

# Springfield CONNECTION

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HOLIDAY  
CALENDAR  
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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**Making educational materials “age-appropriate has been a big push in this field today,” said Ka’ala Rapoza, a Springfield resident who’s worked at the Key Center school for students with severe intellectual disabilities for 14 years.**

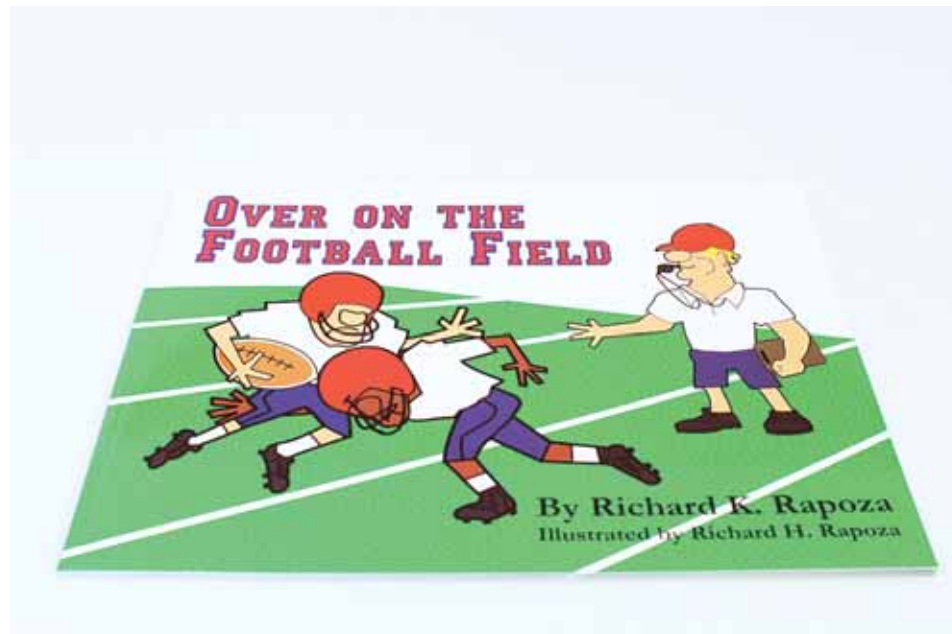


IMAGE COURTESY OF KA’ALA RAPOZA

**“How do you create interest in the skill” across a broad spectrum of ages. This was a question Ka’ala Rapoza sought to answer in writing his own educational book: “Over on the Football Field.”**

## Key Center Teacher Publishes Counting Book

If Barney, the big purple dinosaur, motivates one of his students to learn to count, Ka’ala Rapoza won’t stand in the way. But Rapoza, 37, also recognizes the need to balance age-appropriate teaching tools with the skill being learned. At the Key Center school for students labeled “intellectually disabled severe” in Fairfax County Public Schools, he can have teenagers up to 20 and 21-year-olds still working on mastering counting.

Making educational materials “age-appropriate has been a big push in this field today,” said Rapoza, a Springfield resident who’s worked at Key for 14 years. “How do you create interest in the skill” across a broad spectrum of ages. This was a question he sought to answer in writing his own educational book: “Over on the Football Field.”

Rapoza teaches a class he designs himself, that focuses on topics inherent to the students. He calls it “My Class,” so the students take ownership and each also call it “My Class” themselves.

He sees every class in the building of about 100 students once a week for an hour to 90 minutes. A recent lesson centered around Thanksgiving. They discussed not only the origin and history of the holiday, but also what it looks like to celebrate from the unique perspective of the students, the changes at home for which they need to prepare.

Another part of the lesson included having the students write thank you notes using a computer program that helped them choose words, pictures and phrases to build complete thoughts.

Rapoza’s book is meant to appeal to a variety of ages and provide several levels of challenges for these students.

Each page spread includes a similar repetitive rhyme structure that introduces a different football scenario, a number and



**Making educational materials “age-appropriate has been a big push in this field today,” said Ka’ala Rapoza, a Springfield resident who’s worked at the Key Center school for students with severe intellectual disabilities for 14 years.**

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



**Each page spread includes a similar repetitive rhyme structure that introduces a different football scenario, a number and an object to count, with illustrations by Rapoza’s father Richard.**

**“I thought of sports, they appeal to a five year old and a 90 year old. And I thought of football, it’s certainly got the nation’s attention.”**

**—Ka’ala Rapoza, Springfield resident teaching at Key Center**

an object to count, with illustrations by Rapoza’s father Richard.

“It’s a vehicle for emphasizing counting skills,” Rapoza said, while more skilled students can also use the book to practice reading. “I thought of sports, they appeal to a five year old and a 90 year old. And I thought of football, it’s certainly got the nation’s attention.”

Rapoza self-published the book and had copies printed by Illinois-based company Print Ninja. He expects to receive copies on hand in early December, with the intention of doing a combination of selling and donating them.

“I just wanted to get it out there,” he said. “We’ll see what the reaction is,” he said.

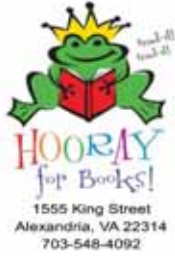
For more information, Ka’ala Rapoza can be contacted at Rapozawriting@gmail.com.

The Key Center school is located on Franconia Road in Springfield, attached to Key Middle School. The Kilmer Center in Vienna serves students with severe intellectual disabilities in the other half of Fairfax County.

—TIM PETERSON



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## I-395 Express Lanes Extension

**City of Alexandria, Arlington &  
Fairfax Counties**  
Public Information Meeting

**Thursday, December 1, 2016, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
Formal presentation begins at 7 p.m.  
Robert E. Lee High School  
6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150

**Find out** about the results of the environmental assessment and the proposed plans to extend the I-395 Express Lanes for eight miles north from Turkeycock Run near Edsall Road to Eads Street near the Pentagon.

**In compliance** with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, an environmental document in the form of an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for public review and comment. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information on potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included in the environmental document.

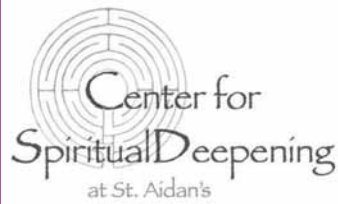
**Stop by** between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn about the project. VDOT staff will be on hand to answer questions. A formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

**Review** project information on the VDOT website ([www.virginiadot.org/395expresslanes](http://www.virginiadot.org/395expresslanes)), at the public hearing, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2381, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions. Information is also available for review at the Arlington County Government Center and the Beatley Central Library in Alexandria during facility hours.

**Give your written comments** at the meeting, or submit them by **December 12, 2016** to Amanda Baxter, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [395expresslanes@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:395expresslanes@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "I-395 Express Lanes Extension" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project No: 0395-969-205, P101, UPC: 108313



## Body Prayer

November 30, 7:30-9:00 pm

### Cheryl Sabo

Mystics describe three vehicles for spiritual deepening: mind, heart and body. Western tradition has often overlooked the body as an avenue for spiritual transformation. Coming out of the Eastern tradition of yoga, we will, through healing music and simple exercises, explore opening and nourishing the sacred energy centers of the body. Cheryl Sabo leads classes and workshops in YogaDance, yoga and early childhood music in Virginia and nationally.

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church  
8531 Riverside Rd. Alexandria  
[centerforspiritualdeepening.org](http://centerforspiritualdeepening.org)

[www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com)

## PEOPLE



## Springfield Sailor Meets President Carter

**Rear Adm. Moises DelToro III, Commander, Naval Undersea Warfare Center and Springfield resident, meets with President Jimmy Carter as part of his Executive Engagement Visit to Atlanta, Ga. Executive Engagement Visits are community outreach programs where senior Navy leaders meet with local leaders in all market sectors in cities that don't interact with the Navy often to educate and inform on the Navy's mission and how the Navy serves the American public.**

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# Thinking Beyond Serving Meals

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**D**uring this season of giving thanks, opportunities for expressions of gratitude can seem ubiquitous. It's also a good opportunity to demonstrate philanthropy for children, from food and toy drives to serving hot meals in soup kitchens.

"Charitable organizations rely on the incredible support of volunteers who dedicate time and provide supplies," particularly at this time of year, said Yvonne Esipila, volunteer and outreach coordinator for Interfaith Works, a nonprofit organization that serves the homeless and the poor. "Without volunteers we would not be able to offer many of the services that are performed or delivered daily."

Youth volunteerism can be complicated, however, when it comes to matching skills and abilities with opportunities and interests. For example, feeding the homeless might seem like an ideal way to give children a real-world view of those in need. However, hot stoves



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S AND ST. AGNES SCHOOL

**On the day before Thanksgiving 2015, students at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School make sandwiches for the homeless.**

and sharp knives can pose dangers to young children. The key is finding the right fit before committing.

"We have a variety of opportunities for our ever-increasing diverse pool of volunteers," said Esipila.

An example of children volunteering for the same cause, but with different activities matched with their varying skill levels, is a kindergarten through eighth

grade, effort by students at Norwood School in Potomac, Md., to support Manna Food Center. Leanne Gill, a spokeswoman for the school, says all students can donate healthy food items, but that older students get more involved.

"A group of our eighth graders visits the Manna warehouse ... to help sort through and organize food donations," said Gill.

## Experts advise finding age-appropriate ways for children to give back.

Older children are often better suited to participate in food preparation efforts without the need for close supervision. For example, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School (SSSAS) in Alexandria holds an annual tradition the day before Thanksgiving called Saintsgiving. High school students volunteer to make sandwiches for the clients of Martha's Table, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that provides meals to low-income and homeless residents of the region.

"Last year we had a record turnout, and our volunteers made 4,600 sandwiches in just one hour," said Mandi Sapp, communications coordinator at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.

When children are too young for solo food preparation, Esipila recommends that families make food together and bring it to shelters.

"Great opportunities [include] ... making bagged lunches at home as a family activity, wrapping them and taking them to our shelters," said Esipila. "They can even include a small encouraging note."

They also need more than food. Providing social opportunities for

the homeless people, who might not otherwise have them is a much-needed volunteer service appropriate for families with children of all ages, added Esipila. "Creating crafts with or playing Bingo with or planning and hosting a birthday party for the homeless are always appreciated."

Charities also need basic supplies like soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, which many homeless people desperately need, added Esipila. "Consider holding a mini-drive to collect these items," she said. "We also welcome other creative ideas that volunteers may have. My goal is to inspire a lifetime of service."

Sometimes giving means bringing joy.

Sapp cites a volunteer effort by fourth grade students at the SSSAS that brings smiles to the faces of sick children. For the past 23 years, students have baked cookies, cakes, brownies and other treats at home and brought them to school for a bake sale. Proceeds are used to purchase toys for patients and their siblings at Children's National Medical Center in D.C.

A Special Holiday Message from Fairfax County's Wastewater Management Program

**Save your cash. Put grease in the trash.  
Never down the drain!**

This greasy criminal is wanted for clogging drains on Thanksgiving. Protect your pipes by putting grease in the trash or by recycling your used cooking oil at the I-95 landfill complex in Lorton or the I-66 transfer station in Fairfax.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/preventing\\_backups.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/preventing_backups.htm)

To obtain this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-5033, TTY 711.

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NIGHTLY MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS



# OPINION

## Celebrate, Shop, Dine Locally

Every day can be “small business day.”

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

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

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 26.

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

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

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

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will shop online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local

### Where to Give Locally

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service.** Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate online or via check payable to “NVFS” with “Operation Turkey” on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards. Northern Virginia Family Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Gifting for Families was able to bring some extra holiday cheer to more than 2,000 children in Northern Virginia last year. Monetary contributions and online donations help the most at [www.nvfs.org](http://www.nvfs.org). [www.nvfs.org/holidayprograms](http://www.nvfs.org/holidayprograms). Or donate toys. New toys for children of all ages are needed to stock our Toy Closet. (If possible, shop for infants/toddlers or teens, as these age groups can be overlooked.) Drop off on Monday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 13939 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

❖ **Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. Alternative House provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent. [www.thealternativehouse.org](http://www.thealternativehouse.org).

❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or [volunteer@facetscares.org](mailto:volunteer@facetscares.org). [www.facetscares.org](http://www.facetscares.org). 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. Join Britepaths at Wine & Wonderment, Nov. 30, at 2941 Restaurant britepaths.org

❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>

❖ **Lamb Center**, [www.thelambcenter.org](http://www.thelambcenter.org), day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.

❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. [info@foodforothers.org](http://info.foodforothers.org) Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. [www.foodforothers.org](http://www.foodforothers.org)

❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org).

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families during this holiday season. Consider making a basket or “adopting” Christmas wishes this year to help a neighbor. More information about LCAC's holiday program can be found at <http://lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/>. Volunteers are needed for these events as well. Register online at <http://lortonaction.org> or call 703/339-5161, ext. 140.

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact [alnorthernva@gmail.com](mailto:alnorthernva@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org>

❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, [cause-usa.org](http://cause-usa.org)

❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. <http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/>

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. [www.capitalareafoodbank.org](http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org)

❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email: [jhenderson@homestretchva.org](mailto:jhenderson@homestretchva.org); 703-237-2035 x125; <http://homestretchva.org/volunteer/>

❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-0390 [info@pathwayhomes.org](mailto:info@pathwayhomes.org) <http://www.pathwayhomes.org> <http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/>

❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and the Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. [www.bgcgw.org/fairfax](http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax)

❖ **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia** transforms the lives of lower-income families in need by providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Learn more at [www.habitatnova.org](http://www.habitatnova.org).

shoppers should be sure to do some celebrating, shopping and dining locally. We promise it brings more joy.

Be sure to go to some of the hometown Christmas events coming up. Visit our holiday calendars to find more.

— MARY KIMM  
[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### Go Local

Attend some hometown holiday events

❖ **CENTREVILLE:** Bull Run Festival of Lights and Holiday Village Nov. 23, 2016 - Jan. 8, 2017 7700 Bull Run Dr. Centreville. A 2.5 mile stretch

will be illuminated by holiday light displays. Drive the festival route from the comfort of your car; turn out your headlights and just follow the magical glow. After viewing the lights, bring family and friends to the holiday village to enjoy rides, refreshments, and of course, photos with Santa Claus. The cost of driving through the light show is Monday-Thursday, \$15 per car; Friday-Sunday & Holidays, \$20 per car.

❖ **CITY OF FAIRFAX:** Saturday, Dec. 3 City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols, noon - 7:30 p.m. Old Town Square 10415 North Street, Fairfax. Live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, Ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols>

for more. Lunch with Santa 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Children ages 10 and under. Two lunch seatings, 11:30 a.m. and another at 12:30 p.m. Tickets: \$6 per child on sale at the Parks & Recreation office at City Hall, Sherwood Center, and Green Acres Center. Limit of 10 tickets per person. Pre-Registration is required for this event — children 1 years of age and younger may attend at no cost but still must be registered. Parents do not need to purchase tickets. All are welcome — both Fairfax City residents and non-Fairfax City residents. Tickets can be purchased online at: [https://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity\\_Search/9853](https://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity_Search/9853)

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## Springfield CONNECTION

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

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# One of Fairfax County's Greatest Assets Is Our Diversity

**We welcome and celebrate one another's differences and cultural backgrounds.**

BY SHARON BULOVA  
CHAIRMAN,  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



One of Fairfax County's greatest assets is our diversity. We are and will continue to be a County that exemplifies values of respect and acceptance, where we welcome and celebrate one another's differences and cultural backgrounds. Our diversity makes our community strong and vibrant, and I am proud of what every resident has to offer.

Immigration is a federal matter. Fairfax County partners with federal authorities on immigration issues when required. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office piloted the Secure Communities program under a partnership with U.S. Immigration Customs

Enforcement (ICE) in 2009, and has continued this partnership through the Priority Enforcement Program, where individuals who commit serious crimes and are in this country illegally are turned over to the Department of Homeland Security for deportation. Just being here without documentation is not considered a serious crime by DHS.

Fairfax County fully complies with federal and state laws requiring the County to ensure that people benefiting from public services are here legally. These federal and state laws are very clear about benefits that can only be provided to residents who are in this country legally. Such benefits include voting in elections, welfare, food stamps, and affordable housing. Many nonprofit and faith-based charitable organizations do

serve Fairfax County residents who are in need regardless of their immigration status.

Lastly, Fairfax County complies with the federally mandated requirement that we educate all children, despite immigration status. The United States Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) that the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits denying a free public education to immigrant children based on their or their parents' legal status.

Our local police officers work hard every day to keep our residents safe and build trust with the community. We believe in community policing where residents are not afraid to call law enforcement if their safety is at risk or to report information critical to resolving an investigation. We do not ask, nor do we have the resources for, our police officers to become immigration officials. Any immigration efforts on the local level above and beyond our current cooperation with ICE would compete with police officers' responsibility for community policing and law enforcement.

Additional immigration efforts would also compete with fiscal resources against other county programs. While we always support maintaining safe communities, we will also not risk our core values of respect for all people and community policing.

Fairfax County has spent the past two years developing and implementing very thoughtful recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission to increase police transparency, modify use of force policies, and improve communication between our police department and the residents they serve. The Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee has also been hard at work for two years encouraging community dialogue and building relationships between public safety and residents.

Be assured, I will be vigilant to any future policy changes that could negatively affect our community and all the progress we have made. Our diversity makes our community great. We will continue to be a community that is inclusive and respectful to all people, because that is the lifeblood of Fairfax County.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tremendously Inspiring Story

To the Editor:

The article about the retired police officer, Randy Sales, receiving the Environmental Excellence Award ("Face of Integrity," Connection, November 3-9, 2016) really caught my attention. Though it was not explicitly stated by Sayles or by the author of the article, it is clear that he has been a victim countless times of unfair treatment by the law in Fairfax County, as well as Denver, because he is African American. His story was tremendously inspiring and I think many people would benefit from hearing more stories like his in order to sympathize with specific situations, and therefore better understand this problem as a whole.

Not only are his efforts to keep the county clean impressive, but his reaction to the prejudice he's faced from many police officers is really moving. It is evident that much of the law enforcement system is biased due to the lack of respect he was shown — even in situations where he was doing nothing wrong. He was actually benefiting the county by spending hours cleaning trash that would otherwise be left on the side of the road. Sayles' reactions to these situations, like the one where a female officer automatically accused and yelled at him for having a weapon, are very powerful and inspiring.

He remains calm and humble about his history with law enforcement, and uses the resulting anger and disappointment to feed his hunger to help the county and the environment.

This article was moving — and after hearing Sayles' story, it is refreshing to see that he is finally getting the appreciation and acknowledgement he deserves.

Anna Hellwege-Bales  
Fairfax Station

### Helping Neighbors to Have 'Normal Holiday'

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to the editorial by Mary Kimm, titled "Holidays Are for Giving" (Connection, November 17-23, 2016). This hits particularly close to home because for the past six years my mother and I have been volunteer-

ing with Fairfax County's Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program. The purpose of this program is to purchase gifts and food items for a struggling family in Fairfax County around the Holidays so that these families are able to have a "normal" holiday.

There was one time when my mother and I were delivering the gifts to a young mother of three and after we loaded them into her car she began to cry and hug us. She repeatedly thanked us and told us that if it was not for our generosity, she would not have been able to give her children presents. Later that night I began to reflect on this situation and look at it from this woman's eyes. It made me realize that not everyone is as fortunate as myself or my family, and that if you have the means, support those less fortunate. Helping this family reminded

me that the holidays are not about material items, they are about giving thanks and spending time with people you love. People tend to forget this because everyone gets so wrapped up in their own world, and forget about the people around them.

Jen Kirk  
Springfield

### Music Brought to Classroom

To the Editor:

When I read the piece, "Gift of Music to the Community" (Connection, November 10-16, 2016) I was overjoyed to know that new music education was being brought to the classroom. As a stu-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

## EDITORIAL

FROM PAGE 6

❖ **BURKE:** Holiday Book Sale 10 - 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Peruse and shop a selection of gently used holiday-themed books collected by the Friends of the Burke Centre Library. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/)

❖ **BURKE LAKE PARK** transforms into a Winter Wonderland the first weekend in December, Dec. 5-6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hop aboard the Holiday Express for a train trip through the park. Set sail on the U.S.S. Rudolph. Snuggle up on the Snowman's Wagon Ride. Take a spin on the Caroler's Carousel, and test your skills with Gingerbread Man's

Golf. Stop to let Santa know how good you've been this year, and treat yourself to s'mores by the fire. Sip some hot chocolate or spiced cider, and munch on candy canes as you enjoy all the fun. Join in the giving spirit of the season by bringing a new toy or a canned food item for donation.

Passes are \$15 per person through Dec. 4 and \$20 per person on the day of the event. The passes include all the activities plus a craft item, hot chocolate and s'mores. Or a la carte: Train \$4, Carousel \$3, Mini Golf \$8, Wagon & Tour Boat Ride \$9, S'mores \$1, Hot Drink \$1.

❖ **WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER** presents "A Christmas Carol" adapted from the original story by Charles

Dickens. Performed at Workhouse Arts Center, Theater W-3, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Performance on Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15 to \$25. Call 703-584-2900 or visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). Note: Runs approximately 80 minutes in one act. Appropriate for audiences of any age but best suited for ages 10 and above.

### Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of lo-

cal students and children. It is a keepsake edition for many families. The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade.

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

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

vided in jpeg format.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. To be published, we must have first and last name of the student. Please include the student's age and/or grade, school attended and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide submissions by Friday, Dec. 2.

Email submissions for the Children's Connection to [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com).



# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

**Springfield Town Center Toy Drive** through Dec. 24 located at 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. Springfield Town Center is partnering with America's Adopt A Soldier Foundation to sponsor a Toy Drive to gather new toys to be donated to children undergoing treatment at Walter Reed Medical Center.

Please bring new toys to the bin located next to Guest Services, on the Lower Level near Starbucks to donate and bring joy to a child struggling with illness during this Holiday Season. 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield.

**'Storytime & Craft' at Lucy Activewear** Every Friday in December at 10:30 a.m. Lucy Activewear 11899 Grand Commons Avenue, Fairfax. An opportunity to get holiday shopping done in peace. Lucy Activewear will be hosting 'Storytime & Craft.' This event is appropriate for ages 3-8. Please sign up.

**Bull Run Festival of Lights and Holiday Village** November 23, 2016 - January 8, 2017 7700 Bull Run Dr. Centreville, VA

Every year from Thanksgiving until just after New Year's Day the Bull Run Festival of Lights will be in session. A 2.5 mile stretch will be illuminated by holiday light displays. The festival happens annually at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville, Virginia. Drive the festival route from the



(From left) Friends Reese O'Donnell, 4, and Reilly Lewis, 3 1/2, hold hands at the 2014 City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. This year's festival will be held at Old Town Square 10415 North Street, Fairfax, on Saturday Dec. 3 There will be live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols> for times and locations.

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

comfort of your car; turn out your headlights and just follow the magical glow. After viewing the lights, bring your family and friends to the holiday village to enjoy rides, refreshments, and of course, photos with Santa Claus. The cost of driving through the light show is Mon-Thurs, \$15 per car; Fri-Sun & Holidays, \$20 per car (vans w/ 15-34 people and motorcoaches cost extra - visit website for details) Want to avoid the crowds? Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays are our busiest nights. Please take advantage of the Monday through Thursday discounted price and avoid a long wait.

**Children's Theatre: "A Magical Christmas"** Saturdays through Dec. 22, 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A children's theatre performance for the holidays. There's something not right in the town of Believe. Santa hasn't stopped there for many years; in fact he doesn't even know the place exists! Joy's grandfather decides to do something about it and make sure that this year's Christmas will be the most magical ever. Appropriate for all ages. Concessions available in lobby before the performance and at intermission. Cost: \$8 children, \$12 adults. [workhousearts.org](http://workhousearts.org) Cost: \$8 children, \$12 adults.

**Senior Line Dancing** 1 - 2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Ct, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8 week session. [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) 703-524-3739

**Rudy Guernica Landscapes Exhibit** Mon. - Sat 9 - 9 p.m. Sun. 9 - 8 p.m. Reston Community Center 2310 Coltz neck road, Reston. Through

Nov. 30.

**Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting.** 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. [fairfaxrotary.org](http://fairfaxrotary.org).

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. [nvshag.org](http://nvshag.org).

**FUN-Exercise.** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**EXERCISE PROGRAM** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

**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, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

## Finding the True Spirit of Christmas

### Providence Players present 'Best Christmas Pageant Ever.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

With a cast of 30, including about two dozen children, the Providence Players of Fairfax (PPF) will present a long-time Holiday favorite, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Written by Barbara Robinson, this affirming Holiday-themed play has previously been a magazine articles and a book about children considered the unruliest in their town. But, all change for the better after the children are cast in their local Church's Christmas pageant.

"We selected "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" because when we first mounted the show in 2012 it was such a resounding audience favorite," said Jayne Victor, PPF Board President. "It is a delightfully funny show and has such a strong positive message for the Holiday season."

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," introduces the audience to the six "worst kids in the world" as author Robinson described the Herdman family children. As described by Chip Gertzog, PPF Board member, the heartwarming play then follows the incorrigible Herdman children "as they

attend church for the first time because they're told there will be snacks."

Over the rest of the town's objections, the Herdman children are somehow cast in the Church Christmas play. Disaster is expected and the town has gathered waiting in anticipation of a ruined Christmas play. In this family friendly play, the children are unexpectedly transformed in a very comic fashion to gain the true spirit of Christmas.

Working to provide affordable live theater especially during the Holiday season, the Providence Players have free student and senior preview performances prior to official opening of the show. Qualified organizations can arrange complimentary tickets for those who would be unable to afford to attend by contacting the PPF.

"Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is a co-production with the "Youth Hearts" organization and will benefit the work of "The Young Hearts Foundation," a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to improve the lives of young people affected by long-term illness. This includes medical research, support for families affected by long-term illness of a child and raising awareness.

"The show broke holiday show attendance records for the Providence Players when it was produced several years ago," said Gertzog. "Since we co-produce our Holiday show with the Young Hearts as a fundraiser, we are always looking for a play with strong audience appeal and one that will resonate with the entire family. "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is truly great theater, produced for a great cause!"

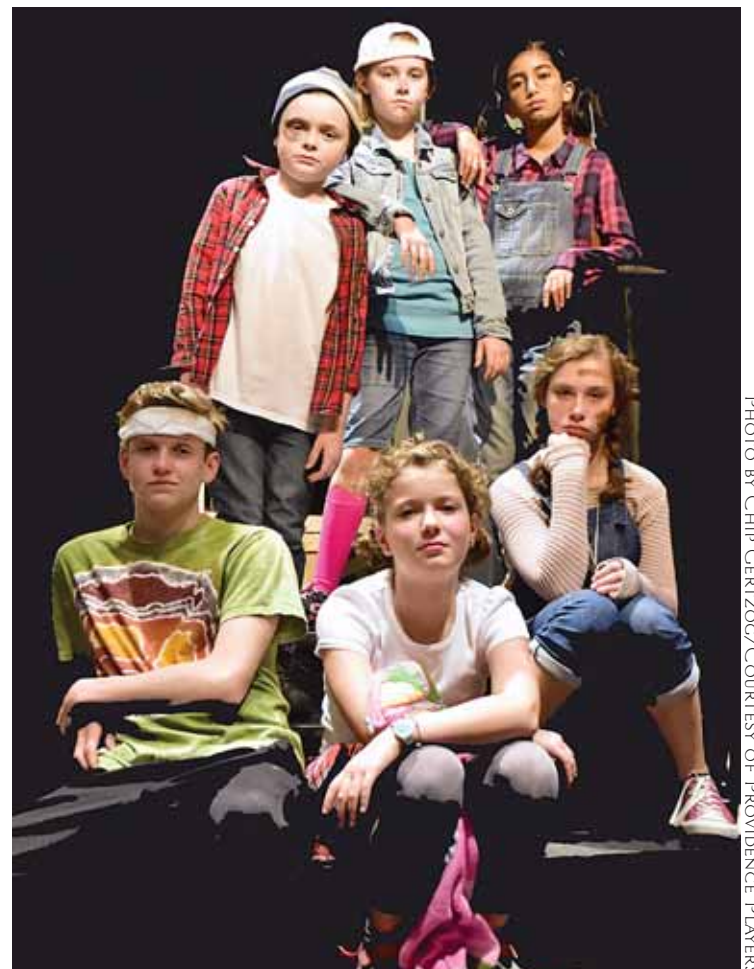


PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOG/COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

**The Herdman kids in 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.'** From left — front: Jack Wright who plays Ralph, Aerial Indiriano as Ollie, Nora Rice who plays Imogene; back — Gavin Friel as Claude, Erika Friel who plays, Gladys, Kashvi Ramani as Loretta.



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

**Smoke Free Bingo** (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. [www.fairfaxvd.com](http://www.fairfaxvd.com). 703-273-3638.

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp>

**First Sunday Jazz Brunch** 11 - 2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/>

**Stories From Strawberry Park** 10 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic - Strawberry Park 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Recurring weekly on Tuesday. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/>

## SATURDAY/NOV. 26

**Fairfax Ballet's Nutcracker 2 - 4 p.m.** WT Woodson High School 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. The Fairfax Ballet Company stages the "The Nutcracker" Nov. 26-27, 2016 at W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, Va. Three show times include: Nov. 26, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm, and Nov. 27, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. Cost: \$23-26 [events@fairfaxballet.com](mailto:events@fairfaxballet.com) <http://fairfaxnutcracker2016.bpt.me>

**Fair Oaks Mall Hosts Pet Parties with Santa** 6:30 - 8 p.m. Santa's Flight Academy in Grand Court 11750 Fair Oaks. FairfaxFair Oaks Mall will offer pet parents a chance to celebrate the holiday season and visit with Santa. Pet photos will take place at the interactive Santa's Flight Academy holiday set located in Grand Court West. Please note that pets must be up-to-date on their vaccinations and must either be on a leash or carried in a lightweight, portable pet carrier with harness. [www.shopfairoaksmall.com/events](http://www.shopfairoaksmall.com/events).

## MONDAY/NOV. 28

**Turkey Walk** 10 - 11 a.m. 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Discover the wild turkey's habits and secret ways during a walk in the cedar forest at Ellanor C. Lawrence

## 'Christmas Gift Showcase' to Be Held Dec. 14

The Springfield Christian Women's Connection invites everyone to luncheon program, "Christmas Gift Showcase," on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$20 per person - all inclusive. Reservations are requested by Friday, Dec.9, 2016.

Enjoy extra time to shop Twice: 11 a.m. until lunch is served and after the luncheon until 2 p.m. Come and enjoy shopping for your Christmas gift list and plan to treat yourself, too. Gift items include Longaberger baskets and pottery, MAGZ Art Handcrafted Jewelry and Gifts, Matilda Jane Clothing, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Serendipity of Occoquan, baked goods, and much more. In addition, several vendors have donated door prizes. Arrive early for the best selections and if you'd like, you can also bring your own baked goods to add to fall fundraiser for Stonecroft.

In addition, Karin Williams will reflect on how she learned to grow in spite of pain in Learning to Say Goodbye. Please join this festive and informative luncheon, along with great door prizes, delicious food, and new friendships.

For Luncheon reservations call 703-922 6438 or e-mail: [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com)

Park. Look for wild turkeys and their signs. This program for participants age three to adult. Cost: \$5 per person. 703-631-0013.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 1-SATURDAY DEC. 3

**Richard Byrd Library Holiday Used Book Sale** 3 - 5 p.m. 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Friends of Richard Byrd Library holiday used book sale is a semi-annual fundraising event. Funds support adult and children's programming and subscriptions at the Richard Byrd Library. [rbfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rbfriends@gmail.com)

## FRIDAY/DEC. 2

**The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis** 6:30 p.m. Dinner with 7:30 p.m. performance. Truro Anglican Church 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Come see the play for a Holiday celebration of the classic C.S. Lewis novel - take a trip to Narnia. <http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org>

**My Gym Community Event** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke, VA 22015. Develop your child's large motor skills with physical exercise and games. Funded by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Age 1-3 years with adult. Visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

## SATURDAY/DEC. 3

**City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols** noon - 7:30 p.m. Old Town Square 10415 North Street, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, ferris wheel,

caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols> for times and locations.

**Lunch with Santa** 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Children ages 10 and under can enjoy lunch with Santa at Old Town Hall. Two lunch seatings will be offered one at 11:30 a.m. and another at 12:30 p.m. Tickets: \$6 per child on sale at the Parks & Recreation office at City Hall, Sherwood Center, and Green Acres Center. Limit of 10 tickets per person.

Pre-Registration is required for this event - children 1 years of age and younger may attend at no cost but still must be registered. Parents do not need to purchase tickets. All are welcome - both Fairfax City residents and non Fairfax City residents. Tickets can be purchased online at: [https://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity\\_Search/9853](https://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity_Search/9853)

**The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis** 2 p.m. performance. Truro Anglican Church 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Come see the play for a Holiday celebration of the classic C.S. Lewis novel - take a trip to Narnia. <http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org>

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Opening Show of School of Rock Enjoyable for Actors and Audience

BY ALEXANDRA TECCO  
THE CONNECTION

**T**wo hundred-twenty people came out to enjoy School of Rock on opening night, Thursday, Nov. 17. The performance marked the first of the Hayfield Dramahawks main stage performances. The high-energy show started with a blast of a fog machine, to create the wispy air reminiscent of rock concerts while the signs framing the stage proclaimed "School of Rock" alight in red letters, shining once the theatre went dark.

During intermission the play and the performances by the Dramahawks in particular was praised by Brian Collison, father of Zack Collison who portrays Billy, the stylist, in the show. "It's all family oriented, so many families show up... but it's also something everyone can be a part of," Brian Collison said. Leah Collison, 7 of Island Creek Elementary, enjoys the show because when her brother, Zack, would rehearse at home "he would dance with (her)." Adam, 11 of Island Creek Elementary, enjoys the show because of the catchy rock and roll music which encourages dancing in general.

After the performance friends and family, many carrying bouquets of flowers, waited for the performers to congratulate them on the first of six shows in the series. Pam Berrios congratulated her sons, Cristian Pineda, a Junior, and William Pineda, a Senior. Both actors were still in their costumes. "It's fun to express your feelings and have a chance to entertain people," explained Christian Pineda.

Dramahawks Theatre Director Pat Mitchel hopes that the audience size grows. Not only is it an unusual opportunity to see a currently running Broadway show off Broadway and at a price one can bring the whole family to enjoy, but it is the first school year fundraiser to help the Dramahawks fund their trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the honor to attend something the Dramahawks won last year, explains Mitchell.



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA TECCO/THE CONNECTION  
**Hayfield Dramahawks Theater Director, Pat Mitchel, and some of the cast celebrating the success of opening night: Cara Bradley, Junior; Shannon Flack, Junior; Abby Heffner, grade 8; Trish Hoang, Junior; Sky Buzzell, Senior; Zack Collison, Grade 7; Hallie Strelsky, Junior.**

For the actors, pure glee was seen in the theatre's lobby. "It was amazing," explains Trish Hoang, Junior, who plays lead-singer Tamika in the show. "I feel on top of the

world, my energy is just at a peak," says Cara Bradley, Junior, who plays Summer, the band manager.

The remaining shows of School of Rock



**Pam Berrios with sons William Pineda, Senior and Cristian Pineda, Junior. Pam Berrios encourages everyone in the community to come out, whether or not one has kids at the school. "It's important to support not just the school and fundraising help, but it helps the school and the kids" spend their time constructively.**

Rock are playing at Hayfield Secondary School Dec. 1, 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Dec. 3. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

### Jubilee Christian Center "Loving People to Life"

Worship Gathering - Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM  
Sunday School 10:10 AM  
Sun. Evening - Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM  
Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM  
Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult  
Ministries, and Living Free Support Groups  
Visit our Website: [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org)  
4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax  
Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170

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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

[library/branches/bc/](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols)

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. Time TBA Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols> for times and locations.

**Creative Writers Group** 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke, VA 22015. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Ages 13-18. Visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/library/branches/bc/>

[www.fairfaxva.gov/library/branches/bc/](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/library/branches/bc/)

**Holiday Book Sale** 10 - 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke, VA 22015. Peruse and shop a selection of gently used holiday-themed books collected by the Friends of the Burke Centre Library. Visit: <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/library/branches/bc/>  
City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. Time TBA Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols>

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11



## CAPPIES REVIEW



PHOTO BY LIZ BOONE

From left: Lourdes Turnblom and Delaney Fetzer in West Springfield's production of 'She Kills Monsters.'

# Spectacle Like No Other

## West Springfield's production of 'She Kills Monsters.'

BY MATT STEVENSON  
HAYFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOL

What would you do to talk to a lost loved one one more time? In Qui Nguyen's comedy on nerd culture, "She Kills Monsters," Agnes puts herself into the Dungeon and Dragon world of her deceased sister Tilly. To further get to know her sister, Agnes embarks on a quest in the game with her sister which involves many tasks that vary from slaying a five-headed dragon to beating evil cheerleaders in a dance battle. As the quest progresses, Agnes learns many new things about Tilly that she didn't know while she was alive such as her sexual preference and what was going on in her school life. By gaining this new information about her sister, Agnes can cope with the loss of her sister and further move on with her life.

Throughout the show, the entire cast bonded well together as a whole, but it was apparent that each individual clique such as Team Tillius and the Succubi Cheerleaders had their own inner bond with each other. These bonds created greater conflict when the different groups collided. Agnes (Delaney Fetzer) was a constant outlier of all the groups since she was very unfamiliar with the world of D&D. But as she went through the laborious tasks with the other adventurers, she was slowly accepted into

the team and formed an individual bond with all of them. Apart from this, Fetzer fully embodied the role of an unaware modern day adult and showed it very well to the audience. With her great comedic timing and warm hearted appeal, she brought the spectators along with her through her journey both inside and out of the game.

Tilly (Jane Schwartz) started off as Agnes' counterpart of the production, but it was clear to see the similarities and the bond the two sisters had as they completed their quest. Schwartz became the geek that Tilly was without playing a stereotype. Her powerful performance was shown through her in-depth characterization, energetic movements and overall strong stage presence. Her performance was fed by her surrounding characters, such as Lilith, Eila Nash, Kalioppe, Tessa Chaplin, and Orcus, Brenden Blackwell. The collection of characters all added their own personal touch to the group and as an ensemble they worked perfectly together.

The technical aspects of the show were of great importance to this show in particular. With all of the different monsters and creatures that the adventurers face on their quest, costume, makeup and props were a necessity, and the production team was able to complete these task with ease. With intricate designs and features that made every costume and character different, the cast and crew made the audience feel as if they were in the game alongside the heroes.

As a whole, West Springfield's production was a fun-loving, hilarious two hours for people of all ages to enjoy. With subtle references to 90s culture and nerd humor, it truly was a spectacle like no other that was executed tremendously by a high school theatre.

will offer pet parents a chance to celebrate the holiday season and visit with Santa. Pet photos will take place at the interactive Santa's Flight Academy holiday set located in Grand Court West. Please note that pets must be up-to-date on their vaccinations and must either be on a leash or carried in a lightweight, portable pet carrier with harness.  
[www.shopfairoaksmall.com/events](http://www.shopfairoaksmall.com/events).

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

for times and locations.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 4

**Fair Oaks Mall Hosts Pet Parties with Santa**  
6:30 - 8 p.m. Santa's Flight Academy in Grand Court 11750 Fair Oaks. FairfaxFair Oaks Mall

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# Fairfax Water

## PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATES AND PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges and the 2017 Annual Budget. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2017, include the following:

1. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$10,240 to \$16,020.
2. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,150 to \$1,240†.
3. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$10.10 to \$12.20†.
4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.68 to \$2.81 per 1,000 gallons of water.
5. A decrease in the Turn-Off / Turn-On Charge from \$52 to \$44.
6. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
7. An increase in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 104% to 105%.
8. A decrease in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$46 to \$35.

Revenues are expected to be \$171.3 million in 2017. Water sales are expected to provide \$149.2 million. Approximately \$22.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2016	2017
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 53,877	\$ 55,808
Power and Utilities	10,417	10,572
Chemicals	6,342	7,566
Purchased Water	4,512	5,576
Supplies and Materials	5,173	5,248
Insurance	1,176	1,201
Fuel	567	625
Postage	632	654
Contractual Services	10,473	10,671
Professional Services	748	910
Other	2,305	2,484
Subtotal	96,222	101,315
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,616)	(9,305)
Total	\$ 86,606	\$ 92,010

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$41,129,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$25,733,000

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at [www.fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates). Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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



## The Children's CONNECTION

2016

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.

### Be Part of the Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. The edition has won many awards.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens, or other creative efforts.

To submit material, identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to [springfield@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:springfield@connectionnewspapers.com). To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 16.

**Publishing  
December 28**

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## NEWS

# Easing Election Fears

Local therapists say acknowledging, reassuring are keys to easing anxiety.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n the morning after what was possibly the most adversarial election in recent history, psychologist Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D. felt an urge to send a text message to her two teenaged children.

"[The election] is a reminder that we are better together and have to be vigilant at fighting fear and spreading love and truth," she wrote. "I'm certain that the one thing we can do to remove fear is replace it with familiarity. When you get to stand with others different than you we realize we have more in common than not." Lorente, who has a private practice and is a professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, and other local therapists say that the recent election has brought a spike in clients. People throughout the area are asking for help dealing with the resulting emotional issues. In fact, a recent American Psychological Association Survey showed that 52 percent of American adults reported that the 2016 election was a very or somewhat significant source of stress. Therapists say that much of the rhetoric during the campaign sparked a sense of fear and panic, particularly children.

"Everyone who has come in this past week has talked about fear," said Lorente. "Children talking about fears about what is going to happen next, about what might happen to their parents."

During the election season, many parents discussed the candidates with their children, including the differences in protections, policies, social progress and, particularly unique to this election, inappropriate behavior, said child psychologist Stacie B. Isenberg, Psy.D. "In the wake of a result unanticipated by many, children are left feeling confused and ungrounded," she said. "When their parents themselves feel blindsided and upset, children can feel insecure, sad, and scared."

Children are influenced significantly by their par-



COURTESY OF CAROLYN LORENTE

**Psychologist Carolyn Lorente says the aftermath of the recent election has sparked fear in many of her clients.**

ents' reactions to major events, advised Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Don't involve your kids in your own fears," she said. "Keep things normal. Acknowledge the emotion, but don't dwell on it. Assure your child that you are there for them and will always care for him or her."

Parents and caregivers can help by trying to manage their own emotions out of sight of their children, at least while their feelings are still raw.

Isenberg advises that once

parents are able to do that, it is important that they have discussions with their children, at the level that makes sense for their ages.

"Younger children need to feel safe and be assured that things will be OK," she said. "If age and understanding allow, parents can discuss governmental systems such as checks and balances, while keeping any of their own concerns about such systems to themselves."

For parents with teenagers, Isenberg says "an honest conversation about their shared concerns is appropriate, as well as an emphasis on taking one day at a time and fighting the urge to catastrophize further outcomes." As with any impactful and uncontrollable event, emphasizing what one does actually control is helpful. "Parents can focus on ways that children can make an extra effort to be kind and supportive to others, from offering kind words, to looking to include others in activities, to volunteering and showing community support," said Isenberg.

"It's easy to go to the dichotomy of separation and an 'us vs. them' rhetoric, but in the end we're all connected," said Lorente. "I think it's important to ensure that they see goodness. Adults have to do it by modeling like standing up for others, being inclusive, if you see someone who is sad, showing empathy."

## School Board Search for New Superintendent

**H**azard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) has been contracted by Fairfax County Public Schools to search for a new school system superintendent.

Dr. Karen Garza announced on Sept. 19 she would be leaving that role to become president and CEO of the Columbus-based education organization Battelle for Kids. Dr. Steven Lockard will take over as interim when her resignation takes effect Dec. 19.

The contract award is for \$47,500 plus approved expenses.

"HYA brings extensive experience to this work and will play a crucial role in assisting the

Board in hiring the best possible superintendent," School Board chair Sandy Evans said in a statement. "FCPS has embarked on a path to identify a leader that will ensure that our students are provided a world class education in Fairfax County." Evans also said they welcome and need feedback from parents, employees and community members.

"We will work with HYA to develop a plan that will allow our community to engage in this important process either in person or online," Evans said.

Mount Vernon District representative Karen Corbett Sanders chaired the committee that selected the superintendent search firm. "HYA was selected because

of its successful track record in placing superintendents in large school districts and national reach," Corbett Sanders said in a statement.

Board members who also sat on the selection committee included Pat Hynes of Hunter Mill, at-large member Jeanette Hough, Braddock representative Megan McLaughlin, Dalia Palchik of Providence, Elizabeth Schultz of Springfield and Janie Strauss of Dranesville District.

The public should expect future input opportunities, as well as school board work sessions discussing the search over the next several months.

—TIM PETERSON



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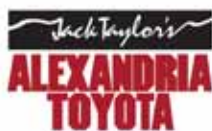
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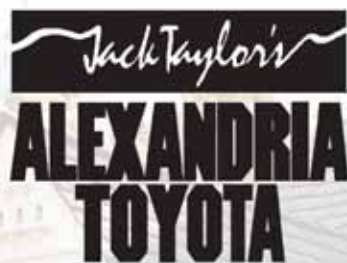
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# BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9411. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 6

Board of Supervisors' Public Hearing: at 4:30 p.m.

To subscribe to other Fairfax County electronic mailing lists, click the link below and follow instructions given: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists/>

Thank you for your interest in the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance. Should you have questions, please contact the Zoning Administration Division at 703-324-1314.

## ONGOING

### Volunteers Needed as Drivers & Office Workers

Drivers are needed for trips Monday - Friday to medical appointments and Companion Shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Office Workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday - Friday) of individuals requesting rides and match an available driver for each request. If you can volunteer your time, please contact the SCFB office at 703-323-4788.

### Four Free Private Well Owner Webinars to be Held in October

one-hour webinars for household water well owners will be held in October on the subjects of addressing methane, iron and manganese, fluoride, and water treatment system maintenance by the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). To register visit: <http://www.wellowner.org/well-owner-webinars/>

### Basic Disaster Response Skills Free

**Training** Monday Nov. 7 at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy. There are two sessions each week on Mondays and Wednesdays that run until December 7. The class is 28 hours in length, plus the final practical exercise. CERT training is free of charge and basic gear is provided. The minimum requirements to participate in CERT training at any level is that residents be 16 years of age or older, and either be a Fairfax County resident,

## FAITH NOTES

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.

**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 medi-

or work in the county. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/cert.htm>

**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](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Also visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/).

**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](http://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](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale** needs **Front Desk Volunteers** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. and Fitness Instructors. 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

tation. 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 both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. 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 10 a.m. and Cup of Fellowship at 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

dent who had participated in theater while I was in high school, I know how important it is for students to have a way to

de-stress and socialize with their classmates away from the classroom.

For me, theater allowed me not only to grow a stronger bond with my classmates, but also to learn about a new ways of expression. Music is the same way, allowing kids to express themselves in a unique way and to learn more about themselves and each other by examining music from different cultures. I especially appreciated that even though Simone Dinnerstein specializes in classi-

cal, she has found a way to connect her lessons to jazz, techno, and rap. Bringing in music familiar to the students while also showing them a new side to the subject will open all kinds of new doors for them. Sadly, many students usually wouldn't get the opportunity to experience music in school with all of the arts budget cuts that have been occurring. Hopefully if this program goes well, we can raise awareness of the importance of music and arts in schools, and implement something similar in schools across the country.

**Gillian Schuneman**  
Fairfax Station

ZONE 2: • BURKE  
• FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD  
• FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON

# CLASSIFIED

703-778-9411

ZONE 2 AD DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY NOON

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

## 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Akamai Solutions Inc, trading as Hunan Deli, 7200 Telegraph Square Dr., Ste V, Lorton, VA 22079. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises and Mixed Beverages Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Zhe Zhu Jin President  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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## 21 Announcements

VIRGINIA: IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA (ALEXANDRIA) INDIANA LUMBERMENS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, Plaintiff, vs. TIMBER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, et al., Defendants. CASE NO: 1:16cv692 CMH-TCB ORDER OF PUBLICATION THE ABOVE styled matter is a Complaint for Declaratory Relief concerning coverage by insurance policies described in the Complaint; AND IT APPEARING by Affidavit filed according to law that Karen M. Slimak is a named Defendant herein who cannot be found, and that diligence has been used by Plaintiff without effect to ascertain the location of said Defendant; NOW, THEREFORE, it is ADJUDGED, ORDERED and DECREED that said Defendant appears on or before December 26, 2016 in the Clerk's Office of this Court and do what is necessary to protect her interests. AND it is further ORDERED that this Order be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in the Greenville News, the Star Ledger, and the Springfield Connection, that a copy of this Order be posted at the front door of the courthouse. ENTER: September 13, 2016 United States Magistrate Judge Theresa Carroll Buchanan I ask for this: David D. Hudgins, Esquire, VSB No. 20602 HUDGINS LAW FIRM, P.C. 515 King Street, Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 22314 Telephone: 703-739-3300 Telefax: 703-739-3700dhudgins@hudginslawfirm.com

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

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**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> • 5:00PM**  
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**\$750,000 OPENING BID! • Original List Price: \$4,000,000**

**AUCTION PREVIEWS:**  
Sun., Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, Sat., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
& Sun. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> • 1:00 - 3:00pm

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-William Van Horne





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