

# Burke CONNECTION

# Walking Against Hunger

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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



Emma Conard, Drew Conard, and Jaelyn McCarthy of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Clifton walk in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Burke CROP walk on Nov. 20. The event aims to raise awareness of global and local hunger and to raise funds towards their eradication.

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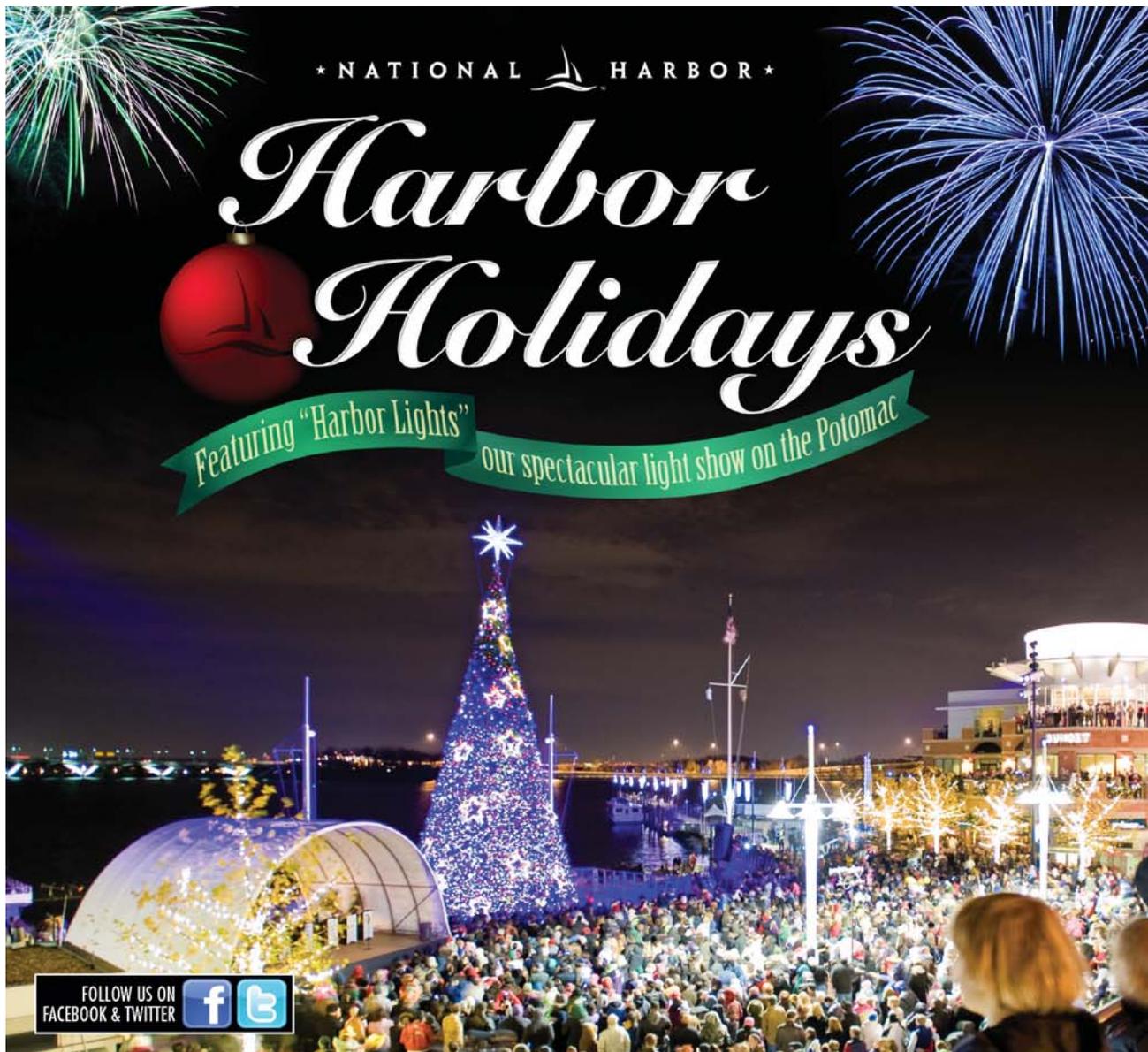
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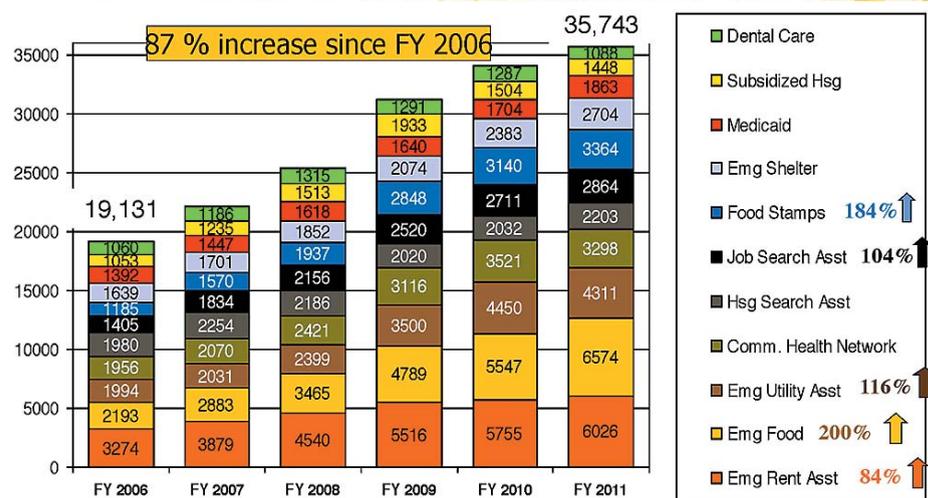
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# NEWS

Average daily number of calls to Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) has steadily increased from an average of 297 calls per day in FY 2007 to 441 per day this year.

## "Top 11" CSP Contact Topics (FY06-FY11)



# Time to Give

## Demand for food, other services increases in Fairfax County.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n a recent Tuesday night at ECHO's distribution center in West Springfield, the parking lot is jammed, and social workers are busy helping needy families stock up on holiday food, clothing and other necessities.

"Here's an apple pie, mommy. Can we have it?" asks 9-year-old Marjorie, a fourth-grader at Lynbrook Elementary School.

Her mother, Dayance, nods, as she balances Marjorie's baby sister on her hip and sorts through clothing.

"This is a fairly typical Tuesday evening," said Meg Brantley, ECHO's Executive Director. "We are lucky because we have such a generous community. We just got a bumper crop of food from the annual Boy Scout Food Drive, more than 25,000 pounds and the Franconia Police Department donated 3,000 pounds of food, but the need is always there."

Founded in 1969 by nine local churches, ECHO (Ecumenical Communities Helping Others), is an all-volunteer non-profit serving families in the Burke, Springfield and Lorton area. In a store-like setting, ECHO distributes donated emergency food, clothing, and household items, provides transportation and offers a variety of family-counseling and financial-assistance services.

Like many agencies and non-profits in Fairfax County, ECHO has seen a dramatic increase in clients and requests for assistance since the recession hit in 2008.

In 2010, ECHO assisted more than 1,472 households, an increase of nearly 30 percent over FY07.

According to Brantley, the organization also continued its upward trend in food distribution with a record 180,000 pounds of food going out the door to 1,000 households this fiscal year, and a record number requests for financial and housing assistance,



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

**Linda McCosky of Springfield fills bags with groceries at ECHO, a charitable organization that provides assistance to those individuals and families in the Burke and Springfield communities experiencing temporary difficulties. She has volunteered with the organization for more than a year. "I do it because it makes me feel good," says McCosky.**

such as help paying utility bills.

"We're seeing more of a financial need, people calling for rent and utilities. The foreclosure crisis has trickled down, because it's usually not the owner of the home who needs emergency help, it's the family he's been renting to," said Brantley.

Brantley said the community has come through with donations, and they raised nearly \$30,000 at their bi-annual yard sale, but ECHO's food pantry contains 35 percent less than it did last year.

"We're still giving out about 160 pounds of food per family, but this year it may be a chicken instead of a turkey we're giving for Thanksgiving," Brantley said.

**THE STORIES** are similar at agencies all across the county.

Social workers say the fallout of the 2008 recession continues to reverberate. People who lost their

SEE AID AGENCIES, PAGE 10



Fairfax County's new "12 Ways of Giving" calendar. Visitors to the website can click on one of the gift-wrapped packages, and discover a new way of giving back to the community.

## A New Way to Give Fairfax County launches "12 Ways of Giving" digital calendar.

**I**f you're tired of buying the latest technical gadget for the holidays, Fairfax County has a new way for you to give gifts and give back to the community.

The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3), Celebrate Fairfax, and Volunteer Fairfax recently developed Fairfax Community Connections, a collaborative initiative to promote and recognize ways to give, gather and get involved in Fairfax County. Called Fairfax Community Connections, this is a new web portal designed to share and find opportunities to donate, volunteer and make a difference through activities that are already happening in the community.

"This is a new communications channel using social media and online tools to link the many organizations that are doing good things in our community with those looking for ways to make a difference," said Patricia Stevens, director of OP3.

"We're really excited about our 12 Days of Giving calendar," Stevens said. "It's a way to give back to the community, and give a meaningful gift for someone on your list."

For example, if you go to [fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/enews/enews1211.html](http://fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/enews/enews1211.html), you can click on one of the 12 gift-wrapped items, and learn more about that particular gift. If you click on the image of trees, you can find out how to "give" five native trees that will be planted in Fairfax County in honor of your family member, friend or client.

For additional creative and philanthropic gift-giving ideas, Stevens suggests checking out the following sites:

- ❖ [www.FairfaxCommunityConnections.net](http://www.FairfaxCommunityConnections.net)
- ❖ [www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org](http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org)
- ❖ Catalogue for Philanthropy, [www.catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org/cfpdc/nonprofits.php](http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org/cfpdc/nonprofits.php) which includes more than 100 Fairfax County organizations.

The United Way Of the National Capital Area Fairfax Falls church Community Impact Fund at <https://donate.unitedwayna.org/page/contribute/donate-impact-funds>, which goes to organizations in Fairfax County.

— VICTORIA ROSS

## Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION



Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Burke Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: [ChildrensSouth@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:ChildrensSouth@connectionnewspapers.com), or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Nov. 30, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

## NEWS

**The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Burke CROP walk starts its six-kilometer journey at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfax Station on Nov. 20, then travels north on Route 123 ultimately ending at Fairfax Presbyterian Church. The walk is six kilometers because that is the average distance a woman or young girl in Africa or Asia walks every day to collect water. The event aims to raise awareness of global and local hunger and to raise funds towards their eradication.**



## Walking Against Hunger

### Hundreds participate in 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Burke CROP Walk.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, hundreds of people took to the street in Fairfax Station to raise money and awareness for hunger relief. The 19<sup>th</sup> annual CROP Hunger walk started at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfax Station and ended at Fairfax Presbyterian Church. Several hundred participants raised money as part of the six kilometer walk to help fund efforts to battle hunger internationally and in the region. Janet Smith, a member of Burke Presbyterian Church who has coordinated the walk for 15 year says, "Over one billion people in the world are hungry – those facts have faces, they're real people. No parent should have to say to a child I have no food for you tonight." Twenty-two local churches, synagogues and community organizations participated in the walk, drawing participants from Burke, Springfield, Fairfax Station, Fairfax, and Clifton. Walk organizers hope to raise \$30,000 this year, \$9,000 more than last year's Walk. Twenty-five percent of proceeds from the walk will be donated to local organizations such as ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) and WFCM (Western Fairfax Christian Ministries) both of which operate food pantries.



**Marcy Stennes of Burke Presbyterian Church is working at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Burke CROP Walk registration table, helping Jane Curtis of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church to register walkers on Nov. 20.**

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



**Aaron Giddings, dad Scott Giddings, Andrew Giddings, Asher Giddings (far left), of Springfield, and members of their congregation at Burke Presbyterian Church cheer in anticipation of the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Burke CROP Walk, an event aimed at raising money for and awareness of global hunger.**



**Signs for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Burke CROP Walk are laid out in anticipation of the start of the six kilometer fundraising and awareness event: 22 local churches, synagogues and community organizations participated in the walk, drawing participants from Burke, Springfield, Fairfax Station, Fairfax, and Clifton.**



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40-year-old woman treated 20 years post stroke

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Mary Schaller at the National Press Club's 34th Annual Book Fair.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Nancy Johnson, subject of "Deliver Us from Evil: A Southern Belle in Europe at the Outbreak of World War I" and grandmother of author Mary Schaller.

## Writer Finds Home in Burke

Mary Schaller writes "Deliver Us From Evil: A Southern Belle in Europe at the Outbreak of World War I."

BY MAYA HOROWITZ  
THE CONNECTION

Mary Schaller has been writing stories since she was 5 years old. She wrote a play called "Signs of Spring" in kindergarten and cast herself as the sole butterfly. In her adult life, she has had published 10 romance novels, four plays and three historical non-fictions. Her latest book is called "Deliver Us From Evil: A Southern Belle in Europe at the Outbreak of World War I." It traces the story of Schaller's grandmother, Nancy Johnson, who went to Europe on vacation in 1914 and overnight found herself in the middle of World War I.

Schaller was born in 1943 in Washington, D.C. She was the eldest of three children. Her childhood was spent moving back and forth from D.C.

"I'm an army brat," said Schaller. "I grew up everywhere. I've been in California, Nebraska, Heidelberg, Germany."

She attended Stone Ridge High School in Bethesda.

"It was a much freer time than I think kids had today," said Schaller. "All I had to do was show up in time for dinner. Nobody seemed to worry about where I might be or what I might be doing."

She spent her college years at the University of San Diego because she wanted to experience a different area than Washington, D.C. She majored in theatre arts with minors in philosophy and English.

Schaller met her husband, Martin Schaller in her last year of college and they were married in 1965. He was a naval officer. They immediately started a family, having Tori in 1966 and Phil in 1967. For the next 12 years, Schaller devoted her time to raising her children.

In 1977, the family moved to Burke.

"I love it," said Schaller. "This is home for us."

**SCHALLER BEGAN** working for the Fairfax County Department of Recreation and teaching theatre arts. In 1979, she started a Shakespeare program that lasted 10 years. She also worked as an office manager of Alexandria Chiropractic Center.

In 1991, she retired from everything and turned her full attention to writing books.

"I started off in 1991 when I decided to try and

write, I tried to write a murder mystery because I love to read them," said Schaller. "I showed it to my friend. She said she guessed who did it in the first third of the book. So she said, 'you don't have a mystery, you have a romance.' I'd never read one! So I went out and bought a bunch of romances."

Schaller published 10 romance novels for Harlequin under the pen name of Tori Philips, after her children's names. Nine of them are set in the Renaissance and one is set in the American Civil War.

Schaller is the author of four plays published by Dramatic Publishing Company. "The Trial of Richard the Third" has a double ending. The audience chooses the verdict of the trial and the play progresses from there. She has written two one-act plays, one about a little girl and an elf and another about a little devil with an identity crisis. Her fourth play is a selection of scenes from Shakespeare.

"She has a way with words and not only that, she's also a very nice person," said Charlotte Clinger, a member of Schaller's United Daughters of the Confederacy chapter.

In 2000, Schaller published her first nonfiction book, "Papa was a Boy in Grey: Memories of Confederate Veterans By Their Living Daughters." It is a collection of remembrances about Confederate soldiers told by their daughters.

"Papa was a Boy in Grey" was a historically significant work," said Clinger. "These women are dying off very fast and it's in their own words...The romances were just a lot of fun but she's done a lot of significant work since then."

In 2008, along with her husband, Martin Schaller, she came out with "Soldiering for Glory: The Civil War Letters of Colonel Frank Schaller, Twenty-second Mississippi Infantry." This was a heavily edited and footnoted collection of letters written by Martin Schaller's distant cousin.

"She engages you," said Terry Eiserman, who has known Schaller for 30 years. "She knows how to tell a story. Even the nonfiction keeps that story element so it's not dry."

"She's a very good writer," said Joyce Paulk, Schaller's former boss. "She is very descriptive in her terms. She's very thorough. She does a lot of re

SEE WRITER, PAGE 9

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# OPINION

## Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade, and we begin getting inquiries from teachers and parents about submitting artwork and writing almost as soon as summer is over.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories and photographs.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or on CD. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

Please provide the submissions no later than Thursday, Dec. 8.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings, paintings, photographs of 2-D and 3-D artwork that have been digitally photographed or scanned as .jpeg files.

- ❖ Short stories, poetry, essays, class-wide prompt writings.

- ❖ Opinion pieces about family, friends, movies, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

We welcome contributions from families, public and private schools, individuals and home schoolers.

Email submissions for the Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston and Oak Hill/Herndon Children's Connections to [ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com).

Email submissions for Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connections to [ChildrensSouth@Connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:ChildrensSouth@Connectionnewspapers.com).

Email submissions for the Potomac Almanac to Steven Mauren at [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com).

Email submissions for the Arlington Children's Connection to Steven Mauren at [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com).

Email submissions for the Children's Centre View to Steven Mauren at [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com).

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette in the Alexandria Gazette Packet or Mount Vernon Gazette to Steven Mauren at [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com).

To send CDs of artwork or CDs of typed submissions, mark them clearly by school and/or hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

EDITORIAL

### Kurspahic Takes over as Editor of Four More Papers

Kemal Kurspahic, longtime Connection managing editor, has taken the helm of the Springfield Connection, Burke Connection, Fairfax Connection and Fairfax Station/Lorton/Clifton Connection. He adds these responsibilities to his editing of the Vienna/Oakton Connection, McLean Connection, Great Falls Connection, Reston Connection and Oak Hill/Herndon Connection.

Kurspahic, who has won some of the most prestigious international awards as well as

### Call for student artwork and writing; deadline Dec. 5.

many awards for local news coverage, focuses on a well-honed local mission with a lean team of reporters, photographers and freelancers, as well as editorial assistant Amna Rehmatulla.

Kurspahic was among the 50 World Press Freedom Heroes named more than a decade ago, honored again in Vienna, Austria in September, 2010.

In December 1988, Kemal Kurspahic was named editor-in-chief of Oslobodjenje, Sarajevo's 70,000 circulation daily newspaper, the first editor of that paper not appointed by the Communist Party. Then after the communists were ousted, Kurspahic maintained editorial independence against a coalition of nationalist parties who wished to control the press.

During the siege of Sarajevo, with snipers' bullets flying, shelling which destroyed the paper's building, no electricity and very little newsprint, Kurspahic guided the paper's multi-ethnic staff in a nuclear bomb shelter, publishing the paper, providing one of the city's only sources of information. Often its pages were filled with lists of the dead.

A U.S. citizen since 2001, Kurspahic is the author of several books, including "As Long as Sarajevo Exists" and "Prime Time Crime." He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute for Peace and also worked for the United Nations.

Questions? Comments? Story ideas?

You can reach Kurspahic at [Kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:Kemal@connectionnewspapers.com).

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM); ON

TWITTER @MARYKIMM

## Inspired to Give

Area residents share their personal stories of what inspires them to give, or a time when they were thankful.

"My wife Jeannie and I first met Rachel just one day after her long trip from Korea in July 2003 to State College, Pa. We lived in Virginia, and, due to Jeannie's pending heart surgery (and more serious COPD and emphysema problems), her capability to travel was severely limited. Come the spring of 2006, Jeannie's pulmonary health was decreasing and she was despondent that she was missing Rachel's early years. I suggested that we take a day trip to Pennsylvania to see her. It was a complicated trip, but it was so worth it when I watched Jeannie and Rachel together. It was 'Nana this, Nana that, and Nana, Nana' the whole three hours we were

there.

In October at Jeannie's funeral, it almost broke my heart to hear Rachel ask, 'Where's Nana?' However, in retrospect, I felt so thankful that Jeannie and Rachel had those three precious hours of love and fun together six months earlier."

— JIM UPP, GREENSPRING RESIDENT, SPRINGFIELD

"After my mother died, I was taken in by poor relatives at the age of 3. I was moved by the sacrifices they made to care for me. These kinds of life events caused me to think about what I am doing for others. Inspired, I became an activist social worker, devoting



Jim Upp's granddaughter, Rachel with wife, Jeannie.

time to impoverished people. After speaking at a Catholic Charities conference about homelessness and hunger, eight individuals in the audience decided to join me to take action. I learned that Virginia was charging sales tax on food stamps. Virginia was scraping \$9.5 million of food aid off the top of the federal food stamp program for families at risk

of hunger. Outraged, our group went to Virginia to lobby their cause. When nothing happened in Richmond, I contacted Sen. Edward Kennedy, who discovered that 18 other states were also taxing folks in need of food stamps. Thanks to the combined efforts of our group and sympathetic politicians, the tax was prohibited in all

SEE INSPIRED, PAGE 16

## THE CONNECTION

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AREA ROUNDUPS



**Suspect caught by surveillance camera.**

## Bank Robbed in Fairfax Station Area

Police are investigating the robbery of a BB&T Bank around 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21. A man entered the bank at 8920 Village Shops Drive, handed the teller a note, and implied a weapon. The teller handed over cash and the suspect fled.

The suspect is described as white with a stocky build. He was in his 20's, around 6 feet tall, had sandy blonde hair, and was unshaven. He wore an olive green jacket, a brownish green t-shirt, and dark pants.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## Student Grabbed Near School

Franconia Police are investigating a report of a 19-year-old woman who was reportedly grabbed while walking toward Lee High School on Nov. 16 around 8 a.m. The student was walking along the sidewalk of Cimarron Street near Apache Street when a man approached and grabbed her from behind. The woman was startled, yelled, and the suspect fled. The suspect is described as an adult Hispanic or light-skinned black male; around 5-feet-5-inches tall and thin. He wore a black jacket and dark blue jeans.

Police responded, canvassed the area and have increased security presence in the area.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



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# NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cherry Runners club at Cherry Run Elementary School in Burke enjoyed a good fall running season.

## Cherry Runners Give Back

Cherry Run Elementary School's inaugural "fall running season" exceeded attendance expectations for the Cherry Runners club at Cherry Run Elementary school in Burke. Plans for 30 regular student runners turned into 102 students participating. Even on the chilliest days or with grade-level field trips, running club maintained participation of more than 65 students.

With 11 actual running sessions in the season, students circled the elementary school 7,276 times and ran a combined

total of 1212.5 miles. Many of the runners alone achieved 15 miles for the season.

Running Club finished Nov. 4, on a charitable note with a collection of food items for the Capital Area Food Bank in Lorton. Hundreds of items for donation were brought on the final day of running club adding up to 213 pounds of food.

Lisa Fiedorek and Charlene Miseli, coaches for this year's club, want to thank all of the parents who volunteered to make this activity possible for the Cherry Runners.

## Annual Taste of Braddock Open House

Supervisor John C. Cook (R-Braddock District) invites you to the Annual Taste of Braddock, Dec. 1, 5 - 7:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall in the Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Road. Join with your friends and neighbors in the Braddock District at the annual Open House to mark the start of the holiday season. Enjoy food donated by Braddock area businesses and share in the spirit provided by residents. RSVP: Call 703-425-9300 or email [braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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—John Ruskin

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# Writer Revisits World War I Story

FROM PAGE 5

search.”

The idea for Schaller’s latest book, “Deliver Us from Evil” has developed over time. Her grandmother, Nancy Johnson, gave Schaller a chest full of memorabilia upon her death in 1982.

It took two years for Schaller to sort through all the materials. But even sorted, she wasn’t sure what format to use to write the story. First she considered making it a romance like her first 10 novels. But she said the story was boring. After “Papa was a Boy in Grey” she tried to write it “straight nonfiction.” It was better, but not right. Finally, after “Soldiering for Glory,” she decided to incorporate letters and diary entries.

“I learned something from each step,” said Schaller.

Johnson had always mentioned “her greatest adventure” to her granddaughter. Johnson had traveled to Europe at age 25 with a friend, Ethel Norris, in May of 1914.

“My grandmother was an adventurous sort of lady,” said Schaller. “She lived in the wrong time. She always said she was born a century too soon.”

Johnson and Norris were en route to Paris via Switzerland on July 31 when World War I broke out.

“Americans were clueless that the war would ignite so quickly,” said Schaller. “It was so sudden. It was just out of the blue for many tourists. The trains had stopped running and France had closed its borders. Hotels were not taking letters of credit or checks.”

In researching Johnson’s story, Schaller discovered that 120,000 American citizens were in Europe when the war broke out. She weaves their stories into the narrative.

But Johnson’s story is unique because Schaller knows specific details about her grandmother’s journey. For example, she knows that her grandmother packed 26 pieces of luggage and she miraculously returned with all 26 of them. She also knows that her grandmother arrived home with \$1.67 in her purse. It’s this personal aspect of the story that makes the book appealing to readers.

“I often think World War I has been kind of buried under World War II,” said Jessie Thorpe, a book editor. “This sounded like a very personal story. I like that period and I thought it was interesting to hear it on a personal level.”

Schaller sees this book as timely.

“In 2014 it will be the 100 year anniversary of what was supposed to be the war to end all wars,” said

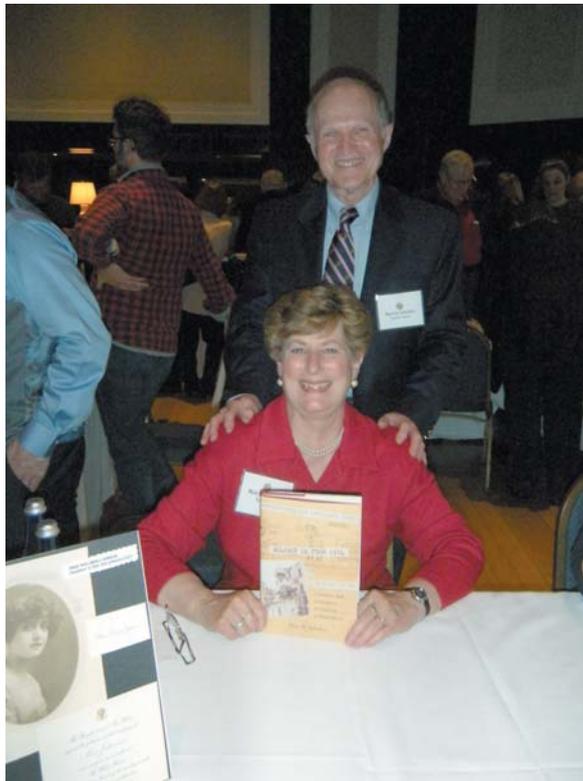


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mary and Martin Schaller at the National Press Club’s 34th Annual Book Fair.

Schaller. “It’s one of the beginning books to mark that anniversary.”

**SCHALLER PLANS** to continue writing in the future.

“I never know what sort of book I want to write,” said Schaller. “I would really, if I had the best of all possible worlds, if I had all my wishes come true, I would love to write some stories for the American Girl series. I would love to do the 1950s.”

She wants to encourage young writers.

“I feel I was very fortunate to be able to write the books,” said Schaller. “I have enough rejection slips to paper a room. I would tell anybody who thinks, ‘Gee, I’d love to write a story but it’ll never get published.’ Write that story if nothing else for yourself and your family. Believe in yourself. Dreams do come true, even if you’re over fifty.”

Mary Schaller’s latest book, “Deliver Us from Evil: A Southern Belle in Europe at the Outbreak of World War I,” is the 27<sup>th</sup> in a series titled Women’s Diaries and Letters of the South by the University of South Carolina Press. It can be found at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.



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# Agencies Report High Demand

FROM PAGE 3

jobs in 2008 or 2009 are draining personal savings, and the clock is ticking on social safety nets such as unemployment and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits, which provide a two-year cushion at best.

"What is particularly alarming is that many of the families calling are unemployed, and have been for a while," said Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread (ODB), a non-profit serving Fairfax County's working poor for 25 years. More than half of ODB's clients are children.

"The low-wage jobs are decreasing. Some families that request utility assistance have been without electricity for over a month. They exhausted their personal resources and nonprofit resources and literally were living in the dark. Now that the temperature is dropping they are desperate," Whetzel said.

Since July of 2011, ODB has been tracking the number of clients they have to turn away who request financial assistance.

"The number is 60 families a month, and rising. And these are people that are able to work, but just cannot find work," Whetzel said. "The low-wage jobs that were once there for them, are just not there anymore."

At ODB, there is a steady waitlist for food assistance. "Another way that we track the need for food assistance is the number of requests for one-time emergency deliveries we make to families in dire need of food. This number averages 10 per month. Last month we made 21 deliveries. And we are leaning in that direction again this month," she said.

Food for Others, the largest direct distributor of free food in Northern Virginia, reported it delivered a record 2.7 million pounds of food to an average of 125 families a day last year.

"We are always slammed," said Lynne Galanis, Food for Other's finance director.

"This is our busy time of year, and we're seeing a sustained high volume of calls," said executive director Roxanne Rice.

John Horejsi, founder and coordinator of SALT (Social Action Linking Together), said Catholic Charities of Arlington has experienced a 450 percent increase in requests for emergency assistance from families. "With 17 tons of food delivered, Catholic Charities say they are still dangerously low on grocery supplies," Horejsi said.

**FACETS**, a Fairfax-based non-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Patricia Stevens, executive director of Fairfax County's Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3), unveils its new "12 Days of Giving Calendar."**

profit committed to helping vulnerable families struggling with homelessness, has also seen a surge in needs for services. "At one point during the recession, we saw a 60 percent increase in our services," said Amanda Andere, FACETS executive director. "Since there has been such an increase in the amount of services requested, and the time we need to

The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) serves as a clearing house and point of contact for public agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses.

Stevens said Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) tracks the volume and type of calls that come into its hotline. In 2007, CSP had five "high vol-

**"Another way that we track the need for food assistance is the number of requests for one-time emergency deliveries we make to families in dire need of food. This number averages 10 per month. Last month we made 21 deliveries. And we are leaning in that direction again this month."**

— Lisa Whetzel, Executive Director, Our Daily Bread

spend working with our clients to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, the donations are not keeping up with this increased need."

"The call volume for assistance countywide has gone through the roof," said Patricia Stevens, director of the county's Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3). "People are living close to the margin, and something like losing that second job, or running out of savings, can tip the balance."

**AVERAGE DAILY CALL VOLUME** has steadily increased from an average of 297 calls per day in FY 2007 to 441 per day this year. Since August 2006, there has been a prolonged increase in the number of requests to CSP which is one



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

**Judi Kern of Burke reaches into the freezer at ECHO's food pantry in Springfield, to add bread to a bag of groceries that will be given to an ECHO client.**

indicator, Stevens said, of economic stress in the community.

And while Fairfax County still ranks as one of the wealthiest in the nation, the number of residents living in poverty (considered to be less than \$60,000 annually for a family of four) increased 33 percent from 2000 to 2009, according to a report released by Fairfax County's Human Services Council this month. Nearly 58,000 county residents currently live in poverty.

According to Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 2,000 Fairfax County Public School students were identified as homeless during the 2010-11 school year, and one in four FCPS students is eligible for free and reduced lunches.

Despite the bleak statistics, there are bright spots.

"We are a caring community, and people are extremely generous this time of year," Rice said. "It's a double-edged sword. People are taken over by the holiday spirit, and we're able to provide for the demand, but the demand for food is there in January and February too."

"Overall, Fairfax County has done better than many parts of the country. We're a vibrant community of diverse people who want to give," Stevens said, "but they are not always aware of how to give so that their donations stay in the community. What I find is that it's a matter of raising awareness, which is something we're all trying to do."



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

**One of ECHO's "office angels," Gerda Kilday with Executive Director Meg Brantley. "It's people like Gerda, longtime volunteers, who make this such a wonderful place," Brantley said.**

## Where To Give

Consider donating to one of these local organizations this holiday season.

In addition to the organizations listed below, Fairfax County maintains an online database of human services organizations that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to anyone with internet access. The Human Services Resource Guide is a database of public, non-profit, and some private for-profit organizations that provide human services to Fairfax County residents. The database includes descriptions of services provided, access criteria, location and contact information among other information. To access the Human Services Resource Guide, click on the following link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rim/default.asp>. Visitors to the site are able to search by a service category and/or organization name.

Our Daily Bread — ODB has been serving disadvantaged families in Fairfax County for 25 years. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to [www.odbfairfax.com](http://www.odbfairfax.com).

Food for Others — Food for Others is the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia, provides the assistance needed by unemployed and low-income neighbors. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the

loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. [www.foodforothers.com](http://www.foodforothers.com)

Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org).

Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. While donations are welcome during store hours, visitors are asked to call first at 703-339-8611 before dropping off. [www.lortonaction.org](http://www.lortonaction.org).

Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE) — CAUSE ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, [cause-usa.org](http://cause-usa.org)

National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. [www.capitalareafoodbank.org](http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org)

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.

The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of

their time to see patients. [jsfreeclinic.org](http://jsfreeclinic.org).

Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. [www.thealternativehouse.org](http://www.thealternativehouse.org).

Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, [www.restoninterfaith.org](http://www.restoninterfaith.org). Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

SHARE of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards. Gift cards can be dropped off at SHARE, c/o McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd. on Wednesdays and Saturdays (except Thanksgiving week) 9:30 a.m. - noon. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. [www.SHAREofMcLean.org](http://www.SHAREofMcLean.org)

LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. Email Lisa Lombardo at [LisaLombo@signaturecos.com](mailto:LisaLombo@signaturecos.com). 703-437-1776 [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org)

FACETS — Information about supply donations and FACETS holiday gifts drive is available on the website at [www.facetscares.org](http://www.facetscares.org). Additionally, FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. People who are interested in volunteering can contact 703-865-4251 or [volunteer@facetscares.org](mailto:volunteer@facetscares.org).

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Spooky Strings students from White Oaks Elementary use their instruments to narrate a spooky story. Mrs. "Transylvania" Trachtenberg (teacher Stephanie Trachtenberg) and students Brian Kim, Rachel Eom and Katie Le play along.

## Spooky Story at White Oaks Elementary

Students Jake Rice (red head), Alan Zheng, Changyoung Park and teacher Michelle Keenan make Chiller Cellos sounds.



Esther Kim and Alexandra Nantier from White Oaks Elementary play the cello.



White Oaks kids showing Halloween spirit. Spookie Strings: Sean Piwowar, Brian Kim and Rachel Eom



# NEWS

**On Friday Nov. 11, Orange Hunt Elementary School hosts a Veterans Day Program to honor members of the Orange Hunt community who have served or are currently serving in the military. The sixth grade chorus and fifth and sixth grade advanced band played patriotic music during the event.**



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



Music Teacher Jennifer Lee helps students as they sing and sign "This Land is Your Land," by Woodie Guthrie, during a Nov. 11 Veterans Day Program.



Members of the Orange Hunt Elementary School Advanced Band don tricorne hats during their rendition of "Yankee Doodle" at the school's Veterans Day Program on Nov. 11.

## Veterans Honored at Orange Hunt Elementary

On Friday, Nov. 11, Orange Hunt Elementary School held a Veteran's Day Program the sixth grade chorus and the fifth and sixth grade advanced band. To accommodate all members of the school and community who wanted to participate, the program was held, to a packed audience, in three sessions during

the morning. Patriotic songs were performed, including the anthems for each branch of the military. The most poignant moment of the program was when students with family members deployed overseas placed roses in a vase in their honor.

— DEB COBB

# 34th Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

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# SPORTS

## Region Football Title Games Set for This Week

**South County ready to tackle Yorktown in Div. 5 finals.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**wo Northern Region high school championship football games are set to take place this week end. The Div. 5 (smaller schools) title game will see undefeated Yorktown host red-hot South County in a Friday afternoon affair in Arlington. Meanwhile, in the Div. 6 (larger schools) finals, undefeated Westfield will be at home Saturday versus Centreville High.

Stone Bridge, which has won several Div. 5 region crowns in recent years, saw its stronghold end this past Saturday night when the Bulldogs, the top-seeded team in the Div. 5 playoff field, lost a region semifinals game to South County, 25-3, in Ashburn. In the other Div. 5 semifinal, Yorktown, under longtime head coach Bruce Hanson, eliminated Lee High, 51-15.

**IN THE DIV. 6 PLAYOFFS**, Centreville (11-1) put a stop to Lake Braddock's reign of dominance in recent years by defeating the Bruins, 21-18, in a semifinals round game last Friday. Lake Braddock had won the region crown in both 2009 and 2010 - defeating Chantilly in last year's finals - and was going for a third region title this season. The Bruins, following a so-so 6-4 regular season, won big at Oakton, 50-21, in a quarterfinals round playoff game two weeks ago.

"We were motivated to prove we were a good team," said Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress. "It was one of those nights when everything went right. We concentrated on winning the individual battles, taking one play at a time."

But the Bruins could not get past Centreville in last week's semis.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Lake Braddock senior running back Greg Jones (3) finds some open space during the Bruins playoff win at Oakton.**

Poythress said his team had an underdog mindset going into the playoff meeting against Centreville, a squad which features several outstanding high school players such as running backs Manny Smith and Connor Coward, wide receiver Chase Walter, and tight-end/defensive end Ken Ekanem. Smith, arguably the best back in the region, had a huge night against Lake Braddock with 161 yards and all three of the Wildcats' touchdowns, including a 35-yard scoring run in the final quarter.

"Going into the Centreville [playoff] game we knew they had better impact players than we did," said Poythress, whose team, way back in the season opener, had lost to the Wildcats 23-8. "We felt that we had improved enough as a team to be competitive and that we could win the game if we limited their big plays. Both Chase Walter and Manny Smith made huge plays after breaking tackles. Our guys were in position to make stops, but just couldn't quite get them down."

The Bruins gave Centreville a strong game

but could not overcome a 14-0 first half deficit and came up short.

"I thought our kids handled some adversity well," said Centreville coach Chris Haddock, of Friday's win over Lake Braddock. "We ran the ball well and controlled the clock and made some key fourth down attempts when we needed to."

Centreville's lone loss this season came to Westfield (12-0), by a 13-10 score in overtime, in a week nine game played on Oct. 28 at Centreville. Now, four weeks later, the two Concorde District juggernauts are preparing to meet one another for the Div. 6 championship. Centreville, under Haddock, defeated Fairfax High two weeks ago in a quarterfinals round game before edging the Bruins in the semifinals.

"Our team is excited to play Saturday versus Westfield," said Haddock. "We feel we played them well last time and hope to do so again."

Westfield, under first year head coach Kyle Simmons, broke open a close game in the second half of a 21-3 quarterfinals round

win over visiting Robinson two weeks ago before winning a high-scoring affair over West Potomac, 42-34, last Friday night.

In its win over Robinson, Westfield held just a 7-3 halftime lead to an underdog Rams' team which slipped into the Div. 6 playoffs as the No. 8 seed.

Robinson, with the loss, concluded its first season under head coach Trey Taylor with a 4-7 record. The Rams were 1-5 at one point this season before winning three of their final four regular season games to squeeze into the Div. 6 playoffs. They had a huge challenge in facing top seeded Westfield. But the Rams did not wilt and gave the Bulldogs a good game.

"I thought Trey Taylor and his staff did a great job," said Simmons, Westfield's first year head coach. "Their kids played a good game and they deserve a lot of credit. It was a 7-3 game well into the third quarter. To be in a 7-3 game in the third quarter, I thought we realized we had to get the job done. Our defense played tremendous."

Two of the region's top running backs - Westfield's Kendell Anderson (181 yards versus West Potomac) and Centreville's Manny Smith (161 yards versus Lake Braddock) - will highlight Friday's Div. 6 title game.

**IN DIV. 5**, unbeaten Yorktown is meeting a South County team which was 0-3 at one point this season. Since then, the Stallions, under head coach Gerry Pannoni, have won nine straight games, including playoff wins over Madison, 31-0, and Stone Bridge. South County was tri-champions of the Patriot District this season, along with West Potomac and Lake Braddock.

Stone Bridge, the Liberty District champion, finished its season 10-2. Its only losses were to Chantilly early in the regular season and, of course, South County in the playoffs.

The winner of this week's Div. 5 and 6 region title games will advance to next week's Virginia State AAA playoffs.

### Junior Pirates Win Baseball Championship

**F**airfax Little League Baseball crowned the Junior Pirates, coached by Jack Friel, as the champions of the Fall 2011 Juniors Tournament.

Playing the Junior Braves, coached by Fairfax's Larry Capitano, on a sunny Saturday at Bonnie Brae, the Pirates took the lead and never looked back when Luke Ferguson hit a three-run home run.

Fairfax Little League offers baseball for players' ages four to 18 in both the spring and fall seasons and provides indoor training during the winter. Players ages 13 and above compete on a regulation 90-foot diamond.

The league divisions are: Juniors, for

players age 13 and 14; Seniors, for players 15 and 16; and Big League, for players 17 and 18. Fairfax Little League will have at least eight Junior, three Senior, and one Big League team for the upcoming Spring 2012 season.

Fairfax Little League's Juniors All-Stars have won the District 10 Spring Tournament championship and gone on to play in the State Tournament the past three years. The Seniors, meanwhile, have advanced to states the past two years.

The youth organization will work hard to repeat its All-Stars success again in 2012. Registration for the Spring 2012 season is now open at the Fairfax Little League website: [www.fairfaxll.com](http://www.fairfaxll.com).



PHOTO COURTESY/FAIRFAX LL PIRATES

**The Fairfax Little League Pirates posed for a team picture following their fall baseball season championship game win.**

# CALENDAR

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

## FRIDAY/NOV. 25

**Along Those Lines, One City Mile and Since Antarctica.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**The Grandsons General Admission Dance.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Roots-rock quartet. \$16. www.wolftrap.org.

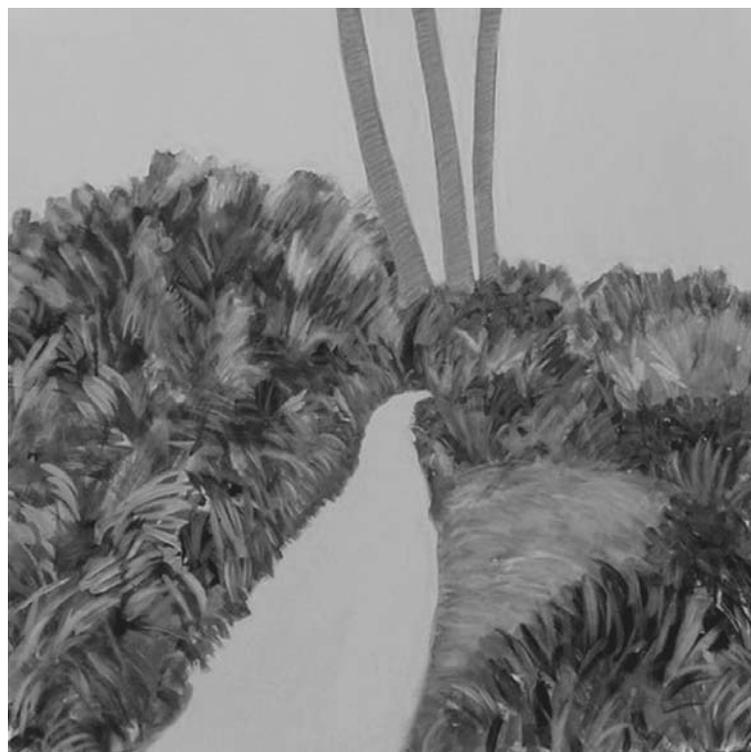
**All Day Art.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Art workshops for ages 6-13. Bring lunch, snacks provided. \$75 per child. Register at 703-385-7858 or www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 26

**Drumstick Dash.** 9 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. An 8K run plus family-friendly fun run and walk. Refreshments, goody bags, race shirt and prizes. A pre-race training program is available. Proceeds benefit Housing & Community Services of Northern Virginia's counseling and support services to Fairfax County citizens who are in danger of losing their homes. \$25-\$30 for the 8K, \$10 for the fun run. Late registration available on race day from 8 a.m. Register online at www.active.com/running/fairfax-station-va/drumstick-dash.

**David Wazeter and Struan Shields.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**"The Nutcracker."** 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Northern Virginia Community



**Painting by Alice Mostoff. The Bodzin Gallery of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, presents an exhibit of paintings by Alice Mostoff and ceramics by Klaudia Levin in an show and sale that will be open through Dec. 20, Sunday 8 a.m.-10:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday 6:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m., Friday 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 12:30 p.m.-6 p.m. www.jccnv.org.**

College Annandale, Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by Classical Ballet Theatre. Refreshments and more. 703-471-0750.

**John Eaton: Indiana on Our Minds.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Music of Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 27

**TheRuinCity, AudioStrobeLight, Accidents (CD Release), Big Paper Airplanes, Farah & The Boy and Daniel Wrigley.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**"The Nutcracker."** 2 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by Classical Ballet Theatre. Refreshments and more. 703-471-0750.

## MONDAY/NOV. 28

**Space Program, Today's Tomorrow, Minor Kings EP Release and Wrestle With Jimmy.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**Tales to Tails.** 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Age 6-12. Register at 703-293-6227.

**Paws to Read.** 4 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice reading with a trained therapy dog. Register for a 15-minute session. Age 6-10 with adult. 703-978-5600.

## TUESDAY/NOV. 29

**Shoot The Cricket, Kill Lincoln and East Ghost.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults

learning English. 703-293-6227.

**Twilight Tales.** 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Come in pajamas for stories before bedtime. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-978-5600.

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

**Holiday Tunes for Tots Concert.** 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Sing along with some of your favorite holiday tunes, performed by the W.T. Woodson Band Department. Tickets \$3. 703-352-7715.

**Pieta Brown and Peyon Tochterman.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**Steve Solomon's My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm Home for the Holidays!** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Hilarious recount of a chaotic family reunion. \$32. www.wolftrap.org.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 1

**Holiday Tunes for Tots Concert.** 10 a.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Sing along with some of your favorite holiday tunes, performed by the W.T. Woodson Band Department. Tickets \$3. 703-352-7715.

**Sam Roberts Band and Zeus.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**Dan Hicks & The Hot Licks.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Holiday in Hicksville incorporates Western swing, traditional folk, bluegrass, cowboy tunes, Gypsy jazz and bossa nova. www.wolftrap.org.

## 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.

### TUESDAY/NOV. 29

**Dementia Care Givers Support Groups.** 12 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Learn and share with others experiencing similar challenges. Meetings at 12 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, as well as 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday. eileen.thompson1@gmail.com or www.fairfax-burkesc.org.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 6

**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meeting.** 9:30 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 13

**Boy Scout Troop 1347 Recruiting Open House.** 7:30 p.m. Burke United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. For boys ages 11-18 and their parents. 703-250-4107.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 15

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia Operation School Bell Weekend Food for Kids.** 10 a.m. Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Help pack supplemental food packages for distribution to children in 3 Title 1 schools in

Northern Virginia. www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org or 703-591-2312.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 21

**Dementia Care Givers Support Groups.** 12 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Learn and share with others experiencing similar challenges. Meetings at 12 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, as well as 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday. eileen.thompson1@gmail.com or www.fairfax-burkesc.org.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 12

**Burke North Moms Club Preschool Fair.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Burke Volunteer Fire Station, 9501 Old Burke Road, Burke. With more than 25 area preschools. Proceeds benefit Messiah UMC's Weekend Backpack Program and local children without food. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Department will provide free Child ID cards. Free and open to the public. burkemomsclub@onebox.com.

### TUESDAY/JAN. 17

**Boy Scout Troop 1347 Recruiting Open House.** 7:30 p.m. Burke United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. For boys ages 11-18 and their parents. 703-250-4107.

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# Inspired to Give

FROM PAGE 6

19 states. Heartened by our success, SALT (Social Action Linking Together) was founded. When word spread of our tax-removal success, SALT membership grew from eight to more than 150. We now stand at more than 1,000. SALT seeks to keep social justice issues front-and-center at the Virginia General Assembly. One legislator told me, 'Whenever we have a hearing, if the issue is for rich people, you can't get in the door. But when we're talking about poor folks, the room is empty.' Encouraged, SALT began diligently tackling new problems. Legislators have said the thing they really respect about SALT is that we're not asking anything for ourselves, but for those most desperate and in the greatest need."

— JOHN HOREJSI, FOUNDER AND COORDINATOR OF SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT), VIENNA

"The State of Oregon had their first, and I think, only hurricane just a few weeks before Thanksgiving in 1962. I was in the middle of a divorce and had four children, ages 10, 8, 6 and 4 months. There were no systems then to alert you of bad weather and, of course, no cell phones. Pretty soon after the winds and rain started, the electricity and phones were out. I started a fire in the fireplace, not knowing that it would be our only source of heat for four to six weeks. Thanksgiving was fast approaching and I was still warming baby bottles by the fire, and cars were unable to get out of our neighborhood because of the downed trees. My neighbor, Ralph, came over, opened the dining room window, and shot two quails that were in our backyard. The electricity finally came back on to cook the birds, but we still were unable to drive out of the neighborhood. Thanks to Ralph, that was our Thanksgiving dinner that year."

— JAN MADDEN, GREENSPRING RESIDENT, SPRINGFIELD

"I always wanted to create a place here where kids could be inspired and submit films and nurture their abilities. It was something I wished I was involved in when I was younger. When I graduated, I thought I was far off from creating something that was such a big idea in my head. When I started the Clifton Film Fest, I never realized that the reward would not be money, or even people enjoying an event, but the greatest reward of all was gaining an interest and keeping up with the people who were involved. I saw these filmmakers quickly grow within three years and make huge strides. One filmmaker, Dillon Meyer, is attending Virginia Commonwealth's film school. Nick Sampson designed a cartoon that was featured on Nickelodeon's Yo Gabba Gabba! First-year patrons became filmmakers of their own. I am overjoyed to have gotten to know them and be able to follow their exciting journey. I look forward to surrounding myself with new creative

people from the area in the coming years by fostering their ability at the festival."

— DANI WEINBURG, FOUNDER OF CLIFTON FILM FEST, FAIRFAX STATION

"While I stepped down as director of ECHO (Ecumenical Communities Helping Others) two years ago, my husband and I still spend a great deal of time working there. It's kind of our 'home away from home.' Quite recently, a volunteer came to me and said a person was asking to see Pat. I went out to greet our former client, who gave me a big hug...She had started a small business and recently hired several people. When I congratulated her and then asked what brought her back to ECHO, she said she'd come with another young woman who needed help. She said since ECHO had helped her, she had convinced the friend that ECHO would be willing and able to help her also. What a treat to see someone now recovering from 'tough times,' and reaching out to help someone else..."

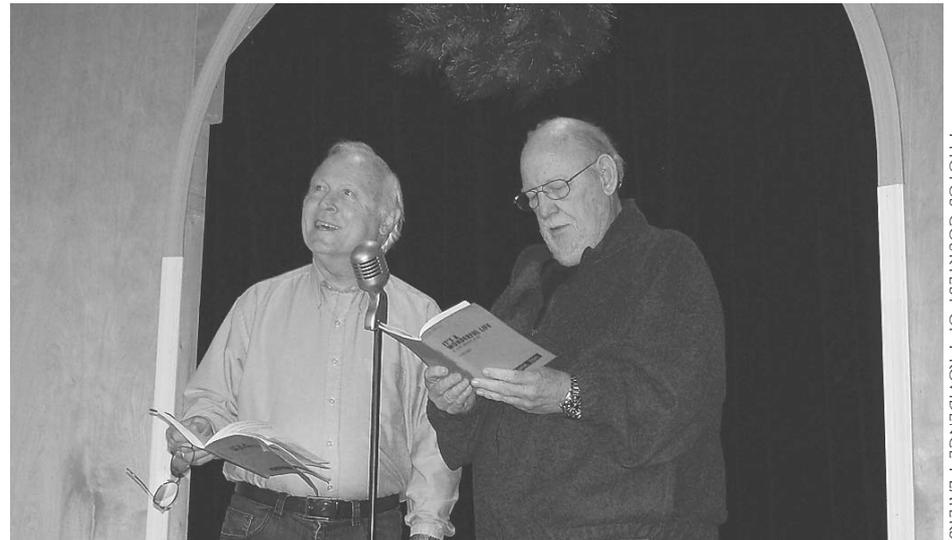
Another evening I was at the donation door and a beautifully dressed professional-looking woman came in to see if she could make a financial contribution, and of course, we said 'certainly.' She proceeded to write a check in the amount of \$10,000. When I expressed concern that she might have erred and meant a thousand, she demurred, saying, 'ECHO helped me when I needed it most and I just want to give back a little.'"

— PAT GAUTHIER, FORMER DIRECTOR AND 40-YEAR VOLUNTEER OF ECHO, BURKE

"I serve as a literacy volunteer for a woman in her sixties. In her life-long struggle to read, K. has faced a multitude of obstacles: from no childhood education, to dyslexia and other learning disabilities, to allergies that impede her processing, to a vocabulary limited by her status as a non-native English speaker. When we met she didn't know words like 'pond' or 'planet' because she only knew what she needed for a life around her house. These struggles do not indicate low intelligence. K. speaks four languages, cooks without recipes, and sews without patterns. She also ran a childcare business for years. I'm proud that after six determined years together, K. can read at the third grade level — no small feat. By reading signs, early reader books, and mail, her vocabulary grows steadily, opening the world to her one millimeter at a time. I do not know how far K. will go, but I do know that she will never give up. When she reads or writes something correctly, she gives me a thumbs-up and whispers, 'yes!' When she makes an error, she slaps her forehead and laughs.

She laughs.  
And that is her gift to me."

— DEB WERRLEIN, LITERACY VOLUNTEER FOR OUR DAILY BREAD, VIENNA



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

Joseph LeBlanc and Don Neal

## Holiday Joy at James Lee Community Center

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

### Where and When

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," by Providence Players of Fairfax County, at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: Dec. 2-11, 2001. Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday Matinees 2 p.m. Dec. 3, 4, 10 and 11, and Sunday Matinee 5 p.m. Dec 11. Tickets: \$15. Call 703-425-6782 or visit [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org)

A Holiday reminiscence of "deeper abiding love that stands the test of time" is the description by Stephanie Hearne for the Providence Players of Fairfax County upcoming, family-friendly production of "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play."

With its warming atmosphere and fond memories, "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" is Joe Landry's adaptation of the iconic Frank Capra film about what life in small town might have been without a particularly caring, solid citizen who was helped to see his own value by a most unlikely angel. In this adaptation, "it is an ensemble of actors and one very clever sound technician that tell the story as a radio play. It is not the film itself," Brian O'Connor the production director said.

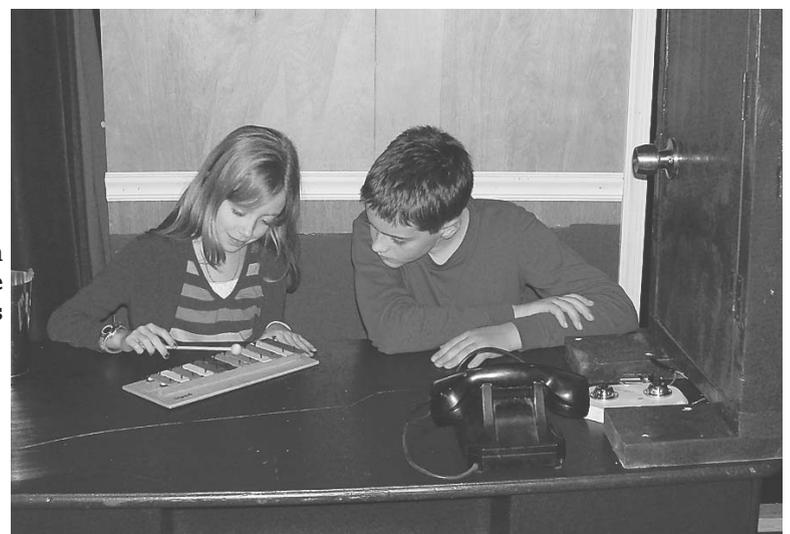
An audience hit when performed last December, the Providence Players are bringing the show back again. In this production the audience witnesses and becomes part of a the golden age of radio of the 1940s, when television did not exist and movies were still mostly black and white. It is performed as a live radio broadcast in front of

the theater audience who become the radio studio audience as they are seated within the comfortable James Lee Community Center Theater.

For those who saw last year's production, O'Connor indicated that there will be some new cast members and a completely different set design depicting the radio studio of that time period. O'Connor added that the multitude of bright, amusing sound effects will still be heard and seen made as the cast of 14, including three children, move about the stage making entrances and exits through multiple doors.

David Whitehead returns to the role of George Bailey the central character, a man on a journey of self-discovery of his value. For Whitehead, his role gives the audience the chance to take in "the great sense of love" that characters have for each other.

Elise Welsh and Blake Phillips



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# EMPLOYMENT

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**ABC LICENSE**  
Monty's Steakhouse & Lounge, Inc trading as Monty's Steakhouse, 8426 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22152. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mandana Montazami, President

**ABC LICENSE**  
Pizzacoli, Inc trading as Angelicos La Pizzeria, 10869 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on/off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Damla Mehtap Kamis, owner - president

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-Archimedes

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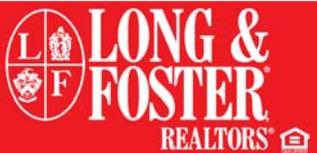
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