

Seniors Making a Difference

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Jay Coakley, founder of Ellie's Hats and Beverly Kaminsky, member of the knit and crochet club. They all make the hats - but Kaminsky has made, by far, the most.

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Jodey Wolcott, Theresa Golden, Michele Roscelli, Kathy Maenza (four of the 15 or so members).



Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova, got a warm hat to protect her in the coming winter.

PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY

Seniors Making a Difference

Retirement doesn't mean slowing down, at least not for the women of the Little River Glen Senior Center: Knit and Crochet Club. The Club meets twice a week throughout the year, making scarves, hats and even some sweaters for themselves and their families, but also to benefit others.

Their colorful wares were on sale at Little River Glen's annual Community Day last Saturday. Proceeds, more than \$1,000, will go to the Veterans Administration: Commu-

nity Living Center. The Community Living Center is a long-term care home for veterans. Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova, was on hand to enjoy the festivities and make sure she got a warm hat to protect her in the coming winter.

You haven't missed your chance to purchase their homemade hats and scarves for yourself, your family and for holiday gifts. Drop by the Little River Glen Senior Center on Dec. 9 for their bake and homemade

goods sale. All proceeds from the LRG Knit and Crochet Club will benefit the VA: Community Living Center.

The Club doesn't limit itself to just one project, they have teamed up with Jay Coakley, ellieshats.org to make hats for children with cancer. Club member Beverly Kaminsky alone made 140 hats for Ellie's Hats this year. There are 13 brick and mortar senior centers in Fairfax County and two more "centers without walls" that offer programs in multiple locations. Each of the

senior centers offer opportunities for seniors who want to make a difference.

If you are interested in learning more about the county's senior centers check out [fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs). (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/>). If you are interested in volunteering at one of the senior centers or any of their programs call Volunteer Solutions at 703 324-5406. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteersolutions.htm>)

Fairfax Resident Talks Victorian Christmas at Burke Historical Society

Electricity didn't come to Burke until 1928. That meant no one could power strings of lights to decorate Christmas trees; they had to use real candles and assume the very real fire hazard risk. Fortunately, fireproof fake trees made of goose feathers or chenille had already been around since the 1880s.

Fairfax resident Linda Lau had such a tree on hand as she led a program on Victorian Christmas traditions for the Burke Historical Society (BHS). Lau is the BHS treasurer, a member of the Victorian Society of Falls Church and author and primary researcher for several books on the Victorian period including "Nippon Dolls and Playthings" and "Victorian Falls Church."

A cozy crowd of roughly 40 gathered Nov. 24 at the Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke to hear Lau discuss the development of the Christmas tree and Santa Claus. For example, the first reference to a "Christmas tree" was in 1531, and Woolworth's retail company was the first American merchant to sell glass ornaments. And they made a killing on the then-status symbols.

One recurring theme was the light-



Linda Lau of Fairfax (left) shows off her collection of Victorian Christmas decorations and toys for Mike Deloose of West Springfield (center) and others at the Nov. 23 meeting of the Burke Historical Society.

hearted, secular view of the winter holiday in the 17th and early 18th centuries.

"People have this concept of Victorian period people being uptight, rigid," said Lau. "But the evidence we have of their Christmas celebrations doesn't reflect that." Lau presented a slideshow with greeting cards depicting Santa Claus delivering presents while riding a bike, driving a car.

"We see elements of whimsy, oddities, whatever appealed to them, but no angels

or halos," said Lau.

Mike Deloose of West Springfield comes to meetings like this one because of the well-curated link to local history. "It's about seeing what other people thought would survive," he said. "People kept these things somewhere, and this group tries to connect where we're at to the last century, and the century before."

—TIM PETERSON

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Police Seek Carjacker

Fairfax County police are looking for the man who carjacked a female Friday, Nov. 7, in Fairfax. The incident occurred around 9:50 p.m. in the 3000 block of Nutley Street.



Suspect

Police say the man approached the victim in a shopping center parking lot, drew a handgun and forced her into her own vehicle.

He then made her drive to nearby banks to withdraw money. Finally, the man left the vehicle at the New Carrollton Metro Station. Detectives have a composite sketch of the suspect.

He's described as black, in his 20s, about 5 feet 10 inches, and walking with a limp. Police are working with detectives from Metro Transit police who are investigating a similar case in their jurisdiction and believe the same person may be responsible for both crimes.

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

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Patient First Facility Heading to Fairfax

Will also provide inter-parcel access to shopping center.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Patient First is opening a walk-in medical facility in the City of Fairfax. It got the go-ahead last Tuesday, Nov. 18, from the Fairfax City Council, following a public hearing.

According to Paul Nabti, senior planner with the City, it'll be 7,078 square feet and be no more than 29 feet high. It will be constructed at 10100 Fairfax Blvd., at the site of the existing Sunoco gas station and former 7-Eleven (now vacant) on the corner of Fairfax Boulevard and Plantation Parkway.

But first, the applicant, the Rebkee Co., had to obtain from the City a special-use permit for a medical-care facility in the C-2 Retail Commercial District. Special-use permits are also needed to allow access for a commercial use within the Highway Corridor Overlay District onto a local street leading to a residential neighborhood.

Rebkee also requested a special-exception permit to have a smaller area in front and to disturb land in a Resource Protection Area. Details were presented during two City Council work sessions and, again, last week.

"[City] staff doesn't see significant problems with it," said Nabti. "And the applicant proffered to allow for an inter-parcel connection to the Boulevard Marketplace Shopping Center."

PATIENT FIRST offers both primary care and urgent care. It currently has 55 medical centers in three states and all of them are successful. This one would have 12 examining rooms, offices, an X-ray room, plus laboratory and reception areas. It would be open 365 days a year, from 8 a.m.-10 p.m., and have 10-12 staff members there at all times, including a physician.

Access to the facility would be via one point each on Fairfax Boulevard and Plantation Parkway. The use is also expected to serve an average of 120 patients a day and generate much less traffic than the gas station – which planned to close up shop there, anyway.

"Doctors and nurses make good neighbors."

— Allen Griffith, Fairfax resident



Artist's rendition of the Patient First medical center planned for the City of Fairfax.

"This is a perfect site for this use," said attorney Sarah Hall, representing the applicant. "And it will be the first Patient First in the City of Fairfax. We're improving this site tremendously by only having two entrances, instead of [the current] five, and doing the inter-parcel connection. The utilities will be underground and the amount of impervious area in the Resource Protection Area will decrease tremendously. Instead, it will be planted with trees and shrubbery."

The building will go on a 1.2-acre site and, said Hall, "There'll be about a fourth of the traffic that Sunoco had. And we'll dedicate 9,400 square feet to the city at the rear of the building where the Snyder Trail will be. We'll have extensive and attractive landscaping, and the building architecture has been redesigned."

This will be a textbook example of a medical facility, and we met with 50-60 people from [nearby] Mosby Woods, a few weeks ago."

Councilman Michael DeMarco asked what came out of that meeting with the residents, and Hall said the applicant was able to correct some misimpressions they had of Patient First and its plans there. "We can do X-rays and physician care," said Hall. "We're not just flu shots and a quick in-and-out."

Various citizens spoke during the public hearing, including Woo Suh, who said he'd never use it. He said it should move to a vacant lot elsewhere and noted that "over 400 people on Facebook signed a petition against it."

Alan Glenn was disappointed that the Sunoco's leaving and said additional traffic would come from the Boulevard Marketplace cut-through. Yet Mosby Woods resident Robert Matthews said he saw no reason to deny the application.

Attorney Steve Fox, who represents the 7-Eleven owner, said his client has been looking for a viable use for it and was "happy to find an option for the entire site."



Michael DeMarco

Since that store was vacant for two years, it had been looted and vandalized. So, said Fox, "Patient first will be good for the City and I ask that it be approved."

Resident Allen Griffith agreed. "With two empty lots, my neighbors and I were concerned – and the empty 7-Eleven is an eyesore," he told the Council. "If this were not to pass, there'd be another proposal that could be less desirable. I think doctors and nurses make good neighbors. They're quiet, they've reduced the number of curb cuts and I think the cut-through will be mainly used by Mosby Woods residents. I encourage you to pass this."

Besides all that, added Hall, "The removal of the Sunoco station will also result in removing its underground [gasoline] tanks, which will be an environmental plus." Regarding the inter-parcel access, Nabti said it's recommended by the City's Comprehensive Plan to improve connectivity and access to businesses and reduce traffic on collector roads. And it's a condition of the Bou-

levard Marketplace contract that it be added when that property is redeveloped.

LOCAL TRAFFIC will be improved, said Nabti, because "Leaving just the last curb cut open on Plantation Parkway will allow nine cars to be stacked there, instead of two, as currently."

Councilman Jeff Greenfield then moved to approve the Patient First, with Councilman David Meyer seconding. Greenfield was pleased with the building's new design and the applicant's willingness to reduce its number of signs from four to three. "This will bring well-paying jobs to the City," said Greenfield. "And it will provide an option for people not wanting to spend five or six hours in a hospital emergency room."

Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt noted that the doctors and nurses will spend money in Fairfax businesses and restaurants. And Councilwoman Janice Miller said the plan also "provides pedestrian access to a mailbox and extensive landscaping." And she was pleased that the building façade will be brick and concrete, instead of white stucco as initially proposed.

Councilwoman Nancy Loftus said Patient First adds a "valuable and appreciated business to the City." And DeMarco, who lives in Mosby Woods, agreed. "By right, we could potentially have a 15,000-square-foot office building or a 12,000-square-foot retail business there," he said. "[But] this will be a low-intensity use and a better use."

He said the sidewalks will be widened to 5 feet and a modern, stormwater-runoff method will be added.

"We all ran on a platform of economic growth, and Patient First has an excellent track record," said DeMarco. "It's never closed a site in its 33-year history. There'll be 60 employees – about 33 or 34 full-time. It's appropriate for the Boulevard and I believe it'll be an asset to the City." The Council members then voted unanimously to approve it.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE 3

City Council Meets Dec. 2

The Fairfax City Council will hold a work session and special meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m., at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax.

Tickets for Lunch with Santa

Ring in the winter holidays, Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Festival of Lights and Carols at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. Children 10 and under may enjoy lunch with Santa Claus at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. that day. Tickets are \$8/child and are now on sale at the Parks and Recreation Offices in City Hall, at Sherwood Center and at Green Acres Center or via www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec.

Festival of Lights and Carols

The public is invited to enjoy live, holiday music while snacking on s'mores and hot cider on the green in front of the Sherwood Community Center. The free event is Saturday, Dec. 6, from noon-7 p.m. Then at 7:30 p.m., the City of Fairfax

Commission on the Arts is sponsoring "A Celtic Christmas with Sior-Óg. Cost is adults, \$5; children 12 and under, free. The Sherwood Center ground will be a winter wonderland throughout the holiday season, with animated lights for all to enjoy through Jan. 4. The sponsors are the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and the Bull Run Festival of Lights.

Concert of Holiday Music

The Main Street Community Band offers a wintry mix of seasonal and holiday music for the entire family. "Home for the Holidays" is set for Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road in Fairfax. Conducting is Geoffrey Seffens.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit Food for Others, which feeds Northern Virginia families in need. For ticket information, go to <http://fairfaxband.org/support/tickets.php>.

Food Drives in Fairfax

Our Daily Bread and Combined Properties are hosting Food Drives at Courthouse Plaza in Fairfax City, every Saturday from

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Holidays Are About Giving

Give thanks and share; tens of thousands of families around us are in need.

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

Surrounded by the bounty in so many neighborhoods in Northern Virginia, many of us see little signs of the massive unmet needs here. But in Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 52,000 of the students are poor enough to re-

ceive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty.

In Arlington more than 32 percent of the students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals; that's 7,452 students at last count.

EDITORIAL

In Alexandria, 8,582 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals. That's 60 percent of the 14,222 students enrolled.

These are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical

bills, car repair, heat and food. These are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school. School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again during the holiday, so let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Where to Give Locally

In no particular order:

❖ **Our Daily Bread** — has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. The Holiday Program helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for their children, making last year's holiday season brighter for approximately 3,000 families. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.com/holiday

❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), working with the Office of Coordinated Services Planning, Fairfax County

Department of Human Services, FISH helps local citizens who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>

❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, Day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178

❖ **Food for Others** distributed more than 2.4 million pounds of free food to families in need in Northern Virginia in the year ending June 30, 2012. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com

❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides

food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. www.echo-inc.org.

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. Now collecting gift cards and food baskets for Thanksgiving, gifts and food baskets for Christmas, and warm coats. 703-339-8611 www.lortonaction.org.

❖ **12 Ways of Giving:** Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships "12 Ways of Giving" campaign is an annual event that showcases many ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season, highlighting nonprofits in Fairfax County. www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

Nurturing Happy Memories

For some, memories of just a few happy moments provide arsenal for enduring.

BY JOAN BRADY

"It's my few happy memories that keep me going," a young woman who had grown up in foster care told me a few months ago.

To be honest, today I'm a little foggy on exactly what her happy memories even were. They weren't monumental experiences or achievements. They were simply moments in time when she felt happy.

One was about being near the water. Another, a meal eaten at a particular restaurant. And another, a time when she felt like she was being heard. A small arsenal of moments that she could dip into, as needed.

I haven't been able to stop thinking about that conversation. I grew up with two loving parents. While no childhood is perfect, I'd say mine was pretty close. What I keep



The importance of happy memories: Joan Brady in a selfie with her siblings, the first photo of just the four of them since childhood.

stored away are my few unhappy memories. Images I trot out when I want to wallow in a little self-pity.

But what if I could hang on to just a few good memories. And they had to be enough to keep me moving forward, from making bad choices, even from killing myself. What would they be?

Well there was my nursery school graduation. Every kid had

to stand up and perform in front of the group of proud parents. Painfully shy and paralyzed by the very idea, I distinctly remember my mother telling me that she had spoken with my teacher and I would be exempt from this particular torture. This one I'd keep as a reminder that I have a mother who had my back then and continues to now.

There was that beautiful spring

day that I walked with her down the streets of New York City, proud to be a recent college grad and excited to be going on job interviews and looking for an apartment. It would be good to hang on to a reminder to appreciate accomplishments and to embrace the next set of goals with enthusiasm.

There was the time a few years ago that my sister and brothers and I took a selfie. It was the first image of just the four of us since we were kids. There was something about that moment, enjoying each other's company and recognizing, that no matter what, these people could be counted on. Yup, definitely a memory worth hanging on to.

And maybe, one would be the moment when I recognized how lucky I am to have a treasure trove of happy memories as deep and as long as my life.

Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with paws4People, Fairfax Families4Kids, and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her at joan@joanbradyphotography.com

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LETTER

Holidays in Old Town Fairfax

To the Editor:

Old Town Fairfax is a relatively “untapped jewel”—why don’t many think of it as a destination? It’s probably because there is not enough attention focused on it, and all of the things it has to offer—from new shops and restaurants, to antiques and art! People I run into in some of the great shops just “happen” to stumble upon Old Town—when asked about it, they often reply “I drive through here a lot on Main Street, but never realized all of the things it has to offer, so never actually stopped to investigate!”

Old Town Fairfax features great restaurants with a variety of cuisines for a quick bite, or fine dining, i.e.: Thai, Indian, Moroccan, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chinese, Italian, American, Irish, French, Southwest Mexican, a Deli, a new coffee shop & bakery, the delicious Victoria’s Cakery, a new creperie set to open just after Thanksgiving, etc—not just the familiar “chains”—these are all owned and operated by local people. Check out the new Spice & Tea shop—brewing a variety of special teas, and offering unusual spices from around the world, the comic book store with a gaming section, a quilting shop for lessons and supplies, a paint-your-own pottery shop, a T-Shirt factory that designs and ships all over the country, a shop specializing in home décor, all set either in—or amidst—old, historic buildings, courthouses, museums, and the list goes on—and you must check out Hollie-Robb Antiques & Gallery—this great little gem features ever-changing items, from lovely furniture (how about an 8 foot ornate mirror -with provenance-that originally hung in the Parlor at Oak Hill, home of James Monroe, or a Chestnut table, period

Asian pieces—a plethora of vastly different antique & decorative items, and a special collection of framed old and new oil paintings, prints, and engravings—all with great provenance. Be sure to look for “Pandora,” the Shop dog, soon to begin her very own blog. Learn about the future plans of Old Town Fairfax from Richard “Rick” Dixon, of the Richard O. Dickson Company, a long-time leading force behind putting Old Town Fairfax on the map as a destination and not just a drive-through—you can often locate him at the Hollie-Robb Shop, or in his offices above the East Wind Restaurant—be sure to ask him about the exciting shops that will be arriving on the scene very shortly—and be sure to check out the festive holiday happenings in Old Town.

Linda Cunnigham
Fairfax

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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THE CONNECTION
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VIEWPOINTS

What Are You Thankful for This Thanksgiving?

— TIM PETERSON

Minah (left) and Jo Hee Sisco (right) of Fairfax, Minah in third grade at White Oaks Elementary School:

"I'm thankful for my family because they take care of me," said Minah.

"I'm thankful because everyone is healthy in the family," said Jo Hee.



Tom Verdin of Springfield:

"I'm thankful for my family, my relative health and my eighth grade Civics students at South County Middle School."



Natalie Sullivan of Lorton, freshman at South County High School:

"I'm thankful for my alarm clock; I don't know how I'd wake up without it. And my parents, without them I wouldn't have a home and everything I need. And my teachers, they supply me with knowledge."



Emma Lundy of Burke, first grade at Terra Centre Elementary School:

"I'm thankful for my family, God and my swim coaches. My family loves me and they take care of me."



Margaret Colby of Burke, fourth grade at Fairview Elementary School:

"I'm thankful for food, because it's yummy."



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

From left, rear row - Lexi Rhem, Cayli Dobbs, Roxy King, James Woods, Ben Cherington, Brian Perry, Samantha Horning, Kylie Levy, and Madison Thornton (the MSA cast and director of 'I Never Saw Another Butterfly.')

Area Students Recognized for All-Star Cast

Ben Cherington and Kylie Levy of Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) Performing Arts Academy of Lorton, and Alexandria were recently recognized for All-Star Cast by the Virginia Theatre Association Conference for their performances in "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." This was the first time Metropolitan School of the Arts had participated in the conference. Cherington, an 11th grader from Burke, and Levy, a 10th grader from Fairfax, are students at Metropolitan School of the Arts.

Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) also earned the 2014 Virginia Theatre Association Conference award for Best Costume Design and was recognized for Staging, as well as received an honorable mention for Best Play, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly."

"We're so proud of our students and appreciate the accolades from the Virginia Theatre Association," said Melissa Dobbs, president and founder of Metropolitan School of the Arts of Lorton and Alexandria. "We appreciate the support from our



Ben Cherington of Burke and Kylie Levy of Fairfax, Metropolitan School of the Arts students.

MSA families that have helped our performers be the best they can," said Dobbs.

For more information, go to www.metropolitanarts.org.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE 5

now through Dec. 13, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at 10382 Willard Way. A different Fairfax County nonprofit will collect donations of non-perishable food and supplies or grocery gift cards to help feed individuals and families in need during the holiday season.

Organizations that'll benefit from the drives include: FACETS, Marshall Road Elementary Food4Thought Program (weekend food backpacks), Koinonia Foundation, Our Daily Bread, Cunningham Park Elementary School Weekend Backpack Program, Lorton Community Action Center and James Mott Community Assistance Program.

For information, visit www.ODBFairfax.org or contact 703-273-8829 or info@ODBFairfax.org.

Donate New Children's Coats

The City of Fairfax Professional Firefighters and Paramedic Local 2702 and the City of Fairfax Fire Department have partnered with Operation Warm to provide brand-new, American-made, winter coats for local children in need.

Not to be confused with a coat collection drive, this program is centered on only new coats and jackets. Bring donations of new coats and jackets to Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive in Fairfax. For more information, go to www.operationwarm.org/fairfaxcity.

You are invited to a FREE Concert with THE CATHEDRAL BRASS

featuring Antonio DiLorenzo's "Twas the Night Before Christmas," narrated by Alan Cole, with a special appearance by Saint Nick himself!

Saturday, December 6,
6:30-7:30 P.M.



Living Savior Lutheran Church,
5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039
703-352-1421 • www.livingsaviorlutheran.org



GMU Parenting Mindfully Study

Are you the parent of a teenager? Are you feeling stressed out? We are looking for parents of 12-16 year olds for a study of a mindfulness program to reduce parent stress. If you enroll, you will be eligible to receive a FREE 8 week mindfulness course specially designed for parents of teenagers.

Families will be **PAID** up to \$430 for participation.

For more information contact:

Ali at (703) 993-5066

or

ParentingMindfully@gmail.com

ALL INFORMATION IS HELD CONFIDENTIAL



**BLACK FRIDAY
SPECIAL!**

FREE Windows if it snows on Christmas Eve!*

If you need replacement windows, and you could get them for **FREE**,* isn't it worth giving us a call?

Window appointment must be scheduled between Nov. 24th and Dec. 1st only*

If it snows 1" or more on Christmas Eve:

**ALL YOUR WINDOWS WILL
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EVEN IF IT DOESN'T SNOW 1" ON CHRISTMAS EVE:

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BETWEEN NOV. 24TH AND DEC. 1ST ONLY***

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Call for your **FREE Window Diagnosis**
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*Restrictions and conditions apply. See your local representative for details. Cannot be combined with prior purchases, other offers, or coupons. Not applicable to previous orders. Offer not available in all areas. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and applies to previous purchase of 6 or more windows between 11/24/14 and 12/1/14. Offer does not include bay/bow windows or any upgrades considered non-standard options. Alternative offer may be provided during in-home consultation. Offer only available through our Instant Product Rewards Plan, see sign for details. All part of the Instant Product Rewards Plan, all for purchase made for proof of and must purchase during the initial visit to qualify. ON APR for 12 months available to well-qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. Higher rates apply for customers with lower credit ratings. Financing not valid with other offers or prior purchases. No Finance Charge will be assessed if your balance is paid in full in 12 months. Renewal by Andersen remains an independently owned and operated retailer, and any further broken seal services. Any finance terms advertised are not subject to any and all financing is provided by third party, subject to credit review by Renewal by Andersen retailers. Under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and each lender. All subject to credit requirements. Renewal by Andersen remains an introduction to lenders intended to financing. US LJC # 20101047044, TX LJC # 420212000031. *Renewal by Andersen and all other marks where directed are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2014 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2014 Lead Logic LLC. All rights reserved. *Disclaimer of Official Rules: This promotion is void where prohibited or otherwise restricted by law. Subject to all federal, state, and local laws. If 1" or more of snow accumulates at anytime on Dec. 24, 2014, at Reagan National Airport, the purchase and installation of your windows (if purchased from Sponsor on or before 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 11, 2014) will be provided to you free of charge by Sponsor (the "Prize"). You will still be responsible for taxes, finance fees and charges under financing and inspection fees. The Prize for any participant winning this Promotion via a mailed entry, and without a contract with Sponsor, will be a \$100 coupon towards a future purchase of goods from Sponsor. Promotion ends must be 21 years of age or older at the time of entry and must own their own home. Additional terms and restrictions apply. For the complete set of Official Rules, set of participating Sponsors, Target Locations and an alternative method of entry, please go to RenewalbyAndersen.com. No purchase is necessary to participate in this promotion and you do not have to submit to a random drawing. A purchase will not improve your chances of winning.

COMMUNITY

Proof of Purchase

County-wide nonprofits offer gift ideas and civic engagement.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

In over 20 years as manager of Burke Lake Park, Charlie Reagle has seen a lot of benches installed. So many in fact that he's running out of water view locations. And though many people choose to honor deceased family members with a bench, he's had plenty donated in tribute to the living. One pair of sisters gave a bench as a birthday gift to their mother; it had two plaques, one of which was at ground level so the mother's dog could see it.

"Each one, working with a donor, I know the story with it," said Reagle. "Going out, going around the trail, you wind up spending several hours with them over this whole time."

While water view space may be drying up at Burke Lake, there are plenty of scenic plots available throughout the 420-odd parks around Fairfax County. And there's a collaborative effort underway to help populate that with tax-deductible gifts. It's part of the county's Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) "12 Ways of Giving" initiative.

In this instance, citizens can donate a new bench (around \$2,000 for the installation), adopt an existing bench with a plaque (\$800) or have a two-to-three-inch-calibre landscape tree planted. The donations to the parks go through the nonprofit Fairfax County Park Foundation. OP3 is encouraging the public to help address civic issues by making charitable donations as gifts.

"The idea is it's to be very easy, very engaging," said Wendy Lemieux, a spokesperson with OP3. A single web page is a portal to donate to 12 different organizations that each satisfy a county goal for the environment, education, animals or domestic violence. "As you dive deeper, you can get involved and knock someone off your Christmas list as well," Lemieux said.

Charitable giving has become a major factor in the economy: "Donations, in the country as a whole, are now a \$335 billion enterprise," said Alan Abramson, director of the GMU Center for Nonprofit Management, Philanthropy and Policy.

He cited the latest report from Giving USA, a semi-annual public service analysis.

Abramson attributes a gain in giving over the past several years in part to the regrowth of the economy, but that it's also "a creative time for giving," he said. "With more online giving, more people are thinking about loans instead of gifts. These are new creative approaches to engage people in helping."

Which is where 12 Ways comes in. Now in its fourth year linking citizens with nonprofits and county-wide issues like disadvantaged students from minority groups underperforming in schools, the gift-giving angle is paying off. "We've seen groups have up to a 150 percent increase in giving," said Lemieux.

"We've come to realize that addressing social problems is not just going to be government's responsibility," said Abramson. "We need all sectors, individuals, families and communities coming together if we're going to get something done."

To learn more about the nearly 500 nonprofits registered in Northern Virginia, visit www.connectnorthernvirginia.org.

Opportunities to Help

***Our Daily Bread** has been contracted by Fairfax County to provide holiday assistance with half of the 3,000 referrals of families in need from county social workers.

Gift: \$50 donation for gift cards for clients or adopt a family.

"It's an opportunity to connect people with people," said ODB executive director Lisa Whetzel, "neighbors to neighbors. You see there are people who live around the corner that are living without a lot of the amenities that they live with. It's eye-opening."

♦ REFOREST FAIRFAX AND FAIRFAX RELEAF project to plant trees that maintain canopy cover around the county, help with stormwater management and soil retention. The project is responsible for many of the trees along the Fairfax County Parkway, as well as a big replanting after construc-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SANDY BROMLEY

Ina Fernández, director of the Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services and Fairfax County Police Department Chief Edwin Roessler were at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting Sept. 23 for the declaration of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kay Fowler, executive director of Fairfax ReLeaf, plants a tree at South Run Park.

tion at Bonnie Brae Elementary School.

Gift: \$35 donation for multiple native trees in a group planting somewhere in the county.

"Eighty percent plantable space is on private land in Fairfax

County," said Jim McGlone, urban forest conservationist of the Virginia Department of Forestry. "Trying to expand or improve the coverage, we really have to engage the public and get individuals planting trees."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLIOTT RUBINO

Captain II Willie Bailey (left), Erin McMullin with Operation Warm (center) and Niko Chakos with FOCUS North America (right) distributed 2,200 pair of shoes and 2,000 coats Oct. 28 at Fire Station 11 with Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK FOUNDATION
Michelle Opdahl (left), Kalle (center) and Tom Bowser (right) enjoy time on a bench at Burke Lake Park.

♦ FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK FOUNDATION

Gift: \$2,000 for a new bench or \$800 to adopt an existing bench; \$1,000 for a new tree donation or \$500 to adopt.

"It does keep on giving," said Roberta Longworth, executive director of the Park Foundation. "Our wooden benches are guaranteed for five years and steel for ten."

♦ FRIENDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Gift: Donations of various sizes help with surgeries, medication, collars, tags and the microchip program.

"It's an open access shelter that takes in every animal that comes to the door," said Kristen Auerbach, a spokesperson for the Fairfax

County Animal Shelter. Annually, that number is about 5,000 dogs, cats, reptiles and other furry creatures. "It's the largest jurisdiction in the United States with a placement rate above 90 percent. We're about 95 percent this year."

♦ FAIRFAX LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Gift: Add a book to a specific library's collection, such as the Richard Byrd location, through their Amazon wish list and put the gift recipient's name first on the list to check it out.

"They're supporting the community overall, based on their interests," said Susan Harman, executive director of the Fairfax Library Foundation. "That's helpful, and they can do it from their desktop."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Our Daily Bread volunteers fill food crates at the Complete the Circle collection and distribution event held at Fairfax High School Nov. 9.

♦ FIREFIGHTERS AND FRIENDS TO THE RESCUE:

works with churches, shelters and schools to provide toys, coats and shoes to children. Fifteen years ago, the organization helped 50 kids; today they reach over 3,000 in a single donation event, usually held at Fire Station 11 in Alexandria.

Gift: Donations of various sizes help purchase toys, bicycles and coats for children for the holidays.

"With 180 schools in the county, 50 to 70 are coming to us," said Captain II Willie Bailey with the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department. "And one out of four kids living below the poverty line, that's a big need. The station looks like Toys 'R' Us for a few hours."

♦ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES: working with the nonprofit A Way Forward to provide basic house and emergency needs for people leaving shelters to start new homes. The county has offices in 11 locations, including the South County Human Services building.

Gift: Donations of various sizes help purchase goods like bed in a bag, kitchen in a bag, door locks, mattresses, as well as holiday-specific items like toys, games and books.

"We're raising funds to give families the extras they just don't have the money or resources to provide during the holiday season," said Sandy Bromley, Fairfax County-wide domestic violence coordinator, "give victims the chance to really celebrate the holidays."

For the complete 12 Ways of Giving nonprofit list and donation portal, visit http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/news/Ways_to_give_1214.html.

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6531 Little Ox Road
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703-425-0710 • www.antioch-church.org

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<p>Cravens Nursery & Pottery</p> <p>Follow us: </p> <p>9023 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, Virginia 2 miles west of I-495 on Rt. 50. 1 mile from I-66 (Vienna Metro) 703-573-5025 Open 7 days a week Visit our new Web site: www.cravensnursery.com</p>			

A Holiday Classic Comes to Life

“A Christmas Carol” offers dinner and a play.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A holiday classic comes to life in an intimate, dinner-theater setting when the City of Fairfax Theatre Co. and Truro Anglican Church present “A Christmas Carol.” Guided by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, Ebenezer Scrooge will take a journey leading to his transformation and redemption.

Show times are Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m., with 6:30 p.m. dinner; Saturday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. with 6:30 p.m. dinner (limited availability); and Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10, adults; \$5, students, via www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org, and \$15 and \$10, respectively, at the door. Dinner shows are \$25/ticket, either way. (A special, \$20 family package is offered for the Dec. 6 show at 10 a.m.). Truro is at 10520 Main St. in Fairfax.

The cast and crew of 30 have been rehearsing since September and the actors are ages 8-85. “We have both experienced and new actors,” said Director Kirsten Boyd. “Things are going really well and everyone’s having fun.”

What’s unique about this play, she said, is that the whole room is part of the set. “The actors will be performing in the aisles and onstage, so the audience will feel like they’re part of the story,” said Boyd. “We’ll have an old-fashioned lamp post in the center of the room, and the audience will sing Christmas carols with the cast throughout the show.”

Portraying Scrooge is Truro church member Kevin Gilroy. “He’s deeply flawed and figures out all his faults during the play,” said Gilroy. “He learns who he is and what he wants in life. He’s grumpy and crotchety and has a hard time connecting with people. He’s not receptive to changing until toward the end.”

Gilroy said the role’s draining because “I go through a lot of emotions, but it’s fun to process those feelings. And I’m excited to be the lead because I get to connect with everyone in the audience, all at once. People will enjoy the show because it’s about the true meaning of Christmas, the production is energetic and they’ll have fun singing Christmas carols.”

Fairfax High sophomore Sierra Hoffman is the costume designer and also plays Bob Cratchit’s wife. “She’s a hardworking mother of four, crazy children who bounce off the walls,” said Hoffman. “She’s loving, but also weak emotionally because her family’s poor and has so many problems.”

Hoffman’s enjoying her role because “her family’s fun to be with and she shows many different emotions – happiness, sadness and anger.” She said the audience will appreciate how well the actors work together and “they’re going to love how happy this show makes them feel.”

Portraying the eldest daughter, Martha Cratchit, is Vienna’s Melissa Handel, an eighth-grader at Kilmer Middle School. “She’s 21 and still trying to find herself,” said Handel. “But she’s also very responsible and helps her mom look after the other children. Usually, I play a younger person, but this time I get to play someone older. The hardest part



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMILY DILLARD

(From left) are Mary Walton Petersen, Kevin Gilroy, Rachel Nelson and Sarah Zakreski. Petersen and Nelson portray the ghosts of Christmas Past; Zakreski, the ghost of Christmas Future; and Gilroy, Ebenezer Scrooge.



(From left) Rachel Nelson and Mary Walton Petersen both play the ghost of Christmas Past on alternating nights.

is the language, speaking in old English.”

As for the audience, she said, “They’ll like how we interact with them. We walk around and talk with people, not just with the other characters on stage. Everybody in the cast is very talented, and I think we interpret our characters a bit differently than the audience would expect.”

Herndon’s Meriel Carney is one of three ghost dancers who are in nearly every scene. “We do ballet and contemporary dances, flow the scenes together and enter the stage with the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future,” she said. “We dance either to a live violinist or to singing.”

She and the other dancers choreographed their routines and are having a good time performing together. Carney said the audience will be able to connect with the members of the Cratchit family and understand what they’re feeling.

“The show’s heartwarming,” she said. “Christmas is a time to be with family, and this play shows that, no matter what, you can change if you’re not the person you want to be. And there’s lots of Christmas spirit to get everybody ready for the holidays.”

ENTERTAINMENT



Bring your family along to watch Tchaikovsky’s opulent holiday masterwork, “The Nutcracker,” on Nov. 29-30 at Woodson High School in Fairfax.

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 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 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/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

Thanksgiving at Trummer’s.

7134 Main Street, Clifton. Chef Austin Fausett is serving some traditional and some non-traditional fare for a fabulous Thanksgiving feast. Three Courses for \$64. Children 12 and under \$32.

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.

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.

SUNDAY/NOV. 30

Family Advent Celebration.

4-5:30 p.m. Burke United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Make crafts, decorate cookies, and more. Free admission.

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.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 5-6

Norwegian Holiday Festival.

Friday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church, 3810 Meredith Drive, Fairfax. The 44th Annual Holiday Festival features Norway’s cooking, culture and cool buys. Seven local traditional Nordic

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CALENDAR

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handcraft artisans join with their felted figures and tree ornaments, jewelry, needle arts, rosemaling, and weaving. Two days of live music and Nordic Dancing complement the sale of Norwegian sweaters, T-shirts, CDs, books (in English), toys, and linens to name just a few of this year's many unique items for family, friends and home.

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.

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.

Advent Coffee Concert. 9:30 a.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. The Maranatha Singers will present an enjoyable morning of music. The theme of the concert will be "Remembering Christmas." Refreshments served after the concert in the Welcome Center. Everyone is invited to attend. Free.

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,



The Robert E. Lee High School Band and Drama Department will have their annual Tiny Tots Concert featuring favorite children's characters. The concert will be held Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 10 a.m. at Robert E. Lee High School. 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.

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.

Home for the Holidays Concert. 4 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. Join the Main Street Community Band for a wintry mix of seasonal and holiday favorites for all ages. Please bring a nonperishable food item to benefit Food for Others- feeding families in Northern Virginia. Admission free, but tickets required. Mail reservations to The Main Street Community Band Holiday Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 1306, Fairfax, VA 22038-1306. Please include a stamped, self-addressed return envelope with your request.

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.

TUESDAY/DEC. 9

Chamber Music in the Old Style. 8 p.m. Harris Theater, GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The event features artists Zino Bogachek, violin, Natasha Bogachek, viola, and Anna Balakerskaia, piano, performing the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Schnittke, and Shostakovich. Free.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

Holiday Celebration with The 5 Browns. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Experience these virtuosic sibling pianists live, thundering away on five Steinways! In their Center debut, they will present a merry evening featuring everything from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Suite to selections from Vince Guaraldi's A Charlie Brown Christmas. Praised by Entertainment Weekly for their "scorching piano," they first made headlines when all five were accepted at The Juillard School of Music simultaneously. They have since topped The Billboard chart and appeared on The Tonight Show, Today, Oprah, and even in their own PBS special. Admission: \$50, \$43, \$30. Reservations: 888-945-2468.

"3 Days till Christmas." 8 p.m. NOVA, Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. It's three days 'til Christmas and time to load the sleigh, but what has happened to all the toys? What folly has befallen the North Pole? Reginald. But why would the North Poles own self-proclaimed lawman hijack all the toys? And how did all the children get put on the naughty list? Will Comet ever be able to go super-sonic? It will take more than elves, reindeer, and a touch of ginger to get ready for Santa's late night flight. This Broadway-Style holiday musical, appropriate for audiences of all ages, is packed with fun and fanciful chaos that promises to warm your heart and have your toes tapping. Tickets: \$19-\$23. Ongoing event, check website for more showtimes. http://www.etix.com/ticket/online/venueSearch.jsp?venue_id=3406

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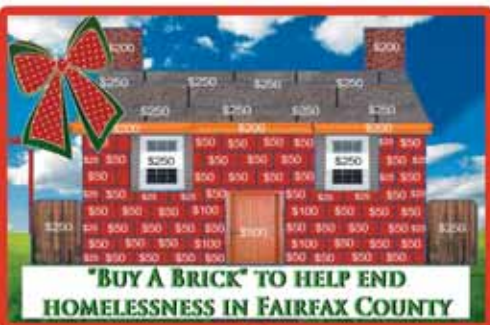
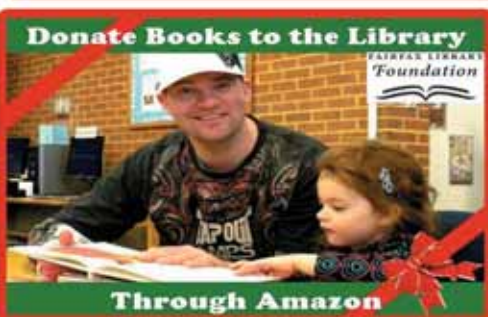


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FAITH

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.

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 Christmas Service, Sunday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m., 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station. Please contact the church office for more information: 703-323-8100, fbt@fbtministries.org

The Fairfax Baptist Temple choir, orchestra and drama team present "Ten Thousand Hallelujahs" a Christmas Musical by Ron & Shelly Hamilton, Sunday evening, Dec. 21, 5 p.m., 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station. Please contact the church office for more information: 703-323-8100, fbt@fbtministries.org

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.fbcspgfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.pople.org.

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Fairfax County History Conference Focuses on the War of 1812

The 10th Annual Fairfax County History Conference was held on Saturday, Nov. 8 at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in the City of Fairfax. A record 120 participants were in attendance to enjoy the theme of “Fire, Flight & Fury” – The War of 1812 in Fairfax County – 200 Years Later.” Over 15 authors and exhibitors attended and the day was filled with much living history, including the re-enactments of Dolley Madison by Carole Herrick, an 1812 Naval Commander by Michael Bosworth, an 1812 60th Virginia Militia Man by Richard Orli and a grand finale of Francis Scott Key by National Park Ranger, Alan Gephardt.

Guests included Virginia State Del. Ken Plum (D-36), U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) joined with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova to share comments and to present awards to local historians who had contributed to document and preserve the history of Fairfax County during the recent past.

Conference Committee members, Mike Irwin and Esther McCullough produced War of 1812 Timeline which was included in the attendee packets. Michael Bosworth shared song and verse as a way to share both information and demonstrate how the naval armed service members attended to their tasks. He reminded us that the War of 1812 was really part of the larger war called the Napoleonic Wars. A Trivia question for the audience was “Why was the War of 1812 Overture written & by whom?” Only a few attendees were aware that Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky wrote the overture in 1880 to honor the Russian victory over the attempted invasion by Napoleon. Trivia prizes included CD’s of Keynote presenter, Ron Maxwell from the county’s first History Conference in 2004. Richard Orli reminded the audience that in 1812 Fairfax County was a much smaller county than the state’s largest county at the time, Loudoun county. He also shared that the militia men who served in the War of 1812 often provided their own uniforms – due to shortages of buttons, wool cloth and red cloth. He also stated that over 300 axes were ordered to slow down the British progress to capture the United States Capital, but they unfortunately never arrived. Carole Herrick quietly shared the



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Chairman of the Fairfax County board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova present the Ross Netherton Award to Patrick O’Neill.

“post script” reflection of Dolley Madison’s flight into Fairfax County while protecting George Washington’s portrait – and saving the beautiful red velvet drapes from the White House. Alexandria Carlyle House Curator, Helen Wirka, provided insight into the Battle of Bladensburg focusing on the key players including the brothers Winder: Levin who was the governor of Maryland and William who was the commander of the defenses of Washington and Baltimore during the War of 1812. Patrick O’Neill provided an enthusiastic and fresh perspective

on “The Battle of the White House” – which was actually a location near present-day Ft. Belvoir (not the Presidential mansion). Alan Gephardt shared that the inspiration for the lyrics to “The Star Spangled Banner” was really the defenders of Ft. McHenry – the soldiers. His passionate rendition of all three verses of the original “Defence of Fort McHenry” brought the audience to tears.

It is the custom of the Fairfax County History Commission, to present Annual Awards to citizens who have given of their time and talents to create a document or media pre-

sentation that serves to preserve and protect the history of Fairfax County. Awards presented at the beginning of the conference and presented by U.S. Rep Connolly and chairman Bulova included:

- * Lifetime Achievement Award: Irma Clifton — for lifelong passion to preserve, protect and promote the history of the Lorton area of the county – culminating in the Lorton Arts Center and the Lorton Prison and Suffragist Museum on site.
- * Distinguished Service Awards were presented to: Neil McBride – for his decades of service to also maintain and preserve the history of the Lorton and South County area; Win & David Meiselman - for protecting and caring for one of the last Civil War antebellum homes in Fairfax County and home to Confederate Spy, Laura Ratcliffe (credited with protecting the life of Colonel John Singleton Mosby) during the Civil War; L. Tony Bracken – for his thorough pictorial essay of the history of lake Barcroft in Falls Church.
- * Fairfax Heritage Award - Patrick O’Neill for his 13 years in the writing treatise called “To Annoy or Destroy the Enemy” – the Battle of the White House and the Burning of Washington. With nearly 300 pages and over 900 footnotes of almost exclusive primary source information, O’Neill has shed new insights into the connection between what happened in Fairfax county and the writing of the “Star Spangled Banner” by Francis Scott Key. O’Neill received an award of \$1,000 for his efforts in preserving, promoting and protecting the history and heritage of Fairfax County.

Committee members who coordinated efforts for the conference included, Barbara Naef, Dr. Liz Crowell, Susan Gray, Esther McCullough, Naomi Zeavin, Sallie Lyons, Carole Herrick, Mary Lipsey, Jene Lindner, Phyllis Walker Ford, Rachel Rifkind, Mike Irwin. The Awards Committee included, Jack Hiller, Elise R. Murray and Naomi Zeavin. Fairfax County History Commissioner Lynne Garvey-Hodge chairs both the Conference Planning Committee and the Awards Committee. The 11th Annual Fairfax County History Conference is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 7, 2015 with a final location to be determined (at the time of this writing).

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.

★Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II.....12/16/14

A+ Camps & Schools.....12/16/14

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Thanksgiving Q&A: Bruin QB Edwards Happy to be Practicing.

Lake Braddock will face Westfield in 6A North semifinals Saturday.

Kyle Edwards was a varsity standout for the Lake Braddock football program during his sophomore year, earning second-team all-conference honors as an offensive utility player and safety.

The Bruins won their first 12 games of the 2013 season and were seemingly on their way to the region championship game, leading Westfield by 13 points in the fourth quarter of their semifinal matchup. The Bulldogs came storming back, however, and handed the Bruins a 19-16 season-ending defeat.

This year, Edwards, now a junior, made the move to quarterback, taking over for the graduated Caleb Henderson, a highly recruited signal caller who ended up at the University of North Carolina. It took time for Edwards to get comfortable leading the Lake Braddock offense, but he eventually earned first-team all-conference accolades at his new position.

After playoff victories against Oakton and West Springfield, Edwards and the Lake Braddock Bruins find themselves in a familiar position: preparing to face Westfield in the region semifinals. Kickoff is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29 at Westfield. The winner will face the winner of the other semifinal matchup between Centreville and Battlefield.

Edwards, who also plays basketball and baseball at Lake Braddock, plans to play football in college. He recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Connection, sharing some insight about his Thanksgiving plans.

Q: What are your plans for Thanksgiving?

Edwards: Obviously, I will be spending a lot of time with my family. Right now it looks like family dinner is at my house, and all the relatives will be over. Should be a great time.

Q: What will the Lake Braddock football team do on Thanksgiving?

Edwards: At Lake Braddock, our tradition is to have a morning practice on Thanksgiving. The breakfast that follows it is legendary and it's really something we as players look forward to and earn.

Q: How does it feel to still be practicing as Thanksgiving comes around?

Edwards: It's something I experienced last year as a sophomore and was lucky to be a part of. It is definitely exciting to have the opportunity again.

***Q: Do you or your family have any**



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Junior quarterback Kyle Edwards and the Lake Braddock football team will face Westfield in the 6A North region semifinals on Saturday.

“At Lake Braddock, our tradition is to have a morning practice on Thanksgiving. The breakfast that follows it is legendary and it's really something we as players look forward to and earn.”

— Kyle Edwards, Lake Braddock QB

annual Thanksgiving traditions?

Edwards: We keep it simple and just enjoy the holiday. Only tradition I can think of is tearing off the wishbone and seeing who gets the bigger half.

Q: Does your family incorporate sports into Thanksgiving? If so, how?

Edwards: I definitely have a sports family. We watch football all day and play around in the backyard with our neighbors and relatives.

Q: What is your favorite thing to eat on Thanksgiving?

Edwards: I have always been a pumpkin pie kind of guy.

Q: Lake Braddock was in this position last year, facing Westfield in the region semifinals. The Bruins lost a late lead and the game. Is there anything you took away from that experience that can help you this time?

Edwards: Well, I think just being on the field and playing against a physical and talented Westfield team gave me a lot of key experience that would then carry over into this year. I think I'll be able to just relax and focus on the game because I have played on a Saturday in front of a few thousand people before. After last year's loss, I learned the importance of finishing games and executing so that has been something Coach [Jim] Poythress harps on all season.

Q: As a quarterback, how do you

feel at this point of the season compared to your season opener against West Potomac when you were making your first start at a new position?

Edwards: Coach Poythress and Coach Quigley have done a great job in helping me grow as a quarterback. The main difference is confidence, but they instilled that in me by letting me mature as a passer, and now we're really spreading the ball around the field through the air. I feel significantly more comfortable in the pocket and with our game plans.

Q: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?

Edwards: Michael Jackson. He has endless hits, and his music is timeless.

Q: What is your favorite movie? Why?

Edwards: “A Few Good Men.” Tom Cruise is one of my favorite actors. This movie made me want to pursue a law degree. It's an iconic movie: “You can't handle the truth!”

Q: Who are your favorite pro sports teams?

Edwards: Redskins and Broncos.

Q: Who are your favorite pro athletes?

Edwards: Peyton Manning and Brett Favre (even though he is retired). I admire how they play the game and their work ethic.

— JON ROETMAN



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Jade Williams and the South County softball team won the VHSL 6A state championship in the spring of 2014.

Headed to Chicago

Jade Williams made an immediate impact with the South County softball program, earning first-team all-district honors as a freshman outfielder in 2013.

Last season, Williams moved to shortstop and came up clutch in the postseason, earning first-team all-region tournament honors as the Stallions captured the 6A North region title and eventually won the program's first state championship. Now a junior, Williams committed in September to play softball at Kent State University, a member of the Mid-American Conference. Williams, who earned second-team all-conference honors as member of the South County field hockey team in the fall, recently participated in a Q&A with The Connection, sharing her Thanksgiving plans.

***Q: What are your plans for Thanksgiving?**

Williams: My family and I are going to Chicago for a big wedding and a family reunion of sorts. I especially look forward to seeing my Grandpa and my cousins.

***Q: You're committed to play softball at Kent State University. What made Kent State the right choice for you?**

Williams: I have wanted to play college softball for as long as I can remember. The Kent State coach got interested in me at a tournament in Colorado. She personally came to watch me several times there and again in Georgia. She invited me to visit Kent State and I loved my time there. Kent has a veteran coaching staff and they play in a competitive DI conference (Mid-American Conference). The campus is beautiful and the academic support for athletes goes above and beyond. My future teammates helped seal the deal.

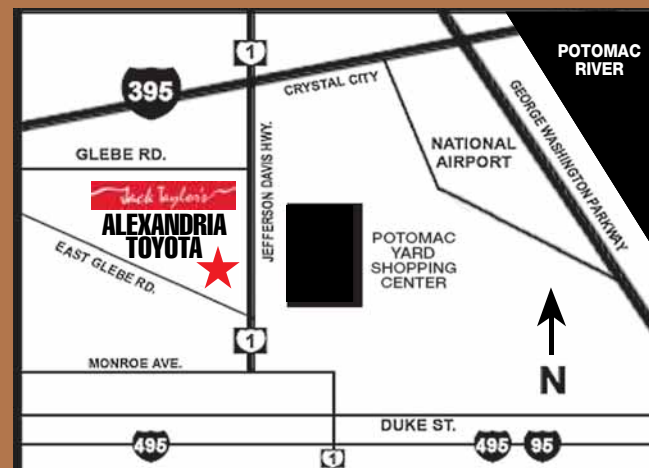
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