

Sponsor of Competitive Skating at Fairfax Ice Arena. All
For details please contact Todd Martin at 703.323.

Skating with Santa

NEWS, PAGE 16



Quinn (center) and Wendy Dewindt of Arlington get face time with Santa at Fairfax Ice Arena. Longtime Burke resident Wendy brought her family to the event with her father, Mark Wagner.

95 Express Lanes Open

NEWS, PAGE 3

Burke Church Hosts Hypothermia Prevention Shelter

NEWS, PAGE 4

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.

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 Sta-

tion. 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 commu-

nity 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 inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit

<http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

Season's Greetings
from The Doctors of
BURKE PROFESSIONAL PLAZA
The Corner of Rt. 123 (Ox Rd.) & Burke Centre Pkwy.

Gary Kramer, D.D.S.
DIPLOMATES OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
Sara Bunin, D.D.S.
Dentistry for Children, Adolescents & Special Needs
703-978-0051 KBPediatricSmiles.com



SUITE F • 5631 BURKE CENTRE PARKWAY • BURKE, VA. • 22015

Met Life, Delta, BCBS/Carefirst and United Concordia Provider
Weekdays • Saturdays • Evenings
24 Hour Emergency Care



5631-B Burke Centre Parkway
Burke, VA 22015

4600 John Marr Dr., Suite #401
Annandale, VA 22003

8998-E Lorton Station Blvd.
Lorton, VA 22079



- Free Initial Exam
- 40+ Years Experience
- Two Board Certified Orthodontists
- In Network Providers for MetLife, Delta Dental & United Concordia



703-750-9393
www.dutson-ellisortho.com

To advertise, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418

You Can Make a Difference



Cats benefit from being in a foster home. We need long- and short-term fosters for cats of all ages, mothers with litters and kittens on their own.

Consider Fostering visit our website, click on Participate

Adopt/Donate/Volunteer at www.lostdogrescue.org

\$10.00 OFF Full Service Mobile Pet Grooming.

Outside Your Home or Work.
To New and Returning Clients, One Per Household
We groom to "Pet Breed" standards, clients preferences, or We can customize a style.

SPECIAL OFFER



BOOK ONLINE TODAY
www.HoPPooH.com
(703)982-0208

Your Pet will have:

- Luxury Bath & Brush,
- Warm air Fluff Drying,
- Ear Cleaned,
- Nails Trimmed,
- Full Coat Clip, Cut, Shape & Style (To Owners Specific Requirements or to Breed Standards)
- Cologne, Bows or Bandana



We Fit in Your Schedule
All Products are Bio-Degradable, Eco Friendly & Natural

95 Express Lanes Open Transportation project culminates after a decade and four governors.

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

The 95 express lanes opened on Sunday, Dec. 14, after a decade of planning and since breaking ground almost two years ago. Gov. Terry McAuliffe—joined by Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, members of the Fairfax, Prince William, and Stafford counties board of supervisors, and representatives from VDOT and Transurban—cut the ribbon on Wednesday, Dec. 10 in Alexandria. Drivers will have two weeks of free use before tolling starts on Monday, Dec. 29.

McAuliffe praised the work of all involved in the project, especially the people who moved the dirt and poured the asphalt, “We wouldn’t be here today,” without them he said. He extolled the private-public partnership (P3) of VDOT, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and Transurban, which made the completion of the project possible. “P3s are great but only if they are negotiated in a way that puts taxpayers first and holds people accountable,” he said. He reminded the crowd of the failed P3 on Route 460 in southeastern Virginia with US 460 Mobility Partners in 2012, which was halted last March amid environmental permit and cost concerns. Between \$400 to \$500 million of state money went into the Route 460 P3 without ever breaking ground.

Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne said that unlocking congestion in key economic corridors is part of the governor’s plan. The express lanes will allow for diversification of businesses and tourism, said McAuliffe. “When Virginia grows, America grows,” he said.

Quality of life and giving people options and choices are the rewards for commuters. Stafford County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jack Cavalier said that the express lanes are important to the quality of life for the thousands of Stafford County residents who make the daily trek to work in Northern Virginia.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said that the lanes give another option of how people can move around. “You can actually live down in Prince William, even Stafford County, and have a job in Tysons Corner and be able to get to work. That wasn’t the case before.”

“Whether you gotta get home to your kid or whether you have a critical work appointment, it gives you a choice in how to get there,” said Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield).

Senator Warner echoed the sentiment saying that he has seen the commute go from “two hours to forever,” and that the completion of this project is a “great day for Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth.”

Though the express lanes will not solve all the problems with congestion, construction manager for the project John Morse,



Senator Mark Warner shares his plans to find permanent funding source for transportation and national infrastructure financing during the 95 Express Lanes opening ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 10.



Transurban CEO Scott Charlton, left, with Gov. Terry McAuliffe, says that his company is passionate about transportation structure and its impact on the community.



Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield), left, and Gov. Terry McAuliffe attend the opening ceremony of the 95 express lanes on Wednesday, Dec. 10 in Alexandria.



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) believes that the immediate impact of the express lanes will be great and its long-term impact “incredibly great,” as people get choices in traffic mobility.

of VDOT, said that the addition of a third lane will solve a number of problems and give people options other than waiting in traffic. “People will have some freedom to do some things they couldn’t do otherwise,” he said, such as having the ability to bypass areas of heavy congestion, thus facilitating work schedule and personal life.

Secretary Foxx said that Virginia is on the path of a “growth tsunami”—with a projected 100,000,000 increase in population in the southeast region of the U.S.—and its completion of the 95 express lanes, funded in part by a \$300 million TIFIA loan from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, is a step to get ahead of population growth.

Still, Foxx said that “we are woefully under investing in the infrastructure of this country.” A blow to future investments is the Federal Highway Trust Fund shortfall announced by Sen. Warner. “We at the federal level have work to do,” said Warner, such as permanent funding source for transportation and national infrastructure financing that fall under the Grow America Act, a \$302 billion transportation proposal.



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx attends the 95 express lanes opening ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 10 in Alexandria. He said that Virginia should be a “model for the rest of the country for its infrastructure projects.”

But at the opening celebration, everyone is proud of the work completed on the 95 express lanes. “Some people are here tak-

Learn More

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ipd/project_profiles/va_i95.aspx
<http://www.95expresslanes.com/>

<http://www.vamegaprojects.com/about-megaprojects/i-95-hov-hot-lanes/>

ing credit for projects they didn’t like,” joked Sen. Tim Kaine. Senator Warner quipped about naming opportunities for sections of the lanes. Secretary Foxx wondered that with so many governors of Virginia in attendance whether Thomas Jefferson was present somewhere.

Virginia State Police Sgt. Alex Willey and his fellow officers are prepared when tolling starts on Monday, Dec. 29. They underwent extra training in the new gantry system and the way the tolls operate. “It’s going to be interesting when it opens,” he said. But they are prepared.

Commuters should also be prepared. “The countdown is on,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, who urged commuters to get their EZ Pass today.

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION



Burke United Methodist Church preschool teacher Farah Greeley handles homemade meatballs being prepared for hypothermia prevention shelter guests.



(From left) Shirley Walker, Kathy Davidson and Margaret Yowell measure out applesauce to serve to hypothermia prevention shelter guests at Burke United Methodist Church.

PHOTOS BY BARBARA NOWAK



Burke United Methodist Church members Frank Fender (left) and Dee Austin (right) slice ham for guests at the hypothermia prevention program shelter in 2011.

Burke Church Hosts Hypothermia Prevention Shelter with FACETS

This week, the doors at Burke United Methodist Church (BUMC) swing open a little wider. Each year since 2006, the congregation at BUMC has hosted a hypothermia prevention shelter in its large fellowship hall. The church is one of nearly 30 faith communities in Northern Virginia running shelters in partnership with FACETS, the Fairfax-based nonprofit fighting local poverty.

From Dec. 15-20, the church expects between 45-50 clients to come in each night. They arrive around 5:30 p.m. to warm up and eat healthy snacks, receive a hot home-

made dinner, spend the night on sleeping mats and leave with a sack lunch each morning by 7:30 a.m.

The meals are all made on-site and include ham, meatballs and gravy, chicken breast in cream sauce or barbecue, and salad. To run the kitchen and shelter for the week requires 140-160 church volunteers.

“We try to practice radical hospitality, that is what our faith calls us to do,” said the church Minister of Missions Rev. Judy Fender. “It’s going beyond just throwing two pans of frozen lasagna in, preparing a homemade meal you would serve to your own family.”

Burke resident and BUMC member Wendy Breseman was the first facilitator and organizer for the shelter in 2006. Fender said FACETS approached them because no other facility was able to host a shelter the week before Christmas. Breseman and BUMC agreed they could do it.

For the past four years Burke couple Gerry Staudte and Barbara Nowak have been the facilitators. The Long and Foster real estate agents also deal with housing issues outside of the church, according to Fender.

While guests are enjoying the comforts of the church shelter, representatives from FACETS (in conjunction with the Fairfax County

health department) are able to provide them light medical care and other outreach services like job and housing counseling.

“That’s the beauty of it for sure, getting that support there while they’re there,” said Margi Preston, who recently took over as executive director of FACETS. “It’s life-saving for people, not just a great service.”

Preston said last year they had 261 total individuals take advantage of their hypothermia prevention shelter program. And of those, they were able to help move 31 into permanent housing.

—TIM PETERSON

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) with Jennifer Klarfeld and Kyle Jones from Chuy’s Fairfax .



Chef Christine Gloninger and her students from the Culinary Institute of Annandale High School.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) with Lillian Boustany and Nadia Yassa of Aladdin’s Eatery.

Taste of Braddock Kicks Off Holidays

The annual Taste of Braddock reception was held at Supervisor John Cook’s office on Dec. 10. It was a wonderful time for community members to come together to kick off the holiday season and share in some delicious food from Braddock District businesses. The Supervisor’s office extends a special thank-you to all of the local restaurants who donated dishes.

They also recognize the students from the Culinary Institute of Annandale High School, and their leader, Chef Christine Gloninger for all of their work throughout the evening.

These students helped setup, serve and cleanup after the event. They also donated dozens of freshly baked cookies.

The restaurants that helped make the event a success were:

Aladdin’s Eatery, Austin Grill, Bangkok Golden Thai, Café Rio, Capital Bagel Bakery, Chuy’s, Coyote Grill, Cupcakes Actually, Dickey’s Barbecue Pit, Domino’s Pizza, Dunkin’ Donuts Burke, Edible Arrangements, FANFAREGiardino, Hunan West, Kilroy’s, Los Toltecos, Magill’s Famous Pizza, Margarita’s Grill, Milano’s, Smith & Clarkson’s Deli and Spartan’s Family Restaurant.

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 need! Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. The one-hour 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.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs Reston area. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteers, fluent in American Sign Language, are needed in Reston, Herndon and Vienna. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs instructors for the following classes: Certified Arthritis Exercise, Ballroom Dance, Square Dance, Knitting/Crocheting, Bridge and American Mah Jongg. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Find more information on the program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ltc.

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

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in Annandale needs a Chair Exercise Instructor and Bilingual English/Spanish Activity Leaders. They also need certified instructors for classes in Ballroom Dance and Pilates. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** in Alexandria needs a DJ to provide a wide array of music from ballroom to line dancing and a Ballroom Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Looking for a New
Place of Worship?
Visit Antioch Baptist Church!



All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children & Adults 9:30 a.m.
Married Couples Sunday School 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Marshal L. Ausberry, Sr., Senior Pastor

Antioch Baptist Church
6531 Little Ox Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
703-425-0710 • www.antioch-church.org

DR. GENE SWEETNAM
DR. GRACE CHANG
OPTOMETRISTS



TWO
CONVENIENT
LOCATIONS

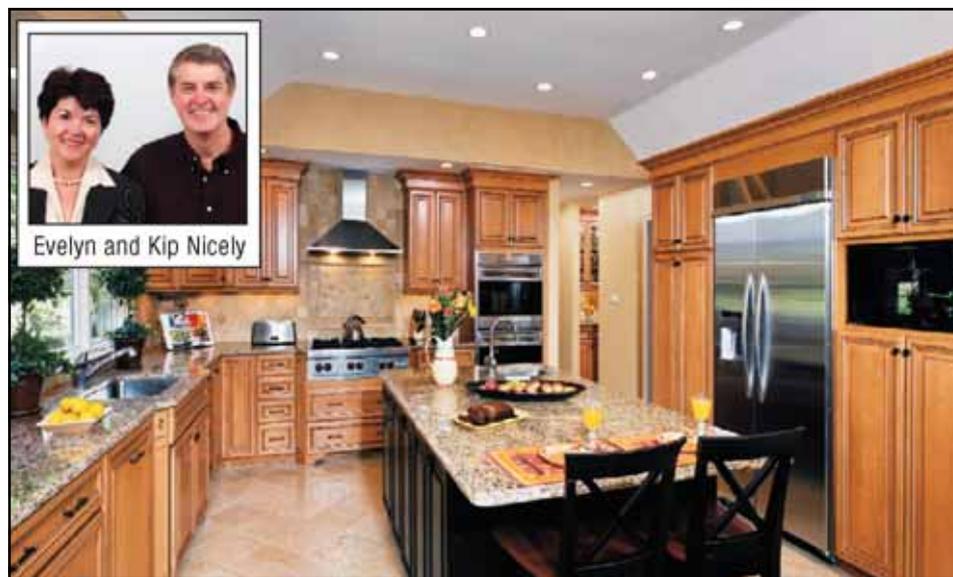
- Family & Pediatric Vision Care
- Comprehensive Eye Exams • Treatment of Eye Diseases
- 21 years Naval Service, 6 years Active Duty
- Laser Vision Consultants • Over a thousand frames in stock
- We carry all major brands of contact lenses • In-house lab

Most Insurances Accepted:

Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Care First, Medicare, Tricare In-network Doctor, Vision One Discount, Avesis, Aetna HMO/PPO/POS, PHCS, VSP® Network Doctor, EyeMed Vision Care, United Healthcare, VA Medicaid
WE WELCOME YOUR DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION

5204A Rolling Rd. 8951 Ox Rd., Suite 100
Burke Professional Center Shoppes at Lorton Valley
Burke, VA 22015 Lorton, VA 22079
703-425-2000 703-493-9910
www.drsweetnam.com • www.sightforvision.com

Your "Nicely Done" Kitchen or Bath is Right Around the Corner!
A "One-Stop Shop" That Goes Above and Beyond Your Imagination



Are you living with an out-of-date kitchen? Not enough space for your dishes...much less to entertain guests the way you would like? For most people, the main purposes of a kitchen are to cook, eat and socialize. Why not own a kitchen that allows all of that to happen with ease?

Family owned and operated by Evelyn and Kip Nicely, Nicely Done Kitchens is dedicated to making sure each and every client is amazed with

their new kitchen.

Evelyn and her highly professional team of designers strive to make every one of your ideas come true, while offering valuable recommendations from their years of experience. They will also take care of all the measuring, construction logistics and tedious details.

Feel free to stop by their newly-remodeled showroom to browse the gorgeous displays and get ideas for your new kitchen.

Custom Kitchen and Bath
Design, Remodeling and
Project Management

— Also, KitchenLite —

Ask about our KitchenLite program for a cost-effective smaller remodel.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:
The National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)
The American Institute of Architects (AIA)
The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
The SEN Design Group (SEN), Nationally Ranked #5
The National Association of Remodeling Industry (NARI)
The Better Business Bureau of Washington, D.C. (BBB)

**NICELY DONE
KITCHENS**

Come Visit Our Showroom
8934 Burke Lake Road

Kings Park Shopping Center—At the intersection
of Burke Lake, Rolling and Braddock Roads.
Hours 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat.

703-764-3748

Watch our informative video at
www.NicelyDoneKitchens.com

OPINION

Holidays Are for Giving

In the scramble to finish Christmas shopping, remember tens of thousands of local children are short of food as well as presents.

The holidays are for giving. Christmas and Hanukkah are about children and family, about sharing, about joy, about being thankful and about faith and appreciation.

Here in Northern Virginia, many of us see few signs of families in need as we go about our daily lives and holiday shopping. Our neighborhoods are largely segregated economically; we mostly see the people who are most like ourselves economically.

But in Fairfax County, about 65,000 people live below the poverty line, about 6 percent. In Arlington and Alexandria, more than 8 percent of the population lives in poverty, about 18,000 people in Arlington and more than 12,000 people in Alexandria.

WHERE TO GIVE LOCALLY IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

In no particular order:

- ❖ **Our Daily Bread's Holiday Program** helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for their children. Donations are still needed, go to www.odbfairfax.com/holiday
- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- ❖ **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.

To be clear, the poverty line is \$19,780 for a family of three; it's \$11,670 for a single person household. Imagine for a minute how far \$20,000 a year would go in your family. To live in Northern Virginia, a family needs to earn about twice the rate of poverty to get by. The median household income in Fairfax County and Arlington is well over \$100,000.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 52,000 students, or more than 28 percent, are poor enough to receive 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.

In Alexandria, more than 8,500 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized

meals. That's 60 percent of the 14,222 students enrolled.

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 Christmas, Hanukkah and winter holiday vacations.

Many of these children are living in families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Almost all are families where at least one adult is employed full time, but still many are one unexpected expense away from disaster. Many of these families live on the brink of homelessness.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Also mark your calendar to help again in a month or two. The needs don't go away after the holidays. Here are a few ideas.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

admin@echo-inc.org 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**, now collecting gift cards and food baskets for Christmas, drop off on Dec. 20, 2014. Also operates Lorton's Attic, 9506 Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1), Lorton, VA 22079 703-339-5161 703-339-8611 www.lortonaction.org.

❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and the Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. <http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/>

❖ **Office to End and Prevent Homelessness** has a strategic road map to prevent and end homelessness, created by the Planning Committee to End Homelessness, in partnership with the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, government agencies, nonprofits, faith communities and businesses. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>

❖ **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

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer organization that clothes, feeds, educates and nurtures those in need focusing five of the neediest elementary schools. Volunteers and donors are always needed. Contact ALNorthernVA@yahoo.com or see www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org

❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** — organizes programs that promote recreation, relaxation and resiliency for members of the U.S. Armed Services recuperating from injuries received in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org

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

❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656. <http://www.wfcmvva.org/>

❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. <http://www.touchingheart.com>, 703-901-7355

❖ **Bethany House** provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia. www.bhmv.org, 6121 Lincolnia Road, Suite 303, Alexandria, VA 22312, 703-658-9500. See <http://www.bhmv.org/getinvolved1/> for a list of needed items.

www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ **HealthWorks for Northern Virginia**, formerly the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, provides medical, dental and behavioral health care to anyone in need, regardless of age or ability to pay. Herndon location, 1141 Elden St. Third Floor, Herndon, VA 20170, 703-481-8160 <http://hwnova.org/>

❖ **Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org

❖ **SHARE of McLean** seeks donations of grocery gift cards and more. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org

❖ **Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of concerned churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. 703-281-7614 <http://www.cho-va.com>

❖ **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 basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>

❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 Also operates thrift store, The Bargain Loft, 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 20170, 703-437-0600 <http://herndonrestonfish.org>

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

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**, providing gift cards and toys for 1,700 of Northern Virginia's neediest families this season. 10455 White Granite Drive Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124 703-385-3267 <http://www.nvfs.org/>

❖ **United Community Ministries**, providing services to prevent homelessness, keep the utilities on, help with food insecurity and more. Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306 <http://www.ucmagency.org/>

❖ **Food for Others**, largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia, plus provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or spouse. 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.org

❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO)**, 703-569-9160,



476

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)

Burke
CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@BurkeConnection

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
burke@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Tim Peterson
Community Reporter
703-314-0789
tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
[@jonroetman](https://twitter.com/jonroetman)

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



HOLIDAY



Michel Design soaps made in England are hot sellers at The Picket Fence in Burke.



Charles Viancin silicone lids can seal a variety of containers and are fine to use in the microwave and freezer.

Looking for Gifts in Burke?

The Picket Fence, 6025 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke, offers Charles Viancin silicone lid, \$9-\$14; Michel Design soaps \$12 and decorative trays up to \$54.

"People like the Michel Design soap packaging, it's really nice," said owner Billie Thomas. "It's an easy gift, you don't need to know someone's style at home."

Massage Envy Spa, 5747-B Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, offers gift cards \$75 and up for massage and enhancements like aromatherapy, deep muscle therapy and hot stone treatment.

"People like buying massage gift cards for family, friends and co-workers," said general manager Delisa Lane. "It's a great way for people to get over holiday and end of year stress."

Great Harvest Bread Company, 6030 Burke Commons Road, Burke, offers Holiday Joy Box: Honey whole wheat loaf, six cookies, jar of jam and spreader \$37.50; Little Loaf \$4-\$6, whole loaf Extreme Cinnamon \$9.75 and Apple Scrapple \$8.50, whole loaf Stollen German bread with fruit, almonds and powdered sugar \$9.75.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION
Courtney and Billie Thomas run The Picket Fence gift store in Burke.

"I tend to think people like to eat bread when it's cold outside," said manager Samantha Gray, "it makes them feel better. And it's a great breakfast item, so it can bring families together in the morning. It's something different than just getting a gift card, it shows you took time." Beginning Dec. 7, Great Harvest in Burke is also open Sundays from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.

- TIM PETERSON



The Burke Massage Envy Spa team of (from left) Tara King, Megan Santos, Beverly Raelson, Rebekah Goble and Delisa Lane offer massages, facials and other forms of relaxation therapy.



Mali Soderborg of Fairfax cuts a free sample slice of Extreme Cinnamon bread for a customer at Great Harvest Bread Company in Burke.

SHILLELAGHS
THE TRAVEL CLUB

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

SOUTH DAKOTA, July 14-20,.....\$2119
Includes air from Washington 6-Nights Hotel in Rapid City, So. Dakota, Daily Breakfast, 3 Dinners, Sightseeing Transfers, Portage, Taxes.

MOTORCOACH DAY TRIP TO ALLENBERRY PLAYHOUSE Sat., June 20 to see "Damn Yankees",..... \$99
Includes Motorcoach from Vienna or Rockville, Buffet Luncheon, Performance, Taxes & Gratuities.

CUBA, April 5-13,\$4949
Includes Air from Washington, 8-Nights Hotel, All meals but one, Transfers, Sightseeing, VISA Fee, Portage, Health Insurance.

SHILLELAGHS TRAVEL CLUB
100 East Street SE, Suite 202 • Vienna, Virginia 22180
703-242-2204 1-800-556-8646
Please visit our Web site at: www.shillelaghtravelclub.com
for a listing of all our upcoming trips and socials.

Citrus Unlimited

Premium Florida Citrus truck coming to your area
Direct from our grove to you • No shipping fees

- Seedless Navel Oranges • Red Grapefruit
- Honey Tangerine • Honeybells in January Only

<p style="text-align: center;">Oak Hill Burke Garden Center 3155 West Ox Road Wednesdays once a month 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. January 7th, February 4th, March 4th, April 1st</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Burke Nursery & Garden Center Parking Lot 9401 Burke Road Thursdays once a month 9 a.m. to 12 noon Jan. 8th, Feb. 5th, March 5th, April 2nd</p>
---	--

For more locations: www.citrusunlimited.com • 772-473-1734

Free Estimates

Now's A Great Time for Your Landscape Project!

Patios, Walkways, Retaining Walls, Landscaping & so much more!

OFF-SEASON PRICING

Tree Clearance Sale

30% OFF

All Trees 2013 & Prior

Rare, Hardy Bonsai

Kingsville Boxwood 25% OFF

Christmas Trees, Greens and Poinsettias

60-75% Off Pottery

Lowest Prices Since 2008!

Fragrant, blooming Citrus Plants 10% Off

FREE Fill

Playground Chips & Organic Compost \$29.99 cu. yd.

Bagged, Shredded Hardwood Mulch \$3.49

Bulk Mulch \$24.99 cu. yd.

Cravens Nursery & Pottery

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Est. 1999

LEAD-SAFE SEPA CERTIFIED FIRM

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

Follow us:

FREE Estimates

703-999-2928

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Bathroom Remodel Special \$6,850

Celebrating 15 Years in Business!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling

Free Estimates

703-999-2928

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Select your products from our Mobile Showroom and Design Center

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Est. 1999

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BURKE CONNECTION ❖ DECEMBER 18-24, 2014 ❖ 7

'The American Dream'

The story of success via hard work makes the book a good gift.

BY SAL RUIBAL
THE CONNECTION

Merrifield Garden Center has been a magnet for Northern Virginia gardeners since the store was founded by entrepreneurs and friends Bob Warhurst and Buddy Williams in the Merrifield area of Fairfax County in 1971. Since then, the company has expanded to two more stores in Northern Virginia: Fair Oaks in Fairfax and Gainesville in Prince William County.

The Merrifield stores are famous for their holiday displays, which attract thousands of excited shoppers looking for the perfect Christmas tree, wreaths, ornaments and other holiday accoutrements. There's even a one-of-a-kind "Merrifield Bow" that appears on hundreds of wreaths, swags and garland throughout the area.

This year, another special Merrifield item was created, but this one was made to last longer than the holiday season.

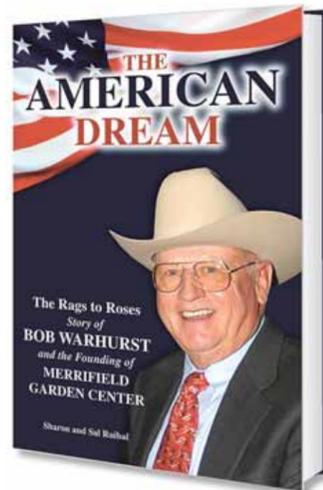
BOB WARHURST, 76, wanted to share the story of his hard-knock life from his birth in rural Alabama during the Great Depression to his current position as co-owner of Merrifield Garden Center. To write and research his book, Bob turned to seasoned professional writers: Me, Sal Ruibal, and my wife Sharon. Sharon is director of communications at Merrifield Garden Center. We are both former USA TODAY reporters with many years of experience writing about interesting people and what makes them tick.

I was especially interested in Bob's amazing personal story. The more I learned about this man, the more I wanted to know. He truly has a rags to riches story, so it made sense to title the book, "The American Dream: The Rags to Riches Story of Bob Warhurst and the Founding of Merrifield Garden Center."

While Bob is at the center of the story, it is also a journey shared by the Williams family, co-owners of Merrifield. The bond between the two families was important to their collective success.

We wanted to give readers insight into Bob's poor, but happy boyhood in Russellville, Ala., where he got his first job at the age of seven to help put food on the table. Bob quit school in the middle of the eighth grade and moved to Northern Virginia to make his way in life. The book reveals Bob's many adventures in post-World War II Washington, D.C., where he found that the land of opportunity was always open to the brave and the hardworking.

Washington, D.C., and the neighboring states of Virginia and Maryland enjoyed unprecedented growth in those giddy years. Longtime residents will recognize



The American Dream: The Rags to Riches Story of Bob Warhurst and the Founding of Merrifield Garden Center, available now.

names and places such as Shirley Highway, Hot Shoppes, Pizza Fair, The Southern Ramblers hot rod club and so much more in the book.

In late November, "The American Dream" became available online at merrifieldgardencenter.com and at the three Merrifield Garden Center stores. After just three weekends of book signings, more than 400 copies were sold.

"I can't believe all these people want to read my book," Bob says. "Many of these people I've never seen before."

AN INTERESTING PATTERN began to unfold. People who had purchased the book returned to buy more books for family members, saying that Bob's message of hard work, self reliance, perseverance and family values made it the ideal holiday present for their children, some of whom were struggling with finding their way in life. Some parents, with tears in their eyes, thanked Bob for giving them a way to express their own concern for their children's future while also showing a path to success.

"First, get up early and work as hard as you can," Bob says. "Stay late. Come home tired. Take a shower and feel refreshed. Eat and get ready to go again."

It is a routine his own kids know well. When customers visit any of the three Merrifield Garden Center stores, they are bound to bump into a Warhurst. After 43 years, Bob and his wife Billie Jean still work and are joined by 22 family members, many in key positions in the business.

Copies of "The American Dream: The Rags to Riches Story of Bob Warhurst and the Founding of Merrifield Garden Center" are available online and at their three stores: Merrifield, Fair Oaks and Gainesville. Go to merrifieldgardencenter.com to view the book trailer.

COMMUNITY

Giving Birth a Chance

Nativity volunteers send 700 clean childbirth kits to Haiti.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Meg Hanrahan of Burke and Melinda Engelbrektsson of Fairfax Station have each faced life-threatening complications with childbirth. Thanks to the medical resources available to them and "the grace of God," said Engelbrektsson, they and their children survived. Many women in third world countries including Haiti don't have the same opportunity.

"If I'd been in Haiti, we both would've been dead," said Engelbrektsson of herself and her daughter.

Hanrahan and Engelbrektsson both attend Church of the Nativity in Burke, which has been sponsoring mission work in Haiti under the name Operation Starfish since 1998. Led initially by their late pastor Father Dick Martin and partnering with the international charity Food For the Poor, project volunteers have built over 1,000 houses, helped develop sanitation systems, dug wells and opened schools and greenhouses.

When Operation Starfish's subsidiary organization Fish for Hope visited Nativity last spring and shared photos of midwives from the struggling Caribbean island country, Hanrahan made an instant connection.

"What kind of conditions do these women give birth in?" said Hanrahan. "It's got to be horrible."

She wanted to do something more, focusing on improving the conditions in which women were giving birth. And while she

hadn't seen the conditions first hand, Engelbrektsson has been traveling to Haiti with Operation Starfish for seven years.

"I've seen the dogs and pigs and children all playing in filth and mud," said Engelbrektsson, "and they're not sad. That's the most startling thing to me. They're a joyful people. It makes you just want to do so many things for them."

AFTER FATHER MARTIN DIED, the Operation Starfish project leader Jim McDaniel connected Hanrahan with Engelbrektsson, who had already been working with Hanes to have donated underwear and undershirts sent to Haiti. Since she had been successful getting things down there (over 1 million pairs to date), McDaniel thought they could help each other.

The pair reached out to a doctor in Haiti, Dr. Eugene Macklin, to assess the needs of local women going into labor. Those range from the expensive and complex (like Doppler ultrasound equipment to check the position of the baby) to the simple and inexpensive (string for tying off the umbilical cord).

"We've had no luck in getting the large donations," said Hanrahan, "but we thought this is one thing we can do, relatively cheap."

The "kit" to improve cleanliness they were able to come up with includes sterile gloves, string, a scalpel, a bar of soap, alcohol swabs, sterile gauze, a large "chuck pad" to catch the afterbirth and instructions on using everything, translated into Creole. Buying most of it through the same medical supply company, the cost to Hanrahan and Engelbrektsson is just \$2 per bag.

"But it's more than what they have," said McDaniel, a Springfield resident. "And what that \$2 represents really is a reduction in the risk of losing a baby through some problem that you wouldn't have any tool for or way of cleaning."



(From left) Meg Hanrahan, Jim McDaniel and Melinda Engelbrektsson are working to make a difference in Haiti, one step, one safe birth, at a time.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Kits being assembled by Nativity volunteers include a scalpel, latex gloves, alcohol swabs and other essentials for helping facilitate a cleaner birth.

"And more than that," he continued, "it's the fact that the midwives who are trying their best, feel like there's somebody who wants to help, that they're given something from people who care about what they're doing and what's happening."

THE TWO WOMEN raised about \$1,500 in donations from the Knights of Columbus,

the women of Nativity and other groups. On Dec. 20, Hanrahan, Engelbrektsson and over 50 volunteers from Nativity around Northern Virginia will assemble 700 of the birthing kits.

"This is really what we're supposed to be all about, looking for ways to help each other across the street and around the world," said McDaniel. "It's a program that has found the potential in people's hearts to do good and has given them the tools to express that and make it happen."

Then Hanrahan and Engelbrektsson will wait to get reports from their contacts in Haiti on how far their kits go in terms of aiding cleaner births. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) reported the annual maternal mortality ratio in Haiti between 2008 and 2012 to be 630 deaths from every 100,000 live births.

But the women know they have to start small, and they have to start with one step. "Everybody deserves a chance at a safe delivery," said Engelbrektsson. "Every child needs every chance, and if we can make a difference in Haiti, then we have to."

ODB's Thank You to Combined Properties

Combined Properties donated store space at Courthouse Plaza in Fairfax City so that Our Daily Bread (ODB) and six other local organizations could conduct Fall Food Drives every Saturday from Nov. 1 through Dec. 13. This is its sixth year of supporting these food drives.

In addition, on Dec. 5, Linda Dreyer of Combined Properties delivered \$10,000 worth of grocery cards to ODB for the organization to give to local families enrolled in its holiday program - enough to help 200 families enjoy holiday meals this December.

ODB has 3,000 individuals and families throughout Fairfax County on its holiday-assistance list, and the grocery cards

are helping it provide assistance to those whom they weren't able to match with sponsors from the community to provide meals. "We are so grateful to Combined Properties for their generous support of our programs to help those in our community who are struggling to make ends meet," said ODB Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "Their support is making a real difference for people who live very near us."

Organizations that benefited from the fall food drives are: FACETS, Marshall Road Elementary School's Food4Thought weekend backpack program, Koinonia Foundation, Our Daily Bread, Cunningham Park Elementary School's Weekend Backpack Program, Lorton Community Action Center and James Mott Community Assistance Program.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OUR DAILY BREAD

(From left) Combined Properties' Linda Dreyer presents grocery gift cards to ODB Holiday Program Manager Dawn Sykes, with Holiday Program Coordinator Stella Roberts, Holiday Data Coordinator Dee Osei-Boateng and Executive Director Lisa Whetzel.

TASTEFUL GIFTS!	SANDWICHES
FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & CLIENTS Custom, handcrafted, delicious gifts - one of our popular selections, or assemble your own! See our website or call for more details.	Come check out our made-to-order sandwiches and paninis - simply amaaaazing!
CATERING From 1-20,000	Call for details Advance Orders Appreciated
GREAT HARVEST BREAD CO 6030-G BURKE COMMONS RD, BURKE 9000 S. LORTON STATION BLVD 703-249-0044 B 703-372-2339 L GREATHARVESTBURKE.COM FACEBOOK.COM/BURKEGREATHARVEST.COM	

Santa Claus is coming to...

Burke Village Center I
Saturday, December 20th, 11 am-1pm

He will be handing out stockings to the kids, who will then take their stockings to each shop for a surprise gift!

Compliments of the shop owners of Burke Village Center I
Burke Village Center I • 9520 Burke Rd., Burke, Va.

An Essay To Remember

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While many are knee-deep in wrapping paper and eggnog, some students are holed up with computer keyboards and books of quotations. In addition to driving to the mall for holiday shopping, some parents are throwing rapid-fire questions at their children to make sure they are fast on their feet.

For students and parents who hope for slots at the area's top independent schools next year, 'tis admissions season.

"As a school we want to know what the relationship will be between what a student brings to the table and what we will need to bring to the table," said Tim Simpson, assistant head of school and director of admission and financial aid at Bullis School in Potomac, Md.

Interviews are opportunities for admissions teams to get to know applicants and their parents, and share information about their



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUDRA WRISLEY

Students at Episcopal High School in Alexandria collaborate on a school project. Essays and interviews help admissions teams determine how an applicant would fit into the school community.

schools.

"We try to encourage students to view the interview as a conversation," said Julie Jameson, director of admissions at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac. "They should feel comfortable ... be themselves ... and feel free to ask any questions they might have."

In fact, the interview is really a two-way street, says Ann

Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid at The Madeira School in McLean. "The girl and her parents should be asking as many questions of me as I am asking of her," she said. "After all, this will be her school for the next four years, and fit is critical, both for us, but also for the girl and her parents."

"Learn as much as you can about the school before your visit and be

Local educators offer advice on acing independent school admission essays and interviews.

prepared to ask questions," said Scott Conklin, director of admissions, Episcopal High School in Alexandria. "This is also an opportunity to brag about your interests, talents and accomplishments. ... Be humble, but make sure you let us know all about you."

That doesn't mean you should ignore your flaws, however. "We look for genuine conversations that convey the student's real interests and passions," said Simpson. "We also want students and parents to be open to talking about strengths and weaknesses."

THE ADMISSION ESSAY is another opportunity for students to reveal facets of their personalities that might not be obvious through test scores, transcripts and even letters of recommendation, said Patricia Harden, director of admissions and financial aid at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac. "It should be a well-written snapshot of how an applicant thinks and how she understands some aspect of her world," Harden said.

Some schools even require the admission essay to be completed in person.

"We want to see a student's true, natural writing ability, and we are interested in assessing their ability to develop and present a cohesive, thoughtful essay on the spot," said Michael Cresson, director of admissions, Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington. "A polished essay prepared at home with lots of edits really doesn't tell us what we want to know to best evaluate an applicant."

No matter where the essay is written however, the same basic writing advice applies.

"We are looking for students to express themselves and give us an insight into what kind of person he or she is," Cresson said. "My suggestions for students ... would be ... to proofread their essay, allow for enough time, do some research on the school and include that in the essay. "These are simple suggestions, but it is disappointing as a director to read through essays and find simple mistakes and see that it was rushed."

SCHOOL NOTES

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.

Jacob Augelli, an eighth grade student at Robinson Secondary, finished in fourth place overall in the 2014 United States Geography Olympiad, junior varsity division. The competition consisted of two parts: a written exam and a quiz bowl tournament; Augelli placed sixth in the exam and tied for seventh in the quiz bowl tournament; overall scores were compiled by averaging each competitor's ranking for each part. Over 70 junior varsity students from as far away as Guam competed in the written exam and in a preliminary quiz bowl round, while those with high scores advanced to the final quiz bowl round. Questions ranged in difficulty from naming countries by their capital to identifying obscure islets in the North Atlantic. The top four varsity students earned the right to represent the USA at the 2014 International Geography Olympiad in Krakow, Poland, this summer. The Geography Olympiad was sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and HISTORY, commonly known as the History Channel, which also sponsors the National History Bee and Bowl. For more information on the competition, please visit www.geographyolympiad.com.

The Citadel has recognized **Cadet Martin Krawczak of Springfield** on the school's dean's list for his academic achievement during the spring semester. Recognition on the South Carolina military school's

dean's list is reserved for students who were registered for 12 or more semester hours and received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work.

Yihan Zhou, Fairfax, earned a place on the Deans Honor Roll at Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kan., for the spring 2014 semester. Zhou is a junior majoring in general studies. To be eligible, students must have enrolled in 12 or more credit hours and have a minimum grade point average of 3.60 for the semester.

Samantha M. Bell of Fairfax, received her J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law on May 23. In August, Samantha will become the Judicial Law Clerk to The Honorable Ronald D. Wigler, the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Court of Essex County. Samantha has been a Student Attorney for the Center of Social Justice at Seton Hall University. She was also a Law Clerk at Krumholz Dillon, P.A., and a litigator for the New York Legal Assistance Group/Clinical Center for Domestic Violence. Samantha graduated from New York University with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Spanish Language and Literature, with minors in History, Law, and Society, in 2011. She graduated Magna Cum Laude, with an Honors Degree in Spanish from the Presidential Honors Scholar Program. Her Honor's Thesis was on Rosa Montero's novel, 'Te Trataré Como a Una Reina' (1983), and Pedro Almodovar's film, 'Gender and Space', (1988). Samantha is a graduate of Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax. She is the daughter of William and Judith Bell of Fairfax.

Find Your Children Safe & Sound KIDDIE COUNTRY DEVELOPMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

REGISTER NOW!

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE SCHOOL YEAR AND SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

Designed to provide a complete, happy, safe learning environment in harmony with the needs of the child.

CHILDREN AGES 2-5

Full (6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.) and half day (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) programs

SPECIAL FEATURES

Developmental Curriculum • Degreed Teachers • Registered Nurse • Music Director • Nutritious Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks • Heated Swimming Pools • Spacious Shaded Playgrounds • Planned Orientations and Presentations for Parents • State Licensed

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

AGES SIX-ELEVEN YEARS

GRADES 1-6

Transportation provided to Terra Centre, Fairview, White Oaks, and Cherry Run Elementary Schools. Emphasis on special events, sports, time for homework, and student's choice of activities.

KINDERGARTEN

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2014-2015 School Year. Two Virginia certified teachers per classroom. Program emphasizes language arts, math, computer literacy, science, social studies, social development, art, music and physical development.

FULL DAY SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM AGES SIX TO ELEVEN YEARS

Program is organized into weekly themes packed with FANTASTIC FIELD TRIPS, A SENSATIONAL OVERNIGHT CAMP OUT, DAILY SWIMMING, SPORTS, DANCING, MUSIC, AND AN END OF THE SUMMER "SMASH" MUSICAL PRODUCTION BY OUR CAMPERS FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

KIDDIE COUNTRY I

Burke Centre
Fairfax Station (Fairfax)
6000 Schoolhouse Woods Rd.
Burke, Virginia 22015
703-250-6550

Come See Our Award-Winning Facilities!

(Both Schools Winners of American Institute of Architects Awards)

www.kiddiecountry.com

KIDDIE COUNTRY II

Burke-Springfield
Fairfax Station (Lorton)
9601 Old Keene Mill Rd.
Burke, Virginia 22015
703-644-0066

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 submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.



Andy Ilachinski describes his colorful, powerful and magically manipulated images as "Synesthetic Landscapes," referencing the psychological, creative – even mystical – experience of synesthesia, a joining of the senses (smelling sounds, hearing colors, feeling shape) to communicate a point of view to another through his photographs. View his photos through Feb. 9, 2015 at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax.

THROUGH MONDAY/FEB. 9, 2015

"Synesthetic Landscapes." Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Andy Ilachinski describes his colorful, powerful and magically manipulated images as "Synesthetic Landscapes," referencing the psychological, creative – even mystical – experience of synesthesia, a joining of the senses (smelling sounds, hearing colors, feeling shape) to communicate a point of view to another through his photographs. Showcase artists: Marcia Gordon, "Gems by Meg;" Piper Strong, Metal Works/Judaica; and Joyce Zipperer, metal sculptor/mixed media/metal shoes and jewelry. www.jccnvarts.org.

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.

Legos in the Library. 4 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Have fun making friends and LEGO creations with our supply of LEGO bricks. LEGOs supplied by Friends of the Kings Park Library. Ages 6-12 with adult.

Things That Go! 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Join us for stories and activities about planes, cars, boats, trains, etc. Ages 3-5 with adult.

Friends Of Pohick Library Holiday Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Holiday Gift Book Shopping.

Pohick Writer's Roundtable - Holiday Meeting. 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Register to share your holiday stories in a seasonal setting.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

Friends Of Pohick Library Holiday Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Holiday Gift Book Shopping.

Preschool Storytime - Winter Wonders. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Age 3-5 with caregiver enjoy seasonal stories, songs and activities.

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.

Fun Flicks For All Ages. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books: Antarctic Antics, Owl Moon, The Mitten. Open for Registration.

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-\$15.

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

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

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.

Polar Bear Party For All Ages. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Join Mariachi Estrellas for music and dancing to chase the winter blues

away. Sign up for waiting list.
Wag A Tale - Read To A Dog. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Age 5-12 will love to read to our therapy dog. Still openings.

SUNDAY/DEC. 21

Light Up the Night: Community Menorah Lighting at Mosaic District. 4:30pm-6:30 p.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Join the community as they celebrate the holiday together by lighting candles, singing songs, enjoying entertainment, eating sufganiyot (donuts) and gelt (chocolates) and spinning the dreidel (top). Contact Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org or visit www.jccnv.org for more information.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

Holiday Happenings. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come celebrate the holidays and join us for stories, songs, activities, and crafts. Ages 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Preschool Story Time - Rainbow Readers. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 3 to 5 year olds with a caregiver enjoy early literacy storytime enhanced with songs.

Pohick Prose Society For Teens. 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Age 13-18 will discuss their favorite books.

THURSDAY/DEC. 25

"The Frisco Kid." 3 p.m. Jewish

Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The day includes entertainment, food and fun for all ages. Magician Jay Mattioli performs (he was a finalist on TV's America's Got Talent), arts and crafts, games and activities, face painting, moon bounce, and a community service project. Kosher food available for purchase. At 3 p.m., the JCCNV will screen "The Frisco Kid"— a hilarious 1979 comedy/western starring Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford. J Fest fee per family (up to 6 people): \$20/ \$15 JCCNV member. Film only: free. Call 703-323-0880 for details and to register, or visit www.jccnv.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

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

New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball. 8 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Live performances by Ego Likeness and Bella Morte. Doors at 8 p.m. 18+. <http://www.empire-nova.com/event/728885-new-years-eve-masquerade-springfield/>

ONGOING

Senior Outdoor Pickleball, April-October, Wednesdays 8-10 a.m. Audrey Moore Wakefield Park Fairfax County, Courts 9 & 10. Beginners welcome.

Workhouse Farmers Market. 3-6 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Every Thursday on the quad is a producer-only market for discerning shoppers featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, VA 22015
703-764-0456
www.BurkePresChurch.org

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 am
Saturday Worship: 5:30 pm CoffeeHouse

Christmas Children's Pageant • Sunday, Dec. 21, 8:30 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
4 pm • 6 pm • 8 pm • 10 pm

St. Stephen's UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM
6:30 PM
8:30 PM
10:30 PM
Living Nativity: 4:30 - 6:00 PM

ststephensfairfax.org
9203 Braddock Road, Burke VA 22015

Messiah United Methodist Church
Celebrate Christmas Eve at Messiah!

5 pm—A family-friendly worship service.
7 pm—A youth-led worship service.
9 & 11 pm—Traditional carol and candlelight services with holy communion.

6215 Rolling Road, Springfield (near West Springfield High School) www.messiahumc.org
703-569-9862

9800 Old Keene Mill Rd.
703-455-7041

Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM

CALVARY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
www.calvaryfamily.com
"Continuing the ministry of Christ on earth"

Jubilee Christian Center
"Experience the Difference"

Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM
Sunday School 10:10 AM
Sunday Evening – Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM
Family Night – Wednesday 7:15 PM
Home Life Groups & College/Young Adult Ministries
Visit our Website: www.jccag.org
4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax
Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170

**Looking for a New Place of Worship?
Visit Antioch Baptist Church!
All Are Welcome!**

Sunday Worship 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children & Adults 9:30 a.m.
Married Couples Sunday School 11:30 a.m.

703-425-0710 • www.antioch-church.org
6531 Little Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039



**To Advertise
Your
Community
of Worship,
Call
703-778-9418**

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

CLASSIFIED

For Local...

- Employment
- Employees
- Services
- Entertainment
- Announcements
- Real Estate
- Cars
- Trucks
- Vans
- RV's
- Boats
- Pets
- Yard Sales
- Crafts
- Hobbies
- And More!

For All
Your
Advertising
Needs...

It Works.
Week
After Week.

703
917-6400

Place
Your
Ad
Today!

THE CONNECTION
to your community

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Kumkang, Inc trading as Delicioso, 7863 Heritage Drive, Annandale, VA 22003. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) FOR A Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sun Hee Lee, President.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC LICENSE
TRG Westfield LLC, trading as Fosters Grille, 5007 Westone Plz, Chantilly, VA 20151. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on and off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jeremy Topper, Member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

26 Antiques
We pay top \$ for antique furniture and mid-century Danish/modern teak furniture, STERLING, MEN'S WATCHES, jewelry and costume jewelry, paintings/art glass/clocks. Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790. Email:theschefer@cox.net

One man with courage makes a majority.
-Andrew Jackson

21 Announcements

LIFETIME METAL ROOFING
by VaCarolina Buildings, INC

**100% Financing
Free Estimate
Free Roof Inspection**

1.800.893.1242
metalroofover.com

**Find us on Facebook
and become a fan!**

**www.Facebook.com/
connectionnewspapers**

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
The Connection to Your Community
www.connectionnewspapers.com

21 Announcements

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

101 Computers

HDI COMPUTER SOLUTIONS
JENNIFER SMITH ♦ Serving the Area Since 1995

- Speed up Slow Computers
- Troubleshooting
- Virus Removal
- Computer Setup

(571) 265-2038
jennifer@HDIComputerSolutions.com

26 Antiques

FALLS CHURCH ANTIQUES
Best Kept Secret of The Metro Area!

Unique collection of antiques and collectibles, including furniture, jewelry, glassware, pottery, sterling silver, paintings, prints and more!
Fun home and gift ideas!
Christmas Shop Now Open!

Falls Church Antique Co.
250W. Broad St. Falls Church, Va • 703-2419642

21 Announcements

Restaurant Maint. Tech
w/ HVAC & Kitchen Equip. EXP. Light building and electrical knowledge. Must be at least 21 years of age and have valid DL and a good driving record, and able to pass a bkground check. Please put your salary requirement. Send resumes to mbyrne@janjer.com or call Mike Byrne at 301-370-8434.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

101 Computers

HDI COMPUTER SOLUTIONS
JENNIFER SMITH ♦ Serving the Area Since 1995

- Speed up Slow Computers
- Troubleshooting
- Virus Removal
- Computer Setup

(571) 265-2038
jennifer@HDIComputerSolutions.com

26 Antiques

FALLS CHURCH ANTIQUES
Best Kept Secret of The Metro Area!

Unique collection of antiques and collectibles, including furniture, jewelry, glassware, pottery, sterling silver, paintings, prints and more!
Fun home and gift ideas!
Christmas Shop Now Open!

Falls Church Antique Co.
250W. Broad St. Falls Church, Va • 703-2419642

21 Announcements

Restaurant Maint. Tech
w/ HVAC & Kitchen Equip. EXP. Light building and electrical knowledge. Must be at least 21 years of age and have valid DL and a good driving record, and able to pass a bkground check. Please put your salary requirement. Send resumes to mbyrne@janjer.com or call Mike Byrne at 301-370-8434.

21 Announcements

LIFETIME METAL ROOFING
by VaCarolina Buildings, INC

**100% Financing
Free Estimate
Free Roof Inspection**

1.800.893.1242
metalroofover.com

**Find us on Facebook
and become a fan!**

**www.Facebook.com/
connectionnewspapers**

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
The Connection to Your Community
www.connectionnewspapers.com

ELECTRICAL

K & D ELECTRIC
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
Family Owned & Operated

Recessed Lighting
Ceiling Fans
Phone/CATV
Computer Network Cabling
Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc...

Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Office 703-335-0654
Mobile 703-499-0522
lektrkman28@gmail.com

GUTTER

GUTTER CLEANING
Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned
Small Repairs • Gutter Guards

PINNACLE SERVICES
lic/ins 703-802-0483 free est.
email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com
web: lawnsandgutters.com
Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!

HANDYMAN

SPRINGFIELD HANDYMAN

- ▶ Small Home Repairs
- ▶ Good Rates
- ▶ Experienced

703-971-2164

RCL HOME REPAIRS
Handyman Services
Springfld • Burke • Kingstowne
Light Electrical • Plumbing •
Bathroom Renovation • Ceramic Tile •
Drywall Repair

703-922-4190
LIC. www.rclhomerepairs.com INS.

IMPROVEMENTS

The HANDYMAN
A DIVISION OF NURSE CONSTRUCTION

BATHROOM REMODELING, DRYWALL,
PAINTING, CERAMIC TILE, CARPENTRY,
POWER WASHING & MUCH MORE

You have tried the rest - NOW CALL THE BEST!!
Proudly serving Northern VA - 46 yrs. exp.

Licensed We Accept VISA/MC
Insured 703-441-8811

Picture Perfect
Home Improvements

(703) 590-3137

Remodeling Bathrooms, Kitchens & Basements

Exterior & Interior Repair, Painting, Carpentry,
Wood Rot, Drywall, All Flooring, Decks

- FREE Estimates
- EASY To schedule
- FAST & Reliable Service
- NO \$\$\$ DOWN!

Handyman Services Available
www.pphionfine.com
"If it can be done, we can do it"
Licensed - Bonded - Insured

IMPROVEMENTS

R.N. CONTRACTORS, INC.

Remodeling Homes, Flooring,
Kitchen & Bath, Windows,
Siding, Roofing, Additions &
Patios, Custom Deck, Painting

We Accept All Major Credit Cards
Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic

Phone: 703-887-3827 Fax: 703-830-3849
E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com
www.rncontractors.com

R&N Carpentry

♦BASEMENTS ♦BATHS ♦KITCHENS
Foreclosure specialist/Power washing
♦Exterior Wood Rot More!
Deck & Fence repair, Screen Porches
No jobs too large or small
Free est. 37 yrs exp. Licensed, Insured
703-987-5096

LAWN SERVICE

PINNACLE SERVICES, INC.
LAWN SERVICE

**MOWING, TRIMMING, EDGING,
MULCHING & TRIM HEDGES**

Friendly Service for a Friendly Price

703-802-0483

MASONRY

BRICK AND STONE
Custom Masonry
703-768-3900
www.custommasonry.info

Patios, Walkways, Stoops, Steps, Driveways
Repairs & New Installs • All Work Guaranteed

PAVING

GOLDY BRICK
CONSTRUCTION

Walkways, Patios, Driveways,
Flagstone, Concrete
FREE ESTIMATES
Licensed, Insured, Bonded
703-250-6231

TREE SERVICE

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured

**Leaf Removal
Gutter Cleaning**

25 years of experience
Free estimates
703-868-5358
24 Hour Emergency Tree Service

ZONE 2 • BURKE
 • FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD
 • FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON

HOME & GARDEN

CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM CONTRACTORS.COM

HAULING

ANGEL'S HAULING
 Junk Trash Removal,
 Yard/Construction
 Debris, Garage/Base-
 ment Clean Out,
 Furniture & Appl.
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

LANDSCAPING

WALKWAYS
 STONWORK,
 PATIOS, DECKS,
 EROSION CONTROL
 FRENCH DRAINS
 A&S LANDSCAPING
 703-863-7465
 LIC. & INS.

TREE SERVICE

ANGEL'S TREE REMOVAL
 Brush & Yard Debris
 Trimming & Topping
 Gutters & Hauling
 Angelstreeslandscaping-hauling.com
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

When spider
 webs unite, they
 can tie up a lion.
 -Ethiopian Proverb

LANDSCAPING

JUNK HAULING
 Junk, Rubbish,
 Homes, Offices,
 Commerical,
 Yard/Construction
 Debris, Lot Clear
 out, 24 hrs day,
 General Hom Work.
703-520-3205 N-VA

TREE SERVICE

TREE SERVICE

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.

Fall Cleanup...

Tree removal, topping & pruning,
 shrubby trimming, mulching,
 leaf removal, planting, hauling,
 gutter cleaning, retaining walls,
 drainage problems, etc.

25 years of experience - Free estimates
703-868-5358

**24 Hour Emergency
 Tree Service**

EMPLOYMENT

BUSINESS OPP

TELEPHONE
 A great opportunity to
WORK AT HOME!
 NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
 No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!
301-333-1900
 ☎ Weekdays 9-4 ☎

BUSINESS OPP

TELEPHONE
 A great opportunity to
WORK AT HOME!
 NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
 No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!
301-333-1900
 ☎ Weekdays 9-4 ☎

Burke Presbyterian Church seeks
 part-time
Communications Manager for
 internal and external communications.
 Experience in new media and brand
 management required. Details at
www.BurkePresChurch.org/jobs

The biggest things are always
 the easiest to do because there
 is no competition.
 -William Van Horne

SPORTS

Hayfield's Overstreet Places First on Bars at Yorktown

Hayfield gymnast Molly Overstreet took first place on bars during a four-team meet on Dec. 11 at Yorktown High School.

Overstreet, a junior, earned a score of 8.85. Yorktown's Juliette Mitrovich (8.825) and Olivia Zavrel (8.75) finished second and third, respectively.

Overstreet placed third on beam with a score of 9.05. She posted a score of 8.8 on vault and did not compete on floor.

Washington-Lee's Sophie Hatcher won the all-around with a score of 36.35.

W-L won the team competition with a score of 136.95, followed by Yorktown (134.475), Hayfield (112.475) and South Lakes (109.5).

Last season, Overstreet set a VHSL record on bars with a score of 9.925 at the state meet, earning the then-sophomore a state championship.

As a freshman, Overstreet finished in a three-way tie for first on vault with a score of 9.8 at the 2013 state meet at Centreville High School.

Hayfield will compete in a meet at Fairfax High School at noon on Jan. 10.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Hayfield junior Molly Overstreet placed first on bars during a Dec. 11 gymnastics meet at Yorktown High School.

BULLETIN BOARD

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Bilingual Storytime. 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bilingual storytime in English and Spanish. Build your child's early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs and activities. Ages 3-5 with adult.
Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Read to a trained therapy dog. Ages 6-12.
Genealogy Help Desk. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Adults and teens.
Genealogy-Researching Vital Records. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn how to research birth, marriage, death documents, as well as courthouse records including taxes, deeds, and wills. Find out where these records are and what they tell researchers. Adults.
English Conversation For Adults. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Practise your English skills in a group setting.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

Library Tech Help. 6 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Adults.
Spanish Conversation Group. 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice and improve your Spanish with a native speaker. Adults.
Springfield Writers' Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults.
Walk-In Ebook & Computer Clinic For Adults. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Pohik Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Boost your basic computer skills. Our wonderful volunteers will help you to download eBooks. Bring your device, its account ID and password.
English Conversation for Adults. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne

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.

Centre, Alexandria. Practise your English skills in a group setting.

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.
Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you.
English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults.

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.
Tales to Tails. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Need practice reading? Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Ages 6-12.
Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you.

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 adult. 703-249-1520.
Library Tech Help. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax

Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Bring your library card, eBook reader, and laptop. Adults and teens.

Wag A Tale - Read To A Dog. 10:45 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Age 5-12 will love to read to our therapy dog. Sign up for waiting list.

Scratch Programming Demonstration For Ages 9-13. 2 p.m. Pohik Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the basics of Scratch programming language. Personal computers welcome.

Friends Of Pohik Library Holiday Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Pohik Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Holiday Gift Book Shopping.

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.
Library Tech Help. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. please bring your library card, eBook reader, and laptop. Adults and teens.
Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Children ages 6-12 read to a trained therapy dog.
English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. Adults.
Friends of the Kings Park Library Meeting. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Board meeting.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 24

English Conversation For Adults. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Practise your English skills in a group setting.

Spartans Win Early-Season Matchup of Conference 7 Powers

West Springfield overcomes scoring drought to beat T.C. Williams.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

West Springfield's Alanna Backus reluctantly answered reporters' questions following Friday's game against T.C. Williams, politely requesting media attention instead be directed toward her teammates.

The senior wasn't as passive when the game was on the line.

The West Springfield girls' basketball team went seven-and-a-half minutes without a field goal during the second half and T.C. Williams guard Bhrandi Crenshaw converted a three-point play to give the Titans a 37-36 lead with less than two minutes remaining in the contest. However, shortly after the Titans used a 7-1 run to take the lead, Backus responded with a clutch 3-pointer, putting West Springfield back on top. Backus added a pair of clutch free throws and the Spartans held on to beat the Titans 42-38 on Dec. 12 at T.C. Williams High School.

West Springfield improved to 5-0.

The game was ugly at the offensive end for both teams. West Springfield held a 25-20 advantage at halftime and took a 35-30 lead when Backus scored with 1:10 left in the third quarter. But it took the Spartans more than six minutes to score another point, and more than seven minutes to come up with a field goal.

T.C. Williams failed to pull away, however, and once the Titans took the lead, Backus snatched it right back.

"It was kind of crushing because we had the momentum," T.C. Williams guard Rejoice Spivey said. "We were coming back."

West Springfield head coach Bill Gibson praised Backus for hustling.

"She hit the 3 to get us up and hit a two [free throws] after that," Gibson said. "With the way she played, she was on the floor diving [after the ball]. If we had five players on the court playing that hard, it wouldn't have been as close."

Backus finished with a team-high 14 points.

"Alanna stepped up tonight," West Springfield forward Maura D'Anna said.

West Springfield entered the game averaging 65 points per contest, but was limited to its lowest offensive output of the season.

"We've had problems playing here before," Gibson said. "It's just a hard place for us to play in. ... You play bad and come away with a win, that's a good thing."

D'Anna, a 6-foot junior, finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds, but fouled out during the fourth quarter.

"She played hard, but she's got to be



West Springfield guard Emily Reba drives toward the basket during the Spartans 42-38 victory over T.C. Williams on Dec. 12.



West Springfield point guard Shelby Haynes scored five points against T.C. Williams on Dec. 12.



West Springfield forward Maura D'Anna (5) and T.C. Williams forward Grace Peterson battle for a loose ball during their Dec. 12 matchup.

smarter," Gibson said. "She can't foul out of the game. [She needs to] understand she needs to be a more integral part of our offense."

Shelby Haynes, a 5-foot-10 junior point guard, scored five points, grabbed nine rebounds and came up with a clutch steal in the final 20 seconds for the Spartans.

Spivey led T.C. Williams with 17 points. Senior forward Grace Peterson scored 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

West Springfield and T.C. Williams for years battled for Patriot District supremacy, meeting in six of the final eight Patriot District championship games. The Titans beat the Spartans in four straight district finals from 2006-09. West Springfield won the next three titles, beating T.C. Williams in the 2011 and 2012 finals. The Titans won the final Patriot District championship in 2013, beating a Woodson team that knocked off West Springfield in the semifi-

"If we had five players on the court playing [as] hard [as Alanna Backus], it wouldn't have been as close."

— West Springfield girls' basketball coach Bill Gibson

nals. The VHSL went to a six-class realignment prior to the 2013-14 season. West Springfield went on to beat T.C. Williams 70-58 in the inaugural Conference 7 championship game in February of last season.

The Spartans are off to a strong start this season, winning their first five games. After graduating standouts Logan Battle (Georgetown), April Robinson (Duquesne) and Amy Berglund (Northwestern-St. Paul) in recent seasons, the Spartans' offensive output is more evenly distributed.

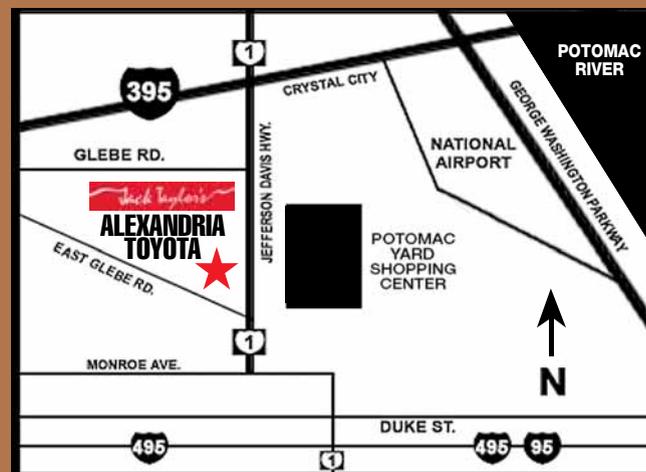
"We're working really good as a team, recently," D'Anna said. "Our connection is really good. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses."

West Springfield faced Herndon on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Spartans will host Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19.

T.C. Williams improved to 3-2 with a victory on Saturday. The Titans will host South County at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Alexandria, VA 22305
703-684-0710
www.alexandriatoyota.com



NEW! Extended Service Department Hours:

Monday – Friday, 7 am to 9 pm
Saturday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday by appointment only.

Make your next service appointment at:
alexandriatoyota.com

You Have Saturdays Off
That's Exactly Why We Don't!



TOYOTA
ServiceCenters
Keep Your Toyota
a Toyota



27 YEARS OF
RECEIVING THIS
HONOR



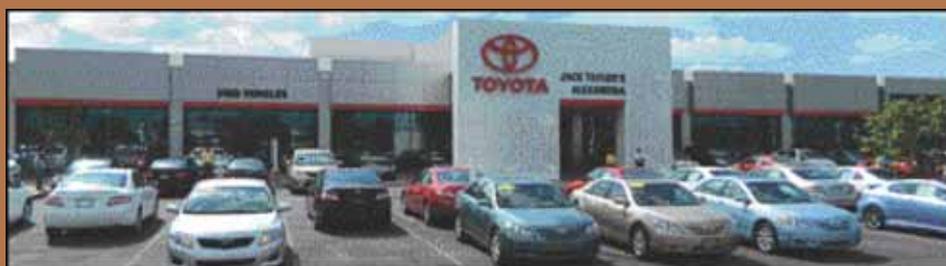
TOYOTA
Owners
ToyotaOwnersOnline.com

TOYOTA
LIFETIME GUARANTEE

Mufflers • Exhaust Pipes • Shocks • Struts
Toyota mufflers, exhaust pipes, shocks, struts
and strut cartridges are guaranteed to the
original purchaser for the life of the vehicle
when installed by an authorized Toyota dealer.
See us for full details.



TOYOTA
Let's Go Places



<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$1.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">& GET A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">GOTTIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$89.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy. INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$139.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections. <small>Does not apply to hybrid batteries. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WINTER DETAIL SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$119.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5K, 10K, 20K, 25K, 35K MILE MINOR FACTORY RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$54.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">SYNTHETIC OIL ADDITIONAL \$10. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BRAKE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$79.95</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">PADS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95. DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$5.00 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WINTERIZATION SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$59.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes: Drain and fill radiator with genuine Toyota anti-freeze inspect belts hoses and water pump. Lifetime anti-freeze \$10 more. SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DETAIL SPECIALS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$39.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Wash & Vacuum \$139.95 Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning \$295.95 Full premium detail NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">GENUINE TOYOTA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WIPER INSERTS & WIPER BLADES</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WINTERIZATION SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$59.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes: Drain and fill radiator with genuine Toyota anti-freeze inspect belts hoses and water pump. Lifetime anti-freeze \$10 more. SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR VEHICLE!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BG FLUID EXCHANGE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRANSMISSION FLUSH \$189.95</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POWER STEERING FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BRAKE FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">FOR TRANSMISSION FLUSH, TYPE T OR WS FLUID ADD \$50.00 NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NITROFILL SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$39.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">We will purge the tires of air and refill them with nitrogen. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRANSMISSION FLUSH \$189.95</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POWER STEERING FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BRAKE FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">FOR TRANSMISSION FLUSH, TYPE T OR WS FLUID ADD \$50.00 NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA / SCION

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA/SCION
3750 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY. | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305
1-866-616-8420 | ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM
JUST MINUTES FROM REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT!


TOYOTA
Let's Go Places



Michael (left) and Emmett Pellegrino (right) of Burke sit on Santa Wes Sears' (of Baltimore) lap at Fairfax Ice Arena.

Skating with Santa in Fairfax Burke Conservancy hosts first skating event.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Michael and Emmett Pellegrino of Burke didn't have to wait much to see Santa. Just long enough to have their ice skates tied. The Burke Centre Conservancy had rented out Fairfax Ice Arena and asked the jolly old man to make an appearance.

"We've had a really positive response," said Michelle Kingham of Stafford, who handles community services for the Conservancy.

This was the first time they've tried a community event away from the main office premises on Burke Centre Parkway. "Our feedback's been great so far," Kingham said. "I think we'll bring it back next year."

According to Kingham, over 120 people pre-registered for the skating, which lasted from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 14.

Mark Wagner of Burke Centre supported the choice of location. "It was a great idea, having it here," he said. "You get people moving, out of their chairs. And the timing



Mark Wagner of Burke Centre was at Fairfax Ice Arena with his daughter, son-in-law and their children.

is great because the next couple weeks are crazy."

Celebrating Christmas together with family is the most important tradition for Wagner, who was at the rink with his daughter, son-in-law and their children. "We can count our blessings with each other." Skating was opportunity for them and other Burke families to experience that unity while being active.



Quinn (center) and Wendy Dewindt of Arlington get face time with Santa at Fairfax Ice Arena. Longtime Burke resident Wendy brought her family to the event with her father, Burke Centre resident Mark Wagner.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Claire and Sean Braziel of Burke enjoy some ice time at the Burke Conservancy's first skating event at Fairfax Ice Arena.



(From left) Jonathan, Megan and Tess Olarte of Burke spend some family time skating around Fairfax Ice Arena.



Burke neighbors (from left) Connor Lygon, Violet Janik and Henry Janik come off the ice for hot chocolate and cookies at Fairfax Ice Arena.

Emmy (left) and Gavin Dewindt (right) of Arlington were visiting with relatives in Burke and came with them to the community event at Fairfax Ice Arena.

