of listening, engaging, and reading emails. We're trying to build the best possible budget."**

**— Barbara Kanninen, Chair, School Board**

"Our home school is Jamestown, but kids spend 57 minutes on bus to go to Drew," said Heather Selig. "My kids that go furthest go to Drew. There's other ways to compose and compress our budget without cutting a program so meaningful and so impactful to so many students. I'm

happy to give my ACPS-issued iPad back." The topic of school-issued iPads came up a few times, with a few parents and teachers pointing to it as an example of the school system not actually meeting the needs of the educators or students.

"I want to see iPads phased out," said Ann Marie Douglass. "We have tech coordinators at every school. That does not reflect the needs of [Arlington Public Schools]."

"The budget being proposed does not care about these people," said Leslie Stockton, vice president of the Arlington Education

SEE PARENTS, PAGE 19

## Arrest Follows Bomb Threat

The Arlington County Police Department has arrested a suspect for his involvement in a bomb threat at Marymount University. Samuel Nwalozie, 18 of Washington, D.C. was arrested and charged with communicated threats to bomb a structure. He is being held in the Arlington County Detention Facility without bond. At approximately 8:49 a.m. on April 1, police were dispatched to the 2800 block of N. Glebe Road for the report of a bomb threat posted on social media. Arriving officers immediately began an investigation and a possible suspect description was developed based upon information contained in the social media post and information provided by a witness. Police attempted to locate the suspect on campus

and contact him unsuccessfully. The campus of Marymount University was subsequently evacuated while officers continued to investigate. Shortly after 12 p.m. the suspect was taken into custody by police just outside of campus. EOD (explosives ordinance detection) K9s continued to sweep campus prior to its re-opening. The investigation determined there was never a physical threat to the safety of the students, staff of campus. This remains an active criminal investigation and anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Detective J. Bamford at 703-228-4197 or CIDSocialMedia@arlingtonva.us. To report information anonymously, contact the Arlington County Crime Solvers at 866-411-TIPS (8477).



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



### Eggs, Eggs Everywhere

Eager faces listen to the instructions. "Three-year-olds hunt for the purple eggs, 4-year-olds yellow and 5-year-olds green and the little ones 0-2 years have a special cordoned off area with multi-colored eggs." The Memorial Baptist Church Community Easter Egg Hunt is about to begin. "Make a line down the field. When I say go, everyone can begin." Little legs trip over eggs and each other as they fill up their multi-colored baskets.



**Eliana and Leah Mejia, two-and-a-half-year old twins from Arlington by way of Honduras, grab their buckets and wait for the signal to search for the purple eggs hidden behind the trees and in the tall grass.**



# OPINION

## Truth about Sports Scholarships

BY BOB GARDNER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS  
AND BILLY HAUN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL  
LEAGUE



Gardner



Haun

Many parents are trying to live the dream through their sons and daughters — the dream of landing a college athletic scholarship by specializing in a sport year-round. Unfortunately, most of these dreams are never realized.

The odds of a sports scholarship paying for even a portion of a student's college education are miniscule.

The College Board, a not-for-profit organization comprised of 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions, reports that a moderate cost for college students who attend a public university in their state of residence is \$25,290 per year. The annual cost at a private college averages \$50,900.

Meanwhile, the most recent data from the NCAA reveals that the average Division I athletic scholarship is worth only \$10,400. More significantly, the same study shows that fewer

than two percent of all high school athletes (1 in 54) ever wear the uniform of an NCAA Division I school.

Even if the dream is realized, parents likely will spend more money for club sports than they ever regain through college athletic scholarships. Thanks to the costs of club fees, equipment, summer camps, playing in out-of-state tournaments and private coaching, youth sports has become a \$15 billion-per-year industry.

There is an option, and it's a financially viable one: Encourage your sons and daughters to play sports at their high school.

In education-based high school sports, student-athletes are taught, as the term implies, that grades come first. The real-life lessons that students experientially learn offer insights into leadership, overcoming adversity and mutual

respect that cannot be learned anywhere else. Unlike club sports, coaches in an education-based school setting are held accountable by the guiding principles and goals of their school district. And the cost of participating in high school sports is minimal in most cases.

While there is a belief that the only way to get noticed by college coaches is to play on non-school travel teams year-round, many Division I football and basketball coaches recently have stated that they are committed to recruiting students who have played multiple sports within the high school setting.

In addition, by focusing on academics while playing sports within the school setting, students can earn scholarships for academics and other talents — skill sets oftentimes nurtured while participating in high school activities. These scholarships are more accessible and worth more money than athletic scholarships. While \$3 billion per year is available for athletic scholarships, more than \$11 billion is awarded for academic scholarships and other financial assistance.

Without a doubt, your sons and daughters will have more fun, make more friends and be better prepared for life beyond sport by participating in multiple sports and activities offered by the high school in your community.

### COMMENTARY

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HISTORY

**Yorktown's Standout Athletes**, an online high school sports history round-up also on display in the Yorktown building, went live on the yorktownalums.org website March 29, 2018.

#### MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

**The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association** (NARFE) Chapter 7 Arlington meets monthly, except August and December, the second Wednesday at

the Walter Reed Community Center with a half hour social period beginning at noon and the program at 12:30. Go to VANARFE.org to learn about activities in Virginia and to NARFE.org to learn about its national activities, including its electronic chapters.

#### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**Taste of Arlington** takes place Sunday, May 20. Arlington's biggest block party attracts 25,000+ visitors and has raised \$180,000 for local charities to date. Volunteers are

needed in each section of the festival in 3-4 hour shifts, starting Saturday afternoon through Sunday evening. Select which non-profit to represent and preferred shift during the registration process. Volunteers for Taste of Arlington, will receive a t-shirt to wear on the day of the festival and five free food and drink tickets. Visit [www.ballstonbid.com/taste/volunteer](http://www.ballstonbid.com/taste/volunteer).

#### THROUGH APRIL 17

**Tax Assistance.** Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at

Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has helped low- to moderate-income individuals for more than 40 years in every state and the District of Columbia. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in cooperation with the IRS. No need to be a member of AARP to receive help with completing taxes. Some appointments available. Call 703-829-6192 for more.

#### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

**Glebe Ladies Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. at Old Glebe Courts, 4211 North Old Glebe Road. The tennis club provides women living in or near Arlington the opportunity to play tennis with others of comparable ability. The club welcomes new members of all ages and skill levels and provides a variety of tennis-related social activities. Annual dues are \$25. Visit [sites.google.com/site/glebeltc/](http://sites.google.com/site/glebeltc/).

**Coffee and Conversation.** 10-11 a.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 South Dinwiddie St., room 411. Anthony Nunez will describe his latest invention: his personal assistant robot, Rudy, designed to help people age in place. Open to all — bring your own coffee, learn about aging in place with Arlington Neighborhood Village. No RSVP needed. Visit [arlnvil.org/](http://arlnvil.org/).

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 5

**The Gift of Failure.** 7 p.m. at Congressional School, 3229 Sleepy Hollow Road, Falls Church. Congressional School in partnership with Mothers of North Arlington welcome author Jessica Lahey to talk about her New York Times bestselling book, "The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed." The event is free and open to the community. A book signing will take place after the presentation, and copies of the book

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5



### In Remembrance

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. THOMAS MORE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

More than 100 students from St. Thomas More Cathedral in Arlington gathered on March 14 at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More to remember the 17 victims of last month's shooting in Parkland, Fla. With each name announced, a student lit a candle in their honor. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders organized the service.

The  
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## PEOPLE



### Honoring Betsy Frantz

The Kiwanis Club of Arlington honored Betsy Frantz, outgoing president & CEO of Leadership Center for Excellence, with the Kiwanis Community Service Award on March 28. The award is presented to members of the Arlington Community who have performed extraordinary service. Frantz has served as president & CEO of Leadership Center for Excellence for the past 20 years. On April 2, she begins her new endeavor as president of the Virginia Hospital Center Health System Foundation.

### Celebrating 100 Years

Eleanor W. Bune, of Arlington, celebrated her 100th birthday on March 14. She has been a resident of Arlington County since 1956 and has seen a lot of changes in the community over the years in terms of growth and development.

Her daughter, Karen L. Bune, held a birthday party for her at Clyde's restaurant in Alexandria. "I can't believe I made 100 years," Eleanor Bune said.

Her physician, Dr. Lawrence Stein, who is also Chief of Medicine at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, attended the party. "Dr. Stein is my hero, and he and I are her care team," Karen Bune said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN L. BUNE

Karen Bune, Eleanor Bune and Dr. Lawrence Stein

Stein's wife, Suzanne, made the party favors that were featured at each guest's place setting. "Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves,

and I am so happy that we were able to celebrate this milestone and very special occasion," Karen Bune said.

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

will be available for purchase. Visit [www.congressionalschool.org/lahey](http://www.congressionalschool.org/lahey).

**FRIDAY/APRIL 6**

**Scholarship Nomination Deadline.**

The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for their 2018 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1,000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football.

Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region.

**WEDNESDAY/APRIL 11**

**Coffee and Conversation.** 10-11 a.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 South Dinwiddie St., room 411. Steve Yaffe, Transportation Services Manager, Arlington County will provide an

update on the County's transportation issues including the options for seniors residing in Arlington. Open to all – bring your own coffee, learn about aging in place with Arlington Neighborhood Village. No RSVP needed. Visit

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 19



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## NEWS

# Petunias, 7,000 Books, Breakfast: What Could Be Better?

**Aprilfest returns  
April 21.**

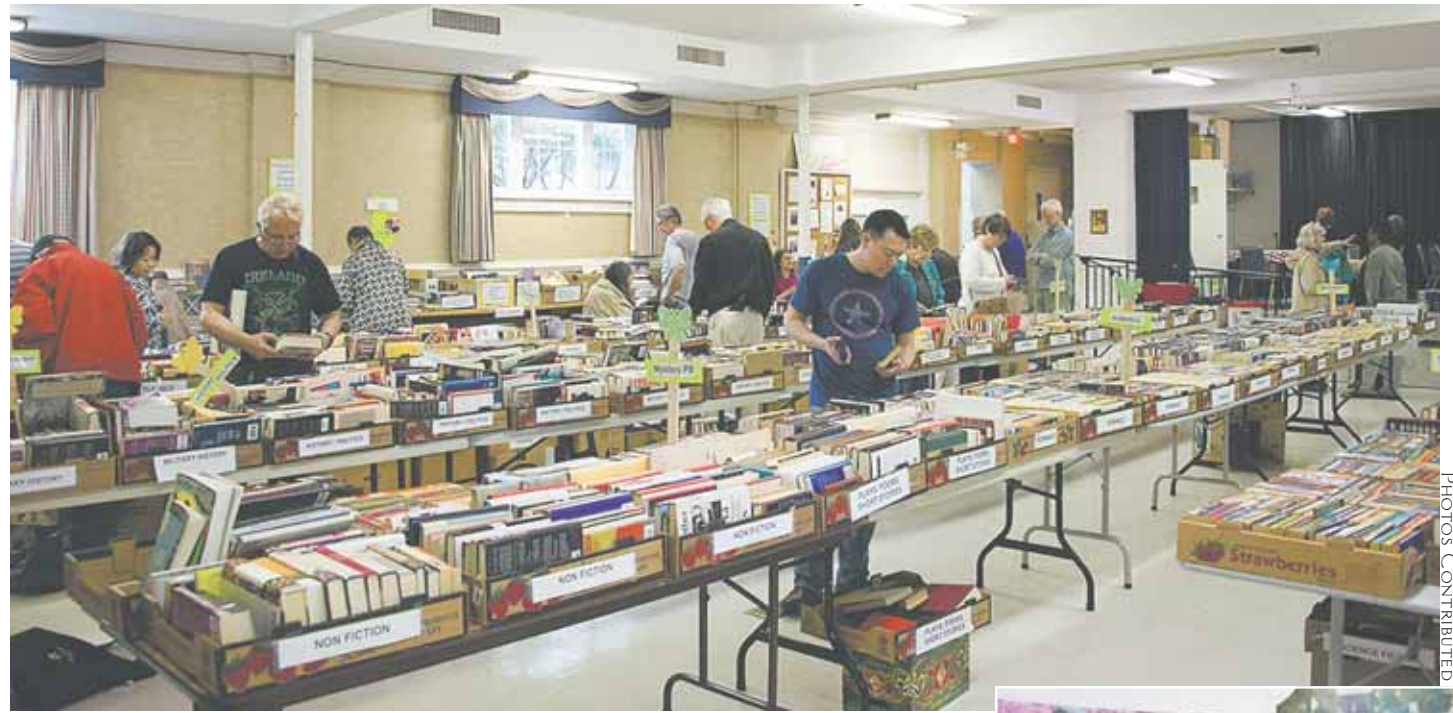
BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

**S**top in for a six pack of pink impatiens, a history of World War II and a sausage and cheese sandwich at the annual Walker Chapel United Methodist Church Aprilfest community event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 21.

A line forms early outside of Fellowship Hall so that when the doors open at 9 a.m., a book lover can be the first to find the hidden treasure among the stacks of donated books. Joyce Wright, head of the book sale, says she expects to have about 7,000 books ranging from children's to history, travel, biography and fiction and even a section for signed originals and special value books. In addition, she adds they have a larger than ever selection of DVDs, CDs and audio books.

Books can be donated for the sale by dropping them off at Walker Chapel on Sunday, April 8 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. or on Tuesday April 10 from 5-7 p.m. with a maximum of three boxes. Wright says no books can be accepted after April 10 and they cannot accept encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines, VHS or cassette tapes or LP records.

Options for purchase of flowers and mulch include ordering ahead and purchasing online with selection of six packs, flats of 36 pots, single pots or hanging baskets. Advance orders must be received by April 15. Mulch can be picked up or delivered.



**Walker Chapel annual used book sale at Aprilfest.**

Order at [www.walkerchapel.org/aprilfest](http://www.walkerchapel.org/aprilfest). An alternative is to print out the form, make selections and mail in with a check to the church office or browse through the flowers lined along the sidewalk that day and pick up whatever suits one's fancy on the spot.

Pick up pots of red, white, pink or rose geraniums for \$3.50 or larger pots for \$6.75. Flats of marigolds or petunias for \$15.85 or 6-packs for \$2.85. Hanging baskets of Boston Fern, New Guinea Impatiens or Purple Verbena for \$15.75. A variety of herbs, peppers and other vegetables also will be available at Aprilfest but can't be ordered ahead since many are grown by

members of Walker Chapel, and available plants will be dependent on the vagaries of weather.

Take a break between books and begonias and head for the kitchen where the men and women of the church prepare the breakfast and lunch this year. Take a respite from shopping by picking up a muffin or brownie from the bake sale organized by the youth.

Aprilfest started in 1995 as a neighborhood gathering place. Larry Danforth, a member of the congregation, says Heber Willis is in charge of the event and "just about everyone in the Chapel joins in because we like to be the neighborhood gathering place not just for the church but for



**Walker Chapel annual plant sale at Aprilfest.**

love and friendship." Proceeds from the event are used to support local organizations such as A-SPAN, Arlington Thrive, AFAC, Arlington Free Clinic, and Christ House.

## Police Seek Public's Assistance in Identifying Suspect of Attempted Abduction

At approximately 2:32 p.m. on April 1, police were dispatched to the report of an assault that just occurred in the 600 block of N. Oxford Street.

Upon arrival, it was determined that the female victim was walking in the area when she passed an unknown male suspect. The male suspect called out to the victim and when she didn't respond, he grabbed her

from behind and attempted to pull her towards his vehicle. The victim was able to break free from the suspect and run away, however, the suspect continued to watch the victim from his vehicle until she entered her residence. The victim did not require medical treatment. The suspect fled the area prior to police arrival.

Arriving officers canvassed the area and

a lookout was broadcast. The suspect is described as a black male, with short dreads, possibly braids, with some orange, approximately 6 feet tall, wearing a black shirt, light gray zip up hoodie and dark gray sweatpants. The suspect's vehicle is described as an older, possibly late 1990's or early 2000's, model pick-up truck that was dark blue or black in color and looked "beat-

up." Police have increased patrols in the area.

Anyone with information surrounding this incident is asked to contact Detective G. Sloan of the Arlington County Police Department's Special Victim's Unit at 703-228-4198 or at [gsloan@arlingtonva.us](mailto:gsloan@arlingtonva.us). To report information anonymously, contact the Crime Solvers at 866-411-TIPS (8477).

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# Senior Living

APRIL 2018



## Senior Living



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Present bathroom at Culpepper Garden with mockup projection of efficiency renovation.**

# Major Renovation Begins at Culpepper Garden

**Apartments to gain senior-needed amenities.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ust a shovelful of dirt tossed in the air. But it will mean renovation of 204 apartments at Culpepper Garden for low and very-low income seniors age 62 years and older so that they can age in place. A groundbreaking event will be held on Wednesday, April 11 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Culpepper Garden located at 4435 N. Pershing Drive. Katie Cristol, chair of the Arlington County Board, will give opening remarks at the brief program and ceremony.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington founded Culpepper Garden in 1971. It currently includes 340 apartments built on four acres in three phases in the heart of Arlington using three Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs. In 1975, 204 independent living units opened followed by 63 independent units added in 1992. Finally 73 assisted living units were added in 2000.

Susan Philp, chair of Arlington Retirement Housing Corporation (ARHC), the non-profit owner of Culpepper Garden, says the ARHC Board began working on the project in October 2016 and it is expected to be completed in early 2021.

Linda Kelleher, executive director of ARHC, adds that action had been ongoing when she arrived in October 2015 and the architect had already been chosen as well as the selection of Wesley Housing Development Corporation, the nonprofit partner who would lead them through the process.

Apartment renovations will include the



FILE PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

## Life at Culpepper Garden

SEE CULPEPPER GARDEN, PAGE 14



## Senior Living

# Preparing for Senior Olympics

**New this year:  
canasta, croquet and  
beach ball wallyball.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

It may seem like a long time until September when the 36th year of the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) kicks off.

But not for 83-year-old Chuck Toftoy from Arlington, who often enters 20 events, and says he practices all year long.

Opening ceremonies for this year's events are scheduled for Sept. 15 at 9 a.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington, and the competition is scheduled to end on Sept. 26.

The NVSO began in 1982 with about 80 people competing; last year there were 752 competitors signed up for one or more of the 70 events offered. The events ranged from tennis, baseball throw, bocce, orienteering, swimming and diving, golf, corn hole toss, volleyball, and pickleball.

Three new sports have been added to the competition this year including canasta, croquet and beach ball wallyball. Herb Levitan, a member of the NVSO Board, explains beach ball wallyball is like volleyball but played on a racquetball court with a beachball which is bigger and softer than a volley-

ball. Levitan is currently preparing for the Virginia senior games coming up soon where he swims four freestyle events.

Alease Brooks, 85, has been competing for 14 years and participated in 13 different sports in 2017. But her favorite is pickleball. Her children have bought her T-shirts in different colors for her games and often come to watch her and cheer her on.

Toftoy says this year he plans to reduce the number of sports he enters so that he can concentrate on pickleball since he plans to enter singles, doubles and mixed competition this year.

Last year, 93-year old Henry Colette from Oakton was one of 19 bocce competitors. But for the last several years he has been guaranteed a win because there was no one else in his age group competing.

Last year's oldest competitor was 101 years old with her sport of choice was duplicate bridge.

Seniors participate for many reasons — some because they like to stay busy and fit, others because they are returning to a high school or college sport, some because they like the community of friends they see every year and others because they still “like to dream big.”

This year's games are expected to be held in 29 venues including community centers, parks, high schools and other locations across Northern Virginia. Registration for this year's NVSO will open June 1. This year NVSO is hoping to bring back the 5k run and looking for an event director for that event. Those interested in volunteering can call 703-403-5360.



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## Senior Living

# One-Level Master Suite Enables Aging-in-Place

**Solution addresses long-term needs arising from spouse's stroke.**

BY JOHN BYRD

**F**red and Liz Saalfeld had occupied their four-bedroom 2,800-square-foot Colonial in Springfield for nearly five decades when the unexpected caused them to reconsider basic housing needs. Without warning, Liz Saalfeld suffered a heart attack. Her mobility — previously hampered by arthritis — now became seriously compromised.

Looking ahead, a wheelchair-access plan also now seemed prudent to Fred Saalfeld, who increasingly relied a pair of canes to get around.

The proposed retrofit was a tall order, however. The master bedroom was on the second floor; the laundry room in the basement. There was an open carport, but no extra storage space. The master bathroom was just too narrow for a wheelchair — assuming there was a way to mount the stairs.

Equally relevant, the home's surrounding landscaping was undeveloped, with a steep



**The Saalfelds added a wheelchair friendly master suite to the four bedroom colonial they had occupied for over 50 years. The 1,200-square-foot addition extends from the old rear elevation into a formerly hilly backyard. The new addition includes a laundry, a spacious ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) master suite with "his" and "her" wardrobe closets. The French doors access a flagstone patio, and newly landscaped grounds surrounded by a privacy fence. The addition also has a dedicated HVAC system**

hill in the backyard. There were places to sit, but no quiet places to stretch out and relax.

Acting decisively, Saalfeld sought fresh ideas from local remodelers — eventually deciding on Michael Nash Kitchens and



**The shower is equipped with grab bars, a bench and hand-held nozzles — all of which Fred Saalfeld uses in his daily bathing routine.**

Homes who had previously remodeled his kitchen.

SEE AGING-IN-PLACE, PAGE 11

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## Senior Living



The flagstone patio immediately outside the master bedroom is linked to a network of walkways that segues to a gazebo, an herb garden and an exercise area for the family Irish setter. Owner Fred Saalfeld, who walks with the aid of two canes, says the remodeling changes have created a major quality of life improvement that has made it much easier to enjoy the home.



Before remodeling, the home's existing backyard ascended at a 20 degree angle from the rear door. To install the concrete base needed for the new addition, remodeling Michael Nash had to remove and re-compact approximately six tons of dirt.

## Aging-in-Place

FROM PAGE 10

"Michael Nash was very responsive to our needs, and really understood Aging-In-Place considerations," Saalfeld said.

Part of that responsiveness arose from Sonny Nazemian, Michael Nash's founder and president, and a Universal Design Certified Remodeler (UDCR), who commenced drafting design ideas with the Saalfelds on the first meeting.

"Aging-in-place (AIP) is becoming one of the high-demand remodeling services segments," Nazemian said. "But it's a specialty area — and requires staying on top of ever-

evolving ADA (American with Disabilities Act) regulations, and strict building codes."

From the first, Nazemian pictured an addition extending from the rear elevation. The Saalfeld would gain expanded sleeping quarters and each spouse would have their own walk-in closet. A wheelchair-friendly bathroom replete with in-shower bench, grab bars and hand-held body spray nozzles would be specially designed. The laundry room would be moved to the first floor

At 1,200 square feet, the new master suite

SEE AGING-IN-PLACE, PAGE 12

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## Senior Living

# One-Level Master Suite Enables Aging-in-Place

FROM PAGE 11

addition features a 14-foot cathedral ceiling and double French doors that segue to a flagstone patio. To create the needed 28' x 42' footprint, Nazemian excavated down three feet from the existing surface, removed six metric tons of earth and — to achieve the necessary compaction — planted a grove of Tock's shrubbery.

To control water runoff, designers introduced a French drain and swell linked to an infiltration trench.

With the foundation issues resolved, attention turned to the new addition's space plan and design. Exterior brick cladding was matched to the home's original masonry creating a seamless enlargement of the existing house. Interior floors were, likewise, milled and finished to blend with the hardwood floors in the existing structure.

"The interior style is very consistent throughout," Saalfeld said. "It's very much one house."

To ensure natural light and comfort, Nazemian specified low-E, double Argon-filled glass for all windows including a pair of double French doors that lead to the patio. A smaller louvered door was created for the family's Irish setter who exercises in a side yard.

A new split-system HVAC unit was installed to provide the new addition with



**With a pair of walk-in wardrobe closets on the left, and access to a first level laundry and master bedroom on the right, the access corridor from the main house is spacious. The French doors open into the dining room. Michael Nash matched the original hardwood flooring to create a seamless unity between the old house and the new addition.**

dedicated heat and air control. The solution proved to be a money-saver, since it concentrates temperature requirements in rooms where the couple spend most of their time.

The master bathroom (at 200 square feet) is a masterpiece of efficiency and warmth. The door from the bedroom is 32" wide with

the 90 degree swing radius required by the ADA-regulations — yet the interior design is soft and earthy, porcelain tiling offset by walnut cabinet facings and a granite-topped vanity.

Best yet, a series of well-defined walkways link garden focal points with a mid-yard gazebo. Surrounded by a privacy fence,

the grounds are a nicely protected Eden, perfect for quiet enjoyment.

For more information, call 703-641-9800 or visit MichaelNashKitchens.com

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement for 30 years. He can be reached at 703-715-8006, [www.HomeFrontsNews.com](http://www.HomeFrontsNews.com) or [byrdmatx@gmail.com](mailto:byrdmatx@gmail.com). Send photos of interesting remodeling projects to: [b2b@homefrontsnews.com](mailto:b2b@homefrontsnews.com).



**The louvered door on the right is for the family's Irish setter, who exercises in the side yard. All doors are at least 32 inches wide and have a 90 degree clearing width.**

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## Major Renovation Begins at Culpepper Garden

FROM PAGE 8

installation of individual cooling and heating controls as well as new windows, bathroom fixtures, new kitchen cabinets and fixtures and new floors as well as walk in showers instead of bathtubs.

Dee Bevins, president of the Resident Association, says one of the big positives for her is “having real kitchen cabinets. We have two little shelves right now that can’t hold much and since most people are short the shelves are too high to reach.”

Bevins adds another positive is the walk-in showers. “Even as agile as I am, I use cream rinse on my hair, and the floor gets slick. I have a fear of falling.”

Kelleher explains that when the original units were designed years ago they didn’t understand the needs of this age group. Ten percent of the apartments will be fully handicapped accessible with such accommodations as lower counters in the kitchen and turnaround room for wheelchairs.

In addition, there will be extensive building renovations including a new roof, replacement of major systems and substantially upgraded elevators. Kelleher says elevators breaking down were a significant problem.

Residents will be temporarily relocated on site during the renovation with phased renovation on 14-16 apartments at a time. Kelleher says they estimate it will take 6-8 weeks for each apartment to be completed. She said it could be completed quickly since they are not tearing down any walls

Bevins said, “But for me it’s no big deal. I’ll just put everything in boxes and they’ll move it for me and then move it back.”

Kelleher says one of the most important changes for the residents will be the ability to control their own heating and air conditioning. While the second and third addi-



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Present kitchen at Culpepper Garden with mock up projection of efficiency renovation.

tions have PTAC units, the original 204 oldest units had to decide as a group every year when the heat went off and the air conditioning was turned on.

And Bevins says, “having your own hot water. It used to get cold from everyone using it. Now we’ll have an on-demand system.”

In terms of the bigger public space, one thing the residents requested and they were able to accommodate was a change in the laundry facilities. Currently 267 apartments are sharing five washers and dryers. “Now washers and dryers will be located on each floor and the residents can use a table instead of chairs cramped in a corner.”

She adds they will also be relocating services together on the lower level including things like the computer room, doctor space, meeting space for programs and a physical therapy area. Bevins said, “We don’t really know what’s going on with the

public space but one improvement will be the mailboxes. A lot of people are too short to get their mail. I have to stand on tiptoes.”

Culpepper Garden is Arlington’s largest affordable community for low-income elderly and the only one that offers both independent and assisted housing. There is currently a year waiting list for the independent living units. Culpepper Garden includes a diverse population with 48 percent Caucasian, 12 percent Hispanic and the Asian and African American populations both 8 percent. The oldest resident is 101 years of age and the average age 77 years old in independent living and 87 years old in assisted living.

Bevins says the affordability of Culpepper Garden is the big positive for her because she grew up in the Midwest where living was cheaper but moved here for her daughter and grandchildren. “And I’m just a country girl, and lots of little trees here is wonderful.”

Kelleher explains that Culpepper is committed to creating a community of services to reduce social isolation and increase wellness among its residents. But they are also committed to charging the lowest rents that are necessary to fulfill their mission and little is left over to support these programs. “So we rely heavily on volunteers.” For instance they have two people who work with residents on their needs such as health, transportation or confusion about insurance forms.

In addition, Culpepper Garden provides a medical suite for doctors on site but forgives them their rent. “A beauty shop, the same thing.” She added, “we have chair exercises but no one teaches it right now. We just have a video. We can’t afford it.” So they work with volunteers, faith-based communities, volunteers from the business community and nonprofit partners to provide what they can.

The average income of Culpepper residents is less than \$18,000 a year with 89 percent of the residents having income of less than \$30,440. Rent is based on the building, HUD program and rental subsidy. For instance, Kelleher explains that they have applied to HUD to get vouchers, which would reduce the rent for 141 of their residents. “This has been particularly difficult. We know we qualify and we know the money is there but we can’t even get a response from this Administration.”

She says they are getting closer and closer, and ARHC has expectations that they will receive approval of the voucher, which will mean residents will only be required to pay 30 percent of their income for rent. “But if we do not get the voucher, the ARHC Board has a short term and a long term plan to subsidize all residents. They are committed to ensure that no current resident is unable to live at Culpepper Garden.”

### “FLOURISHING AFTER 55”

“Flourishing After 55” from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for April 9-14.

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

**Senior trips:** Odyssey’s Cherry Blossom lunch cruise, Wednesday, April 11, \$90; Dutch Village Farmerssm Market, Upper Marlboro, Md., Thursday, April 12, \$6; Timbuktu Restaurant, Hanover, Md., Friday, April 13, \$5 (transportation only);

Ford’s Theater, “The Wiz,” matinee, Saturday, April 14, \$55. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

#### NEW PROGRAMS:

**Earth Day Festival**, free, all ages, Monday, April 9, 10 a.m. - noon, Arlington Mill. Exhibits, demonstrations, recycling games. Details, 703-228-7369.

**Medicare updates**, Monday, April 9, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown; Thursday, April 12, 11 a.m., Arlington Mill. Register, 703-228-6300 (L-B), 703-228-7369 (AM).

**New group for seasoned fishermen and women**, Monday, April 9,

10 a.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.

**Guardianship versus power of attorney**, Tuesday, April 10, 1 p.m., Lee. Register, 703-228-0555.

**Ask A Nurse program to focus on health care directives**, Tuesday, April 10, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

**Preparing to play pickleball, avoid common injuries**, Tuesday, April 10, 11:30 a.m., Arlington Mill. Register, 703-228-7369.

**The impact of clothes in history**, Tuesday, April 10, 11:15 a.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

**Live demonstration of Netflix**, Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., Arlington Mill. Details, 703-228-7369.

**The study of words**, Wednesday, April 11, 11 a.m., Lee. Register, 703-228-0555.

**Arlington Walking Club to travel to Kenwood, Md. to view cherry blossoms**, Wednesday, April 11, 9:30 a.m., \$4. Register, 703-228-4403.

**How to attract birds and butterflies**, Thursday, April 12, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Register, 703-228-0955.

**Aqua exercise, deep water classes begin** Thursday, April 12, 10 a.m., Wakefield pool, \$36/9 sessions. Register, 703-228-4771.

**Read and discuss five plays by Shakespeare’s contemporaries**, Friday, April 13, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills, Register, 703-228-5722.

**Celebrate National Jazz Appreciation Month with Karen Lovejoy and The Lovejoy Group**, Friday, April 13, 11 a.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.

**A Matter of Balance classes begin** Friday, April 13, 1-3 p.m., Aurora Hills. Register, 703-228-5722.

**Ballroom dance**, Friday, April 13, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill. Details, 703-228-0555.

**Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteer**, Saturday, April 14, 9:15 a.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## The Adventures of 'James & the Giant Peach'

Encore Stage & Studio presents musical based on Roald Dahl book.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

With a cast of 12 students in grades 8-12, Encore Stage & Studio is presenting the musical, "James & the Giant Peach," from April 6-15 at Gunston Arts Center - Theatre Two, located at 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. The show is the culmination of the Encore students' year-long studies.

When James is sent by his aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that results in a tremendous peach and launches a journey of enormous proportions. Suddenly, James finds himself in the center of the gigantic peach — among human-sized insects with equally oversized personalities — but, after it falls from the tree and rolls into the ocean, the group faces a series of mishaps and adventures. Thanks to James' quick wit and creative thinking, the residents learn to live and work together as a family.

"It is a musical written by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, and they did 'La La Land' and 'The Greatest Showman.' It's based on the Roald Dahl book, 'James and the Giant Peach,'" said Kelsey Meiklejohn, director and choreographer.

"It follows the orphan James really on a journey to change his fate. He ends up with two aunts who are atrocious. He escapes them with the help of a magical man and riding on a giant peach with giant insects who have turned into humans. Those insects become his true family. That's the plot," said Meiklejohn, who is also



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Child actors from Encore Stage & Studio rehearse for "James & the Giant Peach," which runs from April 6-15, at Gunston Arts Center – Theatre Two.**

the secondary education programs manager for Encore.

As far as challenges, she said: "Musicals have always been my passion in theater so I love watching the dancing, music and acting integrate to tell a story. More of the challenges of this show come from how much action there is on stage. And imagination. There are lots of imaginative elements."

The show includes over 15 custom-built puppets that range from giant rhinos with red glowing eyes to spiders with edible legs, and also friendly grasshoppers. "How do you show a peach flying through the sky in a theater? So, we really brought in a lot of puppetry and inventive costumes.

They wear shark heads and carry seagull puppets so they can portray two different moments at the same time. So that's been the biggest challenge with this show," she said.

Meiklejohn said the story is about the importance of allowing children's space for their voice to be heard and allowing them to become leaders. "That is what got to me about the story and was important for me to propel forward and guide the show. There's a wonderful line — 'The world can change because you believe it can.' James changes his own fate. In doing so, he finds his true family, and that he could do that as a child is so important."

"I also think it's a fun look at family and the people who influence our lives," she said. "It has some really quirky songs that range from old-school fiddling to a little bit of musical theater to Latin-inspired styles. It's got something for everyone."

Gabe MacPhail, 14, of Arlington, plays the title role of James. "James lost his parents when he was young and that messed with him a lot because they were his only family that he had — so he thought," he said. "He lived in an orphanage where he wanted something better than that and he was getting desperate until it was told to him that he has two aunts who were really mean. He has to

learn to rely on himself rather than others," he said.

The St. Thomas More eighth-grader said his challenge was having to do so much in one show. "He's (James) really in the entire show — so really having to get a lot of things down, and also at the same time playing someone who is younger than me by four years," he said.

He added: "It's nice being able to show this character through music, but at the same time it's challenging because it's very high-alto music. It's difficult to have to sing up one octave from my range."

Dahlia Vicens, 15, of Arlington plays the Earth Worm. "The Earth Worm is non-binary; she is a boy and a girl; she gets scared easily — like every little thing scares her and she freaks out," she said.

Her biggest challenge was trying to get into the character of a blind worm and pretend to be an insect. "There's a scene where James shakes her hand and she doesn't know what it is. She completely freaks out," she said. "Also, the hardest part was balancing music and school, working on lines and also doing school work at the same time. That was really hard."

She added: "I sing a lot in the show but the big song I get to sing is called 'Plump and Juicy,' and how I prepared for it was practicing a lot and working with Doug Ullman (music director) and Kelsey (director) and asking them questions."

Mike Sarisky, 17, of Falls Church plays the multiple roles of Narrator, Bobby Cop and Porter on a Cruise Ship. "For the Narrator for Ladahlord, I move the story along, introduce the story in the first

SEE 'JAMES,' PAGE 17

### CALENDAR

#### ONGOING

**"HALO-HALO."** Through April 7, open 24/7 at Metro Micro Gallery, 3409 Wilson Blvd., on the corner of Kansas Street and Wilson Boulevard. An exhibition of new works by Nico Fertakis. The exhibition's title, "HALO-HALO," refers to a popular dessert in the Philippines and means "mix-mix" or "mixed together" in the Filipino dialect, Tagalog. Visit [www.metromicrogallery.com](http://www.metromicrogallery.com).

#### Art Exhibit: "Spring Break."

Through April 27, gallery hours at Gallery Underground, in the Crystal City Shops at 2100 Crystal Drive. "Spring Break," a seasonally-themed and colorful member show features works depicting scenes of spring and vacation locales. Also featured, along with new works by Gallery members, is artwork by Marsha Brown, a painter, sculptor and ceramic artist in the local area. Visit

[www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org) or call 571-483-0652.

**"John."** Through April 29, at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Annie Baker's "John" at the Tony-winning Signature Theatre plays for four weeks, running April 3 through April 29, 2018. Visit [SigTheatre.org](http://SigTheatre.org).

#### Art Exhibit: "That's Why I'm Here."

Through May 5 at Cody Gallery, 1000 North Glebe Road, 2nd Floor. Marymount University's Cody Gallery will host an opening reception for the exhibition "That's Why I'm Here," which features work by Kyle Bauer, Cynthia Connolly (Curator at Arlington Arts), Elizabeth Huey, Kim Llerena, and Jordan Rathus. Works in the exhibition are marked by experiences drawn from the environment, both real and imagined. Call 703-284-1500 or visit [www.marymount.edu](http://www.marymount.edu) and search "Cody Gallery."

**Gardening Lecture.** Wednesdays,

through Oct. 10, 7 p.m. at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. The Arlington Food Assistance Center and the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia will sponsor a free series of talks and demonstrations about gardening. In addition to basic gardening techniques, topics will include foraging for wild edibles, pollinators, food preparation and preservation, and more. All are welcome. Visit [www.afac.org/plot-against-hunger/pah-events/](http://www.afac.org/plot-against-hunger/pah-events/).

**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](mailto: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.crystallcity.org](http://www.crystallcity.org) for more.

**Mobile Bike Repair.** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Drop off your bike on Thursday morning and have it tuned up and ready to ride before heading home. Email [DC@velofix.com](mailto:DC@velofix.com), or phone 855-VELO-FIX for more.

**Food Truck Thursdays.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1900 Crystal Drive and 201 12th St. Actual truck schedules are subject to change so be sure to follow your favorites. Visit [www.crystallcity.org](http://www.crystallcity.org) for more.

**Healthy Lifestyle Runs.** Saturdays, 9 a.m. at Roosevelt Island, George Washington Memorial Parkway. American Cancer Society partners

with parkrun USA to promote fitness in the fight against cancer. Free. Visit [www.parkrun.us/rooseveltislanddc/](http://www.parkrun.us/rooseveltislanddc/) for more.


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

**Arlington's Historical Museum Open on First Wednesdays.** The Arlington Historical Museum is open to the public on the first Wednesday of every month from 12:30-3:30 p.m. The museum consists of exhibits chronicling Arlington County's history from Native American settlements up to the present day. The museum will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is located in the former 1891 Hume School building at 1805 S. Arlington

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16



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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 15

Ridge Road. Contact Garrett Peck at 571-243-1113 or at [garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

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

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

**Karaoke.** 8 p.m. on the first Sunday every month at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Visit [www.galaxyhut.com](http://www.galaxyhut.com) or call 703-525-8646.

**Pub Quiz.** 8 p.m. every Sunday at Whitlow's on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd. Prizes for first place. Free. Visit [www.whitlows.com](http://www.whitlows.com) or call 703-276-9693.

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

**Lego Club.** Monthly on the first Wednesday. 4-5 p.m. Glencarlyn Branch Library, 300 S. Kensington St. The library provides tubs of legos and a special challenge and after the program the creations are displayed for everyone to see. No registration required. Call 703-228-6548 for more.

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

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

**Brunch at Freddie's.** Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Freddie's Beach Bar, 555 23rd St. The Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance gathers for an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet (\$9.99). All are welcome. No reservation is required. Visit [www.facebook.com/events/700174390103305](http://www.facebook.com/events/700174390103305).

**GYMNASTICS OPEN TRYOUTS**  
**Arlington Gymnastics** are holding tryouts for both girls (Aerials) and boys (Tigers) competitive teams during April and May. For age 4 and older. Tryouts are free. Visit [www.arlingtonaerials.org](http://www.arlingtonaerials.org) and [sites.google.com/site/arlingtontigersva](http://sites.google.com/site/arlingtontigersva).

- \* Aerials Level 3 Tryouts – Saturday, April 14, 5-8 p.m.
- \* Aerials Pre-Team Tryouts – Saturday, April 21, 5-8 p.m.
- \* Aerials Xcel Gold Tryouts – Saturday, May 12, 5-7 p.m.
- \* Tigers Pre-team & Level 4 Tryouts – Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m.-noon

**WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4**  
**National Walking Day.** Walking is a great way to promote health and wellness amongst employees, tenants, and friends. Form a walking team with coworkers, friends, or neighbors and register for the event. Arlington Transportation Partners will host several pit stops around Arlington from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



**Marymount University student Emma Grzymkowski's work in progress, 2018.**

## Opening Reception: Marymount Juried Student Exhibition

Marymount University invites the public to a free opening reception for its Annual Juried Student Exhibition. The exhibit will feature work from students majoring in fine arts, fashion design, and graphic and media design. Friday, April 6, 6-8 p.m. at The Barry Gallery, located in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. The exhibit runs through May 6. Visit [www.marymount.edu/barrygallery](http://www.marymount.edu/barrygallery).

Visit [arlingtontransportationpartners.com/NWD](http://arlingtontransportationpartners.com/NWD) for more.

**Interior Design Panel.** 7 p.m. at Marymount University in the Ballston Center Auditorium, 1000 North Glebe Road. Marymount University invites the public to "Design Conversations: An Evening with Distinguished Marymount University Interior Design Alums." Panelists include Tama Duffy Day of Gensler, Eileen Vitelli from Studio3877 and HGTV's Tyler Wisler. Free. Those attending are asked to reserve their spots at [marymount.edu/design-conversations](http://marymount.edu/design-conversations).

### THURSDAY/APRIL 5

**Book Event: "Daingerfield Island."** 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Bill Newman will read excerpts from "Daingerfield Island" by John A. Wasowicz, an attorney and former assistant county prosecutor in Arlington. "Daingerfield Island" introduces readers to Mo Katz., Esq., a fictional Alexandria attorney. Fifty percent of the proceeds from book sales at the reading will be donated to the Arlington Community Foundation's William T. Newman Jr. fund, which provides scholarships to high school graduates who attend a four-year undergraduate college. Call 703-300-9746 or visit [www.onemorepagebooks.com](http://www.onemorepagebooks.com).

### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 5-8

**Spring Book Sale.** Central Library parking garage, 1015 N. Quincy St. The Friends of the Arlington Public

Library hold a massive used book sale each spring and fall, which includes thousands of books for all ages and interests, magazines, DVDs, CDs and LPs, games and puzzles. Visa, MasterCard, checks and cash are accepted. Thursday is members only night (Friends memberships are available at the door), and on Sunday all merchandise is half price. Visit [library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library/](http://library.arlingtonva.us/locations/central-library/).

### FRIDAY/APRIL 6

#### Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk.

8:30-11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for its monthly informal walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. No registration is required. Visit [parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/long-branch-nature-center-park/](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/long-branch-nature-center-park/).

**Opening Reception: "Spring Break."** 6-8 p.m. at at Gallery Underground, in the Crystal City Shops at 2100 Crystal Drive. "Spring Break," a seasonally-themed and colorful member show features works depicting scenes of spring and vacation locales. Also featured, along with new works by Gallery members, is artwork by Marsha Brown, a painter, sculptor and ceramic artist in the local area. Visit [www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org) or call 571-483-0652.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'James'

FROM PAGE 15

number and also give James the magic he needs to begin the adventure. I prod James when he needs me to. For the most part he does it on his own," said the NOVA freshman.

As far as challenges, he said: "It was figuring out why the narrator is guiding the story, why he is singing the opening number. It wasn't obvious in the beginning until me and my directors decided on one key detail — that Ladahlord is James as an adult retelling the story. That's the whole reason I'm singing this song describing this amazing adventure that we're about the show the audience."

Mia Randers-Pehrson, 16, of Reston plays the role of Sponge, one of James' aunts. "She is an evil person who takes James in when his parents die. Sponge loves food and hates everything else except for her sister Spiker," said the home-schooled sophomore.

She added: "Sponge is this very over-the-top character and she's almost inhuman in that she is a loud and big character. She's particularly large and doesn't always know what's going on.... For me, I don't have that much experience singing so I spent more time working on the songs. Also, experimenting with different ways to say the lines because they are so over-the-top and big."

She said the audience takeaway from the show is that: "Friends are what matter most and can be your family if you choose them," she said.

Hazel Feldstein, 16, of Falls Church plays the role of Spiker, one of James' evil aunts. "I tried to get into her physically. We did a lot of stuff with accents and I tried to develop a nasty Cockney accent for her," said the Commonwealth Academy 10th-grader.

She said the takeaways are that hopefully they'll get a good laugh out of the show. "Spiker and Sponge are the comic relief to let people have a good time and make them laugh and root against them because they're the villains," she said.

Encore Stage & Studio is presenting "James & the Giant Peach" from April 6-15. Tickets are \$10. Show times are Friday and Saturday, April 6-7 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8 at 3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, April 13-14, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15 at 3 p.m. The venue is the Gunston Arts Center – Theatre Two, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington. Tickets are available online at [www.encorestage.org](http://www.encorestage.org) or by calling the box office at 703-548-1154.

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## Legals

### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 91') on the building at 4501 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA (20180489). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

## Legals

### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 134') on the building at 1020 N Highland St., Arlington, VA (20180517). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

## Legals

### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 164' & 166') on the building at 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA (20180315). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

## Legals

### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 43') on the building at 5115 Little Falls Rd., Arlington, VA (20180473). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

## Legals

### ABC LICENSE

S J R, LLC trading as L A Sports Bar & Grill, 2530 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204-4408. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises-Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Richard Arnez, Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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## CALENDAR



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**Ball-Sellers House open free to the public Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. April-October.**

## Ball-Sellers House Season Opening

Visit the oldest house in Arlington County, a farmhouse built in the 1740s. Get a free tour with knowledgeable docents in costume. Enjoy colonial era sweet treats and beverages. Step back in time and find out how real colonial Virginians lived. Something for all ages. Saturday, April 7, 1-4 p.m. at Ball-Sellers House Museum, 5620 3rd St., South. Free. Call 703-892-4204 or visit [arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

FROM PAGE 16

**Animal Pajama Party.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Dress in cozy pajamas and bring a stuffed animal friend to the nature center to listen to stories and learn about wildlife at night. Ages 2-10. \$5 per person. Registration required. Register online or call 703-228-4747, using activity code 632918-Y.

**Opening Reception: Marymount Juried Student Exhibition.** 6-8 p.m. at The Barry Gallery, located in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. Marymount University invites the public to a free opening reception for its Annual Juried Student Exhibition. The exhibit will feature work from students majoring in fine arts, fashion design, and graphic and media design. The exhibit runs through May 6. Visit [www.marymount.edu/barrygallery](http://www.marymount.edu/barrygallery).

**Family Fun Night - Therapeutic Recreation.** 6:30-8 p.m. at Langston-Brown Community Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St. Once a month drop-in program designed for families of children with disabilities ages 4-17. Each month features a different activity, as well as self-guided activity stations including gross motor, sensory, art, games, a quiet room and more. This night out as a family, is an opportunity to meet other families, and to have fun. No pre-registration required. \$1.50 per person, cash only. Visit [parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/langston-brown-community-center-park](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/langston-brown-community-center-park).

**Families Giving Back Family Night.** 7-9 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. A night of fun and community service. Complete multiple family-friendly service projects together; families who complete three or more projects get the chance to bounce on the inflatables. Free; no registration required. Visit [parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/arlington-mill-community-center](http://parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/arlington-mill-community-center).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 6-8

**"James & the Giant Peach."** Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 3 p.m. at Gunston Arts Center - Theatre Two, 2700 S. Lang St. When James is sent by his aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that results in a tremendous peach. James finds himself in the center of the gigantic peach - among human-sized insects

with equally over-sized personalities - but, after it falls from the tree and rolls into the ocean, the group faces a series of mishaps and adventures. Recommended for ages 6 and older. \$10. Visit [www.encorestage.org](http://www.encorestage.org) or call 703-548-1154.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 7

**Opening Day for Trails Fun Run 5K.** 9 a.m. starting at Bluemont Park Picnic Pavilion; 5K on the W&OD Trail and the Four Mile Run Trail. Sixth annual Opening Day for Trails (Opening Day). RTC's Opening Day Fun Run 5K is a free and family-friendly way to explore two of the region's iconic trails while showing support for the Capital Trails Coalition vision of creating a world-class regional trail network. Visit [railstotrails.org/openingday](http://railstotrails.org/openingday).



**Dr. Eleanora Troja**

## Lecture on Collision of Neutron Stars

Marymount University invites the public to its annual Myhill Memorial Lecture, which will be given by Dr. Eleanora Troja of the University of Maryland and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Troja will describe the discovery of the first gravitational wave signal from the collision of two neutron stars in a galaxy 130 million light years away. Free. A dessert reception will follow in the Lee Reception Room. Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. in Reinsch Auditorium on the Marymount University's main campus, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Visit [www.marymount.edu/Home/News-Events](http://www.marymount.edu/Home/News-Events).



# News Parents

FROM PAGE 3

Association, gesturing into the audience in attendance at the School Board meeting. “It is people that drive the education in Arlington. It is people who will judge us on our success or failure.”

Other parents and students, including a song performed by a student choral group, came out in support for maintaining funding for arts programs, another area seeing belt-tightening measures in the proposed budget.

“I’ve lived in Arlington for 10 years but this is my first time speaking at a School Board meeting,” said Jennifer Smith. “I’m here to ask us to maintain, not cut, funds for art positions.”

The School Board chair, Barbara Kanninen, said that the School Board members were still reviewing the budget and listening to public feedback on the budget items, and thus wouldn’t respond to individual petitions or requests. Kanninen said the budget will be proposed at the April 5 School Board meeting.

“We’re in the stage of listening, engaging, and reading emails,” said Kanninen. “We’re trying to build the best possible budget.”

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

arlnvil.org/.

**Arlington Committee of 100 Program.** 7 p.m. at Phelan Hall - Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. What will be the Impact of the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act on Arlington? Join the Committee of 100 for an initial assessment of the impact of the Act on Virginia, on Arlington, and on individuals. The program is open to the public. To purchase dinner, reservations must be made by Sunday, April 8. Reserve at [www.arlingtoncommitteeof100.org/get-involved/make-a-reservation/](http://www.arlingtoncommitteeof100.org/get-involved/make-a-reservation/)

### THURSDAY/APRIL 12

**YEA! Investor Panel.** 6-8 p.m. at Marymount University (Ballston Center), 2807 N. Glebe Road. Watch as YEA! students pitch their business ideas to a panel of investors for a chance to receive start-up capital to launch their business. Two investor panelist seats remain. Contact the Chamber today to participate. Visit [arlingtonchamber.org](http://arlingtonchamber.org).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 14

**Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.** 10 a.m.-noon. Join ACE for the 30th Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup. ACE is joining a multi-state network of supporters working with the Alice Ferguson Foundation to make the watershed cleaner and raise awareness about the problem of litter in our region. Register at [arlingtonenvironment.org](http://arlingtonenvironment.org).

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 14-15

**Expedition Hackathon.** Starts April 14, 9 a.m., ends April 15, 6 p.m. at George Mason University Arlington Campus - Founders Hall; 3351 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington. This year’s hackathon challenge will focus on creating a solution to help combat human trafficking or assist its victims. Visit [expeditionhacks.com/combating-human-trafficking](http://expeditionhacks.com/combating-human-trafficking).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 15

**Essay Contest Submission Deadline.** The Arlington Historical Society, in partnership with Columbia Lodge No.285, is pleased to announce their 2018 8th grade and high school student historical writing contest. Visit [www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

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## Label Me Presumptuous



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have not been collecting return-address labels for years. I have however, been receiving them for years. Either as thank yous for charitable contributions made or as inducements for charitable contributions yet to be made. Regardless of the reason, I have had an ample supply until recently. And they have served me well as both a reminder of what I have and have not done. And over time, they have most definitely served their purpose. Amazingly though, the pages of return-address labels in inventory has been shrinking of late. Due to some combination of my lack of charitableness as well as a reduction in the numbers of unsolicited charitable quid pro quos (there may be a relationship there).

Let me be clear: I am under no delusion or pressure to respond to these letters/requests for money. Just because I receive them doesn't mean I must adhere to them. They're hardly a subpoena nor are they payment for services rendered. They are merely a pre-approach-type solicitation mailed to me at my home offering goods (the labels) for services (my contribution) not yet rendered. Opening an envelope and reading its contents doesn't make me a partner in their pursuit of my dollars.

But what exactly is the protocol here? Certainly I can understand keeping and/or using the return-address labels if I make a contribution, but what if I don't make a contribution? Do I have to throw these perfectly good return-address labels away? Don't some of these labels, by their design/content – and ultimately by their use by yours truly, indirectly support the original sender's cause? Isn't their use some kind of tacit paying-it-forward-type approval/contribution on my part? I realize money and/or in-kind contributions likely help more, but is there use by a non-contributor not abuse at all? After all, I'm sort of passing the word/keeping their chain going, aren't I?

If all is fair in love and war, certainly there's a little wiggle room in the world of mailing unsolicited inducements to unsuspecting recipients? I mean, I'm not asking for trouble here, am I? I'm merely asking for some understanding and clarification. If what was sent to me – not at my request and not as part of a phone conversation securing a commitment, was not my doing, then why am I responsible for it being done?

Obviously the labels are a convenience for me, and that is worth some amount of money and time that now I'm not having to spend. Still, it feels like an intrusion of sorts, a method to their madness – presumably, but to me a presumption, nevertheless. And that's just a few letters away from an assumption, and you all know what is said about assuming?

I suppose if you cast a wide enough net you're going to catch a few contributors who don't find anything fishy about this direct mail process and who feel compelled to respond favorably – so to speak, because a good deed has been for them. And if a good deed (or a "solid," to quote Detective Andy Sipowitz/Dennis Franz from NYPD Blue) deserves another then contributions will be made and address labels will be affixed.

But after years of receiving these return-address-labels-masquerading-as-solicitations-for-contributions – to a variety of charities, some more well known than others, I don't feel the least bit stuck in my decision to use these return address labels as I see fit. In a way, I am the beneficiary of their largess and in turn, they are the beneficiary of my non-cash contribution. It's sort of a win-win. But I don't suppose that was their intention. I suppose they wanted more, not less.

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



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