

Allen, 13, is "very respectful (and) favors conversation over quietness," according to his Kidsave profile. He says. "If I don't end up being a soccer player, I dream of being a businessman." [www.kidsave.org/kids-galleries/](http://www.kidsave.org/kids-galleries/)

# The Arlington Connection

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PHOTO BY KURT MOSER

Fish were killed in the thousands due to faulty piping at the water pollution control plant, allowing the discharge of chemicals into the stream.

## Mystery Solved: Arlington's Four Mile Run Fish Killed by Hypochlorite

**Worst incident in more than a decade was caused by leaky pipes at Arlington Water Pollution Control Plant.**

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

The good news is because of the vigilance of the Four Mile Run Conservancy Foundation and concerned residents notifying local media, the cause of the fish kill in the stream on May 11-12 has been identified. The bad news is this was, according to Kurt Moser of the Four Mile Run Conservancy Foundation, "the worst such incident in more than a decade, far more severe than one that had received considerable media attention in 2012." Moser added, "We had a big rainstorm after the leak, so the rain washed all the dead fish out. Otherwise, many more residents might have noticed the fish kill."

The cause of the fish kill, a leak of a toxic chemical at the Arlington Water Pollution Control Plant located next to Four Mile Run, was reported in an email sent by Mike Collins, Deputy Director - Operations, Department of Environmental Services, to Aileen Winquist, Arlington's Stormwater Communications Manager, and other members of Arlington's Four Mile Run Task Force. The email stated: "Yesterday, June 30, after extensive testing of several systems at Arlington's Water Pollution Control plant, we determined that there is an apparent leak or rupture in a segment of infrequently used piping at the plant. We believe that this is the likely culprit for the fish kill in Four Mile Run that was observed May 12."

"On May 11, the piping had been circulating 7,000 gallons of a 5% sodium hypochlorite mixture. Some amount of this mixture appears to have leaked into the storm drain and then into Four Mile Run. The faulty piping has not been used since the May 11 process, and was fully taken out of service yesterday."

"We have reported our findings to DEQ this morning."

"The faulty piping is 2-inch plastic and handles dis-

charge from a sump pump in our hypochlorite facility, routing the discharge back to the headworks of the plant. The sump pump is infrequently used, but was put in service May 11 due to an accidental spill of hypochlorite solution. The spill was contained within the containment chamber, which functioned as designed, and then pumped out to be treated through our typical process. "We have not determined what or where the fault in the pipeline is, but a dye test of this piping yesterday showed color emerging in a storm sewer outfall into Four Mile Run (FMR.)"

"To repeat, this pump and piping is rarely used, and we have disconnected and isolated them as we look for the failure point. Temporary pumps and piping are now in place."

"A number of tests are scheduled for next week to identify where the discharge piping failed. We are confident no additional discharges have occurred since the May 11-12 incident. The piping will not be used unless and until it has been repaired."

"We deeply regret this accident occurred and will work with DEQ, our regulatory agency, to ensure that we remain in full compliance with our permits and commitments to preserve the environment."

After seeing the above report, Moser commented, "There is some good news here: it was the only the second major incident in the Four Mile Run in a decade, and after the Arlington Water Pollution Control Plant originally didn't believe hypochlorite could be the cause, they recognized community interest in learning the cause, and that hypochlorite seemed like a plausible explanation. They tested, and found the issue. They also spotted other issues when they did the dye test."

A full report is available at:

<https://portal.deq.virginia.gov/v2/prep/prepReport/305459>

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# NEWS



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Kristina Campbell with her daughter she adopted in 2019.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Justin and Russell Barczyk at a game.



SCREENSHOT

Jean, 13, an active leader, says she's very proud of her sister and herself. She says, "I want to be a police officer." Krista, 11, a "girly girl" who "genuinely loves to learn," says, "I am calm, obedient, pretty, and chill." She wants to be a teacher. [www.kidsave.org/kids-galleries/](http://www.kidsave.org/kids-galleries/)

## These Children Need You

Colombian orphans vacation locally, dream of connections to their future families.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

*Kidsave changed the names of the children eligible for adoption for security reasons.*

Orphans from Colombia eight years old and over are frequently ignored and have little chance of growing up in a family. They need champions to change their lives or face aging out of care alone. This summer, eight families from Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, including Russell Barczyk and his wife Brigitte Miller of Alexandria, are hosting older orphans eligible for adoption from Colombia for five weeks, through Aug. 8.

They are part of the Kidsave Summer Miracles program. The youth and teens are experiencing life in a U.S. family. For some, it will be the connection to their lasting, caring family.

"My wife and I started looking into consultations with different adoption agencies and available options. We heard about Kidsave (and) the program they have with kids in Colombia," Barczyk said. He explained that 43 Colombian children are spending the summer in the United States, primarily in the Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Chicago areas. Eight families in the greater Washington, D.C. area care for nine children, including two sisters. The profiles of all 43 children are available on the Kidsave website.

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Host families provide children eligible for adoption the opportunity to spend summer vacations in the United States. While some families will adopt the children they are hosting, other families will become lifelong advocates and others will help the children find their permanent, loving families. According to the nonprofit's website, approximately 80 percent of the children who have participated in the Summer Miracles program since its inception were matched for adoption.

The Kidsave DC Summer Miracles Cookie Decorating event was held at the Jane E. Lawton Community Rec Center in Chevy Chase, Md. on Sunday, July 31. Approximately 40 people, including families interested in adoption, future hosts, current hosts, and orphans from Colombia, were present. Most children engaged in the activity, with Spanish words and much laughter filling the room. For others, especially the hosts and families who adopted years ago, and others, it was an opportunity to talk and compare experiences.

Kristina Campbell was there with her teenage daughter from Colombia, who participated in the LA Kidsave program three years ago. When asked what she liked most about her mother, Kristina's daughter said, "It is the fact that she is my mom." According to Campbell, her daughter learned she would be adopted a few days after returning to Colombia from a Kidsave Los Angeles program. Campbell said the adoption process



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Summer gallery of the Summer Miracles' Kidsave photolistings of children currently available for adoption visiting the D.C. Metro area. [www.kidsave.org/kids-galleries/](http://www.kidsave.org/kids-galleries/)

takes between nine and twelve months.

Beth Dresing is a 10-year Kidsave volunteer, co-chair of the D.C. Metro Summer Miracles board of trustees, a host, and, most importantly, the mother of a son she adopted in 2011. Dresing said he was short and unable to jump hurdles during high school track and field successfully, so he tried out for dance instead. Her son is now a senior in college, majoring in dance and excelling at it.

Barczyk said Justin, age 12, who he and his wife are hosting, enjoys drawing, read-

ing, cooking, watching movies, and listening to Colombian music. According to his online profile, "Justin loves soccer and dreams of traveling to Brazil, specifically to visit their soccer stadiums.... Until then, he's happy to play soccer with his friends—and potentially with his dream family."

Learn more about becoming a Kidsave Visiting Family this summer or view the Summer Miracles Adoption Gallery with profiles and videos of youth currently available for adoption or hosting at - <https://www.kidsave.org/kids-galleries/>.

ARLINGTON CONNECTION ♦ AUGUST 3-9, 2022 ♦ 3



# Missing Middle Housing Marches Forward

**Single-family housing rooted in segregation.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

The Arlington Missing Middle draft framework rolls on. On April 28 the County Board announced a proposed change from single-family to multi-family zoning countywide. A County working group modified the proposal slightly on July 12, and since then two sides have lined up and dug in.

Those in favor of the proposal cite the current lack of housing opportunities for Arlington residents including essential workers such as fire, police and teachers. Those opposed to the plan cite the lack of planning about the impact of such a proposal in such key areas as infrastructure, parking and school enrollment.

The Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) has taken a strong stand declaring, "Arlington is for everyone." They say the proposal supports diversity, lower-cost housing, new neighbors and the missing middle. Currently in Arlington, 79 percent of the County's residential land area only allows single family housing. The Alliance for Housing Solutions join a diverse group with varying perspectives including NAACP Arlington Branch, YIMBYS of Northern Virginia, Arlington Chamber of Commerce and Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter.

AHS says the takeaways from the County work session were that over 70 percent of renters who completed the on-line form supported all of the Missing Middle Housing types while 75 percent of homeowners wanted to exclude some or all of these more affordable types.

On one of the most contentious issues, the County will be drafting two sets of regulations, one that would limit 6-8 units buildings to lots larger than 10,000-feet; and an alternative that would allow 8 units on any lot provided the building is within the standard envelope for the lot size.

The County will not consider proximity to transit, will develop basic design standards and is working to align the environmental components with the about-to-be released Forestry and Natural Resources plan.

The County lawyer indicated a cap could be placed on the number of Missing Middle units placed in a

neighborhood, and a zoning ordinance could be rescinded if it has unintended consequences.

The NAACP Arlington Branch points out that single-family housing was established in the early 1900s in Arlington as a way to promote segregation without explicitly legislating it in more obvious forms as other areas had done. The impact of this "unfortunate side of history" was to eliminate the possibility of home ownership for Black families and to restrict the creation of intergenerational wealth building so it's harder to buy land in Arlington.

Last month the NAACP joined the law firm of McGuireWoods to discuss a recently-released report, "Zoning and Segregation in Virginia: Part 2." Jim Dyke from McGuireWoods pointed out that redlining laws that literally took a pen and drew circles where white people could live and Black people could live were struck down in court. He explained as a result Virginia replaced redlining with zoning to deny Black Virginians the right to live in white neighborhoods.

Cragg Hines, a twenty-year resident of Arlington said, "You may not be a racist but the origins of single family zoning, which is at the heart of the current Arlington debate on missing middle housing, certainly are racist.... At its historic core, single-family zoning has little to do with parking, or tree canopy or storm drainage. It has to do with the county's, this commonwealth's and this country's history of racism." He continues, "Even as other reforms have attempted to sweep away de jure racial discrimination, 'zoning remains one of the few governmental actions that perpetuates segregation as it is today,' according to a report issued last year on zoning by McGuireWood, one of one of Virginia's leading legal and consulting firms." Arlington residents have been active sharing opinions on the Missing Middle proposal on NextDoor. Jane Zimmerman summarizes many of the objections, "Missing Middle is not about affordability or diversity. It's about developers' short-term profits at residents' long-term expense. It means more

overcrowding in Arlington's already over-crowded schools, ignoring the impact of climate change and flooding, pushing out middle and low income residents, families, immigrants and seniors, overloading infrastructure, reducing park space, green space and tree canopy and exacerbating traffic and transportation problems."

Zimmerman includes a chart based on County released statistics refuting the diversity argument and arguing that only 39 percent of Arlington's African American population could afford Arlington's Missing Middle housing.

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YES TO NEW NEIGHBORS  
YES TO MISSING MIDDLE**



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[www.missingmiddlearlington.net](http://www.missingmiddlearlington.net)



Yard signs in support of Missing Middle housing.

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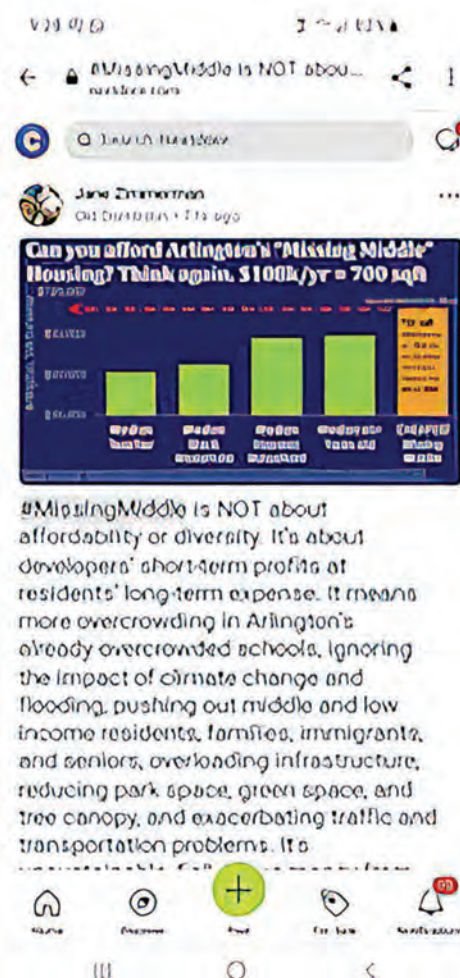


**Arlington for Everyone**

[www.missingmiddlearlington.net](http://www.missingmiddlearlington.net)



Yard signs in support of Missing Middle housing.



Opponents of Missing Middle Housing Proposal hold signs before a County Board meeting: "No upzoning; no duplex here."

based on County released statistics refuting the diversity argument and arguing that only 39 percent of Arlington's African American population could afford Arlington's Missing Middle housing.

Hines says just because the housing proposal wouldn't result in all minorities having the ability to purchase a home doesn't mean we shouldn't address the issue. "It's a crack in the wall. It would be like

saying if we can't desegregate all of the schools, we shouldn't start."

In September and October community conversations and informational sessions are scheduled while the zoning regulations, zoning text

and General Land Use amendments are being drafted. In November the Planning Commission and County Board advertisements are scheduled with consideration by each Board in November.

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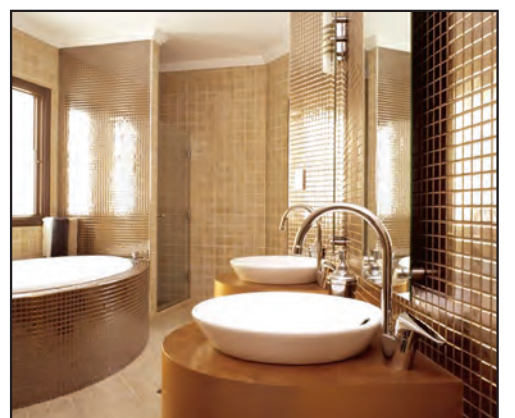
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## CALENDAR

### CHECK OUT

#### THESE PLANT CLINICS

The Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic is open from 6:00-7:45 p.m. every Wednesday through September 28 and is located in the East Lobby of the Library, 1015 N. Quincy St.

The Arlington Farmers Market Plant Clinic, open Saturday mornings from 7:45-11:15 a.m., operating through September 24, is located at N. 14th St. and N. Courthouse Rd.

The Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 203 E. Oxford Ave, Alexandria is open on Saturdays from 8:30-11:15 a.m., and will operate through September 24.

The Alexandria Old Town Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 301 King St., Alexandria, operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m., through September 24.

The Small Space Garden Plant Clinic, located at the back of the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, is open on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., coinciding with the Fairlington Farmers Market.

#### NOW THRU SEPTEMBER

Witness the Changing of the Guard. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington. From April-September, the ceremony occurs every 30 minutes, on the hour and half-hour. For more information, visit: <https://arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Changing-of-the-Guard>

#### FRIDAY/AUG. 5

Invasives in Your Garden. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Online. Invasive plant species are being discussed more and more but understanding what they are and what to do about them in our home gardens can be confusing. Extension Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Alyssa Ford Morel will explain what invasive plants are, why they are worth doing something about, and take a closer look at invasive plants frequently found in Northern Virginia home yards. She also will discuss removal strategies and offer suggestions for non-invasive plants to replace them. Free. RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive link to participate

#### FREE PERFORMANCES AT LUBBER RUN AMPHITHEATER

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Fri., Aug. 5 and Sat., Aug. 6 at 8 p.m., and Sun., Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. Join Avant Bard Theatre, The Arlington Players and Encore Stage & Studio for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (lyrics by Tim Rice and Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber). Visit <https://www.thearlingtonplayers.org/seasons/72nd-season/joseph-and-the-amazing-technicolor-dreamcoat/>

#### FRIDAY/AUG. 19

LESSON ZERO. 9:30-12:30 p.m. The Celtic House presents the music of Oasis recording artist LESSON ZERO for a free show at 2500 Columbia Pike, Arlington. For additional information, see: [www.youtube.com/lessonzero](http://www.youtube.com/lessonzero) and [www.reverbNation.com/lessonzero](http://www.reverbNation.com/lessonzero)

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## NEWS

# Arlington Poet Laureate Receives \$50,000 Fellowship

One of 22 fellowships awarded by Academy of American Poets to its 2022 Poet Laureate Fellows, \$1.1 million total.

**D**r. Holly Karapetkova, Professor of Literature and Languages at Marymount University and the Poet Laureate of Arlington County, has been selected for a 2022 American Academy of Poets Laureate Fellowship.

KaNikki Jakarta, poet laureate of Alexandria was also awarded a 2022 American Academy of Poets Laureate Fellowship, according to the Academy of Poets.

These \$50,000 awards are given to honor poets of literary merit who have been appointed to serve in civic positions, and enable them to undertake meaningful, impactful and innovative projects that engage their fellow residents, including youth, with poetry, helping to address issues important to their communities as well as create new work.

Karapetkova will use the majority of her award money to fund a project that she had already put in motion – an Arlington Youth Poetry Anthology, according to Marymount University. With seed money from Arlington Arts, Karapetkova formed partnerships with DC's hip hop-based educational nonprofit Words Beats Life and the local nonprofit and publisher Day Eight. Calls for submissions are scheduled to be issued later this summer.

The anthology will be augmented by a series of readings and workshops featuring the published poets, as well as lesson plans and reading experiences designed to engage youth through poetry.

"As Poet Laureate, I feel a strong desire to lift up the voices of the youth in my community and to use poetry

as a way to bring people together, to find a sense of community and healing," Karapetkova said, taking note of the volatile political discourse and the pandemic that have marked recent years. "In times of distress, poetry provides a language for our hurt and frustration and an outlet for our expression of grief and anger. It can provide a means for healing."

Karapetkova initiated an Arlington Youth Laureate, Charlotte Maleski, in February 2021. Kashvi Ramani assumes the title of Arlington Youth Laureate for 2022. Maleski will continue as co-editor of the Anthology.

Karapetkova has spearheaded new projects such as Visual Verse, a month-long traveling exhibition which projected poetry onto public buildings. She adjudicated the adult iteration of Arlington's Moving Words poetry competition, which places winning poems by local poets on Arlington



Holly Karapetkova, Poet Laureate of Arlington.

Transit ART buses. Karapetkova also participated in poetry readings at events including the 2021 Rosslyn Jazz Festival and the 2022 Columbia Pike Blues Festival.

"Poetry has the power to capture the spirit and immediacy of the moment as powerfully as a photograph," says Arlington Cultural Affairs Director Michelle Isabelle-Stark, who adds that the Academy's honor speaks volumes about Karapetkova's esteem in the field. "This Award will help support our Poet Laureate's efforts to amplify the voices of the next generation of poets in Arlington and is a priceless gift to our community."

The fellowships from the American Academy of Poets were established in partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Holly Karapetkova is the author

of two books of poetry, *Words We Might One Day Say*, winner of the 2010 Washington Writers' Publishing House Poetry Award; and *Towline*, winner of the 2016 Vern Rutsala Poetry Contest from Cloudbank Books. Her current manuscript projects, *Still Life With White* and *Planter's Wife* grapple with the deep wounds left by our history of racism, slavery, and environmental destruction. She is also the author of over 20 books for children. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing and a PhD in English and Comparative Literature and teaches in the Department of Literature and Languages at Marymount University.

Visit to learn more about Arlington's poet laureate position [www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Arts/Poet-Laureate](http://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Arts/Poet-Laureate)

Visit her website and view Karapetkova's portfolio. <https://www.karapetkova.com/>

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**CENTRE VIEW**

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Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

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The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk.

The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

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## Dispensing Wisdom, Or Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having spent way too much time visiting in a hospital recently, I only have one question: Were there always this many Purell "healthy soap" and hand sanitizers dispensing their healthful cleanliness before the pandemic? If you hadn't noticed, let me be the one to assure you; whatever supply chain issues exist in the world, there appears to be no shortage of Purell soap and hand sanitizer. They are everywhere. On nearly every wall 'round every corner. Of course, there mounted in every bathroom as well. It seems whatever turn, in whatever direction, you'll find a Purell dispenser; on either side, in front of you and/or behind you. In fact, they're everywhere you can imagine and a few places you can't. So far, the only place I haven't seen a Purell dispenser is on the elevator. Though there's always one on the wall immediately outside the elevator's floor stop, barely a step or two to the side.

There are so many dispensers on walls throughout the hospital, I'm wondering if there's an employee specifically assigned to monitor their level and to refill their cartridges the moment their level falls below the Mendoza-type line (extremely low). Given how big this hospital is, and how long the corridors are, if the dispenser isn't replenished the moment its levels are low-ish, it might be days before the dedicated Purell-refill employee returns to that wall. It reminds me of the story I heard years ago while tour-boating in San Francisco Bay. As we floated under The Golden Gate Bridge, the guide said the bridge is constantly being painted. That's because the painting process take so long that by the time the painting is finished at one end, it's time to start painting beginning at the other end. Talk about job security. It's a never-ending brush with destiny, especially when you consider the risk, being so high above water and exposed to the elements. Tending to the Purell dispensers feels like that. As long as the hospital remains open, there will be a need for Purell "healthy soap" and hand sanitizer dispensers and the refills that are necessary.

For all the proper hygiene reasons, the nurses are constantly touching the dispensers; before they enter the patient's room and again when they leave the patient's room and everywhere in between. There's a seemingly non-stop whirl of the motorized apparatus that dispenses the Purell products. In the bathrooms, the "healthy soap" dispensed requires water to finish the task. Outside the bathrooms, the dispenser produces a foamy substance that one is directed to rub their hands until dry. No water required. It has been my observation that of all the things that happen in a hospital, nothing comes close, in its frequency of use or in its sheer numbers than the activity surrounding these Purell dispensers. In second place, a distant second in my opinion, would be the use of the nitrile (not latex) "clean" gloves. They are also mounted on the walls, rarely in the halls, mostly in patient rooms, three boxes: one for small, medium, and large hands. Other than maintenance and food delivery (they were their own gloves), whoever enters a patient's room must glove up. Of course, that only happens after they've waived their hand under the automated Purell dispenser. I certainly haven't been counting, but those boxes, 250 count, are regularly emptied as well, and replaced with new boxes. However, their numbers pale in comparison to the numbers of Purell dispensers and refills.

You'd be surprised what your mind conjures while sitting by yourself in a patient's room, and one who's unable to talk or even squeeze your hand. Comic relief is almost mandatory. And considering the circumstances, wondering is not far from hoping.

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



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