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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

George Mason University students Aaron Arenas of Virginia Beach, Alex Thomas of Severn, Md., and Meredith Forbes of Alexandria, watch as Food for Others workers unload the food they collected in a food drive at the university. The food drive pitted two freshmen classes, taught by Arenas and Thomas, against each other to collect the greatest number of items: Thomas' class won, collecting 555 items, while Arenas' class collected 549. The will be distributed to elementary school age children who are at risk of hunger on the weekends.

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Fairfax High Presents Macbeth

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax High's upcoming production of "Macbeth" means business. Not only does it contain stage combat with swords, staffs and axes, but spectacular special effects including blood, fog, pyrotechnics and flying witches.

The Fairfax Players will present this Shakespeare classic, Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 1, 2 and 3, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at www.fxplayers.org or \$10 at the door. For group tickets, e-mail weknight@fcps.edu. (Due to violent content, it's not recommended for children under 13).

"Senior English students study 'Macbeth' in class," said Director Wendy Knight. "But we're tricking it out to make it the coolest thing they've ever seen."

The cast and crew of about 40 have rehearsed since September, and ZFX Inc. — which engineered witch Elphaba's flight across stage for Broadway's "Wicked" — installed the rigging for this show, too, and trained the students to "fly."

Professional fight choreographer Craig Lawrence created the blood effects for the wounded and dying characters. He also taught



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The cast of "Macbeth," presented by the Fairfax Players of Fairfax High.

Banquo and Macbeth.

"We've taken our spectacle in so many, different directions — with the lighting, special effects, flying and pyrotechnics — that the audience should be really wowed," he said. "And every actor will either wear or do something cool."

Playing Macbeth is senior Mike Anderson. "He's a lord, noble and a soldier, but he can

also be indecisive — which irritates Lady Macbeth," said Anderson. "but once he sets his mind to killing people, he does it, and he eventually goes crazy. He wants power, but his guilt over what he does to get it plagues him throughout the show."

Anderson's enjoying his role, especially because of all the stage combat he gets to do. "The lines are hard and this is my first big role here, but Macbeth says some strong and powerful things," said Anderson. "He also spends a lot of time talking to himself. This play is really intense and dramatic, and the combat and special effects enhance the intensity even more."

SENIOR CHICHI RAMOS portrays Lady Macbeth. "She's powerful, queen-like, evil, manipulative and intrusive," said

Ramos. "She's controlling and meddles in people's lives. Her ultimate goal was to become queen, but she goes crazy when all the deaths and blood she's caused get to her."

It's Ramos's first evil character, but she loves the role's depth. "I put myself in her shoes and let her emotions build inside me to create her character," she explained. "I think of her as a snake who waits, observes a situation and decides when best to act. She's sneaky and conniving, and I'm giving her those kinds of movements."

Ramos says the audience will like "how the witches appear in the background where you

don't expect them. The costumes are historical, but also fantastical, with flowing sleeves and a red-and-black color scheme. This production is so energetic, and the actors are bringing depth to their roles, no matter how small. We hope people will come to the show and say, 'Oh, I never knew Shakespeare was so awesome.'"

PLAYING THE OLDEST WITCH is senior Caitlin Tuohy. "We're three sisters controlling magically what's going on in the show," she said. "We tell Macbeth he's going to be king and also tell Banquo that his children will be king. So we're stirring up trouble and taking away their free will by telling them their fates. We also manipulate Lady Macbeth."

Calling her character more serious and mature than the other witches, Tuohy said, "We're all creepy and chaotic, but the others are more playful. And each witch will have a particular, makeup color. I'll be green, Megan Cathro will be blue and Izzy Baucum will be purple. I'll also have prosthetics on my face. We're really weird and out-of-this-world, and it's so much fun flying in the air."

Tuohy said the audience will be "awed and impressed" with both the technical feats and the acting. She said the actors are well-cast and are enjoying their parts. Said Tuohy: "We're all throwing ourselves into the acting, full-force, and it'll show during the performances."

Freshman Doug Klain plays King Duncan. "He's a good king and tries to help people, but the war between Scotland and Norway was tough for him," said Klain. "He's been betrayed by a Scottish nobleman who defected to Norway. It's a fantastic role and, as a freshman, I feel honored to be part of this production. I like being the good guy, as well as the tragic character who, for a few minutes, gets to be the center of attention."

Knight says the show explores some controversial things, such as witchcraft and violence. It's also taught the students about that time and culture, "transitioning from the mythical and magical to having more religion and government. It went from tribes to dynasties and royalty."

She said there's a reason for everything in the play, based on the students' research. And, said Knight, "the students realize they couldn't have the world now without the world that once was."



In this dramatic scene from "Macbeth," suspended in air are (from left) Megan Cathro, Caitlin Tuohy and Izzy Baucum; in dresses are (from left) Chichi Ramos and Olivia Ballard; and swordfighting are (from left) Mike Anderson and Harry Weger.

the actors stage combat so they could portray the play's violence safely.

"There's a heavy-metal style of battle with broad swords and shields," said Lawrence. "The fights are visceral and percussive, and I've been impressed with these actors. I've given them complicated choreography and they've learned how to perform it the same way, every time."

He's also coordinating the stage flights which, he said, "give the story's supernatural effects a visual punch and make them ethereal and other-worldly." An example, said Lawrence, is when the witches float over

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Fairfax Dentists Give Discounts

Fairfax dentists Dr. Tara L. Zier and Dr. Riaz Rayek are offering a significant discount on dental services in order to assist people who need dental care in tandem with helping their community food pantry.

Zier and Rayek are looking to assist the people in their community who have lost their dental coverage due to job loss by offering dental services at a fraction of their normal rate. For \$39, patients will receive oral examinations, x-rays and dental cleanings, with all proceeds going to Food for Others.

The community discount spearheaded by Zier and Rayek to benefit people in need of dental care as well as the local food bank will remain in effect until Dec. 20.

For more information, visit dentistryfairfaxva.com or call 703-222-3245.

Giveaway at Fair Oaks Mall

Fair Oaks Mall will turn "Black Friday" green for 17 lucky shoppers when it presents "The Great Gift Card Giveaway" on Friday, Nov. 25.

Beginning the morning of "Black Friday, Nov. 25, shoppers will be able to register to win a \$250 Fair Oaks Mall gift card. One winner will be announced every hour on the hour beginning at 6 a.m. and continuing until the shopping center closes that evening at 10 p.m.

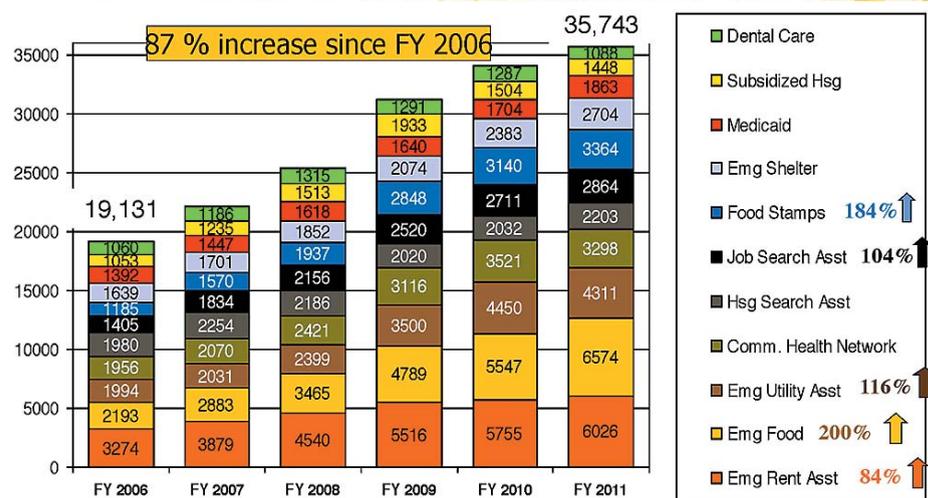
With \$4,250 in total Fair Oaks Mall gift card prizes, shoppers will be able to enter in person at the Fair Oaks Mall Customer Service Center, located between the Fountain and Grand Courts and set against the spectacular 1,200-square foot Ice Palace holiday display featuring Santa and the Ice Princess. Shoppers may also register online to win at ShopFairOaksMall.com beginning at 5 a.m. on Nov. 25.

Winners need not be present to win one of the \$250 Fair Oaks Mall gift cards. Drawings will be random. Rules are available at the Fair Oaks Mall Customer Service Center or online at www.ShopFairOaksMall.com.

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

On 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.

If 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, 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
- ❖ www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org
- ❖ Catalogue for Philanthropy, 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

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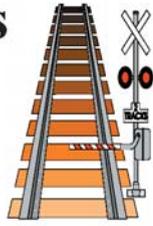
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NEWS

The 19th 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 19th 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 19th 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 19th 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 19th Annual Burke CROP Walk, an event aimed at raising money for and awareness of global hunger.



Signs for the 19th 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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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 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 or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

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The Jarrendt home.



The Stein house.



The Lustman house.



The Rusnak home.

It's Almost Time for Christmas in Clifton

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Christmas in Clifton is unlike Christmas anywhere else. That's because it takes place in a storybook-beautiful town and includes a candlelight tour of homes and a holiday parade on horseback.

The fun begins Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m., with a parade of horses and riders decorated in Christmas finery. Sponsored by the Clifton Horse Society, it travels up Main Street, goes through town and along Chapel Street to a field where participants and spectators gather for cookies and the awarding of prizes.

Visitors may then shop in Clifton's stores and enjoy the town's restaurants prior to the homes tour. People may also be photographed with their pets and Santa, from 2-4 p.m., at the Holistic Veterinary Clinic, 12700 Chapel Road. Photo proceeds go to a nonprofit, animal-rescue group.

The homes tour runs from 4-7 p.m. Five houses are on the tour, plus two churches, the Clifton caboose and the Masonic Acacia Lodge. The churches will have live music, and Dickens Carolers in old-fashioned, holiday attire will add to the ambience.

"Clifton is a historical town, and this is a wonderful opportunity to share its uniqueness with others," said event Chairman Jennifer Chesley. "It's also the only chance visitors have to see the inside of these beautiful homes and get a glimpse of Clifton's past."

"When I walk around the town and see all the Christmas lights and decorations, it's so picturesque, it really is reminiscent of a Norman Rockwell painting," continued Chesley. "I love the candlelight tour and am glad I've been able to help out our town by organizing this special event for the past 10 years."

Tickets are available in town at A Flower Blooms in Clifton, NOVA Music and T&K Treasures. They're also at Picket Fence in Burke and Banner's Hallmark in Centreville. Cost is \$20, adults; \$5, children under 12, before Dec. 3. That day, they're \$25 and \$10, respectively. For more information, e-mail Chesley at townofclifton@aol.com or visit www.cliftonva.us.

Also that evening, from 7-10 p.m., NOVA Music Center at 12704 Chapel Road will hold a reception to welcome J. Douglas Vokes and his guitar art. Combining the concept of visual music with musical art, he began embellishing working instruments

with his designs and created ArtGuitars.

On Dec. 3, his guitars will be demonstrated at NOVA Music, and visitors may meet and chat with Vokes. These guitars may be viewed or purchased there through December. For more information, go to www.NOVAMusicCenter.com or call 703-830-7141.

The sites on tour are as follows:

THE JARRENDT HOME

Built in 1870, this house on Chapel Road is now home to Royce and Margie Jarrendt. It originally housed Clifton's first Presbyterian minister, the Rev. William Bradley, and his wife Elizabeth. It was restored in 1981, adding more bedrooms and updating the kitchen.

Added 10 years later were a family area, an informal eating space, laundry room and a rear stairway to the second floor, now containing the master-bedroom suite. The design included a rear, wrap-around porch providing sheltered outdoor space.

THE STEIN HOUSE

Jeff and Michelle Stein live on Dell Avenue in one of Clifton's "newer" houses, built circa 1904. It underwent extensive renovations in 2003, with an eclectically decorated addition nearly doubling the home's original size. Natural woods, tile and stone are used throughout.

The large, homey family room and dining room are perfect for informal, festive gatherings. And while enjoying the decorations for Hanukah, the Festival of Lights, visitors will note this family's fun-loving flair for life.

THE LUSTMAN HOME

Constructed in 1904, the home of Jeremy and Jennifer Lustman is also on Dell Avenue. A 1999 addition included a large master suite and family room. Then the entire house was remodeled during a major renovation in 2007. Jennifer Lustman redesigned the kitchen, herself, choosing a light and airy shaker style.

For the holidays, a "White Christmas" theme adorns the front of the home, extending outside to the newly expanded porch. In the family room, the decor is warm, rustic and family-friendly to complement the stone fireplace and barn-beam mantle. And the Christmas tree is decorated with flocks of owls and birds.

THE RUSNAK HOUSE

Home to Chuck and Helen Rusnak, this house on Chapel Street was built in 1904, in Folk Victorian style, by the Poindexter family. It has one of the earliest uses of concrete in the foundation with simple ornamentation of turned spindles, porch posts and frill work. And its two-story porch is reminiscent of Southern plantation architecture.

Laura Poindexter named the house "Ferndale" due to the abundance of ferns on the hillside. Longtime Clifton resident Margaret Detwiler Webb lived here as a young woman in her 20s. She was an avid painter, and in a corner of the living room is a painting of the house signed by her.

Famed actress Helen Hayes vacationed here in the 1950s when her nephew, Ruel Fugett, lived in this home. Ferndale's facade was restored in 2000 based on a photo taken when it was built.

THE BITTNER HOME

In 1870 on Chapel Street, Gustie Mayhugh built a one-room tavern known as Mayhugh's Tavern. A former member of Mosby's Rangers, he ran a genteel and orderly bar and, in 1876, added another room and a second floor. Kim and Steve Bittner live here now, and their tavern room still has its original locks on the front door. They've also decorated that room as it might have looked originally.

In 1970, the house was moved from the back of the lot, where it faced the railroad tracks, to its current site. More rooms were added and, in the 1980s, Clifton architect Jim Hricko designed another addition providing a family room, den, hearth room, sunroom and two more upstairs bedrooms.

CLIFTON BAPTIST CHURCH

The Clifton Baptist Church, at 7152 Main St., was admitted into the Potomac Baptist Association in August 1875. Services were first held in the home of George W. Tillet and other area men who served with Mosby's Rangers during the Civil War. The first church building was constructed in 1877 and was used for both worship and community functions.

The cornerstone of the present building was laid Nov. 24, 1910, with construction completed in 1912. With its gabled roof,



The Bittner home.

steeple and Gothic arched windows, it's one of the most beautiful buildings in historic Clifton. During the homes tour, piano students of Belinda Stevens will perform in the church.

CLIFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Clifton Presbyterian Church, at 12748 Richardson Lane, has served the community as a place of worship and community life since its founding in 1870 by families of soldiers who fought in this area during the Civil War and settled here afterward.

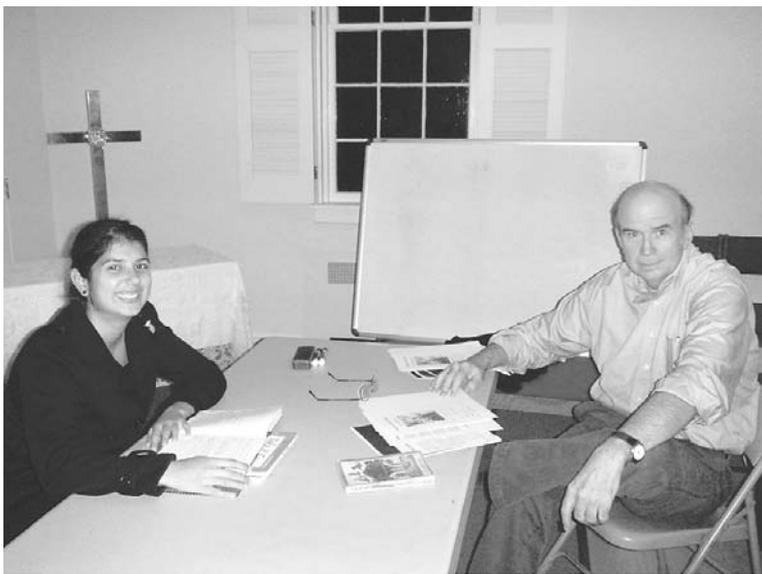
In the early 1900s, the church acquired the manse next door, later adding an annex for classroom, office and fellowship space in the 1950s. Its recently renovated sanctuary won a Fairfax County Architectural Design award for creative use of historic space. During the homes tour, the Chantilly High Carolers will perform inside the church.

THE CLIFTON CABOOSE

The Clifton Caboose, in the Weston's parking lot, was built circa 1949. It was obtained from Norfolk Western Railroad by former Clifton Mayor Jim Chesley and is a reminder of the town's railroad roots. Years ago, the Clifton stop on the Orange & Alexandria rail line was known as Devereux Station. Clifton Lion's Club members will greet caboose visitors during the homes tour.

MASONIC ACACIA LODGE

The Acacia Lodge building at 7135 Main St. has existed since the 1870s, when it was just one story and used as a mill. The building was purchased by Masonic members of Acacia Lodge No. 16 in 1904, and its members have met there continuously since 1877.



Livia Camargo, English language learner and Ted Ware, English teacher.



Professor Douglas Wulf, who teaches applied linguistics at George Mason University.

ESL Teachers in High Demand

Teaching English as a Second Language in Fairfax.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
FAIRFAX CONNECTION

English as a second language (ESL) classes and certification programs for ESL teachers are popping up around Fairfax to meet the needs of a diverse immigrant population.

“The Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, including Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, and Loudoun Counties, has an extremely diverse population, speaking many different native languages,” write Steven Weinberger and Douglas Wulf, linguistics professors at George Mason University in Fairfax. “Indeed, the Nov. 2, 2006 Metro section of the Washington Post published the American Community Survey of 2005 that estimated approximately 33 percent of all Fairfax County households speak a primary language other than English. This percentage of non-native speakers continues to grow with the growth of the population overall in the region. Because a working knowledge of English is so highly advantageous to people who wish to find employment or educational opportunities here, the demand for knowledgeable, linguistically sophisticated ESL instructors in the Commonwealth continues to increase.”

At George Mason, the linguistics department offers classes in applied linguistics and teaching English as a second language.

“Probably my greatest source of job satisfaction is the fact that I teach these applied linguistics courses that help people to enter the job market as teachers of English as a second language,” said Wulf. “We also run a practicum feedback on their teaching. The job market for ESL teachers is big in Fairfax County. The need for ESL teachers keeps growing. I’m very happy to help people become competent at that. There’s such a need.”

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WULF AND HIS COLLEAGUES examine teaching ESL from both academic and practical viewpoints, reviewing second language acquisition theories and examining different methods for learning language.

They use their knowledge of linguistics, the study of language, to inform the practice of teaching ESL. In doing this, they may consider questions that less trained ESL teachers overlook.

“I wrote an article on humor competence,” said Wulf. “If you think about it, you’re at an extreme disadvantage socially or in the workplace if you can’t understand the humor.”

Baraa Rajab, one of Wulf’s students, is getting her master’s degree from George Mason in second language acquisition.

“As an English teacher in the United States, you’re exposed to different language backgrounds,” said Rajab. “The program at George Mason equips you to become a better teacher. This area is so diverse. You get to see how each and every native speaker’s background affects their language learning.”

Sonia Slavtcheva is also in the master’s program at George Mason, studying English with a concentration in linguistics. She studied ESL in Bulgaria and was inspired by her English teacher.

“In the U.S., there’s a high demand for teaching ESL,” said Slavtcheva. “There are so many immigrants. People are coming every day.”

Most English teachers don’t hold advanced degrees in linguistics like Rajab and Slavtcheva. The demand is so great for competent teachers that the barriers to entry simply aren’t there.

At the English as a Second Language and Immigrant Ministries (ESLIM), volunteers undergo a single 8-hour course to become certified to teach. If they have taught before, they only have to complete a 4-hour course.

ESLIM, ESTABLISHED in 1989, holds classes at 14 churches in Northern Virginia, serving more than 1000 students a year. The classes last on average 10 weeks and usually occur in the evenings.

Ted Ware, who has been teaching for two months, said he began volunteering with ESLIM because he had “leftover horsepower. It’s a creative and potentially fun way to use that energy... I enjoy doing this.

SEE DEMAND GROWING, PAGE 14

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MASON PATRIOTS

OPINION

Children's Connection

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

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.

Email submissions for Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connections to ChildrensSouth@Connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Potomac Almanac to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Arlington Children's Connection to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Children's Centre View to Steven Mauren at 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.

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.

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

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.

— MARY KIMM,

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 to 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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Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
703-752-4014
vross@connectionnewspapers.com
@ConnectVictoria

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Nick Horrock
County & Projects
nhorrock@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,
John Heinly, John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
Special Assistant to the Publisher
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Students from Oak View Elementary School participate in the 4th annual Fit & Fun Run on Nov. 12.

Fit & Fun Run at Oak View

On Saturday, Nov. 12, Oak View Elementary School in Fairfax held its 4th annual Fit & Fun Run, sponsored by the PTA. More than 190 students ran, along with their parents and teach-

ers. The run was a 5k fund-raiser, with students obtaining monetary pledges for the school. Also included was a beach party, complete with hula hoops and beach music. All participants earned an Eagle Medal.

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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-



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



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.

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-

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."

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



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.

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

Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. 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.

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

National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoundation.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.

Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org.

Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, 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

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. 703-437-1777. www.linkagainsthunger.org

FACETS — Information about supply donations and FACETS holiday gifts drive is available on the website at 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.

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4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 • 703-385-7387

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/drumstix-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 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.



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 a 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.

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.

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GMU Presents Holiday Performances From Mariachi to Bluegrass, something for everyone.

George Mason University's Center for the Arts ushers in the holiday season with a series of musical performances beginning Saturday Nov. 26.

A CHANTICLEER CHRISTMAS — “No one does a better choral Christmas than the virtuoso male voices of Chanticleer,” according to the New Yorker. For more than 30 years, Chanticleer's elegant Christmas concert has been a longstanding hallmark of the holiday season in concert halls across the nation. This year, “A Chanticleer Christmas” kicks off the Christmas season with performances at two venues in the greater Washington, D.C. area on Thanksgiving weekend. The ensemble's holiday program features traditional Christmas carols, revered sacred works, joyful seasonal favorites and more.

On Saturday, Nov. 26, at 8 p.m., Chanticleer returns to George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax as part of its Great Performances at Mason series. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Pre-performance discussions are sponsored by the Friends of the Center for the Arts.

On Sunday, Nov. 27 at 4 p.m., Chanticleer appears for the first time at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas as part of its Hylton Presents series. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins one hour prior to the performance in the Hylton Center's Buchanan Partners Art Gallery. Novant Health is the 2011-12 Season Sponsor of Hylton Presents at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. Tickets at GMU are \$24, \$40, \$48; Tickets at the Hylton are \$32, \$40, \$48.

DAILY & VINCENT “I Believe in Christmas,” Saturday, Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. — “The most celebrated new bluegrass act of the past few years,” raves The New York Times about this two-some whose music career has been on fire ever since joining forces in 2007. Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent are widely praised by audiences and critics alike for their vocal arrangements, performances and breathtaking two-part harmonies. Dailey & Vincent return to George Mason University's Center for the Arts on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011 at 8 p.m. to perform a concert titled “I Believe in Christmas” that reflects the pair's deep spirituality and truly captures the reason for the season. This performance is family friendly, and tickets are half price for youth through grade 12 when accompanied by an adult. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Pre-performance discussions are sponsored by the Friends of the Center for the Arts. Joining the pair onstage on Dec. 3 are Christian Davis on bass, guitar and vocals; Joe Dean Jr. on banjo, guitar and bass vocals; Jeff Parker on mandolin, guitar and harmony vocals; and Jesse Stockman on fiddle. Tickets are \$24, \$40, \$48. Youth through 12th grade are half price when accompanied by an adult.

HOLIDAY POPS by the American Festival Pops Orchestra (AFPO), Friday Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. — In the



PHOTO BY LISA KOHLER

Male vocal ensemble Chanticleer performing “A Chanticleer Christmas.”

past three seasons, this talented ensemble has thrilled audiences with its outstanding interpretations of pops music. This winter, the AFPO returns home to George Mason University's Center for the Arts for a spirited holiday performance with founder and conductor, Anthony Maiello.

Tickets for this family-friendly performance are half price for youth through 12th grade when accompanied by an adult. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Pre-performance discussions are sponsored by the Friends of the Center for the Arts.

This concert features Christmas carols and holiday tunes that are sure to strike a nostalgic chord with young and old alike. The program features such timeless classics as Irving Berlin's “White Christmas,” Leroy Anderson's “Sleigh Ride,” “The Holly and the Ivy,” “The Christmas Song,” “O Holy Night” and a jubilant holiday sing-along led by Maiello. Known

for its lively programming and repertoire, the AFPO treats audiences to a festive pops experience that pays homage to the memorable American popular music that has been loved by generations. The orchestra presents Broadway hits, legendary film and television scores, light classics and patriotic anthems honoring our nation. Tickets are \$23, \$38, \$46.

FIESTA NAVIDAD by Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Sunday, Dec. 18 at 4 p.m.

— This Christmas season, Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano appears for the first time at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, bringing a festive and joyful holiday performance titled “Fiesta Navidad” that celebrates and honors the cultural traditions of Mexico.

This performance is family-friendly and tickets are half price for youth through grade 12 when accompanied by an adult.

A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III.

Mariachi music as we know it today was developed in western Mexico in the 19th century, but its roots date back to the early 16th century when Spanish colonists introduced European instruments such as horns, harps, vihuelas (a five-string guitar) and violins to the natives. African music was also brought to the natives through African slaves, and that is also thought to have an influence on the musical form.



PHOTO COURTESY OF C. STANLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Actor Jason Lott.

A New Telling of A Holiday Classic

‘Wonderful Life’ at the Hub Theatre.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A new take on a seasonal classic is coming to town. The HUB Theatre has developed “Wonderful Life” a new adaptation based upon “It's a Wonderful Life,” the 1947 Christmas season classic movie by Frank Capra. The Hub's Artistic Director, Helen Pafumi, and actor Jason Lott have co-adapted the classic to create a one-actor stage version for the entire family to enjoy.

“I was drawn to retelling ‘It's A Wonderful Life’ because of its enduring nature; the fact that as a society we are still so riveted by it. The more I immersed myself in the story, the more I realized that what really pulls us in is the struggle for self-worth.” said Pafumi. “It's no wonder that people respond to this. George is the ultimate reflection of one of our most common battles. The war over dreams and accomplishments. We judge ourselves by our accomplishments, but set the standard by our dreams.”

“When you simply concentrate on the story itself you see how relevant it all is to our community today; sacrifices made for family and community, the hard financial times. I also love this show for its community. That a man who feels he has lost everything, to be saved by the love and support of his family, friends and community is exactly the kind of story I love to share, especially around the holidays. It also employs one of the most theatrical instances in our lives

Where and When

“Wonderful Life” at the Hub Theatre at the John Swayze Theatre, New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax, Virginia 22031

Performances Dec. 2 – 27, 2011. Fridays 8 p.m., Saturdays, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26 & Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$15-\$25. Call 703-674-3177 or log-on www.thehubtheatre.org

— the moment of great personal change.

Every holiday season, we follow George Bailey through highs and lows as he struggles to understand his own worth and ultimately finds that life is worth living. The Hub's new telling features Jason Lott playing all the roles necessary to bring this Christmas tale to life.

According to Lott, knowing the movie is not necessary to enjoy the new stage version. “We are creating a world beyond the Bedford Falls of the movie in telling the story of a man's journey discovering his own self-worth. It is more general sense of what the absence of one good person can mean to a community; how the loss of one person who is so selfless can make a place so terrible to live in.”

Veteran director, Gregg Henry, takes the helm of the production. He is artistic director of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival and artistic associate for New Works and Commissions for Kennedy Center Theatre for Young Audiences. “This story is important and essential, it is an iconic piece of American culture. The audience will be seeing an actor do what few can do; be an “every man” in multiple characters that they will respond to.

Ticket Information for GMU's Center for the Arts

Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu. The Center for the Arts complex is located on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Paid parking is located in the deck adjacent to the mainstage Concert Hall and FREE parking is located in university lot K. Visit cfa.gmu.edu.

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



Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Fairfax 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, 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.

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Bancroft Bible Church... 703-425-3800

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Congregation of Olam Tikvah... 703-425-1880

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Bethlehem Lutheran...703-978-3131

Christ Lutheran...703-273-4094

Kings of Kings...703-378-7272

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703-978-3060

NEWS

PVI Special Olympics Team Wins State Championship

Paul VI Catholic High School's Special Olympics soccer team took Virginia Beach by storm the weekend of Nov. 4, returning home with gold medals from the State tournament. A strong showing in the Saturday scrimmages placed the Panthers in a high division for Sunday's tournament. The team was undeterred and came away with hard-fought 3-1 and 4-1 victories to win their division's championship.

In a well-matched semi-final game against the Warriors, the first half was a defensive struggle, with the lone goal being scored by PVI's diminutive but dangerous Taylor Clouse, who continued his season-long scoring spree. PVI's defense was led by Brandi Lovett, Joseph Gittinger, and Travis Smith and the goalie tandem of Gittinger and Sonie McKenna, quickly snuffing out all of the Warrior's advances on offense. The second half proved to be more of the same until Rebecca McKenna got past the Warrior's defense to put PVI up 2-0. The Warriors came back within a minute to make it a one-goal game as the PVI defense finally cracked. It looked like the game would be tied moments later when one of the Warriors forwards broke away for a one-on-one



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The PVI Special Olympics team celebrates their victory at the state tournament held in Virginia Beach Nov. 4-6.

against PVI's goalie, until Rebecca sprinted out of nowhere to knock the ball away. Sonie McKenna ended the scoring to put PVI up 3-1 with a goal from a tough angle.

In the finale against Henrico's Bulldogs, the twin power combination of Rebecca and Sonie at forward got PVI out to an early lead, as Rebecca raced to a 50-50 ball with the Bulldogs' keeper to keep the play alive and set up Sonie for the score. Later in the half, Travis Smith showed his versatility with two great plays, first thwarting one of the Bulldog's best offensive opportunities of the day and scoring moments later on a beautiful assist by Morgan Howard. The 2-0 halftime lead didn't last long though, as the Bull-

dogs scored from about 15 yards out on an impressive goal. However, that would be all that PVI would give up the rest of the afternoon, as Joseph Gittinger was a stalwart at sweeper, and the combination of Tasha Adkins-Blanch, Meredith Cripe, and Jeanette Simon controlled the mid-field. Taylor Clouse scored an impressive goal to give PVI a two-goal cushion, as he lofted one above the Bulldogs' defense and moments later, after Taylor was thwarted by the Bulldog's keeper on another shot, Morgan Howard showed great hustle to get into position to follow up Clouse's shot with one of her own that found the back of the net and gave PVI a 4-1 victory.

Demand Growing for ESL Teachers

FROM PAGE 7

It's an opportunity [if it works] to help people learn and it's also an opportunity to review some of the things you thought you knew but maybe didn't."

ESLIM teacher Russ Perras, who has taught one class, said teaching ESL has been an interest of his for a while and he is teaching now to get the experience so he can volunteer more when he retires.

Lucy Brown, the coordinator for ESLIM classes at Bruen Chapel United Methodist Church and a former teacher, said, "I wanted to give students a good foundation in the language and present a friendly American face."

Despite Dorothy Hettmann, ESLIM program coordinator's, claim that the program is growing, class sizes at Bruen Chapel are generally small and Brown said one of the challenges is keeping the attendance.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm at first," said Brown. "Then as people's work schedules get in the way as the term goes on, the class size dwindles."

Students at ESLIM showcase the diversity in Fairfax.

"People from all over the world come," said Perras. He noted that he has students from Iran, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, the Dominican Republic and Jordan in his beginning class.

The students all share a desire to adapt to an En-

glish-speaking world.

"I want to speak English because United States people are very nice," said Amir Borjhani, who came to America from Iran two years ago. "I need to be able to talk to them. They are my friends."

"It's necessary to find a job," said Lowell Lim, who emigrated from South Korea two months ago.

"I need to help my children for the future and complete my education," said Abdullah Albduziz, who left Saudi Arabia one year ago.

NUMEROUS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS offer English classes in Northern Virginia, such as the Literacy Council, Hogar Hispano, Northern Virginia Community College and Fairfax County Public Schools.

"We all complement each other," said Hettmann. "Classes are at different locations, different times of the day, different days of the week. It's really to the students' advantage for the programs to meet at all those different times and days."

There is a great need for engaged and capable ESL teachers in Fairfax due to the thriving immigrant population, many of whom speak a primary language other than English in the home. Opportunities to teach ESL in the area are available, often with minimal training required.

SPORTS

Region Football Title Games Set for This Week

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

By RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Two 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 STERBUZEL/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

Fairfax 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.

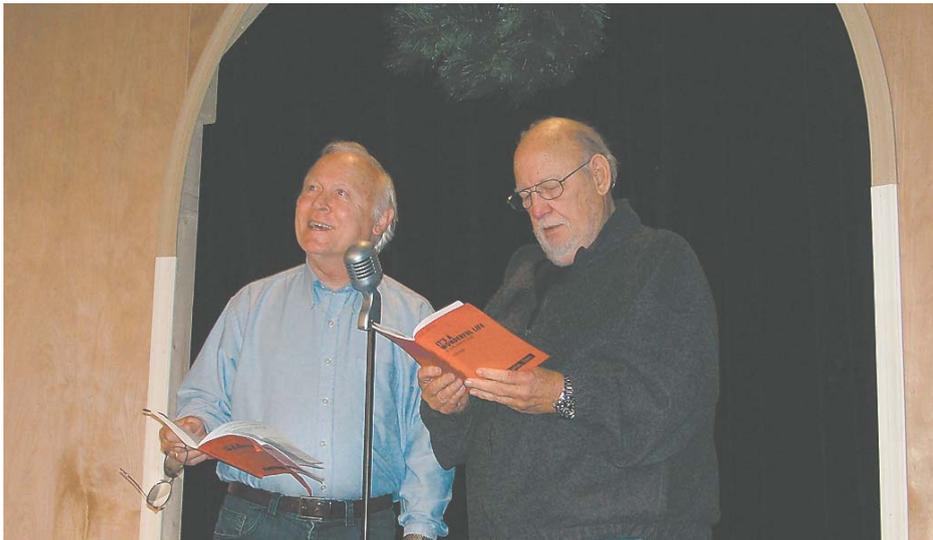
Fairfax Little League's Juniors All-Stars have won the District 10 Spring Tournament championship and gone on to play in the State Tournament the past three years. The Seniors, meanwhile, have advanced to states the past two years.

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.



PHOTO COURTESY/FAIRFAX LL PIRATES

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



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

A Holiday reminiscence of “deep 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

“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

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

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

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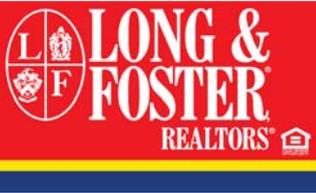
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Fairfax Station \$815,000
 Space, space and more space! Beautiful Berry built home in SOUTH RUN!

Updated and renovated throughout, kitchen and bathrooms redone - vaulted ceilings, study/main level bedroom with full bath. In addition to 5 bedrooms and 4 full baths, the walkout basement is fully finished. Multiple decks, treed fenced rear lot and 2 car garage!



BURKE \$589,999
 GORGEOUS 5 bedroom home backing to wooded common area. Freshly painted. Newer windows.

Beautiful Brazilian Cherry hardwood floors. Lg updated eat-in kitchen. Finished walk out basement. Great neighborhood & schools.
 Call Diane at 703-615-4626

AMANDA SCOTT

703-772-9190

www.AmandaScott.net

working with your interests at heart...



Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club 55+ \$349,900
 GORGEOUS LIGHT-FILLED HOME ON SECLUDED LOT! Main lvl living, huge master suite w/walk-in clst, 2 BR, 2 BA, kit w/upgraded appls & cherry cabinets,

brkfst bar, brkfst area w/pantry, neutral cpt, dining rm w/chair rail, den, bright unfin LL w/BA rough-in & workshop, landscpd yd w/fence & sprinkler syst, back porch to enjoy the view, 2 car gar. HOA inc. phone,TV, trash, fitness & pool (age 50+ OK) See all active HH listings at www.HeritageHuntHomes.com



Burke Centre \$549,900
 Beautifully updated, 5 BR, 3.5 BA, kit w/granite & Brkfst bar, Bathrms w/granite top vanities, MBR

suite w/dressing area, vanity & WIC, liv rm, din rm, fam rm w/gas fpl, moldg, ceil/fans, BONUS nanny/teen suite w/kitchen, wkshop, deck, fen/ld backs to trees, 2 car gge, FIOS, Burke Conserv. amenities. Nr. Ft Belvoir, VRE, Pentagon bus & NCE bdg. MOVE-IN READY! Call for more info.



Mary Hovland
 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach
 571-276-9421
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Fairfax \$375,000
 Newly updated 3BR/2.5BA townhome features updated kitchen with 42" cabinets & granite, hardwood floors, updated baths, new LL carpeting, and scenic views from all living areas. Newly replaced windows and beautiful doors. Vacation at home on the 2 tiered deck overlooking Royal Lake. Don't wait, won't last!



Lorton \$479,000
 WOW! Gorgeous single family home, 3BR, 3.5 BAs, gleaming hardwoods on 2 levels! Open floor plan, morning room, fully finished lower level and 2 car garage! Beautifully decorated, move in ready! Walk to Lorton Town Center with the VRE, shops, restaurants, and more!



Hermendorfer Associates

Carol Hermendorfer
 703-216-4949

Homes for the Holiday's



John Astorino
 703-898-5148



Fairfax - \$599,000



Fairfax Station - \$1,090,000

To see our current portfolio of properties, go to www.hermendorfer.com or call John at 703-898-5148.



Mickie Shea Associate Broker, CRS, GRI, e-PRO
 Mickie@FairfaxVaHouses.com
 703-250-8929

ELLIE WESTER

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ellie.wester@longandfooster.com



We have many things to be thankful for this year!

As you ponder if this is the right time to sell your home or buy one; call Mickie Shea for an expert consultation... you'll be thankful you did!



Broadlands Ashburn \$629,900
 Beautiful home surrounded by common area in Broadlands South. Over 4000 finished square feet featuring 4 spacious upper level bedrooms and a loft tech center while the main level offers a wonderful family room with gas fireplace and walls of windows and a kitchen made for cooking and entertaining. The lower level is a must see with custom bar, media room and more.

Access the Realtors Multiple Listing Service: Go to <http://searchvirginia.listingbook.com>