



# Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

Coming up to the “gauntlet” home stretch, Bill Vitaletti of Springfield grabbed a pair of Maryland state flags and unfurled them as he ran across the finish of his first Ironman triathlon.

Inside  
**HOLIDAY  
ENTERTAINMENT**

## Springfield's Ironman: Bumped, Bruised, Better

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**IRONMAN**  
*Maryland*

OCTOBER 1ST 2016

OFFICIAL TIME

12:43:30

Interfaith Service  
Celebrates Diversity

NEWS, PAGE 3

Richard Byrd Library  
Hosts Book Sale

NEWS, PAGE 8



## NEWS

### Arts Council Grants Exceed \$379,000 to Further the Arts in Fairfax County

The Arts Council of Fairfax County has awarded \$379,013 in Operating Support Grants to 41 nonprofit arts organizations in Fairfax County. Operating Support Grants provide critical funds necessary for the basic operation of arts organizations in Fairfax County in recognition of the valuable programs and services they provide to County residents.

Fiscal year 2017 funded organizations offering public programs in a variety of disciplines including arts education, dance, instrumental music, multidisciplinary, opera, theatre, visual art, and vocal music. Operating Support Grants are awarded each year to both emerging and established art organizations.

"We are pleased to issue County support for the arts in Fairfax through a competitive grants process. Organizations receiving general operating support represent our most creative and well managed organizations, which provide a high level of arts service and community reach," said Linda S.

Sullivan, President & CEO, Arts Council of Fairfax County.

"With the grant award, Reston Community Players will provide scholarships to college bound theatrical artists and help Girl Scouts learn about the world of theater backstage. The grant also furthers our ability to work with community organizations on special projects, such as the LMproject Broadway Bound Summer Intensive, and to provide unique opportunities for audiences to experience theater in ways they may not otherwise have the chance to, such as our sensory sensitive matinee of Mary Poppins," said Jolene Vettese, President, Reston Community Players.

"This year, with support from the Arts Council, Arts Herndon was able to host one of our most prestigious programs—a literary event featuring Kwame Alexander and Meg Medina. Kwame is the winner of many literary awards, most recently the Newbery award, and

SEE ARTS COUNCIL, PAGE 7

### Another Reason To Fall In Love With Westminster At Lake Ridge

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**Burke Presbyterian Church Pastor Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin (left) is joined by leaders of Adat Reyim Synagogue in Springfield, Saint Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax, Ezher Bloom Mosque of Fairfax, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Burke and the Durga Temple of Fairfax Station at an interfaith Thanksgiving week service held at Burke Presbyterian Church Nov. 22.**

## Celebrating Diversity in Burke

### 33rd Interfaith Thanksgiving service at Burke Presbyterian Church celebrates differences.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**C**o-pastors at Burke Presbyterian Church Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin and her husband Rev. Jarrett insist the interfaith Thanksgiving service held in their worship hall on Nov. 22 was not in response to any perceived disunity in the country following the Presidential election.

In fact, this was the 33rd annual service participated in jointly by Burke Presbyterian, the Congregation Adat Reyim in Springfield and Saint Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax.

Ezher Bloom Mosque of Fairfax joined a number of years ago, Jarrett said, and in 2013 members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Burke and the Durga Temple of Fairfax Station also became involved.

"We feel fortunate to lean on the good interfaith work of generations before us and that this kind of work is Burke Presbyterian's DNA," said Jarrett.

Jarrett's wife Meg admitted, however, "We really needed it this year. Post-election, there's a lot of anxiety about the country."

The huge turnout from multiple faith communities Tuesday night, Meg called "a huge sign of hope."

"You can lament about the hate in the country right now," she said, "but there's a great sense of readiness to act in a different way, that we're capable of being different and being together."

The service featured traditions of prayer and musical performance from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism, including individual groups from the participating faith communities and a combined choir.

Jarrett delivered the thanksgiving message, or sermon. In it, he meditated on Psalm 46 from the Bible, including the line "God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns."

He referenced Spanish-speaking illegal immigrants being confronted at a worship service with a banner spray-painted telling them it was for "whites only," a man wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat being assaulted while riding the subway and a Muslim girl being called a terrorist for wearing a hijab to school.

"I refuse to believe that God is unmoved by this or anything else that undermines any one of God's creations," Jarrett said. "And so I don't want to be unmoved either."

"When we are moved in our hearts – when we allow the pain of our neighbors, especially those who are different from us, to move us in here," Jarrett began to conclude, "when we are honest about what troubles us and when we listen to one another's stories and when we hold those secret hurts together, I believe that is when our unity becomes stronger, when we dig in even deeper until we cannot, in fact, get tossed around by the raging of the nations."

In an interview, Meg reiterated that the hard work of being united is not about "polishing off our differences," but rather celebrating them.

"It's OK to not be the same. We don't dilute our faith. But how can we be different, distinct, and still be friends?" she asked. "We need to understand our differences. Sameness, we've had enough of that."

Another interfaith service is scheduled to be held at Congregation Adat Reyim, located at 6500 Westbury Oaks in Springfield, Jan. 13 at 8 p.m.

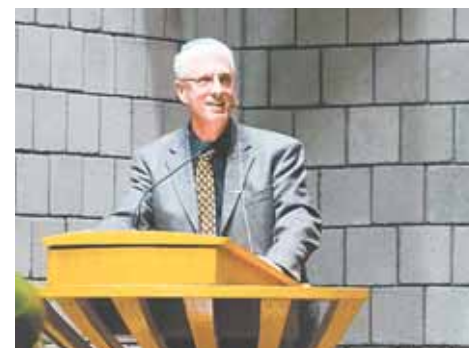


PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**The Nov. 22 service featured traditions of prayer and musical performance from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism, including individual groups from the participating faith communities and a combined choir.**



**Burke Presbyterian Church Pastor Rev. Jarrett McLaughlin delivered the interfaith Thanksgiving message on Nov. 22.**



**Rabbi Bruce Aft of Congregation Adat Reyim leads the "Passing of the Peace" at the Nov. 22 interfaith Thanksgiving service held at Burke Presbyterian Church on Nov. 22.**



**Nov. 22 was the 33rd annual interfaith service participated in jointly by Burke Presbyterian, Congregation Adat Reyim in Springfield and Saint Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax. Ezher Bloom Mosque of Fairfax joined a number of years ago, Jarrett said, and in 2013 members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Burke and the Durga Temple of Fairfax Station also became involved.**





# Connolly to Hold Open Season Workshop for Federal Employees/Retirees

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) will hold his eighth annual Federal Open Season Workshop on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Fairfax County Government Center to assist federal employees and retirees in navigating through the many changes in the 2017 Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans (FEHBP), dental and vision insurance programs.

The federal government's Open Season for federal employees and retirees to change their health plans runs from Nov. 14 through Dec. 12, 2016.

Connolly's Open Season Workshop will take place at the Fairfax County Government Center on Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Government Center is located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

This year's event will once again feature FEHBP expert Walt Francis, author of CHECKBOOKS's Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees as well as a representative of the Office of Personnel Management. Representatives

from the various FEHB plans and Medicare will be available to answer questions and discuss their programs with participants.

"Most FEHB plans have benefit and rate changes for 2017 so it is important that federal employees and retirees know the details on how their current plans are changing and whether or not there is another option that better suits their needs," Connolly said. "With these possible changes, it is important that every federal employee and retiree review the status of their current coverage."

Connolly urged every federal employee and retiree, as well as survivor and former spouse annuitants to make sure they review their FEHB plan coverage and other benefits before Open Season ends on Dec. 12, 2016. "Federal employees, retirees, and annuitants who have questions or want to make sure that they have the coverage they need are welcome to attend my Open Season Workshop on Dec. 3," he said.

Congressman Connolly's Open Season workshop will feature:

10 – 11 a.m.

❖ Panel Discussion featuring experts on FEHB programs and available health plan options, including FEHBP expert Walt Francis, author of CHECKBOOKS's Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees and a representative from OPM

Hosted in the Government Center Board Room

11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

❖ Representatives of various FEHB health plans and Medicare will be available to provide information and answer questions concerning plan offerings for 2017 — Hosted in adjoining conference rooms

Federal employees seeking further information about FEHB plans can visit OPM's Open Season website at: <http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/>.

Federal employees, retirees, or annuitants seeking more information about the Open Season workshop can call Connolly's District Office at 703-256-3071.

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Fairfax County Fire And Rescue Participating In Toys for Tots Campaign

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will again be participating in the Annual National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments' 2016 Toys for Tots Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to "bring holiday joy and deliver a message of hope to children."

Last year, thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Fairfax County, the Fire and Rescue Department collected more than 13,000 toys.

Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youths through age 17. The campaign will only accept new unwrapped toys and you can drop them off at any of our Fire and Rescue Stations. Toys used as weapons or considered to be weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. Checks or money orders for donations must be made payable to Toys for Tots.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Friday, Dec. 16, 2016.

### Public Meetings on Draft Action Plans

Fairfax County has developed Draft Action Plans for the Chesapeake Bay, Sediment, Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB), and Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that have assigned wasteload allocations (WLAs) to the county's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The draft plans will be presented at two public meetings:

❖ Public meeting to present the County's Draft Sediment, PCB, and Bacteria TMDL Action Plans: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6 to 8 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Conference Rooms IX

❖ Public meeting to present the County's Draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plans: Thursday, December 15, 6 to 8 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Conference Rooms 2/3

The meetings will mark the beginning of public comment periods on all four Draft TMDL Action Plans that will run through Monday, January 23, 2017. Please contact the Stormwater Planning Division at SWPDMail@FairfaxCounty.gov or 703-324-5500, TTY 711, with any questions regarding the public meetings.

# The Giving Circle of HOPE Celebrates Million Dollar Milestone

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

The Giving Circle of HOPE celebrated a major milestone this year – more than \$1 million raised and granted to support small nonprofit organizations in Northern Virginia.

GCH's members voted for the fund's 2016 grantees at a special event at Refraction in Reston Town Center on Thursday, Nov. 17.

"This milestone proves the power of collective giving because we reached it with many individuals giving as little as one dollar a day or volunteering for one event a year," says founding member Linda Strup. "Reaching this \$1 million milestone is exciting, but I am even prouder of the lives we have changed, both within the Giving Circle of HOPE and in the greater community."

Eight grants were funded for a total of \$56,000. The 2016 grant award winners are:

❖ Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Advocating for Abused/Neglected Youth

❖ Friends of Guest House for Workforce Development Project Pilot



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Founders of the Giving Circle of HOPE celebrating Million Dollar Milestone.**

❖ Josh Anderson Foundation for Our Minds Matter: Website Development

❖ La Cocina for Free Bilingual Culinary Job Training, Placement & Food Assistance

❖ NAMI Nova for Peer Support of Youth and Adults Living with Mental Health Conditions

❖ OAR Arlington for Employment Assistance for Individuals Returning Home After Incarceration

❖ Women Giving Back for Women Giving Back Transportation Project

❖ The Reading Connection for Child, Youth Development & Education

A giving circle is a form of participatory philanthropy where groups of individuals donate their own money to a pooled fund, decide together which charities to give to and, in doing so, increase awareness of and engagement in issues in their community.

Prior to this year's vote, GCH awarded 125 grants to 52 local nonprofits. Funds have been awarded in the areas of Child, Youth Development and Education; Health, Mental Health and Aging; Poverty Relief; Immigration; and Poverty Escape. Organizations throughout Northern Virginia have received funding including: Alexan-

dria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fauquier, Loudoun, Manassas and Prince William.

"Reaching the \$1 million means we got to a landing in a long staircase," says founding member Diana Katz. "We can take a breath, look back to see what we have done, and we can look upward to see how much more we can do. It's a step that gives us perspective."

GCH is a component fund of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and was created in 2004.

## 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 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 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).



## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Legislative Preview Forum at Accotink: Advocacy and Action in Virginia 2017

Learn about the social justice issues that our Virginia legislators will consider in 2017, how these issues impact our greater community, and concrete ways in which we can impact legislation under consideration — Sunday, Dec. 4, 2 - 4 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Ct, Burke.

Co-Sponsored by Social Justice Committee, Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church and Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ). Light refreshments and childcare will be provided.

The speakers will be Lavona Grow, past executive director of UUSJ, Anna Rhee, advocacy consultant for UUSJ, and Rebecca Bowers-Lanier of B2L Consulting. Together these professionals will discuss “the art of possible” regarding the upcoming Virginia legislative session: what bills we think will be proposed that impact social justice issues we care about, information on “how to advocate,” and what actions we can take to influence legislative outcomes.

This forum is free and open to the general public. Please extend our invitation to interested friends and neighbors.

### The FX Players Puts On “Avenue Q!”

To kick off their 2016–2017 season, the FX Players at Fairfax HS will produce the winner of the 2004 Tony Award-winning Best Musical: “Avenue Q!” Filled with gut-busting humour, not to mention puppets, this laugh-out-loud musical tells the story of a recent college grad named Princeton and his newfound friends as they struggle to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life. The show, which is rated PG-13 for some adult content, runs during the first weekend of December: Dec. 1, 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 3, and 4 at 2 p.m.. You won’t want to miss this coming-of-age parable, addressing and satirizing the issues and anxieties relevant in our society today. For more information and tickets, go to [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org) or email [fairfaxhstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxhstheatre@gmail.com).

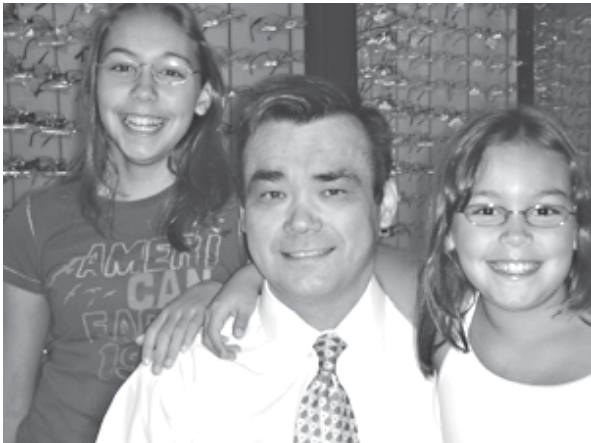
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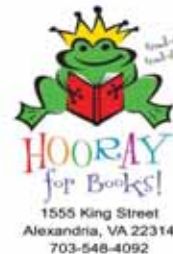


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## Expand Early Voting Now in NOVA

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



### COMMENTARY

The success of early voting in the 2016 Presidential Election reaffirms my conclusion from visiting 12,000 homes last year — Virginia should expand early voting.

In 2016, I personally knocked on over 12,000 doors and after July 1, using an online secure application form, I helped over 900 voters sign up to vote by mail from their home. Nearly all of them had no idea they could vote early or vote from home. The vast majority of these voters did not participate in non-presidential elections (or even some presidential elections) because of a disability, lack of transportation, long commutes or disabled family members that required 24-7 home care.

This year, early voting exploded. In 2008, a little over 99,000 Fairfax County residents voted early. That dropped to 92,000 in 2012, but exploded this year to 120,000. The same was true in Prince William County. The reason? Localities opened more early voting loca-

tions and kept them open longer.

There are two major reasons people do not vote early or by mail. They do not know they are eligible or voting early in-person is not always convenient.

There is no question that the legislature should pass what's called

"no excuse" early voting. The State Senate has passed no excuse early voting twice, but the legislation is always killed in the House of Delegates and it is unlikely to pass in the near future.

In the short term, Northern Virginia's localities need to expand early voting, and they can.

Nearly all voters who ride the Metro's Yellow, Blue and Orange Lines or the Virginia Railway Express are eligible to vote by mail or vote early because they work outside of the jurisdiction in which they live. Localities need to set up early voting stations at all Metro and major transit stations.

If you cross a county line — from Stafford into Prince William, Prince William into Fairfax, or Fairfax into the City of Alexandria — you

can vote early by mail or in-person. If your work day takes you more than 11 hours from home, you can vote early.

Seniors who have trouble standing in line are eligible to vote early. So are individuals caring for disabled family members. All first responders are eligible to vote early or by mail.

Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford County governments and public schools employ thousands of people. They need to get early voting information out to their employees. Social service providers need to ensure that qualified voters receive information.

Finally, in non-presidential elections, many voters choose not to take time from work to participate in state and local elections. Our localities should better publicize early voting stations and have longer hours to increase participation.

Facilitating more early voting will require more election officers and thus more money, but shorter lines and fewer disruptions save all of us time on Election Day and encourages more participation in our democracy.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. Email me at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org) if you have any feedback.

## Opioid Epidemic in Virginia

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



### COMMENTARY

When my friend August Wallmeyer wrote his book, "The Extremes of Virginia, Southwest, Southside and the Eastern Shore: Two Separated and Unequal Commonwealths. Rural, Poor and Largely Unknown" (Dementia Books, 2016), he included a chapter on illegal drug use for obvious reasons—In 2014 for the first time on record fatal drug overdoses became the most common cause of accidental death in the Commonwealth, according to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. As the Secretary of Health and Human Resources reported to Mr. Wallmeyer, "In 2015 we lost more than a thousand Virginians to opioid or heroin overdoses. More Virginians now die from drug overdoses than from car accidents." For another reason, the rate of fatal drug/poison overdoses in the poorest areas of the state are 47 percent higher than those in Virginia as a whole. The picture has been getting worse.

Last week the state health commissioner Dr. Marissa J. Levine declared opioid addiction to be a public health emergency in Virginia. She said the Commonwealth has seen a 77 percent increase in opioid deaths from 2012 to 2016. So great is the concern about this epidemic that Commissioner Levine issued a standing order that allows all Virginians to obtain the drug Naloxone without a specific prescription. Naloxone is used to treat narcotic overdoses in emergency situations. Persons who know someone who is struggling with opioid addiction are advised to visit a local pharmacy to obtain Naloxone and keep it on hand for possible over-

dose emergencies. For more information on Naloxone, go to <http://www.getnaloxonenow.org>. Another website of Virginia government offers resources on how to best discuss addiction with someone, <http://vaaware.com/treatment-recovery/>.

Attorney General Mark Herring is extremely active in combating drug abuse problems in Virginia. A documentary he produced on the heroin and prescription drug epidemic in Virginia is available to individuals and organizations for their use. Preview it at <http://www.hardesthitva.com>. The Attorney General has led the effort to distribute 80,000 drug disposal kits to individuals through the Department of Health and to hospitals, law enforcement and nonprofits. These kits will allow for the safe disposal of prescriptions that

could be abused by others. There is a strong link between misuse of prescription drugs, opioid addiction, and the use of heroin when prescription drugs become too expensive or are no longer available. Some studies found that half of young people who use heroin got started abusing prescription opioids. The Attorney General reported that more than 500 people went to a Virginia emergency room from a heroin overdose in the first four months of 2016, a 250 percent increase over 2015.

No longer is the problem of opioid abuse one that is primarily in the poorer, "extremes" of the state. It can be found in all areas of the state affecting people of all income levels and backgrounds. The strong response to the need by the Attorney General and the State Health Commissioner are very important. Coordination among agencies and work at the local level to end root causes are critical. Fortunately they are underway to end this epidemic.

## Children's Connection Deadline Approaches

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

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

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

should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschooled. To be published, we must have the 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 [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com).

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

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## WEDDINGS

### Brynn Rollo and Stephen Lieske Married in March

Miss Brynn Rollo and Mr. Stephen Lieske were united in marriage on March 12, at Leesburg Presbyterian Church in Old Town Leesburg. The ceremony was officiated by Reverend James Cubie. Readings were done by the couple's grandfathers, Robert Gallagher, Carroll Franklin, and John Lieske III. The wedding reception was celebrated at Riverside on the Potomac in Leesburg.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rollo of Springfield. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. Robert Gallagher of Braintree, Mass. and the late Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Rollo of Braintree. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lieske of Fairfax. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Franklin of Leesburg and Mr. and the late Mrs. John Lieske III of Libertyville, Illinois.

Given in marriage by her parents and escorted by her father, the bride wore an Austen-esque inspired gown of Silk Duchesse Satin designed and made by her mother. The bride's gown featured lace that was hand-beaded by her great grandmother and wore a shawl of Clan Rollo tartan.

Miss Elizabeth Gallagher, cousin of the bride, served as Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids



**Brynn Rollo and Stephen Lieske smile for a portrait.**

included Miss Abigail Gallagher, Mrs. Lindsey Lieske, Miss Courtney Connors, Miss Elizabeth Milstead, and Miss Caitlin Crawford. Mr. Matthew Lieske, brother of the groom, served as Best Man. Grooms-men included Mr. Andrew Rollo, Mr. Andrew Kondracki, Mr. James Brewer, and Mr. Casey Scoville.

The bride is a graduate of George Mason University and is currently pursuing her Masters degree at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is employed by Learning Systems International as an Instructional Designer based in Washington, D.C. The groom is a graduate of James Madison University. He is employed as a Senior Account Executive at mHelpDesk located in Fairfax.

Following a honeymoon in Ireland, Brynn and Stephen reside in Fairfax.

## Arts Council

FROM PAGE 2

Meg Medina is the two-time winner of the Pura Belpré award for Children's and Young Adult literature. Attendees included State Delegate Jennifer Boysko, Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust, Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel and a diverse audience of high school, elementary school, and adult attendees," said Signe Friedrichs, Arts Herndon.

"We are honored to receive our first Operating Support Grant from the Arts Council, which supports our commitment to provide a comprehensive performing arts academy program, including world-renowned instructors and state-of-the-art facilities, and our goals to expand, teach, and personify performing arts education in our community in Fairfax County and beyond," said Melissa Dobbs, Founder and Executive Director of Metropolitan School of the Arts in Alexandria. "Our black box theatre, set to debut in January 2017, is just one example of MSA's passion to build our community arts program and bring the arts to our Fairfax

County neighbors," said Melissa Dobbs, Founder and Executive Director of Metropolitan School of the Arts.

### Operating Support Grant Recipients

1st Stage, Inc., Acting For Young People, Amadeus Concerts, Inc., American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras, BalletNova, Children of the Light Dancers, The Choralis Foundation, City of Fairfax Band Association, City of Fairfax Theatre Company, Arts Herndon, Creative Cauldron, The Fairfax Ballet Company, Fairfax Choral Society, Greater Reston Arts Center, The Hub Theatre, Initiative for Public Art – Reston, Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, McLean Community Players, McLean Orchestra, McLean Project for the Arts, The McLean Symphony, Metropolitan School of the Arts, Mosaic Harmony, Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre, New Dominion Chorale, NextStop Theatre Company, Northern Virginia Chorale, Providence Players of Fairfax, The Reston Chorale, Reston Community Players, Reunion Music Society, Inc., Traveling Players Ensemble, Vienna Choral Society, Vienna-Falls Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, The Vienna Jammers Percussion Ensemble, Inc., Virginia Ballet Company and School, Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Virginia Opera Association, Inc., Voce Inc., Washington Balalaika Society, and Workhouse Arts Foundation.

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

### WED/NOV. 30 & THURS. DEC. 1

**Additional I-395 Express Lanes Public Meetings** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. with a presentation at 7 p.m. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with the Department of

Rail and Public Transportation, will host two public meetings on the I-395 Express Lanes Northern Extension project. The project involves extending the I-395 Northern Express Lanes for eight miles from Turkeycock Run near Edsall Road to Eads Street near the Pentagon.

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SELECT NIGHTS | 5PM - 9PM  
**NOV. 16 - JAN. 1**  
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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.

## News



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA TECCO/THE CONNECTION

Jacob Pereira and Michael Peterson display some of the manga and comic books available during the sale. The sale will also have a large sci-fi, WWI, II and Civil War Section and fiction literature.

## Richard Byrd Library

BY ALEXANDRA TECCO  
THE CONNECTION

The Friends of Springfield's Richard Byrd Library host their largest annual book sale Dec. 1 - 3. Visitors can shop over 10,000 books, covering every genre. In addition CDs, DVDs, vinyl, puzzles, games, comic books and graphic novels are also available.

The money raised during the December sale supports the library: children's programs; the summer reading program; performer visits; adult book talks and "anything else the library needs," explains Judy Perry, President of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library. Last year they had record sales, raising \$10,000, Perry says.

For the public, the sale is a chance to whittle down the holiday shopping list through quality, budget conscious purchases while supporting the library, explains Christine Peterson, member of The Friends. Aware of the popularity of gift cards, Peters suggests a way to personalize the gift, holding up a 4"x4" book from the Audubon Society. "You can buy a little book for a couple of bucks, put the gift card in it and it's a present with the gift card."

Among the "gift quality" book examples are some that can serve as building blocks to build a gift basket around. "We have tons of craft books and books for every hobby," Peterson says. The children's area has its own room with books for all ages and styles that range from board books for youngsters to like-new quality picture books as well as other media appropriate for children, DVDs, CDs and others.

THE 30-40 VOLUNTEERS setting up the book sale work to make it as easy for guests to find the genres and topics of interest. They strive try to make it easy to visit and purchase, explains Peterson, "and we usually have four experienced people at check-out because we don't want people to have to wait in line." This year they've added the convenience of being able to accept credit cards, says Rich Peterson.

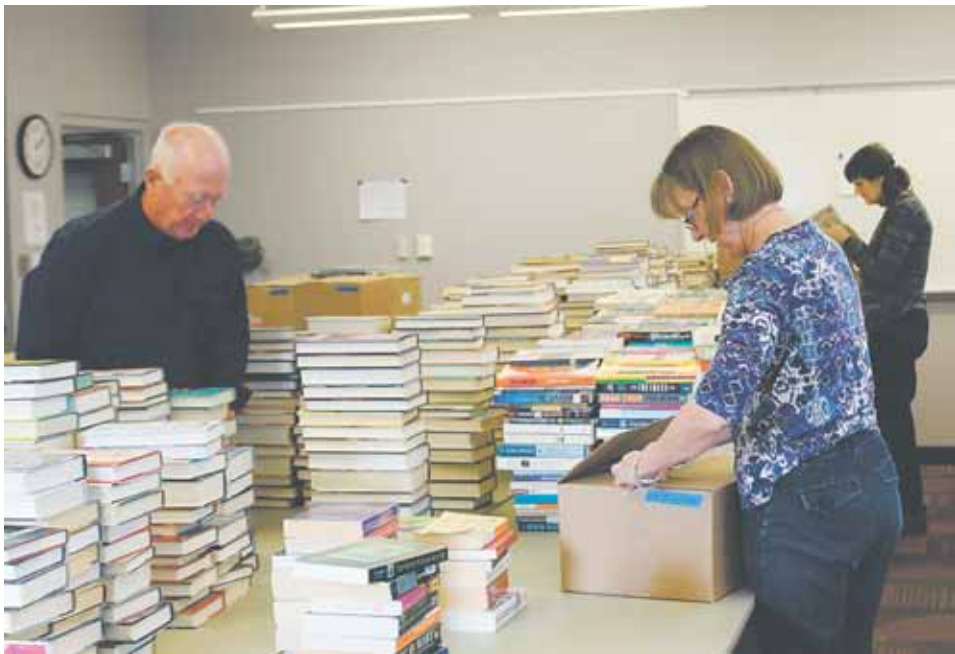
For David Lee, 15, attending Lee High School, volunteering for the sale is "...really fun." Lee has volunteered at Richard Byrd almost a year now and has recruited friends to volunteer at the library as well. Lee finds the generous donations of the community the most memorable.

"A couple of weeks ago we had a guy come with a truck full of books. The entire truck-



Christine Peterson, Friend of Richard Byrd Library and student volunteer David Lee, 15, Lee High School, display some of the books for the front tables of the sale. The theme will be the Antarctic and penguins to follow the namesake of the library, Richard Byrd, explorer of the Antarctic.





Friends of Richard Byrd Library Rich Peterson, Martha Gibson and Case Hoskins organize one of the many tables in preparation for the booksale opening on Dec. 1.



Friends and Volunteers of Richard Byrd Library with a selection of books from the sale. Dixie Wright, Case Hoskins, Judy Perry, Martha Gibson and Christine Peterson. Student Volunteers Huiyin Chou, 16, Lee High School and Casey Vo, 14, Holmes Middle School.

## Hosts Book Sale

bed was filled with books in boxes,” Lee said. The books for the sale are acquired through the tax-deductible donations from community book drives and individuals in particular.

While the sale directly benefits the library, the remaining unsold books continue to benefit others as they spread throughout the local community and internationally. After-

wards, the remaining books are dispersed to a variety of programs, explains Perry. Among the many beneficiaries are the county jail and Pohick Library which is re-opening after their renovations.

“We try to get books into the hands of children especially...” says Perry. The books given to the Ecumenical Community Helping Others’ will help their school backpacks

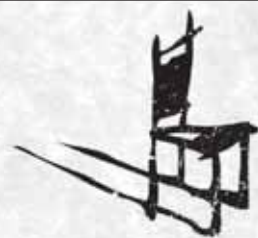
program. Richard Byrd will use some of the books for the Reading buddies program, assisting children in need of extra reading practice.

**THE FINAL BOOKS** are donated to B.I.G., Books for International Goodwill, explains Perry. Through B.I.G. the books support their mission to send books “...to people

throughout the world...” per their website.

While the book sale is a deal with most materials priced at \$2 or less for like-new materials, it’s also a chance for people to “...see what other programs the library has that can help its visitors in both their personal and professional life,” says Perry.

The Richard Byrd Book Sale is open Dec. 1 - 3 during library hours.



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# 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.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 1

**Russell Theater at Robinson Secondary School** 7 p.m. 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Robinson High School Holiday Concert - Enjoy holiday tunes and the music of Bach, Mozart, and Bartok, as well as Dvorak's New World Symphony. Admission: Free. 703-426-2143

## 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



**John Hardy performing in "A Christmas Carol." 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 Rd, Lorton. Performance on Dec. 3, 2016 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 eighty minutes in one act. Appropriate for audiences of any age but best suited for ages ten and above.**

**Rex Dougherty and Daven Ralston in Hub Theatre's production of "The Magi." Performances will take place from Dec. 2-18 at The New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Show times: Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Call 1-800-494-8497 or visit [www.thehubtheatre.org](http://www.thehubtheatre.org)**

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HUB THEATRE

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)

**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.fairfaxcounty.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> for times and locations.

**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



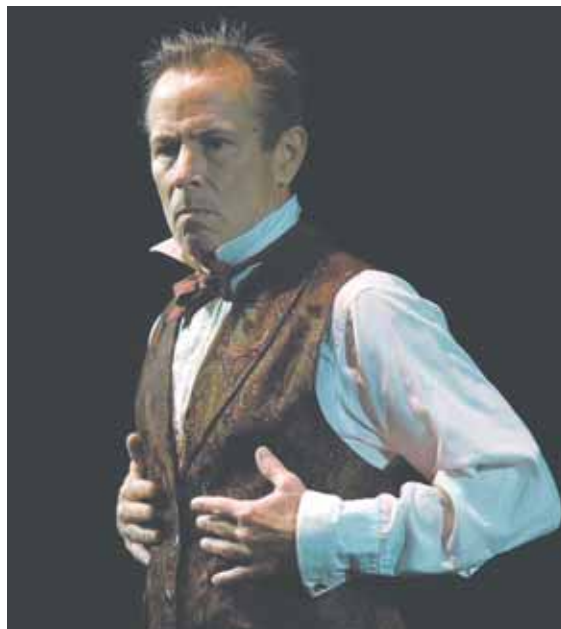
trip to Narnia. <http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org>  
**Holiday Book Sale** 10 - 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke, VA 22015. Peruse and shop a selection of gently used holiday-themed books collected by the Friends of the Burke Centre Library. Visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

**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> for times and locations.

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Train Show** 10 - 5 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host a train show with droves of model trains including models: Z, N, HO, LEGO, O, Standard, and G scales. Bring your broken locomotive to the "Train Doctor" for the good doctor to fix or advise you of your other options. Stop and admire the antique cars visiting for this event, weather permitting. Admission: Adults 16 and over - \$5; children 5 to 15- \$2; 4 and under - free; museum members - free. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) 703-425-9225.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 3

**Friends of Burke Centre Library Holiday & Gift Book Sale** 10 - 5 p.m. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

permitting. Admission: Adults 16 and over - \$5; children 5 to 15- \$2; 4 and under - free; museum members - free. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) 703-425-9225.

**Friends of Burke Centre Library Holiday & Gift Book Sale** 1 - 4 p.m. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Featuring holiday themed books for adults and kids along with books suitable for gift giving.

## MONDAY/DEC. 5

**Friends of Burke Centre Library Holiday & Gift Book Sale** 10 - 8 p.m. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Featuring holiday themed books for adults and kids along with books suitable for gift giving.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 6

**Hayfield Secondary High School Orchestra** 6 p.m. Springfield Town Center 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. <https://springfieldtowncenter.com/calendar/view/626>

**BHS Research Seminar** 7 - 9 p.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Expand your research with harder-to-find sources, through interlibrary loan, digitized book archives, and articles in various periodicals and scholarly journals. Presenter: Sharon Hodges. Register on the library website: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/) Admission: Free. [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com)

## THURSDAY/DEC. 8

**Annandale High School Band Performance** 6 - 8 p.m. Springfield Town Center 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. <https://springfieldtowncenter.com/calendar/view/626>

## SATURDAY/DEC. 10

**Lake Braddock Senior High Orchestra Performance** 10 - 2 p.m. Springfield Town Center 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. <https://springfieldtowncenter.com/calendar/view/626>

**Metropolitan School of the Arts and Santa's Frosty Follies** 4 p.m. & 5 p.m. Springfield Town Center 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. <https://springfieldtowncenter.com/calendar/view/626>

## THURSDAY/DEC. 8 - FRIDAY DEC. 9

**Tiny Tots Concert at Robinson Secondary School's Russell Theater** Thursday 10 a.m. Friday 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Great holiday fun for "kids from 1 to 92" Robinson High School's Symphonic Band plays holiday tunes and introduces the audience to different types of musical instruments while costumed characters make appearances: Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph and more. For group reservations contact Karen Ingle at [markarenin@verizon.net](mailto:markarenin@verizon.net).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 11

**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).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 4

**National Men's Chorus Presents Yeletide Carols with Debi Smith** 4 p.m. Providence Presbyterian Church 9019 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Debi Smith of The Birchmere will be singing with the chorus, and Tom Pandolfi will also be our featured pianist. Admission: \$20 at the door. Students and children free. Parking is Free. [nationalmenschorus.org](http://nationalmenschorus.org)

**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).

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Train Show** noon - 4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host a train show with droves of model trains including models: Z, N, HO, LEGO, O, Standard, and G scales. Bring your broken locomotive to the "Train Doctor" for the good doctor to fix or advise you of your other options. Stop and admire the antique cars visiting for this event, weather





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The ever-popular Thanksgiving Eve service at Temple B'nai Shalom included music performed by a mixed choir with representatives from both faith communities.

## Thirtieth Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service Held at Temple B'Nai Shalom

**T**emple B'nai Shalom in Fairfax Station and Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence in Burke held a 30th consecutive joint Thanksgiving Eve service Nov. 23 at the Jewish congregation's synagogue.

Each year the host alternates, with the visiting clergy offering the primary homily, sermon or holiday message.

The ever-popular service included music performed by a mixed choir with representatives from both faith communities.

Food donations were collected at the service that will go to the Lorton Community Action Center.

— TIM PETERSON



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, Rev. Meredith Keseley and Seminarian Heidi Eickstadt of Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence in Burke, and Rabbi Amy R. Perlin, D.D. and Rabbi Laura Rappaport, D.D. of Temple B'Nai Shalom in Fairfax Station, at the 30th consecutive joint Thanksgiving Eve service, held Nov. 23 at the Jewish congregation's synagogue.

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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Colorful elves strike a pose.



Rockin' reindeer take the stage.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA HELMS

# Getting into Holiday Spirit with Encore

**Musical extravaganza, 'Christmas Undercover,' takes the stage.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ust the thing to put people into the holiday spirit is "Christmas Undercover." Encore Theatrical Arts Project's song-and-dance extravaganza bursts upon the stage Dec. 9-18 at NOVA's Annandale campus.

"It's a really cute plot with a detective feel to it, plus Santa Claus," said Director Raynor van der Merwe. "There's a strong storyline that sets up beautiful vocal and dance numbers that further tell the story. It's a very entertaining show for the whole family. For two hours, the youngest to the oldest will be transported to a different world."

**IN NEW YORK CITY,** Northern Postal Service workers are actually undercover elves. While delivering packages throughout the city, they check on all the children and scan them to measure their level of Christmas spirit. Then they can determine whether to put them on Santa's naughty or nice list.

Marzipan, a young female elf, is on her first assignment and measures a girl named Noel with 0 percent Christmas spirit. And when Marzipan and the other elves return to the North Pole, they inadvertently bring Noel with them. But her presence causes havoc with the energy there. So the North Pole historian, played by Jack Stein, must figure out how to make things right.

"We have a beautiful, new, North Pole set that's gorgeous and breathtaking – including a revolving library," said van der Merwe. "Tabitha Dees has done an amazing job designing it. We have a 32-person cast, including three guest adults, and I'm so excited



Encore performers do a high-kicking dance number.

about the wonderful progress I've seen in my dancers this year. They've stepped it up to a whole, new level and inspire, challenge and reward me as a teacher."

Maya Tischler plays Marzipan. "She's an eccentric character who can get dejected when things aren't looking up," said Tischler. "But when someone says they can help her, she immediately perks up and becomes excited. And she has an easy time making friends."

Tischler's enjoying her role because "I can sometimes relate to Marzipan in real life, and I like her personality and how she enjoys talking to new people." Her favorite song is "Be a Santa" because "It's fun to dance and, in the storyline, Marzipan is trying out to become an undercover Santa and do new things."

She said the audience will love everything about this show. "The creativity, set, props, character development, colors and costumes all bring the story to life," said Tischler. "And people will especially like all the dance numbers."

Claire Griesse portrays Cookie, an undercover elf who "couldn't keep a job if her life depended on it," said Griesse. "But she also

keeps quitting jobs because she thinks her co-workers might be on to her. She's very anxious, but also super peppy and what you'd imagine an elf to be like – happy, kid-like and friendly."

Griesse's having a good time playing her because, in previous years, she played characters that weren't as uplifting. "But now I have humor in my part and get to be goofy, have fun onstage and make children laugh," she said.

She's also pleased about Encore's new, reindeer Rockette number to the song, "Here Comes Santa Claus." She said the reindeer costume is "really cute; and this year, we've added bells to it. And we really go for it and dance."

Aside from the great characters, this show has constant action and will surprise the audience. There's always something interesting happening onstage, and we have a great set and script. I'm excited, and I hope people will laugh – it's definitely a funny show."

Playing Holly, an undercover elf in New York, is Jenna Frisby. "She's the leader of the group; she's more mature and sarcastic and tries to keep order," said Frisby. "She's

## To Go

Show times are:

Friday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.;  
Saturday, Dec. 10, at noon, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.;  
Sunday, Dec. 11, at noon and 3:30 p.m.;  
Friday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m.;  
Saturday, Dec. 17, at noon, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.;  
Sunday, Dec. 18, at noon and 3:30 p.m.

Performances are in NOVA's Richard Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Tickets are \$19-26 at the door or via [www.Encore-tap.org](http://www.Encore-tap.org). For more information, call 703-222-5511.

very take-charge and tries to solve problems and help the other elves get out of tricky situations. They're optimistic, but she's more realistic."

"She's different than the typical elf character because she's so witty, so I really enjoy playing her," continued Frisby. "And I like being the leader; it's fun bossing the other elves around."

**HER FAVORITE NUMBER** is "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" because it's like a waltz and she gets to show her ballet technique – "which is one of my strengths," said Frisby. "And the costumes are pretty and flowy. I wear a red-mesh, halter dress that flares out when I turn, and the other elves are in long gowns."

She said the audience will enjoy seeing "the journey these elves go on. There are a lot of funny moments, and the audience will recognize the traditional Christmas songs."

Portraying Noel is 11-year-old Ella Abramovich. Describing Noel as "energetic, talkative, happy and joyful," Ella said her character is upbeat and smiley, all the time. "She's like my personality, so she's easy to play," she said. And Ella especially likes the song, "He's Got a List," because "It's all about children giving their letters to Santa, and everybody's singing and happy."

Overall, she said audience members "will like seeing how everything works out in the end, and the happiness and the switch in scenes from New York to the North Pole. They'll actually feel as if they're there. People should definitely come see this show."



12

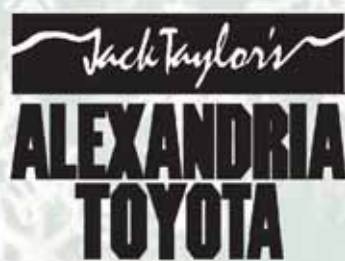
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**Katherine Hough**, Fairfax Station, has been  
awarded the Boeing Scholarship for outstanding  
academic achievement in the Volgenau School of  
Engineering at George Mason University.

**Vocal musicians from 12 Fairfax County  
public schools** have been named to the Virginia  
Honors Choir for 2016. This select choir is open  
only to the top 125 singers from around the Com-  
monwealth of Virginia, and is the highest honor a  
choir student can attain during his or her high  
school career. Thirty-one Fairfax County Public  
Schools (FCPS) students were selected for the  
choir, and five students were named as alternates.  
The choir will perform at the Virginia Music Edu-  
cators Association (VMEA) convention to be held  
at the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Nov.  
17-19. FCPS students named to the 2016 Virginia  
Honors Choir include the following students from  
our area schools: **Woodson High School:**  
Megan Humes, Caroline Grass, Jacob Lamb, Lucas  
Valdes, and Marc Manaloto and **Hayfield Sec-  
ondary School:** Jessica Pressley.

**Jonathan Whittington, Kathryn Herring,  
Emma Zettlemoyer**, of Springfield; **Bridget  
Ray and Kirsten Chase**, of Burke; received  
\$2,000 scholarships from the Scholarship for Mili-  
tary Children Program in July 2016.

**Jane Gibbins-Harding**, of Springfield, was  
named to the dean's list at Bethany College for  
spring 2016.

U.S. Air Force Airman **Brian A. Zamfino**  
graduated from basic military training at Joint Base  
San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.  
Zamfino is the son of Joanne and Joseph Zamfino  
of Springfield. He is a 2015 graduate of West  
Springfield High School.

**Thomas Miskimins**, of Fairfax, graduated  
with a master of arts, in Spring 2016 from the  
University of New Haven.

**Jordan Ecker**, of Fairfax, is on the spring 2016  
dean's list at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cit-  
ies.

**Caroline Dickson**, of Fairfax, is on the spring  
2016 dean's list at the University of Maine-Orono.  
Allison Righter Moore, and Sarah Ann Hughes  
Cushing-Spiller, of Springfield, is on the dean's list  
at Hollins University, for the 2016 spring semester.

**James Butler**, a Lake Braddock Secondary  
School graduate, was inducted into the Naval  
Academy Class of 2020 on June 30, 2016.

**Kyle Austin Walsh**, of Fairfax, and **Abigail  
Lynn Lackey**, of Springfield, were named to the  
honors list for the 2016 spring 2016 semester at  
Averett University in Danville.

**Katherine Marie Hough**, of Fairfax Station,  
is on the dean's list at George Mason University for  
spring 2016.

**Anna Kormis**, of Springfield, graduated from  
Emory and Henry College in spring 2016.

**Kyle Austin Walsh**, of Fairfax, graduated from  
Averett University in June 2016. was among the  
261 students to receive diplomas during Averett  
University's May 7 Commencement,

**Megan R. Seymour, Megan F. Cummins,  
Thomas S. Cohen**, of Fairfax, **Joshua D.  
Harlowe, Samantha E. Kinde, Melissa A.  
Schwartz**, of Springfield; **Sean C. Baird**, of  
Fairfax Station; graduated from Boston University  
in spring 2016.

**Helene J. Decosse, Alexis J. Fahrney, Jes-  
sica M. Ochoa**, of Fairfax, are on the dean's list  
at Boston University for spring 2016.

**Seth Lehman, Thet San**, of Fairfax, graduated  
from Furman University in spring 2016.

**Luke Hartman, Natalie Heinitz**, of Spring-  
field, graduated from Manhattan College in spring  
2016.

**Maria Larrazabal Carrillo**, of Fairfax is on  
the dean's list for May 2016 at Iowa State.

**Kayse McGough** of Fairfax is on the dean's list  
for May 2016 at St. Mary's College.

**Jared Rondeau** of Clifton, graduated May  
2016 Triple Major in Physics, Mathematics, and  
Chemistry from Emory and Henry College.

**Moriah Dreisbach**, of Fairfax, is on Union  
University's president's list for spring 2016.

**Irene Martinko**, of Springfield, is on the  
spring 2016 dean's list at Muhlenberg College in  
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**James F. Agnew, Kyle T. Deivert and  
Nathaniel Oliver**, of Fairfax, are on the dean's  
list at Hampden-Sydney College.

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## SPORTS

# Bumped, Bruised, Better

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**B**ill Vitaletti of Springfield had fractured his jaw in three places, broken a bone in his eye socket, chipped a tooth and cracked two other teeth that would eventually have to be pulled.

But he didn't know any of that at the time. What he knew was he still had at least 20 miles left to bike and 26.2 miles to run before completing his first Ironman triathlon.

"I didn't want to let myself down," Vitaletti said. "I'd been working for so long. To stop, felt like admitting defeat. I didn't want that. I have family, different people going through hard times. I wanted to show them, you can take bumps and bruises along the way."

That was in Cambridge, Md. in October this year. More than three years ago, at age 57, Vitaletti left his job at CACI. A workaholic, 35 pounds overweight, he said he wanted to do something different, "something for me this time."



**Coming up to the "gauntlet" home stretch, Bill Vitaletti of Springfield grabbed a pair of Maryland state flags and unfurled them as he ran across the finish of his first Ironman triathlon.**

**VITALETTI** was once an All-American backstroker for the State University of New York at Oneonta. He got back in the pool at South Run RECenter. His neighbor convinced him to take up running. When he went too hard too fast and injured himself, the neighbor encouraged him to get on the stationary bike to recover.

While on the bike at South Run,

Vitaletti began meeting and talking with people. He was motivated to sign up for road races, including the George Washington Parkway Classic and Cherry Blossom ten-milers. He built up to the Marine Corps Marathon, which he ran four times.

Then someone suggested Vitaletti try out triathlon, as he was working on all three disci-

## Springfield man recovers from mid-race Ironman accident.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Left, Bill Vitaletti and his Ironman "sherpa" and training partner Susan Calhoun (center) pose with the race director of the October Ironman Maryland.**

plines anyway. A friend from South Run and triathlon veteran Frank Castro helped him work out a plan for working up to triathlon's toughest race: the Ironman.

Starting from the shortest distance, the sprint, moving up to Olympic, then half-Ironman and on to full Ironman (a consecutive 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.2-mile run), "It all clicked," Vitaletti said.

In 2015, Vitaletti participated in his first half-Ironman. He wasn't out to beat anyone, just finish. This year at a half-Ironman in May, he wanted to go faster.

Helping him get faster was an informal training group that formed at South Run, novices of various ages. Susan Calhoun of Fairfax Station is one of them.

"Bill is very determined," she said, "it's very inspirational to watch him put so much effort into something."

"He just has so much knowledge, he's very good at giving some advice, a lot of people come up to him," Calhoun added.

Together, the group signed up to do triathlons at Quantico and in Washington, D.C.

"It's definitely not a single-person initiative," Vitaletti said.

For his Ironman, Calhoun and Castro were his "sherpas," helping sort out gear and eating logistics for him.

Vitaletti was going strong until around the 80-mile mark on the bike ride: He glanced over his shoulder to let some riders pass him and didn't see the pothole coming up in front. The front tire blew completely and Vitaletti was thrown from the bike, face first down to the pavement.

A support vehicle saw the accident and came to render aid immediately. They called an ambulance and began doing repairs on

his bicycle as well.

Vitaletti said he remembers being "stunned" by the crash, but then asking the paramedics who strapped him to a gurney "What are we doing here?"

**THE MEDICS** recommended Vitaletti go to a hospital for full diagnostics, and it occurred to him that meant not finishing the race. Not getting to see Castro, Calhoun, or his brother- and sister-in-law who had driving up to Cambridge from the Washington, D.C. area to cheer for him at the finish line.

"What do I have? What are my vitals?" Vitaletti asked the medics. Upon hearing that those were surprisingly stable, he asked, "How's my bike?"

The repair team had gotten Vitaletti's bike rideable again, and with a makeshift chin-sling holding his jaw in place, he took off to finish the race.

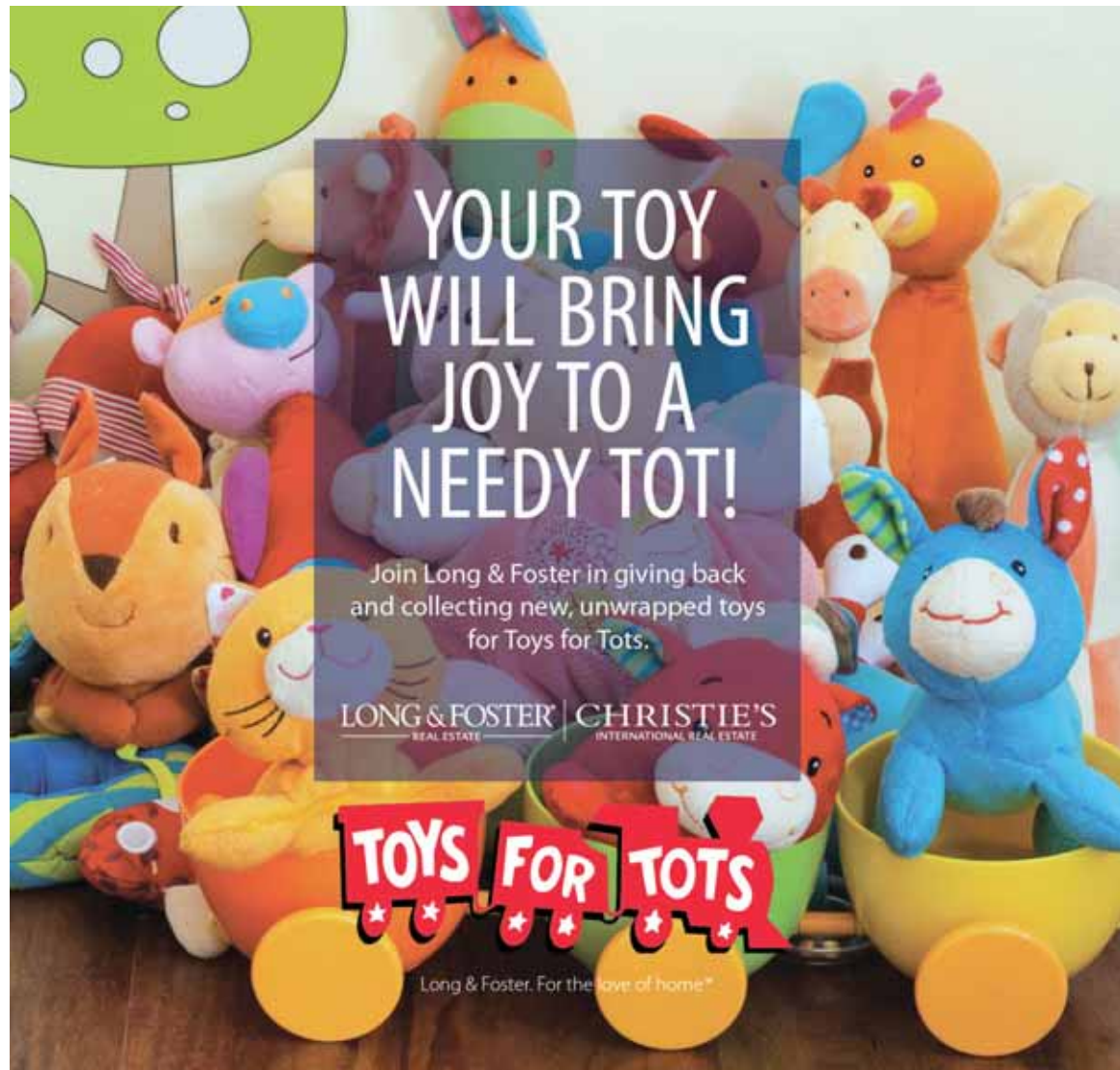
Fighting off considerable pain the rest of the way, Vitaletti drew strength and motivation from his sherpas at checkpoints and other racers, including a man who asked to pray with him for at least 15 minutes of running.

Coming up to the "gauntlet" home stretch, Vitaletti grabbed a pair of Maryland state flags and unfurled them as he ran across the finish.

"I wanted to finish with joy," he said. "I was overcome with joy, not just that I finished, but it was a climax of all that work. I was so hyped up to do this."

Calhoun is now signed up for her first half-marathon. She'll be training with Vitaletti and the group as he prepares for his second Ironman next year in Lake Placid, N. Y.

"With a lot of determination, and a little bit of crazy," Calhoun said, "anything's possible."



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