

Burke CONNECTION

Anastasia, 10, of Burke enjoys the last few weeks of the Burke Farmers Market on Saturday, Nov. 16. When asked what does she like doing for fun, she replied: "Climb trees. Jump in leaves."

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NOVEMBER 20-26, 2014

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

In 2001, Anne Lindvay was single and working and living in Northern Virginia.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob Havlovick was living in Northern Virginia too, sharing a house with friends and throwing parties in hopes of meeting a great girl.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

William was 2 years old and living with his biological family.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

When Anne and Rob met at one of Rob's parties, they had an instant connection and began dating.

How Three Become One

November is National Adoption Month. Here's the story of how adoption created one family in Chantilly. To learn more about adopting through foster care in the D.C. Metro area, email the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments at: picme@mwkog.org.

— JOAN BRADY



PHOTO © PHIL DOMENICI

In 2004, on a hot summer day, they tied the knot.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

William, now 5, was still living with his biological family.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

By the time Anne and Rob were thinking about adoption, William was 13 and had been in foster care for about four years. He had lived in three foster homes. He liked taking pictures, drawing, ultimate frisbee and dogs.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob was more comfortable with the idea of adopting an older child and they both liked the idea of adopting a local child out of foster care.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Beverly Howard of Fairfax Families4Kids, which does mentoring for foster children, with William, Anne and Rob. Anne says that when they met William, things just clicked. She and Rob both fell in love with William immediately. As for William, he had just one question: Did they have a dog?



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

When William moved in with the Havlovicks in June 2013, there definitely were rules, including things like: brushing teeth, no cell phones in the bedroom and being respectful of others. But more important to them than the rules, Anne and Rob wanted a household filled with unconditional love.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

"Anne was meant to be a mother. Her passion for life and the enthusiasm she brings to everything she does keeps love and laughter to our house every day," said Rob.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Anne says that "while Rob has always been a kind and gentle person, parenting has brought out the best in him."



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

June 2014, William's adoption, attended by family and friends, was finalized.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Surrounded by the love of his two parents, today, William has just two wishes for his future: He would love to downhill ski in Colorado and he still really, really wants a dog.

Facets Hopes to Raise \$80,000

Fundraising event brings hope and awareness to homelessness and poverty.

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

Facets of Fairfax held its 15th Annual Taste of Fall fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Sherwood Recreation Center in Fairfax.

Deputy Director Maura Williams said the event is expected to raise \$80,000, which will go toward supporting its programs to end homelessness in Fairfax.

Among the attendees were U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), City of Fairfax Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne, Del. Mark Keam (D-35), and city of Fairfax Councilmembers Janice Miller and Eleanor Schmidt.

Connolly stressed how easy it would be to become homeless, "You're one catastrophic event away, one illness, and all of a sudden you're on the path to homelessness."

Linda Collier found herself in this situation when she suffered an accident last year. After her job refused to give her light work while on disability, she was forced to use her sick leave, which ran out in three months. She was left with no income and no money for rent. She became homeless. After staying with friends and at hotels when she could for more than three months, she heard about Facets while getting food at a church in Herndon.

Her Facets caseworker, Abigail Dunner, helped Collier find resources to help her get back on her feet. Facets provided her with food and clothing and helped her find a place to live. When she got her health back, she was able to take on more shifts at her job, leading to her economic recovery. "I found someone I could talk to who is not looking down on me," she said. "Facets is a



From left, Lina Bedawi, 11; Naana Boateng, 9; Ruba Bedawi, 7; Zoya Khan, 10; of Fairfax entertain guests with a choreographed dance at Facets' 15th Annual Taste of Fall on Saturday, Nov. 15 in Fairfax.



Linda Collier shares her story of homelessness and economic stability during Facets' 15th Annual Taste of Fall event on Saturday, Nov. 15.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) praises the work of Facets in restoring hope and dignity to those experiencing economic hardship during the 15th Annual Taste of Fall event on Saturday, Nov. 15 in Fairfax.



Councilwoman Janice Miller shows her support of Facets during its fall fundraising event on Saturday, Nov. 15 in Fairfax.



Fairfax City Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne at Facets' fall fundraising event on Saturday, Nov. 15 in Fairfax.

place to go when life has little to offer."

About 7.7 percent live below the poverty level in Fairfax, where the average home costs \$462,652. Councilwoman Janice Miller said that "People assume that if you lived here for a long time it was not difficult to buy a house...but there are so many needy families." Mayor Silverthorne said that he wants the city council to hold firm, with developers, the policy of allocating 5-12 percent for affordable housing, which has "the most benefit to those most in need."

Connolly praised the efforts of Facets and

similar organizations and partners in contributing to the one-third drop in homeless families and individuals since the establishment of the County's Office to End and Prevent Homelessness in 2008. "Thank you for your commitment to your community. Thank you for the restoration of dignity."

Facets is a nonprofit organization that helps people who need emergency shelter, food and medical needs, with the aim to end the cycle of poverty through educational, life skills and career counseling programs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. We hope you can help. Visit our website at www.scov.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email volunteer@scov.org.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in Alexandria needs a Van Driver to take participants on outings and an ESL Teacher. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer

Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Chantilly, Clifton, McLean and Falls Church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Substitute drivers needed throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale** needs a Chair Exercise Instructor, Spanish-speaking interpreters, an Experienced Canasta Player to teach participants, and certified instructors for classes in Ballroom Dance and Pilates. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and

click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs; urgent need in Reston area.

For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center** in Annandale needs Spanish-speaking social companions and a licensed hair stylist to wash, cut and style hair for participants. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria** needs a DJ to provide a

wide array of music from ballroom to line dancing, a Ballroom Dance Instructor and a volunteer with basic carpentry skills to build a "Little Free Library," for people to donate and borrow books from. Center will provide plans and materials. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Sully Senior Center in Centreville** needs a certified personal trainer twice a week, preferably with experience working with older adults. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Korean Meals on Wheels needs Korean-speaking volunteers to deliver

meals Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Centreville, Reston and Annandale. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteers, who are fluent in American Sign Language, are needed in Reston, Herndon and Vienna to provide clients with direct assistance (not interpretation) with computers, grocery shopping, or social visiting.

For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Renovation Keeps Rolling at Thomas Jefferson

New wing showcased at Nov. 14 ribbon-cutting.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Thomas Jefferson senior Thomas Rogers is big on the laser cutter. “You can cut anything you want,” said the McLean resident, “like exact designs on sheet metal.” Rogers was enthusiastic about the device, but wouldn’t fire it up during the Nov. 14 tour of the Science and Technology Governor’s School’s new two-story wing with 14 research spaces.

The transportation and robotics labs received numerous structural upgrades from their former facilities, including lighting and a more open floorplan with large garage doors.

“I’m extremely stoked about the new lab,” said Rogers. “I could live in here. It smells better, the light is better and the garage doors between the labs give a sense of community. The last rooms were pretty cramped.”

Jefferson has been undergoing a massive renovation since spring 2013, with an expected completion by fall 2016. Friday’s ribbon-cutting marked being ten to 15 percent of the way there, according to Brandon Kosatka, director of student services at previous manager of the project.

Builders Henley Construction Company, Inc., working with Ballou Justice & Upton Architects, plan to double the size of the original building to 390,000 square feet.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Thomas Jefferson seniors Andrew Haymaker of Falls Church, Justice Francis of Springfield, Nick Brady of Great Falls and Thomas Rogers of McLean enjoy the improved lighting, roominess and three-dimensional printers in the new transportation lab.

“This renovation isn’t about just putting paint on the walls, it’s about restructuring the layout to support how learning has evolved over time,” said Jefferson Principal Evan Glazer. “We need research spaces for more collaborative team teaching and inquiry-based projects that didn’t exist in the ‘60s. This will support those spaces.”

IN ADDITION to the new labs for neuroscience, quantum physics, optics and other scientific specialties, the full renovation plan includes internet cafes, three-dimensional

art galleries, a black box theatre, a massive virtual collaborative research network and improved energy efficiency. And a great dome reminiscent of President Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello is up, but still under construction.

Glazer announced to the ribbon-cutting audience phase two should begin in about a month. “The whole center of the building will be excavated,” he said. “Front and back, it’ll look great, but there won’t be anything in the middle. Students have really had to manage with the 64 different learning cot-

tages we’ve had at multiple places on campus.”

Shawn J. Frank is the Jefferson assistant principal currently managing the renovation. “The staff and students have been really flexible,” he said. “You see this and it’s just scratching the surface. It’s amazing to see it come to fruition.”

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza thanked the parents and community members at the ribbon-cutting for supporting bonds that help make renovations possible around the county.

“These are young people who could potentially solve some of the greatest challenges that we face in our world,” she said, “so we’re very excited about them having the kind of space to allow their learning to thrive and flourish.”

GARZA was followed by School Board Chairman Tammy Derenak Kaufax. “I’m proud when I see any one of our 25 high schools get the upgrades that they so much deserve and the students need,” she said. “We all know TJ needed a renovation and here we are, it’s finally happening.”

In addition to county funding, the renovation has benefitted from over \$3 million raised by the TJ Partnership Fund, connecting with alumni, parents and the corporations Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Cisco.

Though many current Jefferson students won’t see the finished project before they graduate, they’re taking advantage of the upgrades as they come. “To see both sides of the construction is better than I’d imagined,” said Rogers.

Silver Line Support Structure, Parking Garages Approved

Board of Supervisors makes two rail-facilitating moves; Arlington ends streetcar project.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

As the Silver Line Metrorail project progresses towards its second phase opening date of 2018, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors are helping pave the way.

At their meeting on Nov. 18, they made two rail-facilitating moves: The first was approving a funding agreement with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to design and build a Town Center Parkway Underpass Rail Support Structure.

In the area of the future Reston Transit Station, the county’s comprehensive plan calls for extending Town Center Parkway from Sunset Hills Road to Sunset Valley Drive, west of Edmund Haley Drive, according to the board’s agenda background.

But doing that work under an operating railway could be disruptive, so this

agreement is for a support structure between the roadway and the railway that would effectively separate the two during their respective constructions. The project, estimated to cost \$8.7 million, was part of the supervisors’ Six Year Transportation Priorities for FY 2015 to FY 2020.

ON THE SAME DAY Fairfax County appeared to be moving forward with public transportation approvals, Arlington County stalled when its Board Chairman Jay Fisetta gave a midday press conference announcing that he would recommend ending the streetcar project that would’ve reached Crystal City, Pentagon City and Columbia Pike.

“I believe that debating the streetcar issue further, with continued discord and dueling facts, will not serve our community and will distract us from addressing other pressing issues before us,” Fisetta said at the conference.

Though the announcement drew frustra-

tion from Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova and Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity believes the project “died under its own weight.”

Herrity and Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey were non-supportive of the streetcar to begin with.

“I just don’t think it makes sense from a transportation standpoint,” Herrity said in an interview, “to go that short period of time at less than 13 miles an hour, you can almost walk faster. It became a streetcar undesired. There were enough people in Arlington that clearly saw this as another million-dollar bus stop that doesn’t make sense, and I’m glad that people are paying attention.”

Several hours after the streetcar announcement, the board made its second Silver Line development move, this time approving financing a pair of station parking garages. They brought the matter forward during a public hearing late in the day.

The two garages would be for Phase II’s Herndon and Innovation Center Metrorail stations, with an estimated cost of \$115 million. To cover the cost, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority would deal out about \$142 million in Metrorail System Parking Revenue Bonds, which would be paid back with money from the new and existing Metro parking structures.

“I am pleased that Fairfax County will own and operate these garages and collect revenue from parking,” Bulova said in a statement. “This financing structure reduces the overall cost of Phase II of the Silver Line by using parking fees, instead of general fund tax dollars.”

Carey Campbell of Springfield was signed up to speak during the public hearing, on behalf of the Independent Green Party of Virginia. He didn’t attend the meeting, but released an edited ver-

SEE SILVER LINE, PAGE 5

AREA ROUNDUPS

Del. Filler-Corn to Hold Office Hours

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41 - Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Springfield) will hold November office hours at Capital Bagel Bakery (6030 Burke Commons Rd, Burke) from 10 - 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 23. No appointment necessary. Please drop by.

'Click It or Ticket'

City of Fairfax Police will focus on enforcing seat-belt use, besides all traffic laws, during the 2014 National "Click it or Ticket" campaign. It runs from Friday, Nov. 21, to Thursday, Nov. 27, and drivers violating the requirement to buckle up will be subject to citations carrying a \$25 fine.

While statewide statistics indicate that Virginia's seat-belt use rate has been increasing steadily, approximately 40 percent of the victims involved in fatal traffic crashes each year were unrestrained.

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Silver Line

FROM PAGE 4

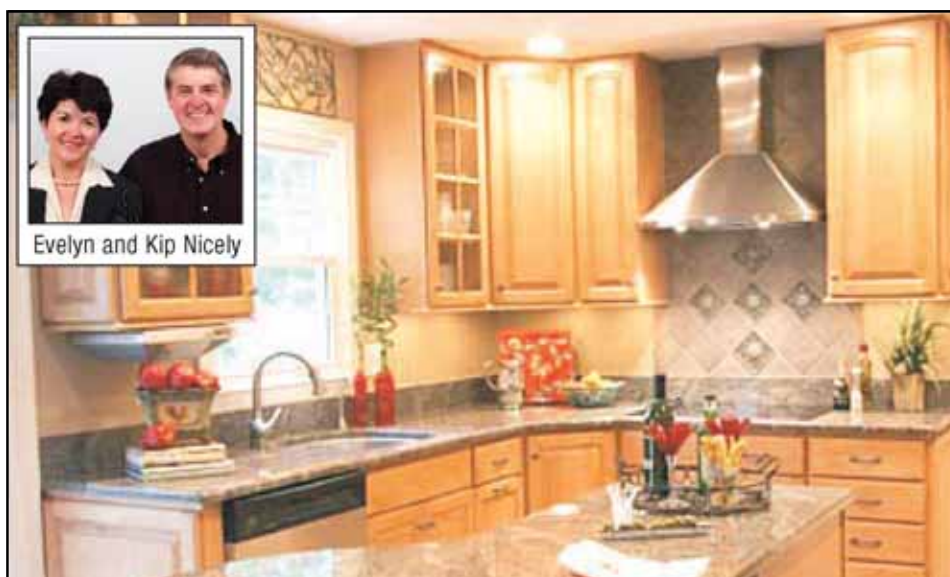
sion of the statement he planned to deliver to the board, after they made their decision.

"Today the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted on more subsidies for big oil, big auto, big asphalt," he said in the statement. "Voters passed a \$100 million bond in November — \$6 million of it goes to sidewalks and pedestrian improvements county-wide, \$78 million to goes to bike lanes and paths. Rail is safer. Walking and biking are healthier. Walkable, bikeable, rail communities are more popular and growing profits."

IN AN INTERVIEW, Campbell said, "One-third of all trips, recent analysis shows, in Fairfax County are less than three miles. That means we need more bikeable, walkable options. We need to bring bike share on a massive scale, not more taxpayer-subsidized garages."

And though the county's new master plan for bicycles should set up more than 1,000 miles of new routes in the next three decades, they're also facilitating more people driving to Metro.

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NEWS

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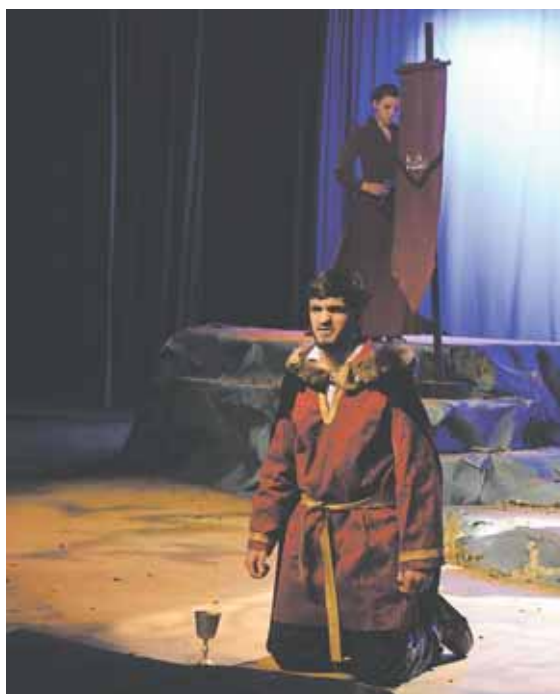


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Macbeth, played by Matt Ross (front), drops to his knees before Lady Macbeth, played by Roxy Matten (back) in Robinson's Rambunctious Theatre Company production of "Macbeth."



The witches get their caldron bubbling to conjure spirits with messages for Macbeth. (From left) Veronica Hays, Alex Lane and Anna McGrath.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Bubbling Caldron, Rambunctious Theatre

**Robinson com-
 pany puts on
 Shakespeare's
 "Macbeth."**

Double, double, toil and trouble; fire burn and caldron bubble. The Robinson High School theatre department, newly named Rambunctious Theatre Company, is changing it up with their fall show: Shakespeare's "Macbeth." The show opens Nov. 20 and runs through Nov. 22.

Using the original script written by William Shakespeare in 1606, the Rambunctious Theatre Company is adding twists, interpretations and magic to create a spectacular show. Megan Thrift, the director of "Macbeth" and new high school theatre teacher at Robinson said, "I'm most excited about the magic. The show pulses, shimmers, brims with magic."

Thrift, who took over in September, is starting off her first year with a bang. "Macbeth" is something new and unexpected, and a show that, with much work and planning, will be one to remember.

Matthew Ross, who plays Macbeth in the show, said, "It's a cool show and I think people our age are really going to like it. We're putting it on in a really interest-



Robinson Secondary School's high school theatre department follows Shakespeare's 400-year-old script for their performance of "Macbeth."

ing and new way, and different from all of the other shows that you've seen from Robinson Theatre."

Working alongside the talented cast is a hard-working and dedicated technical crew. Head stage manager Kyle Ronyecs said, "This particular show will rely on the technical side a lot because of the heavy use of magic."

The "techies" of the show are working nonstop to ensure that the audience will be able to fully experience this magic. "Everyone should definitely be excited to see the witches and their magic," said Ronyecs.

"The play has survived for over 400 years and it's still relevant, which is a remarkable feat in and of itself," said Thrift. "But you

should see this play to see what is so human about it: Society has changed exponentially since the 11th century, even since Shakespeare's time. But are we really so different? Art mirrors life, after all."

In addition to the timeless humanity, another big draw is the gore. "The blood and the fighting, the gore, is one of the coolest parts of this show," said Ross. "It's going to be pretty graphic."

"Macbeth" runs Nov. 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 22 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door or online at www.robinsondrama.org, \$12. Members of the military can receive a 50 percent discount with the code "Military."

— CASSIDY MILNE

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Soprano Shannon Jennings as Josephine and tenor Cullen Gandy as Ralph Rackstraw in Virginia Opera's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore."



PHOTO BY LUCID FRAME PRODUCTIONS/COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Merriment Entertainment

Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" from Virginia Opera at GMU Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Fresh as ever in a world in which "things are seldom what they seem" the irreverent comic musical, "H.M.S. Pinafore" from the franchise of Gilbert and Sullivan will soon dock at the Center for the Arts. It is helmed by the Virginia Opera.

While first setting sail in 1878, "Pinafore" remains a cultural touch stone today with its charm and its bright humor. Even the television hit comedy "How I Married Your Mother" used references from "Pinafore" in an episode this year.

"H.M.S. Pinafore" is a wonderful combination of ingredients including music, movement, dance and singing," said director Nicola Bowie. "Gilbert and Sullivan are marrying irony and satire together in order to poke fun at the establishment of the time and the British Navy." And the pokes remain fresh as ever.

In a recent interview, Bowie indicated, "This is not stand up and sing type opera production." There is plenty of spirited choreography for the over 30 member cast along with unstoppable toe-tapping tunes.

Principal Conductor Adam Turner will provide the musical direction for the Virginia Opera Orchestra of 30 through a jaunty score of nearly two dozen songs.

Where and When

Virginia Opera presents Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" performed in English at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Ave., Fairfax. Performances: Friday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. Pre-performance discussion free to ticketholders, held 45 minutes prior to each performance. Tickets: Friday, Dec. 5 are \$44 to \$86 and Saturday, Dec. 6 are \$48 to \$98. Youth Discount: tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Call 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

Margaret Gawrysiak plays a key role as Little Buttermilk. Her love interest, Sir Joseph Porter is opera veteran Jake Gardner. For Gawrysiak, "Pinafore" has a lovely story line about having "a crush on someone who you think is unattainable. Haven't we all been in love with someone we think we can't have because of their status?" In "Pinafore" a topsy-turvy world can lead to many unexpected turns.

Romantic leads include opera leading lights soprano Shannon Jennings (as Josephine) and tenor Cullen Gandy (as Ralph Rackstraw). The large cast and chorus includes members of Virginia Opera's Emerging Artists Program.

As a special luxury, the "Pinafore" performances will also provide the opportunity for patrons to view an exhibition titled "Pinafore Craze in America 1878-1879" with original memorabilia from the earliest productions of "H.M.S. Pinafore." The artifacts are from George Mason University benefactors David and Annabelle Stone, who are giving their collection of treasured Gilbert and Sullivan memorabilia to the Mason Libraries' Special Collections.

As "Pinafore" lyrics and situations go, "never mind the why and wherefore" at least "never, well hardly ever." Enjoy the buoyant fun of Gilbert and Sullivan. It promises to be a flying circus of appealing musical satire as patrons embrace the bright side of life.

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Why Shop Small? Shop Large Locally

Small business Saturday isn't enough; don't wait until then, and don't stop after that.

There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to participating in community traditions and celebrations, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

EDITORIAL

Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 29.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive, and communities depend on those businesses as well. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Celebrate Locally

Bull Run Festival of Lights & Holiday Village, Nov. 19 - Jan. 4, Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, Monday - Thursday: 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Fridays - Sunday and holidays: 5:30 to 10 p.m. call 703-631-0550 Mondays-Thursdays, \$15 per car ; Fridays-Sundays and holidays, \$20 per car. Santa's Enchanted Lights, with more than 40,000 animated lights set to music. Off Interstate 66 in Centreville, on Rt. 29 (Lee Highway).

Black Friday Holiday Celebration at the Workhouse. Nov. 28, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., **Workhouse Arts Center**, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, 703-584-2900, free. Explore the artwork of nearly 100 artists, join in interactive demonstrations and find that perfect gift while supporting local artists. Festivities will also include Doughnuts with Santa, fine-art projects for children, and holiday music and theatrical performances throughout the day.

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. Saturday, Dec. 6. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, Ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols for times and locations.

Plantation Christmas, Dec. 6, 2-7 p.m., Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton, 703-550-9220, Admission: \$15 adults, \$5 children (6-18). Let the Christmas Past become part of Christmas Present. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider by

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. Many will answer the call of the big

the fire, and sample period food prepared in the hearth kitchen. Return to the 18th century as costumed characters greet visitors in the house and throughout the grounds. Visit with Santa.

"Christmas in Camp" - Civil War Living History, Dec 7, 12-4 p.m., Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, 703-591-0560. Discuss Civil War-era holiday customs, make Victorian ornaments, and participate in camp drills with Company D, 17th VA Infantry, "Fairfax Rifles" C.S.A. Guided tours of Historic Blenheim House.

Holiday Horse Drawn Hayrides at Lake Accotink Park, Dec. 13, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield, 703-222-4664, \$10 per person (free for 2 and under). Enjoy holiday music and merriment on a horse drawn hayride through the park. Warm up with seasonal treats available for purchase at the snack bar, and settle in to share stories around a toasty campfire. Also visit with Santa and share a wish list. Remember to bring a camera and make it a holiday family photo.

A Christmas Carol. Saturday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m. Art Room, Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Solo performance. NYC actor / playwright, Greg Oliver Bodine performs his one-man performance of Charles Dickens. Children over 10 and adults. General admission \$15 / \$10 Seniors and Students. www.artful.ly/store/events/4306.

box. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

The Connection is participating in Shop Small 2014, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com to find out more.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Ten Days in Diplomacy

BY MARGOT BADEN
JUNIOR/ W.T. WOODSON HIGH

"OK, everybody, I got the call! The buses are coming! I repeat, The buses are coming!"

With those words, an excited cheer rises among the giant mob of American students, our nervousness and excitement feeding off of each other, spreading through the crowd like an electrical impulse. All 40 pairs of eyes are now more than ever focused downhill, at the very end of the street, where we know the buses carrying the Japanese students will soon make their appearance. Seconds later, the unmistakable groan of diesel engines reaches our straining ears before the huge white coaches emerge and begin their journey up the long hill.

A cry goes up from the crowd,

Woodson High junior reflects on her experiences with High School Diplomats program at Princeton.

and, rehearsed cheers forgotten, we begin to sprint down the hill, letting out uncoordinated whoops of excitement. As the buses approach, our voices raise in volume, the drivers answering our cheers with loud honks. Finally, the coaches pull to the side of the street and we mob the slow-opening doors, the undistinguishable cheering of the Americans now morphing into desperate calls.

"Tatsuki!"

"Yuto!"

"Momoka!"

"Hitomi!" I scream at the top of my lungs, waving my sign high above my head, her name artfully

scribbled on it in big purple and blue letters, as the Japanese students begin pouring out of the buses. It's absolute chaos, students frantically weaving their way around each other, desperately trying to find their roommates, 80 different names being called out simultaneously. Hugs, hive-fives, and cries of recognition and ecstatic laughter begin to fill the crowded space. I scramble around the happily hugging roommates, still searching for my friend, calling out her name again and again.

"Hitomi, where are you?" I call again, and this time, receive an answer.

"Margot!" I hear from behind me. I quickly whirl around and come face-to-face with my roommate.

"Hitomi!!" I cry, racing to her as we hug.

NOW FINALLY UNITED with our Japanese roommates, everyone begins to partake in a frantic evening of dashing around and introducing our roommates to each other, remembering faces, butchering Japanese names with our pronunciations, beginning friendships, all the while hardly believing that we were all, finally, here together at Princeton, and that the program we had all looked forward to for so long had finally begun. And while we all knew that it was to be a unique experience, I don't think anyone really understood that first night how much these next 10 days would change us.

This past summer, I partook in

SEE WOODSON, PAGE 9

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Woodson Senior a High School Diplomat

FROM PAGE 8

an amazing program, High School Diplomats at Princeton University, where both American and Japanese rising juniors and seniors spent 10 days making friendships, learning about one another's cultures, and further developing their leadership skills.

We shared American traditions through Spirit Days; some of my favorite memories of those days included watching a horror movie and learning the Thriller dance on Halloween, going to Prom with a Japanese boy, line dancing on Independence Day, and singing our hearts out on Karaoke Night on Rock Star Day. American students also learned about Japanese culture through daily language classes and other activities. For example, on Bunka no Hi, the Japanese Day of Culture, Americans participated in Japanese games and traditions and even got to wear formal Japanese yukatas in the festival. I especially enjoyed trying sushi and making origami, participating in a tea ceremony, learning both traditional and J-pop dances, and painting Japanese kanji on fans.

One of the most memorable aspects of the program was Diplomat Talks Day, when American and Japanese students discussed global issues such as poverty, gender equality, and nuclear weapons. Throughout the program, students also taught their counterparts about topics relating to their home country, such as regional characteristics, government, education, and social issues, through interactive presentations.

Something that I really loved about High

School Diplomats was that it was a remarkably free and accepting environment. Each and every participant was so welcoming and fun, and more than willing to show their crazy side for the Spirit Day activities. At lunch, I could sit next to any student and have a pleasant and engaging conversation. Throughout the program, students made innumerable connections with the other diplomats, regardless of whether they were American or Japanese. And the relationships we formed with our roommates are incredibly special and deep, something that I cannot even begin to explain.

As a bonus, as a student living in the metro D.C. area, I had the option to host my Japanese roommate in my home for the three day pre-program Homestay portion. This was really a wonderful experience, opening up our home to a student from a different country and being her guide to how our American family lives. I also had the benefit of getting to know my roommate before the Princeton experience began, which I found very helpful.

NEXT SUMMER, the program runs from July 28-Aug. 8 at Princeton University. Applications, transcripts, and teacher recommendations must be postmarked by Jan. 7. An interview is part of the final selection process. All 40 American students who are chosen for High School Diplomats receive a full scholarship: transportation, room, board, activities and tuition/fees. For more information, visit www.highschooldiplomats.com and click on HSD in America.



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BURKE CONNECTION ♦ NOVEMBER 20-26, 2014 ♦ 9

Viewpoints: What do you like to do during fall and before the start of the holidays?

As the foliage reached its peak, Fairfax County residents turned to their favorite fall activities before the mad rush of the holidays. At the Burke Farmers Market, which runs until Nov. 22, John and Nancy Menke, of Burke, found a way to keep the fresh and local fruits and vegetables they love throughout the year. “We can things. We pickle green beans, make applesauce,” said Nancy. But for others, fall is a way to stay ahead. “I look for Christmas presents,” said Jean Leshko, of Burke, who went to the Fairfax Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, Nov. 15.

John, lawyer, and Nancy Menke, jewelry designer, Burke:

“We like coming to the farmers market. We can things. We pickle green beans, make apple sauce. We have all the stuff from the farmers market throughout the year. We love the farmers market here in Burke.”




Dorene Ernst, retired, Burke:

“We walk on the trails a lot. In burke, we have pathways and we like to do that. Watch football.”




Jennifer Kosko, administrator, Burke:

“Rake all the leaves in the backyard and make a huge pile and let our Siberian husky dog, Cooper, go jumping and rolling and running around. That’s our entertainment to watch him.”




Kim Luckabaugh, substitute teacher, Fairfax City:

“The [holiday] craft show is an absolute must-do. I haven’t missed this in probably 10 years. We enjoy baking a lot of the pumpkin spice scents, the apple things, the pumpkin things, the cookies, the pies. And as much of a chore as the leaves are, and I don’t care how old the kids are, you get the big pile of leaves raked up and even the teenager will jump in.”



Mackenze Orr, GMU student, Fairfax:

“Fall Fest was fun.”



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE



Judy Ryan of Fairfax with her gift collection by Brighton, which includes clocks ranging from \$36 to \$50 and Christmas jewelry.



Judy Ryan of Fairfax offers silk-blend oblong scarves for \$29, Expressions handbags for \$75, and sterling silver jewelry for \$60 to \$85.

Gift-Giving Made Easy at Judy Ryan of Fairfax

For fine apparel, home accents, and gift ideas that are already pre-mixed and matched for you, look no further than Judy Ryan of Fairfax in the Twinbrooke Shopping Center off Braddock Road. Located in the same Fairfax location for 26 years, Ryan makes 10 annual trips to New York City to find the hottest runway looks but tailors them to the tastes of Fairfax County women.

“We aim to make people smile,” said Ryan of Annandale, who has an RN degree. “Everybody who works here is engaged in assisting the customer to find the right thing — whether it’s something simple to accent an outfit — all the way to the complete outfit.”

Ryan updates her inventory daily — for size 2-16 customers who range from high school age to 80-year-olds. For apparel, her shop showcases the likes of Joseph Ribkoff, Jag Jeans, Sisters, Karen Kane, Tribal and Conrad C. She’s best known for her presentation of whole outfits as well as finishing touches to an outfit — such as jewelry and scarves.

The Homestyle Collection offers gifts for the home, the hostess, the seasons, the baby and the child. You’ll find Zutano for baby and toddler, Michel Design Works for the kitchen and bath, Stonewall Kitchen for the gourmet, gifts for the wine lover and a wide variety of decorative accessories. Other home accents are by Tag, Andrea by Sadek, Sullivans, Kikkerland and Rockflowerpaper.

“She always has the most unique things,” said Patricia Rollins of Alexandria. “They’re always well made and timeless. I’ve had some of her clothes for eight years, but they never go out of style, and I always get compliments.”

“Customers tell us that coming



Judy Ryan of Fairfax sells coordinated gifts in matching Christmas themes of foaming hand soap, candles and soaps for \$9.95, with ceramic deer at \$12.95 and penguins for \$18.



Judy Ryan of Fairfax sells Stonewall kitchen products like Lemon Pepper Oil from \$4.50 to \$28.95, Tea Forte samplers, and other gourmet food products and matching napkins.



Judy Ryan of Fairfax offers stylish shawls for \$59, leather gloves for \$49, and create-your-own Brighton charm bracelets for \$80.

here was like having your own personal shopper,” said Ryan. “For the holidays, we have a lot of seasonal items that are great for taking as a hostess gifts and for decorating your own home. We wrap them, they are ready to go.”

Ryan and her team will put together gift bags of things that customers like so they don’t have to think it through. For jewelry, there’s: Brighton, Carissima, Zenzi, Jilzara, and Sharelli.”Year round, it’s our pleasure to put together ideas that make great gifts. We have a lot of fun just coordinating it.”

“You’ll find things here that you won’t find in a department store,” said Stephanie Miller of Clifton. “It’s almost as if you have a personal shopper.”

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CALENDAR

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.

THROUGH MONDAY/DEC. 15

FCPS Art Teachers Exhibition.
 Building W-16 McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. FCPS art teachers display their art. 703-584-2900. www.workhousearts.org.

THROUGH WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

War on the Doorstep: Fairfax Militia in the War of 1812.
 Exhibition. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Open Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free tours at 1 p.m. 703-591-0560.

THROUGH MONDAY/JAN. 19, 2015

Dada Re-Discovered. Building W-16 Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Dada Re-Discovered explores how contemporary media and ideas can filter past Dada concepts and artwork. The exhibit will feature sound, video, performance and other visual mixed media. 703-584-2900. www.workhousearts.org.

THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8, 2015

Dressing for the Occasion: An Exhibition of Costumes and Textiles Representing Fairfax Personalities and Events.
 Exhibition. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Stree, Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-385-8414.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 20-23

"The Curious Savage." 7:30 p.m. Sunday performance at 2:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run Road, Fairfax. This comedy tells the story of Mrs. Ethel Savage, a widow whose step-children commit her to a sanatorium in order to get their hands on the \$10 million her recently-deceased husband left her. There she meets a variety of social misfits, who eventually appear more sane than those outside the walls of the institution. Tickets are: \$5 for students and \$10 for Adults, available at the door, or online at www.fxplayers.org. For more information, call 703-219-2351.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 21-22

"Fiddler on the Roof JR." Friday: 7:30 p.m. Saturday: 5 p.m. The Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge, 9612 Fernedge Lane, Lorton. Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor dairyman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with tradition in the face of changing social mores. The show features some of the most memorable roles in the musical theatre canon. Seating is limited. For tickets and information, please visit their website at NVPlayers.com. For group tickets or special needs and assistance, please call 703-866-3546.

Used Book Sale. Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. A great selection of books to read and gift for the holidays.

"Mixed Nut (Nutcracker)" Performance. 12:30 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Germantown Road, Fairfax. As an annual tradition, the Dance classes at Fairfax Academy



Bring your family along to watch Tchaikovsky's holiday masterpiece, "The Nutcracker," playing on Nov. 29-30 at Woodson High School in Fairfax.

NOTEWORTHY NOVEMBER EVENTS

Special family-friendly events going on this month that will put you in the holiday spirit.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

Holiday and Gift Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come and find all types of books for giving during the holidays. All ages.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Thanksgiving Table Arrangement. 1:30-3:30 p.m. 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Come and make a centerpiece for turkey day with a fresh pumpkin. Admissions: \$35 per person plus \$25 supply fee.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 22-23

23rd Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Saturday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. More than 20 dealers, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, meteorites, crystals, demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes, kids' mini-mines, learning activities and more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

CROP Walk. 1:15 p.m. Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Distance 6K/3.7 miles with a shorter option. Nonperishable food will

be collected for ECHO. No entry fee but registration required. Walker envelopes for sponsor donations are available prior to the walk or at registration. Janet Smith, 703-455-9025, BurkeVA.CROP@cox.net.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Black Friday Holiday Celebration at the Workhouse. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Explore the artwork of nearly 100 artists, join in interactive demonstrations and find that perfect gift while supporting local artists. Festivities will also include Doughnuts with Santa, fine-art projects for children, and holiday music and theatrical performances throughout the day. Free. 703-584-2900. www.workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

Small Business Saturday and Tree Lighting. Tree lighting at 5 p.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Get a head-start on holiday shopping at a mix of small, local retailers, then stay for Mosaic's holiday tree lighting and sing-along in Strawberry Park. www.mosaicdistrict.com.

will be performing their version of the Nutcracker called the "Mixed Nut" for the fourth year in a row. It features both selections from the original Tchaikovsky score, as well as the Duke Ellington jazz rendition.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring. 703-642-5173.

Holiday and Gift Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come to find all types of books for giving during the holidays. All ages.

Wag a Tale. 10:30, 10:45, 11 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Register to read to one of our therapy dogs. Ages 5-12. 703-339-4610.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay. 2:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Welcome welcome welcome to the 75th annual Hunger Games! We at Kingstowne are proud to have a special mentor prepare you before you are sent to the Capitol. So eyes up, chins forward, and be ready for this special one-on-one training before you begin the ultimate test of surviving the one and only Hunger Games. Teen. 703-339-4610.

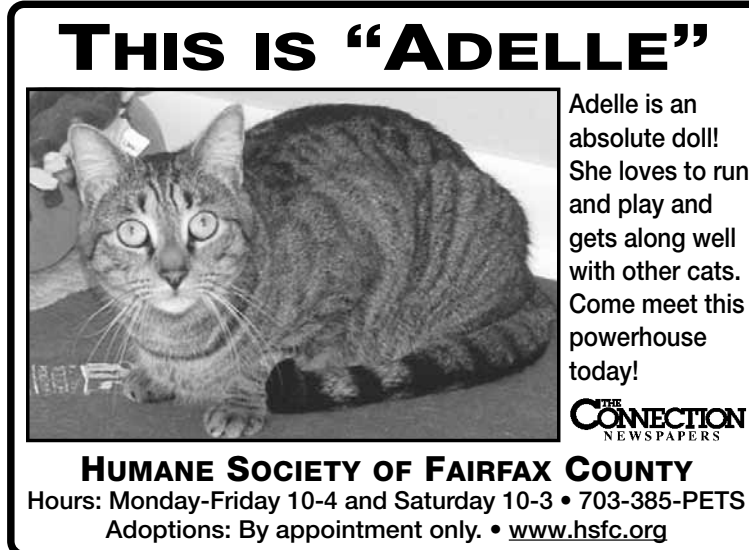
MONDAY/NOV. 24

Music and Movin' with Miss Susan. 10:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Cosponsored by Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library. Ages 6 months-5 years with adult.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Crazy 8s Math Club. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join Bedtime Math's Crazy 8s, where you'll build stuff, run and jump, make music in this totally new kind of math club.

Rainbow Readers. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Early Literacy story time with stories and songs for children ages 3 to 5 years old with adult. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Build your child's early literacy skills with stories, songs and play! Age 1-2 with adult. 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY/NOV. 27

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 Bible readings, music, and sharing stories of gratitude and healing. www.thinkdifferentlyfairfax.com

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

Seraphic Fire Christmas: Carols by Candlelight. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$30-\$50. Begin celebrating the holiday season with this revered a cappella ensemble. This critically acclaimed group comes to the Center for the first time to present a dazzling holiday performance — a candlelight Christmas concert with a popular mix

of Gregorian chant, carols, motets, and contemporary favorites.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 29-30

"The Nutcracker." Saturday: 2 & 7 p.m. Sunday: 2 p.m. Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Members of the Fairfax Ballet's Company, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and special guest artists from around the world, will dance to Tchaikovsky's opulent holiday masterwork. Group discounts are available for qualifying organizations with 10 or more guests. Email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-439-9788 for more information. Tickets are available for purchase at <http://fairfaxnutcracker2014.brownpapertickets.com/>. Tickets will also be available at the door beginning one hour before each show.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

Children's Performance Series: Mr. Skip. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Start the week off with Mr. Skip, who is all about music and movement, sings original and classic kids songs like Old MacDonald to the 5 and under crowd. He gets the kids off their seats and moving. Free but donations are accepted. 703-385-2712.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY/DEC. 2-3

Tiny Tots Concert. Tuesday: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday: 7 p.m. The Robert E. Lee High School Band and Drama Department announce their annual Tiny Tots Concert featuring favorite children's characters.

Reservations are required for the morning performances but not for the evening performance. Admission is \$2. For information or reservations call 703-971-2229 or email the Lee High School Band at LeeHSBand_TinyTots@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, Ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols for times and locations.

Plantation Christmas. 2-7 p.m. Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. 2-7 p.m. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider by the fire, and sample period food prepared in the hearth kitchen. Return to the 18th century as costumed characters greet you in the house and throughout the grounds. Admission: \$15 adults, \$5 children (6-18).

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, home decor, kitchen ware, skin care, Christmas decorations and much more. A raffle, cafe and gourmet bake shop will also be featured. For questions or additional information, call 703-323-5400 or email jhwilcox@aol.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14



Get Ready for the Holidays

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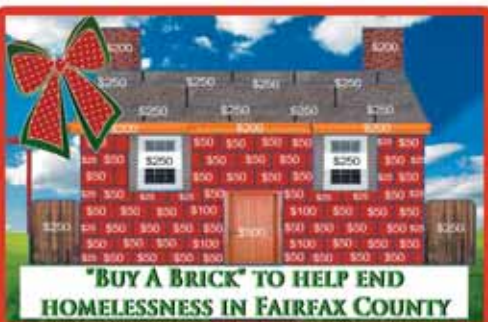
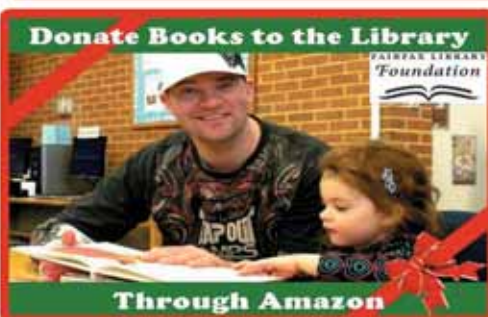
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

Art Guild of Clifton's Holiday Art Show and Sale. 2-6 p.m. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Enjoy shopping for quality, original art, made entirely by Clifton artists. Also featuring work of student members and this year's winners of "Reflections" contest. www.artguildofclifton.org

Clifton Holiday Homes Tour and Tree Lighting. 4-7 p.m. Historic Town of Clifton, 12704 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tour some of the local Clifton homes in the historic district and enjoy the town Christmas tree lighting and caroling afterward in the Square. Tickets for tour: \$25 adult/\$10 child.

Historic Pohick Church Candlelight Dinner. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Featured will be musical entertainment and a catered dinner of assorted hors d'oeuvres, beef tenderloin, roast chicken, side dishes and several desserts. Tickets are \$75 a person. www.pohick.org. RSVP by Nov. 22 to Charlotte Knipping at 703-946-1031.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 6-7 25th Annual Holiday Train Show Festival. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday: 12-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Model trains on display and running will include Z, N, HO, LEGO, O, Standard and G scales. Door prize drawing for a new Lionel Scout train set. Bring your broken trains to "The Train Doctor." Antique cars on display, weather permitting. Gift shop will be open. Santa may make a visit that weekend. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; children 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and over, \$5. For more information, www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7 Gardeners Holiday Open House. 12-4 p.m. 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Come to an open house hosted by Friends of Green Spring for gardeners of all ages to get in the holiday mood, including a children's puppet show. Admissions: \$3 (puppet show only). 703-642-5173.

"Christmas in Camp." 12-4 p.m. 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Discuss Civil War-era holiday customs, make Victorian ornaments, and participate in camp drills with Company D, 17th VA Infantry, "Fairfax Rifles" C.S.A. Guided tours of Historic Blenheim House.

JCCNV 34th Annual Fundraising Gala - Journey Through Time: Chronicling Our Past, Celebrating our Present, Creating our Future. 6 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The evening program features international entertainer Daniel Cainer. Trustee Members celebrating five years of giving will be honored, and the Eleanor Sue Finkelstein Award for Special Needs will be presented to Jerry Hulick. Gourmet kosher dinner. Tickets \$218+. www.jccnv.org, 703-323-0880.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3-SUNDAY/DEC. 7 Snow Day. 10:30 a.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. One cold December morning, a young girl named Skip wakes up to find the entire neighborhood covered in a thick, dazzling blanket of white snow. \$8. 703-967-0437 or www.artsonthehorizon.org.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Muriel Jeddlicka (left), admissions director of Oakwood School in Annandale, was on hand at The Exceptional Schools Fair to share information with parents.

An Exceptional Education

Exceptional Schools Fair offers parents a chance to learn more about schools for their children with special needs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Maureen Kleinman wandered from booth to booth, speaking with representatives from schools that cater to students who have special needs. She asked questions about each school's resources and environment.

"I have been home schooling my daughter for 5 years," said Kleinman, an Arlington mother. Her daughter is 11 years old and her son is 9. "I want to find a school where my daughter's educational needs will be met, but also where her social and emotional needs will be met."

Kleinman was one of hundreds of local parents who attended the eighth annual Exceptional Schools Fair. The event is considered a clearinghouse for the region, a place where parents of children think and learn differently (regardless of their disability) can come and find the schools that are right for their children.

More than 30 schools from the mid-Atlantic region sent representatives to show what their schools have to offer and answer questions from parents. The event was held at American University in D.C., November 16.

The fair was founded by Bekah Atkinson, director of admissions at the Sienna School, to provide a resource for parents whose lives literally changed overnight, or the moment they learned their chil-

dren have a special need. The fair is a forum for parents to explore educational options for their children. Atkinson is clear, however, that it is not a forum for diagnosis or advice, but simply a helpful resource for parents who are facing an unknown future for their children, educationally, financially and emotionally.

"We have families coming from all over," said Tara Nappi, director of teacher education and curriculum development at Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. "They are looking for a place where their children feel safe."

EVENT ORGANIZERS described the fair as an empowering day for parents who may feel isolated by their child's diagnosis.

"The Exceptional Schools Fair is a moment for families to see and learn that they have options; that they are not, in fact, isolated; that there are professional educators who are passionate about what they do in their school," said Atkinson.

"Whether [the need] is academic or social, it's so incredibly important that you work with professionals who understand your child and who are willing to collaborate with other professionals like speech therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists," said Lois McCabe, head of school for the Diener School in Potomac, Md.

For more information on schools that were part of The Exceptional Schools Fair, visit www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com.

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Lake Braddock Boys' XC Wins State Championship

Corbett wins 6A individual title, Murphy is girls' runner-up.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

In search of his first cross country state championship, Lake Braddock senior Alex Corbett entered Saturday's state meet as Group 6A's best runner on its best team.

In 2013, Corbett finished runner-up in the individual competition while the Bruins placed second in the team standings, finishing a mere two points behind Chantilly. This year, Corbett and the Lake Braddock boys' team won the Conference 7 and 6A North region races and were favored to win it all at states.

CORBETT, however, didn't find comfort in lofty expectations or positive prognostication.

"Over my high school career, I'm kind of used to being the underdog," Corbett said, "so coming in as the team and individual favorite, I actually didn't really like that that much. I just tried not to think about it."

While Corbett prefers underdog status, being the favorite Saturday didn't stop him or the Bruins from bringing home the hardware.

Corbett won the individual championship and the Lake Braddock boys' team captured their first state title since 1987 with a dominant performance on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

Corbett crossed the finish line with a time of 15:08.

"I'm so proud of that kid," head coach Michael Mangan said.

Eleven seconds later, fellow Bruin Kevin Monogue placed second at 15:19. Junior Colin Schaefer also earned all-state honors for Lake Braddock, placing seventh with a time of 15:39.

Lake Braddock finished with a score of 41. West Springfield finished runner-up



Lake Braddock senior Alex Corbett won the 6A boys' individual state championship with a time of 15:08 on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

with a total of 92. Two-time defending state champion Chantilly placed third with a score of 105, followed by Oakton (124), Robinson (146) and Cosby (177).

"Coming in here, there was a little bit of pressure on me and my team," Corbett said. "We did everything this season we had to do to get this done. We came here to do business and we got it done."

Lake Braddock junior Ben Fogg finished 18th with a time of 16:10, and sophomore Evan Chase was 28th (16:24).

"One of the last things we talked about [prior to the race] was, this is business," Mangan said. "We have done all our investing, we picked all the right stocks, we think, we've done all that and now it's time to cash in on our investment. This is just business."

One year after falling two points shy of a title, the Bruins took pair of business, capturing the second boys' team state championship in program history.

"We waited 365 days," Mangan said, "to fix what happened last year."



Lake Braddock sophomore Kate Murphy placed second in the 6A girls' race on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

THE LAKE BRADDOCK GIRLS' TEAM finished runner-up behind Oakton, which repeated as state champs.

Oakton finished with a score of 44, followed by Lake Braddock (58), Madison (83), Patriot (96), Ocean Lakes (164), Cosby (184), West Springfield (185), Robinson (187), Forest Park (256), Stafford (258), Western Branch (262) and Tallwood (293).

"We ran lights out," Mangan said, "Oakton was just really good today."

Lake Braddock sophomore Kate Murphy placed second with a time of 17:54, finishing 11 seconds behind Patriot sophomore and state champion Rachel McArthur (17:43).

"We went out in the [first] mile pretty fast," Murphy said. "I felt good [after the first] mile and I was like, why not go for it? There's nothing stopping me."

Murphy made a name for herself as a freshman during track season, but needed some work to be a successful cross country runner, Mangan said. After recording a time

of 20:10 at the 2013 state cross country meet, Murphy shaved 2 minutes, 16 seconds as a sophomore.

"She really became a player in track, but cross country is different," Mangan said. "We knew she's good, but it took a little while for her to realize how you do this. ... She's done a great job of learning."

Lake Braddock junior Daly Ferguson placed seventh with a time of 18:25, earning all-state honors. Just two years earlier, Ferguson was struggling as a ninth-grader. She ran the slowest time of all Lake Braddock freshmen at the 2012 Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park.

"She was not good," Mangan said. "She has made herself into a first-team all-state kid. She has no extreme talent, [but] she has ... toughness. ... [I'm] so proud of what she did. That's just phenomenal."

"We have done all our investing, we picked all the right stocks, we think, we've done all that and now it's time to cash in on our investment. This is just business."

— Lake Braddock XC coach Michael Mangan

"... As a freshman, she was horrible, to the point that her mom even told her it was OK if she didn't want to do it anymore."

Lake Braddock freshman Sarah Daniels finished 17th (18:49), junior Sonya Butseva finished 19th (19:00) and senior Sarah Riley took 20th (19:03).

Next up for Bruin harriers is the Nike Southeast regional meet on Nov. 29 in Cary, N.C.

Favorites Dominate in Football Playoffs

Seven of the top-eight seeds won during the first round of the 6A North region football playoffs on Nov. 14.

No. 1 Centreville, the defending state champion, blasted No. 16 Stonewall Jackson, 56-14. No. 2 Westfield beat No. 15 Langley 47-20.

No. 3 Lake Braddock beat No. 14 Oakton by 30, 44-14. No. 4 Battlefield defeated No. 13 Annandale 49-20. No. 5 South County continued to pour on the points, beating No. 12 Robinson 50-23.

No. 5 South County continued to roll up

the points, beating No. 12 Robinson 50-23. No. 6 West Springfield defeated No. 11 Washington-Lee 38-20.

No. 10 Chantilly upset No. 7 Chantilly 49-35, and No. 8 Patriot thumped No. 9 Yorktown 48-21.

Centreville (9-2) will host Patriot (9-2) in the region quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21. Westfield (10-1) will host Chantilly (6-5) at 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock (9-2) will host West Springfield (9-2) and South County (10-1) will travel to face Battlefield (10-1)



The West Springfield defense takes down Washington-Lee running back Daquay Harris during the teams' first-round playoff matchup on Friday.

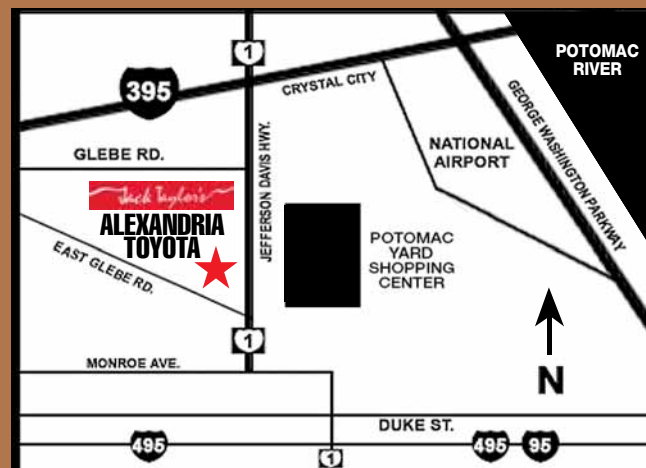
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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Matsu Sushi, Inc trading as BBQ 21, 11272 James Stuart Circle, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine on Premises, Mixed beverage Restaurant(seating capacity 1-100) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Kyu Huh, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Opici Family Distributing of Virginia, LLC trading as Opici Family Distributing of Virginia, 7664 A Fullerton Rd, Springfield, VA 22153. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer Wholesaler & Importer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Dina Opici, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as

2665 Prosperity Avenue, #402, Fairfax, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Don Michael Stoops, dated September 29, 2006, and recorded October 2, 2006, in Deed Book 18803 at page 60 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Court House for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Unit 402, HALSTEAD AT THE METRO II, A CONDOMINIUM, and the limited common elements appurtenant thereto, including limited common element garage space/parking space G4-050, established by condominium instruments recorded in Deed Book 18395 at page 1876 and any supplemental declarations and/or amendments recorded subsequent thereto among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 2665 Prosperity Avenue, #402, Fairfax, Virginia 22031.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 2.625 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
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DECEMBER 5, 2014

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

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DECEMBER 5, 2014

Taxes may be paid in person Monday – Friday
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Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall

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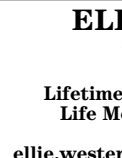
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