

Walking Against Hunger

NEWS, PAGE 4

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 17

PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



Emma Conard, Drew Conard, and Jaclyn McCarthy of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Clifton walk in the 19th 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.

Clifton Mom Honored As PTA Time to Give Volunteer of Year

NEWS, PAGE 3

NEWS, PAGE 5

NOVEMBER 24-30, 2011

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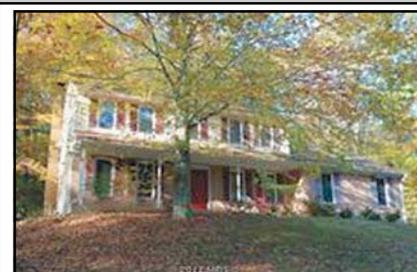
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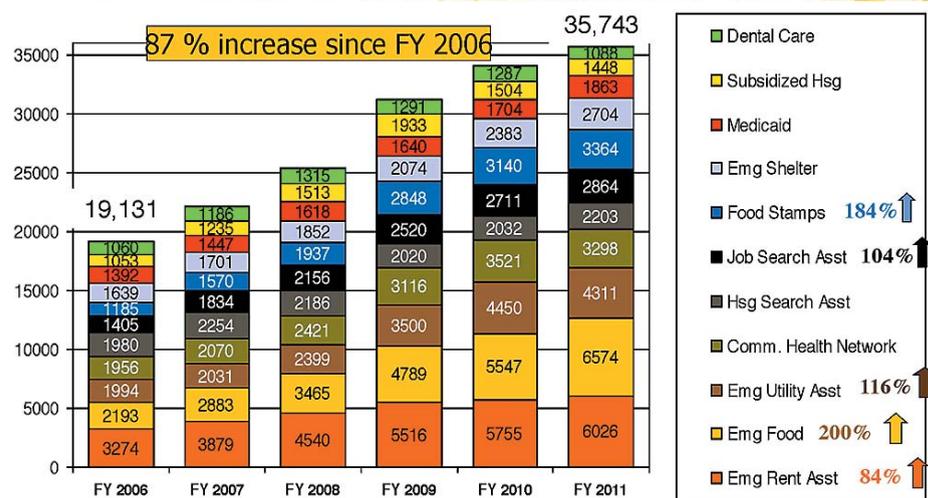
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NEWS

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

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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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.

NEWS

Kate Trussell with Union Mill Elementary students.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Clifton Mom Honored As PTA Volunteer of Year

Award recognizes her dedication to school, community.

BY JENNIFER FEDOR
THE CONNECTION

Kate Trussell, mother to a third grader at Union Mill Elementary in Clifton, has always been involved — as a room parent, library volunteer, on the school's PTA executive board. At the Virginia PTA State Convention, held Nov. 4 and 5, Trussell was honored for her school-focused endeavors, as a 2011 recipient of the PTA Volunteer of the Year Award.

Dana Hubchen, PTA President at Union Mill, is excited Trussell was chosen for this award. "We're very proud of her. We're very fortunate to have her as part of the Union Mill family and we're not surprised by this honor because she is such a special person."

A self-described Army Brat, Trussell recalls her mother signing up for volunteer activities wherever they moved. Today, Trussell heads the Bread Basket program at Union Mill, organizing students, parents, and staff in a weekly effort to provide sandwiches to a local food bank, Food for Others. "Every Wednesday morning we have a class come into the cafeteria. The parents donate all of the lunch meat and cheese and the PTA provides the sandwich baggies and sanitary gloves for the kids to wear while they're making the sandwiches," she said.

The PTA also provides items like bread and mustard packets for the sandwiches. Once the students have prepared as many sandwiches as they can based on meat and cheese donations from their parents, the food is transported to the food bank. According to Trussell, "Last school year Union Mill provided over 11,000 sandwiches to the food bank."

Hubchen said, "That's amazing that our school is able to give back that way. Kate's the one that organizes it all and encourages everyone. She makes it so everybody



Kate Trussell, serving as a volunteer at Union Mill Elementary for four years, has been honored with the PTA Volunteer of the Year award by the Virginia State PTA.

wants to beat their previous records, so it's fun." For example, Shannon Whitney's fifth grade class made more than 1,100 sandwiches in about an hour and a half, bringing the school's October sandwich total to 3,500 this year.

NOMINATED BY TWO MEMBERS of the Union Mill executive board last year, Trussell was selected by the Northern Virginia district PTA for the next level of consideration. She felt "pretty humbled" when a Virginia State PTA member called this October to inform her she'd won the PTA Volunteer of the Year Award.

"It sounds so strange to me [to win this award] because I do this because I love it. I do this because the kids are learning so much from all that we do at the school and so it seems weird for me to receive recognition for that and there's such a large community here at Union Mill that is so involved in the school in all different volunteer positions," Trussell said.

She is grateful for the support of the school staff and administration, as well as a "fantastic committee" that works on the Bread Basket program with her.

Hubchen describes Trussell as "one of those people that you can rely on to do what needs to be done at all times. Her interests are always with the school and with making sure that the kids have a great experience." Trussell's own daughter is learning the importance of giving back; she assists her mom with carrying supplies to the car each Wednesday and regularly checks in to see how many sandwiches were produced for the week.

Trussell emphasizes parents, grandparents, and family friends participating in the school environment as a way to know what their children are learning and to teach by example the importance of being a good citizen. There are many ways caring adults can help—donating time and resources—to support both the school and the overall community, through school programs like Bread Basket at Union Mill.

Hubchen said, "Union Mill is so very fortunate to have someone like Kate working with our PTA and working with our school and making it better for our children and being so involved. I think we're extremely lucky to have her."

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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Collecting for the Community

Lorton Cadet Teen Girl Scout troop 5881 collected food donations and other items outside Giant Grocery store at Saratoga Shopping Plaza in Springfield in October for Lorton Community Action Center. Troop 5881 collected \$825 worth of food and grocery store gift cards. Standing, from left: Daniela Moreira Guzman, Brooke Engelbrektsson, Alanna Peterson, Megan Frech, Emily Williams, Gabi Hernandez, Lauren Bidwell, and Sarah Lei. Not pictured, Meaghan Cotts and Suhita Roy.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

South County Secondary School student organizations, clubs, and faculty members school-wide dressed in all pink "We are South County," "Stallion Support," and "Team Heather" t-shirts to celebrate October's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

South County Goes Pink

South County Secondary School held its 4th Annual Pink to School Day on Thursday, Oct. 27. Student organizations, clubs, and faculty members school-wide dressed in all pink "We are South County," "Stallion Support," and "Team Heather" t-shirts to celebrate October's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The cause of breast cancer, and specifically the efforts of Team Heather in the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure, has been a priority among the South County community over the last five years.

Through the annual South County Talent Show fundraiser, the school has raised

\$45,000 of the more than \$365,000 Team Heather has raised in memory of 26-year-old Heather Gardner who lost her battle to breast cancer in 2002. For this year's Pink to School Day, students decorated the school's front entrance in hundreds of pink message-ribbons, painted the Kiss and Ride and front windows pink, created dozens of Pink to School Day wall posters, handed out a thousand pink satin ribbons, placed breast cancer related information and statistics on the morning news shows, and advertised the event on a pink-painted SCSS web site and electronic billboard off Silverbrook Road. It was quite a pink success.

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NEWS

J. M. Waller Associates, Inc. Chief Financial Officer Jim Emery presents a check to a representative from the Wounded Warrior Foundation for the more than \$28,000 raised during the 5th Annual Run Around the Lake – Run for Wounded Warriors.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Run Raises More Than \$75,000

The Fifth Annual Run Around the Lake – Run for Wounded Warriors brought in a record \$28,250 of donation in support of the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), bringing the five year total for the event to more than \$75,000. Sponsored by Service Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses J. M. Waller Associates, Inc. (JMWA®) and Halfaker and Associates, LLC, 100 percent of the \$28,250 raised goes directly to the WWP's mission to honor and empower injured service men and women.

A record number of 419 runners and donors participated in the 4.7-mile run/walk, held at Burke Lake Park, as a way to provide support and appreciation for wounded warriors from all branches of the military. Representatives from the WWP were in attendance for the event, and were on hand for a post-run ceremony that included a check presentation to The Wounded Warrior Project.

The WWP was founded on the principle that veterans are our nation's greatest citizens and committed to honoring and empowering wounded warriors through its many programs. The WWP seeks to assist those men and women of our armed forces who have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations around the world.

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Bank Robbery in Fairfax Station

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.



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Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton 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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FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON CONNECTION ♦ NOVEMBER 24-30, 2011 ♦ 7

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.

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

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 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 time to impoverished people. After speaking at a Catholic Chari-



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

ties 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. Ed-

ward 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 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

SEE INSPIRED, PAGE 16

THE CONNECTION

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Male vocal ensemble Chanticleer performing "A Chanticleer Christmas."



PHOTO BY LISA KOHLER

GMU Presents Holiday Musical 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 twosome 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 accompa-

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.

nied 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 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.

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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.

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.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.

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 Lombardozi at LisaLombo@signatures.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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The Lustman house.



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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.

NEWS

Burke Lake Train Track Renovation Gets Rolling

Burke Lake Train Renovations have begun on the 40-year-old miniature train track and supporting infrastructure at Burke Lake Park. To accommodate construction vehicles, a segment of the lakeside trail from the marina to the bridge along Burke Lake Road has been temporarily closed. Maps illustrating an alternate route have been placed at both ends of the closed trail section and online. The trail is estimated to be closed for approximately four weeks.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The miniature train track runs parallel to the shoreline of Burke Lake and is approximately one mile long.

The miniature train track runs parallel to the shoreline of Burke Lake and is approximately one mile long. Along its route the track passes through a small tunnel, crosses 11 drainage culverts, and a wooden trestle. Renovations include replacing existing ties, rails, and switches. The stone base is being reconstructed and ballast supporting ties are being filled. Deficiencies in the

wooden trestle are being corrected, and the 11 culvert pipes are being replaced. Approximately 1,500 linear feet of wooden retaining wall is also being replaced.

The 2008 Park Bond provided funding specifically for this project, which is estimated to cost \$897,000. The Fairfax County Park Authority Board approved the al-

location of these funds in May 2010. Renovations are scheduled to be completed in time for the reopening of the popular amusement ride next spring.

Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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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

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 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

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.

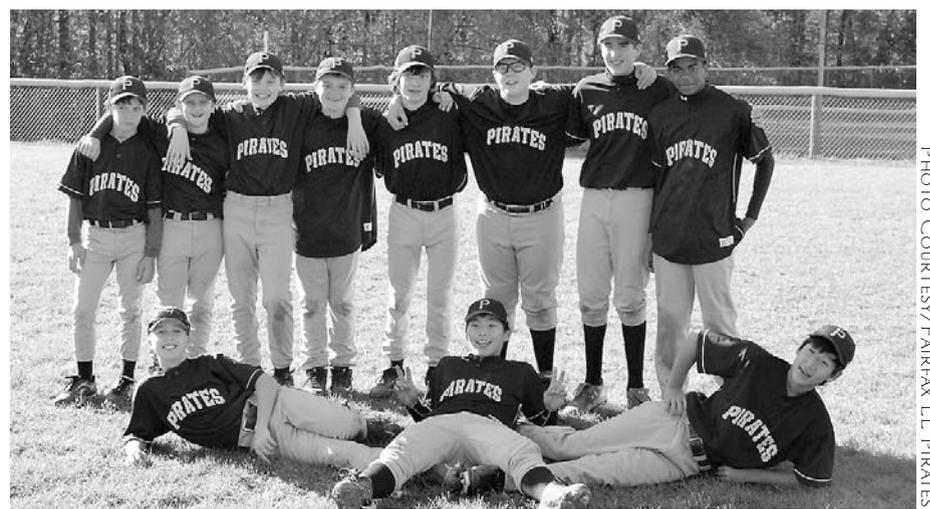


PHOTO COURTESY/FAIRFAX LL PIRATES

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

CALENDAR

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.

FRIDAY/NOV. 25

Escape to Black Friday. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton. Art, fun and entertainment. The Art of Fiber exhibit features wearable art, sculpture, 2D pieces and accessories. Free admission. www.workhousearts.org.

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. Register at www.active.com/running/fairfax-station-va/drumstick-dash. Late registration available on race day beginning at 8 a.m.

"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.

Glaze Your Own Ornament. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton. Design and decorate a pre-bisqued ornament. All proceeds benefit the Lorton Arts Foundation and the Workhouse Ceramics Program. Admission \$22. www.workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 27

"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

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Storytime for age 3 to 5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/NOV. 29

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

Learning English. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 1

"Little Shop of Horrors." 7 p.m. South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. \$8, \$5 for senior citizens and students. Discounted tickets available at www.southcountytheatre.org.

Youth Arts Center Grand Opening.



"Summer Hydrangea" by Irene Tsai. The December Featured Artists and Studio Exhibitions at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road in Lorton, will include a variety of works in oil and acrylic, glass, encaustic, pen and ink, Chinese brush painting, mixed media, watercolor and collage by local artists. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Youth Arts Center, Building W-3, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The facility features three classrooms with student capacity of 125 plus a fully outfitted theater with seating for 100. With Stephen Ayers, Architect of the Capitol, and a Studio 3 Theatre for Young Audiences performance of "Schoolhouse Rock Live." Drinks and hors d'oeuvres. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Friends of the Library Book Sale.

3-9 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Proceeds help fund children's programs. rbfriends@gmail.com or 703-451-8055.

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Proceeds help fund children's programs. rbfriends@gmail.com or 703-451-8055.

PTA Holiday Vendor Fair. 6-9 p.m. West Springfield Elementary School, 6802 Deland Drive, Springfield. Home accessories, kitchen wares, candles, scrapbooking supplies, clothing, purses, books, jewelry and more. Free admission. shaley@teknowizards.com or 703-216-2005.

Virginia Opera: Hansel and Gretel. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Based on the Brothers Grimm fairy tale. Score by Engelbert Humperdinck, sung in English with English supertitles. \$44-\$86, youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by adult. 888-945-2468.

"Little Shop of Horrors." 7 p.m. South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. \$8, \$5 for senior citizens and students. Discounted tickets available at www.southcountytheatre.org.

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Clifton Candlelight Tour. 4-7 p.m. Historic Clifton, Main St., Clifton. The Holiday Horse Parade and Contest, sponsored by the Clifton Horse Society, begins at 2 p.m. The Candlelight Homes Tour begins at 4 p.m. and includes five homes, two churches with live music, the Clifton Caboose and the Masonic Acacia Lodge. Enjoy Dickens Carolers strolling around Town. Tickets are

for sale in the Town of Clifton at A Flower Blooms, NOVA Music and T&K Treasures, and at Picket Fence in Burke and Banner's Hallmark in Centreville. <http://cliftonva.us/Home>.

22nd Annual Model Train Display and Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Many different gauges, all moving, including a Garden gauge around the building will be featured. Bring model train problems to "The Train Doctor." Weather permitting, Model A autos will be on display. Caboose and gift shop open. \$5 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

Virginia Grand Military Band. 8 p.m. Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Loras John Schissel, music director; Major Allen Crowell, guest conductor; Scott Shelsta, trombone soloist. Performing works by Grainger, Alford, Elgar and Wagner. Adults \$20. 703-426-4777 or www.vgmb.com.

Bill Gaither and the Gaither Christmas Homecoming. 6 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Gospel music. Tickets \$29.50-\$77.50, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Angelus Academy Craft and Vendor Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. St. Lawrence Church parish center, 6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria. More than 30 crafters and vendors and a raffle. Food available for purchase. 703-924-3996.

Vendor and Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. The event features vendors, craftsmen and artisans. The event is sponsored by the School's PTSO and is a fundraiser for the Graduating Class of 2012. scscraftfair@yahoo.com.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Proceeds help fund children's programs. rbfriends@gmail.com or 703-451-8055.

Christmas Boutique Yard and Bake Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. St. John's United Methodist Church, 5312 Backlick Road, Springfield. Gifts, decorations, stocking stuffers, toys, games, books, jewelry, kitchen items and more. All proceeds go to missions. www.saintjohnsumc.org or 703-256-6655.

"Little Shop of Horrors." 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. \$8, \$5 for senior citizens and students. Discounted tickets available at www.southcountytheatre.org.

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8:30 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

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FROM PAGE 8

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,

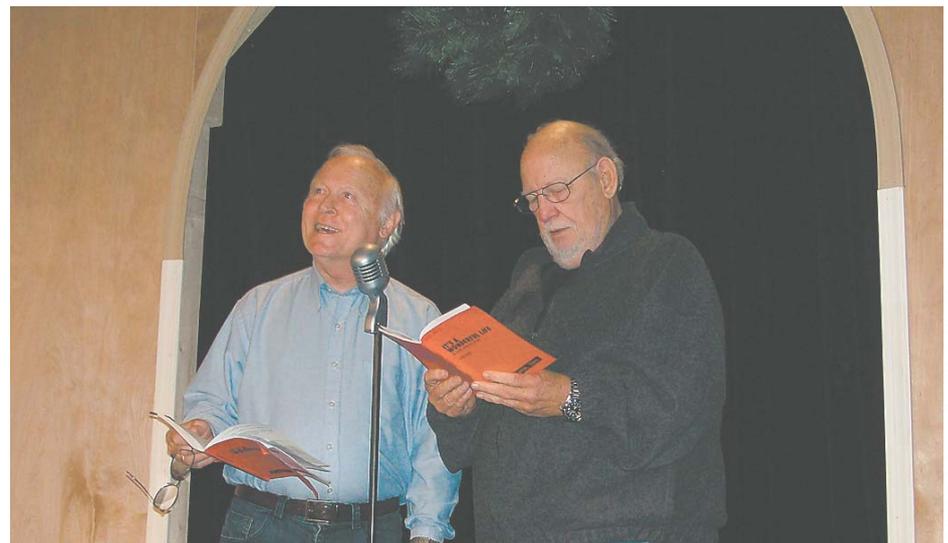
or even people enjoying an event, but the greatest reward of all was gaining an interest and keeping up with the people who were involved. I saw these filmmakers quickly grow within three years and make huge strides. One filmmaker, Dillon Meyer, is attending Virginia Commonwealth's film school. Nick 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



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 "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

"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.



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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

21 Announcements

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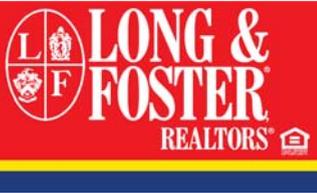
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