

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION



Colonial Christmas

NEWS, PAGE 6

Inside
**Holiday
Entertainment
& Gift Guide 2014**

For the
Perfect Gift,
Try Hydrangea
of Clifton

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 10

Lorton Boy
Donates Arrowhead
to Smithsonian

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Rita Stankwitz of Clifton (center) and Vicki Albert of Mount Vernon (right) construct a snowy, woodland manger scene for the Pohick Church Christmas Mart.

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.



(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.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Thomas Jefferson teacher Dr. John Dell explains a rare, powerful X-ray machine and desktop electron microscope in the new quantum physics and optics lab.

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.

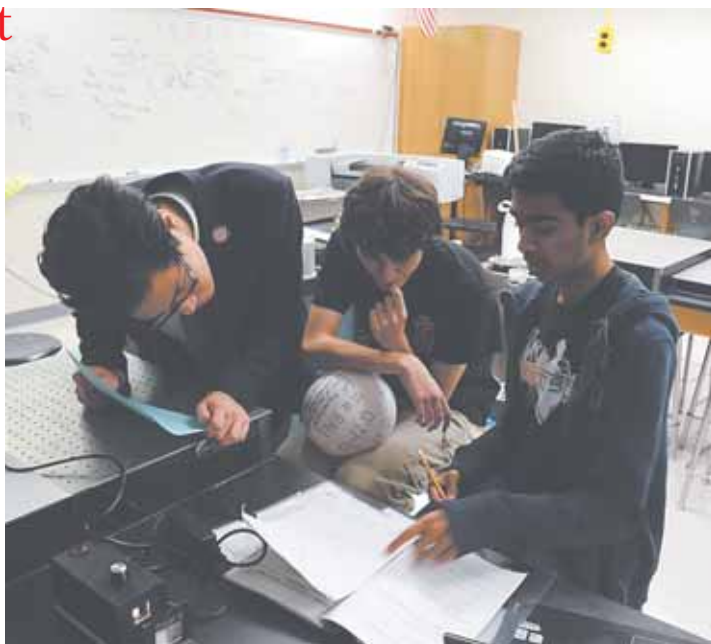
The transportation and robotics labs received numerous structural upgrades from their former facilities, including lighting and a more open floorplan with large garage doors.

“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.

“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



(From left) Justin Yum of Woodbridge, Jacob Benheim of Fairfax, Nihar Gudiseva of Herndon study afterschool in the new wing’s quantum physics and optics lab.

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 cottages 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.”



Dr. Dan Burden stands in the new JUMP Lab (Jefferson Underclassmen Multidiscipline Projects), an open work space, connected with a hallway-commons area, to enable younger students to develop research ideas before they have full access to the more specialized labs.

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.

Lorton Boy Donates Arrowhead to Smithsonian

Ten-year-old Noah Cordle of Lorton became an overnight celebrity in August after literally stumbling upon a thousands of years-old arrowhead while on vacation in Long Beach Island, N.J. The Asbury Park Press first broke the story and soon national newspapers and television programs were hounding the Cordles for interviews.

Earlier this month, Noah decided to donate the stone to the Smithsonian Institution for an exhibition underway including arrowheads and other clovis points. The Archaeological Society of New Jersey president Greg Lattanzi determined Noah's stone is jasper, between 8,000 and 11,000 years old.

Dennis Stanford, a Paleoindian archaeologist with the Smithsonian's department of an-

thropology, invited Noah and his mother Andrea to visit the museum and hand off the artifact. Stanford showed Noah other pieces that are similar to the one he found.

"It was pretty cool," said Noah. "I learned what it was used to hunt with, what animals they hunted, like mammoths and mastodons."

Andrea said the experience was a great educational one for her son. "This was not on his radar at all," she said. "The Ice Age, the Paleoindian thing. The learning's been incredible."

Noah will receive a replica of the arrowhead he found and is happy to step out of the spotlight, for now.

"I still feel like a celebrity, kind of," he said. "I'm ready to go back to being a normal kid."

—TIM PETERSON



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDREA CORDLE

Dennis Stanford (left) with the Smithsonian accepts the centuries-old arrowhead from Noah Cordle (right).



Noah Cordle (right) of Lorton, checks out clovis points at the Smithsonian, similar to the artifact he donated.

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 Fiset 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," Fiset said at the conference.

Though the announcement drew frustration 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 version of the statement he planned to deliver to the board, after they made their decision.

"Today the Fairfax County Board of Su-

pervisors 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.

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.

FAITH

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.

Are You 50 or Better? Join the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, Nov. 20, (12-2 p.m.) at Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence, 6304 Lee Chapel Rd, Burke. The Program will feature Jari Villaneuva, a Bugler, speaking on The History of Taps. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry, 703-620-0161, by Nov. 14. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See www.scfbva.org for more information.

Thanksgiving Day Service will be held on Nov. 27, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the First Church of Christ, Scientist at 5315 Backlick Rd., Springfield, 703-941-7540. Thanksgiving is a time for sharing gratitude and acknowledging God's blessings. The public is invited to join in this day of giving thanks.

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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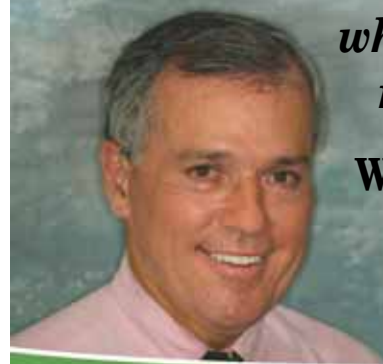


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NEWS

(From left) Vicki Albert of Mount Vernon, Faith Chudzik of Mason Neck, Rita Stankwitz of Clifton and Connie Myers of Springfield decorate the Pohick Church office in preparation for the Christmas Mart.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Colonial Christmas

Christmas Mart returns to Pohick Church in Lorton for 55th year.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Turkey salad, green beans, cranberry sauce, stuffed celery, pumpkin pie, coffee and tea: Anita Stribling has helped serve the same holiday meal for 300 people for 52 years.

Each year, the Lorton resident manages a team of waitresses adorned in colonial garb as they feed three sittings of guests at the Episcopal Pohick Church Christmas Mart in Lorton.

"Most of us volunteers are old," said Stribling, "but we can serve 100 people every hour: serve, set up, clean, pretty darn efficient."

The local congregation of George Washington and George Mason, the historic Pohick church buildings host a Christmas mart every year on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. What began as a spontaneous holiday tea by the women of the church has grown steadily to include crafters from around Virginia and Maryland, and a fresh homemade meal that draws military on their lunch break from Fort Belvoir, county elected officials and community members.

Sixteen different crafters this year will showcase jewelry, knit and crocheted goods, stained glass and peanut brittle, in addition to the church's own apple butter.

The menu stays the same, year after year. "Why reinvent the wheel? Everyone seems to like it," said

Springfield resident Connie Myers. Myers grew up in the church and has coordinated the mart and captained the kitchen in particular for the last two decades.

"I love coming here," she said. "It's just been a part of my life, my daughters grew up here as well. Everyone here is just so warm and welcoming."

The lunch takes place in the basement of the church office building, though the main church sanctuary will be open during the day. For the first time, members of the docent guild will be in the church, dressed in colonial clothing, interacting with visitors as "living history players."

Women groups within the church use the mart as a major fundraiser for their community work. The Martha Guild and the Ann Mason Guild support community-building projects year-round.

"Outreach is basically the reason we do this," said Myers. "We're very supportive of Lorton Community Action Center and New Hope Housing. Those are our biggies for both groups." The guilds also work with Fort Belvoir's Fisher House for wounded service members.

"George [Washington] went here, slept here too," Myers said. "We want to let people know this is an active church."

Stribling said the church members have also held a coat collection, gathered food for Thanksgiving baskets, hosted a Santa Claus breakfast and dinner for the homeless in the area.

"We really have a good time," Stribling said. "That's why we keep doing it. We enjoy each other's company and the aspect of doing something good."

The Pohick Church Christmas Mart runs Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Seatings for lunch are at 11 a.m., 12 and 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the door for \$11 per person.

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Richard Lindsay Receives Friends of the Fairfax Station Lifetime Membership Award

Friends of the Fairfax Station President, Jack Migliaccio, presented a Lifetime Membership award to Mow Cow Founder and President, Richard Lindsay on Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Lindsay and his wife, Cindy Smith, attended the monthly NTRAK model train show and received recognition for the many years of service Mow Cow has donated to the Museum with lawn care, snow removal and station maintenance.



BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumbers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Saturday Morning Coffee with Del. David Bulova. 9-11 a.m. Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, Fairfax. Delegate Bulova represents Virginia's 37th House District, which includes the City of Fairfax and portions of Fairfax County. He serves on the General Laws, Education, and Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources committees. He is also a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the State Water Commission, the Joint Commission on Health Care, and the Housing Commission.

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumbers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.

NVRC Collecting Blankets for Refugees. Several Fairfax County locations. Northern Virginia Regional Commission will collect blankets to help Syrian refugees. For more information, go to www.helpsyrianrefugees.net/

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Linda Lau, BHS Treasurer, will give a presentation on the development of American Christmas traditions. Last year, Linda told the story of Thanksgiving Day and its customs. This month, she'll explain the history of the Christmas traditions that we hold dear, including the Christmas tree, its decorations, and, of course, Santa Claus.

MONDAY/NOV. 24

Library Resource 411. 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Sign up for one-on-one time to get help with using the library's physical and online resources for fun or to do research. Adult, all ages. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice your English. Adult. Gloria Monick, gsmonick@aol.com, 703-250-0877.

One-on-One English Practice. 7 and 8 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice speaking, reading and writing English with a volunteer partner. Ages 8 through adult are welcome. 703-249-1520.

Library Tech Help. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Please bring your library card, eBook reader and laptop.



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2. not appreciated or understood.
3. no longer owned or known



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OPINION

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. 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.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and res-

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).

Christmas at Mount Vernon, Daily, Nov. 28 - Jan. 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 George Washington Memorial Pkwy, Mount Vernon, Regular Estate admission. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees) and historical chocolate-making demonstrations will be offered. Tour the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion and learn how the Washingtons celebrated Christmas. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for the enjoyment of his guests. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet a camel on the grounds.

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,

cue 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

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 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.

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival, Dec. 12 - 14, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dulles Expo Center, 320 Chantilly Shopping Center Drive, Chantilly, 800-210-9900, Adults: \$8 online, \$10 at the door; Children under 12: free; Parking: free. More than 250 artisans will display and sell their handcrafted work.

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.

online. Many will answer the call of the big 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

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

white coaches emerge and begin their journey up the long hill. A cry goes up from the crowd, 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,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGOT BADEN
Margot Baden, a junior at W.T. Woodson (right), with her roommate Hitomi Nakashima, participating in Independence Day celebration.

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, re

SEE WOODSON, PAGE 9

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
CONNECTION

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Woodson Senior a High School Diplomat

FROM PAGE 8

ceive 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 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 coun-

terparts 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.

I would highly recommend applying for this program if you are a sophomore or junior who seeks a unique experience in which there is unlimited opportunity for personal growth, new friendships, and further understanding of diplomacy. It is such an incredible and indescribable experience to get to know and make connections with individuals from the other side of the world, to learn about their day-to-day experiences, and to see the similarities and differences between you.

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.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Van Metre Homes Launches Redesigned App on iTunes App Store

Van Metre Homes has launched of their newly redesigned ‘VanMetreHomes’ app, available on the iTunes App Store. The application will directly connect potential buyers and real estate agents with immediately available homes, along with Van Metre’s community information, and latest promotional offers throughout Loudoun and Prince William Counties in Virginia.

Following the fresh concept as seen on VanMetreHomes.com, the Van Metre Homes app displays interior and exterior shots for each listed model, while providing users with detailed amenity information, email contacts, direct agent phone numbers, as well as Google Maps integrated directions for each home location.

As an integral feature of the new app, a real-time updated listing of immediate move-in homes is at the forefront, allowing users to actively pursue their potential dream home within the Van Metre Homes marketplace.

The application is operational with the newest iPhone software (Version 7.2 and newer), and is available for free on the App Store.

For more information on Van Metre Homes and a listing of all their communities, visit www.VanMetreHomes.com.

December 5-6, 2014

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Holiday Marketplace
 Saturday, Dec 6 from 10 am - 4 pm

The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade
 Saturday, Dec 6 begins at 11 am

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 Saturday, Dec 6 from 11 am - 4 pm

For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 549-0111.



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FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON CONNECTION ♦ NOVEMBER 20-26, 2014 ♦ 9

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

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO

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.

Bill, engineer, and Lisa Getz, attorney, Fairfax Station: “We like to hike. We like to cook up things from the farmers market. We go to Fountainhead Regional Park. We go on the Bull Run Trail.”



Mary Zempoloch, physician’s assistant, Clifton: “Go to craft shows. Hike. Get outdoors as much as I can before it gets really cold. I go to Great Falls a lot and Old Rag.”



Carmen Escalera, works part-time at an architectural builder firm, Springfield: “Watch football games.”



Jamee Iglesias, nurse, Springfield: “Pumpkin carving, getting together with friends, making cider. Fall is actually my favorite season. If the weather permits maybe go to the wineries. The leaves are changing right now so the leaves are spectacular. I go to wineries usually in Leesburg.”



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.”



From left, Makenzie, 9, Chelsea, 7, Colbert, Barbara Pope, engineer in Springfield, of Fort Washington, Md.: “During the Fall I like to go down on the Mall and look at the leaves and see them change colors. Or, I like to go down to the Shenandoah Valley; and I like to ride through the Allegheny mountains and look at the leaves.”



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE



Tokyo Milk perfumes, soaps and lotions in complex, multi-layered fragrances from \$12 to \$38.



Nest Home fragrance candles and reed diffusers from \$14 to \$39.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

For the Perfect Gift, Try Hydrangea of Clifton

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Look no further than Hydrangea of Clifton. Owned by Jennifer Heilmann, who ran the former Baskets & Boughs in the same location from 1996-2007, Hydrangea is her new gift and home boutique located on Chapel Road in Clifton. Decked out for the holidays, the quaint 450 square foot store that opened in November 2013 offers charming accents, NEST home fragrances, reclaimed wood serving trivets and boards, teak and olive wood utensils, a collection of greenery, faux botanicals, or flowers, and fine rattan baskets and trays. The shop carries a selection of Mariposa serving pieces made from 100 percent re-

cycled heavy aluminum. For bath and body, it offers delicately scented soap, lotion or bubble bath. For personal accessories, choose from toiletry and make up cases, pocket mirrors with initial monograms and coordinating items such as tissue covers, eyeglass cases, travel shoe bags and jewelry pouches. Gift wrapping is always complimentary. The merchandise comes from small independently owned American companies, especially those that are environmentally conscious. Hydrangea of Clifton is at 12704 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA, 20124. Call 703-543-6944 or visit www.hydrangeaofclifton.com.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Barr-Co. bath and body products include soaps, lotions, candles, bath salts and bubbles from \$11 to \$32.



Hydrangea of Clifton offers lots of seasonal decorations, home fragrances, potpourri and ornaments.



Reclaimed European wood serving trivets and cutting boards from \$64 to \$150.



Mariposa serving pieces, frames, and gifts made of 100 percent recycled aluminum from \$17 to \$185.



Picture frames with matching clocks made of fine Italian woods and handcrafted in the USA from \$18 to \$42.

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Judy Ryan

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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 McGuire Woods 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

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 masterpiece. 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

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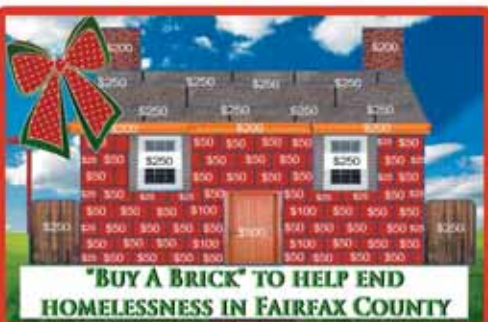
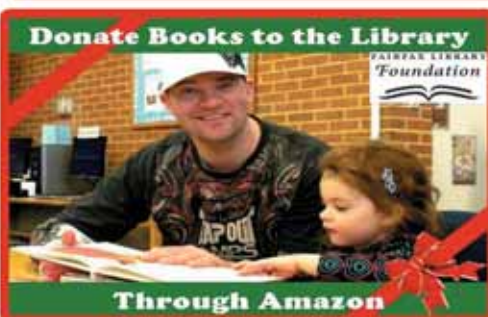
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CALENDAR

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 Knippling 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.

An Exceptional Education

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,



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.

director of admissions at the Sienna School, to provide a resource for parents whose lives literally changed overnight, or the moment they learned their children have a special need. The fair is a forum for parents to ex-

plore 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, edu-

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

cationally, 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.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday.

DECEMBER

Publishing

Wellbeing.....12/3/14

HomeLifeStyle: Home for the Holidays... 12/10/14

Hanukkah begins December 16.

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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.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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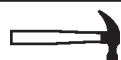
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21 Announcements

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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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Fairfax \$550,000
Great outdoor & indoor space! Comfortable Colonial with 4BR/2.5BA, gas fireplace, beautiful main level ceramic tile flooring, hardwoods on UL, & remodeled kitchen. A great slate patio, front porch with swing, & nice fully fenced backyard with over-sized shed add to the wonderful outdoor space. Plus, new roof, vinyl siding, triple pane windows, new HVAC (gas heat) and more! Close to schools with Metrobus on the corner.



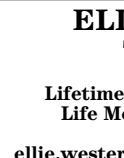
Burke \$615,000
Classic Colonial
Spacious 5 BR, 3.5 BA with finished LL Rec Room. Updated kitchen and baths with granite counters. Hardwood floor in Foyer, Kitchen & Breakfast Rooms.



Richard Esposito
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Richard@LNF.com
Service is the difference I provide



Burke Centre \$415,000
This town home has 3 finished levels, 3 bedrooms, and 3.5 bathrooms. The home has been updated, new HVAC and over 1,500 square feet of living space.



ELLIE WESTER
703-503-1880
L&F Founder's Club
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer
Life Member, NVAR Million
Dollar Sales Club
ellie.wester@longandfooster.com



Fairfax \$503,900
Sunroom
The beautiful sunroom on the main level is just one of the many wonderful reasons to own this home. Gleaming hardwood on two levels, brand new carpet on the bedroom and rec room level, breathtaking back yard, patio and decking and a one car garage in the Woodson HS district.

Access the Realtors' Multiple Listing Service: www.searchvirginia.listingbook.com