

Samantha Ninoska of the
City of Fairfax shares her
light with Ben Josefsen
of Centreville.

Sharing A Light

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City Targeting Lamb Center?

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FCPS Releases Fourth Option

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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 17

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Fairfax County is in need of more trees planted on residential properties. This holiday season - before the ground freezes - plant a tree on your property. If you plan on purchasing a live Christmas Tree, you might also consider purchasing a tree - with the root ball intact - to plant after the holiday. Trees can provide many benefits to your home. For details on tree planting and benefits, contact the Fairfax County Urban Forester at 703-324-1770, TTY 711.

USE CARE WITH LIGHTING:

When using festive lighting arrangements, be sure to carefully inspect wires for fraying and other damage. Also, be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions when connecting lights in sequence, using power strips or connecting to outlet adapters - overloading a circuit can overheat wires and cause fires. Use caution when using open flames such as candles and food warmers.

CONSERVE ENERGY:

Using LED decorative lights and timing devices can save on energy usage during the holiday season. Never leave lights on overnight.

CAN THE GREASE:

You can prevent sewer backups and overflows by pouring grease into used cans, adding an absorbent (like kitty litter or a paper towel) and disposing of it in the trash when full.

RECYCLE PACKAGING AND GIFT WRAP:

Cardboard boxes and packaging, all gift wrap (with the exception of foil wrap) and holiday cards, can be recycled through your normal curbside paper recycling collection.

RECYCLE YOUR LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE:

All Christmas Trees less than 8 feet tall can be recycled at the curb in Fairfax County during the first two weeks in January at no additional cost. Please remove tree stands, ornaments, tinsel, lights and tree toppers. For larger trees, contact your trash collector for collection details.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication.
December 2010

FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Department of Public Works
& Environmental Services**

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes





Anne and Audrey Sullivan of Fairfax enjoy singing the carols.



The crowd stares in wonder as the 20-foot tall tree is lit.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

City Lights Up the Night

City kicks off holiday season with tree lighting ceremony.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, the City of Fairfax hosted its annual tree lighting ceremony in the Kitty Pozer Garden behind Old Town Hall. Hundreds of participants capped off a day filled with holiday-themed activities in the City of Fairfax.

The Centreville United Methodist Church Good News Ringers and the Fairfax Jubil-Aires provided music to accompany the crowd's caroling. The garden featured an animated light show provided by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's Bull Run Festival of Lights.

City Zoning Proposal Raises Concerns for Shelter

Supporters say zoning changes threaten future of homeless outreach program.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

When Pam Baldwin, 61, first started coming to the Lamb Center in 2007, she was living in the woods near Fairfax Circle.

At that time, Baldwin's husband used to shower and shave before he went to work at the Lamb Center, an organization that provides daytime meals and services to the local homeless and poor. The breakfast and lunch the center provided also helped the couple save up money.

For a little while, they lived in an apartment in Leesburg. Then, Baldwin's husband lost his job doing building maintenance for the Reston Association and they could no longer afford housing.

Now, Baldwin's husband is training for a license that would allow him to drive buses. He uses computers and telephones at the Lamb Center to look for work. The couple also uses the center as their mailing address, she said.

About a month ago, the Lamb Center staff helped Baldwin and her husband find shelter for the winter. A member of one of

the local churches offered to put the couple up in the spare bedroom of his house.

Baldwin, who is unable to work, was disappointed to hear from the organization's staff members and volunteers that the City of Fairfax would potentially want to close the Lamb Center down.

"The City of Fairfax, they just want to pretend that this problem doesn't exist when it does," she said.

ANY PEOPLE associated with the Lamb Center said a new set of zoning regulations proposed in the City of Fairfax would limit and could end up shutting down the social services organization.

The center, which is privately funded through 35 local churches, provides free meals, mental health counseling, hair cuts, laundry services and job counseling to its guests during the day. The organization also hosts Alcoholic Anonymous meetings and Bible studies on almost a daily basis.

"These people would have nowhere else to go if we shut down. They would be hanging out at the mall or in the library," said John McPherson, the organization's executive director.

If passed, the proposed zoning regulations would make it difficult for the center to move from its current location at 3220 Old Lee Highway to another site in the City of Fairfax, said supporters and volunteers.

The change in the zoning ordinances would place new restrictions on where social service organizations like the Lamb Center could locate in the city by right.

Under the new regulations, an organization like the Lamb Center would have to be situated at least 1,000 feet from any establishment the sold alcohol or any other social service provider. It would also have to be located within 500 feet of a public transportation site, such as a bus stop, and have parking available for every few guests that dropped in for services.

If a site did not meet these specifications, the Lamb Center or a similar organization would have to go before the Fairfax City Council to obtain a special use permit.

"We definitely feel as if we were targeted by this legislation," said Mary Petersen, a board member of the Lamb Center.

FAIRFAX CITY government members have said the proposed changes to the zoning regulations were not aimed at the Lamb Center.

"This is not directed in any way, shape or form at the Lamb Center. That is just not factual," said Mayor Robert Lederer.

Lederer said the city is conducting a routine review of all of its zoning ordinances,

which haven't been updated in 20 to 30 years. The current regulations that would apply to social service organizations are also muddled and need to be made clear, he said.

"This is an area where we don't have a process that is easy to understand," said

"The City of Fairfax, they just want to pretend that this problem doesn't exist when it does."

— Pam Baldwin

Lederer.

According to the mayor, surrounding localities, including Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria, have similar restrictions on social service organizations to the ones proposed in the City of Fairfax.

The mayor also added that the Lamb

Scam Targets Elderly

City of Fairfax Police are advising citizens to be aware of an ongoing telephone scam targeting elderly individuals. Persons responding to the fraudulent calls are at risk of significant financial loss.

Police handled two incidents last week in which unknown callers telephoned residents claiming to be their granddaughter. The callers then say they've been arrested and need a substantial amount of money in order to be released from jail.

It's been reported that the caller provides an address and instructs the residents to wire a large sum of money via Western Union to their lawyer or someone acting in a similar capacity. The addresses provided appear both domestic and international.

Residents are urged to familiarize themselves with this information and, if they receive a similar phone call, they should hang up and not send money to the caller. Police recommend notifying the phone company to see if their telephone number can be blocked. They should also contact police if they have any concerns or questions.

Construction Delays

Since work has now begun on construction of the Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes Parkway interchange, drivers should be aware that it would result in some traffic delays. This coming weekend, Dec. 11-12, Shirley Contracting will be pile driving for the Route 50 bridge widening. Work is scheduled to be done Saturday-Sunday, from 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Lane closures are planned on Route 50 near the Fairfax County Parkway; two lanes will be closed in each direction, leaving only one lane open each way on Route 50. In addition, closures will occur on the Fairfax County Parkway near the bridge at Route 50; one lane will be closed in each direction, leaving one lane open each way on the parkway.

Since these closures will cause major traffic delays in the area, motorists are advised to plan their travel routes in advance, those days, and allow plenty of extra time to reach their destinations.

Animal Shelter's Adoption Event

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is offering a free spay or neuter for the first 100 cats, kittens, dogs or puppies adopted from the shelter during December. The special offer is part of the shelter's annual, "Home 4 the Holidays" adoption celebration to help homeless animals make their way out of the shelter and into a new home in time for the holidays.

The shelter has a variety of cats and dogs available for adoption, in addition to small mammals, reptiles and birds. To view animals available for adoption, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/> and click on adoption. A new animal is also featured each week on the Fairfax County Police Department's Web site homepage, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police under "Adopt-A-Pet."

The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax. Regular adoption hours are Tuesday-Friday, noon-6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 703-830-1100.

NEWS

School Board Solicits Comments On Fourth Boundary Option

Latest alternative moves fewest students, involves four school additions.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools released a fourth option for adjusting elementary school boundaries in southwestern Fairfax County on Nov. 23, two days before Thanksgiving. The school system is asking community members to provide feedback on the latest alternative, called "Option D," through Dec. 10.

School system staff developed "option d" in response to feedback about the first three school boundary alternatives presented at community meetings in late October.

Option D moves fewer students than the other three proposals but calls for more "bricks and mortar" school additions than the other plans. All four options assume that Clifton Elementary School closes.

The new option would not necessarily be the final boundary change proposal staff presents to the Fairfax County School Board on Jan. 20.

"I don't think we are there yet. The final answer is probably going to be some combination of what we have seen," said School Board president Kathy Smith (Sully).

The School Board is scheduled to take a final vote on the boundary changes on Feb. 24. It will conduct public hearings on the matter on Feb. 7 and 8.

FAIRFAX SCHOOLS started to undertake a massive school boundary study, which initially included 28 elementary schools in western and central Fairfax, last school year.

The school system's own projections showed severe overcrowding at several elementary schools, particularly in the area where Fairfax, Centreville and Chantilly meet near Interstate 66.

Officials projected that Eagle View Elementary School, with approximately 1,200 students, would be at 144 percent of its building capacity in 2015. They said Greenbriar East Elementary School, with about 950 students, would be at 124 percent of its building capacity by the same year. They also predicted that Centreville Elementary School, with approximately 1,000 students, would be at 118 percent of its building capacity in five years.

At the same time, some elementary schools in the vicinity - Cub Run, Union Mill and Willow Springs - are expected to be under their building capacity by at least 20 percent in 2015.

Through the boundary changes and building additions, school officials hope to spread some of the excess student population across a larger number of communities, making use of the vacant seats at some area schools.

"The overcrowding at some of the schools, that is what I am trying to fix," said School Board member Tessie Wilson (Braddock).

UNDER OPTION D, approximately 961 students would move schools at the beginning of the next school year. An additional 498 students would move schools in the fall of 2013, once some school building additions were constructed.

With the exception of students at Clifton, rising sixth graders would not be asked to move campuses before their final year of elementary school.

In this proposal, the school system would construct six-classroom additions to both Fairview and Fairfax Villa elementary Schools. Officials would also build eight-room additions at Greenbriar East and Union Mill elementary schools.

Fairfax schools would also move an eight-classroom modular from Canterbury Woods Elementary School to Centreville Elementary School, according to public documents about the new boundary proposal.

The total cost for moving the modular and adding the new additions would be approximately \$17.7 million overall, according to documents.

BY FAR, the most students to be moved from a school would occur at Eagle View and Clifton, which the School Board has voted to close permanently.

Like earlier options, about 326 Clifton students would be split up between Union Mill, Fairview and Sangster elementary schools at the end of this school year.

Eagle View, the most overpopulated elementary school in western Fairfax, would lose 117 students to Willow Springs at the end of this year and 202 students to Fairfax Villa and Greenbriar East in 2013.

Under Option D, only one school would be subjected to a "double bump," where students are moved out of a building to make room for other students who are moving into the same facility.

In 2013, Centre Ridge would lose about 128 students to Union Mill but gain almost the same number of children, about 115, from Powell Elementary School.

This boundary alternative also calls for about 138 students enrolled in the Advanced Academic Program, previously called gifted and talented centers, to move locations.

OPTION D does little to eliminate attendance "islands," where school boundaries are not contiguous.

Notably, the Oak View "island" in Fairfax Station, which is also known as the Woodson High School "island," remains intact under this option. Option D also expands a Willow Springs attendance "island" north of Lee Highway into communities that currently attend Eagle View.

At the request of parents, officials said they did not change middle and high school attendance patterns as part of Option D. This action would result in some "split feeders" at the elementary school level.

Students formerly from the Clifton attendance area would still attend Robinson Secondary School instead of continuing onto Centreville High School like other Union Mill students or Lake Braddock Secondary School like other Sangster students.

Students moving from Greenbriar East to Greenbriar West would still attend Fairfax High School instead of going to Chantilly High School.

IN OPTION D, the school system would be moving some families out of schools with full-day kindergarten programs into schools with half-day kindergarten programs, a point of contention for many parents.

Those moving from Eagle View to Willow Springs; from

"We would still be overcrowded."

— Sandy Jones, Greenbriar West Elementary

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

4400 University Drive, Fairfax. For students and local independent game developers, game industry leaders and members of the business community. <http://eagle.gmu.edu/newsroom/846>.

Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526, ext. 22 or ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 9
Immigration Workshop. 6:30 p.m. Virginia International University, 11200 Waples Mill Road, #360; Fairfax. Information on U.S. immigration requirements. Free and open to the public. jbennett@viu.edu.


SATURDAY/DEC. 11
Our Daily Bread Food Drive. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to the Safeway at 10376 Willard Way, Fairfax. The food drive will benefit several Fairfax-based organizations and congregations. Donors who bring five non-perishable items or a grocery gift card will receive a coupon for a free McCafé beverage. www.our-daily-bread.org.
Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Information Session. 11 a.m. at the Kings Park

SUNDAY/DEC. 12
Community Hours. Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) will be meeting with constituents 6-7:30 p.m., at Panera, 6230 W. Rolling Road, Springfield.

MONDAY/DEC. 15
Mamie Eisenhower Republican

FRIDAY/DEC. 10
Business of Games Conference. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Mason University,

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7



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Fairfax Schools Backs Away from Bus Proposal

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

School system no longer plans to build a bus depot at Woodson.

Fairfax County Public Schools has dropped a controversial proposal to build a school bus storage lot on the northeastern corner of Woodson High School's property.

The school system withdrew its plans just before the Thanksgiving holiday after learning that the project would require ap-

proximately \$1 million of new road improvements at the intersection of Route 236 and Pickett Road.

The additional costs made the overall project too expensive for the City of Fairfax, which is responsible for paying for the new bus facility as the result of a years-old land

swap.

"It got to the point that it became so expensive as an option, we decided that we couldn't do the project because of the costs," said Robert Lederer, mayor of the City of Fairfax.

The news pleased large swaths of the

Woodson parent community and civic associations located near Woodson. Both the high school families and those living nearby had objected to the new facility, which would have stored 51 school buses on a vacant field at the far end of the school's property.

Those protesting said the campus was

SEE FCPS, PAGE 14

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Check out our new website: MerrifieldGardenCenter.com

FROM PAGE 5

Women's Club Luncheon Meeting & Holiday Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Army Navy Country Club-Fairfax, 3315 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. With Edwina Rogers, Executive Director, The Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative. 703-323-0939.

JSSA Parent Support Group for Young Adults Across the Autism Spectrum. 7 p.m. at JSSA, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. A monthly support group. Identifying community resources, building a support network and balancing one's own needs with that of an adult son or daughter. Register at 703-204-9100.

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

Running/Walking Club. 10 a.m. Potomac River Running Store, 5715 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. For age 55 and up. A facilitated walk/run in the Burke area. Wear running/walking shoes and comfortable clothing suitable for outdoor activity. Ongoing, meets every Thursday. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec or 703-324-5544, TTY 711.

FRIDAY/DEC. 24

Washington DC Jewish Community Center's Day of Service. Help at one of over 50 non-profits throughout the area. Projects vary from 2-4 hours and encompass a variety of activities such as throwing holiday parties for children, visiting seniors and serving meals to the homeless. Family and group projects are also available. \$20. Register at www.washingtondcjcc.org/volunteer.

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Expect a Tough Road Ahead

State and local coffers will continue to shrink in 2011; transportation improvements unlikely.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance quotes Gov. Bob McDonnell's remarks to the Dulles Area Transportation Association earlier this week. "I can't emphasize how important it is to get started now," McDonnell said, to take advantage of favorable infrastructure pricing [due to the recession] by starting to invest more in transportation.

But the Alliance, which advocates for spending on roads and highways, points out that McDonnell "provided few details as to new funding sources, but promised that specifics would surface in the weeks ahead."

Last January was the "now" to get started to take advantage of "favorable infrastructure pricing."

McDonnell has been in office a year now, and won in Northern Virginia largely because of his vigorous campaigning on transportation issues. But he allowed the first year of his tenure, including the first year's session of the General Assembly, to pass without a serious proposal on how to fund transportation improvements in Northern Virginia or elsewhere in the state.

Instead, McDonnell has spent the last months talking up a liquor privatization proposal as a solution to transportation. In fact, that proposal would possibly pay for one intersection or overpass improvement project in Northern Virginia before moving on to cost state funding for education, public safety and social services tens of millions of dollars a year by turning over the revenues for private companies' profit.

EDITORIAL

Meanwhile, localities in Northern Virginia received essentially zero dollars from the state for transportation improvements in past year.

More on the outlook ahead for public services from Deputy County Executive Ed Long as he prepared the budget forecast for the coming year:

- ❖ While home values are up for the first time in five years, the county still faces a multimillion dollar shortfall and the future of the local economy is uncertain.

- ❖ Government contracts are a major component of the Northern Virginia economy. In Fairfax County alone in 2008, federal procure-

ment contracts totaled \$17 billion. Since this is such a large component of the local economy, the discussion of cutbacks in federal contracts is a major concern.

- ❖ The Fairfax County budget gets less than 20 cents back from Richmond of every tax dollar it sends to the state.

- ❖ There are 30,000 unemployed people in Fairfax County, with the current unemployment rate approximately 4.9 percent, or close to half the national rate. Still, 30,000 people is a huge number of unemployed.

Share Your New Year's Resolutions

It's early and much of the holiday eating season is still in front of us. But most of us will engage in some soul searching and resolution making around the New Year. In the first issue of 2011, the Connection will share the New Year's resolutions of individuals and offices. Send us your resolutions, plus your tips on keeping resolutions. Feel free to offer resolutions for local officials as well.

Please include a photo with your resolutions.

Submit photos and resolutions to fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com.



Elie Choe, Michelle Pearlstein and Nicole Choe make Chanukah cards.



Eyal Kalderan, Dave Daniels, Olbin Mendes, watching Daniel Madriz play the Wii console.



A mountain of Legos was available for children to build whatever they were inspired to build.

PHOTOS BY MEG JOHNSTON

All for Fun

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia hosts Dec. 5 Chanukah party.

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NEWS

Fourth Option

FROM PAGE 3

Powell and Centreville to Union Mill; and from Greenbriar East students to Greenbriar West would shift from full-day to half-day kindergarten program.

The School Board members intend to expand full-day kindergarten to all campuses eventually but tight budgets have caused them to put a freeze on the program. Full-day kindergarten is awarded on basis of need and those schools still without full-day kindergarten are usually among the most affluent in the county, according to school officials.

OPTION D would leave all schools at an acceptable population level, using between 95 and 105 percent of their building capacity by 2015, according to statistics released by the school system.

But "building capacity" is often calculated by including modular classrooms, which some parents find inappropriate. For example, school officials report that Centreville Elementary would move to 91 percent of its building capacity by 2015, but only if they include the eight-classroom modular unit they would move to the campus.

"[Option D] only puts us down 40 children. That isn't enough. We still have two trailers. It kills me to have trailers," said Sandy Jones, PTA president at Greenbriar West, a school that would be at about 100 percent building capacity, with trailers, if option d was adopted.

"We have rooms in use in the building that were never intended to be classrooms. We have absolutely zero space. ... We would still be overcrowded," said Jones.

THE CLIFTON COMMUNITY, which is still fighting the School Board's decision to close their school, is also concerned about plans to move their students to Fairview and Union Mill before new additions at those schools are completed in 2013.

"Are they going to be moving students out of our school building and into trailers?" asked Patti Hopkins, PTA president at Clifton.

"My main concern is that they are closing Clifton at the end of this year without having enough seats at the surrounding schools," she said.



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Fingers Are Flying

Local knitter works overtime to make items for Sugarloaf Festival.

BY CHELSEA MUTH
THE CONNECTION

Susan Paul's fingers are working non-stop in preparation for the Dec. 10-12 Sugarloaf Crafts Festival in Chantilly. The lifelong fiber artist hasn't succumbed to carpal tunnel yet.

"When my fingers start to cramp from knitting, I switch to crochet," Paul said.

Paul has more than 50 years experience knitting and started the company Woolly Wishes, five years ago. In 2006, Paul attended Sugarloaf Crafts Festival for the first time, sharing a booth with a friend. The established craftswoman, taught by a grandmother known as "the mitten lady," took quickly to the competitive craft scene.

"After the first year, I realized I needed my own booth," said Paul.

Sugarloaf Crafts representative Mike Fila described Paul as an artist who aims to "retrofit her traditional craft to fit the modern world."

True to her craft, Paul is passionate about art and design. She fits in among 250 other artists, at the high profile Sugarloaf Crafts Festival, a juried show, to which artists, from Virginia and across the globe, are chosen upon application.

Paul produces bright-colored fiber pieces of wool,

ribbon, silk, lace and alpaca. The original creations stem from original sketches and software used to create patterns.

"I never knit to order," Paul said. The knitter has her own vision for scarves, gloves and shawls, most of which, consequently, don't require sizing. The businesswoman is on a tight schedule and can't afford to lose time on custom orders.

Woolly Wishes' website [www.syrious.com/woolly-1.htm] currently has no items for sale. Paul sells only at fall craft shows. However, the artist has plans for expansion.

Those plans are on hold, though, due to the fact that, from 9-5, Paul's fingers are preoccupied. During those hours, she is an accountant, but Paul does most of her knitting on the Metro.

"Or at lunch. Or the doctor's," she said. It's Paul's goal to turn her passion into full-time work in five years.

"I have so many goals," said Paul. Those goals include creating crocheted artwork, scarves with cell phone pockets, and an

expanded collection and customer base - more men and women of all ages.

"I have a goal to show that knitting isn't what your great grandmother engaged in. We can have good fashion and we can have function, too," Paul said.

Paul has already proved her fashion theory, evidenced by her loyal Sugarloaf customers. The knitter-accountant's fans wait for her work throughout the year. Paul sold out of her most popular items during this past month's craft shows.

Paul's fingers may not get a break until the end of the show, but until she becomes a full-time knitter, she'll get used to this frantic week.

"When my fingers start to cramp from knitting, I switch to crochet."

— Susan Paul



PHOTO BY CHELSEA MUTH/THE CONNECTION

Susan Paul is busy replenishing her work supply for Sugarloaf Crafts Festival, wishing her day job didn't hold her up.

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival

Fairfax fiber artist Susan Paul will be participating in the Sugarloaf Crafts Festival, Dec. 10-12, at the Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. The festival will feature more than 250 artists. For times and directions, go to www.sugarloafcrafts.com.

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. 9

Alex Dezen and Courtney Kaiser. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Tales for Twos: Wooden Soldiers. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about toys. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/DEC. 10

Waverly Consort's "A Christmas Story." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. In the spirit of the medieval church dramas and mystery plays, eight singers and five instrumentalists play reproductions of medieval instruments. \$21-\$42, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Voce Chamber Singers: Home for Christmas. 7:30 p.m. Fairfax Christian Church, 10185 Main St., Fairfax. Christmas carols, classical and contemporary holiday music. \$23 adults, \$18 seniors, \$8 for age 24 and under. Tickets at the door an

additional \$2. Purchase at www.voce.org/tickets or 703-277-7772.

Bonita Lestina Concert Series. 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Colombia Flute Choir "Celebrating the Season." www.visitfairfax.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Synergy Brass Quintet: "Christmas in Brass." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Brass arrangements of Bach's choral works, Handel's triumphant "Messiah" and a selection of classic Christmas carols. \$22-\$44, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Lopez Studios, Inc. Annual Christmas Concert. 2:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Encore Theatrical Arts Project: "Santa Got Frostbite." 12 p.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Christmas chaos and fun for the whole family in a Broadway-style, song and dance holiday spectacular. Tickets \$18-\$21. bonnielhobbs@gmail.com.

Fairfax County TalkStories. 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Fairfax. Sam and Shirley DiBartolo and Larry and Mary Mark on heritage from Italy

and Denmark and the history of St. Mary's Catholic Church. With the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls. corazonfoley@yahoo.com.

Wheels to Africa Bicycle Collection. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Pizza Hut at the corner of Route 236 and Prosperity Drive, Fairfax. Wheels to Africa is a nonprofit that collects bicycles for Africa and needy American communities. \$10 donation requested with each bicycle to help cover shipping costs. www.wheels-to-africa.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Xyra and Mystic Angels. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Encore Theatrical Arts Project: "Santa Got Frostbite." 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Christmas chaos and fun for the whole family in a Broadway-style, song and dance holiday spectacular. Tickets \$18-\$21.

Holiday and Popular Tunes Concert. 2 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Holiday and popular tunes played by Fairfax County Elementary School strings students directed by Maggie Lubinski. This performance is an outreach program for Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center's temporary exhibition, "City of Fairfax: Celebrating the Arts,"

installed through Dec. 30 at Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. Fairfax. Free. 703-385-8414.

The Holidays at Mason: Believe in Miracles. 7 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Mason Symphony Orchestra, University Chorale and University Singers perform selections composed by Alan Silvestri, Glen Ballard and John Rutter. Audience-sing-along. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. Limited number of free tickets for students with a valid Mason ID. Charge tickets at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

"A Lamb's Tale." 11 a.m. Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. A children's Christmas musical, presented by the Kids Church Ministry. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Christmas Bazaar. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the American Legion Auxiliary Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Gifts, jewelry, crafts, wickless candles, bags, baked goods, home decor and more. 703-273-2250.

National Men's Chorus: Music at Christmastide. 4 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Featuring vocalist Debi Smith and pianist Thomas Pandolfi, conducted by Thomas Beveridge. \$15 adults, students and children free. 202-244-7191 or www.nationalschorus.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 13

Bert Jansch and Pegi Young. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Book Buddies. 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Beginners practice reading skills with a young adult volunteer. Age 5-9 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Holiday Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Seasonal stories and fun from various traditions. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-978-5600.

TUESDAY/DEC. 14

Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls Christmas Party & Open House. 12-2 p.m. Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. corazonfoley@yahoo.com.

Lake Braddock Secondary School Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Music by American composers, directed by Megan Cartwright and Elizabeth Reed. \$5. spehrsson@cox.net.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

- Fairfax Bibliophiles Book Collecting Group.** 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Topic to be announced. Adults. 703-293-6227.
- Book Discussion Group.** 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Archie and Amelie by Donna Lucey. Adults. 703-978-5600.
- Paws to Read.** 4 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice reading with Ralph, a trained therapy dog. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Age 6-10 with adult. 703-978-5600.
- Book Discussion Group.** 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "Islam: A Short History" by Karen Armstrong. Adults. 703-978-5600.
- Calling All Guys.** 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Book discussion group for boys. "Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson. Age 9-12 with adult. 703-978-5600.
- Let's Hear It for the Girls.** 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. All girls book discussion group. "Cinderella and the Glass Hill" by Gail Carson Levine. Age 9-12 with adult female. 703-978-5600.
- Book Club Kids.** 10:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. A book club for 3-5 year olds. Activities and fun centered around the book "A Grand Old Tree" by Mary Newell DePalma. Children should be familiar with this story before coming. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-644-7333.
- Daytime Book Discussion Group.** 1 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "Cakes and Ale" by Somerset Maugham. Adults. 703-644-7333.
- Mother-Daughter Book Club.** 7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book discussion group for girls and their moms. "The Best Christmas Ever" by Barbara Robinson. Age 9-11. 703-249-1520.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 15

- Jesse Malin & The St. Marks Social,** Marah "It Came Upon a Midnight Beer" Rock & Roll Christmas Show, Richard Bacchus and more. 8:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
- "Merry, Happy... What?"** 7:30 p.m. at the Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. When Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa roll around Molly always feels left out. No one else celebrates the same holiday that she does. A light-hearted story for the whole family. \$10. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.
- Tales of Winter.** 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.
- Writers' Roundtable.** 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Discuss your work with other writers. Adults. 703-644-7333.
- Things That Go!** 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and rhymes about trains, planes, and cars. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-249-1520.
- P.A.L. Read to the Dog.** 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice reading skills with a trained therapy dog. First come/ first serve. No registration. Sign up at the door after 4 p.m. First session at 4:30 PM., last session at 5:15 PM. Age 6-12 with adult. 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

- Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500

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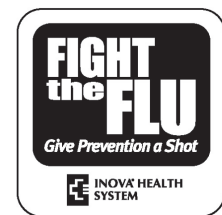
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FAIRFAX CONNECTION ❖ DECEMBER 9-15, 2010 ❖ 11

Rebels District Contender?

Murphree, Mesaris are key additions to talented Fairfax High line-up.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax High's girls' basketball program has gotten progressively better under fourth year head coach Marcus Konde. Fans of the Liberty District team hope that trend continues this winter season.

So far, the Rebels have gotten off to a terrific start, winning both of their games at their own Rebels' Tip-Off jamboree last week. In the three-team, round robin format, Fairfax defeated both Stuart High, 73-16, and Heritage High (Leesburg), 78-43.

Fairfax, this week, was slated to play tougher games at both W.T. Woodson on Tuesday, Dec. 7, and Robinson on Friday night, Dec. 10.

"We're starting to come together chemistry-wise a little sooner than I expected," said Konde, in an early season view of his team. "We're relatively strong at all of our starting positions. We played fairly well in our first two games. We'll have a good test this week."

Three years ago, in his first season in charge of the Rebels (2007-08 season), Fairfax went 1-22 in a clear re-building season. That was followed by a 6-16 record the following season and a winning record, 11-9, last year. Despite winning more games than it lost last winter, the Rebels did not qualify for the 16-team Northern Region playoffs.

Star player Lauren Burford led last year's squad. The Liberty District Player of the Year, she also earned Second Team All-State recognition. Burford, a 6-2 guard, is currently playing college basketball on scholarship at Villanova University in Philadelphia. Burford played only her junior and senior seasons at Fairfax. Prior to that, she attended St. John's private school in Washington, D.C.

Konde said that this year's team, even with Burford gone, could be a factor in the tough Liberty District, which features annual top tier teams such as defending district champion Madison, Langley and South Lakes.

"I feel this year more than [the past three], we have a chance to compete in the district," he said.

FAIRFAX has two returning starters back from last year, junior Liz McNaughton, a 6-foot-1 inch, guard-forward player who averaged 10 points and eight rebounds per game last year; and senior guard Jordan Sharpe, a fourth year varsity member. Both girls are team co-captains this season.

"Liz is a good all-around player with good shooting range from the outside," said Konde. "She is good at crashing the boards. She is more vocal this year and a more focal part of the team."

Konde described Sharpe as a player-coach type of team member because of her solid leadership and crisp all-around play.

"She's a very good defender and really hustles," said the coach. "She does a good job on the boards and gets a lot of deflections defensively."

Another key player back from last year's squad is Taylor Intermill, a sophomore guard who, as a freshman last year, was a part-time starter at point guard. This season, Intermill will play more at the off-guard position but will also see minutes at the point.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Liz McNaughton returns to this year's starting line-up for the Fairfax High girls' basketball team. Last year, the guard/forward averaged 10 points and eight rebounds per game for the 11-9 Rebels.

Fairfax's starting point guard this winter is 5-9 freshman Kylie Murphree, a solid, all-around player with exceptional court savvy and skills. Fairfax assistant coach Rachel Bassford recently remarked to Konde that Murphree reminds her of former Westfield High standout guard Shelby Romine, a two-time Concorde District Player of the Year who excelled as a ball-handler, scorer and defensive player for the Bulldogs the past two years. Bassford worked as a Westfield High assistant coach as part of Pat Deegan's staff last year.

Murphree, as a ninth grader, will certainly go through some growing pains this season. But she has outstanding potential. She scored 20 points in the win over Heritage.

"She's extremely fast and really good at both ends of the floor," said Konde, who watched Murphree play travel ball over the past year. "I've yet to see a team double team and stop her. She's got very good court vision. She's the real deal."

ANOTHER talented newcomer to the Fairfax roster this season is actually a senior. Meredith Mesaris, a 6-2 center, played at local private school Paul VI the past two years and was at Bishop O'Connell as a freshman.

"I think she's a phenomenal post player," said Konde, of the newcomer frontcourt player. "She will give a lot of people trouble."

Mesaris has already accepted a full-ride scholarship to play women's college basketball at American University next school year.

Fairfax's next home game is scheduled for next Tuesday night, Dec. 14 when the Rebels host district opponent Langley. Over the Christmas holiday break, the Rebels will host their own Lady Rebels Winter Classic from Dec. 28-30



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax High will, once again, be hosting the annual early season Northern Virginia Wrestling Classic this Friday and Saturday.

For Wrestling Fans, It's a Classic Meet

NOVA Classic wrestling meet set for this weekend at Fairfax.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

One of the yearly highlights of the early high school winter sports season is the annual Northern Virginia (NOVA) Wrestling Classic, the large showcase extravaganza that is hosted by Fairfax High School and includes most of the public schools from across the Northern Region as well as other public and private schools from the metropolitan area and further out.

The Classic has been one of the most successful and longest-running booster-sponsored events in the region. This year's Classic, the unofficial starting point of the local prep school wrestling season, is believed to be in its 23rd straight year, although that fact is a little fuzzy to event coordinators.

"We were trying to do a countdown and we think this is the 23rd year," said Tim Gordan, Fairfax High's director of student activities, in a recent e-mail regarding the event. "But our memories are fading!"

"I think she's a phenomenal post player. She will give a lot of people trouble."

— Fairfax Head Coach
Marcus Konde

Whatever the Classic's official year start-up, the tournament is a monitor for local coaches to get a sense of where their respective teams are at the early stages of the mat season.

"The NOVA Classic is a great opening tournament for the season," said Scott Matheny, Lake Braddock Secondary School head coach. "It gives the guys a preview of what is in the region and some good competition

from outside the region. It is a early season measuring stick for where you are and what you need to work on."

The Classic is Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11 at Fairfax High. The action will begin at 10 a.m. on both days.

Jack Clark, the Woodson High head wrestling coach, said the Classic is a great opportunity for his wrestlers, especially the younger team members, to get a "big meet" experience, a preparatory for the bigger and more important tournaments later in the season.

"My expectation for the NOVA Classic is that it is a motivator for the guys, to get an idea of what they need to do to prepare for the end of year tournaments," said Clark. "Time is short and I really believe in our

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SPORTS

NOVA Wrestling Meet

FROM PAGE 12

guys. They are great kids, good listeners and willing to put themselves on the line and do the work that's necessary. I'm particularly proud of their team-first attitude."

While succeeding and doing well at the Classic, both in the team standings and individually, are of importance for athletes and coaches, the big picture reality of the event suggests it is but the first step of a long, often grinding season.

"The NOVA Classic is a big early event, however it is so early in the season that it won't have a major effect on the team," said Sean Anderson, the coach at South County Secondary School. "We all know it's not how you start a season but how you finish it. With that being said we look forward to the challenge of a big tournament and look for some of our wrestlers to make a name for themselves."

Thirty-one teams are expected to participate in this year's Classic, including local schools such as Annandale, Fairfax, Lake Braddock, Paul VI, South County, West Springfield and W.T. Woodson.

The other participating schools will be: Bishop Ireton of Alexandria, Bishop O'Connell of Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Edison, Fauquier, George Mason (Falls Church city), Herndon, Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, McLean, Mountain View (Stafford), Oakton, Potomac Falls, South Lakes, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School of Alexandria, Tallwood (Virginia Beach), T.C. Williams, Wakefield, Washington-Lee, Westfield and Yorktown.

Rams Respond To Tough Loss

Rams win consecutive games after losing opener

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Robinson's girls' basketball team had a five-point lead at home with less than 3 minutes to play against a Yorktown team with a freshman point guard. While the Rams had to like their chances, it was the Patriots' ninth-grader who played like a veteran down the stretch and started Yorktown's season with a win.

Yorktown freshman Mikayla Venson knocked down a 3-pointer from the right wing with 2.5 seconds remaining to give the Patriots a 48-45 victory on Dec. 1. The triple was part an 11-3 Yorktown run during the final 2 minutes and 28 seconds.

"First games are tough for any player," Yorktown head coach Dave Garrison said. "She stepped up, had some big plays throughout the game and certainly the one at the end is the one that's going to be remembered."

Meanwhile, Robinson head coach TJ Dade wasn't pleased with his team, which shot 10-for-20 from the free-throw line and failed to protect a late lead.

"We've got to play smarter," he said. "We turned the ball over entirely too much. The intensity level was good, but we didn't take care of the little things. They're a good team, but I think if we had handled the little things, we would have come out on top. We have a five-point lead and we couldn't close it. We didn't play with what's between our ears."

Last year's top five team finishers at the 2009 NOVA Classic were champion Westfield, second place Fairfax, third place Woodbridge, fourth place Annandale and fifth place Potomac Falls of the Dulles District.

Robinson Secondary won the team title in 2008 and Westfield took the crown in 2007. Robinson is participating at another tournament this weekend in Annapolis.

A year ago, the W.T. Woodson Cavaliers, behind a stellar group of senior wrestlers, finished fourth in the postseason Northern Region championships. It was Woodson's best finish at regionals in 16 years.

This season, different team members will have to emerge in order for Woodson to have a successful year.

"I do not consider this a rebuilding year, but I see this as an opportunity for guys on the team to step up and fill the role where last year's guys left off," said coach Clark. "We're a work in progress at the moment, but are working hard to make progress this season. We have a good mix of returning seniors and some fresh faces that have the potential to be strong wrestlers."

Returning seniors include Mitchell Kohlhaas (112 weight class), who finished in the top 12 at states last year, Randall Mailand, Michael Orrick, Daniel Albamonte, Mac Tunick, Ben Newman and Carson Brown.

The Fairfax County School Board recently named the Woodson wrestling room after longtime legendary head coach Paul Labazzetta, who was at the helm of the Cavaliers from 1972 to 2004. Woodson plans to honor Labazzetta later on this season.

Robinson returns three athletes - junior guard Tyler Hansen (5-foot-8), junior guard Megan Green (5-foot-7) and junior forward Brigitte Kuter (5-foot-11) - from last year's team, which opened the season with a 19-point win over Yorktown. Robinson expected to return a fourth starter, but 6-foot-1 junior Christie Michals was lost for the season after preseason foot surgery.

While they struggled in the opener, the Rams bounced back from the loss with 41-31 win over McLean on Dec. 2 and a 57-43 win over Woodson on Dec. 4. To continue having success, Dade said the Rams will need points out of their returning starters. Against Yorktown, Hansen scored seven points, Kuter finished with six and Green added five.

"We need more scoring from them for us to be successful," Dade said. "We've got some younger players who are working hard in practice and hopefully, if given the opportunity, if somebody's not producing then they've always got a shot."

One younger player who stepped up was sophomore Dhyamond Crenshaw (6-foot), who scored a team high 13 points. Junior Jenna Lamb (5-foot-9) came off the bench and scored four points for the Rams.

Robinson's only senior is 5-foot-5 guard Lauren Denham, who scored seven points against Yorktown. Juniors Noelle Martinson (5-foot-7), Caroline Parris (5-foot-7) and Cassie Wood (5-foot-7), sophomores Shannon Lopynski (5-foot-4) and Paula Bobsin (5-foot-6) and freshman Natalie Nohra (5-foot-6) are also on the team.

"We know what went wrong," Dade said after the Yorktown game. "We've got to figure it out." Robinson will host Langley on Dec. 10, at 5:45 p.m.

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Lamb Center Backers Wary of New City Zoning

FROM PAGE 3

Center would be “grandfathered” into its current location, meaning that the regulations wouldn’t apply to its existing building and site as long as the group’s current use does not change.

“This ordinance has nothing to do with the Lamb Center in its current location. It only ensures that the city will be a partner if it moves to a new site,” said Lederer.

Yet it might not take much for the city to have a say in how the Lamb Center continues to operate at its current location.

A small change in the organization’s operations, such as the hiring of one new staff member, could trigger a need for the Lamb Center to obtain a special use permit, even for its current site, according to the organization’s supporters.

Right now, the center’s building meets very few of the requirements laid out in the proposed regulations for “by right” occupancy. It is located next to a 7-Eleven that sells alcohol and has very few parking spaces available.

“To have to spend \$5,000 on a special-use permit would literally mean taking money away from the poor,” said McPherson.

McPherson said the city was aware that the center was actively looking for a new site, which makes him more skeptical of the timing of these changes to the zoning regulations.

It is also not clear whether a piece of property exists in the city that would meet all the criteria proposed, according to Lamb Center supporters.

Several City Council members were also unable to name an existing organization besides the Lamb Center to which the proposed regulations would apply.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Some believe the City of Fairfax may be using restrictive zoning regulations to force the Lamb Center to shut down.

Lamb Center advocates also said the city declined to give them any advanced notice about the proposed changes in regulation.

Documents related to the changes went up on city’s website directly before the Thanksgiving holiday and the Planning Commission and City Council were initially scheduled to vote on the matter the following week.

“Why would this be so urgent that it would be brought up on a holiday weekend?” said Petersen.

But Councilmember Dan Drummond said the proposed changes to the zoning regulations had been in the public domain since October. The City Council also plans to discuss the issue at work session on Dec. 14 and

won’t vote on the changes until January.

Still, a history of bad blood exists between the Lamb Center and the City of Fairfax. The organization is currently locked in a legal battle with the city government over whether the programs on its property should be more limited.

A few years ago, the city cited the Lamb Center for not having a special permit for some of its functions. It said the organization could not run some programs on its site without permission from the City Council.

The Lamb Center then appealed the city’s ruling to the city’s Board of Zoning Appeals. The appeals board ended up siding with the Lamb Center, saying the organization

was operating within its right as a tenant of that property.

The City Council then chose to appeal the Board of Zoning Appeals decision to the local court system. McPherson said he expects the matter will go to trial in February.

“They sued their own Board of Zoning Appeals over its decision to support us,” said McPherson.

At least one other person has also complained about the City of Fairfax using zoning regulations to try and thwart charitable activity.

Annandale resident Munford Yates said his church, Love The World Fellowship, which caters to homeless people, was tracked closely by the city’s zoning administrator.

In 2008, the zoning administrator forced the fellowship out of a City of Fairfax office building, stating that Yates did not have the required permit to conduct church meetings on a Sunday at that location. But when he requested the permit, Yates application was denied because the City of Fairfax said his office building did not have enough parking spaces to accommodate the size of his congregation.

Yates considered the parking issue a red herring, since most members of his congregation did not have cars.

So, in 2009, Love The World Fellowship, which has approximately 100 members, started meeting in the basement of Truro Church in downtown Fairfax. At that point, Yates said the zoning administrator started citing Truro, stating that hosting Love The World Fellowship fell outside the bounds of the church’s permitted uses.

But the Board of Zoning Appeals sided with Truro and Love The World Fellowship, said Yates.

“I don’t think the city wants people who look like the people who attend Love The World Fellowship” in the city,” said Yates.

FCPS Drops Woodson Bus Lot Plan

FROM PAGE 6

already burdened with numerous auxiliary functions including the school system’s food distribution warehouse, a county vehicle service station and some building maintenance functions.

Many surrounding communities were also concerned about that the bus depot would exacerbate traffic at Route 236 and Pickett Road, which is already a congested intersection.

The results of a traffic study released last month showed that the buses would have made traffic worse on that corner at some points in the afternoon. Since the Virginia Department of Transportation had already rated the intersection as “failing,” the city would have been legally obligated to “neutralize” the impact with the expensive upgrades before constructing the new facility, according to School Board member Tessie Wilson (Braddock).

“I am not shocked. Every step of the way, we were increasing the cost of the project. I

knew if we had one more thing we were going to be over the edge,” said Wilson.

Woodson parents saw the recently released transportation study as vindication of their views about the negative impacts the bus depot would have had.

They said the school system should have been less dismissive about the ramifications of the proposal and listened to the community’s concerns more closely.

“I am disappointed that it took a tremendous amount of work on the part of the Woodson coalition to investigate the details of this proposal,” said Megan McLaughlin, co-chair of the Woodson Parking Lot Coalition.

Schools officials and Lederer were pushing for a new bus depot at Woodson so they could finally shut down another storage site at the former Eleven Oaks Elementary School property in the City of Fairfax.

Both schools and officials and city officials agree that Eleven Oaks, located in a quiet residential area, is not the appropriate place

for school bus storage.

“That situation is not acceptable to anybody. The buses are parked within 25 yards of residential homes. In the morning, it is very loud and disruptive when the drivers come,” said Lederer.

Lederer, who does not represent residents living near Woodson, was upset that the Woodson bus proposal had become cost prohibitive.

“We don’t have a more viable alternative and this option was far superior to the existing situation,” he said.

The mayor said he did not share the concerns of the Woodson community about the bus proposal’s impact on traffic, especially since the city just spent a considerable amount of money upgrading the affected intersection.

“It is a major intersection that the city just spent \$3 million improving,” said Lederer. “I guess we are just going to go back to the drawing board and continue the process.”

Rams Football Players Receive Region Honors

The Robinson football team was well represented when the all-Northern Region team was announced.

Senior Jared Velasquez was named co-Defensive Player of the Year. He earned first-team honors as a defensive back, first-team special teams honors as a kick returner and was a first-team running back on offense.

Senior Evan Hanscom made the second-team offense as a tackle. On defense, senior Thomas Petrosi (defensive back), senior Patrick Miller (defensive end), senior Chris Garcia (defensive back) and junior Andre Kendall (defensive lineman) made the second team.

Junior center Calvin Shade and junior wide receiver Patrick Baker garnered honorable mention accolades.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

Decembersongs with Dan Navarro, Amy Speace, Sally Barris and Jon Vezner. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

"Merry, Happy... What?" 7:30 p.m. at the Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. When Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa roll around Molly always feels left out. No one else celebrates the same holiday that she does. A light-hearted story for the whole family. \$10. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

Hedgie Visits. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bring a camera for photos, stories and activities with Jan Brett's character Hedgie the Hedgehog. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

Bill Kirchen's Honky Tonk Holiday Show. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

A Celtic Christmas with Sior-Óg and Friends. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax.

Christmas music, songs, poems, stories and dance. joannaormesher@mac.com.

"Merry, Happy... What?" 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. When Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa roll around Molly always feels left out. No one else celebrates the same holiday that she does. A light-hearted story for the whole family. \$10. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

2010 Graduating Artist Showcase. 6-9 p.m. George Mason University Art and Design Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fall 2010 Senior Exhibition Reception. Exhibits of over 60 graduating artists including paintings, sculpture, animation, graphic design, drawing and more. Live music and refreshments available. Free admission. 703-993-8898 or hmillera@gmu.edu.

Holiday Celebration Art Show. 6 p.m. the SPACE Performing Arts Center, Old Town Plaza, 3950 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. www.visitfairfax.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

Community Christmas Contata. 6:30 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

Fourth Annual Rocknuceros Holiday Singalong with The Barbershop Quartet. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Vienna Boys Choir. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Holiday music from Gregorian chant to favorite Christmas carols. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Encore Theatrical Arts Project: "Santa Got Frostbite." 8 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Christmas chaos and fun for the whole family in a Broadway-style, song and dance holiday spectacular. Tickets \$18-\$21.

"Merry, Happy... What?" 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. When Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa roll around Molly always feels left out. No one else celebrates the same holiday that she does. A light-hearted story for the whole family. \$10. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

Christmas in Fairfax. 7 p.m. Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The City of Fairfax Band with the Fairfax Choral Society in a selection of seasonal favorites. John Lyon retells the classic poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas. Santa Claus will make a special appearance for the children. Bring a non-perishable food item to support the food drive to benefit Food for Others. Free. www.fairfaxband.org or 703-757-0220.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. At the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Line dance lessons begin at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m., including two step, waltz, line, swing, cha cha and more. Couples and singles welcome. Admission \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

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Toy Soldier Jenna Levine, a junior, marches into the Woodson gym.



Prince Will Roegge and Princess Jenna Cann, both seniors, wave to the crowd as they prepare to emcee W.T. Woodson's Holiday Tunes for Tots program.

A Season Shared

Dressed in costume and performing seasonal tunes, W.T. Woodson students presented three concerts Dec. 1 and 2 to preschool and early elementary students. In addition to performing, the W.T. Woodson band also provided information about the various musical instruments to teach the children more about music.

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21 Announcements

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Directorate of Public Works
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Name of Action: Construction and Operation of a Travel Camp at Fort Belvoir.

Description of the Proposed Action: Under the proposed action, the Army would construct and operate a Travel Camp in the Tompkins Basin Recreation Area on the Main Post of Fort Belvoir. Construction of the Travel Camp would provide recreational vehicle (RV) pads, tent campsites, and rustic cabins. Other amenities would include potable water, communications, and sanitary hook-ups for the RV sites; a shower and laundry facility; playgrounds; internal circulation roads; and other support facilities.

Because the purpose of the proposed action is to provide a camping opportunity at Fort Belvoir and to generate revenue for the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR) at Fort Belvoir, the Army did not evaluate off-post sites. The Army did consider alternative locations for the Travel Camp during earlier planning for proposed development of the Tompkins Basin Recreation Area (TBRA), as well as the "No Action" alternative. Earlier proposals for TBRA development variously included a marina, a hotel, and other amenities, but these proposals were never approved. The specific nature of the resources needed to create the Travel Camp, coupled with environmental constraints at Fort Belvoir, limited the number of alternative locations that could be considered. Two site alternatives to the proposed action were assessed during the early stages of Travel Camp project development and both were located in the Tompkins Basin Recreation Area. These alternative sites were both rejected because of concerns raised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Protection of bald eagle habitats at the alternative sites would have required such restrictive usage times for the marina that development of the proposed marina was determined to be infeasible.

Environmental Consequences: The Environmental Assessment (EA), which is attached and incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), examined the following potential effects of the proposed action alternative and possible mitigation strategies.

Natural Resources: The location proposed for the Travel Camp was selected in part because it is an area that was previously developed (cleared and graded) and accessible through pre-existing roads, thus helping to minimize impacts to the natural environment. Additionally, the Army would mitigate natural resource impacts by maximizing retention and protection of existing trees and native vegetation; planting native wetland plants in storm drainage areas to promote water quality. Approximately 7.6 acres of Partners In Flight (PIF) buffer area would be impacted by the proposed action; since this is only a small fraction of the available upland forest area located on the installation, the effects to PIF Species are expected to be minimal. Because the proposed site is located in an area that was already disturbed and partially developed, impact to natural resources such as vegetation would be significantly reduced. Prior to construction, the Army would prepare a Tree Preservation Plan for the proposed action to more accurately delineate and serve to mitigate against the anticipated vegetation impacts. Trees removed by clearing and grading that are 4-inch diameter or greater would be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. Disturbed areas would not extend beyond the limits of disturbance and be restored through planting and re-seeding after construction. Additionally, the Army would take steps to protect seeps and recharge areas and strictly adhere to erosion and sediment control and stormwater management laws and regulations to minimize impacts to aquatic ecosystems. No federally Endangered or state Special Status species would be affected by the proposed action.

Noise: Construction would be limited to weekday business hours. Construction equipment would use mufflers. Noise from the operation of the Travel Camp is expected to be minor.

Infrastructure and Utilities: The proposed action would have a moderate impact on infrastructure and utilities through connections to new sanitary sewer lines and potable water lines planned for the Tompkins Basin area. Stormwater management during construction will include provisions for erosion and sediment control and use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Indications from Dominion Virginia Power are that existing infrastructure is adequate to meet electrical power demand for the Travel Camp.

Community Facilities and Services: Because the number of employees that would be required to operate the Travel Camp is small (6) and the average number of patrons projected to be use the facility at any one time is low (179), the proposed action would have a low impact on community facility and services.

Transportation and Traffic: The proposed action would have a minor impact on long-term increases in traffic on local roadways because transit to and from the Travel Camp would be anticipated to occur typically during off-peak hours, and traffic volume would be relatively small.

Mitigations: BMPs and adherence to applicable policies/regulations that would be implemented for resource protection are included with discussions of each respective resource area in the Draft EA. No mitigation measures for effects on socioeconomics, utilities, air quality, cultural resources, topography, soil integrity, migratory birds, surface water quality, floodplains, waters of the U.S. including wetlands and Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Areas, Land Use, Coastal Zone Management would be required. Air pollutant emissions from the proposed action would not be significant and below de minimis levels for general conformity.

Summary of Environmental Impacts: The proposed action would not have significant impacts to human health or the environment. No significant cumulative impacts or indirect impacts are anticipated.

Conclusions: On reviewing the EA and other project information, the Garrison Commander at Fort Belvoir has concluded that the proposed action would not have significant impacts on the environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Notice of Availability: The EA is available for public review at the Directorate of Public Works and Van Noy Library, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and at Lorton, Sherwood, Kingstowne and Fairfax City Regional branches of the Fairfax County Public Libraries. A copy of this notice and the EA can be viewed at www.belvoir.army.mil.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication date to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, 9430 Jackson Loop, Suite 100, ATTN: IMNE-BEL-PW, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 5116 or e-mail comments to environmental-fb-dpw@conus.army.mil. For more information, contact Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief of Environmental and Natural Resource Division, Directorate of Public Works, at (703) 806-4007.

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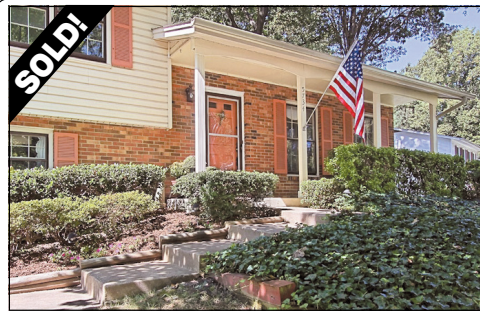
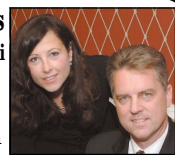


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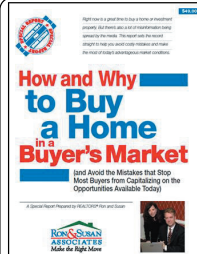


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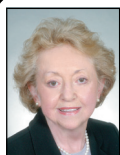
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