

# Burke CONNECTION

John Cook (R), re-elected to his third term as the Braddock district supervisor, takes the oath of office from Judge Penney S. Azcarate. Cook was first elected in 2009.

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2/3/2016.....Wellbeing – National Children's  
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Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Clifton Presbyterian Church is offering a **Grief Support Group**. Offered for eight sessions on Thursdays from Dec. 3-Feb. 3 from 10:30 a.m.-noon for those who have experienced a recent death and loss in their lives. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.st-andrew.org).

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or [www.popl.org](http://www.popl.org).

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**Commissioner Shirley Ginwright, Chairman, Communities of Trust Committee and President of the Fairfax County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, responds to protesters for Natasha McKenna at the public forum of the Fairfax County police practices review commission.**

## 2015 in Review: Calls for Transparency and Accountability

**John Geer shooting death documents released, police practices reviewed, in-custody deaths questioned.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Fairfax County released thousands of pages of documents and media related to the shooting death of Springfield resident John Geer on Jan. 30, 2015, under court order, it was the first major act of transparency since his death in August 2013.

Questions of accountability, transparency and use of force by the Fairfax County Police Department and Sheriff's Office were discussed and debated over the course of 2015. In Geer's case, County officials and Police Chief Edwin Roessler initially justified the length of time spent without releasing information, such as the name of the officer who shot Geer, with ongoing investigations being carried out by the Commonwealth's Attorney and the Department of Justice.

**RESPONDING** to the public demands, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova convened a 37-member Ad Hoc Commission to review police practices and policies. The body met eight times between March and October, and delivered a final set of 142 recommendations that included

calls for creating an independent auditor position, a civilian review board and more robust crisis intervention training and management for dealing with individuals with intellectual disabilities or other mental health issues.

"We should understand policemen are going to make mistakes, no question about it," commission Chairman Michael Hirshman said when presenting the recommendations to the Supervisors on Oct. 20, "but we've got to make sure policies and procedures are in place to make sure mistakes are fewer and less."

In her inauguration address on Dec. 15, Bulova acknowledged the "recommended changes will help foster our culture of public trust and ensure the fair and timely resolution of Police-involved incidents. Our new Board of Supervisors is tasked with following through on the Commission's recommendations."

Adam Torres, a former Fairfax County Police Officer, was charged with murdering Geer after Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh convened a special grand jury to decide on the matter over the summer. Torres had remained an administrative employee of the department nearly

SEE A YEAR IN REVIEW, PAGE 9

### A YEAR IN REVIEW

## Highlights of 2015

### Bipartisan Successes

**Congressman Gerald E. Connolly (D-11):** "It was a busy year for Congress which saw bipartisan action on major, long-overdue initiatives that will benefit every segment of our community. For starters, Congress passed another two-year bipartisan budget agreement that replaces some of the draconian sequester cuts, which have disproportionately harmed Northern Virginia. It's critical we maintain domestic and defense investments, and I will continue to push for relief from sequestration.

I was proud to represent Northern Virginia on the House-Senate conference committee that negotiated the new long-term transportation bill – the first in 10



**Gerald E. Connolly**

years, which will provide more than \$530 million in new road, transit, and safety improvements across Virginia. Congress also passed reforms to the Medicare payment formula to protect seniors and their doctors from harmful cuts, a perennial problem, and place it on a more sustainable path. We replaced the unpopular No Child Left Behind Act in fa-

vor of more flexible standards, and we passed new Trade Promotion Authority, setting rigorous labor, environmental, and enforcement standards for future trade deals. As you can see, Congress finally got something substantial done this year, and I hope these bipartisan successes will continue into 2016."

### Thank You to Retiring Supervisors

**Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:** "This summer, Fairfax County showcased our impressive public safety capabilities during the exciting World Police and Fire Games.

In March, to build on and enhance an already great Police Department, I convened a Police Practices Review Commission.

Recommendations from this 30+ member Commission centered on use of force, response to offenders suffering from mental illness, communications, oversight and recruitment. Changes resulting from the work of the Commission



**Sharon Bulova**

will help foster our culture of public trust and ensure the fair and timely resolution of police-involved incidents.

I signed on to Michelle Obama's "Mayor's Challenge" to end Veteran Homelessness by the end of 2015. Thanks to our strong partnership with nonprofits and faith-based organizations, homeless veterans are

now quickly identified and connected to support services and housing.

The year 2015 was an election year for local government. Please join me in saying 'Thank you' to retiring supervisors Gerry Hyland and Mike Frey and 'Welcome' to new Supervisors Dan Storck and Kathy Smith."

### Busy but Productive Year

**Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41):** "Several of my legislative priorities were signed into law by Governor McAuliffe in 2015. One bill, allowing elementary and middle school students an expedited retake of a SOL exam, was included in the omnibus SOL reform bill. This helps avoid delays, giving students the same opportunity as those in high school. A bill I worked on again this year, requiring local or campus law enforcement to report investigations of campus sexual assault to the Commonwealth's Attorney within 48



**Eileen Filler-Corn**

hours of the victim filing a report, was incorporated into another bill and became law. Elements of my bill requiring fingerprint background checks for child-care providers were combined into an omnibus child-care safety bill. My bill, the Virginia ABLE Act, will allow families of children with disabilities to create tax-exempt, 529-like savings accounts for living expenses and the future security of loved ones. Busy but productive year in the General Assembly."

SEE HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 5



## NEWS



Newly elected officials listen to Judge Penney S. Azcarate, who once worked as a prosecutor for Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh.



Fairfax County Sheriff's office singing stars, Myrna Kinney, Sommer Grasty and Nicole Arnet, sang the national anthem and "America the Beautiful."

PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION

# 'Honor, Humility, Humanity'

Members of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, constitutional officers, sworn in.

**H**undreds of friends, family, constituents and county employees came on Tuesday, Dec. 15 to see the swearing-in of the members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and constitutional officers.

Music was provided by the Chantilly High School Orchestra. Deputy Sheriff Rob Deer played the bagpipes, and the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Singing Stars, Myrna Kinney, Sommer Grasty and Nicole Arnet, sang the national anthem and "America the Beautiful."

Sharon Bulova was sworn in for her third term as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, although she began as Braddock District supervisor in 1988 and has served on the board since then. The Board of Supervisors consists of the chairman, elected at large, and nine district members.

With two members of the board retiring, there are two new members, both previously serving as members of the school board. Daniel Storck (D-Mount Vernon) will replace longtime supervisor Gerry Hyland



**Judge Penney S. Azcarate administers the oath of office to Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield). Herrity was first elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2007 and is a graduate of West Springfield High School and Virginia Tech. He is the chief financial officer of a local government contractor.**

(D). Kathy Smith (D-Sully) will replace Michael Frey (R).

Other members sworn in include: John Cook (R-Braddock), John Foust (D-Dranesville), Penelope Gross (D-Mason), Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee), and Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence).

Also sworn in on Tuesday were the three constitutional officers, Commonwealth's



**Supervisor John Cook (R), re-elected to serve the Braddock district, takes the oath of office. Cook was first elected in 2009 when Sharon Bulova became chairman, and is managing partner of the Fairfax law firm Cook, Craig & Francuzenko. Cook serves as the Board of Supervisors' representative to the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy Coordinating Council of Fairfax County.**

Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh, Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid and Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court John Frey. Three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District also took oaths as directors, Scott Cameron, George Lamb and Gerald O. Peters Jr.

Judge Penney S. Azcarate, who adminis-



**Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee) takes the oath of office from Judge Penney S. Azcarate. McKay was first elected in 2007. McKay chairs the Board's Transportation Committee, Legislative Committee and co-chairs the Board's Committee on Community Revitalization and Reinvestment.**

tered the oath of office to each, reminded elected officials to serve with "honor, humility and humanity."

Bulova's inaugural speech included a note of serious gratitude:

"In light of recent racial and cultural tensions rising across the country, let us be grateful we live in a county that celebrates our differences and demonstrates acceptance and compassion for others."

**Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid (D) takes the oath of office.**



**Sharon Bulova (D), re-elected to her third term as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, takes the oath of office on Dec. 15. Bulova was first elected chairman in a special election in 2009, and served as Braddock District supervisor from 1988-2009.**



## NEWS

# Highlights of 2015

## Strategy for Success

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock District): "A number of important things happened in Fairfax County this year."

In March, Fairfax County created an ad hoc commission to review Fairfax County Police Department policies and practices. In October, the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission provided its final report, including 142 recommendations, to the Board of Supervisors.

This year, over 50 community and Fairfax County government leaders launched the 'Diversion First' initiative to reduce incarceration of those with mental illness by diverting nonviolent offenders to treatment instead.

Also this year, the Board of Supervisors helped



**John Cook**

develop the Strategic Plan for Economic Success. This plan focuses on sustainable economic growth and development by creating the necessary environment and infrastructure. As a part of this, a working group was created to devise new, innovative strategies to repurpose older, vacant office buildings for which there is little or no demand. This issue of vacant properties has been identified as a key piece of the region's economic future.

Finally, this year both the Kings Park and Ravensworth shopping centers received much needed renovations. These efforts are a vital step in rejuvenating our area's economy."

FROM PAGE 3

## Successes of 2015, Challenges of 2016

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield): "This year the County implemented several initiatives that will have a positive impact on County residents. 'Text 911,' a program that I championed, allows for persons unable to speak to send a text to 911 operators. We began implementation of the 50+ Community Action Plan to address issues critical to our growing senior population. Springfield Mall reopened as Springfield Town Center beginning the redevelopment of downtown Springfield. We also successfully showcased the County to the world during the World Police and Fire Games hosting 10,000 athletes plus their families, friends and fans."



**Pat Herrity**

On the transportation front I was happy to see my efforts to allow use of the I-66 shoulder lanes outside of HOV hours during periods of congestion come to fruition. We also opened the 95 Express Lanes and began planning Popes Head Interchange.

2016 will bring Fairfax County many challenges including addressing a significant budget shortfall on both the County and school sides, tackling the rise of heroin and prescription drug abuse, improving and diversifying our economy, fixing our zoning and permitting process and relieving traffic congestion in the region.

## Top Priority: Education

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee District): "On my initiative, Fairfax County is working with the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) to pressure the General Assembly to adequately fund K-12 education. It's shocking that we have the tenth highest national income and the tenth lowest state education funding. The transportation bill that the General Assembly passed two years ago (after years of legislative inaction) succeeded when VACO got involved and mobilized pressure and support for numerous jurisdictions throughout the state and elected representatives heard con-



**Jeff McKay**

stantly from their constituents about transportation needs. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is on board also and education is its top priority in its legislative package.

Diversifying our business tax base and moving away from reliance on federal contracting is critically important. We're seeing success in Lee District—our Department of Tax Administration reports substantial tax receipts from the New Springfield Town Center. I expect similar good news from the Hilltop Village Center and the wildly popular Wegmans."

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# OPINION

## Merry Christmas

We wish you hope, peace, love and joy during this holiday season.

The pages of the Connection have been full of holiday spirit for more than a month. Menorah lightings, group and individual efforts to help the needy, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally. Giving locally.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12 "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we

EDITORIAL

see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

So let us share the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, 'Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.' And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

**Editor's Note** about the rest of 2015: This is our last regular edition of 2015. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children's Connection, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. Our next regular editions will publish Jan. 6-7, 2016, with deadline for content and advertising of Dec. 30 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can reach the editors at editors@connectionnewspapers.com and sales/marketing/advertising at sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

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## The Time to Give

County promotes 11 ways to give back to your community.

BY WENDY LEMIEUX  
FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICE OF  
PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS  
(OP<sup>3</sup>)



It's the most wonderful time of the year ... to help others. Fairfax County has made it easy with its "Forget the Fruitcake — Ways to Give Campaign" that promotes 11 ways to give back to your community. Running through the end of the year, you can donate to any of these 11 county nonprofits, foundations and agencies in honor of anyone on your gift list. It makes shopping easy and offers you a nice tax deduction. But best of all, it helps those organizations succeed in bringing goods and services to those who need them most at this time of year.

On any given day more than 67,000 people go hungry in the county and more than 30 percent of the students in Fairfax County

schools are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Despite its affluent status, Fairfax has a population that benefits from programs such as "Ways to Give." There is something for everyone on your list whether they like animals, education, summer fun or community spirit. Gifts that give back include books, a week at camp, medical care, bikes, trees and food for the hungry.

Through a partnership with ad agency Williams Whittle, Fairfax County's Office of Public Private Partnerships has honed the mes-

sage and the graphics which has made a difference in the look and feel of the campaign. Williams Whittle liked the campaign in previous years and offered their professional services and contacts to make the program even better. And it's resulted in numerous pro bono advertisement and engagement from community stakeholders. One beneficiary of the increased exposure was the Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP) — whose mission is to restore the tree canopy in Fairfax County. When the first ad was placed in

the Connection in mid-November, FCRP reported a 70 percent increase in visits to their website that offers to plant five native trees in honor of a family member or friend.

This is the fifth year of the "Ways to Give" campaign that so far has resulted in an increase of 50 percent in web traffic. Although donation numbers won't be available until January, participating agencies and nonprofits have reported a surge in traffic to their sites.

To donate and learn more visit www.GiveFairfax.net.



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# Lake Braddock Student Dies in Crash

**F**riends, family and members of the Lake Braddock Secondary School community gathered Sunday night Dec. 21 to mourn the loss of Laween A. Akrawi, 18, a Lake Braddock Bruin who died at the scene of a single-vehicle crash on Dec. 18. They laid candles and flowers by an easel holding his senior picture.

Fairfax County Police said officers responded to the crash site in the area of the Franconia Springfield Parkway and Interstate 95 around 11 p.m. Friday night.

Investigators initially determined Akrawi, a Fairfax Station resident, was heading westbound on the Parkway in a BMW 3-Series when he lost control of the car, left the road and hit several trees.

Akrawi's 17-year-old passenger sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to Fairfax Hospital.

Police believe speed was a factor in the crash.

In a letter to the Lake Braddock community, Principal Dave Thomas wrote, "Our thoughts and support go out to the student's family and friends at this very difficult time."

The Lake Braddock Twitter account @FCPSLBSS announced that a Janazah



**Laween Akrawi, 18, died at the scene of a single-vehicle crash on Friday, Dec. 18.**

prayer for Akrawi would be held at Dar Al-Hijra Islamic Center in Falls Church on Sunday at midday, followed by a burial at Na-



**Lake Braddock students, family and community members mourned the loss of Laween Akrawi with a vigil held Sunday night, Dec. 20 in the school parking lot.**

tional Cemetery and funeral at a home in Fairfax Station.

The hashtag #RIPLaween has been used

to flag social media posts about Akrawi.

—TIM PETERSON

## An Excellent Performance Regarding a Terrible Play

### Robinson Secondary School's production of "Noises Off."

BY GILLIAN WRIGHT  
MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

**S**ardines fell from above and squelched underfoot. The set rocked as actors fell down stairs and broke through windows. Clothes were lost, secrets were spilled, and hearts were crushed. Through mishap after disastrous mishap, Rambunctious Theatre Company's production of "Noises off" at Robinson Secondary School was a smashing hit.

Written by Michael Frayn in 1982, this British farce follows a cast of six actors along with their director and stage managers as they try to produce their own play, "Noises On." Unfortunately, messy personal relationships, lack of rehearsal, and an overabundance of emotion prevent the dress rehearsal and subsequent performances from going quite as planned. The popular show opened on Broadway in 1983, was adapted into a film in 1992, returned to Broadway in 2001, and is scheduled for another Broadway revival in January of 2016.

Trying tenaciously to orchestrate a calamitous dress rehearsal, Director Lloyd



**From left to right: Hanna Kornell, RJ Pratt, Madyson Hanton, Matthew Ross, Matthew Cook, Colin Diggs.**

Dallas (Matthew Cook) soon lost his cool sense of authority. Dallas's frustration exponentiated as the actors forgot props, confused their cues, and peppered him with questions, resulting at first in sarcastic derision and eventually in volcanic outbursts. Storming with exasperation throughout the auditorium, Cook's hyperbolic portrayal of a director at his wit's end was flawless.

Dotty Otley (Hannah Kornell), a rather dense older woman playing a housekeeper in "Noises On," was the first to experience Dallas's wrath. Backstage, Otley tried with only middling results to mother the other actors, while onstage she remained befuddled by the timing and frequency of her prop changes. Otley's reactions as she grew increasingly frustrated were thoroughly

entertaining. Owner of the house Otley kept, Frederick Fellowes (Matthew Ross) was comedic gold. What he had hoped would be a romantic afternoon quickly turned disastrous as he stumbled about the stage with tax forms glued to one hand, a plate of sardines stuck to the other, and his pants caught around his ankles. When not in character, Fellowes portrayed a dopey yet apologetic actor who was frequently consoled by Belinda (Madyson Hanton), his wife in the staged show. Hanton's genuine nature among fellow cast members and distinct personality when playing Fellowes' wife made her a favorite performer.

When the Fellowes' stumble home from travels abroad, they are unaware that another couple is already in the house with

the same idea. Garry Lejeune (RJ Pratt), a house agent when acting and a passionately emotional yet ineptly inarticulate actor when out of character, has brought his lover, Brooke Ashton (Alex Lane), to the house. Lane ranged from seductive to ditzy, but her confident movement and suggestive interactions were hilarious no matter what sentiment she was conveying. Among the most beloved characters was Selsdon (Daniel Williams), an absent-minded elderly actor with a drinking problem. His committed physicality demonstrated his age superbly, and his oblivious comments and telling facial expressions frequently left the audience in peals of laughter.

Props are essential to the plot of the show, but Robinson's tech crew exceeded expectations with the amount and level of detail of their props. The multilevel set was well-constructed to show a distinct, appealing onstage and an unfinished offstage.

Somewhat paradoxically, Robinson Secondary School produced an excellent performance regarding a terrible play. The vacillating emotions, raging hormones, anxious stress, and unfortunate circumstances displayed onstage were all too familiar to audience members who have been involved in theatrical productions. Nothing quite epitomizes the feeling at the end of a cataclysmic run like Selsdon's remark, "When all around you is strife and uncertainty, there's nothing like an old-fashioned plate of...curtain!"

PHOTO BY R. CONDITT



# SPORTS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**The Robinson girls' lacrosse team won the program's first state title in 2015, beating Oakton in the 6A state final on June 13.**



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**The Robinson boys' lacrosse program repeated as 6A state champion with a 10-9 double overtime win over Chantilly on June 13.**

## Top Sports Moments from 2015 Rams lax, Bruins XC win boys, girls state titles

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he year 2015 included a pair of local programs winning both boys' and girls' state championships on the same day.

During the spring, the Robinson boys' and girls' lacrosse teams took home state titles at Lake Braddock Secondary School. In the fall, Lake Braddock took home boys' and girls' cross country championships at Great Meadow.

The following is a look at some of the top moments in Burke/Springfield/Fairfax/Fairfax Station sports from the year 2015.

### Robinson Lacrosse Wins Two State Titles

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team returned to the top of the mountain with a thrilling victory over nemesis Chantilly. The Robinson girls' team got there for the first time, putting the finishing touch on a dominant season.

June 13 was a good day for the Rams.

The Robinson boys' and girls' lacrosse programs each won a state championship on the same day at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The boys defeated Chantilly 10-9 in double overtime, giving the Rams back-to-back state titles, and the girls beat Oakton 16-12 for their first state championship.

For the boys, it was their fourth meeting with Chantilly during the 2015 campaign. After Robinson won the regular-season meeting, Chantilly defeated the Rams in the Conference 5 championship game and the 6A North region final. The Chargers led 9-8 in the final minute of regulation of the state final, but Robinson's Johnny Daniel scored with 36 seconds remaining and forced overtime. Chapman Jasien scored the game-winner in the second overtime.

Jasien, Daniel and Chris White each scored three goals for Robinson.

The Robinson girls defeated Oakton for the third time, including a 15-6 victory in the region final. The Rams finished the sea-



PHOTO BY ED LULL

**Lake Braddock junior Kate Murphy won the individual 6A state cross country title and helped the Bruins capture the team championship on Nov. 13.**

son with a 21-1 record, won their final 15 games and captured Conference 5 and 6A North region championships along with their state title.

Izzy Obregon scored four goals for Robinson. Elli Kluegel, Katie Checkosky and Mackenzie Schuler each scored three goals.

### Lake Braddock Boys, Girls XC Win State Titles

The Lake Braddock boys' and girls' cross country teams took home state titles on Nov. 13 at Great Meadow.

The boys' team repeated as state champion and finished in the top two for the third straight season. The Bruins posted a score of 46, well ahead of second-place Madison (106).

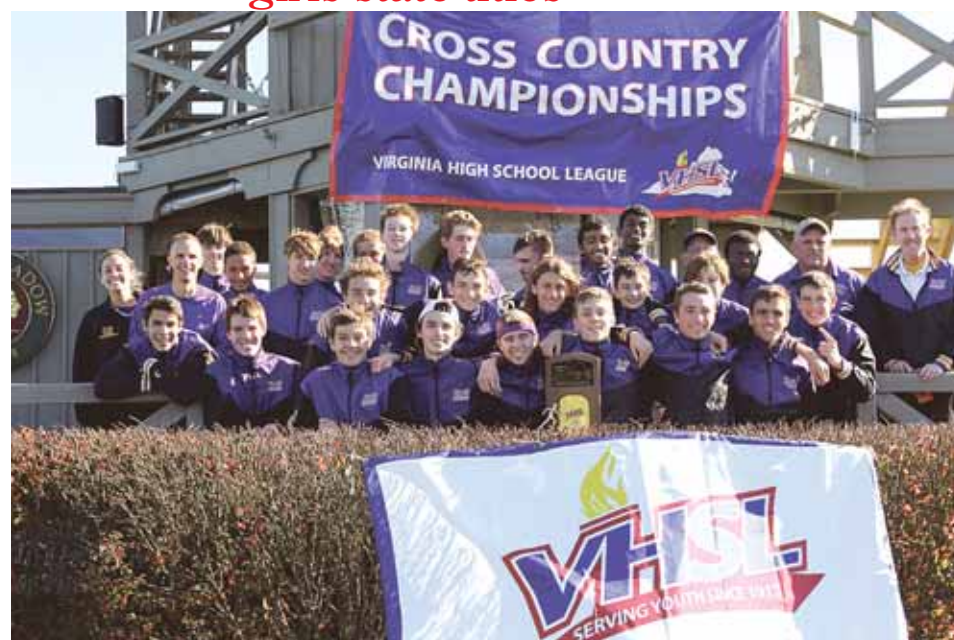


PHOTO BY ED LULL

**The Lake Braddock boys' cross country team repeated as state champion on Nov. 13.**

Senior Colin Schaefer (fourth, 16:02), junior Conor Lyons (eighth, 16:16), senior Spencer Jolley (11th, 16:24) and senior Cavanaugh McGaw (14th, 16:26) each earned individual all-state honors for the Bruins.

The girls' team won its first state title since 2012 and finished in the top two for the second straight year. The Bruins finished with a score of 44, knocking off two-time defending state champion Oakton (76).

Lake Braddock junior Kate Murphy won the individual state title with a time of 18:20. Sophomore Sarah Daniels (10th, 19:07), junior Emily Schiesl (11th, 19:10) and senior Sonya Butseva (14th, 19:19) also earned all-state honors for the Bruins.

### SoCo Football Beats Lake Braddock in OT

South County and Lake Braddock entered their regular-season matchup on Nov. 6 as the last two undefeated football teams remaining in the 6A North region.

The Bruins built a 27-7 first-half lead on

their home field and appeared to stop the Stallions on fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line. However, an observant play by South County quarterback DeAndre Clayton resulted in a touchdown and the first step in a Stallions comeback.

South County running back DeMarcus Ramsey fumbled on the fourth-and-goal carry and Clayton scooped the ball up and scored a touchdown, cutting the Lake Braddock lead to 13. By the end of the night, South County had overcome a 20-point deficit and defeated Lake Braddock 33-30 in overtime in both teams' regular-season finale. The victory wrapped up an undefeated regular season and the Conference 7 championship for the Stallions, who entered the postseason as the region's No. 1 seed.

Lake Braddock had won at least a share of the previous six Conference 7/Patriot District championships.

Ramsey finished the night with 30 carries for 157 yards and two touchdowns, including the game-winning 10-yard touchdown run on the first play of the Stallions' overtime possession.



# CALENDAR

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

## Ongoing

**"Vietnam Combat Art."** Through Jan. 25. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. The reproductions of studio art include sketches, paintings, and illustrations done by teams of artists employed by the U.S. Army to record the soldier experience in Vietnam. Free. 703-385-8414.

**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](http://workhousearts.org), 703-585-2900.

**Children's Theatre: "The Nutcracker."** 1-2:15 p.m. & 3-4:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 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](http://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

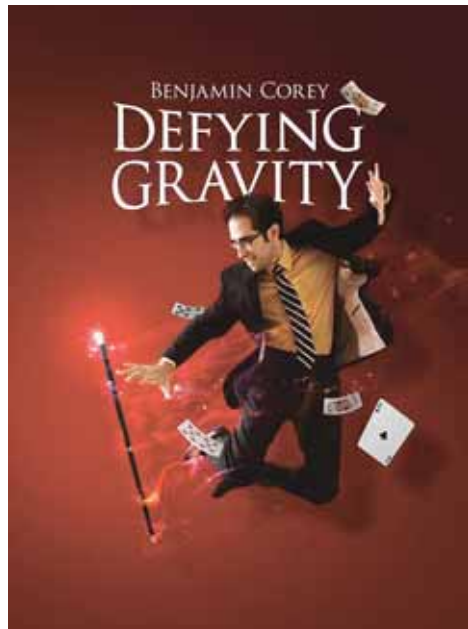


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Magician Ben Covey delights all at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax on Friday, Dec. 25.**

Israel! Free (we ask that you try to attend regularly). RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

### 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 participate or volunteer go to [www.americasadoptasoldier.org](http://www.americasadoptasoldier.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](http://jccnv.org). 703-323-0880.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 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](http://workhousearts.org). 703-585-2900.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 31

**Cool Cow Comedy: New Year's Eve Special Engagement.** 7-8:30 p.m. W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Quinn Dahle headlines a special New Year's Eve Edition for Cool Cow Comedy. Quinn is a smart, clean and witty comic with impeccable timing. Adults. \$35-\$50. <http://www.coolcowcomedy.com/>.

**New Year's Eve Party.** 9 p.m. W-16, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Ring in Sweet '16 in style at the Workhouse New Year's Eve Party! Your ticket includes admission to the party, heavy hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne to toast the final countdown of 2015. Headlining the entertainment will be award-winning rock-n-rollers, The Sixth Generation, performing live in the McGuire Woods gallery with plenty of room to dance the night away. \$40-\$50. [workhousearts.org](http://workhousearts.org). 703-585-2900.

### 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. 703-971-5383.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6

**Read! Build! Play!** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Let's read a story, build with DUPLOs, and play with friends! Have fun with your little one while building early literacy skills. Ages 3-5 with caregiver. 703-249-1520.

### 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. 703-249-1520.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 9

**"I'll Never Let You Go" Storytime.** 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Springfield, 6646 Loisdale Road, Springfield. When you love someone, you stand by them no matter what happens. In this month's Picture Book of the Month, I'll Never Let you Go, we celebrate the beauty of unconditional love. 703-971-5383.

**Kristen Ford.** 9-11 p.m. Dogfish Head Alehouse, 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Kristen Ford's indie music fuses folk, reggae, country, and blues with a healthy dose of rock and roll. [www.kristenfordmusic.com](http://www.kristenfordmusic.com).

**Second Saturday at the Workhouse.** 6-9 p.m. 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. See the happenings at the Workhouse. [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). 703-585-2900.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 10

**Historic Cemeteries of Northern Virginia.** 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Book talk and signing with local historian and author Charles A. Mills, who will explore the stories of the famous and not-so-famous people buried in local cemeteries. Free. 703-385-8414.

## A Year In Review

FROM PAGE 3

until his indictment.

At his Aug. 19 arraignment, the trial date for Torres was set for Dec. 14, however a recent extension was granted to the defense, pushing the trial back to April 2016.

Bruce Waggoner, President of the Springfield Civic Association, said the work of the Police Department is admirable for the most part, as are the efforts of the Ad Hoc commission. But the handling of the Geer incident, he said, "just undermined it all. They've got to rebuild that."

The case of 37-year-old Natasha McKenna was another that developed the use of force dialog. McKenna died while incarcerated and in the custody of the Sheriff's Office in February. In September, the office released a video of McKenna, an African-American woman who struggled with mental illness, being removed from her holding cell for transportation to Alexandria police. As she resisted multiple deputies, she was forced to the ground and restrained before receiving four blasts from a deputy's taser.

Local community members and sup-

porters from around the region demonstrated before and during a public forum meeting of the Ad Hoc commission at Walt Whitman Middle School in Mount Vernon on Sept. 14.

McKenna's death was attributed to "excited delirium" by the medical examiner's office. Commonwealth Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh stated in a 52-page report after he concluded his investigation that it was a "tragic accident" and none of the deputies had committed a criminal offense.

**IN RESPONSE** to those results, the Fairfax County NAACP staged a rally for McKenna at the Fairfax County Courthouse on Sept. 27.

"Anyone who watched the 48-minute video released last week of Natasha McKenna's last conscious moments cannot help but be horrified," Fairfax County NAACP President Shirley Ginwright said in a statement at the time. Ginwright was also a member of Bulova's Ad Hoc commission. "Those who have read the 52-page report from Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond Morrogh and his conclusion that it was a 'tragic accident' cannot help but wonder, 'What video was he watching?'"

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-Theodore Roosevelt

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-William Van Horne

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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.

## NEWS

**The Fairfax Choral Society Adult Symphonic Chorus joined the City of Fairfax Band on several pieces as part of the "Christmas in Fairfax" program.**



# Fairfax Band Premieres New Piece at Annual Christmas Concert

**R**eturning guest host John Lyon may have rolled out the same traditional folk songs "Santa Claus Express" and "The Marvelous Toy," but the City of Fairfax Band balanced the old with the new, premiering "Laudem Nativitatis" by Randol Alan Bass.

Bass was present in the packed Fairfax High School auditorium for the band's free "Christmas in Fairfax" performance on Dec. 19. Prior to the premiere, the band performed his arrangement of "The Night Before Christmas" with Lyon narrating.

The night's program also featured several excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" suite, collaboration with the Fairfax Choral Society Adult Symphonic Chorus and "A Christmas Celebration" medley by Alfred Reed.

—TIM PETERSON

**A City of Fairfax Band brass quintet performs prior to the full band's program on Dec. 19.**

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION



**Conductor Robert Pouliot (right) leads the City of Fairfax Band in its "Christmas in Fairfax" program on Dec. 19 at Fairfax High School.**



## 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/JAN. 9

**Sickle Cell Anemia Disease and Trait Seminar.** 12:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Come get the facts and what you need to know about the disease and trait from guest speaker Barbara Harrison, MS, Certified Genetic Counselor, Howard University Center for Sickle Cell Disease. Free. RSVP by Jan. 5 to Project13@fcacdst.org.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 14

**How to Get the Best from Your Cable Company.** 7-8:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Having trouble with your cable services? Learn how deal with cable service problems like outages, blurry screens and frustrating customer service. Learn tips to save money, file complaints and make your community safer from an expert. Adults. 703-978-5600.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 22

**Keeping up with the Kids.** Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics with our one-on-one technology volunteer about the social networking tools that can help you stay in touch with your kids and grandkids. Adults. 703-978-5600.

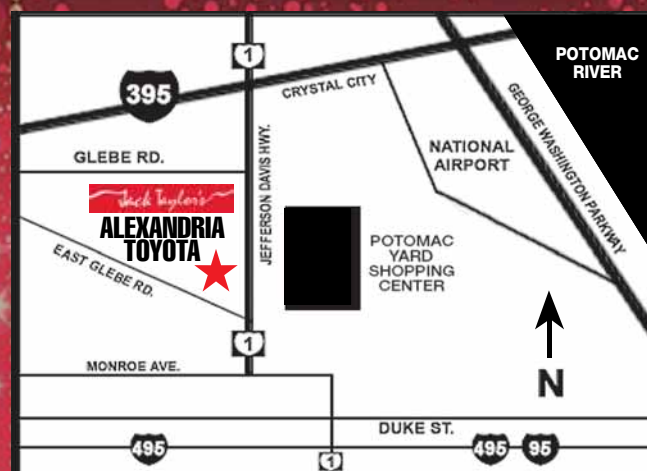
### TUESDAY/JAN. 26

**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.



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