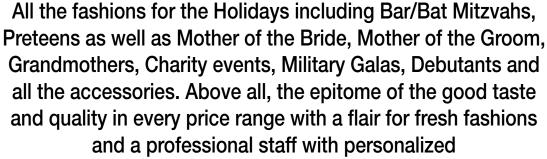




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Proclaiming Nov. 17, 2015 "Scott Silverthorne Day" (from left) are Michael DeMarco, Ellie Schmidt, Scott Silverthorne, Jeff Greenfield, David Meyer, Nancy Loftus and Janice Miller.



With the proclamation and birthday cake are (from left) Ellie Schmidt, Michael DeMarco, Scott Silverthorne, Jeff Greenfield, David Meyer, Nancy Loftus and Janice Miller.

'This is Curable, So I'm Staying Positive'

Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne is battling cancer.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

ity of Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne is no stranger to challenges. After all, he served 18 consecutive years on the City Council and is currently in his second, two-year term as mayor – including all the hard work and long hours that job entails.

Now, though, he's facing his toughest challenge of all. At Tuesday night's City Council meeting, he announced publicly that he has cancer. It was an unusual way to spend his 50th birthday, Nov. 17, but the popular City leader vows to fight this foe with everything in him and says his prognosis is quite good.

"It's serious, but it hasn't spread, and my doctors tell me it's highly treatable," said Silverthorne. "It's not going to affect my duties and I'll continue as mayor – and fully intend to run for re-election."

He has a malignant tumor on his neck that's been diagnosed as squamous cell carcinoma, a common form of skin cancer that develops in the squamous cells comprising

SEE MAYOR. PAGE 6

'It's Nice to Have Some Recognition'

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute honors America's veterans.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

eterans Day is more than a federal holiday. It is a time when people throughout the country remember and honor America's military veterans and all they have done.

And last Wednesday, Nov. 11, members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Fairfax did just that. They held a special, Veterans Day program featuring the City of Fairfax Police Honor Guard and a showing of the award-winning documentary, "Honor Flight."

OLLI is a nonprofit, educational organization affiliated with GMU, and nearly all its members are retirees who attend classes taught at the Roberts Road facility by volunteers. Nearly 85 of them attended last week's event organized by OLLI Board of Directors member Martha Powers.

Veterans of all branches of the service were recognized, and some of them shared their stories with the crowd and with The Connection. Chester Myslicki, for example, is now 95, but joined the Army at age 22. He worked in radar and, during WWII, he set up the largest radar station in the world in Japan to help the U.S. military.

Navy veteran Adrian Pelzner also served in WWII, on a supply ship – which was critical to America's fighting force. "It made a big difference to my life, and so did the G.I. Bill, which allowed many of us to go to college," he said. "As a result, members of the middle class were able to become doctors, lawyers and engineers."

Army Col. (Ret.) Jim Dunphy lives in Fairfax's Kings Park West community; he served five years in the Army and 25 years in the Army Reserves, retiring in 2005. While on active duty from 1975-80, he was at the Army Training Center in Fort Jackson, S.C. "It was after the transition to a volunteer Army and women in the military," he said. "So it was an interesting time to be in the Army."

While in the Reserves, Dunphy worked at the Pentagon as a Latin-American specialist. "During the first Gulf War in 1990, I SEE VETERANS. PAGE 5



Program attendees sing the national anthem together.

From left, retired Army veterans Jim Dunphy and Bob Coffin.

> Photos by Bonnie Hobbs The Connection





"My daily commute to work used to take me over an hour. Now, it only takes me 20 minutes. Those extra minutes allow me to spend quality time with my children."

Jennifer G.
 Alexandria, VA

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

Veterans Honored in Fairfax

was responsible for getting all the current intelligence from the embassies," he explained. "Then I'd analyze it and come up with the hottest issues the generals needed to know about Latin America." Dunphy liked his job because "it was real-life stuff - it was really happening, not theoretical."

Bob Coffin, of Fairfax's Country Club View community, was in the Army for 22 years, retiring in 1986 as a lieutenant colonel. He served in Saigon from 1979 to 1980. "I worked with South Vietnamese counterintelligence, analyzed possible national-level sabotage threats and supported out-ofcountry operations," he said. "I later ran a spy operation in the Mekong Delta.'

PRIOR TO THE VIETNAM

WAR, he did a great deal of counterintelligence work in the U.S., as well. "In the late 1960s, I took a team from Minnesota to Chicago after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination," he said. "There was unrest, and we reported what was going on with the populace to an

Army intelligence group. Crowds were looting, setting fires and shooting."

Both Dunphy and Coffin were pleased with OLLI's Veterans Day program. "Vietnam vets weren't welcomed home, but there's been a sea of change in people's attitudes toward the military since then, and it continues today," said Dunphy. "There's support now."

Agreeing, Coffin said, "Coming back from Vietnam, people were spitting at us. So it's nice to have some recognition. I believe in duty, honor and country - they mean something to me."

Last week's ceremony began with the presentation of the colors by the police honor guard, followed by a reading of a poem about Arlington National Cemetery by Army Col. (Ret.) Michael McNamara. Then came a screening of the moving and powerful movie, "Honor Flight," about the program that flies thousands of WWII veterans from all across the country to see the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"These trips are called Honor Flights," said Powers. "And for the veterans, in their late 80s and early 90s, they are often the last trips of their lives."

Narrating the movie was Stars and Stripes Honor Flight Chairman Joe Dean, who began the program in tribute to his late father and all WWII veterans. "They came home from the war, put their duffel bags in the closet and never talked about it again," said Dean. Only after his father's death did he learn the full extent of his father's war service as a medic's assistant.

Dean then began Honor Flight in his home state of Wisconsin and it eventually spread throughout the country.

Volunteers accompany each veteran on the flight to Dulles International Airport and go with them to the WWII memorial and other places, including the USMC Iwo Jima memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.

Thrilled with the program's success and the impact it makes upon the veterans' lives, he said, "To talk with them and thank them for all they've done was something I couldn't pass up. Theirs was a generation that gave, and Honor Flight is our way of giving something back. We will never forget

(From left) John Nash, with John and Toni Acton, discuss the Dulles Airport Honor Flights.

what our veterans did, and their legacy will continue. They matter, and we remember."

AFTER THE MOVIE, OLLI members John Nash and Toni and John Acton addressed the crowd. All three are Honor Flight volunteers who greet the veterans as they arrive at Dulles, and Nash called it an "absolutely amazing experi-

"At the airport, we get them from the 'people mover' to the main terminal and onto buses," said Toni Acton. "This is one of the most rewarding experiences we've ever

"As they arrive here, there's a band playing, kids are waving, and you can see the veterans' emotions building," added her husband, John Acton. "And talking with these veterans is incredible and awe-inspiring."

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Mayor Silverthorne Is Battling Cancer

From Page 3

the skin's outer layer, or epidermis. It is often caused by exposure to ultraviolet rays, such as from the sun, and an estimated 700,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with it annually.

IN SILVERTHORNE'S CASE, it

started in his throat. About four months ago, he noticed a bump on the lower left side of his neck. "At first, I thought it was an infection or a cyst," he said. "But it's gotten bigger, more pronounced and more noticeable, in the last few weeks. And now it's red and as big as a golf ball; it's also tender, so it hurts to shave there."

Doctors did a biopsy last week, and that is when Silverthorne received his diagnosis. This week, he'll have a PET scan – a form of imaging used to detect cancer's progress – and will begin six weeks of intense treatment. "I'll have radiation daily and chemotherapy once a week," he said. "But the good news is that the cancer didn't spread to my lymph nodes and is localized in my neck."

In recent months, friends and colleagues have noticed a thinner,

svelte Silverthorne, and he confirmed that he's lost 25 pounds. "I feel good – I just don't have an appetite," he said. "I used to be able to eat a whole pizza; now, I'm lucky to eat two or three pieces. And I have a bit of fatigue."

But, he added, "I've got great doctors, and they said I should be just fine. They're expecting me to make a full recovery. I'll probably lose my hair – and I may even lose another 25 pounds – but I plan to maintain my sense of humor. And I advise anyone who suspects something is wrong with them to see their doctor and not wait."

Meanwhile, Silverthorne wanted to inform City residents about his condition, and he is pleased that his doctors gave him a "green light" to continue working. "I think the busier I am with City business, the better I'll be," he said. "This is curable, so I'm staying positive. I'm tough and resilient and should be back to my own, fighting self by February."

Tuesday night, he told those at the Council meeting, plus everyone watching it on TV at home, "My family, friends and I debated whether this was a public or pri-



Councilman Jeff Greenfield (right) congratulates Mayor Scott Silverthorne on his special day.

vate matter and whether I should share this news," he said. "But I believe in transparency. And my doctors tell me I'll be a much skinnier and healthier mayor by my next re-election campaign."

Stressing that he believes in the "positive power of prayer," Silverthorne said he'd appreciate people's prayers and good wishes for him. "It'll be a tough couple of months, but I'll power through it," he said.

He also acknowledged the invaluable support of his longtime friend and Council member Janice Miller. She lost her husband to cancer three years ago and has helped Silverthorne come to grips with his diagnosis and bravely face what lies ahead. Noting her friendship, camaraderie and joking," he said "I couldn't have done it without her."

THEN IT WAS TIME to proceed with that night's business before the Council, but first came a special celebration. Councilman Jeff Greenfield called his colleagues and Silverthorne to join him by the podium. He then read a warm and humorous proclamation listing the mayor's attributes and achievements and proclaimed Nov. 17, 2015 as "Scott Silverthorne Day" in the City of Fairfax.

The Council members then presented Silverthorne with a birthday cake, complete with lighted candles, and surprised him with a trumpeter who walked forward and played "Happy Birthday to You" and "For He's a Jolly, Good Fellow" while everyone in the room sang along.

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

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7





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Area Roundups

From Page 6

occupants killed in nighttime crashes in 2013 were NOT wearing their seat belts, compared 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. 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/ltcombudsman/

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.



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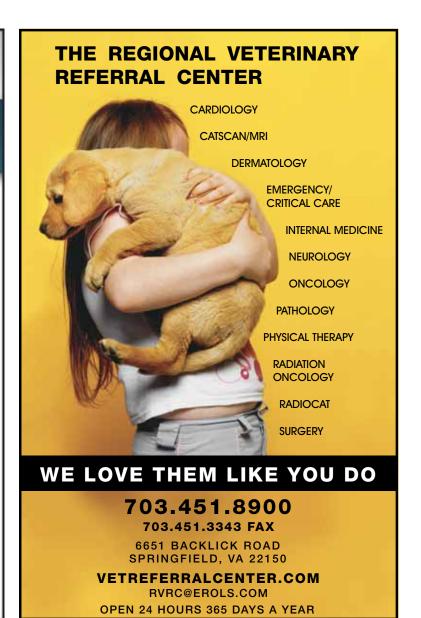
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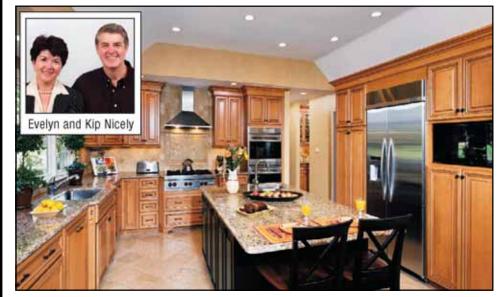






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OPINION

Holidays Are About Giving

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

he 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 EDITORIAL

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 onetime 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

By Judith Dittman

Executive Director,

Alternative House

ovember is National

Runaway Prevention

Month and The Na-

tional Runaway Safeline esti-

mates are that nationally 1.3 to

1.7 million runaway, thrown

away and homeless youth live on

the street. Fairfax, even with its ex-

cellent schools and supports for

young people, is not immune from

this problem. Alternative House,

a Fairfax nonprofit organization,

provides emergency shelter and

Fairfax County Public Schools

homeless liaison's office reports

that there were 324 homeless

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.

> 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 en-

family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031.

- ***** Ecumenical Community Helping Others 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 ll 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.
- 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.
- 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

More Support Needed for Runaway, Homeless Youth

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 selfsufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. http:// www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/

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

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703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com

- (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
- 12 Ways of Giving: Fairfax County Office of www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org.
- Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an

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.

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 counseling to more than 150 friend's house. But even this can young people each year. The be dangerous. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that one in six endangered runaways is a victim of youth under the age of 18 who sex trafficking. It's unfortunately didn't have the support of a partoo easy for even a suburban teen didn't care if they left.

ent or guardian 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

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 re-

Once they have left home young

people are at higher risk to become

sources 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, Page 9

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LETTERS

Worrying School **Budget Cuts**

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to an article published in the last week's Connection ("Garza Presents Budget Task Force Report to School Board." I am concerned with the future of Fairfax County Public Schools' education system. The Fairfax County Public School board's main priority should be ensuring that the kids of Fairfax County receive the best education possible. With Superintendent Garza's proposed budget cuts, this will not be possible. Proposed ideas such as increasing class sizes and eliminating foreign language immersion programs not only hurt the student's education but also negatively affect their future in this era of globalization. Math and literacy rates in the U.S are significantly lower compared to many other countries, and cutting important educational programs ensures that we continue to fall behind.

Increasing student fees and cutting certain programs serves solely as a temporary fix for the county's budget problems. We need to move discussion away from program cutting and towards ways to increase revenue. Property taxes are the number one contributor to schools' funding. If property taxes

are increased, even by a small amount, schools will benefit. We cannot continue to cut our way through the financial issues that our county faces.

I may no longer be a student of Fairfax County, but I still have siblings and friends in the school system. Their futures are very important to me, and I want to make sure they receive the best possible education. It is vital that we save and maintain the quality of Fairfax County Public Schools.

Rachael Talento

Fairfax Sophomore at James Madison University.



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.

Maplewood Grill Family Owned & Operated for Over 30 Years Reserve Now for Traditional

Thanksgiving Feast

We will be open $12-6:30 \text{ PM} \sim$

FAITH NOTES

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. 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. Clifton Presbyterian Church is located at 12748 Lane, office@cliftonpc.org. 703-830-3175.

St. Pius X Chapel is offering a Tridentine (Latin) Mass at two locations, in Falls Church at Everly Community Funeral Care, 6161

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.

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 or www.sspx.org/en/community/priories.

The Paschal Lamb will hold a Book Reading of "Blessed are You" from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. The Paschal Lamb is located at 11214 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Author Melanie Rigney will read from her new book. Free. 703-863-3940.

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 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 medita-Visit www.guhyasamaja.org for more in-





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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & CIFT GUIDE

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

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

A Celtic Christmas with Síor-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. 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.

See and Hear

www.fairfax-station.org.

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

burkecivicballet@gmail.com for more

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 armonies 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-

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 oliday cartoons. livingsaviorlutheran.org. 703-

TUESDAY/DEC. 15

High School Orchestras. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Special holiday spirit. Free. 703-426-2143.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Donuts with Santa. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. W-16, Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 10 Stairfax Connection November 19-25, 2015



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.

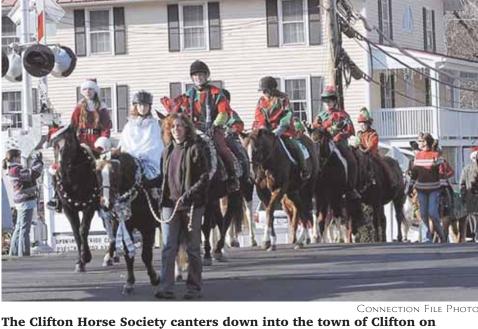


This house on Nanlee Drive in Springfield had the honor of being in Holly's Tacky Lights in 2014. Take a tour of your neighborhood and find out the best light show right in your neighbor's front yard. http:// www.fairfaxchristmaslights.com/.

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



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

Centre Station, 10399 Premier Court, Burke Ride the train with Santa but don't forget to

Operation Lifesaver Santa Trains. Burke

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 Santa Trains/ **Breakfast with St. Nick**. 8 a.m.-Noon. Bruke

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.burkepreschurch.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 nd holiday themed decorated course, scor 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 onesthere are offerings galore waiting for you. urchases 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.





HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

Creating a New Holiday Tradition

"A Fairfax Nutcracker" presented by Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Ballet Company.

By David Siegel
The Connection

wo venerable Fairfax County performing arts institutions are joining forces for a singular holiday season experience for the whole family. Long-standing local performing arts organizations, the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) and the Fairfax Ballet Company, have re-envisioned and created "A Fairfax Nutcracker" to be performed at the Center for Arts.

The wintertime wonders of "A Fairfax Nutcracker" will have the memorable Tchaikovsky score performed live by the FSO under the



pal Pops Conduc-

Luke Frazier, Luke Frazier, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, Princi-

baton of the classically trained

Luke Frazier, FSO Principal Pops

Conductor. Frazier is noted for

conducting a number of FSO pro-

grams of his own creation as well

founding and conducting the

American Pops Orchestra with

Great American Songbook perfor-

mances at D.C.'s Lisner Audito-

Serving as "A Fairfax Nut-

cracker" production artistic direc-

tor is Joseph J. Simeone, who will

also dance the key role of the Nut-

cracker Prince. Simeone has

danced with the American Ballet

Theater, appeared on Broadway



Joseph J. Simeone, "A Fairfax Nutcracker" production artistic director and Nutcracker Prince.



Courtesy of Fairfax Ballet Company **Cellyn McNulty**,

Kellyn McNulty, performing as Clara in "A Fairfax Nutcracker."

and recently at the Kennedy Center on "Little Dancer."

Fairfax Ballet Company member Kellyn McNulty will dance the major role of Clara, the young girl who dreams of magical moments on Christmas Eve. The enchantment and mischief that Clara witnesses and joins includes a brave Nutcracker Prince coming to life, whimsical and exquisite characters such as Mother Ginger and the Sugar Plum Fairy along with a multitude of dancing angels, a ballerina doll, sugar plum fairies and witnessing a fantastical epic battle between heroic toy soldiers



Fairfax Ballet Company dancers in rehearsal for "A Fairfax Nutcracker."

Where and When

"A Fairfax Nutcracker" presented by Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Ballet Company at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Ave, Fairfax. Performance, Dec. 5, 2015 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$34-\$58. Call 888-945-2468 or visit http://cfa.gmu.edu.

and mischievous mice. Dancing with McNulty and Simeone will be artistic staff and students from Fairfax Ballet and experienced professional dancers. According to Karla Petry, executive director, Fairfax Ballet, "A Fairfax Nutcracker" gives students "a priceless opportunity to perform in a full production with professional dancers, with a major classical orchestra on a large stage." Frazier, Petry and Simone agreed that "partnering together with other local arts organizations helps to promote youth involvement and greater arts awareness."

Inviting audiences to "A Fairfax Nutcracker," Simeone noted that "our Nutcracker offers everything that is exciting about an evening of live theater." For Frazier, this is a great "opportunity for audiences to have a grand experience and to introduce new audiences to all that the performing arts offers in an inclusive and accessible production." What better way to kickoff these festive times of holiday cheer, than by experiencing a new holiday classic with the FSO and the Fairfax Ballet, partnering to create a wondrous evening of entertainment to cherish.

Before the feast and football games, Bring your family and friends to a

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Thursday, November 26 at 11 a.m. Christian Science Church

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















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 accomodations or information in an alternative format, call 703.324.5171 TTY 7111 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.

Photos by
Steve Hibbard
The Connection



Handmade bracelets from India sell for \$15 to \$18.

By Steve Hibbard
The Connection

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

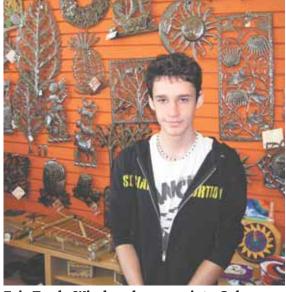
"The store has unique items from other countries that are handmade," said sales associate Cole Andray. "We make sure they are made under fair conditions, meaning no child labor and no sweat shops."

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 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.

They work together to come up with a fair living



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.

price to make for those products, he said. "Fair trade is not a charity; it's a true business model that brings products to consumers in the west. There's no sweatshops and no child labor."

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



Christmas ornaments made out of recycled gourds from Peru, etched in different scenes like snowmen, Santas, and birds, and range in price from \$8 to \$20.



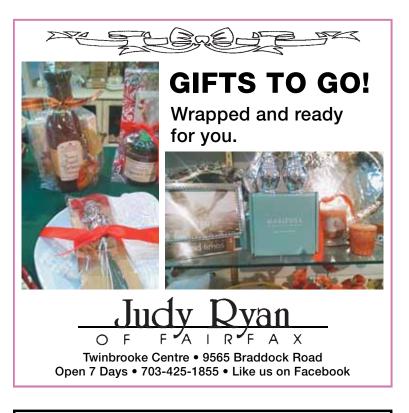
Alpaca scarves and throws from Peru range from \$45 for scarves and throws are \$89.



Christmas ornaments from all around the world come in prices from \$5 to \$15.







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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

CALENDAR

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-

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.

Sue Grace Art Exhibition. Nov. 14-Dec. 6. Workhouse Arts Center, Building W-10 Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Her paintings share the experience of giving birth, explore the bridge between abstract and figurative expression. Gracefamily999@verizon.net. www.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

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.

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

24th Annual Gem. Mineral and Fossil Show. Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. George Mason University, The Hub Ballroom, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$free to \$6. http://www.novamineralclub.org/events/2015-

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 burkecivicballet@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.

Cantors Cabaret: From Bimah to Broadway. 7 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Features Jewish and Broadway music, ranging from the classical Hazzanut of Israel Alter to Broadway's "Annie Get Your Gun;" from the songbooks of cantorial favorite, Sol Zim, to Yiddish icon, Molly Picon. \$18-\$32. www.jccnvarts.org. 703-537-3000.

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. Enjoy delicious holiday treats such as s'mores and roasted chestnuts by the fire. Free.

workhousearts.org. 703-585-2900. **Baby Canvases Five**. 7-10 p.m. Olly Olly, 10417 Main St., 2nd Floor, Fairfax. Baby Canvases Five is a one-night event featuring miniature artwork measuring 3" x 3" or smaller by an ever expanding and extraordinary roster of local artists. Free. http://www.ollyollyart.com/exhibitions. 703-789-6144.

"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/NOV. 29

"The Sturgeon Queens." 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Filmmaker Julie Cohen will be on hand following the film for a discussion and Q & A. \$26, includes light brunch. RSVP by Nov. 22. 703-323-0880. www.jccnv.org.

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 Síor-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.

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

Robinson Theater Presents "Noises Off"

Company – in partnership with the Robinson Second ary 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 Dal-

he Rambunctious Theater las 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 nonprofit 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 ad-



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.

robinsondrama.org.

"Noises Off" runs Nov. 19-21 at 7 p.m.; Nov.

ditional details are available at 21 also at 2 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Rd in Fairfax. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students.

CALENDAR

From Page 14

Advent Coffee Concert. 9:30 a.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. he 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.

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/.

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.

Clifton Tree Lighting. 6 p.m. Ayre Square. Campfire, marshmallow roast, carols www.clifton-va.com.

SATURDAYS/DEC. 5, 12, 19

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

SATURDAYS/DEC. 5, 12, 19, 26 Children's Theatre: "The Nutcracker." 1-

2:15 p.m. 3-4:15 p.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Presented by Mestey Films Productions. LIVE onstage! 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.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 4-5, 11-12

Popular Christmas Drama. Call for times. Harvester Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Road, Springfield. "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" play by Barbara Robinson. Show suitable for all ages. \$6-\$20. 703-455-7800.

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. **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.

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-



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



PHOTOS BY ED LULL

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

Lake Braddock Wins Girls', Boys' XC State Titles

he 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 Schwers 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

fter capturing the program's first conference/district champion ship 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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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 big-

gest 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.

21 Announcements

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT

PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION

November 30, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 30, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of the Clifton Café, located at 7144 Main Street, to include an expansion of the use, including, but no

to, the increase in number of seats, inside and outside; an to, the increase in number of seats, inside and outside; an increase in parking onsite; expansion of the hours of operation; increase in employees. The application for the proposed amendment to the Clifton Café's special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the requested amendment to the Clifton Café's special use permit

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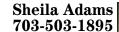


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