

# City Lights

NEWS, PAGE 3

The City of  
Fairfax decorated  
the garden  
next to Old Town  
Hall for the  
Festival of  
Lights and Carols.

10 Years for  
Convicted  
Robber

NEWS, PAGE 3

Trains Roll  
At Museum

NEWS, PAGE 4

Merry  
Christmas

CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

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PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

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## Teeth Whitening...What You Should Know.



With the holidays around the corner, everyone seems to be coming in to whiten their teeth for their picture perfect moments. So before you start using whitening products that you may be completely unfamiliar with, you may want to read this article.

If you want to whiten your teeth, the best place to start is with a healthy mouth. Tooth decay, sensitive or cracked teeth, infections or periodontal (gum) problems should be diagnosed and treated before any teeth whitening procedure. Otherwise, you could experience discomfort. If using the right products, the whitening process is safe; however, it can aggravate existing problems.

Rather than heading to the local cosmetic counter or shopping mall in search of teeth whiteners, start with a dental check up. This way, we can diagnose the cause of discoloration—injury, stains from food or tobacco, antibiotic treatment and so on. Whitening products only work on natural tooth enamel, not on crowns, veneers, bonding materials or tooth colored fillings. Does this mean if you have any of the above mentioned conditions you are stuck with yellow teeth? Absolutely not! The diagnosis is important; from there, we can determine whether whitening will work for you and which product will suit you best; otherwise you could be wasting time and money!

Studies have shown the first thing a person notices when they meet you is your smile. Being a cosmetic dentist, I am aware of how desirable it is to have white, bright teeth and how it impacts your confidence, well being, and your entire life. By seeing a trained cosmetic dentist, you can achieve not only a whiter, more attractive smile, but one that is healthy and contributes to your overall health. For more information about whitening and to check out our holiday whitening gift ideas and specials, I encourage you to visit our website or set up a complimentary whitening consultation with our well trained and knowledgeable team. Happy Holidays!

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## Lighting Up the Holidays

City of Fairfax kicks off the holiday season with the Festival of Lights and Carols.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

Last Saturday night, the scene could not have been more perfect for the faithful few who braved the inclement weather to help carry on a long-standing tradition in Fairfax.

**“The setting is just perfect.”**

— Nancy Rosene

“[The children and I] came because we wanted to see the tree lighting with Grandma,” said Laura Hopewell, a Loudoun resident attending the event with her mother, a Fairfax native. “It’s cold out, but the snow is so nice. It

The City of Fairfax’s Festival of Lights and Carols kicked off the holiday season Dec. 5, and with a steady snowfall against the backdrop of a pitch-black nighttime sky, many attendees left feeling that this was the best installment of the event ever.



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Decorations adorn the garden next to Old Town Hall for the Festival of Lights and Carols.

really adds to the event.”

The day began with a special Lunch for Santa for young children and their parents, which had three different seatings at 11:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1 p.m. For \$5, children were given a lunch of Chick-fil-A chicken nuggets, cookies, a juice box and a Christmas tree ornament. After eating, the children each got to spend time with Santa. According to Special Events Director Leslie

Herman, each seating drew approximately 90 guests.

The day continued at 5 p.m., when the event moved outdoors for the lighting of the city’s official Christmas tree, an event that according to Herman, began as a small get-together in Mayor Robert Lederer’s home years ago. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires, an all-

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 6

## GameStop Robbery: 10 Years in Prison

Woodbridge man sentenced in 2007 game store robbery in the City of Fairfax.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

More than two years have passed since five people robbed a City of Fairfax videogame store at gunpoint and stole thousands of dollars worth of merchandise. But now, all those responsible have been sentenced.

The latest was Prince William County’s Steven Turrentine, 24, charged with conspiracy, robbery and brandishing a firearm. On Friday, Dec. 4, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, he received 10 years in prison.

“The evidence was clear that Mr. Turrentine, a former GameStop employee, was involved in the planning stages and, during the crime, acted as a lookout, maintained control of the front part of the store and locked the door,” said Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Zach Terwilliger. “Two clerks were taken to the back of the store and held at gunpoint and [one of them] suffered

mental anguish and emotional trauma.”

The incident occurred on the morning of Sept. 27, 2007. Armed with a handgun and a rifle, the five robbers entered the store, took control of the employees and left with more than \$5,000 worth of video games, video game systems, such as Xbox 360s and PlayStation 3s, digital media players and assorted merchandise.

Then, tossing their haul into a waiting vehicle, they fled to Prince William County, where they all lived. There, at a home in Woodbridge, they divided up their loot. But eventually, all five robbers were captured and prosecuted.

**“After this robbery, this defendant burglarized another GameStop store.”**

— Zach Terwilliger,  
special assistant U.S. attorney

On July 10, Jennifer Jackson, 22, was sentenced to seven years in prison for brandishing a firearm; and on July 24, Daniel Berkwit, 21, received eight years behind bars for brandishing a firearm and robbery.

On Aug. 21, James Dipaolo, 22, was ordered to spend 10 years in prison – seven years for brandishing a firearm and three years for robbery, running consecutively. Then on Aug. 28, Calvin Drayton, 30, was given 12 years behind bars for robbery and brandishing a firearm.

Turrentine had a jury trial and, on June 25, was found guilty of all his charges. He returned Dec. 4 for sentencing, and defense attorney Robert Jenkins told U.S. District Court Judge Gerald Bruce Lee that his client wasn’t as guilty as his co-conspirators were.

SEE 10 YEARS, PAGE 14

## Board Rejects Meals Tax

Hyland floats proposal to offset potential hike in real estate tax.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors killed a proposal for a special election to ask the voters if they would approve a new tax on restaurant meals in 2010.

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) put forward the suggestion at a Dec. 7 board meeting. He wanted to conduct the special election March 16, so that a meals tax could be incorporated into the upcoming 2010 budget planning if voters approved the measure.

The supervisors said a meal tax could result in an extra \$80 million in revenue for the county. Hyland argued it would also bring tax diversification to Fairfax and government, which relied on local real estate taxes to fund more than 60 percent of its budget last year.

According to recent county documents, approximately 1 cent per \$100 of assessed value in the real estate tax rate produces \$18 million in revenue for the county. By implementing a meals tax, the county could have potentially offset an increase in the residential real estate tax rate by about 4 cents, said supporters.

Hyland wanted to use money generated by the meals tax to fund Fairfax County Public Schools. Hyland’s motion only garnered two other votes of support, from Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and John Foust (D-Dranesville).

**THE THREE REPUBLICANS** on the board — Supervisors Patrick Herrity (Springfield), Michael Frey (Sully) and John Cook (Braddock) — said they opposed the meals tax for philosophical reasons.

“This is really nothing but a different way to increase the tax burden on our citizens,” said Herrity, during the board meeting.

Herrity and Frey said they were also concerned about the expense associated with holding a

SEE MEALS TAX, PAGE 14

## Commercial Vehicles Banned From Residential Streets

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to ban most commercial vehicles, trailers, trucks and vans from parking on residential streets at the group's meeting Dec. 7. Only one board member, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), dissented.

"This is something that we hear about in our offices all the time," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

Among the handful of witnesses that testified, not one person opposed the measure and most spoke enthusiastically in favor of it.

"We want you to prohibit the parking of certain vehicles in residential areas," said Margie Wheedleton, vice president of the Brookfield Civic Association in Chantilly.

William Coleman, who lives in the Lee District, said approximately nine D.C. taxi cabs park on one of his neighborhood streets, which is only one-third of a mile long, every night.

"They leak oil and destroy the professional character of our neighborhood," said Coleman, who added that the cabs do not seem to belong to any nearby residents.

Barb Branham of the Lake Braddock Homeowners Association said that 20 to 30 vehicles park on one stretch of street with only about 12 homes on it. None of the residents in those homes typically know who owns the vehicles.

"The ladder vans lined up really impair the site line of people trying to get in and out of their driveways. ... There are also property value issues," said Branham.

Previously, Fairfax County prohibited vehicles of a certain weight to park in residential neighborhoods. Now, the ban has been expanded to include vehicles that are more than 21 feet long, more than 8 feet high, and at a width of 102 inches or more. Vehicles carrying commercial freight as well as many trailers or semi-trailers are prohibited.

Residents will also not be able to park any vehicle with three or more axles on the street, according to county documents.

A few exceptions exist where commercial vehicles are permitted. One resident of each single-family dwelling unit is allowed to park one taxi cab or limousine on the street, but the vehicle has to be registered in Virginia.

Virginia law also exempts commercial vehicles of a public service company, school buses, vehicles used to transport people with disabilities, vehicles for cable television and vehicles for propane gas service from being prohibited. Additionally, moving vans or trucks are allowed to park on a residential street for up to 48 hours, according to Fairfax documents.

Residents are also allowed to keep boats, campers and motor homes on a residential street until a "community parking district" restricting such vehicles from public property is implemented. Currently, both the Mount Vernon and Lee districts have such a ban in place.

The supervisors said they would allow a "grace period" of 30 days before they start enforcing the new regulation, so that commercial vehicle owners can figure out an alternative parking situation.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## Unemployment Continues Rising in Fairfax County

Fairfax County's unemployment rate reached 4.7 percent in September, approximately 1.8 percent higher than it was during the same month a year earlier.

During August, the number of jobs in Northern Virginia declined by 13,000, approximately 1 percent, overall. It

SEE NEWS, PAGE 4

## NEWS

# Toot-Toot, Chugga-Chugga

## Railroad museum hosts 20th annual Model Train Display last weekend.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

**D**ropping temperatures, falling snow and even a brief power outage could not stop the engines from pumping and the wheels from turning at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum last weekend.

The museum hosted its 20th annual Holiday Model Train Show Saturday, Dec. 5 and, despite the difficulties, drew a large crowd of train enthusiasts of all ages. Once again, the museum welcomed back familiar faces from model train groups from across the region to display their locomotives.

"We look forward to this event every year," said Bob Minnis of the HO Potomac Module Crew. "We like the people who come to it and it kicks off the Christmas season. We look for any reason to run trains, too."

The HO Potomac Module Crew was just one of several groups displaying trains off all sizes, or gauges. Ell Geib, brought the smallest trains of the show, the Z-Scale models, which are 1/220 of the size of an actual locomotive. Rodney Bohlmann and Mitch Mitchell represented Northern Virginia NTRAK, which runs N-Scale Trains that are 1:148 scale. Minnis' HO Potomac Module Crew ran half-O gauge trains, which are 1:87 scale, and the National Capital Trackers ran 1:48 scale O-gauge trains.

In addition, the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Garden Railway Society and Monty's Lego Trains also had displays at the show that got chil-

**"The kids love watching the trains. They could stay here all day."**

— Twila Lytle



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

**The caboose housed Monty Smith's Lego Trains and NTRAK's N-Scale display.**

dren especially excited. Jeff Mitulla, of the Garden Railway Society and a member of the Friends of Fairfax Station, Inc. Board of Directors, continued a nearly decade-long tradition of running a G-Scale train around the perimeter of the museum. Most years, running a train outside is no problem, Mitulla said, but this year, due to the snow, a small "plow train" had to run in front of the engine to push snow off of the tracks.

"We've been here when it is 70 degrees out, raining and now this year, it's snowing so we have a plow

SEE TRAINS, PAGE 18



**Thom McKinney of National Capital Trackers with his group's O-Scale trains.**



**Hope Danielson has this standard-gauge train display set up at the museum year-round.**

# NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

was the region's 10th straight month of job losses, though Northern Virginia still has the lowest jobless rate in the commonwealth, at 4.9 percent overall. In September, Virginia, with the fifth lowest unemployment rate in the county, was 6.6 percent.

While Fairfax's economy remains strong when compared to other parts of the country, the county's jobless rate never exceeded four percent during its previous two economic downturns, according to budget documents.

Fairfax County unemployment insurance claims also increased 116 percent from July 2008 to July 2009.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## Man Charged in Shoplifting Case

City of Fairfax Police have arrested a Washington, D.C., man whom they suspect of shoplifting in the Marshall's store at 9640 Main St. in Fairfax. He is Therin Almandeus Martin, 38, of the 5000 block of Hunt Place, N. E.

On Monday, Nov. 30, at 12:15 p.m., a Marshall's security officer reported that he'd observed a man cut off security sensors from several items of clothing, put them in a duffel bag and leave the store without paying. When the officer confronted him outside, the man allegedly struck the security officer with the duffel bag and attempted to flee, but was restrained with help from several firefighters and held until police arrived.

Police say the man, reportedly identified as Martin, had a pair of wire cutters in his possession. Martin was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with possession of burglary tools, third or subsequent larceny and assault and battery. He was held on \$12,500 bond.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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.

#### THURSDAY/DEC. 10

**You and Your Aging Parents Support Group.** 7 p.m. at the Jewish Social Services Agency, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. Explore the aging process and share experiences as a caregiver. Discussion topics can include coping with illness, balancing multiple demands, managing difficult emotions, identifying appropriate

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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# Encore Presents 'Tale of Two Santas'

Theater group offers performances of holiday show at NVCC's Annandale campus.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Santa Claus and the North Pole elves are familiar characters at Christmastime. But will the Claus family lose control of Christmas when the North and South Pole residents start feuding?

The answer's in Encore Theatrical Arts Project's (ETAP) production of "The Tale of Two Santas." This Broadway-style, holiday extravaganza features local girls, ages 9-18. Brandon Kalbaugh wrote and will narrate the show, and the cast of 35 has rehearsed since August.

"They've worked tirelessly to get this fantastic production together," said director and choreographer Raynor van der Merwe. "It's taken lots of sacrifice and dedication, but we want them to be triple threats — able to act, dance and sing. I'm looking forward to it, and people come back each year to see it."

She said attendees will hear their favorite, holiday songs, including some different arrangements, and will "leave the theater singing a tune and being in the holiday spirit."

The South Pole set look icy in white and blue, while the North Pole set is in red, white and green. There's a train depot, sweet shoppe, elf quarters and a bridge so, besides the musical numbers, said van der Merwe, "It'll also be colorful and visually exciting."

Westfield High sophomore Grace Martin

has danced nine years with Encore and says it's like having another family. Each actor portrays one good and one bad character. Her good one is North Pole elf, Cranberry, and her bad one is South Pole elf, Crumble.

"They're polar opposites," said Martin. "Cranberry's bubbly and kind of clueless about what's going on. Crumble's sassy and the sidekick of the main evil character, Crystal. Most of the characters I play are like Cranberry; Crumble doesn't fit my personality, but it's cool getting to play something different."

Anna McQuitty, of Freedom High, plays Noel and Crystal. "At the North Pole, I'm the gentle, kind Noel — Santa's daughter, who's about to become the first, female Santa," said McQuitty. "But brewing in the South Pole, my opposite, Crystal, has plans of her own to take over the North Pole. It's

interesting working with these two extremes."

Calling the show "exciting, suspenseful and great Christmas entertainment," McQuitty said "Blue Skies" is her favorite number. "It has a distinct style of dance, and mastering it and the technique is rewarding," she said. "It

challenges you and makes you really work."

Chantilly senior Katelyn Palmer likes "the feeling you get on stage, performing for an audience, and they enjoy it." She said this show has new dances and her favorite is "Dig that Crazy Santa Claus" because "the music is energetic and upbeat. We wear South Pole elf costumes in different shades of blue."

**"They've worked tirelessly to get this fantastic production together."**

**— Raynor van der Merwe, director and choreographer**



PHOTO BY LINDA HELMS

Encore's 'The Tale of Two Santas' provides a host of dance numbers.

## More

❖ Saturday, Dec. 12, at 5 and 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2, 5 and 8 p.m., at Freedom Theatre, 25450 Riding Center Drive in South Riding.

❖ Friday, Dec. 18, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 19, at 11 a.m. and 2, 5 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 20, at 11 a.m. and 2 and 5 p.m., at Richard J. Ernst Cultural Community Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

❖ Tickets: \$17, students/senior citizens; \$20, adults, online at [www.encore-tap.org](http://www.encore-tap.org) or call 703-222-5511; Girl Scout and group rates are available.

each other, so I don't have to play the same role, the whole time."

She also likes the reindeer costumes she and the others wear for the "Reindeer" dance number. "We wear antlers with a velvet jacket and a tail, so it's really cute," she said. "The choreography is more challenging than other dances and the music's enthusiastic, so I feel good doing it. We're all close-knit and it shows when we perform; and I think it's amazing how doing what I love to do can put a smile on someone else's face."

Chantilly senior Sarena Hutzell especially likes the rag dolls costumes, with red-yarn hair, plaid dresses and green tights. Her favorite number is "Sing a Little Song" because "we dance with gift boxes and it's like a Rockettes number. The plot's funny and interesting, the choreography is really good, the costumes are amazing and the sets are beautiful," said Hutzell.

Dancing since age 2, Centreville junior Katie Dudzik plays North Pole elf, Ginger, and South Pole elf, Snap, who's "mad to be trapped at the South Pole while all the North Pole elves have the good life." Dudzik is pleased because "they're such a contrast to

## Festival of Lights and Carols Ushers In Holidays

FROM PAGE 3

male chorus that practices at Fairfax High School, started the ceremony with a half-hour long performance of Christmas favorites such as "Silent Night" and "Jingle Bells." The Jubil-Aires were supposed to be accompanied by the Good News Ringers bell choir, but due to the snow, the musicians could not bring their instruments outdoors.

"Last year, the snow was falling on our faces, and it is that way again this year, so they have a tent for us but we always look forward to it," Jubil-Aire Director Tom Meier said. "We've been asked by the city to do this for a

long time, and we'll sing here until nobody wants us to sing anymore."

Following the concert, Lederer and the six other City Council members gathered in front of the Jubil-Aires' tent to light the tree. Lederer invited all of the children in attendance to come to the front and help him with a countdown, and at zero, the tree was lit to a round of mitten-muffled applause.

"It's just a lovely small-town Norman Rockwell approach to start the holidays," said Nancy Rosene of Fairfax. "The setting is just perfect."

**The Jubil-Aires perform Christmas Carols at Saturday's Tree Lighting in the City of Fairfax.**



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

# NEWS

## Police Offer Child ID Kits

City of Fairfax Police, in conjunction with the Optimist Club of Central Fairfax, will offer SafeAssured identification kits, Tuesday, Dec. 29, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., at the City of Fairfax Police Department, 3730 Old Lee Highway. Parents will receive a full-color photo ID and a mini-CD containing their children's digital fingerprints, a digital photo, video showing movement and mannerisms, a general physical description, vital personal information, and a family code word.

Private information is encrypted and accessible only by law enforcement. Missing posters can be created and printed directly from the mini-CD in En-

glish, Spanish and French. The SafeAssured ID kits are free, and an appointment is necessary. Call Sgt. Pam Nevlud at 703-385-7966 to make an appointment.

## Environmental Awards

Bonnie Brae and Oak View elementary schools received the Energy Star label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Energy Star label is earned by benchmarking a school's energy performance and physical characteristics against other K-12 schools in the EPA's National Energy Performance Rating System and demonstrating superior energy performance for at least 12 months.



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## CAMPS & SCHOOLS

**Florence Y. Ahn** of James Robinson Secondary School has been named as a Semifinalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program.

**James Caron** of Trinity Christian School has been named as a Semifinalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program.

**Timothy Yang** of Fairfax graduated from the 2009 Governor's School of Agriculture at Virginia Tech on June 28 to July 25. Yang, a senior from Woodson High School, was one of 96 rising junior and senior high school students from across the commonwealth selected to participate in the month-long summer residential program for gifted students interested in agriculture and natural resources.

residential program for gifted students interested in agriculture and natural resources.

**Jun Hong Kim** of Fairfax graduated from the 2009 Governor's School of Agriculture at Virginia Tech on June 28 to July 25. Kim, a junior from Thomas Jefferson High School, was one of 96 rising junior and senior high school students from across the commonwealth selected to participate in the month-long summer residential program for gifted students interested in agriculture and natural resources.

**Nkechinyerem Iko** of Fairfax graduated from the 2009 Governor's

School of Agriculture at Virginia Tech on June 28 to July 25. Iko, a senior from Woodson High School, was one of 96 rising junior and senior high school students from across the commonwealth selected to participate in the month-long summer residential program for gifted students interested in agriculture and natural resources.

**Anurag Bhatnagar** of Fairfax graduated from the 2009 Governor's School of Agriculture at Virginia Tech on June 28 to July 25. Bhatnagar, a senior from Fairfax High School, was one of 96 rising junior and senior high

Twenty Paul VI Catholic High School students auditioned for District XI Cho-

rus on Nov. 14 at Centreville High School. Of those who auditioned, 17 PVI students were chosen for District Chorus. Those students are **Kelly Bui, Gabriella Cagampan, Dana Chessman, Eric Dinh, Lauren Dore, Dominick Gilbert, Allison Heinz, Katie Kondas, Michael Kruczkowski, Anna Lee, Julianna Lopez, Ashley Muskett, Frances Palaszczuk, Nicole Perroots, Rachelle Robertello, Rebecca Rozmajzl and Margaret Slovenkay.** Two alternates were also chosen: **Bethany Sansaver and Brian Ruiz.** The performance will be Feb. 20 at Woodson High School, with the time to be announced.

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## CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 10

**JP McDermott and Western Bop.** \$10. 8-10 p.m., at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. \$10. Beginner lessons at 7:30 p.m. www.headoverheelsdance.com or 703-424-1745.

**Issa and Leslie Alexander.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**GMU Graduate Student Conductors Concert.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-993-8794.

**GMU Players Mainstage #2: Room Service.** 8 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$12 adult, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

**Chess Club.** 3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and strategy, play the game. Age 6-14. 703-644-7333.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 11

**Navy Band Brass Quintet.** 8 p.m. Fairfax Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 202-433-2525 or www.navyband.navy.mil.

**Pianist George Winston's "The Winter Show."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Adults \$21-\$42. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**The Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel, by Aztec Two-Step at 7 p.m.** An Evening with Pat McGee and Colby James at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**Mason Dance Company December Concert.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$15 adult, \$10 students and senior. 703-993-8794.

**GMU Players Mainstage #2: Room Service.** 2 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$12 adult, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 12

**Our Daily Bread Holiday Food Drive.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to Safeway at Courthouse Plaza, 10376 Willard Way, Fairfax City. Proceeds to benefit Annandale Christian Community in Action (ACCA)/Fairfax Presbyterian Church www.our-daily-bread.org.

**The WB&A Chapter of the TCA Annual Christmas Toy Train Show.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Shriners Kena Temple, 9001 Arlington Blvd. Train doctor, all scales, parts, new and collectables, and Santa on site. Admission \$5 adults, children under 12 and military free. www.wbchapter.org or contact Pete Jackson at 703-455-6154 or Kenameet@wbchapter.org

**Christmas Cantata: Unto Us a Child is Born.** 6 p.m. at Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Traditional and contemporary music, interpretive dance and readings. Fellowship reception to follow. 703-764-9111.

**Breakfast with St. Nick.** 9-11a.m. Includes continental breakfast, seasonal craft making, carol singing,

## Leinz Dances as Nutcracker's Clara

Lake Braddock Secondary School freshman Kailey Leinz, 14, will dance the role of Clara in the Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax's (BAE) performance of "Nutcracker in a Nutshell" on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria campus at 3001 N. Beauregard St. Tickets for the holiday classic are \$20 and are available in advance by calling 703-273-5344. Tickets will also be available at the door.

For more information on "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," The Center for Ballet Arts or The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax, visit www.thecenterforballetarts.com or call 703-273-5344.



Lake Braddock student Kailey Leinz as Clara

a photo session with St. Nick, storytelling and a visit to the Little Shoppe. This event is free of charge and open to the community but RSVP to SaintNick@BurkePresChurch.org or phone our office at 703-764-0456. Hosted by Burke Presbyterian Church at 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

**Lopez Studios, Inc. Annual Christmas Concert with Recording Artist Victor at 2 p.m.** The Hint at 6 p.m. Bob, Almost Kings, OurAfter, Screaming at the Silence and Uncrowned at 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**A 1940s Christmas Homecoming.** 6 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. A drama about a WWII soldier who is attempting to be home in time for Christmas to surprise his family. Refreshments will be served. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

**Laurel Ridge Elementary Holiday Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 10110 Commonwealth Blvd., Fairfax. Free admission. DAGuerzon@aol.com.

**Mason Dance Company December Concert.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$15 adult, \$10 students and senior. 703-993-8794

**A Canadian Brass Christmas.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$24-\$48. Youth through grade 12 half price. Pre-Performance Discussion held 45 minutes prior to the performance. 703-993-8794

**FOHA Charity Dog Wash.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bark 'N Bubbles Dog Wash of Fairfax, 11725 Lee Hwy, #A-17A, Fairfax. Half of every wash goes to support Friends of Homeless Animals. 703-352-WASH or www.barknbubblesdogwash.com/fairfax.

**GMU Players Mainstage #2: Room Service.** 8 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400

University Drive, Fairfax. \$12 adult, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

**A Celtic Christmas with Sior-Óg and Friends.** 8 p.m. at theSPACE, on the plaza in Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. Free admittance. Free parking available in the Plaza's garage. 703-963-5979 or jormesher@fairfaxva.gov.

**A Visit to Santa's Workshop.** 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Kaydee Puppets presents a family holiday program. All ages. 703-293-6227.

**Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Gift Fair,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Free admission. Find meaningful gifts from nonprofit organizations that give hope and help to needy people. Sponsored by the Giving Circle of HOPE. To learn more, call 703-608-2231 or visit www.giftsthatgivehope.org/fairfax.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 13

**Dan Bern.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$18. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**A 1940s Christmas Homecoming.** 6 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

**GMU Symphony Orchestra and Choruses Holiday Concert.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$20 adult, \$15 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

**GMU Players Mainstage #2: Room Service.** 2 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$12 adult, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11



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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

## MONDAY/DEC. 14

**Rory Block. 7:30 p.m.** Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**PAL Reading Visits. 4:30 p.m.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read to a trained therapy dog. Call to reserve a time slot. Call for title. 703-249-1520.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 15

**Lake Braddock Combined Choirs and Symphony. 7:30 p.m.** at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Requiem" by Mozart. \$5.

www.ticketmaster.com

**Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. 7 p.m.** at the George Mason University Patriot Center. www.ticketmaster.com.

**IONA EP Release. 7:30 p.m.** Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**Book Discussion Group. 11 a.m.** Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Good Thief" by Hannah Tinti. Adults. 703-978-5600.

**Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m.** Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox" by Maggie O'Farrell. Adults. 703-978-5600.

**Tales for Twos: Baby, It's Cold Outside. 10:30 a.m.** Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, fingerplays and activities about winter weather. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

**WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16**

**Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. 7 p.m.** at the George Mason University Patriot Center.

www.ticketmaster.com.  
**The Click Five. 7:30 p.m.** Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 advance/ \$18 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**GMU Center for Consciousness and Transformation: The Science of Happiness. 6:30 p.m.** at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Psychology professor Dr. Todd Kashdan on what causes and what can increase happiness. Light supper included. \$20 per person. cct.gmu.edu/events.

**Needlework Group. 10:30 a.m.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds

**Winter. 10:30 a.m.** City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories & activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

**One-Man Band Holiday Show. 7 p.m.** Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Clap and sing along as Peter McCory plays holiday songs. All ages. 703-978-5600.

**Writers' Roundtable. 6 p.m.** Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Discuss your work with other writers. Adults. 703-644-7333.



**BAE dancers in 'Nutcracker in a Nutshell.'**

Oak Road, Burke. Bring a project to work on in the company of fellow needlecrafters. Adults. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**Hidden Ponds Nature Program. 4:30 p.m.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Includes dissection of a rotting log; be aware in case of mold allergies. Ages 6-12 with parent. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**One-on-One Genealogical Research Assistance. 6-7:30 p.m.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Adults. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**What Do Animals Do in the**

**THURSDAY/DEC. 17**

**1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 7 p.m.** At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

**Fairfax High School Music Department Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m.** at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Orchestra and chorus students performing Mozart's Te Deum, seasonal music and Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Free. www.fhschorus.net.

**Starlight, Starbright. 10:30 a.m.** Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

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# Rams Adopt Blue Collar Philosophy

Putting hard work over flashy plays, Rams hope hustle can lead team to victory.

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' basketball team isn't looking to beat its opponents with slick outside shooting or flashy playmaking in the 2009-10 season, instead its players plan to take a more blue-collar approach to the game.

"We're not going to win games by shooting three-point shots all night or running complex offenses," said junior forward Matt Zanelatto. "We're going to do the dirty work. Dive on the floor for rebounds, steal the ball and stuff like that."

Through two games this season, the Rams are off to a 0-4 start, not exactly what head coach Brian Nelson had in mind, but the tough style of play is starting to reap some rewards.

After opening the season on Dec. 2 with a 61-45 loss to Yorktown, the Rams posted a stronger effort in a Dec. 5, 87-67 loss to



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

**C.J. Cleaves, Matt Zanelatto, Mike Creighton are hoping their 'blue collar' approach to basketball can help the Robinson Rams this season.**

South County.

"Our effort level in the second game was better [than the first game] and we played together," said junior forward C.J. Cleaves. "We shared the ball and no one person was really leading in scoring. We had multiple

guys in double figures for points and rebounds."

The Rams other two losses came courtesy of Mountain View on Dec. 4 (56-83), and Langley on Dec. 8 (47-63).

Nelson said the losses can also be chalked

"We're going to do the dirty work. Dive on the floor for rebounds, steal the ball and stuff like that."

— Matt Zanelatto

up to inexperience on the varsity team.

"We're a young team," Nelson said. "We don't have seniors starting. Both of our senior players are out with injuries."

The roster features three sophomores and eight juniors, many of whom are just getting acclimated to varsity-level play.

"We're relying on a lot of guys who don't have a lot of varsity experience," Nelson said. "We showed a lot of signs of positive things [against South County] ... but we have to learn how to win games."

Senior Mike Creighton, who is currently sidelined with an injury he received during the football season, said he's liked what he's seen from his younger teammates.

"When we started the season, there wasn't a lot of enthusiasm," Creighton said. "But after the past three games, the young players have stepped up."

SEE BLUE COLLAR, PAGE 16

## Cavs Overcome Early Adversity



FILE PHOTO

**Junior guard John Schoof, seen here in a game last season, injured his ankle during a routine practice drill. His absence from the team is one of the first hurdles the Woodson boys must face this year.**

Woodson starts season 2-1 despite injury to starting guard, junior John Schoof.

What could have been a disastrous start to the 2009-10 season for the W.T. Woodson boys' basketball team, turned into a strong weekend performance and confidence booster for head coach Doug Craig.

Just minutes into a routine drill on the first day of practice, junior guard John Schoof injured his ankle, putting the 6-foot 5-inch guard out for what Craig said will be a "couple of months."

"We're facing some early adversity," Craig said. "Losing [Schoof] is big, but we have the players to get past it. We'll be fine."

Although the early injury spoiled some of the good vibes the Cavaliers had going into their home opener this past weekend, those feelings returned when Woodson defeated Woodbridge 52-41 on Dec. 2 at the Red Jenkins Tip-off Tournament.

Senior Max Lenox scored 22 points, assisted on four baskets, captured eight rebounds and stole five balls in the win.

"We were as crisp as we'd like to be all season," Craig said. "It was a strong game for us."

The Cavaliers didn't escape the weekend

unscathed. In a meeting with fellow Fairfax school Paul VI, a poor shooting effort and 17 turnovers played a key role in a 60-36 loss to the Panthers.

"The game was a bit closer than the score suggests," Craig said. "But in the last two quarters, Paul VI just blew us out."

The Cavaliers, however, aren't going to let an early season loss to one of the area's top private schools take away from the team's strong performances without Schoof.

"Early out-of-division games are like glorified scrimmages," Craig said. "You want to win them, but you're still learning about your team at that point. The division play later on matters the most."

On Tuesday, the Cavs faced local rival Fairfax and won 70-59, but the season's early stages won't get any easier for the Cavaliers. Woodson will face Bishop O'Connell on Dec. 9, followed by the team's first Patriot District match with Lake Braddock on Dec. 11.

"We want a tough schedule early on," Craig said. "It helps you get ready for later in the season."

— REED S. ALBERS

### Robinson Girls Start Season Hot

The Robinson girls' basketball team charged out to a 3-0 start in the 2009-10 basketball season this past week.

The Rams recorded wins over Yorktown (58-37) and Battlefield (63-23) and Langley (42-34), with

**WEEK IN SPORTS** Samantha Partonen leading the scoring with 14 points in

the Yorktown game.

The Rams next three games are against Fairfax on Dec. 11, West Springfield on Dec. 15 and Lake Braddock on Dec. 18.

### Popcorn, Soda And Basketball

Students looking for a cheap date or a fun event to enjoy on Friday, Dec. 18 should look no further than a doubleheader basketball match between rivals Lake Braddock and Robinson.

At the upcoming Lake Braddock

SEE WEEK, PAGE 16

## COMMUNITY

# Sound of Music Spreads Holiday Cheer

Trans-Siberian Orchestra performs for patients at Inova Fairfax Children's Hospital.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

With a stage full of pyrotechnics and laser lights, the 30-member Trans-Siberian Orchestra is used to playing in front in 20,000 people. However, the musicians proved that even at a smaller venue, their show can be just as powerful.

A stripped-down version of the internationally-famous orchestra played a set at Inova Fairfax Hospital Tuesday, Dec. 8 for the patients of the Children's Hospital and its physicians. The show, which

was also broadcast to every room in the hospital, treated the audience to the orchestra's take on Christmas favorites.

"It's always a really good feeling to do a show like this because we know what it means to [the patients]," orchestra member Chris Caffery said. "If there's something we can do to make them feel better, we'll do it."

**"It's always a really good feeling to do a show like this because we know what it means to [the patients]."**

— Chris Caffery, orchestra member

According to Inova Fairfax Children's Hospital Administrator David Goldberg, concert promotion company Live Nation, the sponsor of the orchestra's current tour, was responsible for bringing the show to the hospital. Goldberg said that a former hospital employee that works at Live Nation reached out to the hospital as part of the company's commitment to community outreach, offering a chance to see the orchestra.

Initially, Goldberg said that only a few members of the orchestra had signed on to play. The group had played a show the previous night in Tampa, Fla. and Tuesday was their scheduled day off.

Once word spread through their troupe about the show, however, more quickly joined the lineup and 11 members, comprised of two guitarists, two keyboardists and seven vocalists performed.

"We, in our society, aren't as generous as we can be," Goldberg said. "To make time to do something great for our children on their day off shows that they are not only



The stripped-down orchestra has four backing vocalists.

great people, but great citizens as well."

After a five-song set that included "This Christmas Day," the bluesy "Good King Joy" and a holiday-season take on Pachelbel's "Canon," all of the group's members stayed to meet the children and sign autographs. The band handed out tour books, jackets, T-shirts and guitar picks and posed for pictures. One child even gave an impromptu a cappella performance at the urging of one of the members. The entire experience, the children said, was one to remember.

"I thought it was great," said Kadejah

Hebb, 15. "The girls we on point, the guitarists and other singers were great. Everybody just did a great job. I'd love to see them play again."

The orchestra continued its generosity the following day, inviting former Children's Hospital patients and their families to their show at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. for free. The children were transported to the show in the hospital's "Bus of Dreams," and at the show, were brought on stage to help introduce the band with Goldberg.

## Self-Service Dog Wash Opens in Fairfax

Bark 'N Bubbles of Fairfax, a self-service dog wash, recently opened a new location at 11725 Lee Highway, #A-17A, in Fairfax. The company offers waist-high tubs, all-natural and organic shampoos and conditioners, a variety of grooming tools, towels and pet-friendly air dryers. For more information about the business, visit [www.barknbubblesdogwash.com/Fairfax](http://www.barknbubblesdogwash.com/Fairfax).



Nickie Johnson, a groomer at the new Bark 'N Bubbles location in Fairfax, works with a Bichon/Shitzsu mix named Teddy.

## BUSINESS NOTES

### COLLEGE NOTES

Norman Jacobowitz of Fairfax is the recipient of a \$5,000 Inova Advanced Practice scholarship from Marymount University. Jacobowitz is enrolled in Marymount's Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner program. Jacobowitz is working as a psychiatry liaison at Inova Fairfax Hospital while completing his degree.

Timothy Slagle of Fairfax received a bachelor of arts degree in English from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences during Virginia Tech's fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 19, 2008, in Cassell Coliseum.

Harris Squires of Fairfax received a bachelor of arts degree in international studies from the College of

Liberal Arts and Human Sciences during Virginia Tech's fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 19, 2008, in Cassell Coliseum.

Huy Tran of Fairfax received a bachelor of science degree in biological sciences from the College of Science during Virginia Tech's fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 19, 2008.



DONATED PHOTO

**That's a Lot of Bras** At its new store in Fairfax, ZIPS Dry Cleaners laundered

16,000 of bras on Wednesday, Oct. 28 as part of the Bras Across DC event that took place on Friday, Oct. 30. Members of The Kane Radio Show on Hot 99.5 hooked together all of the bras and strung them around the reflecting pool from the WWII Memorial to the Lincoln Memorial to help raise awareness and funds for breast cancer. Once the event was over, the bras were donated to the American Cancer Society. ZIPS is located at 10966 Fairfax Blvd. in Fairfax.

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Northern Virginia Primitive Baptist... 703-255-0637

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Bancroft Bible Church... 703-425-3800

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St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church...  
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Salvation Army... 703-385-9700  
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## NEWS

# 10 Years for City Robbery

FROM PAGE 3

"We feel Mr. Turrentine's participation in this was less than the others," he said. "He was a lookout. He didn't brandish a firearm and didn't abduct any of the workers. We believe his sentence should be more in line with Mr. Berkwit's. Mr. Turrentine doesn't have the same, extensive, criminal history as Mr. Berkwit and, in comparison with [him], was not as culpable."

But Terwilliger said the sentence should reflect the seriousness of the offense. Furthermore, he said, "This defendant, unlike Mr. Berkwit, has never accepted any responsibility for his actions. After this robbery, this defendant burglarized another GameStop store. Then he was subsequently arrested for [allegedly] participating in a home-invasion robbery in Prince William County in which someone got shot."

"The public needs to be protected, and the defendant, deterred, from this type of behavior," said the prosecutor. "There's a pattern of increasingly hostile behavior. [Turrentine's] role was similar to that of James Dipaolo, crucial to the success of this crime." Terwilliger then asked Lee to sentence Turrentine to three years in prison for the robbery and conspiracy, plus the seven-year mandatory minimum for the firearm charge.

Ultimately, the judge had the final word, after Turrentine declined to speak before learning his punishment. "The defendant was a lookout and a decoy, was involved in the theft of items from the store

and locked the door so no customers could get in or out," said Lee. "His role was essential to the operation and his involvement was not lesser than Dipaolo's or Berkwit's."

Then, addressing Turrentine directly, Lee said, "The store clerks could have been murdered, and you have a record of increasing violence. You made a choice to adopt the criminal lifestyle, and now you have to pay a price for that."

Lee then imposed the sentence recommended by Terwilliger, with the three years and seven years running consecutively to each other, for 10 years total. He also placed Turrentine on five years supervised release and ordered him to immediately pay a \$300 special assessment and to eventually pay \$5,735 restitution to GameStop, along with his co-conspirators. Turrentine must pay at least \$100/month, beginning 60 days after his release from prison, and participate in any drug and mental-health treatment his probation officer requires.

**AFTERWORD**, outside the courtroom, Jenkins said Turrentine still disagreed with the jury's guilty verdict and denied knowing that an armed robbery was taking place. "They planned to steal things, but he had no idea a gun would come out," said Jenkins. "And he was the first to cooperate with law enforcement and identified the other participants. Ten years is a long time for someone as young as he is and all for some video games. He didn't get any of the money."

# Meals Tax Voted Down

FROM PAGE 3

countywide special election. Given that Hyland has known about the county budget forecast for months, they also questioned why the Democrat had not recommended putting a meals tax on the November general election ballot.

"I will not support doing this as a special election. It is just too costly," said Frey.

A few of the four remaining Democrats who voted against Hyland's proposal wanted to have more discussion on the matter of a meals tax referendum before voting on the proposal.

Given that there was no chance for a more in-depth discussion, some board members felt uncomfortable voting for Hyland's proposal, even though they might have supported a meals tax referendum overall.

"I think this has been brought up too abruptly. ... I want to make sure we have a package that could be presented that the restaurant and business community would believe is fair," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

But Hudgins said the board had discussed the pos-

sibility of a meals tax at several times already, including during the supervisors' group retreat and through a board matter Hyland brought to a few months ago.

"Each time we have raised this, there has been some reason not to discuss it," said Hudgins.

Under Virginia law, most counties must conduct a voter referendum on the issue of a meals tax in order to implementing it. But governing bodies in towns, cities and some urban counties have the ability to implement a meals tax without a specific vote of approval from the public.

The result is that Fairfax, where a meals tax overwhelmingly failed in 1993, has fewer revenue options than some surrounding jurisdictions. Elected officials in the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park have all passed meal taxes as well as those in Arlington County and the towns of Herndon, Leesburg and Vienna have all passed taxes on restaurant meals without the hurdle of a referendum.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

resources and developing a care plan. Group meets on the second Thursday of every month. Register at 703-896-7910.

**The Office of Special Education Instruction Applied Behavior Analysis Parent Workshop on Curriculum Foundations.**  
9 a.m. and 7 p.m. at Dunn

Loring Center, Room 1, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Understanding the basics of curriculum programs for students with autism, for parents of Fairfax County students receiving special education services using applied behavior analysis.  
[www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ABA/index.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ABA/index.htm)

**TUESDAY/DEC. 15**  
**Providence District Council**

**Annual Holiday Party.** 7-8:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Dunn Loring Admin Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Enter through door #1, go up the stairs/elevator and turn right. All Providence local and state elected officials have been invited to join us. Finger food and desserts will be served. Free and handicapped accessible.

# FAITH

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.

**Chanukah Happening.** Sunday, Dec. 13, 2-5 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Latkes and sufganiyot, Little Latke Lounge for ages 2 and under, olive oil press, arts and crafts, Chanukah story time and song room, moon bounce, face painting, balloon artist and more. Bring a bag of nonperishable items for the local food bank and/or a new toy to be donated to those in need. \$10 member families, \$18 non-member families. [www.jcncv.org](http://www.jcncv.org).

**A Celtic Christmas.** Sunday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m., at Springfield Christian Church, 5407 Backlick Road, Springfield. With the Springfield Christian and Burke United Methodist combined choirs, assisted by Celtic ensemble Mystic Harmony on Celtic harp, flute, keyboard, percussion and vocals. 703-354-4994.

**Burke Presbyterian Church** events are open to everyone, at 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. All events are free. Contact 703-764-0456 or [www.BurkePresChurch.org](http://www.BurkePresChurch.org).

♦ **Breakfast with St. Nick.** 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12. Pictures with St. Nick, craft making and more. Reserve at [SaintNick@BurkePresChurch.org](mailto:SaintNick@BurkePresChurch.org).

♦ **Christmas Eve Services** on Thursday, Dec. 24, 5 p.m. Children's Pageant with children's and youth choirs; 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

SEE FAITH NOTES. PAGE 16

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## U.S. Treasury Issues New Guidelines on Short Sales to Help Homeowners

The Government announced new guidelines earlier this week aimed at helping homeowners in the short sale process. A Short Sale sometimes referred to as a "pay off" or "short pay", is a transaction authorized by the mortgage company / lender in which they agree to the sale of the home for less than the Seller owes on the mortgage. As a part of the Short Sale, the Mortgage Company / lender "usually" agrees to write-off / forgive the balance difference in order to avoid greater losses of the mortgage loan that a foreclosure would cause. In order for the Seller to be pre-qualified for a short sale the Seller must be experiencing a financial hardship that meets the lender's criteria.

Over 10 million homeowners are upside down on their mortgages across the U. S.; Dynamic Duo & Associates a local real estate company brokered by Coldwell Banker has helped many people struggling to obtain Short Sale approval and are considered experts in the field. One of their clients's referred to DDA as "Angels sent from GOD". Over the past 3 years, DDA has SOLD over 920 properties with a specialization in Short Sales & Foreclosures.

Joan Williamson, Partner of DDA states "historically, borrowers were typically issued an unsecured note for a portion of a deficiency amount. Imagine, going through a hardship of being forced to sell your home due to financial reasons in order to avoid foreclosure and the lender then requires a deficiency payment on the balance". "Under the new plan, borrowers are not only relieved of the debt, but now... they will receive a bonus of \$1,500 from the government for selling their home for less than the mortgaged amount" says Racquel Sharpton another Partner of the Dynamic Duo. The lender will also see a bonus at \$1,000 as an incentive.

"Often times negotiating a short sale can be a painstaking process. While the approval is gained from the primary lender, the 2nd lender can very well kill the deal by requesting more than the primary lender will allow, which is typically \$3,000. The 2nd lien holder has been known to ask for as much as \$25,000 or more" states Williamson. Under this new guideline, the mortgage holder can receive no more than \$3,000 of the sale's price in exchange for releasing the lien. Another awesome guideline, and this is really where the assistance to home owners comes in...now if the lender accepts a Short Sale, the Borrowers must be "fully released" from future liability of the debt. To qualify under the new guidelines the property must be the homeowner's principal residence; the home owner must be delinquent on the mortgage or close to defaulting on the loan; the loan must have been made before Jan. 1, 2009 and be for less than \$729,750; and the borrowers' total monthly mortgage payment must exceed 31 percent of their before-tax income. For additional information or to get started on a short sale, please contact DDA at 703-680-9551 or email [asharpton@cbmove.com](mailto:asharpton@cbmove.com)

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## SPORTS

# Blue Collar Approach

FROM PAGE 12

Creighton also noted that it is crucial that the senior class returns to the team and plays an active role in helping to sustain any chemistry the team is creating.

"I know a lot of the guys on the team are younger, but they have a lot of chemistry," Creighton said. "I've got to get ready to join that chemistry."

**WHILE BLUE** collar might describe Robinson's style of play, big is a better word for the team's make-up.

Of the 13-man roster, only four players are under 6-feet tall and five are taller than 6-feet 3-inches.

The Rams' hope is that by combining their size with an immense amount of hustle and heart, the team can muscle through the tough Concorde District to a state tourna-

ment appearance.

Nelson also mentioned that team captains Zanelatto and Creighton need to step up their game in order for the Rams to be successful.

"They both exhibit leadership for us," Nelson said. "We're counting on them to show the younger guys the way."

Leadership also will fall on Cleaves' shoulders because of the important role he will play for the team next season when he is a senior.

"[Zanelatto and Cleaves] need to start acting as if they are our seniors," Nelson said. "They've shown their experience [against South County] and other juniors will step in to that role with them as the season goes on."

Robinson's next game is against on Dec. 11 against Fairfax followed by a Dec. 15 bout with West Springfield.

## WEEK IN SPORTS

FROM PAGE 12

and Robinson Varsity Basketball Challenge, students wearing a Burke basketball shirt will be admitted inside the game free and receive a coupon for a free soda and box of popcorn.

The T-shirt admission is good for both the boys' and girls' varsity basketball game.

Tip-off is set for 5:45 p.m. for the girls and 7:30 p.m. for the boys. Both games will be played in the main gym at Robinson Secondary School.

## Youth Basketball Tournament

The 16th Annual Mason Dixon Holiday Tip-Off Basketball Tournament for boys and girls in the 8, 10, 12 and 14-and-under age groups is currently accepting registration.

The event is Dec. 28, 29 and 30 in York County, Pa.

The tournament features round-robin competition and all teams are guaranteed a minimum of three games.

Those interested in registering for the tournament can find forms at [usaamateursports.com](http://usaamateursports.com).

Additional information can be acquired by calling 410-363-8610 or e-

mailing [usaamateursports@aol.com](mailto:usaamateursports@aol.com).

## Robinson Alum on All-Region Team

James Madison University soccer defender and Robinson alumni Teri Maykoski was recently named to the 2009 National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Mid-Atlantic Region Team.

Maykoski anchored a JMU defense that allowed just over goal per game (1.07 average) and recorded seven shutouts.

## Holiday Sports Camp Dec. 28-30

Parents seeking a high energy camp for children during the holiday break might be interested in the Fit Kids Sports Mania Holiday Camp.

The Camp is for children ages 5 to 9 and will be at the Claude Moore Community center from Dec. 28 to Dec. 30.

Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will feature a variety of sports including soccer, hockey, t-ball and more.

The camp's goal is to emphasize teamwork and sportsmanship.

Interested parties can find registration information at <http://webtrac.loudoun.gov> or call 571-258-3500.

**Volunteers are needed Dec. 23 and 25 for the Phoenix Rising Meal Program** at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Help serve bagged meals to homeless people living along the Route One corridor between North Kings Highway and the Fairfax County Parkway in Alexandria. All ages can help assemble the bag lunches and assist in delivery. Meals will be prepared Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 6:30 p.m., and delivered Friday, Dec. 25, at 5:30 p.m. 703-971-5151 or [www.franconiaumc.org](http://www.franconiaumc.org).

## FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 15

with chancel and bell choirs; 11 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Service with folk group and flute choir.

**Come see the Christmas Cantata**, "Morning Star," Dec. 13, 11 a.m., at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are handicapped accessible. 703-971-5151.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
On December 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia, the Town Council of the Town of Clifton will hold a public hearing on a lease of Town-owned property located at 7137 Main Street, Clifton Virginia, known as the "Pink House" property. The public hearing will be held pursuant Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800 (disposal of public property). The public hearing was authorized at a special meeting of the Town Council on November 22, 2009. Copies of the rental criteria are available for public inspection at 7150 Main Street, Clifton Virginia.

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PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Monty Smith with his Lego Train display.

Trains Roll at Museum

FROM PAGE 4

pushing the snow off the track," Mitulla said. "The kids love these trains because they can run with them, but the parents love them even more because the kids are so tired out, they fall asleep in the car ride home."

Monty Smith, 19, has been displaying the other fan favorite, Monty's Lego Trains, at the show since he was 11. Smith uses Lego sets to build the trains, tracks and the display's scenery, a practice that has become more difficult in recent years as Lego has stopped making train sets. So Smith said he must scour eBay for sets in order to keep the children satisfied each year with fresh setups. Though it is an added inconvenience, Smith said it is worth it to see the children excited.

"I've been coming to this show since I was born, and I wanted to show off my creations, so I started displaying," Smith said. "I'm always getting new track pieces, trains and motors so I come with something new every time, and the children seem to figure

it out before the parents." While the train operators admittedly have the most fun at the displays they attend, the show's patrons were every bit as excited for the trains. Most of the attendees were families with young children and, according to those parents, the event was worth the price of admission.

"WE'VE COME [to this event] several times," said Christine Cardwell, who brought her son Zachary, 3, along with her husband Howard. "Our son really loves trains, and it's nice that something like this is here for the little kids. Boys just love trains. You can't get around it."

Twila Lytle brought her twin 4-year-old boys, Ryan and Connor, to the show for the first time. Like Cardwell, she found that it is nearly impossible to separate boys from trains.

"We've been here for what feels like hours," Lytle said. "The kids got into trains when they were two and we haven't been able to get them away. The kids love watching the trains. They could stay here all day."

HEALTH NOTES

**Haven of Northern Virginia**, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, will be offering a free Widow/Widower's support group. Haven also offers one-on-one support. A volunteer will meet with a person grieving the death of a loved one, as needed, to provide individual support. Volunteers will be selected to match individual need. For more, call 703-941-7000 or visit [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org).

**Life with Cancer** has a variety of support programs for cancer patients and their families at the Cancer Family Center, 2700 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax. 703-776-2841 or [www.lifewithcancer.org](http://www.lifewithcancer.org).

**The Clifton Presbyterian Church has a Caregiver Support Group** that meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. This group is for caregivers of seniors with Alzheimer's, de-

mentia, and other age-related problems. 703-830-9175 ext. 17.

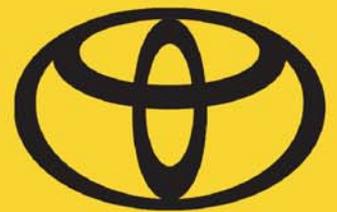
**Body & Soul Fitness** classes are cardio and strength training sessions set to contemporary Christian music. Mondays and Fridays from 9-10:15 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Until Nov. 23. 703-372-2332 or [salbanese@cox.net](mailto:salbanese@cox.net).

Registration for weekday and weekend **Lamaze childbirth** classes in Springfield is available at [www.lamaze-dc.com](http://www.lamaze-dc.com) or by calling 703-549-2226.

**Alzheimer's Family Day Center**, located at 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, hosts various classes. Reservations are required, and classes are open to people who are caring for a relative or friend with dementia. 703-204-4664 or [www.alzheimersfdc.org/classes.htm](http://www.alzheimersfdc.org/classes.htm).

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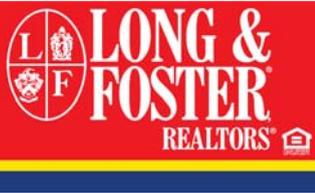


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