

Springfield CONNECTION

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It's not too early for Santa Claus
at Springfield Town Center.

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Entertainment
& Gift Guide 2014



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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@mwco.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."



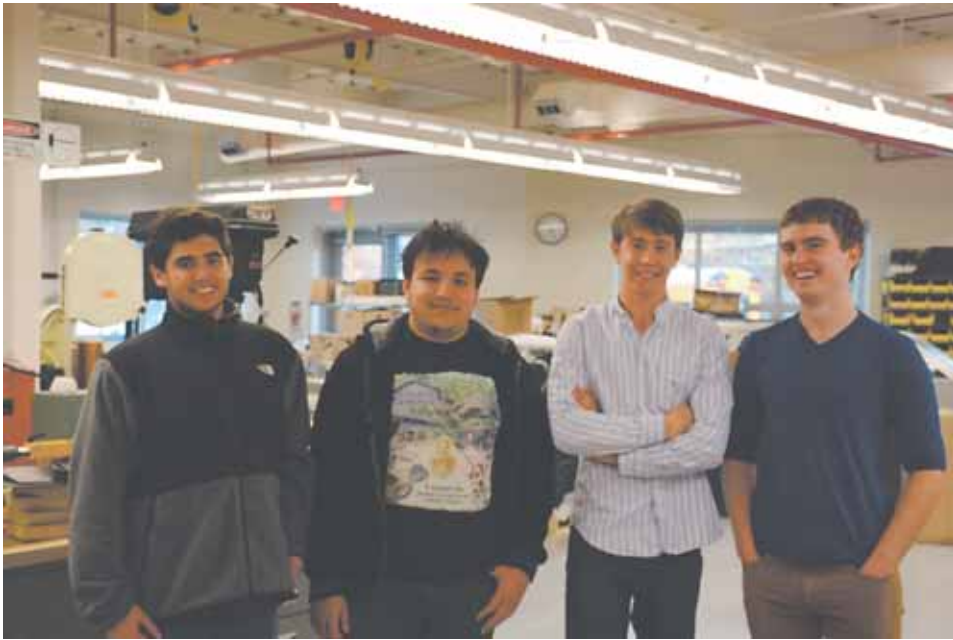
PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

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.

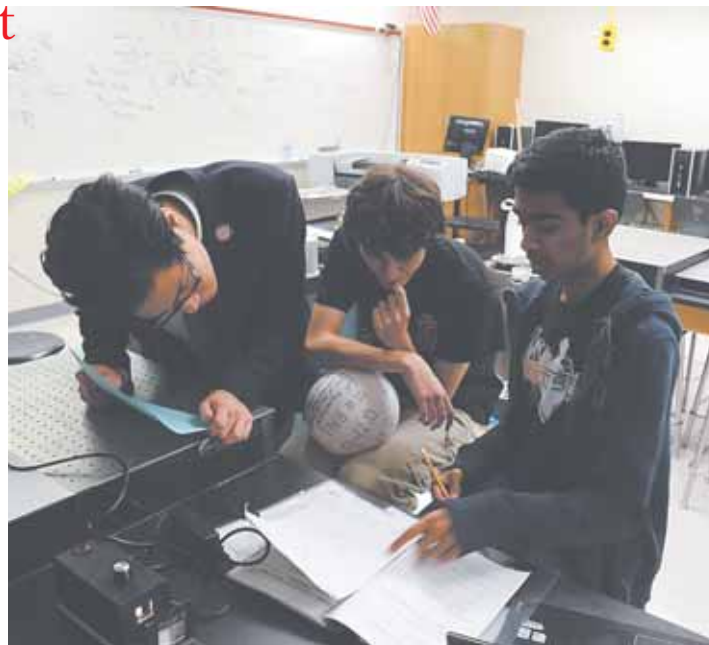
The transportation and robotics labs received numerous structural upgrades from their former facilities, including lighting and a more open floorplan with large garage doors.

“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.

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.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Crestwood Elementary School sixth grade teacher Holly Schmitz and fifth grade students Julia Bogstad, Bebe Dunlap, Angel Torres, Marjan Nawaz, Paola Gonzalez and Jennifer Avila and learn more about the barred owl they adopted and named "Sir Hoots-a-lot."

Crestwood Students in Springfield Sponsor Injured Owl

After a week-long "penny drive" fundraiser, Crestwood Elementary School fifth grader Paola Gonzalez finally got to meet her real-live school mascot. The students raised \$760 between Nov. 10 and Nov. 14 to sponsor a 1 and a half-year-old barred owl through the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia.

Fifth graders accounted for \$200, more than any other single class, and won the honor of naming the bird. They came up with "Sir Hoots-a-lot." Previous penny drives have benefited victims of Hurricane Sandy and the Fairfax Animal Shelter.

"It's really exciting, knowing we have a real, natural mascot," said Gonzales. "I feel so thankful, giving the money, because they need it."

The Raptor Conservancy is a nonprofit with round-the-clock surgical capability that takes in injured and orphaned local birds of prey. With 20 non-releasable birds and up to 70 birds in rehabilitation at any one time, the organization spends about \$1,000 per week on food.

"We receive state and federal controls and rules," said Kent Knowles with the Raptor Conservancy, "but zero funding, all donations." Raising a heavy-gloved hand with the owl perched, Knowles said, "None of these guys pay their own bills."

Knowles believes Sir Hoots-a-lot was hit by a car, suffered bilateral detached retinas and can't be released into the wild. Otherwise, the bird is healthy and should live another 12 to 15 years.

Fifth grader Ashley Rodriguez came up with the name for the owl. "You know you're doing something good to help an animal in need," she said.

Car strikes are common for birds of prey, according to Knowles, because they go after mice and other small rodents lured to roadways for food discarded by humans. He encouraged anyone who hits a bird or sees an injured bird to call the Conservancy, animal control or the state game warden.

—TIM PETERSON

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.



NEWS

'Not Guilty' Pleas in Fairfax Crimes

Jesse Matthew also charged in Hannah Graham case.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



Matthew

On Oct. 20, a Fairfax County grand jury indicted Jesse L. Matthew Jr. in connection with a 2005 attack on a 26-year-old City of Fairfax woman. Last week, he officially entered his pleas in Circuit Court, and now the case against him is moving forward in the judicial system.

The crime occurred Sept. 24, 2005 around 10 p.m. The victim had just finished grocery shopping at the Jermantown Road Giant Foods store and was on her way home on foot, carrying her groceries, when she was assaulted.

According to City of Fairfax police, the woman lived three or four blocks from the Giant, in the Oxford Row townhouses on Rock Garden Drive. She was walking down her street and had nearly reached her steps when, said police, a man grabbed her from behind and carried her to the park/swimming-pool area. There, he choked and sexually assaulted her and then fled; he was last seen running south toward Fairhaven Court.

Police investigated, but years passed and, although the case remained open, nothing significant hap-

pened until summer 2010, when a positive DNA match was made, tying the murderer of a college student to the Fairfax woman's assailant.

That student was 20-year-old Virginia Tech sophomore Morgan Harrington, who vanished outside a Metallica concert in Charlottesville in October 2009. Morgan's body was found in a pasture three months later; and in summer 2010, authorities linked her killer's DNA to the person who abducted and sexually assaulted the Fairfax woman in September 2005.

According to court records, DNA evidence obtained from one of the Fairfax victim's fingernails after her attack reportedly matches Matthew's DNA. She's currently out of the country, but is expected to return to Virginia to testify against him at his trial.

Matthew, 32, of Charlottesville, is charged with attempted capital murder, abduction with intent to defile and object sexual penetration in connection with her case. Last Friday, he pleaded not guilty to each offense. Judge Dennis Smith then set his trial date for March 9, 2015. Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh is the prosecutor; public defender Dawn Butorac is representing Matthew.

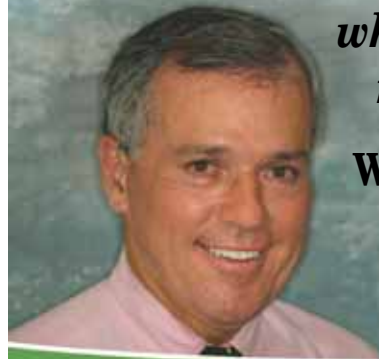
Matthew is also charged in Charlottesville with abduction with intent to defile UVA student Hannah Graham, whose body was found last month.

Authorities say surveillance footage shows Matthew with her shortly before she disappeared on Sept. 13, 2014.

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NEWS

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and National Family Caregivers Month. The month is designed to celebrate the efforts of caregivers, and raise awareness about both the disease and resources that have been designed specifically with families in mind.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

November Raises Awareness and Celebrates Caregivers

Resources available for people living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Mary Driver-Downs has been one of the primary caregivers for her mother-in-law, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, for the past six years. It has been a difficult journey, but one she says is well worth it.

In fact, she has become a spokesperson and a role model for other caretakers of those who suffer from the disease. Caregivers often overlook self-care, she says.

"Taking care of myself is the most difficult part of care giving," said Driver-Downs, an Alzheimer Ambassador. "I have learned lots of little things that seem to help. I am more aware that I need to get adequate sleep so I make it a point to sleep when I should. Sometimes that means I turn in earlier than most people. Being rested helps me cope with the stress of daily care."

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and National Family Caregivers Month. The Alzheimer's Association, an organization founded by caregivers, celebrates the efforts of caregivers, and raises awareness about both the disease and innovative resources that have been designed specifically with families in mind.

One of the issues that many families of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease face is denial.

"Unfortunately, this is a very common problem," said Maureen Charlton, helpline program coordinator at the Alzheimer's Association's National Capital Area Chapter in Fairfax. "The person who is showing symptoms is often seemingly in denial about their condition. Part of it may be some true denial as they see changes in themselves and are scared to think of what it might be, and the other part is people sometimes lose the ability to have insight into their deficits."

"It can be helpful to encourage the person to go to the doctor for another reason [such as a] Medicare

Resources

Alzheimer's Association Helpline (1-800-272-3900): This toll-free 24/7 helpline is staffed by masters-level counselors and provides information and guidance in more than 170 languages and dialects.

The Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Center (alz.org/care): This site provides more than 70 pages of information and easy access to resources, such as:

- ❖ Community Resource Finder: Find local resources.
- ❖ Care Team Calendar: Coordinate caregiving responsibilities among family and friends.
- ❖ Safety Center: Access information and resources for safety inside and outside of the home, wandering and getting lost, and dementia and driving.

ALZConnected, powered by the Alzheimer's Association (alzconnected.org): The first social networking community designed for people living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

annual wellness visit or a checkup for another medical issue. If at all possible, provide the physician some information in advance of this visit."

The Institute for Innovations in Caregiving, a statewide effort to help ease the burdens of those who care for ailing seniors, especially those with Alzheimer's named two George Mason University faculty members, Catherine Tompkins and Frank J. Whittington, to the institute's advisory council.

The institute aims to preserve and improve the physical and emotional wellness of family caregivers by helping them manage emotional stressors and tough decisions. It also will try to improve caregivers' access to the latest technologies and community resources.

"Caregiving, whether by a spouse, a child, a parent, a sibling or a friend, is one of the hardest and most rewarding jobs any of us can ever undertake,"

Whittington said. "Most caregivers accept and embrace the role without hesitation, but in time, the responsibility can become physically and emotionally overwhelming. The [Institute for Innovations in Caregiving] is an exciting, innovative venture to support, educate and celebrate caregivers in Virginia, and I believe it can become a model for other states to follow."

There are 130,000 people living with Alzheimer's and 447,000 unpaid caregivers in Virginia, according to the Alzheimer's Association. For more information on Alzheimer's disease or available resources, visit alz.org or call 1-800-272-3900.

"Caregiving, whether by a spouse, a child, a parent, a sibling or a friend, is one of the hardest and most rewarding jobs any of us can ever undertake."

**— Frank J. Whittington,
George Mason University**



PHOTO BY MARY SUE GARNER

Greenspring resident Hazel Poole receives the 2014 Community Champions Award at the annual Molina Healthcare of VA Awards Dinner.

Hazel Poole Receives 2014 Community Champions Award

On Oct. 30, Molina Healthcare of VA held their fourth annual Community Champions Awards Dinner and honored citizens who positively affect the health and well-being of others. Greenspring resident, Hazel Poole, was presented with a 2014 Community Champions Award for her extensive volunteer work with Greenspring's English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) program.

"I accept this award in honor of the current ESL program tutors and for all those who have been a part of the program," said Poole. "When I first started the program, I did not realize how successful it would be and how many lives it would touch. We have seen our students improve their communication skills with their supervisors, colleagues, and the residents of Greenspring. It is why we keep on giving our time and effort to help these very hardworking students."

Since 2002, Poole has volunteered to organize three 10-week courses per year for employees of Greenspring to study ESL with a resident volunteer tutor. More than 280 employees, most of them residents of Fairfax County, have attended and successfully completed the

courses. At one point, there were ESL students from 17 different countries enrolled in the program. Many of the ESL students have used the skills acquired through the courses to apply for and become U.S. citizens. Over the years, Poole's efforts have also inspired over 50 Greenspring residents to become ESL tutors.

"Mrs. Poole has our respect and admiration for bringing the ESL program to life at Greenspring and for ensuring that it keeps going strong year after year," said Elke Martin, Volunteer Programs Coordinator at Greenspring.

Many of the residents who've assisted as tutors for the program over the years were able to attend the Awards Dinner along with Poole, including Mary Sue Garner, Millie Monahan, Elaine Baush, Mary Nadeau, Lore Schneider, and Frances Huenemann. Huenemann, one of the first residents of Greenspring, has been assisting with the ESL program since its inception.

"It's one of my favorite things to do at Greenspring," said Huenemann. "It's been a pleasure to get to know these employees, and it's really a joy to see what a difference it makes."

WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

'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.

NEWS

Westwood Baptist Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The first service of Westwood Baptist Chapel was held on Sept. 24, 1961 at the Washington Irving Intermediate School with 37 people attending. The local Mount Vernon Baptist Association provided assistance and the first speaker was Rev. William J. Cumbie, who served as Superintendent of Missions for that Association. Membership grew from 24 to 67 people by the end of 1962. Continued growth allowed the church to start looking for its first full-time pastor. On April 1, 1964, Dr. Robert D. Whitten, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was called and preached his first sermon. The chapel was officially organized as Westwood Baptist Church on June 7, 1964, with 95 charter members.

Dr. Whitten led the church in four major building programs during his 35 years as pastor. The church reached out to the community with support of programs like Mother's Day Out cooperative preschool, ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others), Vacation Bible School, sponsoring a Vietnamese and a Laotian refugee family, ESOL classes, housing a Chinese-speaking mission and then a Spanish-speaking mission, and by starting a new Baptist mission now called South Run Baptist Church.

Dr. James K. Abernathy was called as the second pastor in 2001. Community outreach programs now include Hypothermia Prevention week in connection with Fairfax County's Facets program; and Impact! Virginia—a youth program to help in repair and reconstruction of homes for those who cannot do such chores. Mission partnerships have been initiated with Persian World Outreach and ServeTrust, a ministry



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Robert D. Whitten and Dr. James K. Abernathy. Dr. Whitten led the church in four major building programs during his 35 years as pastor and Dr. Abernathy became the second pastor in 2001.

to the poor and outcast in India. Westwood has a vibrant music program for all ages, weekly classes for adults on life issues, a library filled with resources for further education in religion and family life, and programs in art, drama, video, and games to enhance Bible learning for children.

The church has invited former members to return for a Homecoming Weekend in November to help celebrate 50 wonderful years under the leadership of 2 pastors, and many additional staff and member volunteers who keep multiple programs current and relevant for today's Christians.

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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.

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

Springfield CONNECTION

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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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BY ALAN ATCKBOURN

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CHECK OUT SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, 11/29.**

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 & GIFT GUIDE

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



The new Regal Cinemas 12.



The Food Court has a Sarku Japanese restaurant.

Springfield Town Center Opens in Time for Holidays

The sun-drenched and shiny new Springfield Town Center is now opened, just in time for the Holidays. In addition to anchor stores Macy’s, Target, and JCPenney, there’s a bunch of new boutique stores and restaurants like Maggiano’s, and a new Nordstrom Rack coming. Not everything has opened quite yet, but the place is bustling with shoppers eager to check out standbys like Victoria’s Secret, H&M, Loft, White House/Black Market, American Eagle Outfitters, Michael Kors, Sephora and Yankee Candle. Even Santa has already set up shop and ready to take wishlists from children.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Upscale shops such as J. Crew are at the new town center.



One of the flagship stores at the town center, JCPenney.



The new Starbucks at Springfield Town Center.



Maggiano’s Italian Restaurant from the outside.

The grand entrance stairwell to Springfield Town Center.

fireside Grill

Thanksgiving Buffet

Thursday, November 27 • 11:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

- Mixed Seafood Bisque
- Balsamic Onion Soup
- Oven Roasted Young Turkey with Giblet Gravy and Homemade Cranberry Relish
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- Salmon Teriyaki
- Rotini with Romano and Pomodoro Sauces
- Shrimp and Scallop Fettuccini
- Homemade Stuffing
- Sweet Potatoes with Honey and Cinnamon
- Three-Potato Smash
- Soffrito Rice • Jasmine Rice
- Oven Roasted Vegetable
- Mixed Green Salad • Caesar Salad
- Greek Tomato Salad with Feta
- Breads and Rolls
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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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Asian Style Miniature Dish Garden. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Come and learn to create an Asian garden scene where "East meets West." Admissions: \$45 (plus \$20 supply fee). Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring. 703-642-5173.

Garden Sprouts: Little Gobblers:

11 a.m.-12 p.m. 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Bring the little ones to learn about turkeys, habits and survival. They'll look for footprints, listen for a gooble and bring home decorations. Admissions: \$6. For ages 3-5. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring. 703-642-5173.

Family Fun: Turkey Hunt. 1-2 p.m. 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn the history of the turkey, it's importance to early Americans and track it through the Green Spring Gardens' grounds. Make table decorations to bring home. Admissions: \$6. Register online at

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

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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

Celebrate a Handcrafted Holiday!

South County High School

Craft Show

Saturday Dec 6 9a-3p

\$3 Single Admission ~ \$2 Students/Seniors
Kids under 12 FREE ~ Cookies With Santa 10a-1p
100+ Vendors ~ Handcrafted items ~ Silent Auction

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WHEN: Saturday, November 22nd, Noon - 4pm

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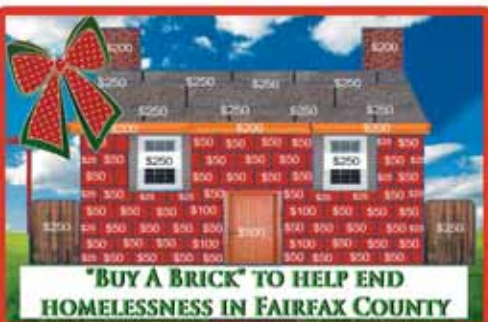
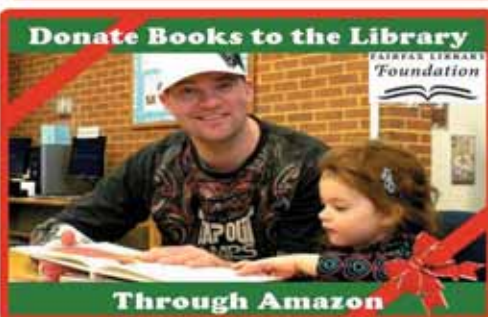
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CALENDAR

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 Knipling 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-

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.

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West Springfield Boys' XC Finishes State Runner-Up

Three Robinson harriers earn all-state.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

What West Springfield harriers lack in star power they make up for with teamwork and determination.

The Spartans' group-effort mentality paid off Saturday when the West Springfield boys' cross country team finished runner-up in Group 6A at the VHSL state meet despite having just one runner finish in the top 15.

Lake Braddock won the team championship with a score of 41. West Springfield finished with a total of 92, followed by Chantilly (105), Oakton (124), Robinson (146) and Cosby (177).

The Spartans, making their first trip to states since 2006, benefited from a trio of runners finishing within one second of one another. Senior Nahom Teshome finished 25th with a time of 16:21. Senior Evan Fabish took 26th (16:22) and junior Andrew Lackey was 27th (16:22).

"The goal all along was to get second," West Springfield head coach Chris Pellegrini said. "I'm being complimentary to our guys' team, but they're not composed of a lot of blue chip athletes. They're just kind of a bunch of guys that have put a lot of time in."

"... For them to buy into the idea that collectively they could do something, but only collectively, it means a lot because I've been trying to sell that to these guys for years."

Senior Timothy Ward led the way for West Springfield, earning all-state honors with a 10th-place finish (15:56).

"We had a good front runner in Tim Ward," Pellegrini said. "He did a great job



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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



West Springfield senior Timothy Ward earned all-state honors with a 10th-place finish in 6A during the VHSL state meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

"For them to buy into the idea that collectively they could do something, but only collectively, it means a lot because I've been trying to sell that to these guys for years."

— West Springfield XC coach Chris Pellegrini

for us and has developed quite a bit."

Senior Matt Blackburn finished 41st for West Springfield with a time of 16:35.

Lake Braddock seniors Alex Corbett (15:08) and Kevin Monogue (15:19) finished first and second, respectively.

Robinson had a pair of boys' harriers earn all-state honors. Senior Patrick Myers finished 14th with a time of 15:59, and junior Hunter Jutras placed 15th (15:59).

In the girls' race, West Springfield finished seventh with a score of 185. Oakton repeated as state champion with a score of 44, followed by Lake Braddock (58), Madison (83), Patriot (96), Ocean Lakes (164) and Cosby (184).

Patriot sophomore Rachel McArthur won the event with a time of 17:43. Robinson senior Lauren Berman placed ninth (18:29), earning all-state.

West Springfield's top finisher was Emily Keast, who finished 30th with a time of 19:18.



Lake Braddock won the second boys' cross country state championship in program history on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

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)



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

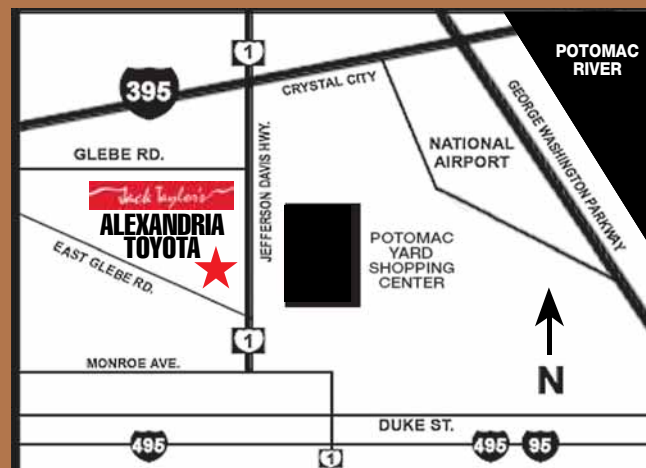
The West Springfield defense takes down Washington-Lee running back Daquay Harris during the teams' first-round playoff matchup on Friday.

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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
Substitute Trustee
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 33 feet on a 33-foot building rooftop at the approx. vicinity of 7210 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, Fairfax County, VA 22150. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Kaitlin, k.abrams@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128."

26 Antiques

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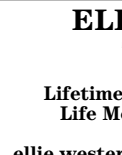
Burke \$615,000
Classic Colonial
Spacious 5 BR, 3.5 BA with finished LL Rec Room. Updated kitchen and baths with granite counters. Hardwood floor in Foyer, Kitchen & Breakfast Rooms.



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