



The Growing Stage Camp will perform 'Pirates of Penzance' Thursday and Friday at the Franklin Park Arts Center in Purcellville. See OnStage, Page C2.

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Loudoun Times-Mirror

## select

### 'Aesop's Fables'

The new Children's Theatre of Loudoun performs "Aesop's Fables" Saturday, Aug. 1, at 1 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 2, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Fabboli Cellars, 15669 Limestone School Road, Leesburg. The humorous half-hour performances include "The Mouse and the Lion," "The Tortoise and the Hare," "The Wind and the Sun" and "The Boy who Cried Wolf." Bring a blanket and picnic. Other activities available at the Fabboli Cellars estate include U-pick raspberries, wine tasting for the grownups, soccer and goodies from Mom's Apple Pie. The shows are free but donations are requested. Call 703-771-1197.

## New applied arts facility unites the real world with the art world

By EILEEN M. CARLTON  
Special to the Times-Mirror

George Washington. Old Dominion. George Mason, Shenandoah and Strayer universities. Northern Virginia Community and Patrick Henry colleges.

Prestigious one and all. Bastions of higher education in Loudoun.

But as of Oct. 5, a new and very different facility opens its doors. The Art Institute of Washington — Northern Virginia offers budding artists the chance to not only express and develop their creativity, but also to find gainful employment when the course is run.

Loudoun County Potomac Supervisor Andrea McGimsey explained that the institute — an arm of the Art Institute of Atlanta — found Loudoun's demographics to be the magnet that drew it to the 19,000 square feet on Atlantic Boulevard, just across from Dulles Town Center.

"We have art facilities in Loudoun, but none of this size," McGimsey said. "We've got a very creative art community and I think this is going to be a wonderful amenity for our community."

Sam Ortiz, the campus director, said when he came to the Art Institute, he saw in it something different.

"It was a place for like-minded students to come together, to collaborate and to grow," Ortiz said.

He felt Loudoun would be a good place for this to happen.

"We identified Loudoun as a growing county," Ortiz said. "We started seeing the need."

The location, Ortiz said, is very central, accessible via routes 7, 28 and 267. Washington Dulles International Airport is just up the road. Dulles Town Center, with its shops and restaurants, is just across the street.

Ortiz reported there are 35 students at present, but that number is expected to grow. The administrators are also in the process of selecting faculty members.

"Our faculty all have or are in the process of getting a master's in their

# A fresh addition to Loudoun's canvas



Times-Mirror Staff Photo/Lisa Johnson

Sam Ortiz is the campus director of the Art Institute of Washington — Northern Virginia. The institute will open in October with an emphasis on personal relationships and applied-arts curricula.

## Details

The Art Institute of Washington — Northern Virginia Branch campus of The Art Institute of Atlanta

**Address:** 21000 Atlantic Blvd., Sterling

**Open house:** Aug. 8, 10 a.m., at temporary location at 21010 Dulles Town Circle, by Dulles Town Center between Sears and J.C. Penney's

**First day of classes:** Oct. 5; currently enrolling

**Contact:** 888-627-5008, [www.artinstitutes.edu/northern-virginia](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/northern-virginia)

field," Ortiz said. "Many are still practicing in their field."

The fields are all in the applied



Courtesy Photo

See ART, Page C2 The new art institute is moving into this building near the Dulles Town Center.



Courtesy Photo

All sorts of collectibles and antiques will be for sale Saturday and Sunday at the DC Big Flea Market.

## Flea market

More than 800 booths full of antiques and collectibles will pack the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly this weekend for the DC Big Flea Market. Hours are Saturday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Items include furniture, glass, silver, china, pottery, textiles, jewelry, toys and other collectibles. The Dulles Expo Center is at 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center. Admission is \$10, good for both days. For more information, call 757-430-4735 or visit [www.damore-productions.com](http://www.damore-productions.com).

**Art**

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arts area with the exception of one course in life drawing. The college will offer bachelor's degree programs in advertising; fashion and retail management; graphic design; interior design; media arts and animation; photographic imaging; and Web design and interactive media. The two associate's degree programs are graphic design and Web design and interactive media.

Linda Moore, the director of admissions, said the Art Institute is committed to maintaining a personal relationship with its students, and that begins with admissions.

"We require a face-to-face

interview with each prospective student," Moore said, pointing to the interview rooms. "Then we take them on a virtual tour of the campus."

Upon graduation, Moore said, there is a portfolio show, an exhibit of each student's work. Prospective employers are invited.

"We are very proud of our statistics," Moore said. "Over 90 percent eligible for employment are employed in their field within in six months. This is what sets us apart from other colleges, what makes us different."

Ortiz said the school keeps students abreast of what is needed in the real world.

"We have committees made up of people that come in from the various fields," Ortiz explained. "They tell us what is going on and what we need to

do, and we adjust based on those expectations. They examine our program and tell us what needs to be changed."

Ortiz said the students are always a top priority. The classes, he said, are kept small and focus on hands-on projects.

"We have all ages here, from 18 to 50-plus, and I call them all 'my kids.' ... When our students walk out of here, we teach them to be creative problem solvers. Employers come to us over and over again."

Ortiz described his view of the Art Institute's purpose:

"We are the springboard for the evolution of [the students'] ideas. That's fulfilling. ... When you come out of the Art Institute, you're not just a kid with a number. At graduation, we know their names. We know the work they have done and we know their abilities."