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Director of Development
Andrea Cochrane Tracey
and Sheron Flynn, store
manager of Lorton's Attic,
pose near a display of
items for the Re-gift, Re-
love campaign.

Shopping for a Good Cause

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It's Time to Celebrate Christmas in Clifton

News, Page 6

Library's Beta Plan: Dead on Arrival

News, Page 3



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THE COUNTY LINE



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Library Board of Trustees Chair Willard O. Jasper (center), along with several other library board members, presented reports from two ad hoc committees appointed by the library board in September to conduct a series of public outreach meetings after trustees suspended the beta plan to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Nov. 19. Recommendations included increased funding and discarding the controversial beta plan.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Wearing purple, about 50 library supporters gathered at the Fairfax County Government Center on Tuesday, Nov. 19, to show their support for the library board's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Library's Beta Plan: Dead on Arrival

Supervisors endorse Library Board's recommendations to increase funding, discard beta plan.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

You can assume that the BETA Plan is dead. I will make that motion tomorrow." In her email to a concerned library patron the night before the Board of Supervisors Nov. 19 meeting, Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) put to rest speculation that the board would resuscitate the controversial beta plan aimed at streamlining the county's library system.

The next day, the board passed Bulova's motion 8-1 to accept a report from the Library Board of Trustees, effectively killing the beta plan, which included proposals to reduce staff, eliminate the requirement for branch managers to have a master of library science degree, and reduce the number of children's librarians.

Library Board of Trustees Chair Willard O. Jasper presented the reports from two ad hoc committees, appointed by the library board in September to conduct a series of public outreach meetings after trustees suspended the beta plan.

"For starters, there is no sentiment on the committee, the Library Board of Trustees, staff, or the majority of public commenters to move forward with the beta plan, including its reclassification of positions," Jasper told the board in explaining the blanket rejection of the beta plan.

Jasper also said the library system has "suffered demonstrably" from several years of severe budget cuts, and recommended increasing funding library operations.

"The predominant message (from the report) is that the library requires additional funding to maintain its high-quality selection," Jasper told the board. "The

library budget has been cut 40 percent ... spending in Fairfax County is the lowest in all eight neighboring jurisdictions."

In addition to accepting the report, the board approved Bulova's motion to add a "consideration item" of \$1 million to the fiscal year 2015 budget. "This additional funding would ... be directed to the acquisition of non-fiction works," Bulova said. "More than 10,000 additional materials could be acquired with this funding."

Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully), who voted no on the motion, said he wasn't pleased with the library's report, and chastised fellow supervisors for distancing themselves from "the reforms we made."

He also praised Library Director Sam Clay for having the courage to "put the (beta) plan out there."

"I really was kind of shocked that the Board of Trustees would come back with a report that essentially says flatly 'no' to all proposed changes and 'give us more money,'" Frey said.

"Our board has been saying to every department head tell us how you can do more with less, and they came back and said we'll do the same with more. And the supervisors said OK — here's million dollars more," Frey said. "They have seen how to get more money — just turn up the heat on us."

Criticism of the plan has been building since July, when Clay unveiled a program that would test a new organization model this fall at the Burke Centre Library and the Reston Regional Library, the busiest library branch in the county. Clay has defended the reorganization, saying that the goal was to streamline staffing while retaining a high level of service.

Vera Finberg, a librarian who attended the board

Library Board of Trustees: Who They Are, What They Do

The Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees, a 12-member, volunteer board is responsible for library policies and for making budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The board meets on the second Wednesday of each month except August. Most meetings are held at 7 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library.

The public is invited to attend. A maximum of ten people may register to speak on library concerns during the public comment period at each monthly meeting.

For information or to register to speak, call 703-324-8324.

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Centreville Regional Library
Chantilly Regional Library
Access Services for people with disabilities.
Access Services is located at the Government Center.

SEE BETA PLAN, PAGE 13



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

GOP Women Support Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

The Republican Women of Clifton (RWC) donated \$500 to TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors), which has been caring for the families of America's fallen heroes since 1994. Pictured from left are: Alice Butler-Short, RWC President, Kathy Stephens, Case Worker Advocate, Survivor Ronni Bennett, and Survivor Rebecca Morrison. The Republican Women of Clifton have adopted TAPS as their charity for 2014 and look forward to raising funds for this very worthy cause.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Crash Kills Clifton Man

Fairfax County police are investigating Monday-morning crash that killed Trung Hieu Tran, 24, of Clifton. According to police, he was traveling east on Jermantown Road near Borge Street in Oakton, Nov. 25, about 1:35 a.m.

As Tran approached a curve, say police, "He failed to negotiate the turn and lost control of his 2006 Acura RSX Coupe. The car traveled across a grass median and struck a tree, causing the vehicle to rotate and strike a second tree, where it came to rest. Tran was transported to the hospital with life-threatening injuries and later died. Speed appears to be a factor in the crash."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.

Blood Drive, Raffle, Cupcakes

The first annual Live Like Nick Did (LLND) Blood Drive will be held Saturday, Nov. 30, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Clifton Presbyterian Church, behind Trummer's parking lot, in Clifton. It's in memory of

Town of Clifton native Nick Franca, who died of cancer in May 2011, at age 21. The event includes a raffle, cupcakes from Clifton's new shop, Cupcaked, plus home-made baked goods. Proceeds will fund research and a college scholarship in Franca's name.

Animal Shelter's Black Fur-Day

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is holding its own version of Black Friday, on Nov. 29, called Black Fur-Day. The shelter will be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and fees will be waived that day on adoptions of all black and mostly-black dogs and cats. Black and darker-colored animals take longer to be adopted, so this special promotion is to bring them extra attention.

And now through Dec. 31, all adopters will receive a gift bag full of pet-friendly treats and half-off adoption fees for all adult pets. The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax.

Clifton Town Council Meeting

The Clifton Town Council will meet Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m., at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road in Clifton.

The Campagna Center

SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

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BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday.

Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/NOV.28-SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Sheehy Toys for Tots Toy Drive Drop Off. Sheehy Volkswagon of Springfield, 6601 Backlick Road, Springfield; Sheehy Ford, Nissan, & Subaru of Springfield, 6727 Loisdale Road, Springfield; Collecting new, unwrapped toys to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program in which Christmas gifts are given to less fortunate children in the community.

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, 13053 Greenbriar Towncenter, Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Seminar on Scams. 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. West Springfield High School Auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Learn how to protect against devastating financial scams and fraud.

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, 13053 Greenbriar Towncenter, Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.

MONDAY/DEC. 9

Stroke & Osteoporosis Screening. 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Screenings identify potential cardiovascular conditions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. Pre-registration is required. www.lifelinescreening.com.

ONGOING

John Witt Chapter of the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century. The patriotic, genealogical and heraldic society for women of lineal descendants of an ancestor who lived or served prior to 1701 in one of the original colonies in the geographical area of the present U.S. is accepting new members; the chapter meets four times yearly. jsmithtot@aol.com.

Mount Vernon Rep. Dan Storck Community Office Hours. 10 a.m.-noon, at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. School Board Member and Mount Vernon District Representative Dan Storck hosts drop-in community office hours the second Saturday of each month. Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or Barbara.Larsen@fcps.edu.

Volunteer Computer Instructor needed at the Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Classes for beginners (using the mouse, writing and saving letters, navigating the internet, email, etc.) and advanced beginners (computer maintenance, search engines, websites for seniors, email address books, skype, shopping and paying bills online, etc.) are in need of teachers. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Thank veterans for their service via the post: draw or write a note of thanks and encouragement—no need to seal in envelopes, Adopt a Soldier will do that—and send to Americas Adopt A Soldier, P.O. Box 1049, Springfield, VA 22151. www.americasadoptsoldier.org.



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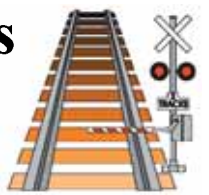
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The Noonan home.



The Milne house.



The Netschert home.



The Robertson house.



The Keen home.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILLIAM HUMMEL

It's Time to Celebrate Christmas in Clifton

Parade, homes tour to be held on Saturday, Dec. 7.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Twinkling lights, the sound of caroling, a parade on horseback and beautifully decorated houses in a storybook setting – all that and more means Christmas in Clifton. And the public's invited to join in the fun on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The festivities also include a candlelight tour of homes, musical entertainment in two churches, an art show and the lighting of the town Christmas tree – complete with hot chocolate and carols.

And Homes Tour Chairman Tom McNamara says it'll be a special time to visit the town. "We have five really interesting homes that are trimmed for the holidays and are in the Historic District," he said. "Most of these houses are old, but the Milnes' is the newest and is really unique because of its arts-and-crafts style."

Tickets are available in town at A Flower Blooms in Clifton, T&K Treasures, Hydrangea and All that Glitters. They're also at Picket Fence in Burke and Banner's Hallmark in Centreville. Cost is \$20, adults; \$5, children under 12, through Dec. 6. The day of the event, they're \$25 and \$10, respectively, at the booth on Main Street.

The holiday fun begins at 2 p.m., with a colorful parade of horses and riders decorated in Christmas finery. Sponsored by the Clifton Horse Society, it travels up Main Street, goes through town and along Chapel Street to a field where participants and spectators gather for cookies, caroling and the awarding of prizes. Visitors may then shop in Clifton's stores and enjoy the town's restaurants prior to the homes tour. "All the shops will be open late," said McNamara. "And this year, there are some neat, new stores in town, so people can get a head start on their Christmas shopping."

Food, Shopping, Art, Tree Lighting

The new businesses are Cupcaked and Hydrangea on Chapel Road and Trattoria Villagio (formerly Heart in Hand) on Main Street. Cupcaked features several varieties of cupcakes, Hydrangea is a gift shop and Trattoria Villagio is an upscale Italian restaurant and market. Also open will be the Clifton Café, Main Street Pub (in the Clifton Store) and Trummer's on Main.

From 4-9 p.m., the Art Guild of Clifton will hold its second annual Holiday Art Show and Sale in the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, next to the fire station, at 12641 Chapel Road. Original artwork on display will include oil paintings, giclées, prints, watercolors, pastels, greeting cards, jewelry, collages, pottery, murals, and faux and decorative painting.

The candlelight homes tour runs from 4-7 p.m. Five houses and two churches will welcome visitors. Then at 7:30 p.m. will be the annual, Christmas tree lighting in Ayre Square, at the corner of Main Street and Chapel Road.

"I think the tree lighting will be extra special this year," said McNamara. "I'm really excited about it. We bought 100, flameless, hand-held candles for all the attendees, and I think it's going to be a really cool look. People will turn on their candles as the tree is lit. We'll also have hot chocolate and marshmallows to roast for S'mores, and the carolers from Chantilly High will sing."

The tour includes the following:

The Noonan Home

Home to City of Fairfax Schools Superintendent Peter Noonan, this house on Chapel Road was built

SEE CHRISTMAS, PAGE 12

OPINION

You Can Make a Difference

BY MICHAEL L. O'REILLY

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, a time when friends and families gather to celebrate and give thanks for many things – their health, their jobs, their homes or even the meals that are prepared for them.

As the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, I want to give thanks for those who supported Fairfax County's Third Annual Jeans Day. I am pleased to report that, so far, we have raised nearly \$18,000 with more than 100 businesses, civic and faith based organizations, nonprofits and government agencies participating.

But we can do more.

This year, we were fortunate to receive a \$25,000 challenge grant from the Philip L. Graham Fund. If we are successful in raising \$25,000, the grant will match the \$25,000, adding an additional \$25,000 contribution for a total of \$50,000.

Fairfax County is serious about reducing the number of residents who fall into homelessness, and these funds are critical to our efforts. We reject the idea that it is somehow acceptable for anyone to be without a place to call home, to sleep outdoors in the winter, because they have no better option.

Consider these facts:

- ❖ It might surprise you to learn that we counted on one day over 1300 homeless in our community.
 - ❖ More than 75 percent of children in homeless families are under the age of 11.
 - ❖ Nearly 60 percent adults in homeless families work. The majority of people without homes in our community are children and working families.
 - ❖ Close to 60 percent of homeless persons are in families.
- Low incomes and expensive housing are the main reasons for homelessness in our community. It is

impossible to pay for an apartment when earning minimum wage — even if you work 24 hours per day, seven days a week. With \$50,000, we can house some of our most vulnerable citizens who are homeless and in need of assistance.

This year as you sit down to enjoy this bounty, I would like you to remember the most vulnerable among us.

The Philip L. Graham Fund has given us until Dec. 15 to raise an additional \$7,000 to meet our challenge goal of \$25,000. It is a goal we must make and it will take all of us working together and doing more.

Here's how you can help:

1. Increase your personal contribution. Include the Partnership to End Homelessness in your year-end giving.
 2. Help by asking your constituents and business associates. Many of them make year-end contributions and will give to worthy causes when a trusted friend encourages them to do so.
 3. Contact your business colleagues with a personal call and tell them we are only \$7,000 from our \$50,000 goal and let them know we need their investment in this challenge. Encourage them to match their employee giving. Many businesses already will.
- Go to www.ziphomelessness.com to help us reach our challenge to help prevent and end homelessness in our community.

On behalf of the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Apple Federal Credit Union, Connection Newspapers, Dulles Regional Chamber, Phillip L. Graham Fund, and Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, we sincerely thank you! Help now by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/events/jeansday/2013-jeans-day-event.htm> or contact Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness for other ways to impact homelessness at 703-324-9492, TTY 711.

Successful at State Meet

The Lake Braddock girls' cross country team finished third in 6A during the VHSL state meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

PHOTOS BY
ED LULL

West Springfield sophomore Owen Buck (1510) earned all-state honors by placing 14th with a time of 15 minutes, 57 seconds during the 6A boys' race at the VHSL state cross country meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.





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OPINION

Holidays Are About Giving

So many needs, so many great organizations, give locally where your heart leads you.

The holidays are about giving. They are about children. The holidays are about sharing, about joy, about alleviating suffering for others. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation.

Most of us live in neighborhoods that are very homogenous. There are exceptions, but most people reading this live in affluent areas where the houses are mostly in the same price range, and while there might be some ethnic diversity, there is little in the way of economic diversity.

It's easy to forget that there are massive unmet needs, hungry children, homeless families most with at least one working parent, homeless individuals with jobs and without jobs, people who don't know for sure whether they will have enough to eat or be able to be warm enough, people who are choosing between medical care and car repair when forgoing the car repair could mean losing a job.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, about 50,000 of the 185,000 students qualify to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. Many elementary schools staff are discovering that for some of these students, a majority of students in some schools, they only meals the can count on are breakfast and lunch on school days.

Nonprofits, school staff and individuals have been working to send backpacks of healthy, kid-friendly food home with students on the weekend.

It's hard to imagine 50,000 students going hungry; it's obvious that children who aren't sure they will be able to eat when they are hungry are not going to have joyous holidays filled with family meals, gifts and special activities.

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

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



Needy families wait on line to receive groceries and gift certificates at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Herndon on Nov. 16. Sixty families an hour were escorted through the church supermarket during seven hour LINK event. www.linkagainsthunger.org 703-437-1776

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANK SIMMONS

a few ideas. We welcome suggestions for other groups.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Where To Give Locally

In no particular order:

- ❖ Our Daily Bread — has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. The Holiday Program helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for their children, making last year's holiday season brighter for approximately 3,000 families. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.com/holiday
- ❖ Food for Others distributed more than 2.4 million pounds of free food to families in need in Northern Virginia in the year ending June 30, 2012. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com
- ❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. www.echo-inc.org.
- ❖ Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. Now collecting gift cards and food baskets for Thanksgiving, gifts and food baskets for Christmas, and warm coats. 703-339-8611 www.lortonaction.org.
- ❖ Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and the Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. <http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/>
- ❖ Office to End and Prevent Homelessness needs just a few thousand dollars more in contributions for Jeans Day (in October) to qualify for a matching grant from the Phillip L. Graham Fund, turning many \$5 and greater donations into \$50,000 to help thousands of homeless in Fairfax County. www.ziphomelessness.com
- ❖ 12 Ways of Giving: Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships "12 Ways of Giving" campaign is an annual event that showcases many ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season, highlighting nonprofits in Fairfax County. www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org
- ❖ Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE) — ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org
- ❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org
- ❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. jsfreeclinic.org.
- ❖ Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org.
- ❖ Cornerstones, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- ❖ SHARE of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards and more. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org
- ❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and

holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org

- ❖ FACETS helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. FACETS offers a monthly Youth Volunteer Night, with the next one scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 20, 5:30-6:30pm. Information about supply donations and FACETS holiday gifts drive is available on the website at www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030
- ❖ Committee of Helping Others (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of concerned churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. 14th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road. Vienna 703-281-7614 <http://www.cho-va.com>
- ❖ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), working with the Office of Coordinated Services Planning, Fairfax County Department of Human Services, FISH helps local citizens who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>
- ❖ Herndon-Reston FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 <http://herndonrestonfish.org>
- ❖ Lamb Center, www.thelambcenter.org, Day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178
- ❖ Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite Drive Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124 703-385-3267 <http://www.nvfs.org/>
- ❖ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306 <http://www.ucmagency.org/>
- ❖ Touching Heart in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. <http://www.touchingheart.com>, 703-901-7355

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
burke@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
amna@connectionnewspapers.com

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
[@jonroetman](https://twitter.com/jonroetman)

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
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Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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OPINION

Have You Considered Adoption?

BY PAT HERRITY
SPRINGFIELD SUPERVISOR
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Pat Herrity

November is National Adoption Awareness Month, and as an adoptive parent this issue is close to my heart. When the opportunity to adopt our 9-year-old daughter in 2002 arose, it was probably the last thing my wife Nancy and I thought we would be doing that summer. That is the purpose of National Adoption Awareness Month, to raise awareness of the need and the positive impact it can have on a life.

When foster children turn 18, they age out of the system; leaving them with little help and few resources as they transition into adulthood. "Aging out" means they do not have a stable place to call home for the holidays, no one to walk them down the aisle, or be there when they have families of their own. Statistics show that children who age out of the foster care system without being adopted are less likely to finish high school, much less likely to start or finish college, less likely to have stable housing, more likely to commit crimes, and more likely to have a child out of wedlock. It is truly saddening that for every 100 kids who age out of foster care, 54 become homeless, and 94 will not graduate from college.

The statistics above are shocking, and it is hard to imagine where our daughter would be today without the guidance all young women need as they go through high school, and the challenges of applying and getting in to college; without people (and our pets!) to call family, people to trust and confide in, and to love. It is not often you are presented with the opportunity to have such a meaningful and significant impact on a life, and I am glad we embraced the opportunity when it arose.

In July of this year Governor McDonnell initiated the "Campaign for 1,000", an effort to match 1,000 adoptive families to 1,000 children in foster care. In support of that goal the General Assembly approved \$1.5 million in this year's budget for this effort and to provide post-adoption support for adoptive parents and children. Support services include: access to staff specializing in adoption records, assistance with adoption searches, help with the legal finalization of adoption, and much more.

Thanks to the Governor's initiative more than 880 children who were eligible for adoption have been either adopted or matched to families knowledgeable of the child's needs and committed to follow through to adopt. Included in this number are 16 of the 20 longest waiting youth, one of which was in the foster care system for 16 years and was waiting for an adoptive family for the past 14 years.

I urge all readers to look into adoption and see if it is for them — there are many, many children out there who need your help and can benefit from a loving home. It is my hope that we can reach the Governor's goal of matching 1,000 kids to 1,000 families by the end of his term, and can continue to give kids a shot at life and a loving home well into the future!

If you are interested in adopting out of Virginia's Foster Care System, please visit www.VirginiaAdopts.Virginia.Gov or call Virginia's Adoption Hotline at 800-DO-ADOPT.

A New Year's Eve Gala in Springfield

Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) of Alexandria and Lorton, Va. will host A New Year's Eve State of Mind Benefit Gala on Tues., Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Waterford at Springfield at 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. The family-fun gala will provide entertainment for the whole family. Tickets are \$120 per adult for ages 21 years old and older; \$79 for youths, 13 years old to 20 years old; \$49 for children, 6 years old to 12 years old; and 5 years old and

younger are free. Cost includes cabaret performances, live band, pre-dinner reception, holiday buffet, silent auction, dessert buffet, New Year's Eve toast, party favors and all beverages. Tickets can be purchased online at www.metropolitanarts.org or call 703-339-0444.

All children and teens must be accompanied by an adult. Attire is semi-formal.

All proceeds go toward the Metropolitan School of the Arts Scholarship Fund.

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The chaotic shopping season is here. This year give the gift of charity. Donate to your favorite nonprofit in someone's honor from the comfort of your home. Cross a name off your list and take a tax deduction. It's a win-win!! As our gift to you, OP³ has compiled "12 Ways of Giving in Fairfax County."



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VIEWPOINTS

What Are You Thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day?

— JANELLE GERMANOS



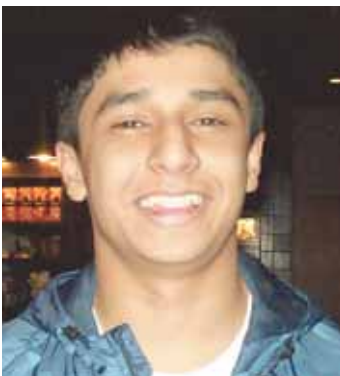
Hau Chu, Student at George Mason University, Lorton

“I’m thankful for just the usual things: family, friends and good health.”



Nisha Ansari, Student, Springfield

“I am thankful for friends and family.”



Abe Ansari, student, Springfield

“I am thankful for food.”

Tara Dalrymple, student, Lorton

“I’m thankful for my boyfriend and my school.”



Daniel Singer, intern, Springfield

“I am grateful for Wikileaks and the freedom of information that it provides.”



Sharon Flynn, store manager of Lorton's Attic, works with volunteer Audrey Silvia of Springfield to organize a donation of gloves.

PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION



Volunteer Audrey Silvia of Springfield watches as Director of Development Andrea Cochrane Tracey organizes holiday decorations.

Shopping for a Good Cause

Lorton's Attic provides revenue and services for programs and clients of the Lorton Community Action Center.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

At Lorton's Attic, the thrift store owned and operated by the Lorton Community Action Center, holiday shoppers can buy new gifts for everyone on their list, while at the same time donating to a local charity.

The store has just started their Re-Gift and Re-Love holiday event, where people can donate unwanted but still almost-new gifts for others to buy.

“Re-gift it, so that someone else will love it,” said Andrea Cochrane Tracey, director of development at Lorton Community Action Center and a resident of Alexandria.

As part of the Re-Gift and Re-Love event, the thrift store encourages donations of brand new items.

“We have this whole table of new things, special things that would make a nice gift item, that are moderately priced; it's the ultimate recycling,” Cochrane Tracey said.

PROCEEDS FROM LORTON'S ATTIC benefit Lorton Community Action Center programs. The thrift store also helps clients of the Lorton Community Action Center. “The thrift store serves a very important purpose where we have an option where say we have a mother who comes to us, who is just getting out of a domestic violence situation. This way we are able to work with them, give them a dresser, we have a mattress over there, basic things that somebody needs to get their life back on track,” Cochrane Tracey said.

According to Alexandria resident Linda Patterson, who is executive director of Lorton Community Ac-



Audrey Silvia, a volunteer from Springfield, organizes donations at the Lorton's Attic thrift store.

tion Center, furniture is always a major need of the thrift store.

“Not only can we give it to families who need it, but we also are able to sell it. All of the proceeds from the sales go back into the programs,” Patterson said. “We have a truck, and we can do furniture pick-ups each week.”

Clients who are receiving services from the Lorton Community Action Center can receive vouchers for shopping at the thrift store every three to six months. “It's very dignified, very respectful, they can come and shop with their kids, but they don't have to

pay for it,” Cochrane Tracey said. “They still get that experience of shopping and picking like anybody would, but they are able to get what they need.”

According to Cochrane, because the proceeds of the store benefit a local charity, people who donate to the store are really making a difference.

“That shirt that you've outgrown, or that shirt that your grandma gave you that you never liked, consider donating it. Because someone else would probably like it, and need it, and enjoy it. It's a win-win, for sure,” Cochrane said.

Volunteers play a vital role in the operation of Lorton's Attic.

“We have lots of volunteers who sort through people's treasures and turn it into something that looks wonderful and appealing for people to purchase,” Patterson said. “We could not have the store operational without the very dedicated volunteers that we have.”

Audrey Silvia of Springfield has been volunteering at Lorton's Attic for a few months, and enjoys interacting with others.

“I love the people. I don't know how else to say it. I love the people,” Silvia said.

Shirley Steenstra of Lorton has been volunteering for about three years, and found Lorton's Attic on one of her walks. She had some time on her hands after her husband died, and stopped in one day to see if the store needed volunteers.

“It's fun going through the donations and seeing what's coming in,” Steenstra said.

Patterson said one of the biggest challenges has been spreading awareness of the thrift store and the fact that it is operated by Lorton Community Action Center, which has been serving the community through a food pantry, coat donations, after-school programs, ESL classes and other programs to prevent poverty and homelessness for 38 years.

“The store has been in this location since the late 90s, and we still periodically come across folks who didn't realize this was our thrift store,” Patterson said.

LORTON COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER held its service stroll on Saturday, Nov. 16. Proceeds from the walk went towards programs at the LCAC. Enviroolutions matched registration fees, donations and food donations up to \$10,000.



John Ray, Meg Brantly and Duanne Carlson have been volunteering at ECHO for several years. Carlson is one of ECHO's founding fathers.



Maria Galligan of Fairfax Station volunteers in the clothing department of ECHO.

Helping Families Enjoy Holidays

ECHO continues its holiday food program to serve members of the Springfield community.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) has been serving members of the Springfield and Burke community for over 40 years. The all-volunteer organization provides assistance to those suffering from poverty and emergency situations year-round.

ECHO's Thanksgiving food basket program is currently underway for the second year in a row. According to Meg Brantly, the executive director of ECHO, the organization has sent out letters inviting 542 eligible families to participate.

A network of 26 congregations sponsors a certain amount of families each year for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food basket programs. Local businesses and other organizations also help.

“What the donors can't pick up, ECHO can pick up,” Brantly said.

Brantly said that about half of the families have responded.

ACCORDING TO BRANTLEY, who started at the organization 14 years ago sorting clothes, former clients and family members of the program often give back later on in their lives.

“A lady came in to donate food. Her grandmother was a former client of ours years ago, and she was living with her



The sign in front of the ECHO building tells the community the items most needed by the organization.

grandmother. This lady came to the door with food to donate, and then wanted to know if she could also be a donor for a family. She can remember as a child, ECHO coming to her house with food, and she wanted to give back,” Brantly said.

ECHO's gift program is another way the organization helps the community during the holiday season. The program is for children and allows parents to pick out gifts for their family. Families in need

are identified by ECHO, and set up a time slot to come to the office and pick out gifts. ECHO volunteers dressed as elves see seven adults every 20 minutes during this program.

“We collect all year round,” Brantly said. “Our congregations have giving trees, and they will put labels on the tree for the gift they need.”

The program has the potential to reach 733 children, but Brantly doesn't expect a response from all

of those families.

In addition to the holiday food and gift programs, ECHO also needs donations, including food, for the rest of the year.

“In the month of October, we actually serviced more families than we have since 2009, when the economy tanked,” Brantly said. “I think probably with the shutdown and various things in October we ended up giving more food to families since that date. That translated to 2,583 bags of food.”

Marianne DeHart of Burke has been volunteering at ECHO for over nine years, and is a driving force behind the school supplies program.

“The school supplies program is my passion,” DeHart said. “I'm a retired teacher and I really feel the need for kids to go to school and being able to have the backpacks and supplies that everyone else has.”

John Ray of Springfield said that personal care items and essentials such as cooking oil are needed right now. Ray has been volunteering at ECHO since 1996.

“My wife had volunteered here before and said it was a good place to go,” Ray said.

Duane Carlson, a founding father of ECHO, enjoys working with the other volunteers.

“Knowing that all these volunteers are committed to helping other people is very important. There's only a certain group of people that actively take the time and make the effort, and I'm glad to be part of that,” Carlson said.

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BGCGW's Fairfax County region includes the Culmore Character Club and Murraygate Village Club, serving 582 members a year. On average, 120 youths come through the doors every day during the school year.

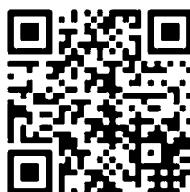


Meet Henry Lopez, 2013 National Boys & Girls Clubs Virginia Youth of the Year, who grew up with the BGCGW Culmore Character Club for 14 years. Henry now attends George Mason University on an Honor Scholarship studying computer engineering.

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Celebrating Christmas in Clifton

FROM PAGE 6

in 1900. Called the "Fletcher House," it was the former home of Clifton's longtime postmistress, Anna Sprouse.

Noonan is only the second owner of this historic house and transformed it into a functional home for a family, while keeping its original integrity intact. It's now been trimmed for the holidays with his children's handmade ornaments, as well as glowing luminarias reflecting Noonan's ties to New Mexico.

The Milne House

At just over a year old, the Dell Avenue home of Melissa and Graham Milne is the youngest house in Clifton. But the property has a colorful past – it was rumored to have been the location of moonshine stills in the 1920s.

Local architect, Royce Jarrendt, worked closely with the homeowners to maintain the charm of old Clifton while incorporating a modern flavor. The open, living design of the interior provides the stage for an eclectic mix of industrial, French and antique décor.

This house is at the top of a steep hill, so a shuttle in front of the Clifton Store will take visitors to and from it.

The Netschert Home

Donna and Jamie Netschert's home on Chestnut Street is the oldest home on this year's tour. It was constructed in 1886 by James Cross, a wagon builder, wheelwright, blacksmith, undertaker and one of the first members of the Clifton Town Council.

Visitors will be able to see Jamie's collection of his spectacular sunset photographs, plus Donna's baby grand piano in the front parlor. Christmas music will be played on it during the tour to put guests in the holiday spirit.

The Robertson House

Built around 1902, the "Kivett House" on Main Street is home to Trisha and Jonathan Robertson. The original owner, R.M.Kivett, was a shopkeeper, real-estate and insurance salesman, town booster and newspaper correspondent. And from 1904-08, he was even the town mayor.

This three-story house was constructed in the carpenter-gothic, Victorian style. It began as a Sears kit

that was substantially modified as it was built. The interior is bright and casual, reflecting the Robertson family.

The Keen Home

Designed by local architect Jim Hricko in 1985, the Chapel Street residence of Ginny and Vernon Keen has many architectural details found throughout the town of Clifton.

The homeowners have decorated their house's open-floor, 20th-century floor plan with a mix of family heirlooms, antiques and Civil War mementos. Their talents in music and interior design add warmth to this holiday showplace.

Clifton Baptist Church

The Clifton Baptist Church, at 7152 Main St., was admitted into the Potomac Baptist Association in August 1875. Services were first held in the home of George W. Tillet and other area men who served with Mosby's Rangers during the Civil War. The first church building was constructed in 1877 and was used for both worship and community functions.

The cornerstone of the present building was laid Nov. 24, 1910, with construction completed in 1912. With its gabled roof, steeple and Gothic arched windows, it's one of the most beautiful buildings in historic Clifton. During the homes tour, the Chantilly High Carolers will be performing in the church every half hour.

Clifton Presbyterian Church

The Clifton Presbyterian Church, at 12748 Richardson Lane, has served the community as a place of worship and community life since its founding in 1870 by families of soldiers who fought in this area during the Civil War and settled here afterward.

In the early 1900s, the church acquired the manse next door, later adding an annex for classroom, office and fellowship space in the 1950s.

Its recently renovated sanctuary won a Fairfax County Architectural Design award for creative use of historic space.

During the homes tour, the Osbourn Park High Madrigal Singers will perform inside the church every half hour.

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THE CONNECTION
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NEWS

Beta Plan Discarded

FROM PAGE 3

meeting, said she was disappointed by the board's discussion of funding.

"This is a rich county," Finberg said. "Do not tell us you value libraries and don't have enough money to support them."

Finberg was joined by more than 50 library supporters — employees and volunteers — who attended the meeting to show support for library board's recommendations.

They applauded when Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence), dubbed the "dumpster diving supervisor," spoke. Smyth touched off a furious debate over how the library discards used books when she photographed dumpsters full of books in seemingly good condition that she found behind the library's technical operations center in Chantilly this summer.

On Aug. 29, Smyth recovered dozens of usable books from the dumpsters, and then took them to county officials who ordered an immediate stop to the discarding. Smyth said she learned that more than 250,000 books have been thrown out since October 2012.

"One never knows what this job will bring," Smyth said at the board meeting, adding that she was still hearing concerns about discards.

"We need to be sure books are on library shelves as long as possible. Mending used to be part of process. This is something that seems to have fallen by the wayside, and that's putting it nicely," Smyth said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he supported the library system and the public engagement process, but noted that libraries had to find ways to adapt to a world where the Internet has replaced newsprint and e-books have supplanted paperbacks.

"Libraries everywhere are changing as new technology changes the nature of information-gathering," Cook said. "If the answers were simple, someone would have thought of it already."

Most of the supervisors praised the patrons and staff who participated in the public meetings and committees. "We heard you," Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) said. "In my opinion, in two months you've made tremendous progress." Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said she was grateful

that library staff also attended the meetings. "We should look at who we are and who we should be serving ... Collaboration is important."

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the library controversy exposed a silver lining.

"Let there be no doubt in the community about the passion that citizens have about their libraries," McKay said. "We should be proud of all the responses we heard."

David Broder, president of the SEIU Virginia 512, said the library board's reports teach two lessons.

"First, local families love our libraries and library staff," Broder said. "Second, any so-called reforms which don't take advantage of librarians' expertise and which don't reflect the desires of the community are bound to fail. The Board of Supervisors needs to lead the effort to strengthen our libraries for the next generation."

Supervisors asked the Library Board to return in December with a plan for implementing the recommendations.

To read the Library Board of Trustees reports, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/communicationandevaluationreport.htm>

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

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Hope Baptist Church... 703-799-5155
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Virginia Korean Baptist Church... 703-425-1972
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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

CALENDAR

Eileen Ivers brings the joy of the holiday season to Fairfax with her celebration for the whole family, a heartwarming concert filled with tales of Irish Christmas traditions and favorite Celtic holiday tunes on Dec. 21 at GMU's Center for the Arts.



PHOTO BY LUKE RATRAY

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

First Annual Fairfax Turkey Trot. 9 a.m. 9330 Pentland Place, Fairfax. Four mile turkey trot. <http://www.fairfaxturkeytrot.com/>

Thanksgiving Day Church Service. 11 a.m. Christian Science Church, 3725 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring family, kids, and friends (before feast and football games) for a Thanksgiving church service.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Black Friday at the Workhouse. 9 a.m.- 7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Discover the work of about 100 artists and find things at any price value. [ttp://www.workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/black-friday-workhouse](http://www.workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/black-friday-workhouse)

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

"A Chanticleer Christmas." 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A Chanticleer Christmas" will showcase ancient hymns, venerated and sacred songs, classical works and a selection of festive and familiar carols and spirituals from Europe and America. Tickets: \$50, \$42 and \$25. <http://cfa.gmu.edu/>

Cookies with Santa: A Pre-Show Treat Before "In Santa, We Believe." 11 a.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Tickets: \$8.50 Adults, \$8 Children under 12 years old.

In Santa We Believe. 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. LIVE onstage! Join for an afternoon of adventure with Vianlix Mestey's original story. Tickets: \$8 Children, \$10 Adults.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Civil War "Christmas in Camp." 12-4 p.m. 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Participate in camp drills and learn about Civil War-era holiday customs with Company D, 17th Virginia Infantry, "Fairfax Rifles" C.S.A. 703-591-0560.

TUESDAY/DEC. 3-SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Drumming with Dishes: Holiday Edition. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. This whimsical production is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show, which features two adult actors and a musician. Geared towards children ages 2-6. For tickets and information, visit: <http://www.workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/drumming-dishes-holiday-edition-7>

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

Annual Holiday Tunes for Tots Concert. 10 a.m. W.T. Woodson High School Gymnasium, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Tickets: \$3 per person. Questions: 703-764-5820

Light up the Night: Community Menorah Lighting. 6:30 p.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Annual Holiday Tunes for Tots Concert. 10 a.m. W.T. Woodson High School Gymnasium, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Tickets: \$3 per person. Questions: 703-764-5820

Annual Holiday Tunes for the Young at Heart. 7 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School Gymnasium, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Tickets: \$3 per person. Questions: 703-764-5820

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Virginia Opera Presents: The Magic Flute. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$44-\$86. <http://cfa.gmu.edu/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Plantation Christmas. 2-7 p.m. Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider by the fire, and sample period food prepared in the hearth kitchen. \$15 adults; \$5 children. 703-550-9220.

City of Fairfax of Lights & Carols. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Old Town Fairfax, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, smores by the Yule log, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov>

Historic Clifton Candlelight Home Tour. 4-7 p.m. Historic District, Clifton. Five homes trimmed for the holidays, two churches and community hall will be open for touring in the historic district. Tickets: \$20. <http://clifton-va.com/>

Art Guild of Clifton Holiday Art Exhibit and Sale. 4-9 p.m. Clifton Town Hall Meeting, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Enjoy original art, jewelry, fiber arts, pottery, and photography made entirely by Clifton artists. www.artguildofclifton.org

Cabaret Series: Home for the Holidays. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Tickets: \$25, includes planche campagnarde.

Clifton Candlelight Homes Tour. 4-7 p.m. 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Five homes will be trimmed and open for touring, and two churches will have choirs singing. cliftonva.org.

Annual Tree Lighting. 7:30 p.m. Ayre Square, main square town in Clifton. Caroling, treats and hot

chocolate.

Lunch with Santa. 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. The Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$6 per child. Tickets required. 703-385-7858.

Festival of Lights and Carols.

11 a.m., 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. Sherwood Community Center. 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$6 per child for ages 10 and under. 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov

Jackie Hoffman's A Chanukah Carol. 8 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Hoffman is forced to examine her life when she is visited by the Ghosts of Chanukah Past, Present and Future, and even Molly Picon. Tickets \$19-\$29. www.jccnvarts.org.

Britten and the Brits. 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. Holiday concert that will include Christmas carols as well as audience sing-along. Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. www.thenorthernvirginiachorale.org

Shop the Shepherd Christmas Showcase. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Over 30 vendors will be offering a wonderful selection of jewelry, toys, handbags and purses, home decor, kitchen ware, skin care, Christmas decorations and much more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Family Advent Celebration. 5-6 p.m. Burke United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Annual family advent celebration. All are welcome. 703-250-6100.

Four Centuries of Virginia Christmas. 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Learn about the evolution of Virginia Christmas customs from author Mary Miley Theobald. Free.

Vivaldi's "Gloria." 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Burke United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. BUMC Chancel Choir (and friends) presents Vivaldi's "Gloria."

Cabaret Series: Home for the Holidays. 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Tickets: \$25, includes planche campagnarde.

Holiday Open House & Cathedral Brass Christmas Concert. 4 p.m. 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. A musical celebration of the season. 703-352-1421.

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. For more entertainment events in the county, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/sep/26/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 27

The Fresh Beat Band, 6:30 p.m., at the Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. The band from the Nick Jr. series of the same name performs. \$46.70-\$165. <http://patriotcenter.com/>.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/NOV 27-DEC. 8

"Shades and Tones Spiced with Color" 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sundays, at the Workhouse Arts Center, Building W-5, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Gloria Benedetto and Traci Oberle are the featured artists in the building; see their work featuring rich color in subtle workings. www.workhousearts.org.

FRIDAY/NOV.29-JAN. 5, 2013

100 under 200. Daily, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Black Friday Sale, at the Workhouse Arts Center, Building W-16 McGuireWoods Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. One hundred artists exhibiting work priced less than \$200 in an unrestrained gallery exhibit by each one of the artists at the Workhouse. <http://workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/black-friday-workhouse>.

"From the Fire." Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Five diverse ceramic artists challenge themselves to create personal work for a joint firing in "From the Fire", an educational exhibit of 30 works and concomitant photographs and text.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Home for Dinner Closing Reception. 6-9 p.m., Nov. 29, in the Vulcan Gallery, Community Action Space, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) and the Workhouse Arts Center are collaborating on the exhibition filled with arts that helps raise awareness about hunger and homelessness in southeast Fairfax County. Home for Dinner will showcase how community members can make a difference; bring canned food as a donation. www.workhousearts.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 2

Laura Black Murphy Book Signing Event. 4-8 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes, Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Murphy, a resident of Fairfax Station, Va., will be available to sign copies of her book, "My Little Messenger."

"The Mixed Nut." 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. The Fairfax Academy of Dance presents a dance performance featuring mixed variations from "The Nutcracker." Tickets: \$5.

TUESDAY/DEC. 3

Laura Black Murphy Book Signing Event. 4-8 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes, Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Murphy, a resident of Fairfax Station, Va., will be available to sign copies of her book, "My Little Messenger."

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Laura Black Murphy Book Signing

Event. 4-8 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes, Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Murphy, a resident of Fairfax Station, Va., will be available to sign copies of her book, "My Little Messenger."

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

"Survivor." 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street. Novelist Louis Bayard will read his comic Christmas essay "Survivor." Hear the author relate a true holiday misadventure that took place at nearby Springfield Mall.

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

One Night Stands. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. In concert, one night only, featuring solo cabaret performers from the DC area. Two performers each night, each performing a solo 45 minute set. Tickets: \$15-25.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The 2nd Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique historic venue, creating an atmosphere that encourages visitors to immerse themselves in the richness of this creative community.

Cecil Ray Comedy Club 7p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Host Cecil Ray leads the proceedings in a night of laughter with guest comedians from the mid-Atlantic region. Tickets: \$20-30.

SATURDAY/DEC. 21

An Irish Christmas – An Nollaig. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Irish-American fiddler Eileen Ivers brings the joy of the holiday season to Fairfax with her celebration for the whole family, a heartwarming concert filled with tales of Irish Christmas traditions and favorite Celtic holiday tunes. Tickets: \$25-\$50.

ONGOING

Workhouse Farmers Market. 3-6 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Every Thursday on the quad is a producer-only market for discerning shoppers featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry and local foods from breads to salsas and sausages. www.smartmarkets.org.

Ballroom Social Dance. Saturdays; mini-lesson, 7:30-8 p.m., \$5; social dance, 8-10:30 p.m., \$10. Each month focuses on a new style of ballroom dance.

Complimentary refreshments and a cash bar will be available. Casual dress code, all skill levels welcome.

Sueños Americanos. Sept. 14-Nov. 3. McGuirewoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse showcases works celebrating Latin America through a variety of mediums and styles. workhousearts.org.

Inner Librare. Through Oct. 6. Vulcan Gallery Community Action Space, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Ceci Cole McInturff of George Mason University's School of Visual Art curates an exhibit of artists' books, book experiences, and more.

Smart Markets Springfield. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Springfield Mall, 6417 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Through Nov. 23, the market is open every Saturday with goods, wares, produce and farmers. www.smartmarkets.org.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Lynn Goldstein Wins Best-in-Show Award

Fairfax Station artist, Lynn Goldstein was selected to receive the Best-in-Show award for her painting, "Facing West-On Stage," at the national exhibition, "Shades of Pastel," in Frederick, Md. The presentation of awards took place on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Delaplaine Visual Arts and Education Center, where the painting will be on view until Dec. 1.

The judge of the exhibition was Jimmy Wright, a well-known artist whose works have been exhibited (among others) at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. In choosing Goldstein's painting, Wright stated that, "There was no doubt which painting would be given the Best-in-Show award when I saw this piece hanging in the gallery."

Goldstein, a Northern Virginia artist who has a studio in her home and at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, has shown her work in various locations locally, nationally and internationally, most notably in Dinan, France where she completed a one-month artist residency in 2011. Goldstein recently returned from Southern France where she taught a workshop in the Languedoc-Roussillon region.

To see more of Goldstein's work, visit <http://www.lynngoldstein.com> or her blog at: www.lynngoldsteinefineart.blogspot.com

Additionally, you may visit her studio at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Studio 609, Lorton.



Lynn Goldstein

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF MITTULLA

Gil Baldwin and his son, Ben, members of the National Capitol Trackers O Scale Train Club, pictured at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum's Holiday Model Train Show.

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum to Host Holiday Model Train Show

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold its 24th annual Holiday Train Show on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8 from noon to 4 p.m. N, HO, LEGO, O, Standard, Z and G scale model trains will be on display and running. The "Train Doctor" will be available to fix broken

model trains. Weather permitting, antique cars will be on display. The Museum Gift Shop will be open and Santa may make a visit. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Adults 16 and over, \$5; children 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

During the last week of each year, the Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students. The results are always remarkable, and the editions have won many awards. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through e-mail or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be provided in .jpg format. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Friday, Dec. 6 for publication the week of Dec. 26.

E-mail submissions to: ChildrensSouth@connectionnewspapers.com

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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SPORTS

Robinson Football Falls in Region Quarterfinals

Coach Meier leads Rams to successful season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson football program was in need of a head coach when Dan Meier agreed to take the reins on a one-year interim basis. The move was to bring stability until the hiring of the Rams' new leader.

Meier retired as Robinson Secondary School principal in April and felt the new principal should be able to choose the new head football coach. Since Matt Eline, who is now the school's principal, wasn't hired until the summer, Meier agreed to coach the Rams and eliminate a potential situation where players lacked leadership during offseason activities.

"We couldn't [leave] these young men in limbo," Meier said, "so I retried in April and they asked me and I said sure."

The Robinson football team played its final game of the 2013 season on Nov. 22, falling to Westfield 21-14 in the 6A North region quarterfinals at Westfield High School. After back-to-back subpar seasons (by Robinson's standards), the Rams finished the 2013 campaign with an 8-4 record, including a playoff victory over Patriot High School. Robinson's four losses came against Lake Braddock, Westfield (twice) and Centreville — three teams with a combined record of 34-2.

In the two previous seasons under head coach Trey Taylor, Robinson finished 9-16 with a 0-2 postseason mark.

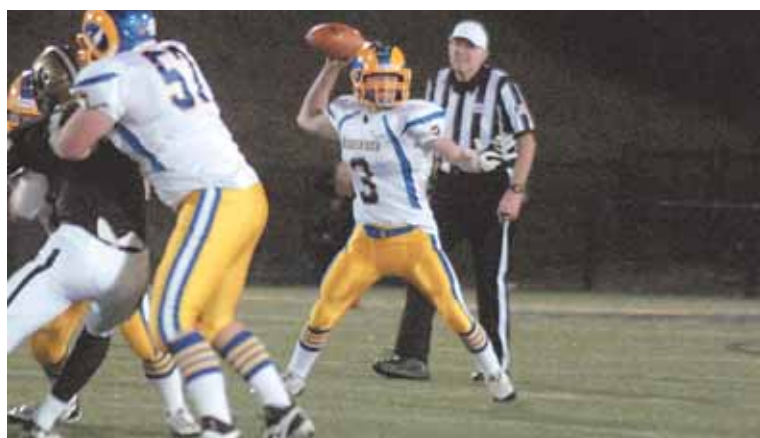
"I'm just very proud of our boys," Meier said. "We had great senior leadership and they competed every game. They really came out and they played their hearts out every game."

ON A NIGHT when the Westfield offense did not complete a pass, a dominant effort by senior running back Tyler Thrasher-Walker and a wrinkle coaches have been developing the past three weeks were enough to get the Bulldogs into the region final four.

The No. 3-seed Westfield football team defeated No. 11 Robinson 21-14 on Friday night in the 6A North region quarterfinals at Westfield High School. The Bulldogs, a run-oriented team to be-



Robinson running back Joe Wilson carries the ball against Westfield in the 6A North region quarterfinals on Nov. 22.



Robinson quarterback Jack Rowlett throws against Westfield in the 6A North region quarterfinals on Nov. 22.



Head coach Dan Meier and the Robinson football team take the field prior to their Nov. 22 playoff game at Westfield High School.

gin with, got all of their offensive production on the ground against the Rams, gaining more than 300 rushing yards. Junior quarterback Mason Scoville attempted two passes, each falling incomplete.

Thrasher-Walker carried 29 times for 203 yards and scored each of Westfield's three touchdowns. His 41-yard touchdown run with 9:25 remaining in the third quarter gave the Bulldogs a 21-7 advantage.

"We just knew that we had to [man] it up," Thrasher-Walker said. "[The ground attack] was working early in the game and we're like, it's not broke, no need

to fix it."

Westfield will travel to face undefeated Lake Braddock, the No. 2 seed, in the semifinals at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. The Bruins beat the Bulldogs 28-24 during the teams' regular-season meeting on Sept. 20 at Lake Braddock.

While the Westfield offense was one-dimensional in the run/pass sense on Friday night, the Bulldogs unleashed a wrinkle that kept Thrasher-Walker from being the only threat.

Senior receiver Devon Burns took snaps as a wildcat quarterback and carried seven times for

Group 6A North Region Football Playoffs

Three of four favorites advanced during the 6A North region football quarterfinals on Nov. 22, with Langley being the lone high seed to fall short.

The Saxons, seeded No. 5 in the region, lost to No. 13 Stonewall Jackson 51-48 in the region's highest-scoring game of the week-end. Stonewall Jackson will travel to face No. 1 Centreville in the semifinals at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. Undefeated Centreville beat No. 8 South County 55-35 in the

quarterfinals on Friday.

No. 2 Lake Braddock beat No. 7 Yorktown 40-7 to earn a trip to the semifinals, where the undefeated Bruins will host No. 3 Westfield at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. The Bulldogs beat No. 11 Robinson, 21-14.

Lake Braddock and Westfield faced one another during the regular season, with the Bruins winning 28-24 on Sept. 20. At the time, it was Westfield's first regular-season loss since 2010.

100 yards. The speedster's first four carries went for 14, 27, 17 and 29 yards, respectively.

"I'm really proud of the offensive staff," Westfield head coach Kyle Simmons said. "We put a couple different things in. We've been building on it week after week trying to not be so predictable. We like our bread and butter — we like our inside/outside zone, we like our counter — but we just tried to add to that to [give] some teams some things to think about."

"... Not a completed pass in the" whole game so getting Devon the ball in a different way is something that we've been working on and have gotten a little better at each week."

Burns transferred to Westfield from Freedom-South Riding last year and was deep threat in the Bulldogs' passing game. With Westfield not passing the ball as much this season, running the wildcat with Burns is a way for the Bulldogs to put the ball in the hands of one of their top playmakers.

"As a coaching staff, if he's not getting the ball in the passing game then it's our job to find a way to get him the ball," Simmons said. "We'd be dumb to leave him out there by himself, not getting anything accomplished."

The Westfield ground game wasn't the only source of success for the Bulldogs on Friday night. The Westfield defense got a huge stop with the game on the line, forcing a turnover on downs at the Westfield 35-yard line with 1:43 remaining. Robinson started its final drive at its own 5-yard line with 7:07 remaining in the contest. After a dropped pass wiped out what could have been a huge gain on first down, the Rams marched into Westfield territory with hopes of tying the score. An 8-yard pass from Rowlett to Shaquan Jackson on third down gave the Rams a fourth-and-5 at the 35, but Rowlett's fourth-down

pass fell incomplete.

ROBINSON had all three of its timeouts remaining, but Thrasher-Walker gained 30 yards on four carries to help the Bulldogs run out the clock.

"We played against a very fine football team," Meier said. "Give them credit; they have a great program and they play hard. Year in and year out, they're always there. You know when you come over here, you're in for a battle."

Meier said he does not plan to coach the Rams next season.

"Anything I could to help the school," Meier said. "I'll do that all my life. It's my school I love the school and I think our team represented the school well."

Westfield scored the game's first points on its second possession after Ra'Shaune Rice's interception return gave the Bulldogs the ball at the Robinson 22-yard line. Two plays later, Thrasher-Walker scored on a 19-yard run, giving Westfield a 7-0 lead with 4:58 left in the opening quarter.

Robinson answered on its ensuing possession with a 14-play, 55-yard drive ending with a 5-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-2 by quarterback Jack Rowlett. The drive lasted 7 minutes, 34 seconds and tied the score at 7-all.

Westfield's next possession started at the Robinson 44-yard line. Five plays later, Thrasher-Walker scored on a 4-yard run, giving the Bulldogs a 14-7 lead they would not relinquish.

Trailing 21-7, Rowlett found a wide-open Endi Ackerman for a 32-yard touchdown, cutting the Westfield lead to 21-14 with 6:35 remaining in the third quarter, but the Rams would get no closer.

Rowlett completed 6 of 11 passes for 106 yards with one touchdown and an interception. He also scored a rushing touchdown.

Robinson running back Joe Wilson carried 15 times for 96 yards.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
AMR Wines Plus, LLC trading as AMR Wines Plus, 5401 Port Royal Rd, Springfield, VA 22151 and 6461 Autumn Glen Ct, Alexandria, VA 22312. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wholesale wine and wine importer-in-state license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Anna Ryjik, Manager/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 legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC LICENSE
lamaya-V, LLC trading as Margarita's Grill, 9526 Burke Rd, Burke, VA 22015. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and beer on premises, mixed beverages restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Efen Amaya, member
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between (1069) Barbara Franceschi and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, bags, furniture, printer, statues, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Thursday December 19, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between (3109) Terry Glover/Terry D Glover and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, bike, toys, boxes, suitcase, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Thursday December 19, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

In addition we will be auctioning unit 2031 whereby the proceeds will go to local charities. For more information regarding "Charity Storage" feel free to contact us at: 703-352-8840 ext 2

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pictured, from left: Jennifer West; Nicole Hange, the new Economic Development Director for the City of Fairfax; Maddie Leasure; Cameron Graham, after whom 'Cameron's Coffee and Chocolates' was named; Rachel Dix-Kessler; Tom Jackson; Wendy Bennett; Doug Church, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Founding Chairman and Director; Justina Dambrauskaite; and Ellen Graham, Founder of the Every 1 Can Work non-profit organization — and Cameron's mom. In the photo, Maddie is holding the city's proclamation in support of Small Business Saturday.

Small Business Saturday in Fairfax City

The City of Fairfax and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce encourage shoppers to support local small businesses this holiday season by shopping at such stores on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 30.

The city is full of small businesses that offer unique services and products. One such business is Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates on Fairfax Boulevard.

Many small businesses are launched because someone has a passion — whether it be for spices, stitching, books or gaming. Cameron's Chocolates was launched by a couple to support their daughter Cameron's passion for baking and chocolate — and to help their daughter, who has intellectual disabilities, to support herself. Additionally, at least half of the employees of Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates have intellectual disabilities.

Small businesses shoppers can stay close to home and support their favorite small, local businesses on what is considered the busiest shopping weekend of the year.

Additionally, merchants can visit the Small Business Saturday website (<https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/Shop-Small/>) to find ways to attract and encourage local patronage of their smaller stores, including use of signage, social media and word-of-mouth.

Shoppers are encouraged to get familiar with the city's small businesses beforehand: take a look at your favorite neighborhood shopping centers, as well as those across town, to help you make up your holiday lists and shopping guides.

While you're out, find a new favorite among the city's many dining establishments to help you keep your stamina for shopping excursions.

Weichert Realtors Recognizes Fair Oaks Office and Top Associate

Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced the Fair Oaks office was recognized for outstanding performance in October. The office led the entire company in sales, as well as the company and the region, which comprises offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for new home dollar volume.

Additionally, Sales Associate Nadia Taherah Sadrzadeh of the Fair Oaks office was individually recognized for her exceptional industry success during the month of October. A top producer, Sadrzadeh led the region for new home dollar volume.

Invite this top neighborhood specialist in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer. She can be reached in Weichert's Fair Oaks office at 3998 Fair Ridge Drive or by phone at 703-934-0400.



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