Springfield CONTECTION

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Home Life Style

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'Hour of Code' at Keene Mill

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Shop Till You Trot

News, Page 3 95 Express Lanes, a Preview News, Page 3 Jim Hickey of Springfield is Santa Claus (right) for a day at Lake Accotink Park.

DECEMBER 11-17, 2014

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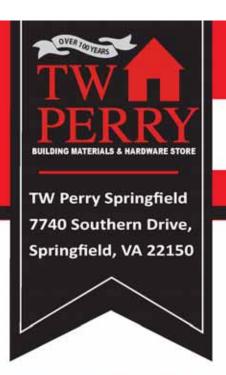


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Two Belgian draft horses from Harmon's Hayrides pull people around Lake Accotink Park in 2010.



Photos courtesy of Fairfax County Park Authority

Riders enjoy a scenic hayride around Lake Accotink Park in 2010.

Shop Till You Trot

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

ne day a year, Jim Hickey does a different kind of volunteering at Lake Accotink Park. The Springfield resident works at the Merrifield Post Office and gives a lot of his time to the park as a member of the Friends of Lake Accotink Park organization. For 20 years he's done various things, and currently does announcing for the popular Braddock Nights summer concert series, as well as the cardboard boat regatta.

But on Dec. 13, Hickey will take on a different public persona: Santa Claus. For over half a decade, Hickey has donned a parkprovided red suit and white bushy beard and met with children and families at the

Lake Accotink Park Holiday Horse Drawn Hayrides event.

"The hayride is a way to get people to the park during the winter," said Hickey. "They don't think about it all that much, even though it's a very beautiful place in the winter. In Fairfax County, there's not a whole lot of places with nice woods, a lot of animals and nature. Here you're not far from the Beltway and can go and get on a horsedrawn carriage and ride through the woods."

The park has been offering hayrides since 2005, according to supervisor Julie Tahan.

"It's really family-friendly," said Tahan, "especially for people looking to do something to get away from shopping madness and do something that's wholesome, that really connects to traditional value of the holidays."

Lake Accotink Park features horse-drawn hayrides and Santa.

A flatbed carriage pulled by two Belgian draft horses will pick people up from the park's marina, trot down the main park road, turn around at the parking lot by the dam, and amble along the creek. The horses are provided by Harmon's Hayrides out of Brandy Station, Va.

"It's not an exceedingly long ride," Tahan said, "but it's like stepping into a holiday card."

Rides begin every 20 minutes and riders must register for a time slot prior to Saturday, between 12 and 2:10 p.m.

Tahan echoed Hickey that the event is an opportunity to remind people the park is still there for them as a community gathering place, even in the off-season.

"It's a way to extend the value of the park to the community," she said. "We want it to be a place where people can come out and enjoy the beauty on quiet days, come together and enjoy different aspects of the park "

Hickey said there is still a lot of wildlife to see around the park, making the naturally quiet hayride great for spotting.

"There's a pair of bald eagles that nest in the back of the lake somewhere, they're magnificent," said Hickey. "Sometimes you see them if you're at the lake at the right time. There's also beaver, deer, squirrels and occasional foxes."

Though if none of them are out and about, there will at least be horses, and Santa.

The hayrides, Santa meetings and lakeside campfires run Dec. 13, \$10 per person. Register over the phone at 703-222-4664 or online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes. Lake Accotink Park is located at 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield.

95 Express Lanes, a Preview All signs point to getting an E-ZPass.

By Abigail Constantino
The Connection

ike a long-awaited summer blockbuster, signs on billboards along Route 1 and banners hanging on bridges that cross I-95, tease commuters about the coming of the nine-mile extension of the 95 express lanes.

The exact opening date has not been released but it will be in December. Preparations for a smooth opening of the lanes, which extend the express lanes from Dumfries to Garrisonville, are still ongoing, but the most important thing consumers can do to get ready to use the lanes is to get an E-ZPass, said Mike McGurk of Transurban, the company that manages the tolling system on the express lanes. The second thing commuters should do is to learn the rules—how to use the E-ZPass, how much it will cost, where the entry and exit points are and how the lanes can ease the commute.



Photo by Abigail Constantino/The Connection

Banners and signs announce the opening of the 95 express lanes along I-95 and Route 1.

McGurk said that they expect some initial confusion when the lanes finally open. "Email or call us if you accidentally get on the the express lanes without an E-ZPass," he said, and Transurban will work with driv-

ers to resolve the issue. "Don't panic. Continue driving and exit safely. Call and email us after."

The \$1 billion nine-mile extension was a decade in the making, starting in 2004 with

ideas to improve I-95 as part of the Virginia Public-Private Transportation Act. The project broke ground in August 2012. It will connect Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties. Prince William and Stafford counties are two of the top 10 places from where workers commute, according to the Virginia Community Profile.

In addition to the extension from Dumfries to Garrisonville, construction added a third lane on the section of the express lane between Edsall Road in Alexandria and Prince William Parkway in Dumfries. Fluor, the company which oversaw the project's construction, also built about one million square feet of new sound walls, nine bridges, and several light poles which contain the tolling and traffic management, said Jamie Breme, community and public affairs manager.

To learn more about the 95 express lanes, go to http://www.95expresslanes.com/.

News



Keene Mill Elementary School Technology Specialist Brian Lachance instructs sixth grade students on how to get started during the "Hour of Code."



Students in Erin Scanlon's kindergarten class take turns going up to the SMART Board during their "Hour of Code." "It shows them how to make a computer work and how to give it instructions," said Mary Hennesy, Scanlon's classroom assistant.

'Hour of Code' at Keene Mill

Elementary school students write lines of code during the school day.

By Marissa Beale
The Connection

ith the increasing demand for software developers in today's job market, and what some say is a decreasing interest in computer science at the college level, schools around the country and world worked to peak students' interest in computer science during a weeklong learning initiative called the "Hour of Code." Using fun and self-guided approaches, the "Hour of Code" gives students an early introduction to computer science basics, and one local school used this as a chance to bring coding into the classroom.

Keene Mill Elementary School in Springfield exposed all of its students, in some way, to coding during the week of Dec. 8-14, when the "Hour of Code" took place. Many students already seemed familiar with computer programming languages like JavaScript and HTML.

"It's not hard to learn," said sixth grader Kate Perry who was using JavaScript. "There are a bunch of tutorial videos. You start by learning how to make a square, and then how to make other shapes."

Technology specialist, Brian Lachance assisted during "Hour of Code," and guided teachers and students through the various



Photos by Marissa Beale/The Connection

Elizabeth Craig, kindergarten teacher at Keene Mill Elementary School, helps one of her students with a game during the "Hour of Code."

web and app-resources available.

"This is our second year participating," said Lachance. "The 'Hour of Code' website puts together web resources that are computer-based and app-based. I like to stick with apps for the younger grades because there are no logins, etc. These skills are going to be essential for our students to become productive members of the work force."

The endeavor is not an easy one, though. "It takes a lot of planning," said kindergarten teacher Kristen Wabuge. "The biggest challenge is the students who don't know what to do when they don't know what to do! We encourage them to try again and to problem-solve more."

But students are consistently excited, and the "Hour of Code" has been shown effective for increasing students' interest in

"Last year we had a competition and would log all of the coding hours," said sixth grade teacher Maura Madigan. "My daughter, here at the school, won last year and now wants to go into coding." In addition to doing class presentations using programs like Prezi and Powerpoint, some students are even doing projects in code. "I expect to see a lot more coding this year," said Madigan.

William Beavers, a student in Ben Rudolph's sixth grade class, codes outside of school. "I started playing video games as any usual kid would, and then I had some ideas. Two years ago I started king a 'Scratch' tutorial where I'd learn

taking a 'Scratch' tutorial where I'd learn about coding after school. I'm sort of self-taught, but other times I look at those who have done it longer. I had a big problem with variables one time, but I figured it out."

"I'll probably stick with computer science," said Lizzy Hicks, a sixth grade student who redesigned visual features in a game called "Flappy Bird."

"I really want to get into this in middle school and high school," said Mohamed Messouak.

One thing is for sure, coding is not leaving classrooms anytime soon. For more information about the "Hour of Code" and just how many students are coding, visit http://hourofcode.com/us.

WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

TTC HOLDS FOOD DRIVE

TCC, the largest Verizon Premium Wireless Retailer in the U.S., announces that 300 of its stores will be donating and volunteering at local food banks through its "Stop the Hunger" initiative this holiday season in a joint effort with its customers until Friday, Dec. 12. Participating TCC stores across the U.S. are encouraging local families to bring in canned and boxed food, which will be delivered to the community's food bank. The participating store in Springfield is located at 6230X Rolling Rd.

In addition to the food drive, each participating store will donate funds and employees will volunteer at local food banks until the end of December.

"Stop the Hunger' is the newest initiative under TCC's 'Culture of Good' movement, which empowers our employees to make a positive, charitable impact in their communities," said Scott Moorehead, president and CEO of TCC. "It's how our company gives back to every community where we do business. We're honored to have the ability to help families and children in need this holiday season by donating to and volunteering at local food banks throughout the U.S."

With the "Culture of Good" in its second year, TCC continues to advance its corporate social responsibility efforts. Most recently, TCC's summer "Culture of Good" efforts resulted in the donation of 300 college scholarships to children and 100,000 backpacks to deserving students.

To learn more about TCC, visit www.ecellularconnection.com. Learn more about TCC's "Culture of Good" by visiting www.cultureofgood.com.

FOOD DRIVES IN FAIRFAX

Our Daily Bread and Combined Properties are hosting Food Drives at Courthouse Plaza in Fairfax City, every Saturday from 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. For information, visit www.ODBFairfax.org.

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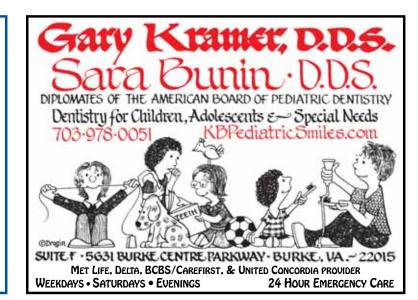


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FAITH

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.

"Behold the Lamb," Sunday, Dec. 14, 10:45 a.m. at Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. This year's program titled "Behold the Lamb," will be a celebration of the birth of Christ with choral music and interpretive dance performed by the Ministry of Music and Performing Arts, along with a Christmas Play, entitled "A Night in Bethlehem" performed by the Youth and Children's Church Ministry. The public is invited to come and wit-

ness this beautiful and inspirational service, and join in a Christmas Fellowship.

Calvary Christian Church Presents Annual Live Nativity, Saturday, Dec. 20, 5-7 p.m. Safeway shopping parking lot in Burke Town Plaza, 9596 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Come and see Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, with Delilah the camel and other lovely beasts. Cocoa and Cookies will be served.

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

Bluegrass Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. in Franconia Hall at Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria. The community is once again invited to find meaning in the mayhem of the season. The familiar Christmas story will be celebrated in a new way with traditional

carols by the acclaimed Big Hillbilly Bluegrass band. Join your friends and neighbors at the firehouse this Christmas Eve. The service is sponsored by Aldersgate Kingstowne, a United Methodist Church that invites people to follow Jesus through the shared practices of worship, learning in groups, and hands-on service to the poor. For more information, go to www.aldersgate.net or call 703-660-2600.

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 innner 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.

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OPINION

Make a Plan, Talk About It

Here is help in keeping impaired drivers off the roads.

he holiday party season is upon us, and with it an increase in drinking and driving. It's up to you to make a plan to get home safely.

Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you can spend the night. Plan to abstain.

EDITORIAL

And if all of that fails, the Washington Regional Alcohol Project has a safety net for you.

WRAP, a local nonprofit organization, will offer free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout Northern Virginia during the winter holidays.

More than 10,000 people died in drunk driving related accidents in 2012, including more than 200 in Virginia and 160 in Maryland. Tens of thousands more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas and New Year season in particular.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, and continuing until Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during



days since a still-unnamed Fairfax County police officer shot unarmed John Geer standing in the doorway of Geer's home in Springfield, then let him bleed to death on Aug. 29, 2013. No information has been released about the incident, officers involved not named, no explanation, no grand jury, no charges. (as of Dec. 10, 2014)

this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During these times, area residents celebrating with alcohol can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home.

Safe Ride Home

WRAP's 2014 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Dec. 12, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). See SoberRide.com information listed below for important details concerning this program.

Callers will be responsible for fare amounts over \$30.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 61,000 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

We know that many young people over 21 are living at home with parents, or will be visiting for the holidays. Parents, be brave. Have a conversation with your children whether they are under or over 21. Be sure those over 21 have a plan, and are equipped with the SoberRide number.

SoberRide is not available for underage drinkers, but parents still should talk to their children about their plans, and tell them out loud that you expect them not to drive impaired and not to get into a car with an impaired driver. Tell them to call you, and you'll come get them if necessary. The news has been full of teachable moments about the consequences and vulnerabilities of drinking to excess, drinking and driving and beyond. Don't let the opportunity to talk about it pass you by.

> Mary Kimm. MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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Changing Society's Perception of Sexual Assault

By John C. Cook Supervisor (R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)

ecently, headlines across the country involved another sexual assault tragedy. This time at the University of Virginia. While a great deal of contro-

versy surrounds this latest story, it is important to not lose sight of the fact that stories of sexual assault are filling our newspapers all too regularly. As we continue to read reports of these acts nearly every day, many of us seem to fall into the trap of believing that sexual assault only happens to somebody else and that it is only committed by people we don't know. But the statistics say otherwise.

occurs every two minutes in America. On average, there are 233,986 victims of sexual assault every year. In eight out of 10 cases,



In addition to traumatic physical injuries, victims of sexual assault are very likely to suffer from serious emotional effects. Sexual assault victims are 26 times more

likely to use drugs, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, and 4 times more likely to consider suicide. One in four women will be a victim of sexual assault at some point during their life.

On Dec. 2, the Board of Supervisors approved my board matter that directs county staff to assess current methods to prevent sexual violence, and to utilize those assessments to develop new ideas on how to educate students on sexual According to the U.S. Depart- assault. These efforts are concenment of Justice, a sexual assault trated on educating those who might commit sexual assault crimes in order to change the cultural acceptance toward such crimes and to prevent sexual asthe victim knew the perpetrator. saults in the future. It is impor-

tant that county staff work with community leaders to develop ideas on how to work together to increase an awareness and educate students about sexual assault in order to change the culture of apathy toward such acts.

I am also pleased to report that officials at George Mason University, which sits in my district, have been working on this issue for some time. They have agreed to brief me on their efforts, and I plan to urge university officials to tap into whatever resources are available to help them prevent such crimes. Recently, several state delegates have proposed legislation to require that campus assaults be prosecuted as the crime that they are. I intend to meet with our police to make sure we are doing everything we can to arrest and prosecute offenders.

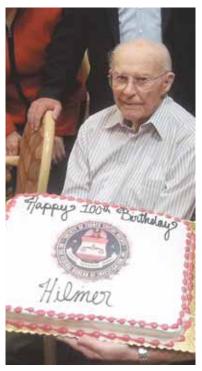
As a community, we must make larger, systematic efforts to prevent these crimes. We must do more to change our culture, and that means reaching our children before they are in college. The seeds of such conduct are planted long before students set foot on campus, and are nurtured by a culture all too willing to turn a blind eye. We need to teach our children, and population as a whole, that sexual assault is a serious crime and will not be tolerated in our society. We must continue to teach the warning signs of potentially violent behavior. We must also engage in new efforts directed toward those who commit these crimes, and work to ensure sexual assault is viewed with the seriousness it deserves.

Volunteer **OPPORTUNITIES**

Fairfax County is offering a free Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. Join us for this open discussion. This telephone support group may be just what you support and get important information without having to travel. The onehour free sessions are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. Find out more and register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ dfs/olderadultservices/ and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

6 Springfield Connection Springfield Connection December 11-17, 2014

PEOPLE





Photos by Michael Ritt

Greenspring resident Hilmer Krebs turned 100 years young on Nov. 20 and celebrated at the community with family, friends, neighbors, and members of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI.

100 Years Young

On Nov. 20, Greenspring resident Hilmer Krebs celebrated a momentous milestone – his 100th birthday! He enjoyed celebrations with family and friends at the Springfield retirement community and even received a special visit from Ellen Glasser, National

President of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. Glasser presented Krebs with a cake reading, "Happy 100th Birthday Hilmer" that featured a large Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI insignia. Krebs worked for the FBI for 27 years.



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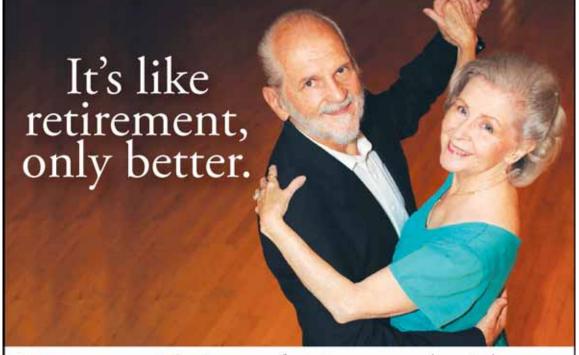




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HOLIDAY GIFTS GUIDE

Clay Latiolais of Springfield paints an Ork Gorkanaught, a heavy walking tank at Games Workshop in Springfield. He's done Warhammer as a hobby since 1998.

Рнотоѕ ву TIM PETERSON/

Metro Run &

Mark Russell

(left) fits

Walk co-owner

and her daugh-

ter Bianca of

(fourth grade

Springfield

at Saratoga

Elementary

School) for a

new pair of

running shoes.

ENGAGEMENTS

Matthew Hurtz

Stephanie Maxwell Engaged to

Daniel and Kerry Maxwell of ated from the Engineering School

Springfield, are happy to an- at the University of Virginia with a

nounce the engagement of their degree in Computer Science.

daughter, Stephanie Laura Max- Stephanie is a Software Develop-

well to Matthew Neil Hurtz, son ment Engineer at Expedia is Se-

of Michael and Kathy Hurtz of attle, Wash., and Matthew is a Soft-

Midlothian. Va. Stephanie ware Development Engineer at

graduated from West Springfield Microsoft in Redmond, Wash. The

High School. Matthew gradu- happy couple will be married in

ated from Clover Hill High January at the Old Post Chapel at

School in Midlothian, Va. Both Ft. Myer with a reception at Army

Looking for Gifts in Springfield?

Games Workshop, 6810 Bland St, Springfield, field, offers Garmin GPS watch \$120-\$200, utility offers The Hobbit game starter package, Dark Vengeance starter package, Warhammer starter package

at an outlet for the teenage angst," said store man-health conscious and getting out on your feet is the ager David George. "The starter packages include perfect exercise for people. And with cold weather everything you need — figures to build, paint, apparel, running for 12 months, you're golden." rulebook — to anywhere from here."

Metro Run & Walk, 7261 Commerce St, Spring-

"FlipBelt" \$25, lightweight shell jackets from \$100.

"A lot of people don't make up their resolutions on January 1," said owner Mark Russell. "I think the "Boys end up gravitating to this stuff then looking number one resolution is to become more active,



Stephanie and Matthew gradu- Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va. **Stephanie Maxwell and Matthew Hurtz**



David George of Springfield

manages Games Workshop

Springfield.

lightweight shells by Nike, Asics and New Balance, that are reflective and good for

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

Little Flock's Christmas Bazaar. 5-8 p.m. 11911 Braddock Rd., Fairfax. This is a family event with dinner, bake sale, holiday crafts, photo booth, shops and entertainment. Free, Visit www.littleflockschool.org for more

What So Proudly We Hailed:

Francis Scott Key, a Life. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke. Author Marc Leepson will discuss this biography. Book sale and signing. Register at 703-978-5600 ress 4 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ ibrary/. Adults and teens. Free.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

"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 han 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 showtimings. http:// www.etix.com/ticket/online/

venueSearch.jsp?venue id=3406 Classic Tales, 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come and join us for classic tales, stories, songs, and activities. Age 3-5 with adult 703-249-1520

Ancestors 101: U.S. Census. 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Dig deep into census records and unearth the riches. Adults, 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Holiday Horse Drawn Hayrides. 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lake Accotink

Park, 7500 Accotink Road, Springfield. Enjoy holiday music and riment 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 tell him what's on your wish list. Remember to bring a camera and make it your holiday family photo if you wish. Dress for the weather and plan on a brisk walk from the parking lot. To register: Please call 703-222-4664 or register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov parks/parktakes. Admission: \$10 per person (free for 2 and under).

Garden Sprouts: Excellent

Evergreens. 11 a.m.-noon. Green Spring Public Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For ages 3-5 with adult caregiver. Cedar, pine, hemlock, and spruce are the evergreen trees that make Green Spring's winter landscape beautiful. ten to a story about winter's landscape and make a mini-wreath with natural materials. \$8/child Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

642-5173. **Family Fun: Winter Solstice**

Workshop.1-2 pm. Green Spring Public Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For ages 5 and up with adult caregiver. Learn how people in the past celebrated the winter solstice and create a warm, welcoming

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evergreen centerpiece and add a beeswax candle. \$10/person. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 481 5001 or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 13-14

Join Santa on a Train Ride. 12-6 p.m. Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Family activities include burlap sack slide, face painting, and carousel rides. Admission \$7 includes a pumpkin. Admission: \$10.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10-SUNDAY/DEC. 14

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

Four Centuries of Virginia Christmases." 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum. 10209 Main St, Fairfax. Join author Mary Miley Theobald to explore and learn more about Virginia Christmas customs and their evolution from pagan, British, German, and Dutch precedents. Free. 703-385-8414.

Christmas Concert. 4 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. A free concert of seasonal music Contact us at 703 971-5151. See our website at http://www.franc

Christmas in Black & White. 5 p.m. Angelika Film Center & Cafe, 2911 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a family-friendly evening of class: black and white holiday films including 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, A Winter Straw Ride, A Christmas Carol and The Adventure of the Wrong Santa Claus set to traditional holiday classics including Jingle Bells, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Oh Holy Night, Deck the Halls and more performed by members of the Fairfax Symphony and singers from the National Broadway Chorus directed by Luke Frazier.

Christmas Cookies. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Get all your friends together for a fun afternoon of baking your favorite Christmas cookies. Whether you'l present these treats to eager party guests or leave them on the mantle for Santa, after this class you can mark delicious treats off your list.

MONDAY/DEC. 15

Children's Performance Series: Bob Brown Puppets. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 ersity Drive, Fairfax. Bob Brown Puppets have been a major children's theater company for the past 50 years, offering the finest in children's over 300,000 children a year. Free but donations are accepted. 703-385-2712

Magic Tree House Club. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Tenth story in the series Ghost Town at Sundown by Mary Pope Osborne. Print copies available at library service desk. Ages 6-8. 703-249-1520.

TUESDAY/DEC. 16

John Rutter's Gloria. 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke Lake Braddock High School choirs and symphony orchestra present John Rutter's Gloria

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

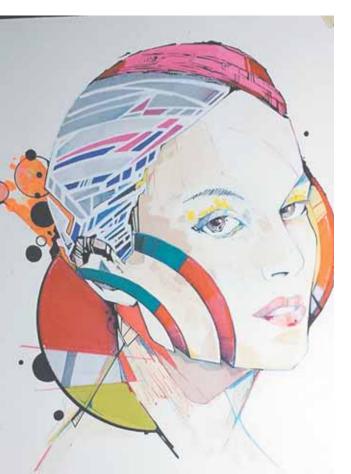
PJ Library Book Buddies. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke Please join us as we read selections from the PJ Library and make a craft to take home. Ages 6 months - 5 years. 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

An Album of a Century-Photographer **Jacques Henri Lartigue.** 7:30 p.m.

Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, W-3 Theatre, Lorton. French photographer and painter Jacques-Henri Lartigue (1894-1986) is most famous for his stunning photos of automobile races, planes, and fashionable Parisian women from the turn of the century.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



A new art exhibition entitled "Divine," curated by The Bunnyman Bridge Collective, brings together 10 local artists working in a variety of media from stencil art, calligraphy, poetry, painting, drawing, mixed media, textiles, and more. The opening reception will be on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 8 p.m. to midnight, spend an evening with the artists. The exhibit is on display until Feb. 7, 2015 at Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax.

This lecture explores Lartigue's photographs from his first sincere, often playful, presentation of friends, family, and French society made as early as age 6 to his later fashion layouts and portraits. \$10 per person, \$5 for Artists at and Friends of the Workhouse, Volunteers and Military. Contact Moria Nisbet, 703-584-2986.

FRIDAY/DEC. 19

S.T.E.M. Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (S.T.E.M.) Each month we will focus on one of the STEM subjects with stories, songs, and activities for preschoolers. Age 4-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 20-21

In Concert: O, Holy Night. Saturday: 7 p.m. Sunday: 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Carolers perform some of the world's most beautiful music to celebrate the Christmas season. Workhouse cabaret vocalists perform the most loved music of the season on the Workhouse stage. Join us for a musical sleigh ride on a journey of music, love, laughter and memories that is sure to delight all. Running time approximately 90 minutes, appropriate for all ages. Concessions available before the performance and at intermission. Tickets: \$8

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

Teen Book Club. 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join us for book discussion of The Book Thief by Markus Zusak an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

SUNDAY/DEC. 21

Service of Lessons and Carols. 10 a.m. Pohick Church. 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. This 1880s as "Lesson and Carols: A Festal Service for Christmastide," as a series of scripture readings interspersed with Advent and Christmas carols, hymns and choral anthems, tracing God's love from the creation of man and woman in the Garden of Eden, through the annunciation and birth of the Christ Child. For more information call 703-339-6572 or visit http://









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Home Life Style

Eleanor Lamb (center left) assists grandson Lenny with a Christmas baking project while daughter Stephanie and grandson Stevie look on. Lamb — who has 10 grandchildren — has found the new kitchen invaluable for family gatherings.



To help Lambs create a multi-zone family kitchen with room for all, designer Sherry Wohn at Abbey Design Center developed a plan for a 400 sq ft kitchen/great room. The family dining table is in the front half of the space, where a formal dining room was previously.

A Family Kitchen in Time for the Holidays

Remodel makes room for the whole family in the "heart of the house."

By John Byrd

holiday wish fulfilled, that's how Eleanor Lamb characterizes her newly-remodeled kitchen/dining room when she observes all 20 members of the extended family comfortably seated for Thanksgiving dinner.

By most standards it's a large gathering, and yet the brightly-lit, cleverly-zoned great room stretching from the front to the back of the family's center hall Colonial has room for all — 400 square feet, in fact, excluding the walk-in pantry

The new space has been years in coming to fruition. The Lambs bought their brick two-level house in Herndon nearly 30 years ago and raised three children. Now the children are raising families of their own and, for Mark and Eleanor Lamb, what counts is happy grand parenting...and getting together.

The makeover is an obvious change for the better. Last year, the front-facing half of the new kitchen was a traditional formal dining room complete with long drapery and a Chippendale-style table that seated eight. Those not at the table were mostly situated somewhere in the kitchen. Eleanor regularly moved between stove and table. A hostess utilizing a circa-1980's floorplan in accordance with its design.

When a neighbor enlarged their kitchen, however, Lamb noticed. Eventually she wandered into the Abbey Design show room in Sterling where a fateful meeting occurred.

As Sherry Wohn, the designer at Abbey who developed the Lamb kitchen solution, remembers it:

"Eleanor was grappling with how to enlarge her kitchen while staying inside the perimeter of the existing house. One option was to join the kitchen to the family room along the rear of the house; the other entailed co-opting the front-facing dining room."

The core problems for Lamb, though, were cramped working surfaces and restricted storage compounded by rooms that



Photos by Jacqueline Binkley

A food preparation island with dining counter required 26 feet of floorspace. Lamb says the design makes it easy for her to interact with grandchildren. The breakfast alcove looks out into a spacious backyard.

seemed too dark and clutter-prone.

"The wooden cabinet facings were dated," Lamb said. "Things I needed regularly were hard to access. I wanted an open space that would allow everyone to interact easily, but would also provide places where I could work on projects with my grandchildren but wasn't sure how to proceed."

Early-on, Lamb decided in favor of extending the kitchen forward. "I didn't want to lose the family room," she said.

In short order, attention shifted to how best to unify and re-configure the combined square footage of the existing kitchen and dining room.

Removing the wall was uneventful—there was only one HVAC vent to re-route. But Lamb also wanted larger appliances—and more of them, well-defined activity zones, and dedicated space for family dining that would be just as elegant as the old dining room. Moreover, all of this should appear in a lighter, brighter, seamlessly-in-

tegrated new interior.

"The space offered a lot to work with," Wohn said. "The bay style alcove in the rear brings in lots of light. The front archway opens directly to the foyer and there's a large front-facing window. As a rule, natural light and visual continuum really work well in an open floorplan."

WHAT EVOLVED from the collaboration is a generously-sized country-style kitchen that includes three ovens, a food preparation island and dining counter, a spacious rear-facing breakfast table, and formal front-room family dining zone with seating for eight. There is also a refrigerator/freezer twice the size of its predecessor, a 40-bottle wine cooler and a convection microwave.

From the start, the challenge for Wohn was how to optimally assemble so many moving parts into an efficiently functioning, cohesive whole that is also infectiously welcoming.

"The new footprint is about 12 feet wide," Wohn says. "With the dining table in the front, I needed a plan that allows easy circulation, yet accommodates a lot of new appliances."

Elegantly delineating the family's primary dining area was also important. To set the right tone, Wohn designed glass-facing cabinets and handsome "sideboard" serving surfaces. The cabinetry provides storage for linens, flatware, family collectibles. It also eliminates the need for an old stand-alone china cabinet.

To keep critical inches uncluttered, Wohn borrowed about 22 square feet of front room floorspace for a wine chiller, a pair of stacked ovens and a 37-inch-wide refrigerator/freezer — all of which seem to disappear into the Macadamia-hued Banbridge style cabinetry and Tumbled Travertine wall surfaces.

"Apart from it's decorative function, one the goals of finishwork is to visually scaleback objects that might otherwise seem too large," Wohn said. "Textures, colors and shade variations help make a large space feel more intimate — which is the essence of an effective zoning strategy."

Clad in light browns, tan and beige, the walls and cabinets present an even tranquil surface; porcelain flooring tiles — laid out diagonally — repeat a pattern in the backsplashes. Throughout, variation and visual rhythm make a large space feel intimate.

"The room feels very relaxing, partly because it's so effectively designed," said Lamb. "I've got a lot more space for preparing meals — but thru-traffic stays out of my work zones."

Better yet, since the food preparation island is also a lunch counter that seats four, Lamb can catch up with her grandchildren while slicing vegetables or seasoning the stew.

"It's fun. I've always said the kitchen is the heart of the house," Lamb said. "And now it truly is."

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years. • Fairfax • Springfield

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The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it. - Ralph Waldo **Emerson**

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OBITUARY

Vivian May, 72, of Fairfax VA died at Fairfax Hospital on Wednesday December 3rd. Funeral service will take place at Advent Funeral Home 7211 Lee HWY Falls Church VA 22046 Saturday December 13th 11 am

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

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According to the Lease by and between (3112) Jennifer Johnson and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in DAVID N. PRENSKY their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: boxes, furniture, totes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Wednesday December 17, 2014 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 6600 Hackberry Street, Springfield, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Brian R. Higgins and Nancy J. Higgins, dated November 25, 2005, and recorded December 20, 2005, in Deed Book 18065 at page 1104 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 Judicial Center for Fairfax County at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Lot 57, Section 1, Springfield Forest, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 921 at page 507, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 6600 Hackberry Street, Springfield, Vir-

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$8,500.00 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 at the life 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 5.875 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 material-man'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 agreenents 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.

jennifer@HDIComputerSolutions.com

21 Announcements

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25 According to the Lease by and between (1061) Lynn Wallisher and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: boxes, christmas decorations, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Wednesday December 17, 2014 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owners in accordance with state statutes.

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 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 frecord an velocation and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also the responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property accurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyance will be the property and all building and/or zoning code the like, of or to the responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property and all be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property and all bere costs of the property and all bere cost or the property and The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold

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Substitute Trustee FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: David N. Prensky, Esquire 5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500 Washington, D.C. 20015 (202) 244-4000

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News

House Fire Leads to Teen's Arrest

elieving he set fire to his own home, authorities arrested a 19-year-old Fairfax man last week and charged him with arson. They did not release his name, but the incident occurred Tuesday, Dec. 2, around 8:30 p.m. and caused an estimated \$250,000 damage.

Units from both the City of Fairfax Fire Department and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department responded to the blaze at 10903 Fairchester Drive in the City of Fairfax. Upon arrival, fire was reported in the attic and in a bedroom at the rear of the house.

Information provided by the City of Fairfax stated that an investigation conducted jointly by the City Fire Marshal and Police Department "resulted in a finding that the fire had been intentionally set by a 19-year-old resident of the home. The suspect also allegedly caused additional damage to the home, including broken windows and damage to a family member's car in the driveway.'

The suspect was taken to the detention center and charged with arson of an occupied dwelling and intentionally burning personal property. He was held pending a bond hearing. Because of the fire, the home was declared uninhabitable and three family members were displaced. The American Red Cross helped them find temporary lodging at a local hotel. No one was injured.

— Bonnie Hobbs

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Teen Writers Group. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Share, discuss and get feedback of works in progress Teen volunteer facilitates. Age 13-18. 703-249 1520.

MONDAY/DEC. 15

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your skills, Adults, 703-249-1520,

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

TUESDAY/DEC. 16

Connected on the Homefront. 7-9 p.m. Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield: Terrace Room, This month's theme is "What is Lovely"-Christmas Memories. A meeting that provides dinner, fellowship and speakers to minister to wives of active duty, reservists and retired military. Visit www.immanuelbible.net or 703-941-4124.

FRIDAY/DEC. 19

Using Activities with Meaning to Promote Well-Being and Fun! 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Learn strategies for sparking fun and laughter in caring for people with dementia; making your time enjoyable, frustration free and memorable. Call 703-204 4664 to RSVP and for more information.

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

TUESDAY/DEC. 23

Short Book Conversations. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke, Join our lively book discussion. Call library for title. Adults, 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/DEC. 27

Teen Writers Group, 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Share, discuss and get feedback of works in progress Teen volunteer facilitates. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520

SUNDAY/DEC. 28

Red Cross Blood Drive. 12-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. To sign up to donate blood, www.redcrossblood.org and search by sponsor code FAIRFAXRAILROADMUSEUM or call 1-800-redcros. For eligibility questions, 1-866-236-3276.

MONDAY/DEC. 29

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

ONGOING

Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossnca.org.

Dementia Care Givers Support Groups.Various times, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax.

The groups are for those caring for someone with dementia or for those interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-8626 or Eileen. thomps on 1@gmail.com.

SPORTS



Robinson boys' basketball coach Brian Nelson talks to the Rams during their Dec. 8 home game against Lake Braddock.



The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team fell short against Robinson on

Nai-Tetteh Leads Robinson to Comeback Win over Lake Braddock

Senior's two steals, 14 fourth-quarter points propel Rams to victory.

> By Jon Roetman THE CONNECTION

fter twice stripping the ball from Lake Braddock sophomore Corey Pelham and converting the steals into five points early in the fourth quarter, Robinson senior Ashrifi Nai-Tetteh acknowledged as he came off the floor that he should have imposed his will earlier in Monday's contest.

While taking an aggressive defensive approach in the first half might have made life easier for the Rams, Nai-Tetteh's fourthquarter performance made life miserable for the rival Bruins.

Nai-Tetteh scored 14 points in the final 8 minutes to go with his two clutch steals and the Robinson boys' basketball team came from behind to beat Lake Braddock 65-59 at Robinson Secondary School.

THE RAMS trailed 47-42 entering the fourth quarter. After Nai-Tetteh made a pair of free throws, the Robinson guard stripped Pelham and converted a three-point play after he was fouled while making a layup. Nai-Tetteh stripped Pelham again moments later, this time the steal resulted in a pair of free throws for the Robinson guard, giving the Rams their first lead since the opening minutes of the first quarter.

"I've been playing against [Pelham] since last year," Nai-Tetteh said. "I knew from fall league earlier this year when I pressured him, he made bad decisions. I just knew that if I did that, I could turn the game around and get the momentum going our way."

Pelham buried a 3-pointer to put Lake Braddock back on top, but Robinson went ahead to stay when Joey Powell scored near many of this year's key contributors were

the rim, giving the Rams a 51-50 advantage.

Nai-Tetteh buried a 3-pointer with 5:29 remaining, giving the Rams a four-point lead, and made a pair of free throws with less than one minute to go, helping hold off the Bru-

Robinson trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half and was down five entering the fourth quarter, but Nai-Tetteh's timely defensive plays helped spark the Rams.

"He's our best defender," Robinson head coach Brian Nelson said. "He knows it and that's really no big secret. He's a particularly good on-ball defender ... but he ... [hadn't] yet this season through three games, until that fourth quarter, asserted himself in the way that he can, defensively. I think he just, for whatever reason, picked that moment that this is when I'm going to actually show what I can do at the defensive end of the floor and he made some plays.

"The game absolutely turned on those plays he made."

Nai-Tetteh finished with 20 Brent Yantis and Avi Silberman

and seven rebounds.

Nelson said the Rams are talented, but



PHOTOS BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

Robinson senior Ashrifi Nai-Tetteh scored 14 points and had two key steals during the points and six rebounds. fourth quarter of the Rams' 65-59 victory Powell had 13 points, and over Lake Braddock on Dec. 8.

each eight. Austin Jones totaled four points role players on last year's team. On Monday, the Rams earned their first win of the season after losing games against South Lakes and Potomac Falls.

"I think [Ashrifi Nai-Tetteh] just, for whatever reason, picked that moment that this is when I'm going to actually show what I can do at the defensive end of the floor and he made some plays."

- Robinson boys' basketball coach **Brian Nelson**

"We kept talking over the weekend [about how] we just need to get one and kind of get the weight off our backs of 'when is that first win going to come?" Nelson said. "We know we have a talented team, we just are a little lean on experience closing games."

Lake Braddock had just four players score Monday night. Reagan Jones led the way with 17 points. James Butler finished with 16 points, Pelham had 14 and Elliott Johnson added 12. Johnson grabbed seven rebounds, and Butler and Jones each had five.

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, Robinson defeated South County 46-45 to improve to 2-2. Lake Braddock beat Westfield 65-52, improving to 2-

Robinson faced West Springfield on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Rams will travel to face two-time defending region champion Woodson on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Lake Braddock will travel to face Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12.

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