



Fairfax CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Santa surprised children all over Fairfax County by visiting schools on Dec. 13, driving a Fairfax County Police Department motorcycle.

Sleigh Ride

NEWS, PAGE 9

City Stalls Decision On University Drive

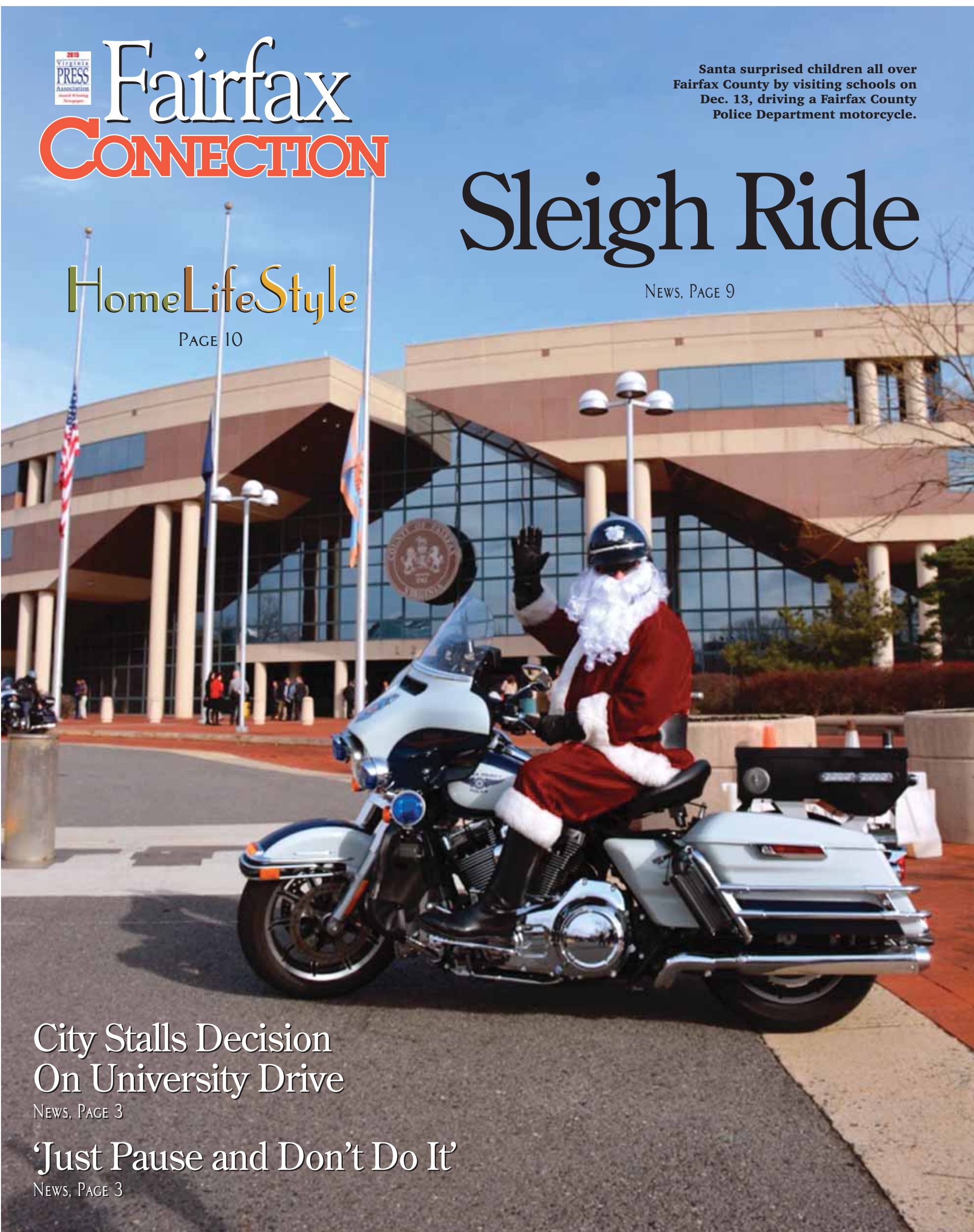
NEWS, PAGE 3

'Just Pause and Don't Do It'

NEWS, PAGE 3

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



DECEMBER 15-21, 2016

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City Stalls Decision on University Drive

Council to mull community's comments, get more information.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

During November and December, Fairfax City Council held work sessions and community-out reach meetings on the proposed extension of University Drive from Fairfax Boulevard to Eaton Place. The goal was to glean as much information as possible about this project, explain it to the residents and obtain their input.

This roadway extension is recommended in the City's Comprehensive Plan as part of an expanded roadway grid to provide more travel routes and better connectivity within the Northfax area. And the City has already received nearly \$10 million for its construction via federal, Smart Scale funding.

The work would include new sidewalks, on-road bike lanes, lighting, landscaping and the reconstruction of the traffic signal at the intersection of University Drive and Fairfax Boulevard. And at Tuesday night's (Dec. 13) public hearing, City Council was to vote whether to proceed with this



This proposed grid network for Northfax may or may not be needed.

project's preliminary engineering.

Instead, after 29 residents – the vast majority in opposition – spoke about it, the Council decided it needed more time to consider the community's comments, see if a grid network in Northfax is really needed and obtain more information about its options.

IT THEN DEFERRED further discussion until Jan. 24. And that date's significant because three of the Council members – David Meyer, Michael DeMarco and Ellie

Schmidt – are running for mayor in the Feb. 7 special election. So their actions concerning this issue could well have an impact on the outcome.

"Is the grid network there still relevant, and do we need the intensity of roads there?" asked Councilman Jeff Greenfield. "I don't support an extension of University Drive that allows more cars going south on University."

"We need to sift through the information we've received [from the community] and review it," added Councilwoman Janice

Miller. "We need additional information before we decide to accept this grant."

During the Nov. 1 meeting, Community Development and Planning Director Brooke Hardin said Northfax currently has no internal streets, so all vehicle trips there happen on Chain Bridge Road, Eaton Place or Fairfax Boulevard. "There are about 700,000 square feet of office space, 282 hotel rooms and 1.5 million square feet of commercial space in this area – and all that traffic relies on three roads."

He said the road extension would be two lanes, with turn lanes on each side leading to Eaton and Fairfax Boulevard. And there could either be a median or a roundabout centrally located between those two streets.

The planned roadway alignment would travel through part of the existing Fairfax Shopping Center and car dealership, so \$7.5 million of the project total would be for right-of-way acquisition from two, private property owners. And once the City signs a project agreement with VDOT, the state will reimburse all further design costs.

According to a September traffic study, on northbound University Drive at Fairfax Boulevard, all the turn movements would see additional vehicle queuing, but the only significant increase would be for right turns in the afternoon rush.

To address safety issues on University Drive, the City has already installed ad

SEE UNIVERSITY DRIVE, PAGE 4

'Just Pause and Don't Do It' Passionate sentiment on both sides of the issue.

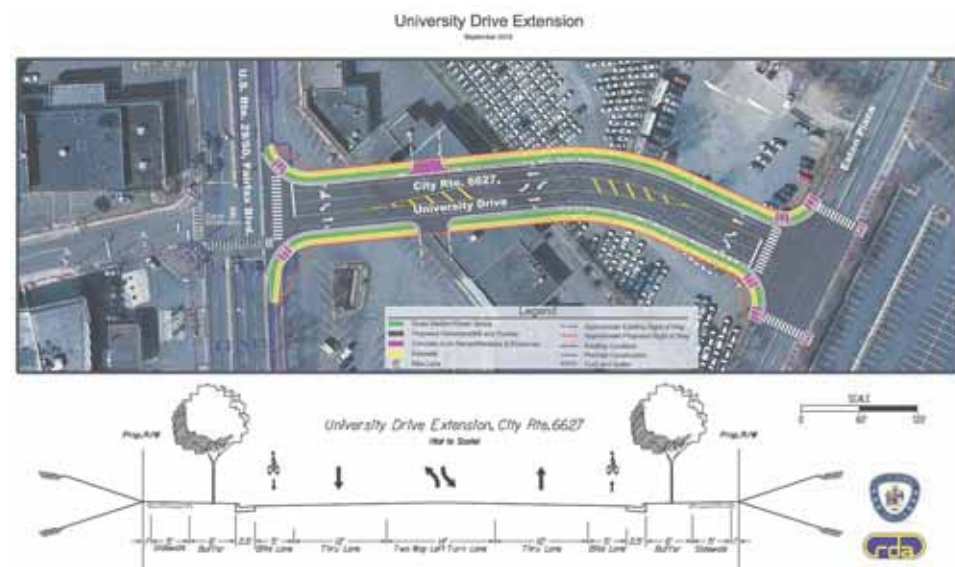
BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The City's proposal to extend University Drive has sparked strong feelings in Fairfax residents. They spoke both for and against it at the Nov. 1 community outreach meeting and before the Nov. 8 City Council meeting. But most of the speakers during Tuesday night's public hearing were firmly opposed.

"It will have an adverse effect on the University Drive neighborhood," said Diane Henn. "It will turn our neighborhood street into a highway and a shortcut for north-south commuters."

"University is a narrow, residential road, and this extension would endanger people's lives," said Robert Orr. "People cross University to get to Van Dyke Park or the Sherwood Center, all the time." Matt Baird said the extra traffic would drive down their property values, and he also worried about the children playing along University and people walking their dogs there.

In November, University Drive resident Bob Kemp said traffic's already increased in that area. "I estimate an accident happens there once a month," he said. "People blow through the stop sign in my



The proposed road alignment at 10 percent of the design work.

section of the road, so there's a safety concern. And this will bring even more traffic. Many homeowners have several cars which have to be parked on the street and will be hit."

However, neighbor Betsy Bicknell favored the extension. "I'd love an alternative route to head north on [Route] 123," she said. "I support this to encourage better redevelopment in the Fairfax Shopping Center to

increase our tax base."

Tom Ross wanted it for economic reasons "so the homeowners don't have to pay higher property taxes or receive reduced City services. This roadway is critical to ensuring Northfax's future success to provide the type of economic development the City desperately needs. There'd be cut-through traffic, but ways to minimize it and slow it down."

Yet noting the other redevelopment projects already happening in the City, Chris Dominic said 1,500 more cars on University Drive would be a huge impact. And Audrey Sandhusen was "deeply concerned about the gridlock that already occurs at University Drive and Fairfax Boulevard, especially at rush hour. I can't see putting a main road through that shopping center and moving where the gridlock occurs."

Agreeing, Virginia Gerard said, "People can't get through Eaton [Place] now to get to 123 at rush hour. You can't turn left at Fairfax Boulevard and University; and half the time, you can't turn left onto [Route] 50 to get to University Drive, so you'll have traffic backing up. It's going to be worse than it is now at some of those intersections."

Kelly Schultz said the project will yield more cars on Fairfax Boulevard, University and Eaton and "there'd be delays on Eaton. The costs would outweigh the very limited benefits." And former City Mayor John Mason urged the Council not to make a hasty decision "until a workable plan is in place."

University Drive resident Karen Vincent said that road is their neighborhood drive. "There's speeding and no

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 5



The City's future land-use plan for Northfax.

University Drive Decision Postponed

FROM PAGE 3

vance-warning signs at both ends of the crosswalk, mid-crosswalk signs on University and a new stop sign on southbound University at Stratford Avenue. And staff further proposes constructing the missing sidewalk link on the west side of University between Stratford and Wood Road and building bump outs – to make pedestrians more visible to drivers – at the University/Ford Road intersection.

During the Nov. 8 work session, Councilman David Meyer called the way University intersects with Eaton “problematic. We don’t want to do something that makes traffic worse. I’d be hard-pressed to give an affirmative vote to move forward with this project because the overall approach to the Northfax site hasn’t yet been decided.” Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt asked if on-street parking could go on the new stretch of University. “Possibly, if the roundabout’s not there,” replied Transportation Director Wendy Block Sanford. “And it can’t be near the intersections with Eaton Place and Fairfax Boulevard.”

“I’m in favor of an internal roadway network at Northfax, but I’m not sure this is the right road for it,” said Schmidt. “I’m concerned about the amount of traffic it would create.”

Councilman Michael DeMarco said it’s important to have access to that site from both University and Eaton. And, he added, “I like on-street parking for University to reduce its speed. And unless we’re willing to commit some money to building the road connection, the development’s not going to come.”

Mayor Steve Stombres said Whole Foods 365 – a smaller, new

concept of this store – is considering locating in the shopping center. “It’s a coup for the City to attract such a reputable, national chain,” he said. “That type of tenant would be the catalyst for what we want to have in this community – and something that would attract millennials. If we say no, we may get something worse than is there now.”

Councilwoman Janice Miller asked if the City could re-apply for the Smart Scale funding for this project in the future, if it cancelled it now, and Sanford said probably not. But Tuesday night, she said it could.

DURING THE DEC. 6 work session, Councilman Jon Stehle noted that Fairfax applied for the Smart Scale funds to start moving forward with a road grid system. “And if we walk away from the \$10 million we received, we won’t get it back,” he said. “So we should find a way to make this work.”

“If we didn’t go forward, could we use these funds for another project?” asked Schmidt.

“No; the funds would go back into the Smart Scale funding pool,” replied Sanford. “The City has spent about \$30,000 on this project so far. At the 30-percent design stage, we’d have to submit our plans, and then VDOT will give us more specific input.”

By the 60-percent design stage, added Public Works Director David Summers, some \$200,000 will have been spent. At that point, Council would hold a design public hearing and authorize the project’s completion. But if it then backed out, the City would have to reimburse VDOT for all the expended federal funds.

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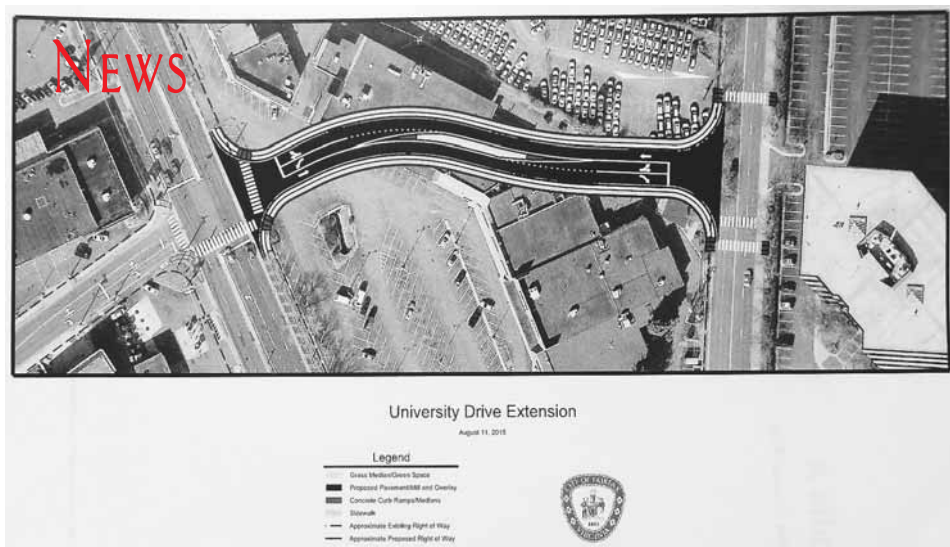
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The proposed road alignment at 10 percent of the design work.

Residents Debate University Drive Extension

FROM PAGE 3

place to park,” she said. “Some mornings, it takes three minutes to get out of my driveway, and it’s backed up past the stop sign. I don’t see how this [extension] benefits the residents.”

Former City Councilwoman Nancy Loftus called the extension unnecessary and objected to the \$7.5 million right-of-way cost “to put in a road that may or may not bring the development we want.” She also preferred the shopping-center developer build the road, himself.

Robert McFerry feared the extension would send cut-through traffic down the nearby neighborhoods. And Jim Worthing said additional traffic on University “will make things worse at the Eaton/Route 123 intersection – and it’s already unsafe there.”

Amy Anspach, who gathered 231 signatures on a petition opposing the project, said the renderings show parking on both sides of the road, “But there’s not space for it. And the kids who use the crosswalk and go by foot and bike to school should be the number-one concern. Cars speed and go through traffic lights there on a regular basis, and this will bring a significant amount of traffic onto our street.”

Furthermore, she said, “The project cost is enormous, and putting a street through an area doesn’t make it more walkable. We should remove this extension so the shopping center can develop a better project. Putting in a road with heavy traffic isn’t good for biking, and a roundabout isn’t, either.”

Anspach said the pre-2014 average accident rate there was four per year, but the 2014 increase in traffic volume tripled that number. “If all evidence shows a negative impact to area traffic [from the extension], then how can this qualify for Smart Scale funding which is intended for road improvement?” she asked. “And traffic turning into shopping centers from the extension will also contribute to gridlock.”

She also wondered how much it would cost the City to improve the Route 123/Eaton intersection resulting from the cut-through. Besides, added Anspach, “If the area is intended to be highly walkable, parking access off Eaton and Route 50 should be sufficient to provide mobility by foot.

Improving mobility by car seems contrary to the objective of a walkable center.”

Meanwhile, representing Fairfax City Citizens for Smarter Growth, Douglas Stewart urged the City to proceed with the project. “[It] has significant benefits for smart growth, traffic circulation and economic development in Fairfax City,” he said. “The University Drive extension is central to the creation of a street grid for Northfax ... and more compact, walkable blocks [there].”

Stewart called receiving Smart Scale funding for this project, with no local matching funds required, a “victory” for the City. “There’s a great need for infrastructure improvements and a scarcity of available funds,” he said. “To cancel the project and return these funds would be, in our view, fiscally irresponsible. We’re also concerned about the message this would send to the state and whether it could negatively affect the City’s ability to compete for future transportation funds.”

But most of Tuesday night’s speakers said the project wasn’t worth doing. “It’ll be difficult crossing a two-lane road,” said Al Goring. “And a 25-30-percent increase in traffic isn’t insignificant.” Rob Higginbotham said University shouldn’t be a cut-through to Eaton and I-66, and Council should eliminate the plan’s road connection to Eaton.

Nancy Young said the University/Ford Road intersection has a three-way stop that drivers ignore. “I walk my dog into the park daily and children cross there to get to the park and schools,” she said. “And people already go through the stop sign there; it’s very dangerous.”

To prevent cut-through traffic, said Alan Souder, “Think only right turns entering and exiting [the shopping center]. This [proposal] is premature and not ready for primetime.” And Hal Creel said working with the community first, devising a plan and then seeking funding would have been better.

Agreeing, Nancy Wylie told the Council, “You’re voting on this extension to promote the shopping center, but I haven’t heard the plan for that center. And what are the benefits in extending this road? What I’ve heard tonight is ‘danger,’ so just pause and don’t do it.”

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History in Police Reform Part 2

Civilian Review Panel — and they said it couldn't be done

Last week, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to establish a Civilian Review Panel, part of a two-pronged concept of independent oversight of law enforcement recommended unanimously by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

On Sept. 20, 2016, the board voted to establish the Office of the Independent Auditor, the other piece of oversight. The two branches of oversight would not overlap.

The Independent Police Auditor will report directly to the Board of Supervisors and provide oversight in cases of police use of force that lead to serious injury or death, including officer-involved shootings. The Civilian Review Panel will respond to community concerns or complaints about alleged incidents of abuse of authority by FCPD by reviewing the investigations conducted by the department.

The vote by the Board of Supervisors for the Office of Auditor was unanimous, and for the Civilian Review Panel, 9-1, indicating the strong commitment to independent oversight and the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission. The experiences from other communities with civilian oversight have shown that strong, independent oversight builds legitimacy and public trust through increased police transparency and accountability to the public served. Oversight provides a meaningful voice or forum for the public and forms a crucial bridge between the public and the police. Increased transparency, trust, and communication between the police and the public

can lead to greater community cooperation in achieving the ultimate goal of decreased crime and increased public safety.

This very positive outcome seemed nearly impossible in the wake of the death of John Geer in August 2013, shot by then Fairfax Police Officer Adam Torres while standing unarmed in the doorway to his own home. Officials had long opposed consideration of a Civilian Review Panel.

Board of Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova deserves tremendous kudos, first for establishing the Ad Hoc Commission in the wake of public outrage over the shooting and the blackout of information that followed, and then for her unwavering support of the recommendations that emerged.

EDITORIAL

In voting for the Civilian Review Panel, Supervisor Linda Smyth said: "We all know it's time to put this in place. This is what the public has really asked us to do."

John Cook (R-Braddock), chairman of the Public Safety Committee, has been relentless in moving the recommendations forward for discussion and approval by the board. Having both the auditor and the panel approved in 2016 is no small accomplishment.

The recommendations for oversight also have the enthusiastic support of Police Chief Edwin Roessler, whose support overall for change in the FCPD has been admirable and essential.

Every member of the Board of Supervisors deserves credit for engaging on the details and supporting recommendations of the commission.

Other changes brought about by the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations include the implementation of Diversion First, which provides treatment rather than jail for nonviolent people with mental illness, resulting in some 350 diversions from potential criminal arrest, and in police transporting more than 1,000

tose, and subsequently died on Feb. 8, 2015. Commonwealth Attorney Ray Morrogh declined to press any charges against the deputies, and Kincaid kept them on staff. And so McKenna's family has not seen any justice for the death of their daughter and mother.

On Aug. 15, 2016, one of the same sheriff's deputies, Patrick McPartlin, also shot and killed Jovany Martinez, a 29-year-old Latino man, outside of the Inova Fairfax Hospital where he had just been released. Again, no charges have been filed.

Various initiatives claim to improve Fairfax policing and incarceration practices, including Diversion First and the Civilian Review Board. However, neither of these initiatives makes real substantive change. The Diversion First program is underfunded, understaffed, and only available at the discretion of the police, rather than based on any neutral assessment process. This is despite the fact that Police Chief Ed Roessler admits that "The majority of our use-of-force incidents are with those suffering mental health crisis". The Civilian Review Board

has no power to investigate, ask direct ques-

people in mental health crisis to the Merrifield Center for treatment; an emphasis on de-escalation and on crisis intervention training; the revamping of the order of officer training to emphasize the role of policing in a democracy and the sanctity of life ahead of firearms training; and the significant amendment of General Order 540 on the use of force. The FCPD has been a leading force in these changes, and its leadership has played a pivotal role in seeking out and implementing best practices.

There are still miles to go, but evidence is that county and police leadership are prepared to traverse those miles.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and continues to advocate for ongoing implementation.

SoberRide Safety Net for Holiday Celebrations

The annual Holiday SoberRide program, offering free rides home to locals over 21 who have been celebrating with alcohol, will operate between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. each evening between Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 and Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period. SoberRide is organized by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Project. Area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$ 30 fare), safe way home. Last December, nearly 1,500 people took advantage of the program.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at www.soberride.com.

tions, or engage in any disciplinary process, but rather can only make recommendations to the Chief of Police, who may then chose to respond or ignore those recommendations.

Given the toothless responses to the deaths of Natasha McKenna and Jovany Martinez, and the positive spin in Fairfax County's series, it's difficult to avoid the conclusion that this propaganda is meant to distract the public of Fairfax county from the real and dangerous problems facing people of color and people with mental illnesses in our policing system.

(<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2016/feb/16/diversion-first-program-launched/>)

and the Washington Post reports that "more than 40 percent of of use-of-force cases [by Fairfax County Police] involved African Americans, who make up only 8 percent of the county's population."

Until the county and the sheriff's office focus on people rather than PR, we will see more of these tragic encounters with law enforcement.

Karen Wolf
Fairfax



FAITH

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

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

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

The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

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

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or 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.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., Latin mass at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Additional mass offered Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. (except on Federal holidays) and 8:45 a.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

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

RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is for people interested in becoming Catholic or learning about the Catholic Church.

RCIA classes are held on Tuesdays beginning September 15 and continuing through April. The classes are usually from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm and they meet in the Guadalupe Room in the Parish Hall, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A group will begin meeting every Wednesday starting September. Sessions are in the Old Parish Hall. All are welcome. Contact Carolyn Smith at 703-273-5369 or carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at 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.

Burke Farmers Market will be open Saturdays 8 a.m. - noon until December 17, 2016 <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/vagrown/pdf/producechart.pdf>

Bob Brown Puppets Holiday Show 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr, Fairfax. Join the City of Fairfax every Monday morning at 10:30am for Funday Monday. Funday Monday will offer a variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Hall. Admission: Free. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. 703-385-7858

www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts

'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 Nov. 23 - Jan. 8 7700 Bull Run Dr. Centreville. 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 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 Cost: \$8 children, \$12 adults.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HUB THEATRE

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

On Saturday Dec.17 the Fishburne Military School will host an Education Fair from 9 - 1 p.m. at the Marriott at Fair Oaks 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Fishburne Military School invites students and their families to stop by to learn more about the benefits of a military school education. Admission: Free. www.fishburne.org

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 703-524-3739

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. 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.

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 or 703-499-6133.

EXERCISE PROGRAM Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. 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.

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. 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



PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOG/COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

The Herdman kids in Providence Players production of 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.' From left — front: Jack Wright who plays Ralph, Aerial Indirisano as Ollie, Nora Rice who plays Imogene; back - Gavin Friel as Claude, Erika Friel who plays, Gladys, Kashvi Ramani as Loretta. Shows will take place from Dec. 9 to Dec. 18 at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 2 p.m. matinees on Dec. 17 and 18, 2016. Tickets on-line at www.providenceplayers.org or call 703-425-6782.

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/>

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

\$5 Jewelry and Accessory Sale INOVA Fair Oaks Hospital Auxiliary 8 - 4 p.m. In the Hospital Atrium 3600 Joseph Siewick Dr, Fairfax. All proceeds benefit Inova Fair Oaks Hospital. This sale is Open to the Public. Credit Card or Cash will be accepted.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

Two Percent Teen Pregnancy Center Holiday Kick Off Event 6 - 11 p.m. The Bungalow Alehouse 2840 Prince William Pkwy, Woodbridge. Be ready for an evening filled with food, drinks, music, dancing, and vendors for those last minute Holiday gifts, desserts, games, silent auction and so much more. Dress is black tie/holiday best. Perfect for date night or just an evening with the girls. Tickets are available at <https://www.eventnation.co/event/TPPHoliday>.

To learn more about this new teen pregnancy initiative visit Two Percent Project's website at www.twopercentproject.org or contact them via email at

teenpregnancyresource@gmail.com

Family Fun Movie Nights – The Secret Life of Pets 7 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Looking for something FREE and fun for your family to do on a Friday night? How about a family-friendly movie on the new state-of-the-art big screen? Each movie is rated PG. An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 14.

"Britepaths" Food Drive at Family Fun Nights. Britepaths is a volunteer-based organization that identifies and addresses the unmet fundamental needs of Fairfax area residents. Food can be dropped off at the Sherwood Center on the evening of the Family Fun Nights between 7 - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Fishburne Education Fair 9 - 1 p.m. Marriott at Fair Oaks 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Fishburne Military School comes to Fairfax. FMS invites students and their families to stop by to learn more about the benefits of a military school education. Admission: Free. www.fishburne.org

Celtic Holiday Concert & Candlelight Carols 4:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Celtic musicians playing hammered dulcimer, accordion, harp-guitar, Irish flute, guitar; with the St. Andrew's choirs. Reception follows;

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

childcare provided. Admission: Free. 703-455-2500. www.standrews.net
Christmas, Candles, and a Chorus - The City of Fairfax Band & The Fairfax Choral Society Ticket holders will be admitted, starting at 6:15 p.m. After 6:45 p.m. non-ticket holders will be admitted to take unclaimed seats. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Get your tickets early for Fairfax's most popular holiday concert, presented free by the City of Fairfax Band and the Fairfax Choral Society Adult Chorus. This annual tradition entertains capacity crowds with sacred and secular musical offerings that make Christmas in Fairfax special. Pre-concert activities include a chance for kids to give Santa Claus their last-minute Christmas lists. Admission: Free, but tickets are required - and they go fast. Visit fairfaxband.org

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Christmas Bird Count 7 a.m. - noon Birders of all skill levels are invited to participate in the 35th Annual Manassas-Bull Run Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV). Cost: Free. www.audubonva.org
Special Holiday Service at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church 10 a.m. 9301 Richmond Hwy Lorton. This service originated in Victorian England in the 1880s as a series of scripture readings interspersed with Advent and Christmas carols, hymns and choral anthems, tracing God's love from the creation of man and woman in the Garden of Eden, through the annunciation and birth of the Christ Child. <http://www.pohick.org/>

MONDAY/DEC. 19

Bob Brown Puppets Holiday Show 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr, Fairfax. Join the City of Fairfax every Monday morning at 10:30am for Funday Monday. Funday Monday will offer a variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Hall. Admission: Free & Parking. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts

TUESDAY/DEC. 20

Fairfax High School Winter Concert 7 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Fairfax High School Choral and Orchestra Department present a performance of Christmas tunes. Bring an unwrapped gift for a child to donate to the Toys for Tots drive. Cost: Free 703-219-2355; fhschorus.net

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 21

Person Centered Dementia Care 1 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Keeping their current abilities in mind, join us for this free class to learn ways to keep your loved one active and engaged in personalized activities. Contact Christi Clark, christi.clark@insightmcc.org, 703-204-4664, InsightMCC.org.
Blue Christmas at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church. 7:30 p.m. 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. A Blue Christmas service is a special time when we can remove ourselves from the hustle of Christmas and share some quiet time for reflection. It is especially dedicated to those who may not enjoy the season or find joy in this season because of loss or illness or depression. Do you feel more like sitting in a chair than



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Santa, Mrs. Claus, Frosty and reindeer were joined by Fairfax County supervisors and Police Department motorcycle officers after visiting schools around the county as part of a toy donation campaign on Dec. 13.

Sleigh Ride

Mounted FCPD officers escort Santa to Fairfax County Public Schools.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Santa surprised children all over Fairfax County by visiting schools on Dec. 13, driving a Fairfax County Police Department motorcycle.

celebrating and partying? Maybe this is the first Christmas after losing someone significant in your life or having gone through significant life changes. The Blue Christmas service is for you. It is a time of reflection with music, candles, and prayer to help us get through the darkest night of the year. Cost: Free. 703-451-8223. Sydenstrickerumc.org

Plan Ahead Events

SATURDAY/DEC. 31- SUN/JAN. 1, 12:30 A.M.

Atlaa New Year's Eve Tennis Party 7 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. Fairfax Racquet Club 9860 Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Fairfax Racquet Club invites you to play singles/ doubles tennis with all levels welcome to participate. ATLAA is offering healthy dinner, soft drinks, and a Champagne Toast for New Year. You may bring your own beer/ wine if you would prefer to do so.

TUESDAY/JAN. 3

S.T.E.A.M. 2 p.m. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Each month we will focus on one of these

SUNDAY/DEC. 25

5th Annual Christmas Day Giving Back Event 1 - 5 p.m. Kilroys Ravensworth Shopping Center 5236 Port Royal Road, Springfield. Volunteers needed join us in saying thank you to our veterans and deployed service members for their service and sacrifices. We will be packing care packages and letters to our veterans. www.americasadoptsoldier.org

subjects with stories and activities appropriate for preschoolers. Age 4-5 with adult. Visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 4

Read Build Play 10:30 a.m. Let's read a story, build with DUPLOs, and play with friends! Have fun with your little one while building early literacy skills. Age 3-5 with adult child minder. Visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

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DECEMBER

12/14/2016.....HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays

12/21/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment
& Gift Guide III

12/21/2016.....Connection Families: Safe for the Holidays

12/28/2016.....Children's Connection 2016

JANUARY

1/4/2017.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

1/11/2017.....HomeLifeStyle

1/18/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

1/25/2017.....Community Guide

1/25/2017.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts &
Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/1/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental
Health Month

2/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle

2/8/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II

Valentine's Day is February 14

2/15/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

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PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

The changes increased natural light. A south-facing trapezoidal-shaped window in the dining room provides a hilltop view of the neighborhood.



Steve and Louise Brooks of Arlington wanted a primary living area that would serve a multitude of purposes, including a place for frequent gatherings of friends and family. A new space plan introduced by Sun Design Remodeling proved out in a holiday fete for 50 guests held this past Saturday.

Open Floorplan Eases Entertaining

Open house helps homeowners looking for ideas.

BY JOHN BYRD

It's one thing to talk a good game; quite another to put your ideas to the test by inviting a long list of perceptive critics to inspect your wares.

"We like to see how well our plans work first hand whenever we can," Bob Gallagher said, as he describes a holiday tour his home remodeling firm held at one of this client's homes last Saturday.

"Our designers spend a lot of time conferring with clients on specific needs and learning from case histories — but what really counts is seeing your plan in action. A holiday tour is a test drive, but it's also a chance to explore ideas, brainstorm on breaking trends — and just enjoy being around people who are enjoying what we create."

Case in point, the Arlington home of Steve and Louise Brooks.

Two years ago, the Brooks hired Sun Design to convert the primary living area of their raised rambler into space that would serve a multitude of purposes, including a place for frequent gatherings of friends and family.

Last weekend, the remodeler hosted an open house for anyone who wanted to see how their freshly-minted new space plan would perform under real life home entertainment conditions.

There were about 50 visitors in all. Standing in one corner, one could see fluidly organic pockets of revelers — but all flows smoothly, a far cry from the past.

In the past, one's guests were usually in another room.

The original small kitchen with its adjacent living room and dining room actually



A granite-surfaced food preparation island and dining counter now facilitates the easy circulation needed for entertaining; the "built-in" was custom-designed to support a wide-range of storage, cooking and clean-up requirements.

felt crowded whenever the head-count exceeded six or seven.

The eight-foot ceiling and small-scale windows didn't help either; ditto, the "builder grade" interior finishes and restricted space-use options.

"We're a host site for our church, so we wanted a place that would allow us to comfortably meet with friends," said Louise Brooks. "We just weren't at all sure how to make that happen within our existing floor plan."

Fortunately, Gallagher and team knew the way. In fact, Gallagher notes that there's been something of a revolution in how homeowners are now configuring living space: Emergent interior design styles now allow for well-articulated activity zones integrated into a visually distinctive spatial continuum. "The end result feels generously-sized, yet unified."

To effect the changes Brooks sought, Sun

Design concentrated on strategic improvements inside the envelope of the existing structure: a nearly 800-square-foot great room was formed by eliminating walls separating the kitchen, dining room, living room and foyer; to create the 14-foot cathedral ceiling, the new interior incorporated a seldom-used attic.

A granite-surfaced food preparation island and dining counter now facilitates the easy circulation needed for entertaining; the "built-in" was custom-designed to support a wide-range of storage, cooking and clean-up requirements.

The plan also increased natural light. A south-facing trapezoidal-shaped window provides a hilltop view of the neighborhood. Distinctive finish work details delineate key activity zones within a warmly cohesive ambiance that features sight-lines in all directions.

Meanwhile, back at the tour, Bob



The new makeover features well-defined appreciably private activity zones within a warm ambiance that affords sight-lines in all directions.

Gallagher is talking to a drop-in guest about how the new space is used on an everyday basis.

"It works extremely well," he said. "The open plan allows people to happily pursue different tasks within the same continuum without loss of personal space. You have privacy, but you're in eye-contact. It's a very popular trend."

Gallagher also stresses the value of an open house to homeowners looking for ideas.

"We've been doing tours of newly remodeled homes for about 10 years," he said. "We've found that the open houses often become neighborhood meet-up opportunities where people naturally start exploring matters of mutual interest."

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently has a second office in McLean. For information, call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

Police Chief's Cruiser Hit by Drunken Driver

By FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Police Department Chief Col. Edwin Roessler Jr. was rear-ended by a drunken driver in Centreville on Monday night, Dec. 12.

Roessler experienced minor injuries and was taken to Inova Fair Oaks Hospital for evaluation and treatment. He was released later in the night and was back to work the following morning.

A 40-year-old Centreville woman, who was driving the Nissan SUV that struck Roessler's unmarked police cruiser, a 2017 Ford Explorer, was arrested at the scene. A passenger in her SUV, a 48-year-old man, was released at the scene of the accident.

The driver was taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center in Fairfax where she was charged with a DWI. She was released the following morning on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Roessler was driving southbound on Lee Highway around 8:40 p.m. when he stopped for a red light at the intersection of Stone Road when he was struck.

While he was waiting for the traffic light to turn green, he was thinking about getting home to eat dinner and later going to pick up one of his children from the airport who was flying home for the holidays,



FCPD Chief Col. Edwin Roessler Jr. spoke about the accident at a press conference the following afternoon at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax on Tuesday, Dec. 13. He had strong words for drivers: "Drinking and driving don't mix ... Spend a little money and plan. Take a taxi. Don't get behind a wheel. You're going to kill someone."

Roessler said at a press conference the following afternoon.

"It was a very long day ... That's all I was thinking about and the next thing I know, I'm being jolted real hard," he said. "It took me a few seconds to realize that I was just rear-ended at full speed while I was stopped

in traffic waiting for the light."

He immediately approached the SUV to see if the driver and her passenger were OK.

"I went and checked on them and asked them if they were injured," he said. "They said, 'No.'"

He then reported the crash to dispatchers.

It was then that he started experiencing a headache and pain in his back and legs. He told reporters that he had replacement surgery on his left hip on Aug. 30 and was afraid that he was experiencing complications.

"I was kind of in shock," he said. "I didn't feel anything and as I sat [in the cruiser] ... I started getting a headache, and my back started tightening and my legs started cramping."

Though he feels "very sore," he thanked God that he was OK. "The X-rays were good, CAT scan's good ... just glad for my health."

He said that it could have been a different story had he not worn his seatbelt.

"If I wasn't buckled in, I don't think I would be here," he said.

He had serious words for drivers, especially during the holidays when there are parties and festivities going on.

"Drinking and driving don't mix ... Spend a little money and plan," he said. "Take a taxi. Don't get behind a wheel. You're going to kill someone."



FCPD Chief Col. Edwin Roessler Junior's unmarked police cruiser, a 2017 Ford Explorer, was rear-ended.



According to police, a Centreville woman's Nissan SUV struck Roessler while he was stopped at a red light at the intersection of Lee Highway and Stone Road in Centreville.

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PEOPLE

Suhad Keblawi Receives the Cueing Leadership Award

Suhad Keblawi received the Cueing Leadership Award at the National Cued Speech Association 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner. This award is given for leadership in activities that impact the use and awareness of Cued Speech.

Keblawi, of Fairfax, has been cueing for more than 30 years with her deaf son. In the spring of 1984 her late husband, Dr. Feisal Keblawi, met Dr. Cornett and became excited about beginning Cued Speech with their 4 year old son. Dr. Cornett invited them to his home on a Saturday so Suhad could learn about cueing. He showed them numerous videos; one showed a mother cueing as she asked her young son if he wanted Mozzarella and Parmesan on his pasta.

Right then and there Suhad decided: "Yes! That's it. I want to be able to do that with Nabeel." Nabeel loved cheeses and had a very discriminating taste for them, and Suhad knew that with Cued Speech she could tell him all the names of cheeses he liked instead of just signing yellow or white cheese.

Later, Nabeel became an avid reader and excelled in his schooling. A favorite memory is Nabeel as young teen sitting with his dad and discussing the subject of quantum physics after reading the book Timeline. Feisal assisted Dr. Cornett in the development of Arabic Cued Speech; Suhad later completed it and updated the chart, created follow up materials and mentored other families in its use.

Suhad has become a valued professional in multiple roles locally and at the state and national levels. For more than 20 years, she has been the Lead Cued Language



Left, Suhad Keblawi of Fairfax receiving the Cueing Leadership Award at 50th Anniversary Dinner.

Transliterator for the Fairfax County Public Schools. She is a NCSA-Certified Instructor (InsCert) and a Trainer with Language Matters, Inc. She is a presenter at a variety of conferences around the United States and taught Cued American English classes at Northern VA Community College and currently teaches at other community venues. Suhad is the Virginia state grant coordinator for securing funds for ongoing transliterator training. She is an NCSA Board Member and a 50th Anniversary committee member. Suhad is a leader and model who inspires, comforts, and brings the Cued Speech community together.

Cued Speech is a mode of communication that provides full access to the spoken language for children who are deaf. The NCSA champions effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech. As an organization, they believe that every child who is deaf and hard of hearing should have full access to the language of the home.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Route 123 Road Closure, Detour to Begin in Mid-January

As part of the ongoing Northfax project, northbound Route 123/Chain Bridge Road will be closed between Fairfax Boulevard (Route 29/50) and Eaton Place beginning in mid-January 2017.

Traffic on northbound Chain Bridge Road will be directed to turn right onto Fairfax Boulevard, then left on Eaton Place, before returning to Chain Bridge Road. Northbound Chain Bridge Road traffic will have access to I-66.

This detour is scheduled to continue through late December 2017.

Southbound Chain Bridge road will remain open.

However, beginning in late July 2017, a lane shift will be in place on southbound Chain Bridge Road between Orchard Street to Fairfax Boulevard. This lane shift is scheduled to continue through late December 2017.

The city has posted signage on Chain Bridge Road and Fairfax Boulevard announcing this detour. Drivers are encouraged to subscribe to Fairfax City Alert to receive road construction alerts via text and email. Additionally, notices have been posted on the city website; on Cityscreen-12, the city television station; and in the *Cityscene*, the city monthly newsletter.

The Northfax project will provide road improvements and pedestrian accommodations, as well as eliminate roadway flooding, at the intersection of Route 123/Chain Bridge Road and Fairfax Boulevard. Construction will be completed in summer 2018. Information: www.northfax.com, 703-385-7810.

Watch the public outreach presentation on the Northfax project on YouTube at https://youtu.be/YyFBU_OVvaA.

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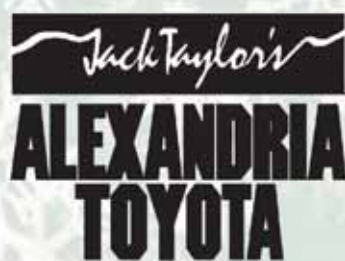
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EMPLOYMENT

703-778-9411
ZONE 2 Ad DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY 11 A.M.

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Jr. Kindergarten Team Teacher

Kiddie Country Developmental Learning Center,
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kiddiecountryii@aol.com
Fax: 703-644-0073 Phone: 703-644-0066

Kiddie Country is accepting applications for a co-teaching position in one of our Jr. Kindergarten programs. 6-8 hours per day, M-F. Applicant must have a degree in Early Childhood or Elementary Education. Team teachers will work together to appropriately conduct planned semi-structured program supported by a curriculum specialist. Please apply if you are caring, motivated and committed to high quality education for preschool learners.

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Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton
Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls
Connection

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between Karen Andrews (of unit 3123) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: exercise bike, furniture, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday December 16, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between Lina Chovil (of unit 4075) and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: bags, suitcases, boxes, clothes, sewing machine, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday December 16, 2016 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at 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.

SUNDAY/DEC. 25

5th Annual Christmas Day Giving Back Event 1 - 5 p.m. Kilroys Ravensworth Shopping Center 5236 Port Royal Road, Springfield. Volunteers needed join us in saying thank you to our veterans and deployed service members for their service and sacrifices. We will be packing care packages and letters to our veterans. www.americasadoptsoldier.org

TUESDAY JAN. 24

ESL Classes Begin on January 24 in Fairfax and Clifton

Lord of Life Lutheran Church will offer beginning, intermediate and advanced ESL classes at their Fairfax and Clifton locations. The course will take place between January 24 and April 6, 2017 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church located in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. The registration deadline is Thursday, January 19, 2017. There is a registration fee of \$15 and the text book costs \$25. For more information, please visit: www.lordoflifeva.org or call (703) 323-9500.

ONGOING

Reminder Crime Prevention – Please contact the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 (non-emergency) to report ANY suspicious activity, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem at the time. It is better if police reports can be called in while the suspicious activity is in progress to the extent possible.

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

SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

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 Commonwealth 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 Educators 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 Secondary 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 Military 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.

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, 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. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombudsman/

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

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, Jessica 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 Heintz, of Springfield, 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.

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- 2 Garage Spaces



Kathy O'Donnell
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Life Members, NVAR Top Producers
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Manassas Coming Soon

Gorgeous 2 BR/2 FBA condo steps from the VRE in gated community! 9' ceilings. LR opens to balcony. Separate dining room. Eat in kitchen w/granite & SS appliances. Master suite w/walk in closet, luxury MBA w/sep shower & soaking tub. Great location, minutes to Old Town Manassas, shopping, dining & more. Terrific opportunity for commuters w/easy access to VRE.

NEW YEAR - NEW CAREER?

2017 Real Estate classes now available in Burke.
For more info call Paul DiCicco at 703-503-1899