



State Champions

SPORTS, PAGE 16

Lake Braddock junior Kate Murphy won the 6A girls' individual state cross country championship with a time of 18:20 on Nov. 13 at Great Meadow. The Lake Braddock girls' and boys' cross country teams won state championships.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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- Nov. 28 ~ Shop Small!
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- Dec. 5 ~ Clifton Horse Parade &
Christmas Tree Lighting
- ~ Art Guild of Clifton
Holiday Show and Sale
- ~ Sip 'n' Shop at Belle Jar





Military families gather for a special Shabbat dinner before the service at Temple B'nai Shalom in Fairfax Station.

Praying in Freedom Together

Temple B'Nai Shalom recognizes veterans with special Shabbat dinner and service

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Lt. Col. Jacob Kramer was concerned after finding a Star of David in a moving box. The Springfield resident was previously stationed in Morocco by the U.S. Army. Kramer said he and his family tried to “cleanse the Jewishness” out of their house there because of how dangerous it was to be one of just 3,000 Jews in the north African country.

“It’s very difficult to conceal your identity,” Kramer said. “We entered that decision with the clearest of minds, the weightiest of hearts.”

Kramer shared his story during a special Shabbat dinner at Temple B’nai Shalom in Fairfax Station to honor veterans and their families. Shabbat is the day of the rest in the Jewish faith that lasts from sundown to sundown on the seventh day of the week.

AT THE DINNER, which included breaking of traditional challah bread, lighting Shabbat candles and catered food from longtime Temple B’nai Shalom partner Spartans Family Restaurant in Burke, several military veterans shared anecdotes about their time in the service.

“We have a lifetime of stories in our congregation,” said Senior Rabbi Amy Perlin, “of Jewish communities in the services with the connection of a uniform and a religion.”

Jim Sturim is a retired colonel in the U.S. Air Force, where he did a lot of test-flying and acquisition while serving. He helped organize the evening’s events on Nov. 13, which included three mini-sermons by veterans from the congregation during the Shabbat service following dinner.

“Tonight, veterans will have a bigger part,” Sturim said. “They’ll give a glimpse of what life was like for those Jews in the service.”

Stephanie Leung of Fairfax served 26 years in the U.S. Navy, including posts in Bahrain, Israel and Kenya. “Sometimes you have to really put behind your identity,” she said.

Other speakers described finding support in practicing their religion from military chaplains, as well as more welcoming locals in Scotland and Italy.

For Bev Seiden, a retired Commander in the U.S. Navy, the service was where she found her identity. During her mini-sermon, Seiden described growing up Roman Catholic and then drifting away from the Church. As a nurse in the Navy, she met the man who would become her husband and decided to fully embrace his faith as her own: Judaism.

“I felt I was joining a long line of people,” Seiden said about completing her conversion and becoming a bat mitzvah, or full-fledged adult female member of the Jewish community. “It was like being encircled in a warm hug.”

Seiden spoke to the congregation from a lectern in the temple’s sanctuary. Behind her several sacred Torah scrolls are housed in a compartment behind heavy wooden doors. A special binder for the scrolls includes material from uniforms of different U.S. military branches, representing a deep bond between the congregation and the armed forces.

B’NAI SHALOM MEMBER Suzanne Lederer’s father once held services with one of the same sets of scrolls while working for the U.S. government in Panama. Years later, the temple coincidentally acquired the scrolls, which Lederer’s children then used in their mitzvah services transitioning to adulthood.

“There’s a thread running from my father to his grandchildren through this Torah of ours,” Lederer said. “It’s a wonderful connection.”

As the service concluded, Rabbi Perlin gave a final message of remembrance and thanks for veterans and their sacrifice.

“We’re always aware there were times when we were not free to pray,” she said. “Now we pray in freedom together.”

Temple B’nai Shalom is located at 7612 Old Ox Road in Fairfax Station. For more information visit www.tbs-online.org.



Spouses of active duty and retired military, including Caroline Kramer (center) of Springfield, light Shabbat dinner candles at Temple B’nai Shalom in Fairfax Station.

Temple B’nai Shalom Senior Rabbi Amy Perlin welcomes military families to a special Shabbat dinner before evening services.



Temple B’nai Shalom member Jim Sturim of Burke is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Sturim helped organize a special Shabbat dinner and service to recognize the veterans in the temple community.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



Lt. Col. Jacob Kramer of Springfield talks about the challenges of living as a Jewish family while stationed with the U.S. Army in Morocco.



The display case at Temple B’nai Shalom in Fairfax Station shows off memorabilia of past and current members of the congregation who have served in the U.S. military.



— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

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See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com



Jennifer's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEL. EILEEN FILLER-CORN (D-41)

From left, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), with U.S. Army veteran and kindergarten teacher Ralph DiBacco, and White Oaks Principal Ryan Richardson celebrate Veterans Day.

White Oaks Hosts “Bring Your Veteran to Breakfast”

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) spoke to students, parents and veterans at White Oaks Elementary for their sixth annual “Bring Your Veteran to Breakfast” event. The event honored those individuals in the school community who are currently serving or who have served in the U.S. Military.

Started by Marion Fegley and assisted by fourth grade teacher Charlotte Hoffer and kindergarten teacher and Army veteran Ralph DiBacco, the elementary school’s annual breakfast has grown to serve nearly 300 guests, children, parents and veterans alike.

In her remarks to the attendees, Filler-Corn presented Principal Ryan Richardson with a letter from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services Commissioner John Newby. She also recognized all veterans, active-duty men and women, Guardsmen and Reservists in the audience.

“You have gone above and beyond duty, raising your hand to volunteer to defend our nation and

freedoms. The Commonwealth thanks each and every one of you, and I thank you and your families,” she stated.

Filler-Corn also shared with the group that Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) announced that day that Virginia has become the first state in the country to functionally end Veteran homelessness. “No one who has served our country in times of war or peace, men or women, active duty or reserves, should ever be left on the streets without shelter or services,” she said.

After Del. Filler-Corn’s remarks, the attendees were treated to a concert by Downrange, the U.S. Army’s Rock Band. Downrange has been entertaining members of the armed services and their families since 2002. When the concert ended, service members and veterans visited classrooms and encouraged the White Oaks students to work hard, listen to their teachers and enjoy learning.

Students thanked their honored guests with cards, showing appreciation for the sacrifices made by the men and women who served our country.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Click It or Ticket Starts this Week

This Thursday, Nov. 19, Fairfax County Police will be joining other state and local law enforcement officers to help save more lives by strongly enforcing seat belt laws. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA), one in five Americans fails to regularly wear a seatbelt when driving a motor vehicle.

Need a tougher reminder? Read the following statistics and keep yourself safe. Be home for your family this holiday season. Buckle up!

❖ In 2013, a total of 21,132 passenger vehicle occupants were killed in crashes, and almost half (49 percent) of them were NOT wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash.

❖ Approximately 64 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in nighttime crashes in 2013 were NOT wearing their seat belts, com-

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7



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AREA ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 5

pared to 48 percent during daytime hours.

❖ Among passenger vehicle occupant fatalities in 2013, the age group 21 to 24 had the highest percentage of occupants killed that were unrestrained: 2,415 fatalities, of which 1,340 (55 percent) were not wearing seat belts.

❖ Seat belts saved approximately 12,584 lives nationwide in 2013. If everyone had worn seat belts that year, an additional 2,800 lives could have been saved.

❖ Proper seat belt use reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passengers by 45 percent and the risk of moderate to serious injury by 50 percent.

❖ Ejection from a vehicle is one of the most dangerous events that can happen to a person in a crash. In fatal crashes in 2013, 79 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants who were totally ejected from vehicles were killed. Seatbelts are effective in preventing total ejections; only one percent of the occupants reported to have been using restraints were totally ejected.

For more information, please visit NHTSA's Thanksgiving Holiday Campaign.

Volunteer Advocates Sought

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombudsman/.

If You See Something ... Say Something

This weekend's terrorist attacks in Paris, France are a stark reminder of the times we live in. But while terror attacks are horrifying, remember this guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security: "It's not about paranoia or being afraid. It's about standing up and protecting our communities...one detail at a time because a lot of little details can become a pattern."

"See Something, Say Something" is more than a catchphrase. If you see something you know shouldn't be there — or someone's behavior that doesn't seem quite right — say something. Because only you know what's supposed to be a regular part of your everyday.

Learn more about what you can do at the Department of Homeland Security's page at <http://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>.

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.

Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Va. announced that Cadet Sg. Timothy Arndt, of Fairfax Station, was officially named Fishburne Military School's Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month for October. Arndt is a junior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Arndt. Cadet Arndt is a squad leader for Band Company, is on the Distinguished Honor Roll, and plays football and baseball.

Joshua Blaz, a graduate of J.W. Robinson Secondary School, received the Tyree/Parajon, First Year Merit Scholarship at Denison University. The Tyree/Parajon Scholarship is based on academic achievement, leadership and personal merit.

Brendan Richard O'Connor of Fairfax Station has accepted membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. NSCS is a member of the Association of College

Honor Societies and is the the nation's only interdisciplinary honors organization for first-year and second-year college students. Membership is by invitation only, based on grade point average and class standing. He is a sophomore at the College of William and Mary.

Katie Bershadsky, born and raised in Burke, has been selected to the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society in the local chapter at Kennesaw State University. Delta Epsilon Iota was established to recognize and encourage academic excellence in all fields of study. Bershadsky is expected to graduate in 2018 with a major in public relations. Her parents are Scott and Kim Bershadsky. Her grandparents Malcolm and Marcia have lived in Burke for more than 30 years.

Jacob M. Sage, of Burke, Junior, Pre-Construction Engr Mgt. has made the Scholastic Honor Roll Fall term at the Oregon State University. A total of 861 students earned straight-A (4.0). Another 3,598 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of coursework.




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Holidays Are About Giving

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

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

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country, and many if not most of us go through our usual routines without encountering evidence of needy families among us.

Where to Give Locally

- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030.
- ❖ **Our Daily Bread** in Fairfax expects to have 3,000 individuals and families on their list for the Holiday Program which helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for children. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.com/holiday.
- ❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help)**, helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880. http://fairfaxfish.org/.
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, Day center for homeless, Fairfax. 703-691-3178.
- ❖ **Food for Others** distributed more than 2.4 million pounds of free food to families in need in Northern Virginia in the year ending June 30, 2012, The nonprofit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a

But more than 51,000 children who attend Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. That's 28 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools.

EDITORIAL

In Arlington more than 31 percent of the students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals; that's 7,749 students at last count.

In Alexandria, 8,664 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals. That's 59 percent of the 14,671 students enrolled.

family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031. 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com

- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO)**, 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. www.echo-inc.org.
- ❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. Now collecting gift cards and food baskets for Thanksgiving, gifts and food baskets for Christmas, and warm coats. 703-339-8611. www.lortonaction.org.
- ❖ **12 Ways of Giving:** Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships "12 Ways of Giving" campaign is an annual event that showcases many ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season, highlighting nonprofits in Fairfax County. www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org.
- ❖ **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**

These are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. These are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school. School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

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

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

(CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 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.
- ❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email: jhenderson@homestretchva.org. 703-237-2035 x125. http://homestretchva.org/volunteer/.
- ❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-0390. info@pathwayhomes.org. http://www.pathwayhomes.org. http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/.
- ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/.

More Support Needed for Runaway, Homeless Youth

BY JUDITH DITTMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ALTERNATIVE HOUSE



November is National Runaway Prevention Month and The National Runaway Safeline estimates are that nationally 1.3 to 1.7 million runaway, thrown away and homeless youth live on the street. Fairfax, even with its excellent schools and supports for young people, is not immune from this problem. Alternative House, a Fairfax nonprofit organization, provides emergency shelter and counseling to more than 150 young people each year. The Fairfax County Public Schools homeless liaison's office reports that there were 324 homeless youth under the age of 18 who didn't have the support of a par-

About Alternative House

The Alternative House, a Northern Virginia nonprofit organization, provides emergency shelter, transitional living programs and community based supports for homeless, runaway, abused and at-risk young people. Alternative House has provided services for young people for more than 43 years.

ent or guardian during the last school year.

Why do young people run away or become homeless? They run for many different reasons. Sometimes young people are experiencing "typical" teenage behavior. They get mad at their family and leave home usually going to a friend's house. But even this can be dangerous. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that one in six endangered runaways is a victim of sex trafficking. It's unfortunately too easy for even a suburban teen

to be sucked into this horror when they've left home.

Many young people are fleeing family conflict or an abusive situation. According to the National Runaway Safeline, 47 percent report conflict in their home, 80 percent of runaway girls report being physically or sexually abused and 43 percent of runaways have experienced physical abuse. These are young people who believe the street is safer than home and more than 50 percent of youth who are on the streets are there because their parents told them to leave or didn't care if they left.

Once they have left home young people are at higher risk to become victims of sex trafficking, and assault. Young people are simply not prepared to fend for themselves. It's not surprising that mental health issues increase significantly with 32 percent of runaway and homeless teens reporting having attempted suicide.

Unfortunately, there are few resources for these young people. Here in Fairfax we have Alternative House. It is the only emergency shelter for teenagers in Northern Virginia. There is only one other shelter like it in the entire state of Virginia and that one is far away in Virginia Beach. In the past 15 years four other Northern Virginia emergency shelters for

SEE ALTERNATIVE HOUSE,
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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

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

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

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



FAITH 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.

Clifton Presbyterian Church is offering a **Grief Support Group**. Offered for eight sessions on Thursdays from Dec. 3-Feb. 3 from 10:30 a.m.-noon for those who have experienced a recent death and loss in their lives. Dec. 3, 10, 17; Jan. 7, 12, 21, 28; Feb. 3. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. office@cliftonpc.org. 703-830-3175.

St. Pius X Chapel is offering a Tridentine (Latin) Mass in Falls Church at Everly Community Funeral Care, 6161 Leesburg Pike on Sunday, Nov. 15 and Dec. 20 at 9:30 a.m.; and in Fairfax City at **Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center**, 3740 Old Lee Highway on **Sunday, Dec. 6** at 9:30 a.m. Confessions at 8:30 a.m. 703-425-5735.

Church of the Nativity offers a free general bereavement support group open to all adults on the first and third Thursday of each month 7:30-9 p.m. The church is located at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. Call 703-455-2400, ext. 17.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/JewishRituals, Friday at 9:30 a.m. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. 703-569-7577 or www.adatreyim.org.

Alternative House

FROM PAGE 8

teenagers have closed. Fairfax needs more housing and supports for our runaway and homeless young people.

In addition to working to provide more safe shelters for those youth who have runaway or are homeless, there are things we can do as individuals and as a community to provide the support young people need to stay safe. Additional counseling resources can help families learn to better communicate. Since family conflict is one of the primary reasons young people leave home this can have a huge impact. Studies also show that increased mental health supports and substance abuse treatment options for both youth and families help prevent runaway episodes.

Our young people deserve to have caring adults and a safe place to stay so they can grow to their full potential. If we can create this, we can prevent the tragedy that faces young people who run away and become homeless.

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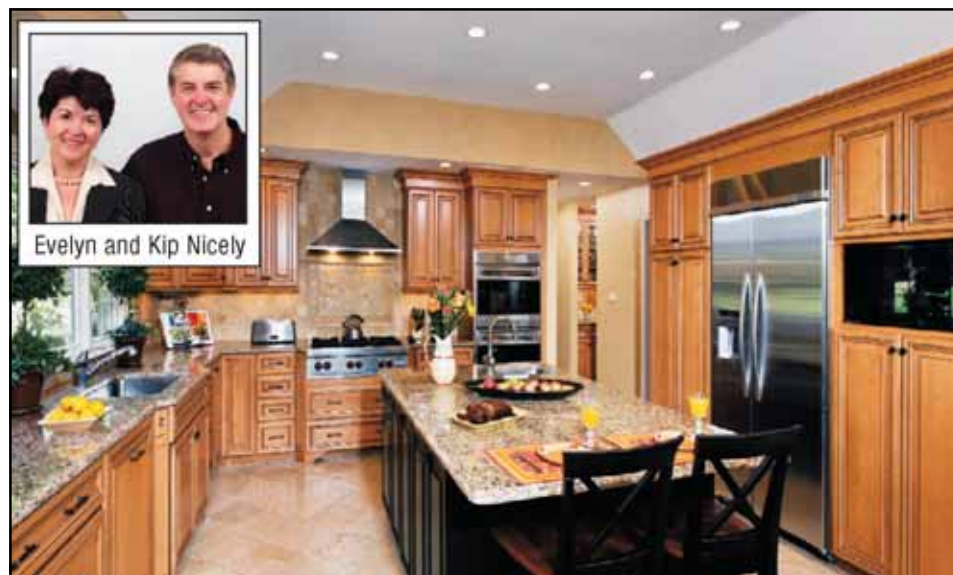
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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland on Saturday, Nov. 28. Holiday activities, fine art, entertainment, food and music abound.

Holiday Guide

Go

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Workhouse Winter Wonderland. 3-7 p.m. Full campus, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join and celebrate the holiday season creatively. Get into the holiday spirit by taking a special date or the whole family on a magical sleigh bell ride around our historic campus in horse-drawn carriages. Enjoy delicious holiday treats such as s'mores and roasted chestnuts by the fire. Free admission. workhousearts.org. 703-585-2900.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. 11:30-7 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, Ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols for times and locations.

A Celtic Christmas with Sior-Óg. 7:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts sponsors the seventh annual Christmas concert. Adults \$5.00 and Children 12 and under free. www.fairfaxarts.org.

Horse Society Holiday Procession. 2 p.m. Town of Clifton. Clifton kicks off the holiday season by parading through the town to Lustre's Field for the costume judging and to share refreshments with the town folks who come to admire and "get in the holiday spirit." This year there will be a special appearance by – you guessed it – Santa. <http://clifton-va.com/>.
Clifton Tree Lighting. 6 p.m. Ayre Square. Campfire, marshmallow roast, carols. www.clifton-va.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5-6

26th Annual Holiday Model Train Show. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Noon-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Model and toy trains displays in G, Standard, O, S, Lego, HO, N and Z Gauges. The "Train Doctor" will be available to fix or advise on broken models. Free for museum members. Adults \$5, children \$2. www.fairfax-station.org.

See and Hear

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 21-22

The Nutcracker. 2 p.m. 6 p.m. Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by the Burke Civic Ballet, come share in the magic of the holiday tradition. \$28, \$20. Order tickets at www.buffas.com. Contact

burkeciviballet@gmail.com for more information.

SATURDAYS/NOV. 28; DEC. 5, 12, 19, 26

Children's Theatre: "The Nutcracker." 1-2:15 p.m. and 3-4:15 p.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Presented by Mestey Films Productions. Playwright Vianlix Mestey produces an original re-telling of the favorite holiday story in play form. Running time 75 minutes with one intermission. All ages. \$9-\$13. workhousearts.org. 703-585-2900.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

"A Chanticleer Christmas." 8 p.m. George Mason Center for the Arts, 4373 Pond Drive, Fairfax. An evening of ancient hymns, venerated sacred songs, contemporary classics, gospel spirituals and treasured American and European carols, all performed with Chanticleer's lush harmonies and impeccable technique. \$32-\$54, half-price for children and youth through grade 12. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Children's Christmas Musical. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. A Christmas musical, "An Out of the Box Christmas." www.jccag.org. 703-383-1170.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

Middle School Orchestras. 7 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Enjoy selections from the Nutcracker, the Leyden String Serenade and more. Canned food drive to benefit families of FCPS bus drivers. Free. 703-426-2143.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

The Cathedral Bass. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The Cathedral Brass will celebrate Christmas with a musical holiday journey featuring a medley of favorites from popular holiday cartoons. livingsaviorlutheran.org. 703-352-1421.

TUESDAY/DEC. 15

High School Orchestras. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Special performance. Festive music to get you in the holiday spirit. Free. 703-426-2143.

Do

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Donuts with Santa. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. W-16, Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Operation Lifesaver Santa Trains arrives at Burke Centre Station on Saturday, Dec. 12. Ride the train with Santa. Don't forget to bring a toy for Toys for Tots. Get tickets at vrespecialevents.org starting Monday, Nov. 23.

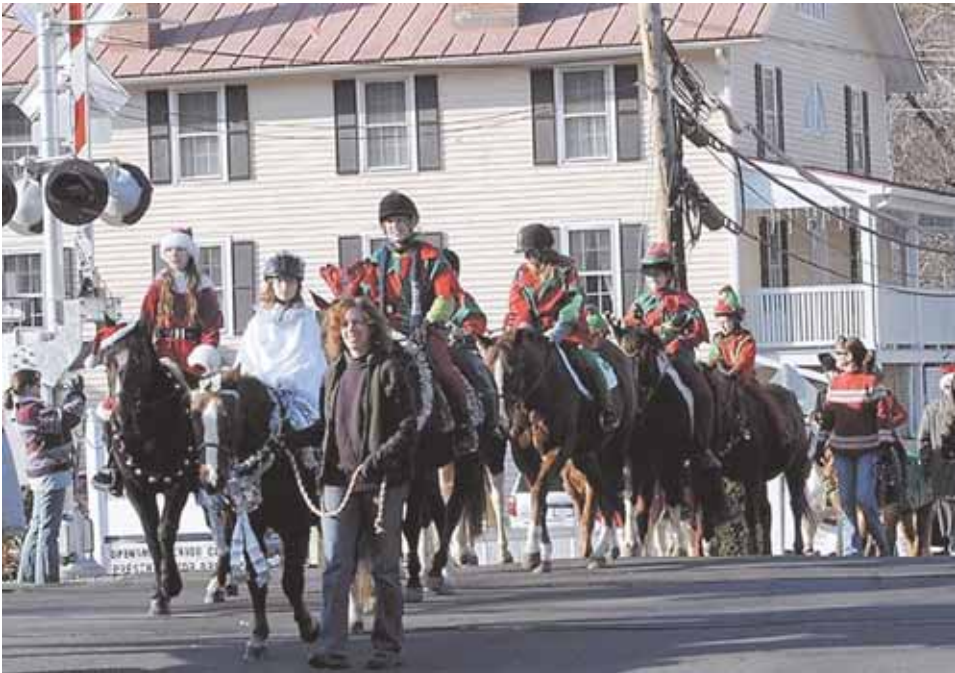


PHOTO BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

This house on Nanlee Drive in Springfield had the honor of being in Holly's Tacky Lights in 2014. Take a tour of your neighborhood and find out the best light show right in your neighbor's front yard. <http://www.fairfaxchristmaslights.com/>.

Workhouse Way, Lorton. Santa is returning for a wonderful family event just in time for the holidays. Join Santa and his helpers for a special experience at Donuts With Santa. Each ticket holder will enjoy two doughnuts and a choice of juice or coffee while Santa and his elves read a

classic Christmas story and lead a fun-filled family sing-a-long. \$20. workhousearts.org. 703-585-2900.



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

The Clifton Horse Society canters down into the town of Clifton on Saturday, Dec. 5 with the society's holiday procession. Special appearance by Santa. Reindeers? Who needs reindeers when there are horses?

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Santa's Workshop. 1-5 p.m. Springfield Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Come out to Santa's Workshop for crafts, cookie and cupcake decorating, storytime, a cake walk, letter writing to Santa and more. Additional fee for refreshments and photos with Santa. \$5. Children 12 and below. amitchem@live.com.

Lunch with Santa. 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Have lunch with Santa. \$6. Parents free. Ages 10 and under. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for ticket information or call 703-385-7858.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

Springfield Christian Women's Connection Luncheon. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Program is on Creative Christmas Fashion Show. If you have purchased an outfit you would wear to a Christmas party - whether new or second hand - for under \$25, we want to see it. Bargain hunters and creative crafters, put on your tennis shoes or your crafting apron to find us something exciting for our show. \$20. Reserve by Monday, Dec. 7. SpringWmConn@yahoo.com. 703-922-6438.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Operation Lifesaver Santa Trains. Burke Centre Station, 10399 Premier Court, Burke. Ride the train with Santa but don't forget to bring a toy. Burke Centre will become a drop off site for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaigns. Tickets go on sale Monday, Nov. 23. \$5-\$6. <http://www.vrespecialevents.org/Seasonal/SantaTrains/>.

Breakfast with St. Nick. 8 a.m.-Noon. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Children and families gather to hear the story of Saint Nicholas, the saint who captured the spirit of giving and began the Santa Claus tradition. The morning includes special time with St. Nick (to include photos), a visit to the "Little Shoppe" where children can do Christmas shopping for family members (all proceeds go to support a mission project of the church), Christmas crafts, and a light breakfast and carol singing. All are welcome. <http://www.burkepreschchurch.org/saint-nick>.

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

First Holiday Half at Burke Lake Park. 9 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Runners can expect a premium experience starting with pre-race entertainment, a winter and holiday themed decorated course, scoring and awards, and an incredible post-race celebration including the awards ceremony, post-race breakfast buffet, and vendor expo. <http://www.metrorunwalkspringfield.com/holiday-half-home>.

Shop

THURSDAY/NOV. 19

Pohick Christmas Mart. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Parish House and the Vestry House will be transformed into a festive Christmas atmosphere with rooms filled with Arts and Crafts, a Consignment Shop, and a Pantry Shelf with fresh baked goods, homemade apple butter, and frozen casseroles. The Docent Guild will be leading tours of our historic church, and a delicious luncheon will be served by ladies dressed in colonial costumes. www.pohick.org. 703-339-6572.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 21-22

City of Fairfax Holiday Craft Show. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Over 200 juried crafters and gourmet food vendors. \$5, \$8, free for under 18. Free shuttle bus. www.fairfaxholidayshow.com. 703-385-7858.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 3-6

Library Holiday Book Sale. Dec. 3, 3-9 p.m. Dec. 4-5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 6, noon-2 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Come and find those perfect books, CDs and DVDs for your holiday shopping. Whether it's a cute little book to put a gift card in, a craft/hobby book for your favorite aunt or that special gift for mom, dad or the little ones--there are offerings galore waiting for you. Purchases will help fund valuable library children's programs. Bag sale on Sunday. For more information, please contact rbfriends@gmail.com or 703-451-8055. TTY 703-324-8365.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Art Guild of Clifton Holiday Show. 2-7 p.m. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. A feature of this year's show will be instruction and craft demos for youth visitors. They will be able to use a variety of papers and stamping to create Holiday cards and gift accessories suitable for their gift giving. www.artguildofclifton.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5-6

38th Annual Arts and Crafts Show. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Audrey Moore RECenter, 8100 Braddock Road, Burke. Top quality handmade arts and crafts will be offered by nearly 120 of the area's finest artisans selling handmade items and plenty of great gifts to choose from. Visitors will also be able to find clothes, drawings, photography, pottery, ceramics and metal and wood crafted items. Admission is \$2 per person; children ages 12 and under are free.

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City of Fairfax
Holiday Craft Show

Saturday, November 21, 2015
10 AM-5 PM

Sunday, November 22, 2015
10 AM-3 PM

The Most Popular Art & Craft Show
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Over 200 juried crafters and gourmet food vendors.

Admission fee: \$5 per person each day or \$8 for a two-day pass. Under 18 years free.

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www.fairfaxholidayshow.com

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

Gift Ideas for the Gardener

BY ELLEN PETERSON MLD,
 MASTER GARDENER AND
 HORTICULTURIST

The holidays are here and you may be struggling to find the perfect gift for the gardener in your life. Here are a few suggestions to consider now or at any time during the year:

1. Hori-hori Garden Knife

This tool is one of my favorites because it's so versatile. It digs, plants, weeds, cuts, saws and even measures. The stainless steel blade is about seven-inches long and slightly curved, sharp on one side and serrated on the other.

2. Garden Gloves

I go through several pair of garden gloves every year. They get wet, get lost and develop holes. I can guarantee your gardener would welcome another pair, as well. Prices of gloves vary widely, depending on how they're made. The most economical are made of cotton; however, the most popular gloves have been dipped in nitrile, a latex-type material offering additional protection without

bulk. They work well for pulling even small weeds. Lambskin or deerskin gloves are pricier but offer more protection as well as flexibility for working comfortably. You can get short or elbow-length gloves that provide maximum protection when dealing with thorny shrubs such as roses.

3. Pruners

Good pruners are essential tools for gardeners, and as with gloves, a gardener likes having multiple pairs for different tasks. Pruners come in a wide range of prices, but don't skimp here. Less expensive pruners will probably lose their edge and alignment within a short time, making them more likely to damage plants. Gardeners prefer to use bypass pruners to give a good clean cut versus anvil pruners, which tend to pinch plant stems.

4. Garden Weed Hoe

While weeding can be very zen and meditative, it can also be a time-consuming task that gardeners would, at times, prefer not to do. A weed hoe is a great tool to make this job easier. The hoe has

a razor-sharp edge that will cut tops off weeds when it skims the surface of the soil. Repeatedly cutting the tops removes a weed's food source and will eventually kill the plant. The weed hoe can save a gardener many hours of difficult kneeling or bending. Again, buy the best quality hoe you can afford—one with a dull blade or uncomfortable handle will be frustrating to use.

5. Garden kneelers and garden benches

Gardeners spend a lot of time on their knees, pulling weeds and planting bulbs, annuals and perennials. A garden kneeler is a soft foam pad that can relieve pressure on the knees and make jobs easier. As an alternative, garden benches or seats are useful for gardeners who have difficulty kneeling or doing so for an extended period of time. I've seen some benches function in different ways by flipping them back and forth for kneeling or sitting. Another related option is a garden seat with wheels that also provides space for storage and moves easily.

SEE GIFTS, PAGE 13

Forget the Fruitcake.
Give a gift that really matters
this holiday season.

REFOREST FAIRFAX
 \$35 will plant five new trees in Fairfax County.

SUPPORT TRAINING
 \$100 buys workforce training for one low income student.

BUY A BICYCLE
 \$50 will buy a new bike for a low income child.

DONATE KIDS BOOKS
 \$50 purchases twelve children's picture books.

PROVIDE HEALTHCARE
 \$300 will buy one child a year of medical care.

FEED THE HUNGRY
 \$100 will buy a holiday meal for a family in need.

FUND SOME SUMMER FUN
 \$50 provides a week of summer fun at camp.

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Enough with all the snowflake ties and reindeer sweaters, too. This year, there are lots of great ways to give and give back at the same time. Now you can donate to any of these Fairfax County nonprofits in honor of anyone on your gift list. It makes shopping easy and offers you a nice tax deduction. But best of all, it helps those organizations succeed in bringing goods and services to those who need them most at this special time of year. Learn more at givefairfax.net

To request reasonable ADA accommodations or information in an alternative format, call 703-324-5171 TTY 711 | Concept and design by Williams Whittle

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

The Gift of Fair Trade

At Fair Trade Winds in Fairfax, they sell international hand-made products.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

At Fair Trade Winds, which features international products at 10420 North Street in the City of Fairfax, the store is basically 100 percent fair trade.

"The store has unique items from other countries that are handmade," said sales associate Cole Andray. "We make sure they are made under fair conditions, meaning no child labor and no sweat shops."

For this holiday season, the store offers all sorts of gift items — from Christmas ornaments and stockings, to Christmas cards, to clothing to jewelry to recycled products and food.

The goods come exclusively from Southern hemisphere countries like Haiti, India, Africa, Nepal, Guatemala and Peru, among others.

The products are all handmade



Fair Trade Winds sales associate Cole Andray stands in front of oil drum art made from recycled oil drums from Haiti. The artwork comes in religious themes, Christmas designs, flowers, birds and people — just about anything. The prices range from \$8 to \$200, with the majority of things in the \$20 to \$55 range.

by artisans and farmers from Southern hemisphere countries. Owner Paul Culler, 59, of Fairfax, who with his wife Lois, runs seven Fair Trade Winds stores around the country, said the artisans are paid a living wage to produce those items. Besides Fairfax, their other store locations are in Bar Harbor, Maine; Boulder, Colo.; Jamestown, R.I.; Seattle, Wash.; Springfield, Ohio; and Stony Brook, N.Y.

"They are brought into the U.S. and we sell them at the retail

level," said Culler. "They want nothing more than access to the Western markets." He said that fair trade offers a business model that brings artisans and farmers in the Southern hemisphere together with wholesalers and retailers at stores in the west. "It's a transparent business model," he said.

Fair Trade Winds is located at 10420 North Street, Fairfax, VA. Call 703-877-0577 or visit the website at www.fairtradewinds.net.

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Celebrate a Handcrafted Holiday!
South County High School
Craft Show
Saturday Dec 5 9a-3p
\$3 Single Admission ~ \$2 Students/Seniors
Kids FREE ~ Cookies with Santa ~ 9:30a-11:30a
140+ Vendors ~ Handcrafted items ~ Silent Auction
FREE Child ID & Fingerprinting by the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office
SCHS
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Proceeds benefit the
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www.facebook.com/SCHSCraftShow

\$1 OFF Admission
Present this coupon to the SCHS Admission Booth at South County HS on Dec 5, 2015 for \$1 OFF one single \$3 Admission

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Gifts for Gardeners

FROM PAGE 12

6. Garden tubs, trugs or bags

These containers are all useful to gardeners for collecting weeds and debris. Tubs are typically made of hard-sided plastic; trugs have flexible plastic sides; and bags are usually made from reinforced plastic with soft sides. I've always liked the collapsible type that easily stores in my garage when it isn't used. Sizes and weights vary to meet the needs of most gardeners and budgets.

7. Books

Gardeners can discover wonderful advice and ideas in gardening books. Every year, I find new titles I love and have to add to my library. These are a few of my favorites you might see at the library, online or at nearby bookstores. I'm certain your gardener (or you) will find inspiration in one of these titles:

"Square Foot Gardening" by Mel Bartholomew was originally published in 1981 and is based

on the PBS program by the same name. This is the book I've always followed for planting my vegetable garden. It's a perfect resource for homeowners to use for growing their own food in limited space.

"Perennial Combinations" is one of several books written by C. Colston Burrell, from Charlottesville. He offers advice to create fabulous groups of plants that will look great and grow well together in different environmental situations. Another wonderful book by Burrell is Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants. He gives great suggestions to replace plants that we're learning are highly invasive to our environment.

"The New York/Mid-Atlantic Gardener's Book of Lists" by Bonnie Lee Appleton from Virginia Tech and Lois Trigg Chaplin is one of the most useful books I own. This sourcebook provides over 200 lists of plants for specific locations and uses in the garden.

"The American Woodland Garden" by Rick Darke is a fabulous guide to designing, planting, and maintaining a garden in the woods.

His stunning photographs show a natural palette of plants and the effects they create in the garden. The Natural Garden by Ken Druse also gives wonderful advice and displays spectacular photographs for the homeowner/natural garden designer.

"Bringing Nature Home" by Douglas Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware, offers an interesting discussion of how the choices we make as homeowners and gardeners can impact the biodiversity of life. This book is truly a must-read for all of us.

"Planting in a Post-Wild World" by local authors Thomas Rainer and Claudia West is my favorite new book for 2015. Rainer (who also writes a blog titled Grounded Design and West discuss a powerful alternative to traditional horticulture: designed plantings that function like naturally occurring plant communities. They reveal how to create landscapes that are sustainable, resilient, beautiful and diverse.



GIFTS TO GO!

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RAMBUNCTIOUS THEATER COMPANY

Robinson Secondary School actors present Michael Frayn's comedy "Noises Off." Top row, from left: Madyson Hanton, Daniel Williams, Julia Mahon Kuzin, Matthew Ross, Hanna Kornell, RJ Pratt; bottom row, from left: Colin Diggs, Alex Lane, Matthew Cook.

Robinson Theater Presents "Noises Off"

The Rambunctious Theater Company – in partnership with the Robinson Secondary Drama Department – presents Michael Frayn's "Noises Off" on Nov. 19-21 at Robinson's Russell Theater. Showtimes are 7 p.m. with an additional 2 p.m. matinee on the 21st. The satirical presentation is directed by Robinson's Megan Thrift and features an outstanding team of high school actors and technical crews as they bring this comedy to life.

"Noises Off" is a three-act play that tells a story within a story. The show takes its name from the theatrical direction for sounds heard off-stage. The playwright realized what he was seeing occurring behind the stage was funnier than the actual show on stage.

The premise is that director Lloyd Dallas was hired to helm an Americanized take on a British play and does his best to control an eccentric group of stage actors. During practice sessions, things

run smoothly.

However, when Lloyd and his actors begin a series of performances leading up to a Broadway premiere, chaos ensues. Star actress Dotty is quickly passing her prime, male lead Frederick has no confidence and bit actor Selsdon is rarely sober.

The Cappies award-winning Rambunctious Theatre Company Boosters is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Comprised of community members and the parents of Robinson Secondary School Drama students, the boosters support and help facilitate the school's various events and productions. The boosters host summer drama camps for younger actors and provide scholarships to Robinson students pursuing theatre arts in college. Tickets and additional details are available at robinsondrama.org.

"Noises Off" runs Nov. 19-21 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 21 also at 2 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Rd in Fairfax. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students.

CALENDAR

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

Ongoing

Inaugural Workhouse Glass National 2015. Through Jan. 17. W-16, Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join for the family-friendly exhibitions of glass art and the opening reception on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6-8 p.m. workhousearts.org, 703-585-2900.

FCPS Art Teachers Exhibition. Nov. 14-Dec. 6. W-16 McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join for the exhibitions by the FCPS best art teachers. Discover the breadth of talent found in FCPS as you view works by art teachers. The exhibit will feature various media, unified by the artist's passion to educate. workhousearts.org, 703-585-2900.

Children's Theatre: "The Nutcracker." 1-2:15 p.m. & 3-4:15 p.m. Saturdays. Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Presented by Mestey Films Productions. Playwright Vianlix Mestey produces an original re-telling of the favorite holiday story in play form. Running time 75 minutes with one intermission, appropriate for all ages. \$9-\$13. workhousearts.org, 703-585-2900.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 19-21

"Noises Off." 7-10 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Burke. Hired to helm an Americanized take on a British play, director Lloyd Dallas attempts to control an eccentric group of actors. During practice, things run smoothly. However, serious chaos ensues during performances leading up to a Broadway premiere. \$12. 703-402-6653.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 19-22

Peter Pan: The Boy Who Hated Mothers. Thursday-Sunday, 8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 2 p.m. Goerge Mason Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Exploring the original ideas and inspirations behind this iconic fantasy unveils a darker story of the boy who wouldn't grow up. This is Peter Pan as you have never seen it before but how it was always meant to be told. \$10, \$15. cfa.gmu.edu, 888-945-2468.

FRIDAY/NOV. 20

Autumn Acoustic Show. 7:30-10 p.m. The Hub, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. featuring four Mason student performers. A fun and cozy night of original singer-songwriters. Hosted by the Music Productions Club of GMU. Free and open to the

public. cweinrot@gmu.edu.

14th Annual Jazz4Justice. 8-10 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. GMU Jazz Ensemble offers "The Great American Songbook." Proceeds benefit GMU Music scholarships and Fairfax Law Foundation Pro Bono Programs. Sponsorships available and vital to the program. \$15-\$20. www.fairfaxlawfoundation.org, 703-246-2735.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 20-21

Annual Craft Fair. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Over 35 crafters. Enjoy lunch in our cafe along with our bake sale. All proceeds benefit United Methodist Women Mission Projects. Free. www.stmatthewsumc.org, 703-978-3500.

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. By combining traditional Indian and Western instruments, "The Spirit of India" presents Indian music and dance as it has never been heard or seen before. Seventeen professional artists, including outstanding musicians, singers and dancers, lead a musical journey to Mumbai and beyond, filling the stage with vivid colors, mesmerizing movement and hypnotic rhythms. 888-945-2468. cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 21-22

City of Fairfax Holiday Craft Show. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Over 200 juried crafters and gourmet food vendors. \$5, \$8, free for under 18. Free shuttle bus. www.fairfaxholidayshow.com, 703-385-7858.

The Nutcracker. 2 p.m. 6 p.m. Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by the Burke Civic Ballet, come share in the magic of the holiday tradition. \$28, \$20. Order tickets at www.buffas.com. Contact burkeciviballet@gmail.com for more information.

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

23rd Annual Burke Area CROP Hunger Walk. 1:30 p.m. Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Walk 6K/3.7 miles or shorter Golden Mile to support local and global efforts to fight world hunger and bring disaster relief to victims of recent disasters. Proceeds benefit international relief and development efforts of Church World Service and local Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) in Springfield and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) in Chantilly. Nonperishable food will be collected for ECHO. Free. ekringer@aol.com.

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

NOVEMBER

11/25/2015.....Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

12/2/2015.....Wellbeing

12/9/2015.....Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II

12/9/2015.....HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays
12/16/2015...A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gifts Pages

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

Chapel Road, Burke. Susan Gray from the City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center will give a presentation entitled, "Love and Legacy: The Civil War Romance of Antonia Ford and Major Joseph C. Willard."

THURSDAY/NOV. 26

Turkey Trot for Parkinson's. 9 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. 5K Run/Walk and One-mile gobble wobble to benefit the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. www.WestSpringfieldRunning.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Children's Theatre: "The Nutcracker." 1-15 p.m. and 3-4:15 p.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Presented by Mestey Films Productions. Playwright Vianlix Mestey produces an original re-telling of the favorite holiday story in play form. Running time 75 minutes with one intermission. All ages. \$9-\$13. workhousearts.org. 703-585-2900.

Workhouse Winter Wonderland. 3-7 p.m. Full campus, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join and celebrate the holiday season creatively. Get into the holiday spirit by taking a special date or the whole family on a magical sleigh bell ride around our historic campus in horse-drawn carriages. Free. workhousearts.org. 703-585-2900.

"A Chanticleer Christmas." 8 p.m. George Mason Center for the Arts, 4373 Pond Drive, Fairfax. An evening of ancient hymns, venerated sacred songs, contemporary classics, gospel spirituals and treasured American and European carols, all performed with Chanticleer's lush harmonies and impeccable technique. \$32-\$54, half-price for children and youth through grade 12. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

TUESDAY/DEC. 1

Tiny Tots Concert. 10 a.m. 7 p.m. Robert E. Lee

High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Join Robert E. Lee High School Band and Drama for their annual Tiny Tots concert featuring favorite characters and seasonal selections. \$2. 703-663-0185.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 4-5

Norwegian Festival/Bazaar. Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church, 3810 Meredith Drive, Fairfax. Fifth year with Norwegian café, Fjord horses, live music, Nordic Dancers, Norwegian food products and goods. Local Nordic artisans. Waffle, krumkake, lefse demos, baked goods and Kransekake sales. Free. www.norwaydc.org. 703-573-5943.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. 11:30-7 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, Ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols for times and locations.

Lunch with Santa. 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Have lunch with Santa. \$6. Parents free. Ages 10 and under. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for ticket information or call 703-385-7858.

A Celtic Christmas with Sior-Óg. 7:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts sponsors the seventh annual Christmas concert. Adults \$5.00 and Children 12 and under free. www.fairfaxarts.org.

Advent Coffee Concert. 9:30 a.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. The St. Stephens United Methodist Women Maranatha Singers will present an enjoyable morning of holiday music. The theme of the concert will be "A Joyful Noel." Refreshments will be served after the concert. Free.



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SPORTS



The Lake Braddock girls' cross country team on Nov. 13 won its second state championship in the last four years.



The Lake Braddock boys' cross country team repeated as state champion.

PHOTOS BY ED LULL

Lake Braddock Wins Girls', Boys' XC State Titles

The Lake Braddock girls' and boys' cross country teams won state championships on Nov. 13 at Great Meadow.

The girls' team produced a score of 44, finishing ahead of Oakton (76) and Madison (89). It was the Bruins' second state title in the last four years.

The Bruins had four harriers finish in the top 15, led by junior Kate Murphy, who won the individual state title with a time of 18:20.

Sophomore Sarah Daniels placed 10th for Lake Braddock (19:07), junior Emily Schiesl was 11th (19:10) and senior Sonya Butseva placed 14th (19:19).

Sophomore Samantha Schwerts com-

pleted the Lake Braddock top five with a 16th-place finish (19:25).

West Springfield senior Reagan Bustamante earned all-state honors with an eighth-place finish (19:02) and South County junior Faith Zolper took ninth (19:07).

The Lake Braddock boys' team posted a score of 46. Madison finished runner-up with a score of 106, followed by Cosby (127), Robinson (150) and Woodson (154). It was the Bruins' second straight state title and third consecutive top-two finish.

Senior Colin Schaefer was the Bruins' top finisher, placing fourth with a time of 16:02. Junior Conor Lyons placed eighth (16:16), senior Spencer Jolley took 11th (16:24),



Lake Braddock senior Colin Schaefer placed fourth at the VHSL 6A state cross country meet on Nov. 13 at Great Meadow.

senior Cavanaugh McGaw finished 14th (16:26) and junior Evan Chase finished 22nd (16:49).



Woodson senior Robert Lockwood finished fifth at the VHSL 6A state cross country meet on Nov. 13 at Great Meadow.

Woodson senior Robert Lockwood placed fifth (16:06), earning all-state honors. Robinson senior Hunter Jutras placed 13th (16:26).

West Springfield Volleyball Falls One Win Shy of States

Spartans won first conference/district title since 2007.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After capturing the program's first conference/district championship since 2007 and defeating South Lakes and Patriot in the regional tournament, the West Springfield volleyball team needed to win just one more set to secure a berth in the state tournament.

The Spartans led defending state runner-up Madison 2-1 entering the fourth set of their 6A North region semifinal match on Nov. 12 at West Springfield High School, but couldn't close out the Warhawks. Madison won the final two sets, handing West Springfield its first five-set defeat of the year while ending the Spartans' season with a 3-2 (23-25, 25-18, 23-25, 25-15, 15-6) victory.

"It's tough to be that close, to taste it and not get it," West Springfield head



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

West Springfield senior Megan Marin had 12 kills against Madison on Nov. 12 in the 6A North region volleyball semifinals.

coach Stephanie Noriega said, "but I'm so incredibly proud of my team."

West Springfield finished the season with a 17-4 record, including a 12-match win streak prior to its season-ending loss to Madison. The Spartans went 4-1 in five-set matches, including a pair of five-set victories in the region tournament.

West Springfield swept Lake Braddock in the Conference 7 tournament championship match on Nov. 5, giving the Spartans their first title since 2007.

"That was our goal all season long," Noriega said. "We looked at our banner every single day before practice started and visualized the 2015 going up there. We knew

all season long that we were going to capture the [conference] championship."

The Spartans won the conference title one year after failing to qualify for the region tournament. How did West Springfield turn things around?

"This team had more passion, in my opinion, to win," senior Brittany Padgett said. "We had the drive to win. That's why 90 percent of the time ... we'd go to five sets, we'd win. We have that fight in us."

Padgett earned Conference 7 MVP honors despite transitioning from setter to outside hitter during the season.

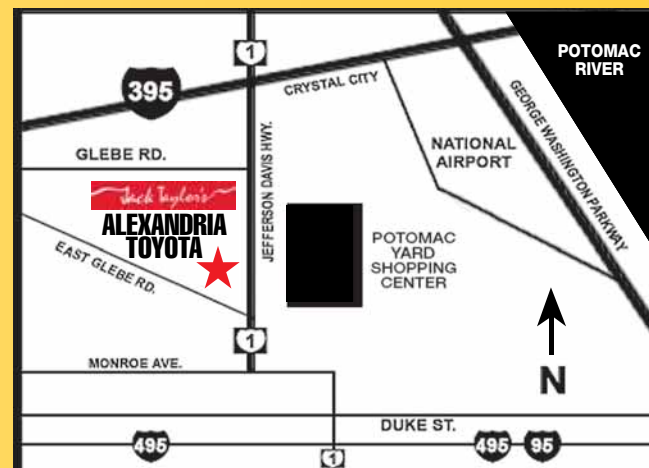
Against Madison, Padgett and senior middle blocker Megan Marin each had 12 kills.

"[Padgett] is one of the most ... positively aggressive athletes that I have worked with," Noriega said. "She is so hungry for that ball. ... Due to injury, we did this huge lineup change and moved her to the outside. She's hit outside for a month and a half and she's one of the top outside hitters in the region ... which speaks volumes to her all-around skill."

West Springfield's Tyler Wernecke had 18 digs and Jasmine Roy had 14 against Madison. Sara Khatouri finished with 34 assists and Hailey Olsen totaled six blocks.

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FOOTBALL ROUNDUPS

6A North Football Playoffs Down to Final Eight

Six of the top eight seeds advanced to the 6A North region football quarterfinals, while No. 4 Madison and No. 8 West Springfield had their seasons come to an end.

Madison was on the losing end of the biggest upset of the opening round, falling 27-19 to No. 13 Chantilly. West Springfield lost to No. 9 West Potomac 40-19, despite beating the Wolverines 28-9 during the regular season.

No. 1 South County advanced with a 35-21 victory over No. 16 Annandale. Stallions quarterback DeAndre Clayton completed 18 of 27 passes for 305 yards and three touchdowns, with one interception. He also carried 12 times for 61 yards and a score.

No. 2 Lake Braddock blanked No. 15 Woodson 49-0. Bruins quarterback Kyle Edwards went 25-of-31 for 292 yards and five touchdowns. Running back Ibrahim Mansaray carried seven times for 81 yards and two scores.

No. 5 Robinson faced No. 13 Centreville for the second straight week and edged the Wildcats 24-21. The Rams trailed 21-14 early in the fourth quarter but won on a 20-yard Nathan Musso field goal with 3 seconds remaining. Robinson running backs Da'Jon Lee, Sean Foncha and Roman Lowery each scored a touchdown.

The quarterfinals will be held on Friday, Nov. 20. South County will host West Potomac at 7:30 p.m.; Lake Braddock will host No. 7 Battlefield at 7 p.m.; No. 3 Westfield will host No. 6 South Lakes at 7:30 p.m.; and Robinson will host Chantilly at 7 p.m.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Susan Gray from the City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center will give a presentation entitled, "Love and Legacy: The Civil War Romance of Antonia Ford and Major Joseph C. Willard."

THURSDAYS/DEC. 3-FEB. 3

Grief Support Group. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. The Clifton Presbyterian Church is offering to the church and community a Grief Support Group for those who have experienced a recent death and loss in their lives. This group will offer a safe and supportive place for participants to explore ways to walk the journey of grief and to "wrestle" with difficult, and sometimes unanswerable, questions. Dec. 3, 10, 17; Jan. 7, 12, 21, 28; Feb. 3. office@cliftonpc.org. 703-830-3175.

ONGOING

Blanket and Children's Winter Coat Drive.

Through Dec. 5. Region-wide effort to help more than 4 million refugees fleeing from Syria and Iraq due to ISIL and civil war violence. Gently used blankets and children's winter coats will be collected and will be shipped to refugees who have fled to Turkey. www.helpsyrianrefugees.us
Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.



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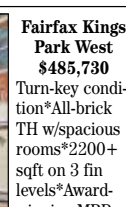
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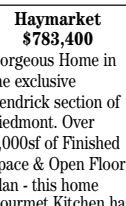
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