

Burke CONNECTION

Janet Smith of Burke Presbyterian Church has coordinated the Burke CROP Hunger Walk for the last 20 years.

“No Small Deed”

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Remodeler, Suppliers Join Forces to Help Clifton Woman

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Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATE AND PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2015, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges and its proposed 2016 Budget. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes to the Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges, to be effective April 1, 2016, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,950 to \$4,100†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,750 to \$10,240.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,090 to \$1,150†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$36 to \$37.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$9.80 to \$10.10†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.55 to \$2.68 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.55 to \$3.80 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$50 to \$52.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
10. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 110% to 104%.
11. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Materials from 25% to 16%.
12. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$45 to \$46.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is proposing a \$170.4 million budget for calendar year 2016*. Revenues are expected to be \$170.4 million in 2016. Water sales are expected to provide \$147.3 million. Approximately \$23.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2015	2016
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 53,891	\$ 55,581
Power and Utilities	10,677	10,750
Chemicals	6,335	7,857
Purchased Water	6,717	6,090
Supplies and Materials	4,985	5,113
Insurance	1,017	1,050
Fuel	781	880
Postage	637	664
Contractual Services	9,930	10,422
Professional Services	1,146	1,046
Other	2,363	2,447
Sub-Total	98,479	101,900
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,669)	(9,616)
Total	\$ 88,810	\$ 92,284

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$41,417,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$24,131,000

*Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates and the 2016 budget can be viewed on our Web site at http://fairfaxwater.org/current/public_hearing_2015_12_17.htm. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Mr. Ken Lasso at 703-289-6194. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

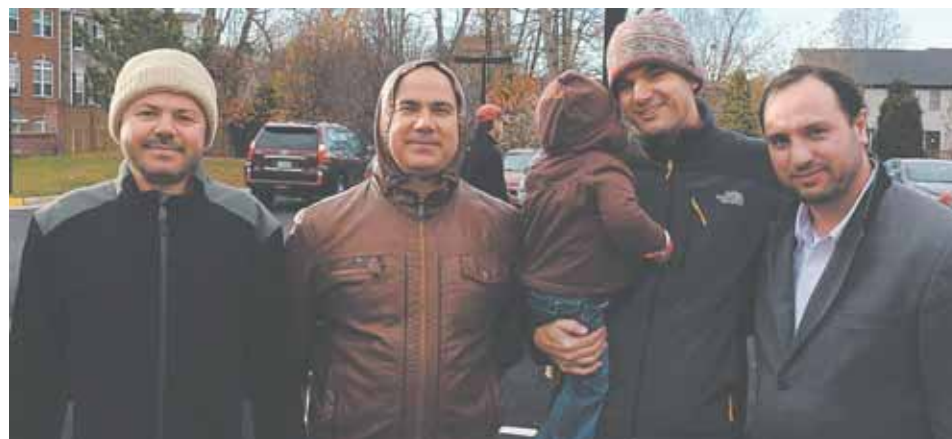
All written comments must be received by close of business on **Wednesday, December 16, 2015** to be included in the record of the public hearing.

NEWS



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Walkers begin their 3.7-mile journey from Living Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfax Station by crossing Ox Road with help from Fairfax County Police from the West Springfield station.



From left, Imam Bilal Ankaya of Ezher Bloom Mosque, Ezher Bloom Mosque member Ali Eren, Burke Presbyterian Church co-pastor Jarrett McLaughlin and Imam Mehmet Ayaz of Ezher Bloom Mosque pause for water during the 23rd annual Burke CROP Hunger Walk.

“No Small Deed”

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Jennifer Weiner’s wristband read 11,188 steps. That’s how many it took the Springfield resident to complete the 3.7-mile Burke CROP Hunger Walk on Nov. 22. Weiner is Rabbi Educator for Congregation Adat Reyim, which sent more than a dozen volunteers to the fundraiser for the 14th straight year.

The Jewish congregation was one of more than two dozen faith organizations from around Fairfax County supplying roughly 250 walkers in total.

The route started at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfax Station. Walkers then trekked north along Ox Road with traffic assistance from Fairfax County Police officers out of the West Springfield precinct station, took a water break at One God Ministry in Fairfax (where they were handed off to Fairfax City Police for escorts) and ended at Fairfax Presbyterian Church.

NOW IN ITS 23RD YEAR, the walk raised money for international support agency Church World Service, as well as donations for ECHO, the Springfield-based Ecumenical Community Helping Others outreach organization. Last year, the walk raised more than \$38,000, according to organizer Janet Smith of West Springfield.

Smith has organized the Burke CROP Hunger Walk for the last 20 years and is a member of Burke Presbyterian Church, which turned out roughly 40 members. Smith said they were shooting for \$40,000 in donations this year, 25 percent of which will stay local while the rest goes to Church World Service.



Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke acknowledges the walkers about to participate in the 23rd annual Burke CROP Hunger Walk on Nov. 22.

“They do amazing work getting people to be self-sustaining,” Smith said.

“All the people walking realize how blessed we are to have so much,” she added. “It’s great to see the community come together like this.” The first year Smith worked on the walk, there were eight churches involved and they raised just \$1,000.

Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke kicked off the walk with reminders that the 3.7 miles of the walk is the average distance women in parts of Africa must travel to col-



Patrick Walker, Senior Community Engagement specialist for Church World Service, speaks to participants after they completed the 23rd annual Burke CROP Hunger Walk.

lect water — a four-hour journey that includes about 44 pounds of water on the return trip.

He also noted that hunger is not a distant problem, adding that there are 73,000 people living in poverty in Fairfax County — food insecure households with limited access to safe water.

“All the numbers have a face attached,” Sammler-Michael said, “people like those we love. There has been a reduction in hunger since 1990. Your donations and witness are part of that good news. What we do is no small deed.”

Another objective of the walk is uniting various faith organizations in the community. Jarrett McLaughlin, co-pastor of Burke Presbyterian Church, invited friends and leaders of Ezher Bloom Mosque in Fairfax to join.

“This is a great interfaith community event,” McLaughlin said. “It’s bringing us together for a common good, we need more of that in this world.”

Bilal Ankaya is the Imam at Ezher Bloom and a leader with the Institute of Islamic and Turkish Studies. “It’s our first time walking,” Ankaya said. “It feels great and it’s a good cause, ending hunger. This is the least we could do.”

Rev. Patrick Walker, Senior Community Engagement specialist with Church World Service, said there are 1,300 such walks taking place nationwide. CROP walks are the oldest national walk for hunger in the United States, beginning in 1969.

“Thank you for all you do,” he told the walkers as they warmed themselves and ate snacks at the finish line, Fairfax Presbyterian Church. “You are saving lives.”

DR. MARY SAMBA of Springfield, representing Lorton-based Future Children International, completed the walk with her grandchildren Amirah and Amare Acheampong. With their members hailing from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, they’ve seen chronic hunger firsthand in Africa. “We just want to help out,” she said.

Samba said four-year-old grandson fully comprehended the mission of the event and refused to ride in his stroller. “I want to walk for hunger,” she said the boy told her. “He wanted to reach the finish line.”

For more information, visit www.burkecropwalk.org.

VIEWPOINTS

Why Did You Walk Today?

—TIM PETERSON

Marnie Miller of Fairfax, member of Temple B’nai Shalom in Fairfax Station

“I walked to help the temple support people who are hungry in the area.”



Taya Miller of Fairfax, member of Temple B’nai Shalom in Fairfax Station

“I walked to help make sure there’s no more hunger, throughout the world.”



Jill Fox of Springfield, member of Temple B’nai Shalom in Fairfax Station

“People are so affluent in our area, we can lose sight that people go to bed hungry here.”



Marie Fofanah-Contah of Lorton, president of Future Children International

“It’s extremely important to teach our children compassion.”



THANKFUL FOR ADOPTION

Consider adopting a child from foster care. In Virginia, there are more than 860 children waiting and hoping to be adopted. Many of those children are listed on the Adopt US Kids website which you can find at: adoptuskids.org/states/va/index.aspx

Creating Families with Adoption

Adoptive parents described: 'Grateful. Generous. Awesome.'

BY JOAN BRADY
THE CONNECTION

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. With that in mind, meet two families expanded through adoption; two families whose kids describe their family as "awesome."

The Hagens of Vienna are a family of two parents, Kelly and Scott; three boys, two adopted and one biological; and two family dogs. Appreciative is the word that comes to mind listening to the Hagens talk about their family.

Lewis, 17, describes family priorities. "Somehow we find time to do stuff together. Like eating dinner. I've heard some families don't do that. That's very sad to me."

Spencer, 16, talks of how his brother, James, influences his life. "I know there are a lot of experiences that I get to have because James is so outgoing."

James, 11, appreciates time spent with his dad. "I like working outside with my dad. And, I like that he pays me for it."

Lewis loves having brothers. "You have people who are always there. I play Xbox with them. We talk. We listen to music. It's like having friends that are always there AND they are family." Would be different with sisters? Spencer says, "Well, they would probably make it all about them."

For parents Kelly and Scott Hagen, appreciation extends outside of their immediate family. "We have a lot of special issues in our family and that has made us more open minded about people," says Kelly. "We make fewer assumptions and we listen more."

Meet the Connelly Family

The Connelys have an immediate family that includes two parents, five sons — two



Hagen Family: Scott, Spencer, James, Lewis and Kelly of Vienna

biological, two adopted from Fairfax County foster care, and one foster son — and two cats. They hope to add a therapy dog in the next few months.

Jackson, 8, likes the commotion that a large family brings. "I like having brothers. It's interesting living with a lot of people. It's very loud, which means I'm never bored and I learn a lot about how to be nice."

Anthony, 17, has a deep appreciation for his parents, "Not every family would take in so many kids and do so much for them. My parents make sure to keep things fair and show us a lot of love."

Ben, 15, recognizes all that it means to be a family, "If you are looking for a family, you will find everything and more from the family right here. We are everything you would expect; the good and the bad. We are a real family."

Hunter, also 15, might complain about the noise, and apparently does, all of the time, but he wouldn't change a thing, "When we are at home and I'm trying to get work done and everyone's doing their thing around my area, it drives me crazy. But I wouldn't trade

them in for peace and quiet."

Scott and Megan Connelly have been foster parents to many kids over the years. According to Scott, the "spectacular" success of the foster children they have had over the years, many now grown, as well as the success of their biological and adopted boys is simple. "We make sure they know that we love them, unconditionally, and that we are going to hold them accountable. It takes a few weeks, but then they settle right in."

Megan adds: "One of the things that helps makes our household work is that the kids are flexible and giving. Each time we have added someone new into the mix, they follow the example set and pretty quickly, it's like they were always there."

Nicholas, the Connely's 10-year-old foster son describes his foster parents this way: "They are grateful. They are generous. They are awesome."

Megan Connelly is one of 12 kids, 10 of whom were adopted. Megan says that with their current four, they are only just getting started.

Photos and bios provided by Fairfax County Department of Family Services

Adame, an energetic 6-year-old boy has a big smile and big heart to match. Keeping Adame engaged will help him remain on task and minimize anxiety for him. A two-parent household, with one parent primarily in the home available to attend to Adame's needs would be ideal, Adame is resilient and would thrive in an adoptive family of his own.



Tim, an active 16-year-old, loves to keep busy. His favorite thing to do is go fishing. He would like a family who is active and loving. He gets along well with young children and has a good sense of humor. He hopes to one day attend a trade school to become a plumber because he feels this would be a great way to become financially stable.



Damon, a kind and thoughtful 14-year-old young man enjoys eating out, watching movies and going to the park. He has discovered rock-collecting and can identify many different kinds of rocks. Damon likes school; he is energetic and loves sports, especially basketball, rollerblading and riding his bike.



Summer, a 15-year-old young lady enjoys hiking and biking outdoors, and loves music and reading. She is self-taught on piano and guitar and can play songs by ear. She would like a family that has a love for music and enjoys being active in the community.



All 860

BY JOAN BRADY

Parental rights terminated. Available for adoption. Floundering in an imperfect system. These words describe many children who are currently living in foster care in Virginia. In Fairfax County, these four children are hoping that this will be the last Thanksgiving spent in foster homes.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe wants those children who are currently available for adoption, adopted into loving homes, and he isn't messing around.

"Let's make it a goal — all of us in this room — that one year from today all 860 of these children will be adopted," McAuliffe recently charged a room full of adoption and foster care professionals at the Connecting Hearts Summit.

Focusing on Virginia is a good start. More than 26,000 young people across the United States age out of foster care each year to futures more likely to include homelessness and hunger than jobs and careers that will pay the bills. All of those young people were once children like the 108,000 currently languishing in foster care. Children who hoped, in vain, that someone would come forward and



Connely Family: Hunter, Jackson, Ben and Anthony (Foster son, Nicholas, not pictured).



Scott and Megan Connelly.

THANKFUL Adoption

FROM PAGE 4

choose them for adoption.

In 2014, McAuliffe elevated the priority of foster care adoption by appointing Debbie Johnson as Virginia's Adoption Champion. An adoptee herself, one of her achievements to-date has been to create Connection Hearts. www.connectingheartsva.org. With Ericca Facetti at the helm, Connecting Hearts works with the Virginia Department of Social Services, local departments of social services as well as local businesses to engage and educate the public about children in foster care who are waiting for adoptive families.

One of Ericca's immediate goals is to get as many of those children as appropriate included in the Adoptuskids/Virginia listings. Currently, of the 860, just 180 are listed. www.adoptuskids.org/states/va/index.aspx

According to the Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG), there are 259 children in the DC metro area waiting for adoptive homes. Child Welfare Program Manager, Kamilah Bunn, works tirelessly to bring visibility to foster care adoption in our region. COG's adoption efforts include Wednesday's Child, The PicMe Project, Regional Adoption Events and the Regional Adoption Exchange.

Many children have no problem advocating for themselves. Perhaps one of the more memorable self-advocates was a 10-year old twin, who grabbed his brother, hopped on a stage in downtown DC, grabbed a mic and belted out to the cheering crowd, "WE NEED A FAMILY." Other children are not so forthcoming; They are embarrassed by circumstances that are no fault of their own. They have been disappointed by adults who have said they loved them, but who then turned away. They fear further rejection.

Social workers and other professionals like Kamilah Bunn and Ericca Facetti all work together to protect each child, as they work tirelessly to match children successfully with a small pool of potential adoptive families.

Adoption Expo

What: 2015 Adoption Expo will educate, inspire and celebrate families formed through adoption. Prospective adoptive parents can meet adoption professionals as well as current adoptive and foster parents to learn about foster care adoption and foster parenting.

Cost: Free

When: Dec. 5, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: 801 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

More: adoptionfosterexpo.org

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2015

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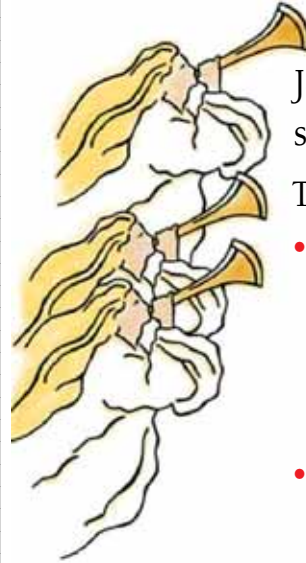
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OPINION

Celebrate, Shop, Dine Locally

Every day can be “small business day.”

There is a joy to participating in community traditions and celebrations during the holidays, from walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to shopping in local stores, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called

Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 28.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive, and communities depend on those businesses as well. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month in a variety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will shop online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to do some celebrating, shopping and dining locally. We promise it brings more joy.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

The Challenge of Ending Homelessness

BY MARGI PRESTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FACETS

Sometimes it takes a challenge to make progress. That's what happened here in Fairfax when leaders of six nonprofits serving those who are homeless decided to push themselves to do more.

With the second largest homeless population in the region, homelessness is a real problem in the Fairfax County-Falls Church community. A majority of the people who are homeless are in working families with children. Throughout the year, FACETS works in partnership with Fairfax's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and other nonprofits to bring our community closer to a day when no one is homeless through a variety of effective programs. And in the summer of 2014, we decided to do even more by teaming up with five other local nonprofits to motivate ourselves to reach new records in moving people from homelessness to housing.

Our power team — FACETS, New Hope

COMMENTARY

Housing, Cornerstones, Shelter House, NVFS and Volunteers of America-Chesapeake — kicked off a year-long Fairfax County Housing Challenge. The challenge was modeled after the successful Rapid Rehousing Challenge, which was organized by the National Alliance to End Homelessness to motivate nonprofits statewide to rapidly re-house as many families as possible within 100 days.

Rapid re-housing is a proven and cost-effective strategy used by communities across the country to reduce homelessness. It involves helping households move into housing as quickly as possible after they enter the shelter system. Families and individuals are housed in market-rate apartments or houses in the community, and receive rental subsidies and/or services that are tailored to their specific needs, including a caseworker to help ease the transition.

Our housing challenge showed the real benefits of collaboration. Together we set and met quarterly ambitious goals to find homes for

Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. It is a keepsake edition for many families. The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. To be published, we must have first and last name of the student. Please include the student's age and/or grade, school attended and town of residence.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide submissions by Friday, Dec. 4.

Email submissions for the Children's Connection to ChildrensSouth@connectionnewspapers.com. Subject line should be school name, town and teacher's last name (e.g. Westgate ES, McLean, Card).

even more people who were unstably housed and homeless. We brainstormed and found new ways to get people out of homelessness and into safe and secure housing. And it worked. At the end of the challenge, nearly 500 single adults and more than 220 families now have a home of their own and services to help them remain housed.

As important as it is to get people into housing right away so they can start the transition back to a stable life, we all recognize that preventing homelessness is the top priority. Like our nonprofit partners, FACETS relies on help from volunteers and partnerships with the faith and business communities to prevent homelessness throughout Fairfax County by offering a full spectrum of services, such as basic needs and financial assistance, career counseling and outreach, educational enrichment programs, and permanent housing.

With the cold temperatures approaching, we have begun to gear up for our Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program. Through a partnership with over 40 faith communities, this program enables FACETS to offer refuge from the bitter cold to over 200 individuals in our community who are homeless each year. The success of the Fairfax Housing Challenge has inspired us to remain motivated in helping even more people come in from the cold this winter and ideally keep more from ever having to experience the cold at all. We are up for the challenge ... and I know our community partners are too. That's a win for the whole community. To learn more, visit us at www.FacetsCares.org.

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BULLETIN BOARD

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Warm Coat Outreach. Set up, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Distribution, 3-5 p.m. Moose Family Center, 9612 Fernedge Lane, Lorton. Clean, used coats (new ones are great too!) can be on Sunday, Dec. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. <http://www.lortonaction.org/>.

MONDAY/DEC. 7

State Sen. David Marsden. 10-11:30 a.m. Church

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.

of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Mason is sponsoring State Senator David Marsden for a discussion on current transportation issues affecting the state, particularly Northern Virginia, including mass transit, high occupancy toll lanes, and road construction. He represents the 37th district. RSVP to 703-503-3384. olli.gmu.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chairman Bulova Supportive of Springfield Senior Center

To the Editor:

On Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015, Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova pledged to more than forty senior demonstrators that she would work on getting permanent facility(ies) for the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWOW), particularly with the possibility of an addition to the Pohick Regional Library renovation. She noted that the staff of the Springfield Supervisor would be involved in the process.

The senior demonstrators, led by BWSSCWOW Founding Chairman Corazon S. Foley, informed her of their plans for continued activism for the Springfield Senior Center – to include testifying at the public hearings in early 2016. The plan includes a dance demonstration by a group of senior participants to underscore community service provided by the senior center, currently without walls.

Chairman Bulova encouraged

the senior participants to testify at the public hearings on the budget, particularly if funding were to be required for the addition to the Pohick Regional Library renovation.

Many thanks go to senior line dance teams – the Snappy Tappers, Sampaguita Sweethearts (Philippine Dancing), Hawaiian Stars, and Cathy Byon's Line Dance classes. It was a wonderful day that culminates more than a year of community activism by Springfield seniors, including petition gathering (1,000 signatures), election campaign resulting with 4,226 votes or 19 percent of Springfield totals, demonstrations and, in 2016, testimonies to the full Board of Supervisors. More information can be found at www.facebook.com/Foley4SpringfieldSeniorCenter.

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Students in the Sangster Elementary School choir sing to celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11.



Sangster Elementary School Principal Lisa Reddel reminds students that "Freedom is not free; freedom comes from a veteran."



Parents and representatives from all the U.S. military branches stand before Sangster Elementary School Students during a special Veterans Day program.



From left, Col. Lance Landrum, U.S. Air Force, Commander Robert Lewis, U.S. Navy, Lt. Col. Jon O'Gorman, U.S. Marine Corps and Lt. Col. Arie Richards, U.S. Army, prepare to raise the American Flag at Sangster Elementary School on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

"They Sacrificed"

Sangster Elementary School honors veterans with annual musical program.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Springfield resident Tim Swicord's parents met at West Point, the United States Military Academy, and then both served in the U.S. Army. "They sacrificed," said Swicord, in sixth grade at Sangster Elementary School. "You could either do it or you couldn't. They made the decision."

Swicord said he thinks it's impor-

tant for all veterans to be honored for choosing to serve in the military like his parents did. His is one of 155 military families out of 655 total with students attending Sangster.

To honor those parents either actively serving or retired from the military, Sangster hosted an annual Veterans Day program the morning of Nov. 11.

PRINCIPAL Lisa Reddel spoke to students seated facing the front of

the school under gleaming fall sunshine: "Veterans are very important to this nation, this community, this school and me personally," she said. Reddel added that her father and husband's father both served in the military.

Veterans set an example for tomorrow's leaders, Reddel said, exhibiting "honor, citizenship, patriotism and bravery."

"Freedom is not free," she concluded. "Freedom comes from a veteran."

The program included musical performances of "On Veterans Day" and "God Bless America" by the school choir and handbells, and a reading of Ruth Apperton Rous' poem "I am the Flag."

A color guard of Lt. Col. Jon O'Gorman, U.S. Marine Corps, Commander Robert Lewis, U.S. Navy, Lt. Col. Arie Richards, U.S. Army and Col. Lance Landrum, U.S. Air Force, raised the American flag on the pole in front of the school.

After the program concluded, students returned to their classrooms.

Each room was scheduled to have a veteran visit and talk about their role in the military.

Commander Robert Lewis, U.S. Navy, planned to visit the classes of his sons Hayden and Connor and talk about some of the things the Navy does.

"It's a great honor to see them in action," he said. "I hope it leaves a lasting impression not only with

them, but their classmates."

For sixth grade student John Richards, Veterans Day has a special meaning because his father, grandfather and great-grandfather have all served in the U.S. military. "It's my chance to really learn about what my family did," said Richards, who added that his great-grandfather served in World War II under Gen. George Patton.

Richards' family recently moved to northern Virginia from Kentucky because his father took a new post

with the U.S. Army. To welcome and support military families that are new to the area, Sangster has a military spouses group to help with the transition.

"We have a different perspective at this school," said Maria DeHay, president of the spouses group, "having such a big military population."

The students live with this every day."

But whether or not their parents are in the military, DeHay thinks

the school's Veterans Day program and classroom visits are important for all the students.

"It's a great way for kids and the staff to honor veterans," she said. "They're gaining an understanding of what patriotism is, the sacrifices these people make with their lives. It helps them visualize that."

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to connect with DeHay and the Sangster military spouses group, email msgsangster@gmail.com.

Fairfax County Updates Teacher Safety Training In Wake of Woodson Fire

Science teachers across Fairfax County Public Schools have begun mandatory updated safety training in the wake of an Oct. 30 fire at Woodson High School that injured five students and a teacher, and caused \$7,500 in damage.

The fire started in a sophomore chemistry class during an experiment that involved an open flame.

Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza immediately banned all science experiments with open flames, but the ban is scheduled to be lifted once all teachers have completed their training. School system spokesperson John Torre said the updated training for high school teachers is expected to be finished by the end of November.

Torre also said Fairfax County Public Schools is conducting its own internal review of the incident, as well as responding to inquiries from the Occupational



Woodson High School.

Safety and Health Administration, and Fire Marshall. While those investigations continue, the school system will not release any more information on the incident.

Shawna Lawhorne, a representative from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, said her organization is not investigating the Woodson accident, but has "gathered facts about the incident to better understand the scope and severity of the

problem."

One year before the Woodson incident, Oct. 30, 2014, the Safety Board released a safety bulletin titled "Key Lessons for Preventing Incidents from Flammable Chemicals in Educational Demonstrations."

Lawhorne said the bulletin brings together their findings from three accidents that occurred in 2014 where students were burned

during experiments similar to the one that was taking place at Woodson.

"We will continue to gather data on these kinds of incidents and aggressively advocate for adoption of the key lessons learned during our previous investigation into this hazard," Lawhorne said in an email.

—TIM PETERSON

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

BY ABBY MILLS AND
MARLENE MIKA
FOR THE CONNECTION

Have you ever had a dream so whimsical that it swept you away to another world? A young girl named Alice has, and we invite you to see her adventures come to life in Sovereign Grace Church (SGC) Youth Drama's production of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland... and the story behind the Madness!"

It's been 150 years since Charles Lutwidge Dodgson — or, perhaps you know him by his pen name Lewis Carroll — published "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." We thought, what better way to commemorate this beloved children's tale than to transcribe the original text into a play that tells the whole tale, and also breaks the "fourth wall" by telling the story behind the madness.

"Few plays allow actors to let loose and be crazy ... this is one of those plays!" said high school senior William Mills, who plays the



From left Lydia Pogoda, Sophie Bricker, Colvin Fowler, William Mills, Gavin Schaaf, Hannah Black, Jared Okada, Ava Schaaf, Abby Mills, Elise Schaaf and Leah James.

Mad Hatter and Mr. Dodgson. Senior Jared Okada, who plays the Mouse and Bill the Lizard, said "I love... being able to step into the lives of [others] ... experiencing their realities."

What a dreamy reality these creatures have. Hannah Black, the Queen, said "I'm very excited to be

able to play such a fantastic character ... experimenting with how I say my lines and how I want the Queen to be portrayed is a really fun experience!"

In this, eighth season, the young cast has stepped up to collaborate on everything from sound effects to stage movement, costuming to

choreography.

"All has to be completed and perfected in a few short months," said Okada. Leah James, the White Rabbit and Caterpillar easily summed up the entire process in these three words, "It's organized chaos!" It is also truly a community theatre, thanks to friends of the cast who've come in to lend their talents to the production.

A portion of the proceeds from this play will go to an orphanage school that many of the cast families have been involved with for several years.

We all, at some time, are "looking for a wonderful adventure," said Sophie Bricker, who plays the part of Alice.

So bring your family and let's go on an adventure together on Dec. 3 and 4 at 7 p.m., and Dec. 5 at 1 p.m. Performances will be held in the main auditorium of Sovereign Grace Church, 5200 Ox Rd, Fairfax. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for children ages 3 - 17. For more information and sneak peak photos go to www.facebook.com/Aliceinfaifax.com.

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CALENDAR

Ongoing

FCPS Art Teachers Exhibition. Nov. 14-Dec. 6. W-16 McGuire Woods 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.

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 retelling 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/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

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. 703-585-2900.

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 retelling 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.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 3-5

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and the Story Behind the Madness. Dec. 3-4, 7 p.m. Dec. 5, 1 p.m. 5200 Ox Road, Fairfax. ale of a dream so whimsical that it transports one to another world, could it have been created by 3 young girls and a math professor? Yes, it's true! Bring your family to see the 150 year old original text come to life, and hear the story... behind the Madness. \$8, \$10. www.facebook.com/Aliceinfairfax.com.

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. 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.

Author Talk and Musical Program. 8 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Liel Leibovitz and a musical program, both celebrating the artist Leonard Cohen. Leibovitz's new biography, "A Broken

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.

Chanticleer, hailed as "the world's reigning male chorus," performs at George Mason's Center for the Arts on Saturday, Nov. 28.

Hallelujah: Rock and Roll, Redemption and the Life of Leonard Cohen," brings to life the passionate poet-turned-musician and what compels him and his work. \$24, \$20, \$14. www.jccnvarts.org. 703-537-3000.

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. 703-585-2900.

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. 703-383-1170.

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.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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
12/23/2015.....Special Issue – Safe for the Holidays
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Old Town Montessori School

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Friday, December 11, 9:30 AM – 11 AM

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**THE
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Robinson to Face Undefeated South County in 6A North Semifinals

Rams RB Foncha rushes for 157 yards, 3 TDs in win over Chantilly.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson Rams on Saturday afternoon will try to clear their third hurdle in a challenging 2015 postseason. After closing the regular season with a win over Centreville, No. 5 seed Robinson had to face the No. 12 Wildcats in a playoff rematch the following week. The Rams trailed by a touchdown in the fourth quarter, but came back to win 24-21 on a field goal by Nathan Musso with 3 seconds remaining.

On Nov. 20, Robinson needed a 27-yard touchdown pass from Alex Miller to Wes Richmond with 7 seconds remaining to beat No. 13 Chantilly 31-24 in the quarterfinals.

Now, the Rams (9-3) will travel to face undefeated top seed South County (12-0) in the 6A North region semifinals at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28. It's the first time since 2004 that Robinson has reached the third round of the playoffs. That year, the Rams lost to Landstown in the AAA Division 6 state championship game.

Led by quarterback DeAndre Clayton and



Robinson running back Sean Foncha rushed for 157 yards and three touchdowns during the Rams' 31-24 victory over Chantilly in the 6A North region quarterfinals on Nov. 20.

running back DeMarcus Ramsey, South County features an up-tempo offense that puts pressure on opposing defenses both through the air and on the ground. The Stallions are averaging 43.5 points per contest and have scored 33 or more points in 11 of 12 games. South County defeated West Potomac 42-9 in the quarterfinals on Friday.

How can Robinson slow down South County? From a defensive standpoint, Rams head coach Scott Vossler said it's about getting stops on third and fourth downs.

"You've got to try to get off the field when you get opportunities," Vossler said. "When you get them in third-and-long and fourth-

and-long and have a chance to get off the field, you've got to cash those in."

On offense, Robinson's ground-oriented wing-T attack can help the Rams' cause by chewing up clock and keeping the South County offense off the field.

"To be able to beat SoCo, we have to play physical, fast, and try to limit penalties," Robinson running back Sean Foncha wrote in an email. "It will be very important that we have longer possessions on offense to get our defense time to rest."

Foncha and fellow Robinson running backs Da'Jon Lee and Roman Lowery have come up big in the postseason.

Against Chantilly, Foncha carried 18 times



Robinson running back Da'Jon Lee rushed for 100 yards against Chantilly during the region quarterfinals on Nov. 20.

for 157 yards and three touchdowns. Trailing 14-0, Foncha scored on an 80-yard run with 5:49 remaining in the second quarter.

"When I scored that 80-yard touchdown, I felt like it gave our team life and confidence," Foncha wrote. "We knew we still had a chance to win." Lee carried 14 times for 100 yards against Chantilly, and Lowery had 12 carries for 42 yards. Each of the three running backs scored a touchdown in the playoff opener against Centreville, and Foncha led the way with 107 yards.

The winner of Saturday's South County-Robinson game will face the winner of No. 2 Lake Braddock and No. 3 Westfield in the region championship game.

Lake Braddock Football to Host Westfield

Q&A: RB Atkins commits to Vanderbilt.

The No. 2-seed Lake Braddock football team secured a trip to the 6A North region semifinals, beating No. 7 Battlefield 13-10 on Nov. 20 in Burke.

Two days later, Bruins running back Lamont Atkins made a decision about his football and academic future.

Atkins, a 5-foot-11, 195-pound junior, committed to Vanderbilt University on Sunday. Atkins has been a primary option in the Lake Braddock offense and figures to be a key contributor when Lake Braddock hosts No. 3 Westfield in the 6A North region semifinals at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28.

It's the third straight season the two teams have met in the region semifinals, with Westfield winning each of the last two years.

Atkins recently participated in a Q&A with The Connection, discussing his commitment to Vanderbilt, Lake Braddock's upcoming matchup with Westfield and his Thanksgiving plans.

Q: You committed to Vanderbilt on Sunday, correct?

Atkins: Yes. I visited for the game Saturday and stayed to meet all the coaches and tour the facilities and campus Sunday. At the end of the day, I committed to the coaching staff.

Q: What made Vanderbilt the right choice for you?

Atkins: I knew Vanderbilt was the right choice for me before I even visited for the

Lake Braddock running back Lamont Atkins recently committed to play football at Vanderbilt University.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG
STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION



weekend. They are the No. 15 National University in the nation and [head] coach [Derek] Mason makes academics a top priority for the players. I also enjoyed the personalities of all the coaches. They care for their athletes as they would their own kids. They hold you accountable to being a Vanderbilt man and encourage you to be limitless. I also couldn't pass up an opportunity to compete in the SEC.

Q: For what position did Vanderbilt recruit you?

Atkins: I was recruited to play running back.

Q: Lake Braddock pulled out a 13-10 win

over Battlefield last week in the quarterfinals. How do you feel your team played?

Atkins: Battlefield was a great team and played well on both sides of the ball. I was proud of my entire team because everyone fought hard for four quarters and pulled out a close victory.

Q: Now you face a Westfield program that has beaten Lake Braddock in the region semifinals each of the last two years. What will it take to beat the Bulldogs?

Atkins: Westfield is a great team and they may have the best defense in the state. We have to execute our game plan and play

error-free football to beat them.

Q: You guys will practice on Thanksgiving, correct? What time? How long?

Atkins: Yes, we will practice from 8:30 to 11:30.

Q: What are your plans for Thanksgiving day?

Atkins: After practice, a few of the parents will prepare a real nice brunch for us. It's a privilege to be practicing and having a meal with your team on Thanksgiving because it means your state championship dreams are still there.

Q: What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?

Atkins: I like the fried turkey and my mom's sweet potato pie.

Q: With the football season still going, will you have to make sure you don't eat too much?

Atkins: Don't worry, we have practice at 8:30 Friday morning and I'm sure we will run it off.

Q: Do you or your family participate in any sports-related Thanksgiving traditions?

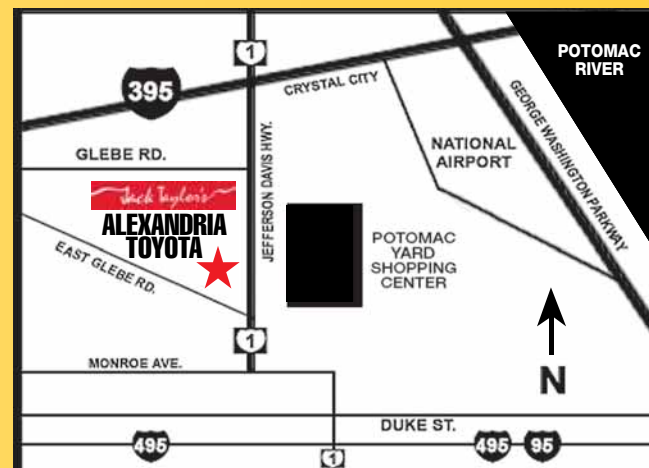
Atkins: We do not. My mom is the varsity team mom and leads most of the preparation for the team brunch. My dad and little brother will be helping her out too, along with a lot of the other families. After practice and the brunch, we're all tired so we normally just hang out around the house and watch movies.

— JON ROETMAN

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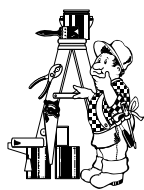
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OBITUARY

Peggy Jane Magtutu, 77, Dies

Peggy Jane Magtutu (a.k.a. Tu Tu), 77, of Cross Junction, Va., passed away on Monday, Nov. 16 in Blue Ridge Hospice Inpatient Care Center.

She was born March 22, 1938 in Winston Salem, N.C. the daughter of John Bruce and Lydia Milam Craver.

She retired from over 20 years as the secretary in the Main Office at Robinson Secondary School, a job she loved. She moved on to run her own florist Flowers By Tu Tu for several years. She was involved with organizing coffees and luncheons for the ladies of Winchester and was a hospice volunteer. She was a lifetime member of the National Garden Club, an accredited flower show judge, and held the position of National Garden Club Shenandoah District president.

She loved flowers and gardening, shopping, animals of all shapes and sizes, and her family and friends. She is survived by her spouse and the love of her life for the last 57 years, Paul William Magtutu; her children, Kimberly Anne Mary Barr and her husband Stephan of Henderson, Nev. and Sharon Monique Hathaway and her husband Dennis of Burke; grandchildren, Stephan Paul Barr and Marcus Paul Hathaway; great-grandchildren, Keegan Barr and Ryleigh Barr.

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.

Gesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax, invites the community to celebrate Chanukah at a Chanukah Lights and Legos Party on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 3-5 p.m. Spin art with dreidels and other crafts; life-size construction toys; latke bar; music, dancing, and singing; a toddler room with PJ Library books about Chanukah. Ages 6 and up can build their own Legos, menorah and dreidel to take home (additional fee). Adults and children 2 years and older \$4; children under 2 free. Legos builders 6 yrs. and up \$12. Space is limited for builders – reserve early. Brownpapertickets.com. www.jccnv.org.

St. Pius X Chapel is offering a Tridentine (Latin) Mass at two locations, in Falls Church at Everly Community Funeral Care, 6161 Leesburg Pike on Sunday, 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.sspcx.org/en/community/priorities.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The 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.

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

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Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
The Arlington Connection
Zone 6: The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

SEASON OF GIVING



Home remodeler Bob Gallagher, who grew up near Clifton, organized a benefit to help Dixie Dawson with repairs to her house including a deck and wheelchair ramp. The repairs are set for Dec. 12. Dawson, who has spina bifida, has lived most of her life in the rambler off Popeshead Road her father built in the early 1960s. Gallagher is a principal at Sun Design Remodeling.



The Dawson house.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Remodelers, Suppliers Join Forces to Help Clifton Woman

Sun Design Remodeling and partners donate services to upgrade deck and wheelchair ramp for local woman with spina bifida.

BY JOHN BYRD

A coalition of local remodelers and home improvement suppliers are set to repair the deck and wheelchair ramp surrounding the home of Dixie Dawson, a long term Clifton resident with spina bifida.

Dawson, who lives alone in the house her father built in the early 1960s, was the beneficiary of the second annual Remodeler's Charity Tour which was held Nov. 7. The tour was sponsored by Sun Design Remod-

eling with participation from TW Perry, Cedar Electric, MR Contracting and Trex.

The repairs, which will include extensive upgrades to the wheelchair-accessible deck, as well as improvements to the home's electric system and chimney, will occur on Dec. 12. All materials and labor are being donated by participating contractors. The value of the repairs is estimated at \$25,000.

Dawson credits childhood friend, Janaye Raper Lawson, with initiating the process that led to her receiving the needed assistance. Lawson knew about last year's char-

ity tour (which helped a local widow repair the driveway to her home) and contacted Christina Gallagher, wife of Sun Design principal Bob Gallagher. Two days later, Gallagher dropped by Dawson's home.

"I just thought there must be a way that a community as old and close-knit as ours can aid one of its own," says Gallagher, who grew up in the area where his father practiced medicine.

"My company has learned a lot from doing tours of recently remodeled homes;

To Contribute

Those who wish to make a contribution to the Dawson repair effort may do so at: <https://www.youcaring.com/dixie-dawson-449502>

this seems like a logical way to draw attention to someone in the community we could help."

The tour, which focused on a Sun Design project in the Balmoral section of Clifton, provided an opportunity for locals to make a contribution to Dawson. It also firmed up the professional support needed to execute the repairs.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com or www.HomeFrontsNews.com) has been writing stories about community interest topics for 30 years.

Special Bible Exhibit at First Church of Christ, Scientist

How did the King James Version of the Bible come to be? In a one-day exhibition celebrating International Bible Day on Nov. 23, Springfield resident and historian Bruce Slawter showcased several ancient Bible pages and explained some of the book's origin story.

The exhibition took place at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Springfield, where Slawter is a member and "first reader." Not to be confused with the Church of Scientology, the Christian Science Church was founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879. Members follow the Bible and Eddy's interpretation of it as their spiritual basis.

Slawter of Springfield has always been interested in history and is a "first reader" at the First Church of Christ, Scientist. In 2011, the 400th birthday of the King James Bible, Slawter said was "the big push" to pursue Bible history scholarship as he was teaching college Sunday School at the church.

Questions of how the King James Ver-

Bruce Slawter of Springfield presents an exhibition and talk on the history of the Bible at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Springfield.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

sion of the Bible came about compelled Slawter to contact the Folger Shakespeare Library and begin work on his own exhibition. Slawter connected with vendors and collectors online, and came into possession of several historic pieces he had verified by experts at Folger.

His pieces include a page from the William Tyndale New Testament, from around 1526, the first English translation from the

original Greek; the Matthew Bible, circa 1537, a first edition from Antwerp printed with movable type on rag-cotton linen; and the Geneva Bible, circa 1560, by English Protestants who fled England.

The primary collection of Slawter concludes with a page from the 1611 first edition of the King James Version, the culmination of work from six different companies exchanging drafts, peer reviews and

circulating corrections before a general review committee and senior review.

"It's considered one of the greatest collaborative efforts of scholarship in history," Slawter said.

Slawter managed an open house at the church during the day and led a more detailed talk that evening. Seeing the pages first hand has given him a more profound perspective on his own scholarship.

"It makes you appreciate the dedication of the forerunners of Biblical scholarship," Slawter said. "Many of these individuals were martyred for their views, like Tyndale, who asked for his stylus and his Hebrew dictionary so he could work on translating right up until his execution."

"You wonder whether you would have that sort of faith, that courage, today," Slawter added.

First Church of Christ, Scientist is located at 5315 Backlick Road in Springfield.

—TIM PETERSON