

# Gotta Dance

COMMUNITY, PAGE 8

Sung Hee Woo of Burke is a member of Susie Thomas' Washington Line Dance Lover's Club. She danced at Center Without Walls' Holiday Open House.

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

## Local Districts May Expand

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## Dog Park Proposed

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## Braddock District Dog Park Proposed

**Park Authority looks at putting an off-leash area at Monticello Park.**

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

A group of citizen activists have proposed building an off-leash dog area in Monticello Park, a passive, open space located near the corner of Guinea and Burke roads in Fairfax.

As a result, the Fairfax County Park Authority is kicking off a new master-planning process for Monticello with a community meeting at Bonnie Brae Elementary School on Dec. 16.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. with a short presentation from Park Authority staff about the current conditions at Monticello. Citizens will then be welcome to participate in a discussion about a dog park or other potential facilities they would want to see on the 6.2-acre site, according to a press release.

The Park Authority will use the feedback gathered at this meeting to create a new master plan for Monticello. Authority staff anticipates releasing that proposal at a public meeting next spring. The park staff will



PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL/THE CONNECTION

**A Dec. 16 meeting will discuss whether or not to add a dog park to Monticello Park.**

then make the adjustments to the new Monticello master plan based on this second round of public feedback.

Though planning for a revamped Monticello should be completed by the end of 2011, it is unclear when construction on a new dog park or other facility would get underway. The Park Authority has not set aside funding for design development or

construction at Monticello Park in its capital budget, according to the county website.

In some cases, private sponsors step forward to pay for new park facilities. Money can also be found through development proffers, according to the park authority website.

**THE BRADDOCK DISTRICT** Council, an

**“This seems to be the only place that really works.”**

— Supervisor John Cook  
(R-Braddock)

umbrella organization for Braddock District civic groups, and the Park Authority have been looking for a viable site for an off-leash dog park in the magisterial district for some time, said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock). Currently, no dog parks are located in the Braddock District, even though several other magisterial districts have one.

“There have been people in the community that have been talking about having one for years. This is the location that the Braddock District Council [dog park] committee and the Park Authority have kind of settled on. It is the recommended choice that they have put forward,” said Cook.

Cook said the Braddock District Council's search for dog park space has been thorough and that Monticello surfaced as the most practical location.

“This seems to be the only place that really works,” he said.

Fairfax County only approves dog parks if they have a sponsoring group that is willing to take responsibility for the facility's maintenance and upkeep. That requirement

SEE OFF-LEASH, PAGE 15

## School Project Is ‘Born With Love’

**West Springfield students turn community service project into non-profit organization.**

BY SARAH PEVNER  
THE CONNECTION

When Nshira Turkson, 16, and Stephanie Asante, 17, walked into Vera Woodson's fashion marketing class at West Springfield High School, they didn't realize they'd be walking out with a charity idea that would result in a non-profit organization.

Turkson and Asante, now seniors, were sophomores when they decided to start a community service program that would provide toys, clothes and school supplies to an orphanage in Ghana. More than 50 items were shipped to the orphanage during their initial campaign, and they've expanded that service project into

the non-profit organization Born With Love, where they serve as co-presidents.

During the initial school organized campaign, Turkson and Asante worked diligently to get the word out, papering their high school campus with fliers, running toy drives at local churches, even relying on a local radio station to do free advertising.

**“I told the girls when they started, they could write their own ticket into destiny.”**

— Vera Woodson

The first shipment included donations by members of the high school community, but now Turkson and Asante receive donations from all over the country. They are currently working to register their organization with the United Way and Toys for Tots, in order to maximize contributions.

What has sustained the students through the process of creating a non-profit is the



PHOTO BY SARAH PEVNER/THE CONNECTION

**West Springfield High School students and co-presidents of Born with Love, Nshira Turkson and Stephanie Asante, with their faculty advisor, Vera Woodson.**

belief that they are doing something of real value. Both students acknowledge that their work in creating this organization has opened their eyes to how fortunate they are as Americans.

Turkson, who volunteered for a summer in Ghana, said that she realized how much American teenagers take for granted, espe

SEE NON-PROFIT, PAGE 15

# Local Political Districts Likely To Expand

Preliminary data suggests most local seats fall short of population target.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**A** number of local seats in the Virginia General Assembly appear likely to grow in terms of geographic size and reach following the 2010 political redistricting process.

Over the last 10 years, Fairfax County's residential population appears to have increased at about half the rate of Virginia's population overall. As a result, Fairfax's share of representation in the General Assembly is expected to shrink relative to that of other localities, according to the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonpartisan organization that studies Virginia government.

Some state legislators said Fairfax could lose up to one seat in the House of Delegates and one-half of a seat in the State Senate, reported the Virginia Public Access Project on its website in early November.

That organization and others have based their predictions on population estimates from 2009 provided by the Virginia Department of Legislative Services. The official 2010 census numbers, which are the figures used for political redistricting, will not be released until February.

"Now, it looks like all Fairfax seats [in the House of Delegates] are going to have to grow in population but that could all change when the real numbers come in. Hopefully, Fairfax will do a little bit better relative to the rest of the state when the real numbers come in," said Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), who represents Franconia.

**IF EARLY ESTIMATES** hold, several of the delegate and senate seats in the central, southern and southwestern portion of the Fairfax could shift outward toward Prince William County to account for tremendous growth in Northern Virginia's outer suburbs.

"You cannot change one district without having a ripple affect on many others. I can't imagine that every single district won't be impacted," said Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), who represents northern Fairfax and leads the committee that oversees redistricting in the Senate.

Unlike Fairfax representatives, many General Assembly members representing Loudoun and Prince William counties must lose constituents during this redistricting cycle.

For example, Del. Bob Marshall (R-13), who represents a district that includes parts of Prince William and Loudoun at Fairfax County's border, holds a seat that is estimated be 186 percent the size of a delegate district's target population. In the next redistricting, he could shed as many as 68,000 constituents, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

**FAIRFAX DELEGATES** with districts closest to Loudoun and Prince William would

**Preliminary data from the Virginia Department of Legislative Services shows that many Fairfax County seats in the House of Delegates probably need to grow to reach their target population. These percentages reflect how much the current delegate districts are either under-populated or over-populated. The Virginia General Assembly is scheduled to take up political redistricting during their 2011 legislative session.**

not be able to absorb the excess population from Marshall's seat and others that are too large by themselves. Many of Fairfax's outer ring seats also contain growing communities and have less of a need to pick up new constituents.

For example, Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who represents Springfield and Lorton at the Prince William border, needs only 4,000 new constituents — one or two precincts — to reach the target delegate population in the next census.

Sen. George Barker (D-37), whose district stretches from Clifton to Springfield, needs his district to grow by only 3 percent overall, about two precincts, to reach the ideal Senate seat size.

But Barker and Albo's seats could shift so that other districts in Fairfax's core can take pick up some of the excess population in

Prince William and Loudoun.

House of Delegates District 41, represented by Eileen Filler-Corn (D), is located north of Albo's and is the most under-populated of any in Fairfax, according to the estimates. Filler-Corn's seat, which includes West Springfield and Burke, needs to grow by more than 10 percent, or 9,000 residents.

Senate District 35, represented by Chap Petersen (D) needs to increase by about 8 percent, the most of any senate seat in Fairfax. Petersen represents the City of Fairfax and Vienna.

"I need to pick up the equivalent of a couple of precincts. There would be no huge change if everything else were static. But most of the other districts around me also need to pick up precincts and the cumulative affect of that could be rather large,"

said Del. David Bulova (D-37), who represents the City of Fairfax and surrounding parts of the county.

If Fairfax County's seats have to push out, it is likely that more of the local General Assembly seats would straddle two localities.

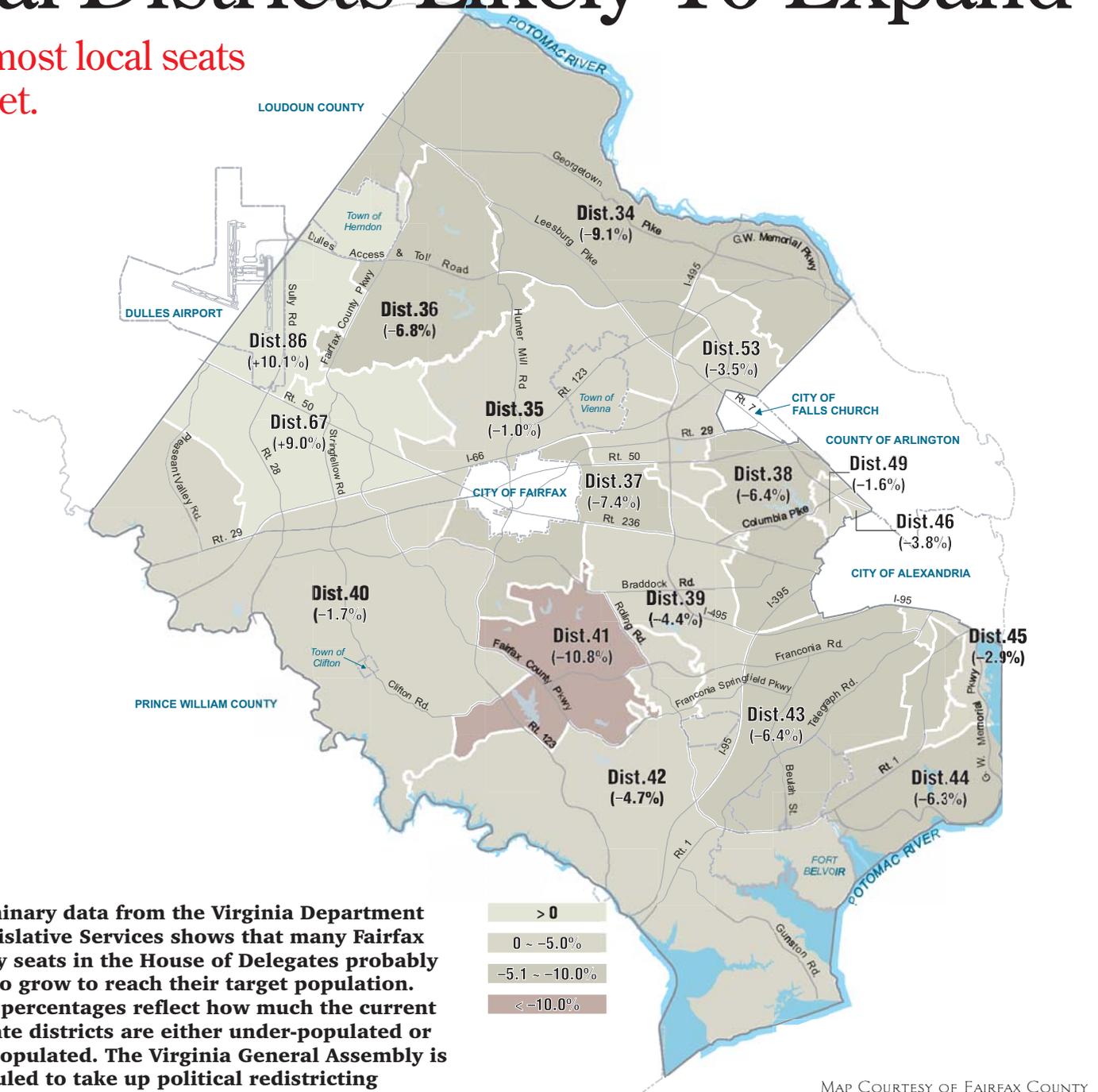
Currently only six of the 17 delegates in Fairfax County also represent another city or county. Seven of the Fairfax's 10 state seats are also split between two localities.

"We might have more districts with half of their precincts in Loudoun and half of their precincts in Fairfax," said Sickles.

Sickles added that some Republicans might be pleased about having to absorb part of Prince William and Loudoun, which tend to be more conservative.

"I know there are some members who would probably welcome some Prince William and Loudoun precincts, and they are probably going to get them," he said.

There is the possibility that the Republican leadership would just remove a house



MAP COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

# Political Boundaries

FROM PAGE 4

seat from Fairfax County altogether, and move it either to Prince William or Loudoun. "I am hoping that we don't lose a seat, but that could happen," said Sickles.

Even districts that have not undergone wild population shifts could be subjected to dramatic population shifts

Approximately 40 percent of Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) district changed after the 2000 political redistricting, even though her seat needed relatively few adjustments on paper.

"They moved 30,000 new people into my district and took 27,000 of my old constituents away. I had not represented any of the Springfield area before that and they took most of Annandale away from me," said Watts.

According to Watts, the Republican-controlled House of Delegates moved the more liberal part of her district into another seat in order to make her next election more

competitive for Republicans.

"They made two other districts less competitive and gave me as many new voters as they could," she said.

What happened to Watts' seat is typical during a partisan redistricting process, said Michael McDonald, a George Mason University political scientist and expert on redrawing political districts.

"There is an approach where you change up the district a lot on the incumbent so they have new constituents. I expect that type of technique to be used if there is a partisan gerrymander," said McDonald.

A few legislators said they are going to refrain from making predictions or speculating what might happen with redistricting until the official census data is released.

"It really too early to tell. ... We don't have the numbers yet. And you never know, somebody could decide to retire and that changes everything," said Del. Tim Hugo (R-40)

**"There is an approach where you change up the district a lot on the incumbent so they have new constituents."**

— **Michael McDonald, GMU political scientist**

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# OPINION

## Counting Blessings? Don't Forget Nature

Free gifts to all in Northern Virginia from nature include drinking water from the Potomac River.

The holiday season offers many opportunities to count our blessings and give something back to those who enrich our lives. In the process, we may realize that we've been taking for granted something, or someone, very dear to us. I suspect nature often falls into that category.

From rivers winding through forests to oyster reefs rising from coastal bays, our ecosystems provide us with clean water, fertile soils, food, fuel, beauty, flood control, storm protection and many other benefits. So this year, I encourage you to join me in showing your appreciation for all that nature does to enhance and sustain our lives.

In the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region, whether a faucet runs in the White House or in your house, that water almost certainly comes from the Potomac River. When you fill your coffeepot before breakfast or your children wash their hands before dinner, you are among more than 4 million other people in our area who depend on the Potomac River for water.

In addition to household water, the Potomac provides many other natural services. It creates habitat for fish and wildlife, offers opportunities for recreation and tourism, supplies water for irrigation, absorbs wastewater generated by communities, and supports industry and economic development.

And if we extend our view to take in the whole Potomac watershed, including tributary streams such as Turkey Run and Cabin John Creek, then we see the critical roles that forests play. While some forest benefits are obvious — wildlife habitat, recreation, wood products and forestry jobs — services such as preventing erosion and filtering runoff often go unnoticed.

Now here's the clincher. Nature's services are absolutely free.

But perhaps that fact has been part of their undoing. Many natural systems around the world, from tropical coral reefs to our own Chesapeake Bay, are seriously degraded. This reality begs a question: If humans can't put a

price tag on it, do we really value it?

Even professional conservationists sometimes struggle to describe all the benefits we derive from nature, much less determine an economic value. But scientists from The Nature Conservancy are working with conservation and university partners to do both through our Natural Capital Project. In the near future, we will offer practical tools for factoring natural systems into decisions about how humans interact with our world.

This we already know for certain: Nature is the life-support system for every animal, plant and person on Earth. So for all that nature has given to you in 2010, I hope you'll consider giving something back. One way you can show your appreciation is to be a good neighbor to the Potomac River. To find practical tips for protecting water quality, visit our website and download our guide to river-friendly living, the Good Neighbor Handbook: [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) or [www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/maryland/files/goodneighborhdbk\\_web.pdf](http://www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/maryland/files/goodneighborhdbk_web.pdf)

— MICHAEL L. LIPFORD

*Michael Lipford is Virginia executive director of The Nature Conservancy*

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Those with Intellectual Disabilities Threatened

*Excerpts from a letter from the Arc of Virginia to Gov. Bob McDonnell.*

Despite our being 8th in per capita income, Virginia is ranked 46th for its fiscal effort towards community-based services for Virginians with developmental disabilities. In addition to its lengthy waiting lists and continued practice of institutionalization, Virginia's existing community services are chronically underfunded. Virginia's reimbursement rates for home and community-based waiver programs have not kept pace with inflation, and as a result, our service system is behind the rest of the country.

To put it simply, Virginia cannot sustain the cuts and policies contained in the current budget.

The Arc of Virginia is the Commonwealth's oldest and largest advocacy organization for people with developmental disabilities and their families. It was The Arc families who, 55 years ago, established the first education programs for children with developmental disabilities. It was The Arc families, who for decades, fought for access to community-based supports so their sons and daughters would not be forced to live in state operated institutions. Today, we ask you to protect the core state services and supports that people with developmental disabilities and their families have fought so hard for, and improve access to the services that are still lacking.

Virginia has not fulfilled the promise of community integration for Virginians with

developmental disabilities. More than 1,100 Virginians with developmental disabilities continue to be institutionalized in outdated and segregated state facilities. More than 6,400 Virginians with intellectual and related developmental disabilities continue to languish on waiting lists for community-based supports. Nearly 3,000 of these individuals are identified as being in "urgent need" for reasons such

### GUEST EDITORIAL

as living with an aging caregiver, aging out foster care, or imminent risk of homelessness. In the face of this crisis, the current budget provides no help to any waiting list families through June 30, 2012.

The Arc of Virginia urges you to protect existing HCBS Waiver services and supports, which are scheduled to be cut on July 1, 2011, by taking the following actions in the 2010-2012 Introduced Budget:

- ❖ Elimination of the 5 percent cut in reimbursement rates for HCBS Waiver programs

- ❖ Elimination of the 2/3 reduction in respite hours for families receiving HCBS Waiver services

- ❖ Elimination of the reductions in assistive technology and environmental modification

Furthermore, The Arc of Virginia requests that you to take action to end the ID and IFDDS Waiver waiting list crisis, beginning with the following actions:

- ❖ Removal of budget language that eliminates 400 new ID Waivers and 67 new IFDDS Waivers in FY12, honoring the promise made to people with developmental disabilities and

their families in § 32.1-323.2

- ❖ Inclusion of funding for 800 new ID Waivers and 165 new IFDDS Waivers to further aid waiting list families

- ❖ Provision of \$5 million in support services for 1,000 people who are also waiting because they have been denied access due to level of functioning

Finally, The Arc of Virginia joins countless other local, state and national organizations in calling for an end to Virginia's antiquated practice of institutionalizing people with developmental disabilities. We request that you establish a comprehensive plan to transition to a community-based system of support and reinvest cost savings to assure successful transitions, maintain existing services and provide support to those who are waiting.

If action is not taken to sustain and strengthen the community-based safety net, thousands of Virginians may be at risk of losing their homes, jobs and lives in the community. Please prevent Virginia from taking a huge step backwards in the civil rights movement for Virginians with developmental disabilities. It is time to fulfill the promise of community and end the segregation of people with developmental disabilities. Virginia has waited long enough.

**Howard Cullum**  
President  
**Jamie Liban**  
Executive Director  
ARC of Virginia

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# CALENDAR

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

**Decenbersongs with Dan Navarro, Amy Speace, Sally Barris and Jon Vezner.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://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](http://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.

**Fairfax High School Winter Concert.** 7 p.m. Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Join the Fairfax Choirs, Advanced Orchestra and Symphonic Band, caroling in the hallway and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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# COMMUNITY



Michelle Ro of Burke smiles after the gift exchange square dance that left her with a big box.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

JoJo Vukhac of Fairfax, far left, and other attendees do the Electric Slide line dance with a little help from dance instructor Susie Thomas of Alexandria.

## Dance Fever

Seniors hit the dance floor during Center Without Walls' Holiday Open House.

The floor of the Woods Community Center in Burke rumbled with the sounds of dancing as the Center Without Walls (CWoW) celebrated its Holiday Open House on Tuesday, Dec. 14. The Susie Thomas Washington Line Dance Lover's Club demonstration team performed several dance numbers and led several line dances with the crowd. Alexandria's square dance caller Butch Adams also got the group involved in several different square dances.

CWoW is a public/private partnership between the residents of Burke, West Springfield and Fairfax station, local businesses and places of worship and Fairfax County Government to provide seniors in the area opportunities to take classes and get out into the community. Businesses, churches and other partner organizations donate facilities to be used for seniors classes.

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Happy Holidays!



Susie Thomas's Washington Line Dance Lover's Club performs a modern dance routine to holiday music.



Uisuk Chu of Chantilly dances the Electric Slide with the crowd.



From left, Pat Rowe and Elaine Travis work on their promenade.

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<p><b>12/10 7:30 PM</b> City of Fairfax Theatre Company presents "Little Women" at the Fairfax Baptist Church</p> <p><b>12/10 7:30 PM</b> "Home for Christmas" with the Voice Chamber Singers at the Fairfax Christian Church</p> <p><b>12/10 8:00 PM</b> Bonita Lestina Performance Series at Old Town Hall: Columbia Flute Choir "Celebrating the Season"</p> <p><b>12/12 2:00 PM</b> Fairfax Museum &amp; Visitor Center Second Sunday Series: Holiday &amp; Popular Tunes at Old Town Hall</p> <p><b>12/12 7:30 PM</b> The Brethren Christmas Concert at Truro Church</p> <p><b>12/15 2:00 PM</b> Tales of Winter (ages 3-5) at the City of Fairfax Regional Library</p> <p><b>12/17 6:00 PM</b> Holiday Reception at the Adam Lister Gallery at theSPACE at Old Town Plaza</p>	<p><b>12/17 7:30 PM</b> City of Fairfax Theatre Company presents "Little Women" at the Fairfax Baptist Church</p> <p><b>12/17 8:00 PM</b> A Celtic Christmas with Sior-Og and Friends at Old Town Hall</p> <p><b>12/18 7:00 PM</b> City of Fairfax Band &amp; Fairfax Choral Society: Christmas in Fairfax at Fairfax High School</p> <p><b>12/20 10:30 AM</b> Children's Performance Series at theSPACE at Old Town Plaza: Bob Brown Puppets Holiday Show</p> <p><b>12/29 2:00 PM</b> Wintertime Fun with Kaydee Puppets (all ages) at the City of Fairfax Regional Library</p> <p><b>12/31 6:30 PM</b> Fairfax Four Miler—see <a href="http://www.runpacers.com">www.runpacers.com</a> for information</p> <p><b>12/31</b> See in the New Year with an Ice-cream Social at Woody's</p>
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## ENTERTAINMENT



The cast of 'It's a Wonderful Life' fills the stage at the James Lee Community Center.

# Holiday Classic Takes Stage

Providence Players presents 'It's a Wonderful Life.'



PHOTOS BY CHIP CERTZOG

Patrick David, Mike Khatcheressian and Laurie Hinnners star in the Providence Players' production of 'It's a Wonderful Life.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Yearning for inspirational family entertainment is timeless. During the Holidays well-known classics light up the cold nights. The Providence Players of Fairfax are performing a stage adaptation of a beloved Christmas movie classic recreating a mythical time and place, Christmas Eve 1946. Deep within the mind's eye, the journey of a man grappling to find a reason to live may well appear as "It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play" unfolds.

"This is not the movie, but a stage adaptation with a brand new life of its own," said Director Brian O'Connor. A fundamental difference is that the Providence Players perform a "play within a play" as adapted by Joe Landry from the Jimmy Stewart/Donna Reed movie. The show even includes a commercial break resplendent with a spoof of 1940s musical ads.

At a recent rehearsal, the details surrounding the production were coming together under the watchful eye of O'Connor. He emphasized the "energy, playfulness and good humor" he expected. As he guided his acting troupe, no detail was too small to be overlooked for the ultimate enjoyment of the audience. Even the tiniest of amusing sound effects had to be on cue. Nothing was left to chance.

David Whitehead, a fixture of the Providence Players, plays George Bailey, a virtuous man who helps others yet does not know his own value. It takes a

kindly guardian angel played by Joseph Le Blanc to show how nasty the world would be without George around. For Whitehead, the show is not so much a fantasy but "a genuine experience, a rare kind of story leading to a man's ultimate redemption."

Newcomer Helena Spadacene stars as Bailey's love interest and then wife. Possessing an infectious spirit, she transported the production skyward when she walked on stage during the rehearsal.

The crusty money-grubbing, bad-guy banker Mr. Potter, who cares not a fig for the less fortunate is the physically vigorous, powerfully voiced Fred O. Lash. He intones his words with the cold blood of authority. Michael Khatcheressian aims to supply hustle and liveliness as he plays several key roles including a radio announcer.

The James Lee Community Center stage has been decked out in shades of gray and hues of muted silver tones. Performances are continuing through Dec. 18-19. Go to [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org) for details.

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Special thanks to the Connection for its support of volunteerism.

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

Hallelujah Chorus. Free. 703-219-2200.

## 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](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035.

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

**Bill Kirchen's Honky Tonk** Holiday Show. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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



## 'Nutcracker in a Nutshell'

The Center for Ballet Arts in Fairfax is presenting performances of "Nutcracker In A Nutshell." Tickets are now on sale for the performances, Saturday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m., at the Rachel Schlessinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3100 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$18 at the studio, \$20 at the door. All seating is reserved. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to either performance on Saturday or Sunday, or to CBA beforehand, and help support the U.S. Marines drive for Toys for Tots. For more, go to [www.thecenterforballetarts.com](http://www.thecenterforballetarts.com).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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# Short-Handed Spartans Continue Winning Ways

**West Springfield girls looking to return to state playoffs.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he West Springfield girls basketball team played its first road game of the season on Dec. 10. The Spartans were missing their head coach and a Division I athlete entering the contest and struggled with turnovers during. While most teams would consider the scenario an up-hill battle, West Springfield simply continued where it left off.

The short-handed Spartans traveled to Alexandria and defeated T.C. Williams 47-33 on Friday, improving their record to 3-0. West Springfield returns four key contributors from a team that finished 25-3 and reached the state semifinals during the 2009-10 campaign.

"I think the girls have said we want to go back to at least the same place we went last year: final four in the state, for sure," assistant coach Bill Langloh said after defeating the Titans. "We've got the potential to do that."

On Friday, head coach Bill Gibson was away from the team while dealing with the death of his mother. Langloh said the team was emotional but managed to take care of business, even without the services of 5-foot-10 junior wing Logan Battle, who sat out with a knee injury. Battle, who is committed to

Georgetown, is expected back soon.

Even without Battle, West Springfield is a talented team, led by all-region point guard April Robinson. The junior scored 19 points and made an impact on the boards, passing to teammates and controlling the game with confidence and experience. She helped West Springfield overcome a 20-turnover performance.

"We're pretty much just going to give her the ball and let her run the show," Langloh said. "When she gets in foul trouble it's not a good thing. She's smart enough I can let her keep going with two in the first half. She can really shoot ... she makes a lot of good passes and gets the ball to the right people."

When T.C. Williams showed signs of coming back, Robinson made a play. After a slow start, the Titans knocked down a free throw in the second quarter to pull within 10 at 15-5. Moments later, Robinson buried a 3-pointer, came up with a turnover and converted a three-point play to

give the Spartans a 21-5 advantage. In the third quarter, after a 7-2 T.C. run pulled the Titans within 15 at 30-15, Robinson knocked down a 3-pointer from the top of the arc. When T.C. twice cut the lead to 12 early in the fourth quarter, Robinson answered with a bucket each time.

"We tried to throw some different things at her," T.C. head coach Kesha Walton said of the Titans' defensive strategy against Robinson. "She handled it very well."

Robinson described herself as a pass-first point guard who looks to score when she needs to.

"If I have a wide-open shot and there's a team

**"I think the girls have said we want to go back to at least the same place we went last year."**

— West Springfield assistant girls basketball coach Bill Langloh



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**West Springfield senior Muffin Brassfield (24) defends T.C. Williams senior Sade' Barber while Spartans point guard April Robinson (32) looks from the background during West Springfield's win over the Titans on Dec. 10**

SEE WEST SPRINGFIELD, PAGE 13

# Lake Braddock Boys Continue To Get Up to Speed

**Bruins to play at Robinson on Friday; Lee, West Springfield boys' seasons underway.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**A** recent increase in man power should go a long way toward helping the Lake Braddock Secondary boys' basketball team in setting a right course for itself in the early stages of the season.

The Bruins (1-1) played their first couple of games without several players who, up until two weeks ago, were still competing as members of Lake Braddock's successful football team which won the Northern Region Division 6 championship before seeing its season end with a state playoff game loss to Battlefield High on Dec. 4.

On the hardwood, Lake Braddock played its first two games short-handed — a 56-50 home win over Centreville on Dec. 3, and a 68-40 home loss to Herndon on Dec. 7.

"The team is still in flux with the football

players coming off the state semifinal," said Bruins' basketball coach Brian Metress. "Our football players missed the first 20 practices. They practiced for the first time last Friday and Saturday and we still had kids trying out on Saturday, Dec 11th. We went ahead and played our out-of-district games with Centreville and Herndon with only eight varsity players in uniform but pushed our W.T. Woodson game back because it was a [Patriot] District game."

Lake Braddock was set to play three games this week — at Westfield on Tuesday, Dec. 14, the re-scheduled Patriot District home game versus Woodson on Wednesday, and a contest at local rival Robinson Friday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

In the season-opening win over visiting Centreville, the short-handed Bruins played excellent defense most of the night, allowing just 15 points total over the first half and 27 through three quarters. Lake

Braddock had a 37-27 lead going into the final quarter and went on to get the hard-fought victory.

Three Lake Braddock players, in the win over Centreville, scored in double figures — senior forward Ibrahim Wehelie with a team-leading 18 points, senior center Bobby Freedman with 12 points and junior guard Brendan McHale with 10. Alec Boyer, a senior forward, added eight points.

Lake Braddock, however, could not keep up with a talented Herndon team four days later, as the Bruins fell to the 3-1 Hornets by 28 points. Freedman led the Bruins with 15 points in the lopsided loss, in which Lake Braddock fell behind 19-2 early on.

Lake Braddock will use its pre-holiday schedule to become a more cohesive group on the floor in preparations for the bulk of the district schedule following the start of the New Year.

"The goal for us right now is just solidifying a group of 12 guys, incorporating our football guys and establishing what we do," said Metress.

Lake Braddock will host the Glory Days Grill Tournament of Champions holiday

tournament Dec. 27-29. The eight-team field will consist of Middleburg Academy, Robinson, Madison, Hylton (Woodbridge), South Lakes, Osbourn (Manassas), Woodbridge and the host Bruins.

Four first round games will be played on Monday, Dec. 27 at Lake Braddock: Middleburg Academy versus Robinson at 2:15 p.m.; Madison versus Hylton at 4 p.m.; South Lakes versus Osbourn at 5:45 p.m.; and Woodbridge versus Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m.

**THE LEE LANCERS** boys' team (0-2) will be looking for their first win when they host W.T. Woodson this Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Lee, under longtime head coach Michael Harris, opened its season with an 84-70 loss at local rival Edison on Dec. 7. Three days later, in their home opener, the Lancers lost a Patriot District game to West Potomac, 68-51.

In the season opening loss to the Eagles, Lee's Maseer Ghorab, a junior guard, led the Lancers with 22 points. Also in double

SEE LAKE BRADDOCK, PAGE 13

## SPORTS

# Lake Braddock Basketball

FROM PAGE 12

figures for Lee that night were senior guard Jalen Boswel (14 points), junior guard C.J. Lewis (13) and junior forward Danny Sapp (12).

Lee's top scorers in the loss to the Wolverines were Ghorab (18), Sapp (13), Lewis (10) and Boswel (9).

Along with hosting Woodson this Friday, the Lancers will also be playing at home next Tuesday, Dec. 21 against Oakton.

**THE SPARTANS** of West Springfield High are 1-4 in the early going of the season. The team, under new head coach Jason Eldredge, opened the season with a loss at Centreville, 51-41, on Dec. 1. Then, at the Herndon Tip-Off Tournament, the Spartans went

1-1, defeating Briar Woods, 58-56, on Dec. 3 before losing to Middleburg Academy, 74-52. Last week, West Springfield lost at Westfield, 67-37, on Dec. 7, then fell to district opponent T.C. Williams, 69-34, at home.

Ali Kazmi, a senior guard/forward, scored 17 points to lead the Spartans in the loss to Middleburg.

In games this week, the Spartans were scheduled to play at Robinson on Tuesday, Dec. 14, and they will host defending Northern Region champion Chantilly this Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Eldredge, the Spartans' new coach, was the head girls' basketball coach at Freedom High in South Riding the past five years where he led the Eagles to two state titles the past two winter seasons.

## West Springfield Girls Hoops

FROM PAGE 12

mate who's close to the basket and I know they can make it, I'm going to pass it to them before I shoot the ball," Robinson said. "But when times get tough, usually me, Logan or Muffin [Brassfield] will step up and take those

shots."

Along with Robinson and Battle, senior guard Brassfield and junior guard Jordan Miller are returning starters. Against the Titans, Miller scored nine points and Brassfield added five. Freshman wing Amy Berglund finished with eight points. West Springfield will travel to face Chantilly on Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

## FAITH NOTES

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

**Jubilee Christian Center**, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will have a Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 8 p.m., with refreshments. 703-383-1170 or [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).

**Burke Presbyterian Church**, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, will offer three worship services on Friday, Dec. 24. "The Miracle" is a Candlelight Service for Families at 5 p.m. The Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols is at 7:30 p.m., and the Candlelight Message and Communion at 10 p.m. [www.BurkePresChurch.org](http://www.BurkePresChurch.org) or 703-764-0456.

**RCCG Victory Temple**, 6621 Electronic Drive, Suite G in Springfield, will host "A Night with the King: A Christmas and Carol Service", featuring The New Birth Choir and Clarity Pictures Ministries, on Friday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. 703-459-9434.

**Interested in the Catholic Faith?** Classes will be held at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in the Guadalupe Room in the Parish Center, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Contact Carolyn Smith at [carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com) or 703-273-5369.

**The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax**, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., in addition to Sunday services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org).



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## Be Part of The Pet Connection in February

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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is January 20.

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9:45 am Sunday School CoffeeHouse/casual, guest musicians  
Advent Quiet Day, Tuesday, December 7, 8 am – 8 pm  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
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Burke United Methodist Church  
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Worship Service  
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### Kingstowne/Alexandria

6425 Virginia Hills Ave.....\$389,900.....Sat 12-3.....Lisa Miclot.....Long & Foster.....703-501-4532

### Fairfax

5403 Cheshire Meadows Way...\$340,000.....Sun 1-4.....Julia Johnson.....Green Valley.....703-407-7160

4801 North Hill Dr.....\$650,000.....Sun 1-4.....Connie Lauther.....ERA.....800-441-5420

9201 Briary Ln.....\$670,000.....Sun 1-4.....Deborah Larson.....Long & Foster.....703-905-7269

### Centreville

14406 William Carr Ln.....\$349,900.....Sun 1-4.....Paulina Stowell.....Long & Foster.....703-631-3200

5529 Ajuga Ct.....\$658,880.....Sat/Sun 11-5.....Kim Rosewall.....Jobin.....703-433-0600

### Reston

12124 Purple Sage Ct.....\$249,000.....Sun 1-4.....Candace Woodson.....Weichert.....703-264-0000

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2006 Roundhouse Rd.....\$1,049,997.....Sun 1-4.....Chris Brown.....Long & Foster.....301-928-2479

### Sterling

46792 Backwater Dr.....\$560,000.....Sun 1-4.....Gina Tufano.....Keller Williams.....703-574-3478

20389 Water Valley Ct.....\$679,900.....Sun 1-4.....Gina Tufano.....Keller Williams.....703-574-3478

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or E-Mail the info to [shogan@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:shogan@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

refreshments available. Free admission. 703-993-8898 or [hmillera@gmu.edu](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. [www.sesamestreetlive.com](http://www.sesamestreetlive.com).

**Fourth Annual Rocknocoeros Holiday Singalong with The Barbershop Quartet.** 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.nvcwda.org) or 703-860-4941.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 19

**Community Christmas Contata.** 11 a.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](http://www.jccag.org).

**Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes.** 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. [www.sesamestreetlive.com](http://www.sesamestreetlive.com).

**Vienna Boys Choir.** 4 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](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Encore Theatrical Arts Project: "Santa Got Frostbite."** 1 p.m. and 4 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.

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### MONDAY/DEC. 20

**"Merry, Happy.... What?"** 11 a.m. and 1 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](http://www.thehubtheatre.org).

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## COMMUNITY

# Engaging Neighbors with Disabilities

### Supervisor pushes initiative to bring people with disabilities into larger community.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK  
R. BRADDOCK

Communities are about people, and strong communities are those where connections exist between all neighbors, which means reaching out and including everyone. At the heart of my Community Engagement Initiative is an effort to bring opportunities for community involvement to all residents. In the coming year, I am placing added emphasis on including our neighbors with disabilities.

Not too long ago, our society believed that individuals with intellectual, sensory and physical disabilities should live apart from society. Today, we know that community-based services are more effective in serving these citizens. In addition, we are discovering what many already knew — people with disabilities have knowledge, skills and abilities to offer our communities. Many people with disabilities are creative, energetic, and motivated community members. Our communities will become stronger with their inclusion. But we need to learn how, and we need to extend a welcoming hand to

these neighbors through our community organizations.

To help in that process, I am sponsoring programs for our community at large. The first was last month's Town Hall, where community leaders were both informed of the capacities and interests of people with disabilities and were also encouraged to reach out and include these neighbors. The Town Hall featured Nancy Mercer and Jill Egle from the Arc of Northern Virginia, who spoke about the capacities and interests of our neighbors with intellectual disabilities. Janice Kuch, with Fairfax County Library Access Services, spoke about technologies available to help people with sensory disabilities participate more fully in meetings and events. The program also featured Mary Wolf, a disabilities advocate, and Donna Goldbranson of Specially Adapted Resource Centers (SPARC), who spoke about her efforts to motivate and organize people facing serious life challenges to actively seek community engagement. Donna and Nancy are both Braddock District residents.

Next spring, a follow-on program will fo-

cus on encouraging those residents with disabilities to become more active in their communities and providing them with suggestions, techniques, connections to services and the inspiration to become more engaged.

Our population consists of people from a variety of backgrounds and with a variety of capabilities. Everyone has something to offer our neighborhoods. Community organizations — including civic associations, home owners associations, sports clubs, pools, scouts and PTAs — and our communities at large, will benefit as we include the full breadth of our population. For more information on how you can reach out to your neighbors with disabilities, contact Fairfax County's Disabilities Services Planning and Development Division at 703-324-5421.

To date, hundreds of citizens have participated in some aspect of my Community Engagement Initiative, either through leadership training or participation in a host of community events. All across Braddock District residents are joining together to get to know one another, sponsor community social events, clean up their neighborhoods, start or expand neighborhood watch and emergency preparedness programs, and much more. If you are not already involved in your community, I invite you to join us. You'll be glad you did.

## Non-Profit

FROM PAGE 3

cially when it comes to education. As they continue to grow their non-profit, they hope to expand into collecting monetary donations to create scholarship opportunities for students in Ghana.

Woodson, their faculty sponsor during the creation of this project, explains that she expects a lot from her students because she knows how much they can accomplish. "Each student left my class with a business résumé and at least one college application completed," she said.

Woodson's work has left a lasting impression on these students, who are preparing to go to college now.

"I feel really prepared to go to college," said Asante.

"A lot of people don't know who to get started with something like this because they haven't found their passion yet," said Turkson.

The advantage their head start has provided them is something they say will help them in the work they continue to do in the future.

Now that the students have created Born With Love, they plan to continue it as they move into college. "I think college will be a great place to get people involved," said Asante.

Both seniors have applied to prestigious colleges, including Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania and Tulane.

Turkson and Asante agree that, no matter where their college paths take them, they will retain their commitment to Born With Love. "I told the girls when they started, they could write their own ticket into destiny," said Woodson.

Born With Love continues to accept donations for Ghana. For more information, contact Woodson at 703-725-7741.

## Off-Leash Dog Park at Monticello

FROM PAGE 3

can make the off-leash dog areas different and more complicated to set up than residents might initially assume, said Ryan Kelly, Cook's chief of staff.

Braddock has seen previous dog park proposals fail because of community opposition to the projects.

According to Cook, the Danbury Forest Community had been interested in establishing a dog park in its neighborhood but faced too many objections from Kings Park residents who owned property near the off-leash area.

"Many dog owners would really like to have a dog park, but most people who would live closest to it don't want one if they don't have a dog," said Cook.

Community concerns usually range from the effects of having too much dog poop in one place to the general smell in an off-leash area. Dog parks also usually cause more noise and traffic, said Cook.

"There are impacts to a surrounding community when a dog park goes anywhere," he said.

Monticello is located near the Kings Park West community, though the Kings Park West Community Association has



PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL/THE CONNECTION

Monticello Park on Guinea and Burke roads is undergoing a master plan process.

not had a chance to talk about the project yet, said Joe Meyer, the group's president.

"I just got a notice about it a couple of days ago and our board won't have a chance to talk about it until our January meeting. I don't even know where the park is," said

Meyer, whose homeowners association includes 500 households.

"I believe there is no dog park in the Braddock District and that is why someone is recommending this," he said.

### 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. 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec) or 703-324-5544, TTY 711.

#### FRIDAY/DEC. 17

**Line Dance Class.** 10 a.m. Durga Temple, 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station. For age 55 and up. All levels. Ongoing, meets every Friday. \$5. Registration required at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec) or 703-324-5544, TTY 711.

# Holiday 5K Run Honors Recent Robinson Grad

In death, Adam Seymour raises funds for heart-defects research.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**right, athletic and artistic, Adam Patrick Seymour had his whole future ahead of him. Just 18, he'd graduated from Robinson Secondary School in June and was about to start his freshman year at Lynchburg College.

But in August, he had a heart attack during a preseason training run with the college's soccer team and died, three days later. Now, a New Year's Eve race in Centreville will take place in his honor to raise money for scholarships for others and to help fund research into congenital heart defects (CHD).

"Doctors think Adam had a cardiac arrhythmia, exacerbated by an asthma attack," said his mother, Beverly Seymour, a second-grade teacher at Bull Run Elementary. "Through the money raised, we hope we can help prevent this from happening to someone else."

Bull Run Runners will host its Fifth Annual 5K Run on Friday, Dec. 31, at 3 p.m., in Centreville's Bull Run Regional Park. As part of the Festival of Lights there, the race will begin at the large pavilion, with 75 percent of the proceeds going to the CMG Heart Foundation/Adam's scholarship and 25 percent to the park.

**REGISTRATION** is \$27 at [www.bullrunrunners.com](http://www.bullrunrunners.com) and will close Dec. 30. Awards go to the overall men's and women's winners and the top two finishers in various age categories. After the race, fruit and water will be available and a drawing will take place for gifts. See the website for more information, to donate or to sponsor this event.

The Seymours' neighbors, Terri and Travis Grabb, lost their toddler son, Corbin Marc Grabb, to CHD in 2006 and started the non-profit CMG Heart Foundation in his name. So while the Adam P. Seymour Foundation



DONATED PHOTO

**Adam Seymour has fun in the water with younger brother, Nick.**

awaits tax exempt status, Adam Seymour's friends and family partnered with CMG. It increases awareness of CHD, raises funds for research and supports children and families fighting it. See <http://cmgheartfoundation.net/> and <http://adamseymourfoundation.org>.

Adam Seymour's brother Nick, 14, an eighth-grader at Robinson Middle School, worked with Heather Ripley, the mother of one of Adam's soccer teammates at Robinson, to design the T-shirts Adam's friends and relatives will wear at the race. The shirts are in Adam Seymour's favorite color, blue, with the words, "Adam's Angels," in white, with a halo over Adam's name.

"They're selling them over Facebook," said Beverly Seymour. "It's Nick's way of raising money for the foundation."

**NOW CLIFTON** residents, the family lived in Centreville when Adam Seymour was younger. He began playing SYA soccer at age 6; later, at Robinson Middle, he captained the JV team and played defender for Robinson Secondary's varsity, all four years.

"Adam was a wonderful boy and a great son and brother," said Beverly Seymour. "He was kind, caring and easygoing, and always athletic — soccer was his passion." At 12, he won SYA's "Character Counts" award, given by the coaches for good sportsman-

ship. In his teens, he spent three years teaching skills to younger soccer players.

While taking a ceramics class in his senior year, he also discovered a talent for pottery. His ceramics teacher, Joe Dailey, mentored him, and Adam Seymour sold his vases, bowls and cups at the Robinson art show and at T&K Treasures and La Bella Luce in Clifton. This year, the school had a display of his pottery, in his memory.

Sadly, though, Adam Seymour was born with a heart murmur. "He had a small hole in his heart and we took him to the cardiologist, every year," said his mother. "But the hole was so tiny that doctors said it would never be a problem, and they don't think it had anything to do with his death."

Adam Seymour had no physical restrictions, and doctors said exercise would make his heart stronger. So, besides playing soccer, he also ran cross-country, indoor track for Robinson. At college, he planned to focus on environmental studies, but was only there 36 hours when tragedy struck.

"We dropped him off on a Tuesday, and Wednesday midnight was the first soccer practice," said Beverly Seymour. "The team's tradition was to kick off the season with a 1.5-mile run in under 9 minutes. Adam was a fast runner and was running fifth out of 50 kids, doing well, with no problems."

Toward the end of the race, though, he told a coach he was having trouble breath-

**"Adam was a wonderful boy and a great son and brother."**

— Beverly Seymour

ing, but he kept running. He then told a second coach, who told him to walk, instead.

"They said he walked maybe 30 yards and collapsed," said Beverly Seymour "His heart stopped, he had CPR in the ambulance and was on life support for three days in the hospital."

But there was no brain activity so, on the fourth day, after family and friends said their goodbyes, Adam Seymour was removed from life support and died, Aug. 22.

"We're all devastated and sad, but I have a 14-year-old son to take care of," said Beverly Seymour. "But we remember the good things about Adam and keep his memory alive, and the 5K run and scholarship foundation will help us do this."

The Adam P. Seymour Foundation will provide scholarships to deserving athletes who demonstrate academic, civic and/or artistic achievement. It will also go toward CHD research and to help support youth programs.

"What a tragedy losing Adam has been, especially for his parents and brother," said his uncle, Scot Ferris of Oak Hill. "Everyone who met him knew what a kind soul he was. Adam had this enigmatic smile, like he knew something nobody else did, and it delighted him. And he was always the first one to help, when needed."

Ferris said Adam Seymour's unexpected death has been difficult for everyone. "It leaves a hole in our lives that will never be filled," said Ferris. "All we can do is pad it so it doesn't hurt as bad. I know he was an organ donor, and I often think about how many families got that happy call while we were grieving."

Now, as the 5K race approaches, said Ferris, "I know that hundreds of people from all over the state are looking forward to it. Hopefully, this year's run will be the start of a tradition that not only will help raise funds for a good cause, but will give Adam's friends and family a chance to get together and remember him."

## Local Faith Group Supports Angel Tree, Foster Home in China

**M**embers in the Burke, Rolling Valley and Springfield wards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are supporting the Angel Tree project, which in the past has distributed more than 5,500 Christmas gifts. Past recipients have included wounded soldiers at Walter Reed, victims of Hurricane Katrina, men and women at the Northern Virginia Training Center, local families, children in poverty stricken West Virginia, and little orphan girls in China.

This year, the Angel Tree project is collecting gifts for children visiting over the holidays with their wounded soldier mother or father who is recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center, needy members in the local area, and Marines wounded in Afghanistan who have recently arrived at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Anyone interested in providing a gift should contact Karma McLeskey at [karma375@gmail.com](mailto:karma375@gmail.com) or call her on 703 455-9309.

The wards are also collecting donations for Starfish Children's Services, a foster home in Xian, China. In particular, donations are being collected to help a special needs orphan named "Joy," who has a heart condition and cleft lip and palate.

Amanda de Lange, a Brigham Young University graduate, founded Starfish Children's Services and receives "special needs" babies, weeks to months old, from the Chinese government's central orphanage.

Starfish provides nourishment, wellness services and medical intervention, including heart, spinal and cleft palate surgery. Starfish then returns the infants to the government orphanage for adoption. Learn more about Starfish at [www.thestarfishfosterhome.org](http://www.thestarfishfosterhome.org).

Donations to Starfish can be made at the website or by sending a contribution to Starfish Children's Services, C/O Patrick Mclaughlin, 6 West 122nd St, New York, NY 10027.

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# EMPLOYMENT

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**21 Announcements**  
**ABC LICENSE**  
D & Y Ju, Inc trading as Springfield Sunoco Mart, 6400 Backlick Road, Springfield, Virginia 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Young Jin Ju President

**21 Announcements**  
**ABC LICENSE**  
GNR, Inc trading as George's Steak N Things, 5624-C1 Ox Rd, Burke, VA 22039. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer On license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. George Rababy, President

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**21 Announcements**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
The following store will be holding a public auction on 12-17-10 starting at 12 Noon  
  
Storage Mart 1851 11325 Lee Highway Fairfax, Va, 22030  
  
1) Edwin L. Stohman, Edwin Stohman III - Unit 1050 - boxes, furniture, art  
2) Timothy Fornhill - Unit 1055 - boxes, furniture, appliances  
3) K. Anderson, Kenneth Anderson, Kenneth Anderson Jr - Unit 4184 - furniture, boxes, bags

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**-Werner Heisenberg**

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### Spring Soccer Tryouts

The VISTA Patriots FC, an NCSL U19 (U17, 18, and 19) boys team, is seeking experienced players born on or after Aug. 1, 1991. The team is looking for five or six players to fill some available spots on the team. The team is composed of players residing in Northern Virginia from the Centreville, Chantilly, Burke, Manassas, Springfield and the Fairfax Station areas. The team has players playing up and would accommodate athletes with multiple commitments. The team has a history of developing players with an emphasis on team play, respect for others and good sportsmanship. The Patriots were nominated and honored twice by the coaches, referees and ODSL, as winners of the Randy Rawls Sportsmanship Award. The Patriots are coached by a former collegiate player who holds a USSF National License. Tryouts will be conducted starting Dec. 11-12 and throughout the winter up to the start of the NCSL spring 2011 season. Players and parents that are looking for a respectful and fun soccer atmosphere for a reasonable time commitment and cost should contact the Patriots team manager Jack Dulan at dulang@cox.net or Coach Bill Walter at billybobandktr@aol.com or 571-259-1000.

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### POETRY

#### Untitled

BY DANIEL WILLIAM GRUBERG

Black eyes are intent  
See half of holy inscription on  
a tan wrist  
Carrying old stretches on the  
collarbone collapsing  
The toe jagged white encrusted  
black mod  
Whitest teeth enamel coated  
milk mesh  
Water piles on top of every li-  
quor molecule  
Coating it smooth traveling ar-  
teries  
Head fills east side  
dried strands up creek  
Eyelids flutter  
No sense fills each scratch of  
flesh  
Shaking legs  
Little lines lair knuckles  
Black chair rises slowly  
White light clearing sensations  
Hairs of wisdom grow autumn  
red  
Every crack of the back makes  
love  
Every deep breath makes sense.

Daniel William Gruberg is a poet from Burke. He has a college degree in arts and humanities from Florida Atlantic University.

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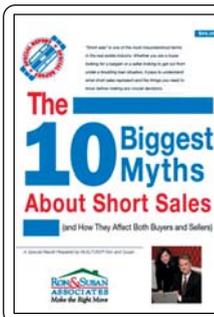
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