

Burke CONNECTION

Saint Nick Comes to Burke

NEWS, PAGE 10

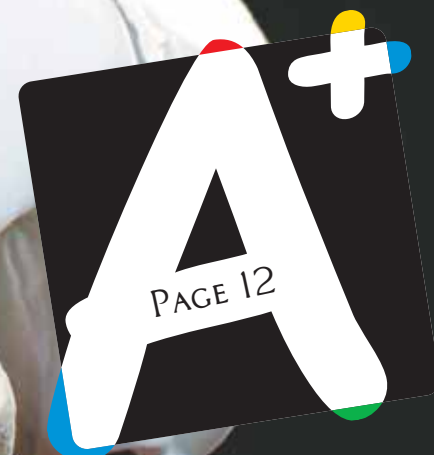
Kate Marin whispering to
Saint Nick during the
Burke Presbyterian Church
Breakfast with Saint Nick
on Saturday, Dec. 12.

Partnership Launches 'Build a Village' Campaign

NEWS, PAGE 4

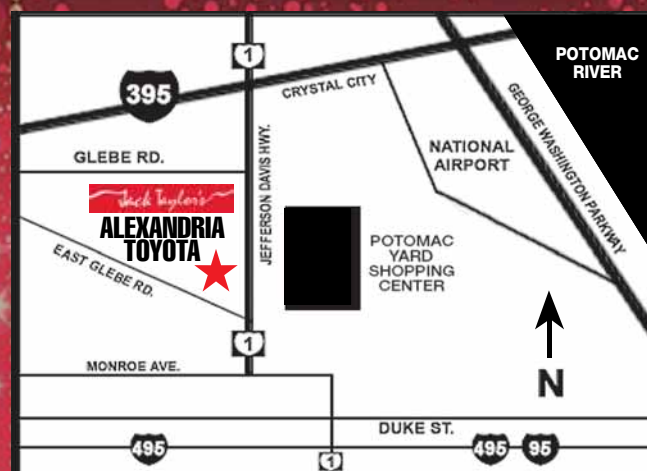
All Aboard the Ho Ho Ho Train

NEWS, PAGE 3



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**Let's
Go
Places**



Top from left, Audrey, Jim, Bridget, bottom from left, Charlotte, Felicity, Blaise, Lily Swoger, of Springfield, learn about rail safety while riding the Santa train during Operation Lifesaver on Saturday, Dec. 12.



Choral groups, like West Potomac High School's Soundsations, entertain riders during the Santa train rides.

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

All Aboard the Ho Ho Ho Train

More Information

Operation Life Saver: <http://oli.org/>
Union Pacific: http://www.up.com/aboutup/community/safety/photo_safety/index.htm

At Burke Centre Station, Santa trains educate young riders about rail safety.

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

It was a typical scene at Burke Centre Station, a line of people waiting for the train. But these riders are not professionals dressed in business suits, reading the paper or engrossed on their phones writing important emails while waiting for their ride to work.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, these passengers were dressed in festive, holiday outfits or casual weekend wear, carrying unwrapped toys, ready to board VRE's Santa trains.

Jessica and Maddie, 4, Carroll, of Fairfax, came "to see Santa and give toys to kids that don't have any toys." Volunteers collected new, unwrapped toys for Toy for Tots as passengers boarded the train.

There are four scheduled boardings in Burke, with lines whimsically named Cupid Express, Elf Express, Frosty Express and Polar Express.

On the train, volunteers handed out candy canes and local choral groups, such as West Potomac High School's Soundsations, entertained riders.

Two sets of Santa Clauses walked the length of the train to greet the passengers. The Santas were sequestered in the middle car, with the windows covered in wrapping paper. They went out on each end when the train left the station.

Children also received a coloring book that educates them about rail safety, part



Santa train rides are part of Operation Lifesaver, which educates riders about rail safety. The two Santas on the train stay in a separate car before the train leaves the station and visit each end of the train as it goes.

of Operation Lifesaver. "Look, listen and live" is the message the organization tried to relay.

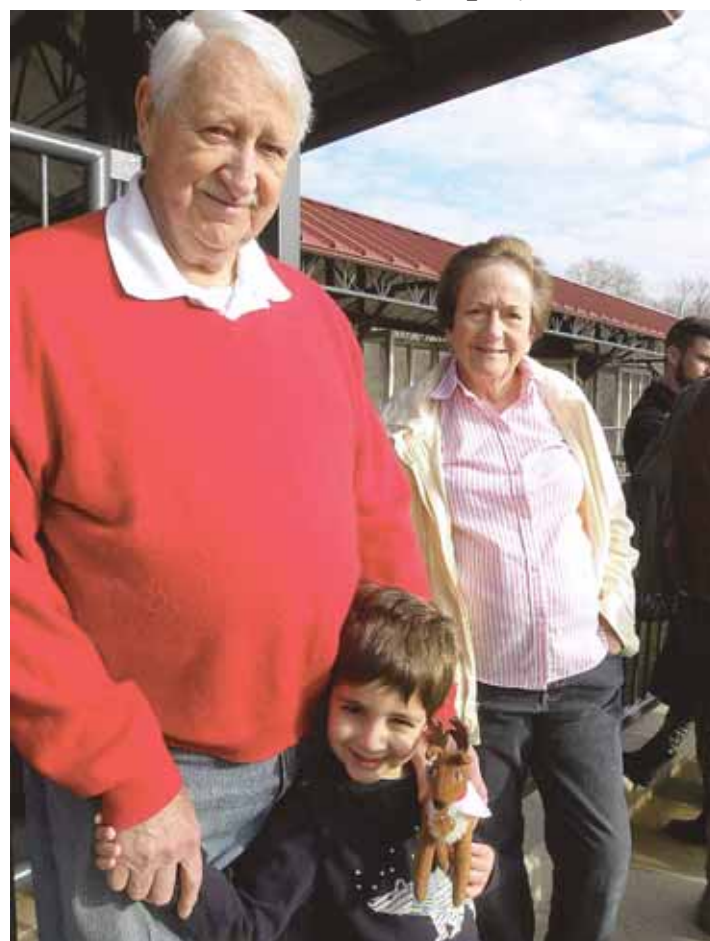
Last September, Maryland teen John DeReggi was struck by a train during a photo session by the train tracks. Federal Railroad Administration statistics noted an

increase of 21.8 percent of fatalities caused by persons trespassing on railroad tracks and property in 2014, according to Operation Lifesaver.

The passengers on the Santa trains may be a little too young to traverse rail lines but it is never too early to teach them how

to be safe. Lily Swoger, of Springfield, learned that one should never throw things out from the train.

Operation Lifesaver provides public education program to prevent collisions, injuries and fatalities on and around railroad tracks and crossings.



From left, Norman Edwards, of Springfield, with grandson Tristan Anastasiou, of Bristow, Va., and Tommi Edwards, of Springfield ride the Santa train at VRE Burke Centre Station on Saturday, Dec. 12.



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova with Michael L. O'Reilly, Chairman of the Governing Board, Fairfax County Office to End and Prevent Homelessness.



Verdia L. Haywood, former Deputy County Executive and Governing Board member, with Glynda Hall, Partnership Development Manager for the Office to End and Prevent Homelessness, and Kathy Albarado, CEO of Helios HR in Reston.

PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION



Wendy Lemieux, of the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships.

Partnership Launches 'Build a Village' Campaign

Goal to end homelessness in Fairfax County by 2018 looms; more than 400 children are among the homeless here.

Dozens of business leaders, elected officials and advocates for ending homelessness gathered Monday, Dec. 14 in the offices of Piedmont Fund Services in Herndon to launch the "Build a Village" campaign.

The effort is designed to provide funds to help end homelessness in Fairfax County. Businesses pledged more than \$20,000 at the event just to begin. Jim Corcoran, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, Don Owens of Griffin-Owens Insurance in Herndon, John Sekas of Sekas Homes in Vienna and Kathy Albarado, CEO of Helios HR in Reston, each pledged \$5,000.

Albarado shared her personal story, which included periods of homelessness when she was growing up as her mother fled domestic violence.

The Build a Village concept, which graphically builds houses with donations starting at one brick for \$25, a window or chimney for \$250, \$500 to build the front door and \$5,000 completing a house, is the brainchild of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and its president Eileen Curtis, who was on hand for the kickoff. Apple Federal Credit Union will manage donations.

In 2015, about 1,200 people were literally homeless, including 431 children. More than 60 percent of the homeless adults in families were employed, but their jobs didn't pay them enough to afford housing. Domestic violence was the cause of homelessness for more than 40 percent of the adults in families who are homeless. Of the 488 single individuals who were homeless, 52 were 18-24 years old; 123 were 55 years old or older. Two hundred sixty eight homeless individuals were dealing with serious mental illness and/or substance abuse.

Lack of affordable housing is the main cause of homelessness in Fairfax County, according to the Fairfax County Office to



Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) both serve on Governing Board of the Office to End and Prevent Homelessness, and were on hand to support the launch of the "Build a Village" campaign.



Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones, with Nannette Bowler, Director of the Fairfax County Department of Family Services.



Delegate-elect Jennifer Boysko (D-86) with Margi Preston, Executive Director of FACETS.



Jeff Lisanick of Vienna, and Joe Meyer, Executive Director of Shelter House.

Prevent and End Homelessness. Low incomes and expensive housing make it impossible to pay for an apartment when earning minimum wage — even working 24

hours per day, seven days a week. Monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment is at least \$1,500, meaning a family would need an annual income of \$58,760 to afford a two-

bedroom apartment.

To donate, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless and click on "Build a Village" campaign.

Del. Filler-Corn Receives the Jobs for America's Graduates' National Network Leadership Award

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) was honored by Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) with their National Network Leadership Award in Washington, D.C. This annual awards event recognizes a select number of national, state and local leaders for their support of the mission of Jobs for America's Graduates, as well as the activities of their respective state organizations and local JAG programs.

JAG is a national nonprofit organization with state partners, dedicated to preventing school dropouts among young people who are most at risk. Governor Terry McAuliffe and U.S. Rep. Don Beyer both serve on JAG's national board of directors. JAG recognized Filler-Corn for her work as chair of their Virginia affiliated organization, Jobs for Virginia Graduates (JVG), which she has chaired since 2012, succeeding Congressman Beyer.

The festivities began on Wednesday night in the Kennedy Caucus Room at the Russell Senate Office Building. Following an introduction by Beyer, Filler-Corn had the opportunity to address the crowd. "One of my principal goals for JVG



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn accepting the JAG National Network Leadership Award

is to become Virginia's 'Program of Choice' for dropout prevention and obtaining good job opportunities for at-risk students," said Filler-Corn. "On a personal level, I am committed to continuing to expand the ability of Jobs for Virginia graduates to reach a growing percentage of the many thou-

sands of our students who remain at high risk of dropping out of school before graduation, and thus become likely to remain on the sidelines of an otherwise growing economy throughout their working lives," she added.

In addition to Beyer, Sen. Tim Kaine and Virginia Secretary of



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn with Senator Tim Kaine and Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton

Education Anne Holton also attended Wednesday night, as well as Mississippi governor and current chair of JAG, Phil Bryant. The following day, JAG held its national awards luncheon where Filler-Corn was presented with a plaque commemorating her efforts on behalf of JVG.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League Seeks Members

Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season - April 1 through Oct. 31 - are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

Toy Collection

Lake Braddock Secondary School SGA will be collecting toys during the boys basketball game against W.T. Woodson on Friday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock. Every person that brings in a new, unwrapped toy will receive a \$2 discount on their game ticket. If 200 toys are raised during the game, all those who donated a toy will receive a voucher for a free slice of pizza. Lake Braddock is located at 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Collection is for Toys for Tots.

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FOR UNTO US

a child is born

Christmas

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Christmas Services

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| <p>DECEMBER 23, 2015 McLean Bible Church Montgomery County Campus 12440 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852 Family services at 6:30 pm and 8 pm</p> <p>DECEMBER 24, 2015 McLean Bible Church Tysons Campus 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182 Family services at 3 pm and 4:30 pm Communion services at 7 pm, 9 pm and 11 pm</p> | <p>DECEMBER 24, 2015 McLean Bible Church Loudoun Campus 44180 Riverside Parkway, Lansdowne, VA 20176 Family services at 4 pm and 6 pm Communion service at 8 pm</p> <p>McLean Bible Church Prince William Campus 10002 Battleview Parkway, Manassas, VA 20109 Family services at 5 pm and 6 pm Communion service at 7pm</p> |
|---|--|

To learn more about our Christmas celebration, visit www.mcleanbible.org/christmas.

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

Season of Giving Never Has To End

Why ending childhood hunger should be your New Year's resolution.

BY AMY JOHNSON, JENNIFER KONISH
AND NICK ARENT

The holiday season is one of our favorite times of year because it's all about the best things in life. It's a time for celebrating, bringing age-old cultural traditions to life, and spending time with family and friends. It's about being thankful for all of the things we are fortunate enough to have in our lives and reminding people how much we love and appreciate them. Oh and we suppose the delicious food that accompanies all of these things makes them that much more enjoyable!

During the holidays there are still a number of people who are struggling to make ends meet and many who don't have enough to eat, but luckily, it is also the season of giving. Around the country, the holidays inspire hundreds of thousands of people to give to the poor. Caring individuals get involved by donating to hunger-relief organizations such as the Capital Area Food Bank — the largest non-profit serving the Washington metro area — serving at soup kitchens, and finding other ways to contribute to the improvement of our communities. Especially when it comes to sharing food, we make sure that everyone has something to eat. The holiday spirit unites us, brings out the best in us, and motivates us to make a real difference in the lives of others.

This year, let's make it our New Year's resolution to keep this level of engagement continuing into 2016 by tackling one of most

tragic problems facing our country — childhood hunger.

About 400,000 children here in Virginia alone are at risk of going hungry and it's a problem we can't afford to put off for another year. Despite all the pies, casseroles, hams and turkeys that will be enjoyed over the next several weeks, over 15.5 million kids across the country are food insecure. According to No Kid Hungry "three out of four public school teachers say students regularly come to school hungry" — another alarming statistic. In a country as prosperous as our own, it is absolutely unacceptable that there are any children who don't know where they are going to get their next meal.

The bottom line is that when kids are hungry, they struggle to learn, and kids who struggle to learn, struggle in life. With stomachs growling, hungry children sit through class unable to focus and get the most out of school. Fatigue and weakness as the result of poor nutrition make it difficult for them to stay awake or participate in physical activities like recess and PE. They are more likely to suffer from hyperactivity, miss school, and experience other behavioral problems which creates a negative learning environment for all students — even their peers who are not food insecure. Perhaps the scariest thing about childhood food insecurity is the inability for a child to reach their full potential because of the dramatic damage hunger does to their brain. Over time, hungry students fall behind their peers academically and many of them never catch up making it far more difficult for them to find good jobs and take care of their children once they grow up. The medical sector is beginning to reprioritize its resources to see healthy food as the important intervention it is. For example, the American Academy of Pediatrics recently recommended for the first time that pediatri-

cians screen all children for food insecurity.

If we want to make sure every child gets a fair shot in life, we need to make sure our elected officials and decision-makers properly fund and improve existing food assistance programs such as free/reduced price school meals, SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) and WIC. Research shows that these programs help students to perform better in school and in life — but they don't go far enough. First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe is an excellent example of how politicians from both sides of the aisle should be making this issue a priority and continuing to develop new solutions.

Congress is currently considering legislation to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act and to make changes to a number of food assistance programs. This legislation will influence funding for programs like the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program which allows the Capital Area Food Bank and other organizations to provide nutritious meals to food insecure children when school is out of session. If you are as concerned about childhood hunger as we are, you can contact your elected officials and urge them to take action by calling the congressional switchboard at 202-225-3121.

We will start 2016 with one in six kids across Virginia waking up at risk of going hungry throughout the year. With your help — by making ending childhood hunger your New Year's resolution and taking action on this issue throughout the year — we can work toward a future where we wake up on New Year's Day to a country where every child's basic needs are met so that they all have a fair opportunity to be successful in life.

Amy Johnson and Jennifer Konish are the NOVA Kids Cafe Coordinators with the Capital Area Food Bank. Nick Arent is a Campaign Organizer with Virginia Fair Share.

Justice for Juveniles

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



I often quote from papers written by the staff of the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis; they provide the most fact-based, nonpartisan, clear analysis of key issues facing Virginians (<http://www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org/>). Recently, I attended the 2015 Policy Summit held by the Institute in Richmond. Topics at the Summit included the declining state support for public schools in Virginia, accessing health care, and returning more money to the working poor through the Earned Income Tax Credit. One topic around which there seems to be a high level of political consensus developing was "Criminal Justice Reform: Opportunities to Save Money and Help Communities."

In a paper published by The Commonwealth Institute, it was reported that Virginia keeps more youth incarcerated than most states. As of 2013 for which the most recent federal data is available, Virginia incarcerated 79 youth in

state facilities for every 100,000 youth age 10 or older living in the state. That's 75 percent higher than the national rate of 45 state incarcerated youth per 100,000 youth in the country. But that does not mean that Virginians are safer or that more youth are diverted from criminal behavior. In fact, the opposite is true. According to data from the Department of Juvenile Justice, almost three-quarters of youth who have been held in the state's juvenile prisons are convicted of another crime within three years of release. Of great concern is the fact that youth who are held in the state's youth prisons for longer periods of time actually have higher rates of re-arrest within a year of release than youth who are held for shorter periods of time!

Virginia's current youth prison system consists of two youth prisons, Bon Air and Beaumont, in the Richmond suburbs. More affluent areas like Fairfax County have established local alternative programs. The highest rates of commitment to the state youth prisons come from the localities that have the highest poverty levels. As the Institute reported, "not only

is Virginia's current system not working to rehabilitate youth and keep communities safe, it is also very expensive. The per capita cost of incarcerating youth in Virginia's juvenile correctional centers was \$148,214 in FY 2015. Local programs are lower in cost as well as more effective at reducing recidivism.

Efforts have been underway to reform the current system for a number of years, but that movement needs to be accelerated. Wealthy communities are way ahead in establishing treatment programs, but these programs that are effective in keeping children out of trouble in the future must be extended to all localities regardless of wealth. The state must resist any effort to dump the problem on localities without providing necessary funds to make alternative programs available. The pipeline from school to prison must be shut off. Alternative solutions that include intensive treatment for offenders and families can keep the community safe, rehabilitate young people before they become criminals, and save money. There is widespread bipartisan agreement that progress needs to be accelerated in this area. It will bring justice to juveniles.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Community members sample a variety of food from local restaurants at the 2015 Taste of Braddock on Dec. 9.

Taste of Braddock Showcases Local Cuisine

More than a dozen local restaurants, grocery stores and other food businesses showcased their cuisines for the community on Dec. 9 at the 2015 Taste of Braddock.

Those businesses included Lebanese Bistro, Spartans Family Restaurant, Chuy's, Edible Arrangements, Giardino Italian Restaurant, Hunan West, Milano's Chicken Palace, Smith and Clarkson's Deli, Austin Grill, Wegmans, Dunkin Donuts, Dickey's Barbecue Pit, Coyote Grill and Kilroy's.

Chef Christine Cloninger and students from the Culinary Institute of Annandale High School helped with setting up, serving and cleaning up after the free community dinner. The group donated freshly baked cookies, as well.

—TIM PETERSON



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, Braddock district School Board member Megan McLaughlin, supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and Del. Vivian Watts (D-39).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7-8 p.m.** for an open discussion on caregiving. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call **703-324-5484**, TTY 711.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, Jan. 20** at noon at the **Oakton Regional Library**, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

An orientation to the **Fairfax 50+ Community Ambassador Program** will be held on **Tuesday, Jan. 26** from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 206, **Fairfax**. This volunteer program trains **members of Fairfax County community organizations** to help link their fellow members to the county's services for older adults and caregivers. Organizations include faith communities, homeowner associations, retirement organizations, multicultural groups and civic associations. Contact Mena Nakhla at **703-324-5859** or by email at Mena.Nakhla@fairfaxcounty.gov by January 20.

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. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact **703-324-7577**, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The **Lorton Senior Center** needs a **Computer Lab Assistant**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs a volunteer **Senior Center Marketing Coordinator** to assist the Friends of Fairfax County Senior Centers with marketing. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Mott Community Center Senior Program** in **Fairfax** is looking for volunteer instructors for the following classes: **Tai Chi** and **Art**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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NEWS



Cantors from Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church entertain community members at the Dec. 13 menorah lighting in the Mosaic District in Fairfax.



Several rabbis from local synagogues helped light each of the electronic candles on the Mosaic District menorah on Dec. 13.

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Menorah Bringing Light to Mosaic

Children shrieked and chased each other through the passageway beneath the Mosaic District towering Christmas tree, while a trio of cantors from Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church led a small crowd in festive Hanukkah songs such as “I Am a Latke.”

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia hosted a “Light Up the Night Community Menorah Lighting” in the center of the

Fairfax outdoor shopping and cultural center on Dec. 13 at sundown.

Families ate holiday donuts (sufganiyot), played with dreidels and worked on Hanukkah-themed crafts before several area rabbis and temple leaders lit each of the electronic candles on the Mosaic District menorah.

—TIM PETERSON

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

Luis Miguel. 8 p.m. Eagle Bank Arena, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$53-\$180. <http://www.eaglebankarena.com/>. 703-993-3000.

THURSDAY/DEC. 17

Challah Tots. 10-11 a.m. Whole Foods Fair Lakes, 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax. Meet Growing Jewish Families at Whole Foods for a fun-filled morning of preschool-friendly challah making and PJ Library story time in preparation for Shabbat. Whole Foods will provide the dough, and you come with your creativity to make the perfect challah to take home and bake for Shabbat. Free. RSVP by Dec. 16. Jennifer.DeAngelis@jccnv.org. 703-537-3045.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Vienna Boys Choir, Christmas in Vienna. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. The choir performs a broad range of music for the holidays, from sacred hymns and traditional Christmas carols to holiday pop favorites and folk songs from across the globe. These Austrian lads belong to one of the best-known boys choirs in the world, and are known for their ethereal vocals, glorious harmonies, pristine tone, and a broad repertoire spanning centuries and genres. \$32-\$54. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

More than a Muse Opening Reception. 8 p.m. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Curated by Mojdeh Rezaeipour and The Bunnyman Bridge Collective, the artists of More than a Muse create work in a variety of mediums. Live music by Her Roots. Exhibit will run from Dec. 19-Feb. 20. www.epicurecafe.org/contact. 703-352-9193.

Let it Snow-Man! Holiday Puppet Show. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Let It Snow-Man! A Visit to Santa's Workshop - Mr. Snowman and his son arrive at Santa's workshop and “try” to help Santa, the elves, and the reindeer get ready for Christmas. 703-249-1520.

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.

Brunch with Santa at the Pub. 9-11:30 a.m. The Pub by Wegmans, 7905 Hilltop Village Center Drive, Alexandria. Santa's coming to town and he'll be at The Pub! Join us for brunch specials in addition to our full Pub menu. You can take pictures with Santa too. Reserve at Call (571) 527-2465 or use OpenTable.

Christmas in Fairfax. 7 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The program highlights the world premiere of Randol Alan Bass's setting of Hodie Christus Natus Est, commissioned by the City of Fairfax

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



PHOTO BY LOIS GREENFIELD

Savion Glover Comes to Center for the Arts

Savion Glover and “DANCE HOLIDAY SPeCTaCuLaR” at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, Fairfax, Saturday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$32-\$54. Call 888-945-2468 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu. Note: This is designated as a family friendly performance. All children, regardless of age, must have a ticket.

Jewish Community Center to Host J Fest

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (the J) is hosting its annual J Fest and Movie Screening on Friday, Dec. 25 at 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. J Fest: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Movie: “Yentl” at 3 p.m. The DMV is invited to attend this great day to play at the J with friends, family, and community. Interactive entertainment, arcade games, moon bounces, and other inflatables and the magic of Benjamin Corey — a Comedy Magician/Illusionist who also includes mentalism in his performances. Food will be available for purchase. This year guests are encouraged to participate in a coat drive for those less fortunate by bringing any new or gently used coats for donation. Fee per family (up to 6

people): \$20/ \$15 member. Free parking. 703.323.0880. jccnv.org

Following J Fest, enjoy a free screening of “Yentl.”

This 1983 romantic musical, directed, co-written, co-produced and starring Barbra Streisand is based on the Isaac Bashevis Singer story “Yentl, the Yeshiva Boy” and portrays the odyssey of an Ashkenazi Jewish girl in Poland who decides to dress and live like a man so that she can receive an education in Talmudic Law after her father dies. Co-starring Mandy Patinkin and Amy Irving, and Streisand singing “Papa, Can You Hear Me?” and “The Way He Makes Me Feel,” songs by Michel Legrand. Free admission. 703-323-0880. jccnv.org

Band Association specifically for this performance with the Choral Society. Tickets required. Free. Call 571-336-2322.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

Service Lessons and Carols. 10 a.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. This service originated in Victorian England in the 1880s as a series of scripture readings interspersed with Advent and Christmas carols, hymns and choral anthems, tracing God's love from the creation of man and woman in the Garden of Eden, through the annunciation and birth of the Christ Child. www.pohick.org. 703-339-6572.

Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

7 p.m. Eagle Bank Arena, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Teaming up with a full symphony orchestra to celebrate the Christmas season live. \$39.50-\$150. <http://www.eaglebankarena.com/>. 703-993-3000.

FRIDAY/DEC. 25

Fourth Annual Christmas Day “Giving Back.” 1-5 p.m. Ravensworth Shopping Center, 5236 Port Royal Road, Springfield. Join us for camaraderie, fellowship, munchies and beverages - as we pack Care Packages for our Deployed write Care Letters for our Veterans in Veterans Homes and Hospitals and accept, clean gently used or new winter coats for our local homeless veterans. To

Ongoing

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

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

Iconic Images from the American Civil War. Through Dec. 31. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The exhibition, Between the States: Photographs of the American Civil War, features a selection of 110 historical photographs of the Civil War by photographers (including renowned photographers George Barnard, Mathew Brady, and Alexander Gardner from the George Eastman House Collection in Rochester, N.Y. 703-691-0560.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (Hello)! Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel! Free (we ask that you try to attend regularly). RSVP.Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

participate or volunteer go to www.americasadoptsoldier.org.

J Fest and Movie Screening. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. “Yentl” at 3 p.m. Interactive entertainment, arcade games, moon bounces, etc. Plus magician Benjamin Corey. \$20/ \$16 per family (up to six people). jccnv.org. 703-323-0880.

SATURDAY/JAN. 2

Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Springfield, 6646 Loidsdale Road, Springfield. Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast have a beautiful friendship — until they discover that there's ONLY ONE DROP of maple syrup left. Activities to follow. 703-971-5383.

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Christian Ham (green hat) and Harper Ham visit with Saint Nick.



Sophia Pitcock and Karper Pitcock meet Saint Nick.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Saint Nick Comes to Burke Presbyterian Church

For decades, Burke Presbyterian Church has hosted Breakfast with Saint Nick, a time to sing carols, share a

festive pancake breakfast, make crafts, and visit with Saint Nick himself. On Saturday, Dec. 12, more than 300 people attended

this year's event. It's always free and open to the public, and donations are accepted to support the church's many

mission projects. Christmas Eve worship this year will take place at 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

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.

Pohick Church will offer Service Lessons and Carols. This service originated in Victorian England in the 1880s as a series of scripture readings interspersed with Advent and Christmas carols, hymns and choral anthems, tracing God's love from the creation of man and woman in the Garden of Eden, through the annunciation and birth of the Christ Child. The event will be on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. Pohick Church is located at 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. www.pohick.org. 703-339-6572.

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 Richards Lane, Clifton. office@cliftonpc.org. 703-830-3175.

Join **Harvester Presbyterian Church**, 7800 Rolling Road, Springfield, for Light of Hope, a traditional Christmas Eve service with candle-lighting on Thursday, Dec. 24 from 8-9 p.m. www.harvesterpca.org. 703-455-7800.

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

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

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

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

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Jubilee Christian Center "Loving People to Life"

Christmas Eve Service 7:30 PM
Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM
Sunday School 10:10 AM
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6215 Rolling Road, Springfield (near West Springfield High School) www.messiahumc.org
703-569-9862

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SPORTS

Freshman James Provides Spark for Undefeated Bruins

Guard scores 12 points, Bruins beat Robinson.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock freshman guard Quentin James felt nervous prior to Friday's matchup with Robinson — his first taste of the Burke rivalry.

Near the end of the first quarter, James unloaded those nerves on the Rams in the form of a personal 6-0 run.

James' trio of buckets helped Lake Braddock close the opening quarter on 14-1 run. The Bruins led by at least nine points for the remainder of the contest and improved to 4-0 with a 66-54 victory on Dec. 11 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

James, a starter for the Bruins, finished as the team's second-leading scorer with 12 points.

"He's a player, now," Lake Braddock head coach Brian Metress said. "He gets after you defensively and he's in the passing lanes. I thought we rattled them early with the pressure. We just rattled them. And they really, early, didn't look like they wanted to dribble. It was sort of like chum in the water — we were going after every pass."

Lake Braddock forced nine turnovers in the first quarter and 26 for the game. After back-to-back buckets by James late in the first quarter, the freshman guard came up with a steal and finished with a layup, extending the Bruins' lead to 14 points. Lake Braddock led 26-10 at the end of the opening quarter.

"It felt amazing," James said about scoring six straight points. "It was my first time playing in the big cross-town rivalry as a freshman so, I was a little nervous ..."

Has James had to prove to Lake Braddock coaches that he belongs on the varsity level?

"We've known him since his seventh, eighth grade year," Metress said. "He's a good player. He's confident, he expects to play well, we expect him to play well. We don't treat him like a freshman and we think he's got a bright future here at Lake Braddock. ... And the older guys, the captains, like [senior forward] Peyton Bishop and [senior center] James Butler, the guys who have been through the wars before, they embrace him as an important part of our team."

James' final field goal came with less than a minute remaining in the fourth quarter, giving Lake Braddock a 65-52 advantage.

"He's really stepped up," Butler said. "You can see he's feeling more confidence as he plays. He had a great game tonight — sort of a breakout game for him."

While James gave the Bruins a spark, Butler took care of business as usual in the paint. The 6-foot-8 Navy signee scored a game-high 22 points, including 12 in the first quarter, and grabbed five rebounds.

"... I thought he was a beast in there," Metress said.

Metress said he's asking Butler to take on a leadership role this year.

"As a freshman, he was a young kid that was up on the varsity and he played limited minutes," Metress said. "As a sophomore, he was an integral part — a



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION
Lake Braddock freshman Quentin James scored 12 points during the Bruins' 66-54 win over Robinson on Dec. 11.

"We've known [James] since his seventh, eighth grade year. He's a good player. He's confident, he expects to play well, we expect him to play well. We don't treat him like a freshman and we think he's got a bright future here at Lake Braddock."

— Lake Braddock basketball coach Brian Metress

sixth man — of a team that went to the state final four. Last year, he was the fourth- or fifth-leading scorer in the metropolitan area. This year, we've asked him to do something that doesn't have anything to do with basketball: we asked him to lead and that's what he's doing."

Junior guard Corey Pelham scored 11 points for Lake Braddock, including a pair of 3-pointers.

Avi Silberman led Robinson with 14.

Lake Braddock opened Conference 7 play with an 83-77 win over T.C. Williamson Tuesday, improving its record to 5-0. The Bruins will host Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18.

Robinson (2-4) will travel to face Stone Bridge at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION
Lake Braddock senior James Butler scored a career-high 46 points against T.C. Williams on Tuesday.

Butler Scores 46 in Victory Over TC

Bruins' senior scores 18 points in fourth quarter.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The undefeated Lake Braddock boys' basketball team trailed T.C. Williams entering the fourth quarter of Tuesday's Conference 7 opener. The Titans' lead didn't last for long, however, as the Bruins employed a strategy for which undersized TC simply had no answer.

"They fed the beast," Lake Braddock head coach Brian Metress said.

James Butler scored 18 of his career-high 46 points in the fourth quarter and the Bruins improved to 5-0 overall and 1-0 in the conference with an 83-77 victory at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Butler, a 6-foot-8 senior and Navy signee, was unstoppable in the paint. His three-point play with 7:32 remaining in the fourth quarter gave Lake Braddock a 61-60 lead it would not relinquish.

"My teammates," Butler said, "did a great job of feeding me the ball."

T.C. Williams' tallest player, 6-foot-5 center Andrew Tovskey, fouled out with 6:30 remaining and Lake Braddock leading 64-62. Butler, who surpassed his previous career-high of 35 points, continued to capitalize on the Titans' lack of size, scoring in the post and on putbacks.

"TC, once the big boy got in foul trouble and they just tried

to surround [Butler] a little bit, and it was tough," Metress said. "I thought we ran offense well, we threw passes to him and we got him in all sorts of different matchups."

After a jumper by T.C. Williams guard Jordan Jones cut Lake Braddock's lead to 68-66 with 5:08 remaining, Butler scored Lake Braddock's next 11 points.

Butler's final field goal gave the Bruins a 79-72 advantage with 1:15 remaining.

"If I can go in and get a couple easy buckets or quick buckets for the team, I'm going to do it," Butler said. "We're 1-0 in the conference now and that's huge."

Butler scored four points in the first quarter. He had 20 points at halftime and 28 at the end of the third quarter.

"Rough start," Butler said. "I was almost ... lethargic in the first quarter, I'd say, but I got it going in the second and third."

In the second half, Butler was aggressive in the paint.

"It's his senior year and he wants to win," Metress said. "I think what he started thinking was, 'Hey, if they're going to throw me the ball, I'm going to finish at the rim.' Early in the game, he was kind of stepping back and shooting some and going with the fade-away. Basically, what happened was he wasn't going to bail the defense out. He was just going to put his elbow in the guy's nose and go right to the rim."

Corey Pelham scored 15 points for Lake Braddock, including a trio of 3-pointers. Peyton Bishop added 11.

Lake Braddock will host Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18.

Lessons in Charitable Giving

Conversations, modeling behavior and hands-on actions can help teach children about benevolence and compassion.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Matthew Mamalian's holiday shopping list included some items that might seem atypical for a 12-year-old middle-school student: shampoo, socks, soap and a few snacks. He, along with several friends from his Sunday school class, packed the items in shoeboxes wrapped with holiday paper and tucked a handwritten note of encouragement inside each box.

"We were all laughing and having fun packing them," he said. "We also learned that there are people who really need these things because they don't have a lot else."

The project was part of Interfaith Works'



PHOTO COURTESY OF CYNDY MAMALIAN

Cyndy Mamalian's three children are collecting gifts for the homeless this holiday season. She hopes the project will help them understand the impact that giving can have on others.

holiday giving program, an effort by the local nonprofit organization to meet the needs of the homeless. The holiday season

can be a time for children to learn the principles of benevolence, say child development experts. Involving children in chari-

Interfaith Works Holiday Shoebox Project

Help neighbors in need by decorating and filling shoeboxes with essentials and gift items to spread holiday cheer.

This can be a fun activity for families and groups, large or small. Here are guidelines and suggestions:

- ❖ Start with an empty shoebox, including box lid

- ❖ Cover both box and lid in holiday wrapping paper

- ❖ Write an encouraging note to tuck inside

- ❖ Fill it with suggested items:

- \$10 gift card (grocery store, Target)

- SmarTrip cards

- Travel-sized toiletries like lip balm, deodorant, shaving cream, new crew socks (men's or women's), pocket calendars, mini-flashlight and batteries (AA or AAA), scarf, gloves, mittens, hat, mini-notepads and mini-pens

Deliver shoe boxes to Community Vision program, 8210 Dixon Avenue, Silver Spring, Md., 301-585-4471. For more information contact Yvonne Esipila at yesipila@iworksmc.org or 301-315-1097.

table activities, modeling altruistic behavior and making a link between compassion and a higher power are all effective ways parents can teach their children the value of giving to the less fortunate.

SEE TEACHING, PAGE 13

DR. GENE SWEETNAM DR. GRACE CHANG

O P T O M E T R I S T S



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Teaching About Benevolence and Compassion

FROM PAGE 12

“Children need to have empathy modeled for them and they need a script to follow or ideas for carrying out charitable acts,” said Christine Pegoraro Schull, Ph.D., professor of Early Childhood Education at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. “Children aspire to be kind and to be good citizens, but they don’t necessarily know how to do these things.”

Involving Matthew and his siblings in philanthropic efforts through Potomac Presbyterian Church is one of the ways that their mother, Cyndy Mamalian, makes a connection between gratitude, charity and a higher power. “I think it’s important for them to think beyond themselves and live out their faith,” she said. “You need to put your faith into action, and that is about caring for other people.”

Janet Dunlop, Matthew’s Sunday school teacher and a member of the Mission Committee at Potomac Presbyterian Church, melds volunteer projects with class discussions to teach her students about gratitude and charity. This holiday season, as the middle-school aged children clipped wrapping paper and tied ribbons around shoeboxes filled with deodorant, toothpaste, snacks and other essentials for the

homeless, she gave them a description of those who are on the receiving end of their project.

“Many young people growing up in Potomac don’t have much experience with homelessness,” said Dunlop. “When my husband and I arrive at the shelter with these boxes, the people there are so happy to receive them. So, this is also about helping the children see another aspect of life and trying to instill in them a life-long ideal of service.”

Charitable giving for adults often means donating old clothes at the end of the tax year or writing a check to a nonprofit organization. However, children might find it difficult to understand how these abstract actions make a difference. That’s why psychologists and educators recommend giving children first-hand experience in caring for others.

Jenny Trope, Ph.D. and her children raised money to purchase grocery store gift cards that they are distributing to homeless men and women they encounter this winter. “It gives the kids a glimpse of what it’s like to be alone, hungry and stuck outside when it’s cold,” said Trope, who is also a marriage and family therapist based in Arlington.

Such hands-on projects, coupled with a

conversation about why it’s important to take action to aid people in need of a helping hand, could drive home the message. “Children aspire to be kind and to be good citizens, but they don’t necessarily know how to do these things,” said Schull.

A study by the United Nations Foundation and the Women’s Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis found that talking to children about giving is highly effective for encouraging philanthropy, and increases a child’s inclination to give by 20 percent.

“Conversations are critical. Talking about giving in combination with modeling is what actually increases children’s giving,” said Debra J. Mesch, Ph.D., director of the Women’s Philanthropy Institute. “We ... know that these conversations need to be focused on why and how giving ... makes an impact on individuals in need, rather than simply talk that is more general, such

as giving is the right thing to do.”

The dialogue can include concrete examples of how a charitable action will benefit others, say mental health experts.


“Around the holidays when you’re struggling to survive, when you’ve lost everything and every decision you make is about meeting your absolute, basic needs, like how you’re going to take a shower, it’s a nice surprise to get a wrapped box of

socks, snacks and a personal note,” said Nikki Stanaitis, LCSW-C of Interfaith Works. “It makes a person feel human and gives them the sense of normalcy that we all want.”





Acts of charity displayed year-round can lead to life-long habits of philanthropy. “Don’t reserve donating and volunteering for the holidays. By making it a way of life, you’re sharing your value system about giving and helping others with your children,” said Trope.

“Children need to have empathy modeled for them and they need a script to follow or ideas for carrying out charitable acts.”

— Christine Pegoraro Schull, Ph.D., Northern Virginia Community College



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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Jenny Shen, Inc Trading as Rice Pot, 4709 Backlick Road, Annandale, VA 22003. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer, Wine & Mixed Beverages on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jenny Zhen, Owner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Yasini Empire, LLC trading as Empire, 6355 Rolling Rd, Springfield, VA 22152. Fairfax County. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Hamid Yasini, owner
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PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT
PUBLIC HEARING OF TOWN OF CLIFTON TOWN COUNCIL

JANUARY 5, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, 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 not limited 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.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN CODE

JANUARY 5, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at the Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124, directly after the special use permit hearing at 7:30 P.M., to review and implement proposed changes to the fee schedule for use permit applications and other items pertaining to the administration of use permit applications in the Town Code Section 9-10 c. The proposed changes are 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 proposed changes to Clifton's Town Code.

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SPORTS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock junior Bailey Edwards, left, scored 13 points during the Bruins' 42-34 victory over Robinson on Dec. 11.

Lake Braddock Girls Beat Robinson

The Lake Braddock girls' basketball team defeated rival Robinson 42-34 on Dec. 11.

Bailey Edwards led the Bruins with 13 points and Kate Esper finished with 12.

Madeline Dozier led Robinson with nine points.

Lake Braddock opened Conference 7 play on Tuesday with a 40-27 loss to T.C. Williams. Edward led the Bruins with nine points.

Lake Braddock (3-2, 0-1) will travel to face Woodson at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18.

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.

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.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Toy and Food Drop Off. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Moose Family Center, 9612 Fernedge Lane, Lorton. Share the spirit of the holiday season and bring joy to a local child or teen by donating a new, unwrapped gift or gift card. Find out more at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e48adaf28ab9-holiday>.

TUESDAY/JAN. 26

Fairfax 50+ Community Ambassador

Program. 9:30 a.m.-noon. Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkways, Suite 206, Fairfax. This volunteer program trains members of Fairfax County community organizations to help link their fellow members to the county's services for older adults and caregivers. Contact Mena Nakhla at 703-324-5859 or by email at Mena.Nakhla@fairfaxcounty.gov by Wednesday, Jan. 20.

ONGOING

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League

seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season –

April 1 through October 31 – are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

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. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltoombudsman/.

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

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs a volunteer **Senior Center Marketing Coordinator** to assist the Friends of Fairfax County Senior Centers with marketing. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Little River Glen Senior Center** in Fairfax needs a Computer Lab Assistant. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in Annandale needs an Art Instructor and a certified Pilates Instructor. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.



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