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Fairfax Starts Work on 'FY 17 Budget

Preliminary projections forecast a \$2.3 million shortfall.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

he City of Fairfax's Fiscal Year 2017 budget is not scheduled for adoption until April 2016. Yet work is already well underway toward crafting that proposed budget.

During the Nov. 3 work session of the Fairfax City Council, city manager Bob Sisson and finance director David Hodgkins gave a financial update to the mayor and City Council members. They noted the FY 2015 results, the FY 2016 budget and preliminary projections and guidelines for the FY 2017 budget.

They said the early FY 2015 General Fund results are in line with the FY 2015 budget. As of June 30, the unencumbered General Fund balance is \$14.3 million.

A balanced budget is projected for FY 2016 – based on, among other things, fiscal year-to-date activity. However, preliminary FY '17 projections indicate a budget deficit.

REVENUES are anticipated to rise because of expected increases in residential property assessments, other local taxes and school-rental fees in the coming fiscal year. Higher expenditures are envisioned for employee pay and fringe benefits, as well as for the school-tuition contract.

"The tuition numbers wiped out the [school] reserve," said Hodgkins. "And in

FY '17, we're looking at a rough estimate of a budget shortfall of \$2.3 million. This is assuming there's no property-tax increase and a twocent increase in the C and I [commercial and industrial] tax."



Janice Miller

He said they are

also assuming a meritorious-pay increase of 3.5 percent and a cost-of-living hike of one percent for City employees. "Our real-estate tax is pushing 50 percent of our revenue," said Hodgkins. "We're assuming a two percent increase in residential real-estate tax income [due to higher assessed valuations] and are also assuming that we're not pulling any money out of our fund balance."

According to Hodgkins, the City anticipates about \$134 million in General Fund expenditures in FY '17. "Regarding the tuition contract with Fairfax County Public Schools, we expect an increase in it of \$2 million, plus increases in [City employee] compensation and fringe benefits of \$645,073." However, he added, "We're looking at ways to decrease our expenses before we get into the budget year."

Councilwoman Janice Miller said the school figures "seem high, and the school growth rate equaling about 142 students seems extraordinarily high."

But Hodgkins explained that "These are only very preliminary projections and the numbers can change significantly. Our School Board and school superintendent

Ellie Schmidt

will ultimately dig in and determine what those numbers are."

He also stressed that the anticipated \$2.3 million deficit is "to give the Council a very rough estimate of the [budget] starting point." But Mayor Scott Silverthorne said

he would prefer the budget numbers to be "a little closer to reality."

Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt asked why there is a projected reduction in sales tax revenue. Hodgkins explained that it is mainly composed of the BPOL tax and "The reduction in the cost of gasoline reduced our BPOL tax income by a pretty significant amount."

As for the proposed FY '17 budget guidelines, Councilwoman Nancy Loftus said, "I'd like to add a provision that, as a goal, the City would try to keep expenditures the same as in FY '16."

But, replied Silverthorne, "We may have a \$2.3 million deficit. About 50 percent of our budget is contractual, and these contracts can go up – and we can't control it. But we don't want to cut department budgets as sharply as we did to the road-and-street-paving budget, years ago – and we're still playing catch-up. And, for example, if we cut from Parks and Recreation, we affect people's quality of life."

"I agree with the mayor about what occurred," said Councilman David Meyer. "Despite what we've said about fiscal restraint,

in the past, the reality is that certain things are essential. We have to be concerned about our bond rating, too. But everything in our budget is what our residents have requested to make this a viable and worthwhile place to live."

"I want people to want to live here because they love the City and community," added Silverthorne. "And it's not just because of our low taxes, but also because of our great services."

Schmidt said she would support a wording to keep the budget expenses flat. "I think some people do live here because of the low taxes," she said. "It's a balance between that and the services."

"But I think more people live here because of the great services," Silverthorne responded. "And I'm not willing to sacrifice them."

"We want our departments and leadership – Mr. Sisson and Mr. Hodgkins – to work with each department to prioritize what is needed and what would offer an extra plus to our community," said Miller. "But we want to be as fiscally prudent as possible as we move forward."

SISSON said they take all these comments seriously. And, he added, doing so has resulted, over the years, in "the City of Fairfax having the lowest fees and taxes of all the nine, Northern Virginia jurisdictions. So I'm really proud of what we're doing."

"As we look out to next year, we don't have another significant step-down in our debt service until 2019," he continued. "We've made minimal improvements to our parks, and improving the appearance of three blocks of Main Street is going to be expensive. I look forward to the budget process."

City Council Honors Armistice Turtora

Field at Van Dyck Park is named after her.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

or nearly six decades, Armistice Turtora has been actively involved in the City of Fairfax, and whatever she has done has improved it for the better. So it is no wonder that she was honored recently by the Fairfax City Council.

She was instrumental in the establishment of the city's Parks and Recreation Board and served as its first chairman in 1969. And at the City Council's Nov. 17 meeting, the City approved a resolution renaming the open field known as "The Bowl," at Van Dyck Park, to Armistice Turtora Field.

"You are very deserving of this," Mayor Scott Silverthorne told her. "When others wanted to do something else with that field, she believed it should be kept as a field where kids could sled and play."

The U.S. formerly observed Nov. 11 as Armistice Day, in commemoration of the signing of the armistice (agreement) ending World War I in 1918. And when Turtora was born on Nov. 11, 1926, her parents named her Armistice.

SHE HAS BEEN A RESIDENT of the Town, and later the City, of Fairfax since 1959. A wife and mother, right away she became actively involved in her neighborhood as part of the newly created Country Club Hills Civic Association. She served as a block captain, newsletter editor and, eventually, president.

Yet Turtora's interests and civic involvement extended beyond her own, immediate community. Her many accomplishments include: Organizer and first president of the City of Fairfax Federation of Citizens Asso-



Armistice Turtora.

ciations, organizer of the Bicycle Path Committee, and member and costume designer for the Fairfax Community Theatre.

From 1959-84, she was a member of the League of Women Voters of the City of Fairfax and also served as

its chairman. She worked on voter registration drives, as well as open space and education studies.

In addition, Turtora was the former chairman of the City of Fairfax Democratic Committee – and at that time, she was the only woman in the group. She also worked on many political campaigns and logged long hours at the polls on Election Day.

"She is one, tough, no-nonsense lady," said Silverthorne. "My father [former City Mayor Fred Silverthorne] was close with

her, and she ran a tight ship." He told Turtora, "We're lucky to have had you in this community for so long." And, he told those attending the Council meeting, "She's still serving it, on the Commission on the Arts [where she's served for the past 10 years]."

Now 89, Turtora is also an expert at making handmade, knotted lace and teaches at Nature's Yarns in the City. For the past eight years she's sponsored the Chesapeake Lace Guild's involvement during Spotlight on the Arts, with Lace Day, at Old Town Hall. A lifelong member of the Chesapeake Lace Guild, she has won numerous awards and accolades for her work.

THE RESOLUTION naming the field after her noted that when she became the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's first chairman in 1969, it was considered a "trailblazing role" for a woman at that time. And it further ac

See Turtora, Page 5

News



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.



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.

ozens 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.



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

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-



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



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

bedroom apartment.

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

News

Turtora Honored

From Page 3

knowledged that Turtora "advocated for the purchase and development of parks throughout the City [and] continually worked for the betterment of the City through her volunteer efforts."

As the Council unanimously approved the resolution renaming "The Bowl" to Armistice Turtora

Field, the audience gave her a standing ovation. Afterward, she said how much it meant to her.

"I think it's wonderful, honoring people who work in the City and give of their time," said Turtora. "It's nice to get the recognition. I always say, 'Women belong in the house – of Representatives – and also in the White House."

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.

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 candlelighting on

Thursday, Dec. 24 from 8-9 p.m. www.harvesterpca.org. 703-455-

SEE FAITH NOTES. PAGE 10

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages the first week of every month.

Delight in our HomeLifeStyle sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-thetop remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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OPINION

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

he 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 ageold 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 nonprofit 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 — child-hood 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 pediatricians 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)

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 is-

sues 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

Menorah Bringing Light to Mosaic

hildren 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

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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From left, Allen Leider of Falls Church, Rachel Rhodes of Falls Church and Michael Shochet of Mclean, all cantors at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, lead a crowd in festive holiday music at Mosaic District on Dec. 13.



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

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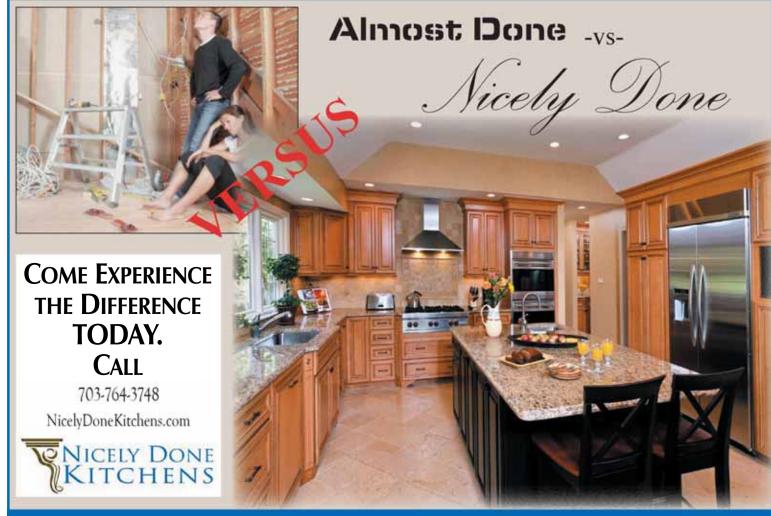
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A Dance for All Fairfax ballerinas redefine traditional images of grace and beauty.

ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO The Connection

chaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" is literally a child's dream, with visions of toys coming to life, anthropomorphic creatures and the supernatural manifesting in vivid detail on stage. And like most dreams, it has an unsettling sense of the uncanny.

The Center for Ballet Arts is presenting a family-friendly version of the ballet called "Nutcracker in a Nutshell" on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20 at Rachel Schlesinger Concert Hall in Alexandria. The show is only 75 minutes long, a good chunk of time to expect children to stay focused.

But everyone will be transfixed by the dancers who play the Sugar Plum Fairy. Morgan special.

10 years ago. Her mother Jacy said that Morgan started to dance shortly after she started walking. "I'd put music in the family room and she would always dance."

She first enrolled in ballet, modern and tap when she was three but the classes were too long and too much. She played soccer for a while instead. But her love of dance never went away.

Jacy reintroduced it and took Morgan to a studio in Reston. A friend, whose daughter danced at The Center for Ballet Arts, told her about the studio, which was a few blocks from her house in Fairfax. Morgan has been with the Savages for nine years.

Feng's proclivity for dance was discovered on the soccer field when she was about six years old. "Whenever the ball would get near me, I would just run away to the other side of the field and start dancing." So, her

mom put her in dance classes. Hobson is African American. appreciate the art of dance." They are not the traditional imbeauty," said Benn Savage.

sue and that there is a greater ABT's history.



Hobson and Sherry Feng, of From left, The Center for Ballet Arts' "Nut-Fairfax, share the lead. Benn cracker in a Nutshell" leads Aleksey Savage, who runs The Center for Kudrin, Morgan Hobson, Dustin Kimball Ballet Arts with Debra Savage, and Sherry Feng will entertain audiences described Feng and Hobson as with their spin on the classic holiday ballet at the Schlesinger Concert Hall in Alexan-Hobson started dance about dria, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20.



Cavalier Aleksev Kudrin lifts Morgan Hobson, who plays the Sugar Plum Fairy, in The Center for Ballet Arts' "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," playing at Schlesinger **Concert Hall in Alexandria from Saturday** and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20.

Where and When

"NUTCRACKER IN A NUTSHELL"

Performance dates: Saturday, Dec. 19, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, 3 p.m. Tickets: \$25

information: www.thecenterforballetarts.com or 703-273-5344

Samantha Dawkins, a student at Fairfax High School, practices her steps for The Center for Ballet Arts' "Nutcracker in a Nutshell."

PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL Constantino/

Feng is Asian American and don't have to be a certain race to her daughter's passion for dance.

doesn't have any monopoly on Copeland was promoted to princi-dancer. pal dancer at American Ballet The-

push for diversity in professional Jacy said her daughter had never Hobson, a junior at Fairfax High have supportive friends who ballet companies. But ulti- even heard of Copeland until about School, is interested in STEM. She appreciate what she does even mately, she said, "ballet is some- two years ago, but seeing another is taking AP Physics and Chemis- though they are not dancers.

thing that speaks to everyone. You African American dancer enhanced Jacy and Morgan saw Copeland perform the Sugar Plum Fairy piece tations to friends sometimes age of the role they share. "Race LAST JUNE, ballerina Misty a year ago and even met the falls flat, unless she posts vid-

Although Feng and Hobson they want to come to recitals." Feng said that minority rep- atre. She is the first African Ameri- spend about 10 to 15 hours a week resentation in ballet is a big is- can woman principal dancer in dancing, they cultivate other inter- they really understand," but she ests outside the studio.

try. She correlated ballet and her interest in STEM subjects, thusly, "Physics is the movement and motion. Dance is like that, too. Physics is the science behind why you're moving and then dance is the creativity and emotional aspects of why you're doing it."

Feng, a senior at Chantilly High School, is interested in economics, pre-law and environmental engineering.

TIME MANAGEMENT is key for both, something they gleaned from ballet.

"It keeps them focused," said Benn Savage. "They look like adults until they open their mouths and then they talk about high school things.'

Hobson said that recital invieos on Instagram, "and then

Feng agreed, "I don't think said that she has been lucky to

Calendar

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

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

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 funfilled 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 Jennifer.DeAngelis@jccnv.org. 703-

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

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 cross 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-

Vienna Boys Choir, Christmas in

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

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 orunch 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, missioned by the City of Fairfax Band Association specifically for this performance with the Choral Society Tickets required. Free. Call 571-336-

SATURDAYS/DEC. 19, 26

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 20 Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith. 7 p.m. Eagle Bank Arena, 4400

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



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, familv. 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.

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Fourth Annual Christmas Day

"Giving Back." 1-5 p.m.

Ravensworth Shopping Center, 5236

Port Royal Road, Springfield. Join us

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Packages for our Deployed write Care

clean gently used or new winter coats

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and beverages - as we pack Care

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J Fest and Movie Screening. 11

www.americasadoptasoldier.org.

a.m.-3 p.m. The Jewish Community

Center of Northern Virginia, 8900

at 3 p.m. Interactive entertainment

Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. "Yentl"

FRIDAY/DEC. 25

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-

TUESDAY/DEC. 22

Stand up for Santa! 6:30 p.m. 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Santa needs your help! The Board of Directors, d no one believes in the iolly old elf any more, is planning to cancel the holiday. Everyone needs to pitch in to save the day in "Stand Up For Santa", an original new musical from StageCoach Theatre for Young Audiences, Free-\$10, https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/stand-up-for-

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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 renown 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.

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 Loisdale 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-

THURSDAY/JAN. 7

Legos in the Library. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. LEGOS await you and your imagination! Bring a friend or make new ones while you build. Age 6-12.



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FAITH NOTES

From Page 5

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 703-323-8100 Station, www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan

The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to under-

stand 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 infor-

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.

Fairfax Water

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY NEEDED

We are seeking expressions of interest from owners of industrial-zoned property located in Fairfax County between the City of Falls Church and the City of Fairfax, or within either City, who are or may be interested in selling their property. The desired property must have several specific attributes and features to meet Fairfax Water's needs. At a minimum, however, any property must meet at least the following criteria:

- Have I-5 or I-6 zoning in Fairfax County or the equivalent zoning in the City of Fairfax or Falls Church
- Be at least 3 to 4 acres in size. If the parcel(s) have split zoning, at least 3 to 4 contiguous acres, must be zoned I-5 or I-6 or an equivalent zoning.

Fairfax Water will consider expressions of interest from multiple owners of contiguous properties meeting these criteria and totaling at least 3 to 4 acres, however all owners must express interest in selling.

If you are an owner of property meeting these criteria, please send the following information to Fairfax Water, to the attention of Ms. Jamie Hedges, Director, Planning and Engineering by December 29, 2015.

Information for submitting an expression of interest:

- Name(s) of property owner(s)
- Contact information for property owner(s)
- Signed statement of interest of property owner(s)
- Parcel identification number(s)
- Street address of property(ies)
- Jurisdiction (Fairfax County, City of Falls Church, or City of Fairfax) in which the property is located
- Current zoning and parcel size
- Identification of any existing land use restrictions (e.g. special exceptions, proffers, utility easements, floodplain, etc.)

PLEASE SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST BY DECEMBER 29, 2015, TO:

Jamie Bain Hedges, P.E. Director, Planning and Engineering Fairfax Water 8570 Executive Park Avenue Fairfax, VA 22031

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

PROPERTY.HTM

Or email to: jhedges@fairfaxwater.org



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Sports

Freshman James Provides Spark for Undefeated Bruins

Guard scores 12 points, Bruins beat Robinson.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

ake 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

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 quar-

"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

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 careerhigh 46 points against T.C. Williams on Tuesday.

Butler Scores 46 in Victory Over TC

Bruins' senior scores 18 points in fourth quarter. got him in all sorts of different matchine."

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

he 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

T.C. Williams' tallest player, 6foot-5 center Andrew Tovsky, 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 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

atthew Mamalian's holiday shopping list included some items that might seem atypical for a 12-year-old middleschool 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 insideFill 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







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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 Pegorraro 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

"Children need to have

empathy modeled for them

follow or ideas for carrying

- Christine Pegorraro Schull, Ph.D.,

Northern Virginia Community College

and they need a script to

out charitable acts."

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 soaps, toothpaste,

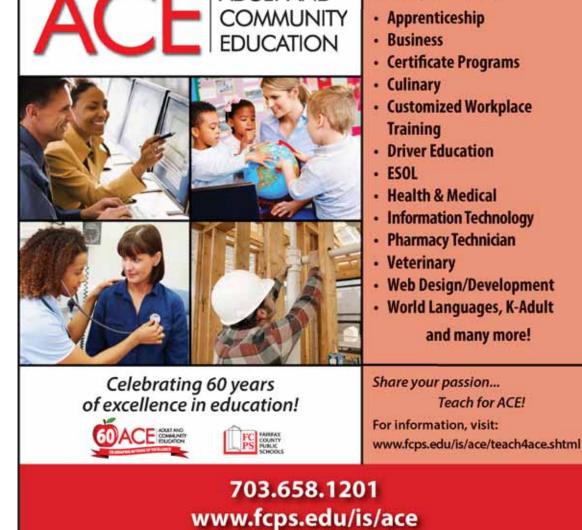
socks, snacks and a personal note," said Nikki Stanaitis, LCSW-C of Interfaith Works. "It makes a person feel human and gives them the sense of normalcy that we all want"

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

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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 ar

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 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/ltcombudsman/.

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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