

Shopping For Gifts Locally

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Ring in
The Holidays
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In Haiti
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Christmas tree at Rose Two in Fairfax. This holiday season, find the perfect secondhand gifts at your local high-end thrift shop.

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER FEDOR

DECEMBER 1-7, 2011

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Business and Community Partnership News from Fairfax County Public Schools

In 2007, *Time* magazine called Fairfax County "one of the great economic success stories of our time." In 2011 that edict still rings true despite the challenging economics surrounding us. Fairfax County is faring better than most metropolitan areas. Fairfax County Economic Development Authority President and CEO Gerald Gordon, Ph.D., says Fairfax County continues to do well because of its exceptional educational offerings. "The Fairfax County school system is arguably one of the best public education systems in the United States," he said.

Fairfax County Public Schools is exceptional because business and community organizations are engaged in ways that are good for students and good for organizations.

The FCPS Office of Business and Community Partnerships recruits and supports business partners who want to work with students and the school system. More than 150 Fairfax County schools have a partnership with one or more businesses or community organizations.

Give Me Five:
5 Ways to Partner with FCPS

1. Mentor a Child
2. Partner with a School
3. Partner Systemwide
4. Support an Existing Partnership
5. Help Develop or Advance an Educational Initiative

Learn more about becoming a Fairfax County Public School partner. Visit www.fcps.edu and click on Community

In FY 2009, the Business and Community Partnerships team helped secure more than a million dollars in donations of money and valued goods through partnerships and direct donations, not including the value of volunteer hours contributed by partners and mentors.

 **Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools**
The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools is a partnership between the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and the school system. It was established to enhance academic offerings, support teacher excellence and provide resources to the school system based on priorities and needs, through an endowment program. For more details, visit www.fairfaxchamber.org/educationfoundation.

Examples of How Local Businesses and Organizations Team Up With FCPS

The **Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads** has partnered with J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church for more than 10 years and was named FCPS Partner of the Year in 2010. This partnership's focus is on literacy, particularly through the school's Interact Club, which places 200 student volunteers into the community working with underprivileged individuals. Interact Club members also tutor and mentor young students at a local computer lab. The Rotary Club is actively involved in the Culmore Support on Suspension (SOS) program, providing a supervised, safe learning environment for students from Stuart and Glasgow Middle School who are suspended from school.

Helping students gain real-world experience as actors is one way **Cox Farms** partners with Westfield High School in Chantilly. Students are recruited for actor positions in "Fields of Fear," popular fright nights performed at the annual fall festival. Cox Farms also provides seasonal internships to students who want to acquire paid job experience in other areas such as agriculture, horticulture, animal science, stage management and food service. When the Westfield theatre troupe needs set props such as plants, construction materials, and other items, they turn to Cox Farms who donates and delivers them.

Capital Caring, a hospice program, provides career experience to students as a West Potomac Academy business partner.

Students volunteer at Capital Caring in Alexandria through their health and medical science courses. "We are thrilled to partner with West Potomac Academy," said CEO and President of Capital Caring Malene Davis. "It is critical that we prepare the younger generation to work in health care and hospice, especially as our nation's aging population surges. This alliance will help students grow and develop on many levels, while serving our Capital Caring community. It's a true 'win win' from my perspective."

Students receive valuable hands-on experience under the guidance of staff, who discuss the philosophy and operation of a hospice program. The academy provides student volunteers unique opportunities to support the hospice through their classes in fashion design, professional television production, dance, music, computer technology, graphic design, and criminal justice. By volunteering, students also earn credits to meet graduation requirements and as well as the civics seal on their diploma.

"Our partnership not only supports gaining career experiences and volunteer hours but these opportunities allow students to give of their time and of themselves and make a difference in people's lives," said Maria Kappel, Career Experience Specialist at West Potomac Academy.



Getting To Know Us

FCPS Mentor Lisa Moffett

Lisa Moffett always wanted to be a role model for a young girl. The mother of two grown sons discovered more than 15 years ago that becoming a mentor to a Fairfax County Public School student was a great way to fulfill her desire to work with young girls and provide additional support to a student.

"It's very meaningful for the young person to spend time with an adult who is taking time out of their work day to spend time with them," she said. "You develop a special friendship that is unconditional."

Did You Know?

150 FCPS schools, supporting 5,000 students, have active mentoring programs. Community members and FCPS serve as mentors to students throughout the school system.

The Coldwell Banker real estate agent has mentored students from Louise Archer Elementary School for the past eight years. She has also worked with students at Forest Edge Elementary and Vienna Elementary Schools.

Moffett says she often visits her students armed with art supplies because she finds working on an art project provides an opportunity for her to talk and share stories with her mentee.

"We spend time making cards for members of the military or for Mother's Day because people love to receive a handwritten note," she said.

Moffett mentored the same student for the past six years, but now the student has moved up to middle school. At their last meeting, Moffett understood that she helped make an impact on the life of this student when the young girl told Moffett that she wants to be a mentor when she grows up.

"It's definitely a humbling experience," she said. "It's a gift of laughter, smiles, hugs and friendship." Are you interested in becoming a mentor? Please visit www.fcps.edu and click on Community to get involved.

Word of Thanks

Thank you to the voters of Fairfax County for passing the 2011 **School Bond Referendum!** Your support will help to fund \$252.7 million for school renovations and construction.



Broadband CNCT Partnership

This goal of the Broadband Computers & Neighbors Coming Together (CNCT) partnership is to provide computer access and broadband connectivity to underserved families living in low-income neighborhoods in Fairfax County. Current CNCT partners include Cox Communications, Comcast, VA Star, the Fairfax Education Foundation, Fairfax County Public Schools, dedicated volunteers, business partners, the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) and the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3).

Students at Herndon and Luther Jackson Middle Schools work with volunteers to refurbish donated computers. Eligible students receive the refurbished computers and discounted broadband service. For more information, to donate or to get involved, please contact Karen Fuentes, 703-324-5176.

Donate to FCPS

Do you have a musical instrument, vehicle, building or landscape materials, computers, prom wear or any other item of value that you would like to donate to Fairfax County Public Schools? Donations to FCPS are tax deductible. Visit www.fcps.edu and click on Quick Links to find our donations page.

This year's State of Schools Report courtesy of Apple Federal Credit Union



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2011 BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

THE COUNTY LINE

Water Wars

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

It's not Owens Valley. There's no William Mulholland, no Jack Nicholson or Faye Dunaway. But Fairfax County has a water war as real as that depicted in "Chinatown," the 1974 film based on how Los Angeles got water.

In the early 1900s, William Mulholland, the superintendent of the Los Angeles Department of Power and Water, had a 223-mile aqueduct built from Owens Valley California to Los Angeles to carry water to what was the state's fastest growing metropolis. He bought the water rights from the farmers of Owens Valley for about half what the city could have paid and subterfuge was later charged. Lake Owen dried up leaving an alkali desert. Los Angeles still gets half its water from Owens Valley and is trying to deal with the environmental damage of this diversion to this day.

Like Los Angeles in 1913, the Tysons Corner/Merrifield area in Fairfax County is anticipated to be the fastest growing section of the county in the next decades. Tysons alone is slated to grow from an edge city of 100,000 day workers and 19,000 residents, to an urban center with 200,000 workers and a population of 100,000 people living primarily in high rise buildings. It would still draw upwards of 55,000 shoppers daily to its upscale stores.

Supplying water to this metropolis could be worth millions and perhaps billions over the coming years. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors set Dec. 6 for a public hearing on a proposed ordinance that would allow the board to set maximum water rates and fees for residents even if they get water from other municipal water utilities, Falls Church, City of Fairfax, Herndon and Vienna.

It would also allow the Board of Supervisors to set service areas for Fairfax Water, the county's water utility, which would be areas of future development where builders would be required to hook up to Fairfax Water.

Laurie Genevro Cole, a member of Vienna's town council, said the way the board is proceeding with the ordinance "smacks of a power grab." She said the mayor and council in Vienna had no prior warning of the ordinance, despite the fact that discussions on the water issues have gone on for years.



Sharon Bulova,
Fairfax
Board Chairman



Linda Smyth
(D-Providence)



John Foust
(D-Dranesville)



Laurie Cole,
Vienna Town Council

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said at the Nov. 1 meeting that he felt the board was "heavy handed" in proposing the ordinance and argued that the board give more time to working out an agreement with cities and towns.

He feared the action would impact the negotiation on other issues between the county and municipalities.

"He's right," said Cole, "this will make it harder." Nevertheless, Cook voted for the public hearing.

The Board of Supervisors voted 9 to 1 to move forward with the hearing. The nay vote came from Pat S. Herrity, (R-Springfield) who said the Democratic majority on the board hurried the ordinance before Election Day to help the candidacy of John W. Foust, (D-Dranesville). Foust won re-election with 61 percent of the vote.

The water battle in Fairfax has been a protracted issue for over a decade. Right after World War II, long before Fairfax County's extraordinary growth, county homes outside of the towns got their water from wells.

Laurie Cole said Vienna provided service to customers outside of the town as the county rezoned land for development in areas where the county could not provide service.

She said the town extended its water mains and increased its capacity at Fairfax County's request. "We have provided excellent water service to customers inside and outside the Town for decades," Cole said.

Falls Church has a similar story, but with a twist. Falls Church charges some 60 percent more for its water than Fairfax residents pay Fairfax Water. The city serves about 34,000 accounts; some 90 percent of those are outside of the City of Falls Church. County officials estimate some 100,000 Fairfax residents are getting water from municipalities and in the case of Falls Church paying a lot more for it.

Fairfax County presses to control water as new development looms in Tysons and Merrifield.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon S. Bulova (D) said "that inequity is something that is just unfair."

From 1981 to 2008, the City of Falls Church directed surplus water revenues to its general tax fund. It is estimated that some \$58 million were added to the town's coffers. In January 2010, Fairfax Circuit Court Judge R. Terrence Ney ruled that this practice was in effect imposing an unconstitutional tax on county citizens and halted it.

But Falls Church officials assert that Fairfax County is taking steps that might not be legal or appropriate.

"We have shared our concerns with Fairfax County that the proposed ordinance is legally questionable and anti-competitive, and not in the best interests of our customers," said Lawrence Webb, City Councilman and member of the Falls Church Public Utilities Commission, in an email. "Unfortunately, the county has not responded to these concerns and appears to be rushing this through to approval."

Supervisors Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence) and Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) have large numbers of constituents who pay what they say are exorbitant prices for Falls Church water. Last spring, after Falls Church announced it might have to raise its fees, Smyth and Hudgins asked the Consumer Protection Commission to study the fee structure.

Among its finding was that Falls Church continues to undercharge for hookups to win new customers and expand its territories, but charges older customers for the increased costs of new business.

Under the new rate, effective Oct. 1, Fall Church would charge a typical Fairfax County resident \$62.13 per quarter, some 60 percent more than Fairfax Water's charge of \$38.76.

It was from this consumer's report that Fairfax County's outgoing county executive, Anthony H. Griffin prepared the proposed ordinance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURIE HORSTMANN

Turkey Trot 5K winner Alex Clark of Burke crosses the finish line.

Turkey Trot Big Success

\$75,000 raised for nonprofit Life with Cancer.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The 23rd annual Virginia Run Turkey Trot is now in the record books — and it was one of the largest and most successful races in the event's history. Between the 5K race and 2K fun walk, almost 6,000 people registered for the Thanksgiving Day event.

This year's Turkey Trot was run in memory of long-time, Virginia Run resident Wes Neff, who died of cancer in February at age 53. And proceeds from the event raised some \$75,000 for Life with Cancer, Inova Health System's nonprofit program for cancer patients and their families.

"That was terrific," said event Co-chair Dominic DeVincenzo. "I'm very proud of everybody in the community and everybody who participated." He said some 4,200 people registered for the 5K and 3,750 actually did it.

"Running is really popular, and this race is for a good cause and really resonates with people, so they come back year after year," said DeVincenzo. "And we had great community support. Last year and this year, we raised the most money ever with this event."

He also tipped his hat to his co-chair, Laurie Horstmann, for doing such a wonderful job organizing the event, and to Virginia State Trooper Dean Jones for handling the traffic that day.

After all, said DeVincenzo, "The intersection of Wetherburn Court and Pleasant Valley Road wasn't meant to hold 6,000 people."

"Dean has been bringing State Troopers with him to every race since 1989," added Horstmann. "That year, we only had 150 runners and it snowed, so Dean was the only one."

Winning last week's 5K race was 19-year-old Alex Clark of Burke in a time of 16:05. Capturing second place was Scott Maxfield, 21, of Oak Hill in 16:25. Taking third was Taylor Torino, 19, of Fairfax in 16:29.

The top female finishers were, respectively, Kerry Hartman, 22, of Centreville in 18:33.5; Alisa Harvey, 46, of Manassas in 18:41.4; and Hayley Sullivan, 22, of Burke in 18:49.

"It was a terrific turnout and a beautiful morning for the event," said Horstmann. "The founder and director of Life with Cancer [LWC], Gordon Hay — who will be retiring at the end of the year — was out to start the race."

"Everything went well," added DeVincenzo. "I'm exhausted, but very happy."

Since its inception, the Turkey Trot has raised more than \$720,000 for LWC. "In 2010, we raised \$76,000 and had over 4,400 participants," said Horstmann. "But we could not put on the race without the community volunteers, our generous sponsors or our loyal participants."

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**Music and Math:
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LINDA MONSON
 Director Keyboard Studies, School of
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Monday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

Is there an effective way to teach music and math as complementary disciplines rather than opposing cultures? Music incorporates emotion, expression and creative spontaneity, but also emphasizes patterns, logic, structure, and form. And while mathematics emphasizes numbers and calculations, mathematicians realize the inherent beauty and elegance in working out proofs. Furthermore, creativity is required in each and it may be a similar creativity for both. Dr. Monson's lecture and musical examples at the piano will demonstrate connections between music and mathematics that can be taught in the classroom, including consonance and dissonance, tuning, Fibonacci numbers and the relationship of the golden ratio to musical climax in composition.

All presentations of the Vision Series are free and open to the public. No tickets required.

visionseries.gmu.edu



Center for the Arts

On the Fairfax campus, six miles west of Beltway exit 54 at the intersection of Braddock Road and Rt. 123.

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

TUESDAY/DEC. 6

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 8

Interactive Seminar on Trauma. 9 a.m. Burke Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. The pervasiveness and biological impacts of trauma, and guidance for those who interact with youth experiencing its effects. Appropriate for anyone needing a better understanding of how traumatic experiences affect mental health and behavior. Sponsored by Fairfax Partnership for Youth, Inc. 703-324-7034.

TUESDAY/DEC. 13

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Assistance League of Northern Virginia Operation School Bell Weekend Food for Kids. 10 a.m. Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Help pack supplemental food packages for distribution to children in 3 Title 1 schools in Northern Virginia. northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org or 703-591-2312.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Fairfax County Democratic Committee Holiday Party. 2-4 p.m. 2217 Halcyon Lane,

Vienna. \$25-\$100. Register at Fairfaxdemocrats.org/2011holidayparty.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 21

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

Making Changes. 1:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Family roles, responsibilities, daily routines, and living arrangements often change with Alzheimer's disease. Information for making transitions will be offered. Free. 703-204-4664.

THURSDAY/JAN. 12

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

TUESDAY/JAN. 17

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 19

ESL Class Registration. 7-9 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Basic, intermediate and advanced classes to meet 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Jan. 24. Registration fee \$15, textbook fee \$25. School-age childcare provided. 703-323-9500 or www.lordoffifeva.org.

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"In Remembrance, April 16, 2007"
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Please Consider Honoring Those Who Died and Those Who Survived the Tragedy of April 16, 2007 by Purchasing the "In Remembrance, April 16, 2007" License Plate

Help those survivors and family members who formed the VTV Family Outreach Foundation assist other victims of campus tragedy, secure and make safe our universities and colleges and create a legacy for those who died by purchasing an "In Remembrance, April 16, 2007" license plate. A minimum of 450 prepaid applications are required for the General Assembly to approve the above-designed plate.

DMV collects \$25 for non-personalized plates and \$35 for personalized plates. These funds will help the Foundation in its mission to promote and advocate for the public safety and security of our universities and colleges and to provide assistance and services to victims of campus crimes and their families. Thank you for your generosity and support!

All questions can be directed to Marjorie Castro at m.castro@vtvfamilyfoundation.org or 855-462-7432.



Visit our web site
www.vtvfamilyfoundation.org
 for detailed instructions on how to obtain a license plate application.



NEWS

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova presented the C.J.S. Durham Award to Carol Cross and Trish Strat, members of the Friends of Vale Schoolhouse, at the Fairfax County History Conference held Nov. 12 at the Stacey C. Sherwood Community Center.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Fairfax County in Civil War

History Conference focuses on Fairfax County's role in Civil War.

More than 120 history lovers gathered at the Stacey C. Sherwood Community Center for the seventh annual History Conference to hear speakers discuss Fairfax County's pivotal role during the Civil War. Hosted by The Fairfax County History Commission, Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, the Fairfax County Park Authority and Preservation Virginia, Northern Branch, this year's theme was "The Civil War Comes to Fairfax County!"

"It was a wonderful event in a perfect location," said Lynne Garvey Hodge, Chair of the Fairfax County History Commission. "We had more than 20 authors and exhibitors, and the audience listened to a variety of historians speak on topics reflecting the coming of the Civil War to Fairfax County."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) presented six service awards to residents, including Tom and Janey Nodeen for their efforts in restoring and saving the Crouch School House in Clifton.

Kathie Gunther received the Distinguished Service Award for her work researching and uncovering information about Goodings Tavern and the Goodings family. Don Hakenson, Chuck Mauro and Steve Sherman of HMS Productions also received a Distinguished Service Award for their documentary film, "Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County."

Daniel P. Courtney received the Nan Netherton award for his well-documented book, "The History of the Fairfax County Police Department." The Friends of Vale Schoolhouse, Inc. Carol Cross and Trish Strat received the C.J.S. Durham Award for their work in elevating the Vale Schoolhouse to National Register status. Mike Johnson, a 30-year veteran archaeologist with the Fairfax County Park Authority received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Archeologist Stephen Potter spoke about the work he has conducted at the Civil War Battlefield in Manassas, considered the location of the first major battle in the area. Rich Gillespie from the Mosby Heritage Area spoke on "1861 - The Spring the Civil War Came to Northern Virginia."

"Rich shared an early version of the Confederate Stars & Bars, and regaled the audience with passion and song," Hodge said.

Dressed in Confederate clothing, Art Candenquist shared the story of Maj. Thomas Sharp who master-



Art Candenquist, a local Civil War historian, speaks on the Centreville Military Railroad at the Fairfax County History Conference held Nov. 12 at the Stacey C. Sherwood Community Center.



The Fairfax County History Conference Planning committee, from left: Bob Beach, Mike Irwin, Susan Gray, Director, Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center; Rob Orrison, Preservation Virginia, Northern Branch. Front row: Carole Herrick, Sallie Lyons, Naomi Zeavin, Lynne Garvey-Hodge and Barbara Naef.

mind the Centreville Military Railroad.

The Conference Planning Committee included Fairfax County History Commissioners Esther McCullough, Naomi Zeavin, Barbara Naef, Anne Barnes, Sallie Lyons, Mary Lipsey, Carole Herrick, Mike Irwin; Susan Gray, Director of the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center; Dr. Elizabeth Crowell of the Fairfax County Park Authority and Rob Orrison of Preservation Virginia, Northern Branch.

"We received a lot of positive feedback, and we have already begun planning for our next history conference," said Hodge.

—VICTORIA ROSS

SUN DESIGN INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY REMODELED TOUR!
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 10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA HELMS

The Encore dancers as the famed Rockettes of Radio City Music Hall.

A Show to Ring in the Holidays

Encore performs 'Santa's special Delivery.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It will definitely feel like the holidays when Encore Theatrical Arts Project presents its musical extravaganza, "Santa's Special Delivery."

The 35-member cast has rehearsed since July, and is now ready to burst upon the stage.

"People will hear new Christmas songs, as well as old favorites," said director and choreographer Raynor van der Merwe. "The story is engaging and uplifting, and the sets and costumes are colorful and joyous."

The show opens in New York City outside Macy's and Radio City Music Hall, and there are also scenes in front of Rockefeller Center. Act two features Santa's workshop, 20 feet high and 42 feet wide, with balconies and stairs, plus a slide for newly made toys.

"There's also a cocoa shop for Santa and the elves," said van der Merwe. "And for the finale, set designer Tabitha Dees has created a glorious forest of snow-covered trees."

Besides the Encore members who are local students, Tina and Dan Delafield and Scott and Karsten Dees will be guest performers. "I have such a talented group of dancers/singers/actors," said van der Merwe. "And I'm honored to have professional, guest performers who elevate our shows even more. Also helping is Vocal Director Kathy Ahearn of Clifton who's worked her magic with the songs and made them sound amazing."

THE STORY IS ABOUT a New York businesswoman with two young daughters. She's too busy for Christmas, so Santa sends an elf to remind her there are more important things than work. The elf brings them to the North Pole where they all discover the magic of Christmas.

Westfield High senior Grace Martin plays an Elf named Flaky who the children meet at the North Pole. "I'm in my own world and have a hard time staying focused, so the head elf has problems with me not doing my work — and I'm the toy-tester,"

said Martin. "I'm also scared of jack-in-the-boxes."

It's her 10th year with Encore and seventh with its performing company. She said this role fits her well because she's just exaggerating her normal personality. And she especially likes the show's 10-minute finale — a mash-up of various Christmas songs and costumes.

"I change costume six times during that number," said Martin. "I like the different types of dancing in the finale, the full company is on stage and it builds toward the final song, 'White Christmas.' Our Christmas show provides singing, dancing and acting in a kid-friendly, holiday storyline that's different each year."

Portraying an elf named Frazzle, who prepares the reindeer for Christmas Eve, is Centreville High senior Jessie Peltier. "She's a little antsy and silly and gets stressed-out a lot," said Peltier. "It's fun being a new type of character. I'm usually sweet and innocent, and this one is more quick-witted."

With Encore since fourth grade, Peltier loves the felling she gets from dancing onstage. "You feel so accomplished and have something to be proud of," she said. "It's fulfilling to work on something so long and then share it with the community."

Peltier called it a "feel-good show" everyone will enjoy. Her favorite number is the "Rag Dolls." She plays a Raggedy Andy and, she said, "It's a cute number and we get to be silly and do our own interpretations on stage."

Westfield High senior Corinne Holland plays Busy the elf. "She's organized and keeps things running as smoothly as possible," said Holland. "So I'm somebody I'm completely not, in real life. I'm outgoing and all over the place, so it's challenging playing something other than the ditz blonde."

IN ENCORE SINCE AGE 5, she describes dancing as "a way to let go of my everyday life. It's what I love to do — it's my passion. Being with Encore made me a better person and opened my eyes to all the opportunities life gives you; it make me not take anything for granted. It's a warm environment and you create bonds, friendships and a family with everyone here."

In the show, Holland especially likes the "Multiplying Santas" number.

To Go

Shows are at the Ernst Theatre on NOVA's Annandale campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike. The curtain rises Saturday, Dec. 10, at 1, 4 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 11, at 1 and 4 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 16, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 17, at 1, 4 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 18, at 1 and 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$15-\$30 at www.Encore-tap.org; group rates are available. For more information, e-mail Encoreperformers@verizon.net or call 703-222-5511.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Christmas Parade, Homes Tour

Christmas comes to the Town of Clifton, this Saturday, Dec. 3. Starting at 2 p.m., there'll be a parade of horses, decorated for the holidays, all through the town. Visitors are then encouraged to check out Clifton's shops and restaurants prior to the Candlelight Tour of Homes, from 4-7 p.m.

Five historic 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.

Homes-tour 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 Jennifer Chesley at townofclifton@aol.com or see www.cliftonva.us.

Christmas Tree Stand Opens at Robinson

Robinson Christmas Tree stand is now open, Monday - Friday 5-9, Saturday 9-8 and Sunday 10-7. Located on the outdoor basketball courts. All money raised goes to support Robinson Baseball. Cash or Check.

Cat Health Expert Comes to Springfield

Ingrid King, former veterinary hospital manager and award winning author of the critically acclaimed Buckley's Story - Lessons from a Feline Master Teacher, will be at Felix & Oscar in Springfield on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. King will answer questions about species appropriate feline nutrition, offer (free) personal shopping services, explain how to read cat food labels and help you choose the best food for your cat. King will also be signing copies of her book.

Felix & Oscar is a unique pet food store located in Springfield, carrying healthy, wholesome and natural pet food and a large selection pet gifts and accessories.

Beware of Lottery Scammers

Police warn holiday shoppers to beware of strangers who approach them in parking lots claiming they need help to cash in "winning" lottery tickets. It's a new twist on a scam that's been around for years, according to detectives. Often, the targets of the scams are immigrants who are reluctant or embarrassed to contact police, which causes significant delays for investigators.

In a recent report, a man was approached by two men, with Hispanic and Russian accents, as he exited a Costco parking lot in Springfield. The men told them that they had a winning lottery ticket but were unable to cash it due to their immigration statuses. They offered to give the ticket to the man; he could cash it in and keep the proceeds but asked that he pay them \$30,000 cash to do so. After a bit of convincing conversation, the man agreed. The men drove to a bank, where the

victim withdrew all of his money and purchased the ticket. They had arranged to celebrate with Subway sandwiches, but the two men disappeared while the man sat and waited for them. He quickly realized he'd been duped but did not immediately report his losses to either police or his own family.

Detectives have investigated at least four similar cases in parking lots across Fairfax County and feel that there may be more people who've been victimized but never reported the incidents to police. They ask that the public be cautious and report such suspicious events to store security or police.

The incident occurred on Oct. 25. The suspects were described as a white male with a Russian accent, wearing glasses with short hair. The second man was Hispanic, around 5 feet 2 inches tall, with a small build and a dark complexion. They were seen leaving the area in a dark sedan.

NEWS

Melissa Booker's building team in Haiti with the future homeowners and President and Mrs. Carter; Booker is front row left with the orange baseball cap.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Helping in Haiti

Robinson teacher Melissa Booker volunteers with Habitat for Humanity in Haiti.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
THE CONNECTION

When Robinson teacher Melissa Booker heard about the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti in 2010, she decided she wanted to do something to help.

"I don't know why but when the earthquake happened it really broke my heart," said Booker. "I didn't feel like I could throw money at it. I wanted to do something tangible, something real. I heard news reports about money being misspent."

Booker, who teaches 11th and 12th grade physics, attended Grinnell College in Iowa where she said there was an emphasis on social justice. During her time there, she participated in an alternative break opportunity with Habitat for Humanity.

So when she was looking for a way down to Haiti this year, she turned to Habitat again. She applied for Habitat's annual Carter Work Project. Carter Work Projects occur each year in needy areas across America and the world, led by Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter.

"I knew Habitat for Humanity had started something in Haiti and they were going to make a difference and they were going to follow through," said Booker. "This past April I was on an email list and they said our next Carter Work Project will be in Leogane, Haiti. It just happened to be after the end of the first quarter, beginning of second quarter. I thought I could take three personal days do something that I knew would be real. To do something where I could say, 'this is what I did, what I accomplished and this real.'"

She raised \$5,000 from family, friends and former students.

Booker joined more than 400 volunteers this November in Habitat's Carter Work Project to Leogane, Haiti. She worked on a team of eight that built two 16 x 16 ft. houses that can be easily expanded upon. The houses were built with earthquake and hurricane safety in mind. The community that the houses are a part of, called Santo, has wells, compostable outhouses and solar powered lighting.

HOMEOWNERS work alongside volunteers to build the houses. Both of Booker's homeowners, Ketiennne and Adrecille, were pregnant.

"What makes this unique is that these people will own the title to this land," said Booker. "It's just a starting point but it's a good starting point."

President Carter and his wife worked all week as well.

"President Carter took pictures with each of the teams that were building," said Booker. "He said to us, 'I don't want any of you coming over to my house snapping pictures of me. You're supposed to be building.' This man was still working the saw really well at 87."

Volunteers worked tirelessly in the 94-degree heat. "It was very hot but most of us were very determined to get the work done," said Booker. "I got quite a bit of a sunburn because anti malaria drugs that make you susceptible to sunburn."

Booker slept in a tent with 13 other women. "We all got along real well," said Bianca Celestin, an architectural engineer from Brooklyn who was in Booker's tent. "We connected and hung out."

They had flushing toilets but the showers were cold.

"At the end of a 94-degree day, a cold shower is just fine," said Booker.

Volunteers ate mostly Irish food because the campsite had been set up by an Irish group called Haven that had already built 50 homes in the Santo Community. Booker regretted that she didn't get to eat at least one Haitian meal. She said Habitat sequestered the volunteers because there had been rioting before they came down. Some Haitians who had wanted homes were not able to get them.

"It was a community based decision about who would receive the first homes," said Booker. "They asked community leaders who was the neediest within the communities. There's just so many people to help."

Booker felt being part of this Habitat trip was an overall meaningful experience.

"I really thank all my supporters: my family, my friends, my colleagues and Robinson for making it happen," said Booker. "These people have such a great spirit but they've been dealt a really bad hand. They need help getting back on their feet. And some people say why don't you help out around here? One of my goals is to get involved with the Northern Virginia or D.C. Habitat. But the poverty here is nothing compared to the poverty they have there."

She said she is proud to represent Fairfax and Robinson Secondary School.

"I love the Robinson community," said Booker. "It's been a great school. I love the diversity and the support teachers are given. I feel like I am respected and encouraged to try new things. It's been a great place to grow professionally."

Booker hopes people don't forget about Haiti in the future.

"The last thing President Carter said was, 'Go back and remind people about what happened, about the fact that there's still a lot to be done there and the Haitian people are still in need and keep it on your radar.'"

TO DONATE to Booker's Carter Work Project in Haiti, go to <http://www.habitat.org/cd/cwp/participant/participant.aspx?pid=11930476>. To see Booker's blog about her trip, go to <http://cwphaiti2011.blogspot.com/>.

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OPINION

Shop Locally

Be sure to do some of your holiday shopping at locally owned stores.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair.

The economic situation is daunting. Even families who feel financially secure will be more frugal in this holiday season than before the recession, but still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending millions of dollars in a variety of places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

EDITORIAL

Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for

fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Saving the Deer Population

To the Editor:

Why are deer continuously made into scapegoats while real solutions to the problems of deer-vehicle collisions, Lyme disease, etc. are being ignored?

Solutions like the 4-Poster system that prevents Lyme disease from spreading, can use the deer population to effectively eradicate the ticks that carry Lyme disease. The "4-Poster Station" provides a feeding station for the deer while it treats the deer with a tickicide that kills the ticks. These devices were developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2004. They currently are used in 26 states and have resulted in a 92-96 percent reduction in the number of ticks.

The county was offered approximately nine free 4-Posters several years ago which they rejected. Now, they are doing a useless three-year study on them, which means it will be about five years before they could be implemented in Fairfax County. Our county falls behind while 26 states are happily

using them, why? This is placing the health of our community at risk. It is also important to realize that bow-hunting kills the deer. It does not kill the ticks that carry Lyme disease. When the deer are killed, the ticks seek alternate hosts, such as people and companion animals.

To greatly reduce deer-vehicle collisions, how about an affordable and little to no maintenance, roadside deer warning system? A device called DeerDeter which is a small, solar-powered, sound-emitting, headlight-activated system has resulted in a decrease of deer-vehicle collisions by up to 90 percent where it has been installed. There are grants that our county may apply for to obtain these highly effective devices that would save lives. Why is this not being considered?

Why are we not building culverts and overpasses to allow for the natural migration of the wildlife in our area, considering the ever-growing traffic and development, leaving the wildlife concentrated in small areas with no safe way to migrate?

Why are we only considering lethal methods that are not even solving our widespread problems

but simply increasing deer-vehicle collisions? Just look at this Erie Insurance report...

A recent study by Erie Insurance Company in Pennsylvania concluded that the rate of collisions between deer and vehicles increased three to four times during hunting season. Deer hunting causes deer to frantically disperse and flee to areas such as neighboring property and roads.

Some homeowners have experienced deer grazing in their gardens or landscaping. One way to change deer behavior is to draw the deer to a more desirable location elsewhere on the property, generally along the fringe of the property, with preferred feeding vegetation. Once deer identify the new location, which is more attractive to begin with, as it is further away from the noise, activity, and unpredictability of residents, gardens will be abandoned by the deer for the alternative vegetation.

Deer can also be drawn to more attractive deer grazing areas within the parkland.

Why is it so difficult to understand that killing deer will only make room for other deer to come in and fill in their niche?

Why are we allowing our wildlife to suffer a long, painful and slow death, the most barbaric and inhumane method of hunting, so cruel that several states and most of Europe have outlawed bow-hunting? Have we forgotten that deer feel pain just like you and I? They have highly complex nervous systems much like we do. We also seem to forget that deer also have families and are simply trying to survive, yet we are allowing them to live through unimaginable suffering, due to our ignorance of real, effective, and humane solutions. Don't forget we have moved into their habitat and it is our responsibility to learn how to live peacefully and intelligently with the native wildlife that lived here long before we did.

I've lived in this county for 30 years and I have not seen one method used by the county that actually worked to solve any of these growing problems. It is time that we speak up in support of real solutions that our elected officials need to focus on and consider using to start resolving these issues.

Michelle Raiszadeh
Clifton

Call for Annual Children's (& Teens') Connection Contributions

Every year Connection Newspapers dedicates one issue entirely to the imaginative works of our community children and teenagers. We publish artwork, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories and photographs.

We are now asking that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or on CD. Please provide the submissions no later than Thursday, Dec. 8. If you have any questions, please call Kemal Kurspahic at 703-778-9414 or email kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

Some suggestions for submissions:

❖ Drawings, paintings, photographs or 2-D and 3-D artwork that have been digitally photographed.

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

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

Images should be submitted as .jpg ATTACHMENTS to an email, not embedded in the body of the email.

All submissions should include the child's

first and last name, school, grade and/or age.

Submissions for our Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton and Springfield editions should be e-mailed to ChildrensSouth@connectionnewspapers.com. Subject should be school name, town and teacher's last name (or for individuals or home schoolers, the child's last name and town).

The issue will be published the week of the Christmas holiday. We will publish as many submissions as possible.

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 1

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

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

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

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.

"Macbeth." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Shakespeare's classic. Not recommended for age 13 and under. \$5 on-line or \$10 at the door. www.fxplayers.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

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.

Norwegian Festival & Bazaar. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Merrifield. Live entertainment. Fresh waffles, lefse, pastries, Norwegian sweaters, linens, rosemaling, CDs, books, jewelry, chocolates and more. Free admission. Sponsored by the Sons of Norway. 703-861-4071 or www.norwaydc.org.

"Macbeth." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Shakespeare's classic. Not recommended for age 13 and under. \$5 on-line or \$10 at the door. www.fxplayers.org.

A Celtic Christmas With Sior-Óg and Friends. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Celtic music, a storyteller and more. Free. joannaormesher@mac.com.

John Doe (from X) Full Band CD Release and Robert Ellis. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

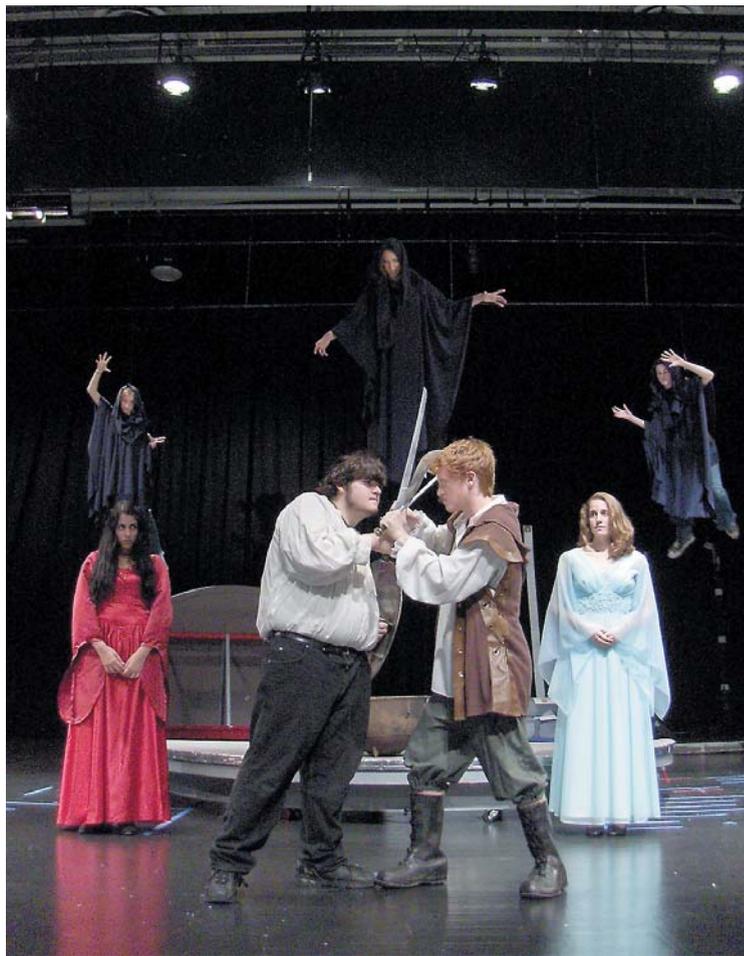


PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

In this dramatic scene from "Macbeth," presented by the Fairfax Players of Fairfax High, 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.

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.

Schooner Fare. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. With a basis in traditional maritime tunes, the group's repertoire includes folk, pop and more. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

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.

Lunch with Santa. 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. The Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$6 per child including small gift for ages 12 and under. Tickets available at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax and Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax.

703-385-7858 or www.fairfaxva.gov.
Pancake Breakfast with Santa. 8-11 a.m. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Station #3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Visit and have photos taken with Santa. Adults \$5, age 3-12 \$3, under age 3 free. www.visitfairfax.com/events/event/pancake-breakfast-with-santa.

"Macbeth." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Shakespeare's classic. Not

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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HOLIDAY GIFTS GUIDE



Clarion Fine Jewelry offers a range of jewelry and can customize pieces to your specifications on site.



Rose Too's display cases are filled with a sampling of the store's offerings.



Fur-trimmed apparel from Judy Ryan of Fairfax will keep your loved ones warm this season, as well as fashionable.

Shopping for Gifts Locally

Fairfax's small businesses offer unique gifts this holiday season.

By JENNIFER FEDOR
THE CONNECTION

If the thought of shopping for holiday gifts at a mall overwhelms you, many small businesses in Fairfax offer unique options for everyone on your list. From vintage clothing to shiny, new jewelry, from collectibles to one-of-a-kind pieces, you can find the perfect presents without traveling far from home.

CLARION FINE JEWELRY, located at 11211-D Lee Highway, boasts a distinctive collection of earrings, rings, necklaces, and bracelets. Display cases are filled with exquisite pieces handcrafted by on-site jewelers and designers, or customers can collaborate with the store's team to create customized pieces. For example, family heirlooms can be re-created using photographs or the original, and

old jewelry can be repurposed into new one-of-a-kind trinkets.

Co-owner Rami Kanazeh notes that diamond stud earrings, which range in price from \$500-\$1,000, are a popular holiday gift for women. If you're considering a proposal this season, Clarion offers customizable engagement rings. Kanazeh has more than 15 years of experience, including the study of the classic Swiss style of stone-setting, known for its precision. His partner Young Choo also claims more than 15 years of experience in the fine art of metalsmithing. All labor is conducted on Clarion's premises; in addition, the store does not purchase gems from countries under sanctions for human rights violations and supports green practices. For more information, call 703-293-6206 or visit www.clarionfinejewelry.com.

ROSE TOO, located at 10385

Main St., sells the higher-end items received from donors to its sister thrift shop next door, Yesterday's Rose. For children or collectors on your shopping list, assistant manager Anne Tierney recommends perusing the shelves of Madame Alexander dolls which are currently 20 percent off (prices typically average \$25). A collection of plush teddy bears cuddles up in a bassinet; most are less than \$5. Earrings, displayed on a vintage birdcage, range from \$3-\$5; the shop is filled with hats, handkerchiefs, and other accessories for a special woman in your life. For the home, Tierney likes to highlight the "gorgeous sets of china," which vary in price, as well as a hand-painted desk with the words "Alexandria, Virginia" emblazoned on the front, currently priced at \$450. A table of stocking stuffers will appeal to any "girly-girl" looking for items like nail files, tweezers, and assorted jewelry. Top on Tierney's own wish list are the secondhand designer handbags, which run from \$30-\$50 at the store. Managed by Judy Stone,

Yesterday's Rose and Rose Too provide funding to local organizations like the Arc of Northern Virginia and The National Council of Jewish Women. For more information, call 703-385-9517 or visit www.yesterdayrose.org.

THE LAUGHING OGRE, at 10647 Braddock Road (tucked within the interior corridor of University Mall) provides the perfect resource for the comic book fans on your list. The store, owned by Gary Dills, offers comics, graphic novels, figurines, games, and more in diverse price ranges. Staffers and knowledgeable aficionados, Liz Rossi and Ryan Nichols, can provide helpful suggestions for all ages and tastes. The Walking Dead series, Tin Tin, The Last Man on Earth, and Bone are just a few recommendations from Rossi. Nichols, whose own children love comics, notes that Bakugan may appeal to all ages, while Old Boy might be favored by older readers. As for personal favorite items in the



The Laughing Ogre offers single issues, many for \$2.99.

store, Rossi mentions Love and Rockets (\$14.99 per volume) and Nichols thinks All-Star Superman (\$99.99) has a compelling plot.

A children's section displays old and new classics such as Archie and DC Super Friends; single issues cost \$2.99 and would make excellent stocking stuffers, according to Rossi. Nichols points out

Daytripper (\$19.99) as "one that's good to recommend to people who like things that are a bit more philosophical," whose main character experiences different versions of his own life, while Unwritten is a "good one for literary fans or Harry Potter fans." Rossi notes that the "politically inclined" may enjoy DMZ about a second American civil war set in New York.

A gaming section includes Dungeons and Dragons handbooks for \$34.95 each; as Rossi observes, this classic role-playing game is "starting to having a resurgence in popularity." Another gift idea is the non-fiction text Making Comics by Scott McCloud which shares information about writing comics (including pacing and characters) as well as philosophical discussions about what constitutes a comic. Visit the store for more ideas tailored to your favorite comic book fan's interests. Call 703-250-6479

SEE SHOPPING, PAGE 16

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) 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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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

recommended for age 13 and under. \$5 on-line or \$10 at the door. www.fxplayers.org.

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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.

Family Bingo. 12-2 p.m. Burke United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Center Parkway, Burke. All proceeds support the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke, helping those over age 50 live independently with medical transportation, shopping, enrichment programs and more. Tickets \$12, including 2 bingo cards. Additional cards available. All ages. 703-426-2824.

Volunteer Fairfax VolRUNteer 5K & Fun Run. 9 a.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring mittens and gloves to donate to participating hypothermia shelters. The 5K race will start at 9 a.m., followed by the all-ages Fun Run. Register at www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Gifts That Give Hope Alternative

Gift Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Give gifts that benefit others through local non-profit organizations. Fair trade items will also be available for purchase. Free admission. 703-608-2231 or www.givingcircleofhope.org.

Norwegian Festival & Bazaar. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Merrifield. Live entertainment. Fresh waffles, lefse, pastries, Norwegian sweaters, linens, rosemaling, CDs, books, jewelry, chocolates and more. Free admission. Sponsored by the Sons of Norway. 703-861-4071 or www.norwaydc.org.

Children's Christmas Celebration.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Barcroft Bible Church, 9401 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. For kindergarden-6th grade. Christmas music, games, crafts and more. Lunch provided. Free, registration required at www.barcroft.org/jesusbirthday.

Northern Virginia Country

Western Dance Association. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Line dance lesson at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance lesson at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Couples and singles welcome. Admission \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

Friends of the Library Holiday

Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Holiday-themed books as well as books suitable for gifts. 703-249-1520.

Festival of Lights and Carols. 12-7 p.m. 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Live holiday music, petting zoo, hot cider and smores at three locations. 703-385-8414 or www.fairfaxva.gov/specialevents/flc/flc.asp.

❖Providence Musicians from Providence Elementary School. 1 p.m. In Kitty Pozer Garden.

❖Performance by Girl Scout Service Unit 55-6. 2 p.m. In Kitty Pozer Garden.

❖Kol NoVa and Friends Multigenerational Jewish Choir. 3 p.m. In Kitty Pozer Garden.

❖Performances by Steve Hung. 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. In Kitty Pozer Garden.

❖Daniels Run Singers from Daniels Run Elementary School. 4 p.m. In Kitty Pozer Garden.

❖The Good News Ringers of Centreville United Methodist Church. 5 p.m. In Kitty Pozer Garden.

❖Caroling and Bell Ringing with the

Jubil-Aires and Good News Ringers and Lighting of the Christmas tree. 5:30 p.m. In Kitty Pozer Garden.

❖Performances by Sidney Lanier Middle School. 2:30-5 p.m. At Old Town Hall.

❖Visits with Santa. Take your own photos of your children with Santa. 3-5 p.m. At Old Town Hall.

❖Candlelight Tours. 6-7 p.m. Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main St., Fairfax.

Christmas Coffee and Craft Show. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 703-323-1347.

Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Audrey Moore RECenter, Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Pottery, woodwork, quilts, dolls, recorded music, food, glasswork, paintings and more. Admission \$2, age 12 and under free. Door prizes awarded. 703-321-7081.

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Christmas in Camp with the 17th Virginia Infantry. 12-4 p.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Visit a Civil War camp during winter and learn about holiday customs from reenactors. Free. 703-591-6728.

No Admittance at 2 p.m.; **Val Emmich & The Veeries, Blackbells and The Assembly Line** at 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Wakefield Chorale Sings For Christmas. 7 p.m. Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. A variety of traditional holiday songs. Free admission. 703-451-7917.

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Beating the Holiday Blues

Area experts offer advice on keeping money woes, family conflict and loneliness from ruining your holiday season.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Ask the average person what feelings come to mind as they enter the month of December and you're likely to get responses that range from joy and excitement to grief and dread.

"Overwhelmed," said a Burke mother of two whose husband is deployed overseas.

"Nervous," replied an Arlington father of four who recently lost his job.

For many, what is often billed as the most joyous time of the year can bring anxiety, loneliness and depression.

"The media portrays the holidays as this never ending blissful time," said Lisa Calusic, MD, a psychiatrist at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and Inova Behavioral Health Services in Alexandria. "People [often say] 'I should have a loving, warm family. I should have the perfect holiday season. We should be merry 24-7.' Those expectations are going to lead to depression and feeling anxious because there is no such thing as the perfect anything much less the perfect holiday season."

Mental health experts say that holiday blues are caused most often by family conflicts, over-commercialization, grief, stress, fatigue, unrealistic expectations, financial limitations and an inability to be with family and friends. Local therapists offer suggestions for minimizing Yuletide stress and depression.

DEVELOP A HOLIDAY STRATEGY

From shopping for presents to dealing with difficult relatives, it is important to think ahead about how you will deal with challenging scenarios.

"Plan strategies for how you're going to cope with situations," said Dr. Robert Hedaya, M.D., D.F.A.P.A., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown University School of Medicine and founder of the National Center for Whole Psychiatry in Chevy Chase, Md. "Maybe it is limiting your time with a family or maybe it is getting away for the holiday if you don't have family."

BE REALISTIC

"Do everything you can not to buy into what the culture or anyone else says your life should look like during this time of year," said Dr. Jeffrey W. Pollard, Executive Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at George Mason University. "There is nothing wrong with having the life that



Toni Coleman of McLean prepares to celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas. Religious differences can create family conflict, a leading cause of stress and depression during the holidays.

you had three months ago."

STICK TO A BUDGET

Trying to buy happiness or holiday cheer with an abundance of gifts is setting the stage for anxiety and depression.

"One of the other things that happens is that people will put themselves in a financial bind in order to...make sure everything is perfect or is happening the way that others want it to happen," said Pollard.

Decide how much money you can afford to spend, create a budget and stick to it.

KEEPING THE FAITH

Religious differences can be one of the thorniest issues to negotiate during the holidays.

The home of McLean-based psychotherapist Toni Coleman will sparkle with Hanukkah blue and Christmas red this holiday season, as it does every year.

Coleman, who is Catholic, and her husband who is Jewish, have been navigating their way through the fusion of Christian and Jewish customs since they were first married nearly 25 years ago.

"When you start out getting married and you're of different faiths, there is a lot of stress if you've got families of origin with agendas who want you to celebrate their way," said Coleman who is the mother of four children. "We negotiated it extremely well."

Coleman and her family celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas. She encourages

others who face the same challenge to keep a positive attitude about both religions, find ways to compromise and start their own traditions.

ACKNOWLEDGE FEELINGS; ASK FOR HELP

Feelings of sadness and grief over the loss of a loved one or an inability to be with family and friends can intensify during the holidays. Experts say it is important to acknowledge and express these feelings and ask for help.

"Reach out to your sources of support like friends who know you well and won't make judgments," said Calusic, who lives in Arlington and has a private practice in Falls Church. "It is useful to lean on the people who know you on a day-to-day basis."

Support and companionship can be found through community or religious activities.

MORE EXERCISE, LESS SUGAR AND ALCOHOL

Don't allow the holidays to become a free-for-all when it comes to wellness.

"You want to ensure that you're functioning as well as you can mentally and physically as you go into this time of stress," said Hedaya. "If you are going into a rough time you need to have better reserves. You need to limit your use of alcohol or stimulants."

Making an effort to practice healthy habits is a tool in battling holiday blues.

"Exercise is a huge part of it. Go for walks, hit the gym, or any kind of outlet that you can find to release nervous energy and depression," said Calusic. "Everyone loves their cookies and cakes and holiday favorites. But constantly eating sugary and fattening foods definitely has an impact on mood and anxiety levels."

HELP OTHERS

Benevolence is a mood booster.

"Is there any opportunity to do some volunteer work," said Pollard, of George Mason. "If you find yourself in a funk and you want to get out of it, help somebody, volunteer somewhere. You'll be surprised how good that can make you feel."

Coleman, the McLean therapist, has employed this strategy and encourages her clients to do the same. "If a family feels that it is going to be a difficult holiday, and they are grieving or have a loss in their life, they can fill it by trying to celebrate the real spirit of the holidays which is doing for others," she said. "There is a tremendous amount of pleasure and satisfaction in that."

ENVIRONMENT PLAYS A ROLE

Mental health professionals say that some people suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a condition that results from less exposure to sunlight as days grow shorter.

"It is a mild variant of depression that falls in line with the shorter days of fall and winter," said Calusic. "It is much more common than people give it credit for."

One of the most popular remedies is phototherapy, a treatment involving exposure to intense light.

"The best thing to do is get a dawn simulator which is a small light box that you keep near your bed and set it to go off three hours before your desired waking time. It recreates the dawn experience. It is the best form of light treatment."

LEARN TO SAY NO

"In our area people have one or two [holiday activities] every night," said Linda Berg-Cross, Ph.D. a Potomac, Md.-based clinical psychologist and a professor in the Department of Psychology at Howard University. "[People] want to create merriment, but what they're creating is stress. The best motto for preventing holiday stress and depression is less is more."

Making realistic decisions about what you can and cannot do will quell anxiety.

"The key ... is to make a plan that allows you to include the most meaningful [activities] only," said Coleman. "This involves conscious decisions to forego some things and set limits on others."

Berg-Cross encourages her clients to focus on connecting with others. "Whatever you decide to do try to be present in it and experience that engagement," she said. "The top priority [should be] that you had chance to sit down with somebody and breathe and create space for the human encounter because ultimately that is what people most often remember."

PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



South County's Jeremy Haynes (23) and Oren Burks (21) help wrap up Yorktown fullback Austin Browne during the Division 5 Northern Region final on Nov. 25 in Arlington.

South County running back Andrew Rector scored a touchdown during the Stallions' 37-13 win against Yorktown.

Vandyke Propels South County to Region Championship

Stallions defense, special teams make big plays.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

South County senior Devin Vandyke observed weakness in Yorktown's special teams blocking as he rushed the Patriots punter early in the region championship game on Nov. 25. The Stallions linebacker made a mental note and let his Division I talent do the rest.

"The first time I rushed, I realized they weren't really blocking too hard," Vandyke would later say. "I was just trying to get a feel for them."

The Virginia Tech-bound Vandyke blocked two punts, tallied three sacks and recovered a fumble as South County defeated Yorktown 37-13 in the Division 5 Northern Region final at Greenbrier Stadium in Arlington, giving the Stallions their first region title in program history. Led by Vandyke, South County stymied a Yorktown team that entered the contest undefeated, having beaten every foe by at least 14 points.

"I feel like a champion," Vandyke said. "We worked so hard to get here since our sophomore year — everybody worked hard."

Vandyke's first punt block came in the final minute of the first half, giving South County possession at the Yorktown 18-yard line. Two plays later, a 3-yard touchdown run by Peter Basnight gave the Stallions a 17-0 lead headed into halftime.

With South County leading by 24 early in the fourth quarter, Vandyke blocked another punt. This time, junior Oren Burks recovered the ball in the end zone for a touchdown and a 37-7 Stallions advantage.

"[Vandyke] had been sick all week and I don't think he had a great week of practice to be honest," South County head coach Gerry Pannoni said, "but when the game is on the line and you need somebody to perform, there are kids you know you can count on and he's one of those kids."

Along with big plays on special teams, Vandyke and the South County defense stifled a Yorktown team that entered the contest averaging more than 40 points per game. The Stallions limited the Patriots to one offensive touchdown and less than 200 yards from scrimmage.

Vandyke wasn't the only Stallion making plays. Senior linebacker Timmy Hunt snagged a pair of interceptions for South County, the second of which he returned 65 yards for a touchdown to give the Stallions a 31-7 lead early in the fourth quarter.

"The first one, I wasn't expecting at all. It hit me right in the chest as soon as I looked up and I just reached out and grabbed it," Hunt said. "The second one, I read it perfectly and I just grabbed it and took it home. I was straight to the end zone."

"We expected everything that South County gave us," Yorktown sophomore running back M.J. Stewart said. "We just thought we could handle it."

OPPONENTS RARELY TESTED Yorktown during the 2011 season. The Patriots' average margin of victory approached 30 points and five times they beat an opponent by at least 34. Head coach Bruce Hanson said a close loss to a tough opponent might have helped the Patriots better handle adversity against South County.

Vandyke said he noticed the impact South County's defense had on the Patriots.

"I knew they were kind of shocked," he said. "They were kind of fussing with each other, trying to fuss with us, too. We weren't surprised because we knew this would happen if we just played our defense. I feel like we are a dominant defense in this whole state, not even just the region, and if we played our game, we could definitely take them out of theirs."

Defense and special teams helped South County win the field position battle. The Stallions' average starting field position during their eight first-half possessions was the 50-yard line, including five drives that started at their own 42 or better.

Offensively, quarterback Shane Foley and running back Andrew Rector scored touchdowns for South County.

Hanover is Next Up for South County

Hawks enter state football playoffs after garnering their third Central Region title in five years.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

South County's opponent in this Saturday's Div. 5 state semifinals football playoff game will be Hanover High (Mechanicsville), a member of the Central Region and Capital District. Game time is 4 p.m. at South County Secondary.

The Hanover Hawks (10-2), who sport forest green, colonial blue and white team colors, defeated Atlee in last Friday night's Central Region title game, 31-12. It marks the third time in five years that Hanover has captured the region crown. The Hawks were also region champs in 2007 and 2009. They have now played in five straight region finals.

The Hanover team is coached by Josh Just, who is completing his seventh year at the helm of the program. One of the Hawks' losses this season came to Atlee, 21-14, in a regular season game played on Oct. 7. Of course, Hanover avenged that setback to the Raiders (9-3) by beating them in last week's finals.

Hanover's best player is Sam Rogers, who was the Hawks'

quarterback over the first half of the season before an injury to his right arm resulted in his role being changed. Now, he is being utilized as a versatile running back/receiver. While playing quarterback, Rogers was looked upon by opponents as a dangerous double threat with his ability to throw the football as well as being a tenacious, physical runner.

In the Hawks' win over Atlee last week, Rogers, from his flanker type position out of the backfield, caught three passes for 55 yards, including a 24-yard scoring pass from quarterback Andrew Knizner. Rogers also ran the ball three times for 52 yards, including an 11-yard scoring run. One of his runs came on a fake punt that netted 38 yards. His outstanding play was a big key in Hanover jumping in front of Atlee, 17-0, after one quarter. Defensively, Rogers plays a secondary position.

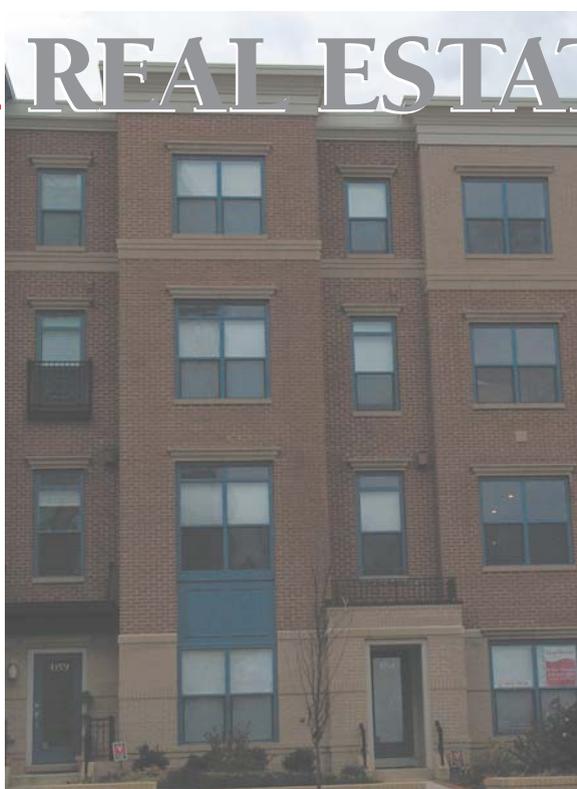
Hanover's go-to running back is L.J. Jones, who gained 169 yards on 31 carries in the win over Atlee. He also ran for a three-yard touchdown in the third quarter, a score set up by Rogers' fake punt run.

Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

October Sales in \$550,000~ \$599,990

2 4161 Legato Road,
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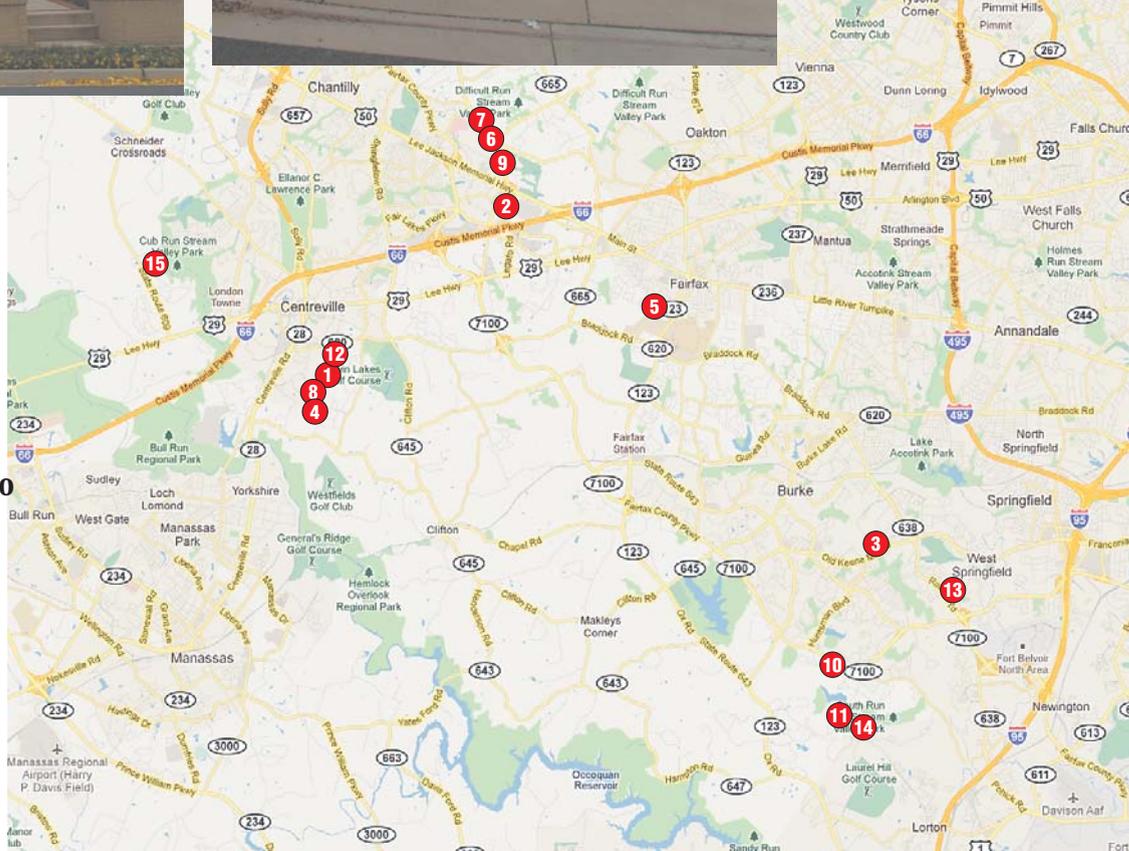
3 6401 Velliety Lane,
Clifton — \$585,000



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11 8962 Spruce Ridge Road, Fairfax Station — \$570,000



13 7913 Viola Street, Springfield — \$569,000



15 6212 Point Circle, Centreville — \$550,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
13828 SOUTH SPRINGS DR	5	3	1		CLIFTON	\$599,700	Detached	0.21	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	10/31/11
4161 LEGATO RD	3	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	CENTERPOINTE III	10/17/11
6401 VELLIETY LN	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.08	22152	FAIRFAX PARK	10/20/11
13920 MARBLESTONE DR	4	2	1		CLIFTON	\$584,000	Detached	0.21	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	10/28/11
4301 CHANCERY PARK DR	4	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$580,000	Detached	0.15	22030	CHANCERY PARK	10/31/11
12405 STEWART'S FORD CT	4	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$579,900	Detached	0.22	22033	FAIR OAKS ESTATES	10/28/11
12412 STEWART'S FORD CT	4	2	1		FAIRFAX	\$579,500	Detached	0.20	22033	FAIR OAKS ESTATES	10/14/11
13903 CLEAR SPRINGS LN	4	2	1		CLIFTON	\$575,000	Detached	0.22	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	10/17/11
12300 OX HILL RD	4	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$575,000	Detached	0.22	22033	FAIR OAKS ESTATES	10/11/11
9061 NORTHEdge DR	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$575,000	Detached	0.43	22153	SOUTH RUN FOREST	10/14/11
8962 SPRUCE RIDGE RD	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$570,000	Detached	0.32	22039	TIMBER RIDGE	10/21/11
6403 SPRINGHOUSE CIR	4	3	1		CLIFTON	\$569,000	Detached	0.20	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	10/05/11
7913 VIOLA ST	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$569,000	Detached	0.24	22152	ROLLING FOREST	10/07/11
8914 MAGNOLIA RIDGE RD	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$560,000	Detached	0.42	22039	TIMBER RIDGE	10/20/11
6212 POINT CIR	4	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$550,000	Detached	0.33	20120	PLEASANT HILL	10/21/11

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

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4720 Bristow Dr. \$409,000 Sun 1-4 Athena Petersen Long & Foster 703-968-7000
6738 Fern Ln. \$479,000 Sun 1-4 Andy Novins Keller Williams 703-532-6500

Burke

9912 Wood Astor Ct. \$575,000 Sun 1-4 Mary Hovland Long & Foster 703-946-1775

Chantilly

25579 America Sq. \$384,900 Sun 12-3 Carol Mayer Avery-Hess 703-667-1048
25822 Priesters Pond Dr. \$600,000 Sun 1-4 Susan McKenney RE/MAX 703-563-2200
42799 Freedom St. \$435,900 Sun 1-4 Shawn McGregor Keller Williams 703-674-1189

Clifton

12033 Seven Hills Ln. \$749,550 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster 703-503-1812
6700 Rock Fall Ct. \$799,900 Sun 1-4 Lou Ann Armstrong ERA 703-517-0006

Fairfax

10502 Assembly Dr. \$377,500 Sun 1-4 Kris Walker Weichert 703-821-8300
10512 Assembly Dr. \$375,000 Sun 1-4 Kris Walker Weichert 703-821-8300
11942 Appling Valley Rd. \$499,000 Sun 1-4 Steve Dunleavy RE/MAX 703-946-5571
12012 Gary Hill Dr. \$599,000 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster 703-503-1812
3707 Randolph St. \$410,000 Sat 12-4 Leslie Carter Carter 703-383-3245
5345 Chalkstone Way \$734,900 Sun 1-4 Tim Walsh RE/MAX 703-447-2236
12316 Ox Hill Rd. \$519,000 Sun 1-4 Nancy Grasman Coldwell Banker 703-864-3175
4490 Market Commons Dr #705 \$470,000 Sun 1-3 Susan Isaacs Coldwell Banker 202-362-5800

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10742 Beechnut Ct. \$849,900 Sun 2-4 Pat Fales RE/MAX 703-503-4365
7951 Kelly Ann Ct. \$1,090,000 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster 703-503-1812
9206 Bexleywood Ct. \$799,900 Sun 1-4 Cyndee Julian Long & Foster 703-201-5834
9524 Oak Stream Ct. \$564,900 Sun 1-4 Dan Mleziva RE/MAX 703-380-9915

Kingstowne/Alexandria

5708 Glenwood Ct. \$489,999 Sun 1-4 Doris Crockett Weichert 703-615-8411
6912-L Mary Caroline Cir. \$289,000 Sun 1-4 Bernice Maddox Long & Foster 703-904-3700
6921 Mary Caroline Cir. \$189,900 Sun 1-4 Susan Gurny Weichert 703-609-6393
5929 Sir Cambridge Way \$319,900 Sun 12-3 Peter Crouch Keller Williams 703-837-4955
6294 Walkers Croft Way \$449,900 Sun 1-4 Bob Dooley Samson Props 703-581-5758
6649 Patent Parish Ln. \$525,000 Sun 1-3 Brandon Green Keller Williams 202-318-1623

Springfield

9194 Forest Breeze Ct. \$319,950 Sun 1-4 Kathleen Quintarelli Weichert 703-862-8808
7582 Woodstown Dr. \$510,000 Sun 1-4 Ron Griffin Weichert 571-255-0782
8617 Beech Hollow Ln. \$395,000 Sat 10-1 Lori Conerly Weichert 703-909-4276
8617 Beech Hollow Ln. \$395,000 Sun 1-4 Dana LaFever Weichert 703-609-3479
9211 Setter Pl. \$479,900 Sun 1-4 Christine Stephenson Weichert 703-901-0944

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

GIFTS GUIDE

Shopping at Local Stores

FROM PAGE 11

or visit www.laughingogrecomics.com.

JUDY RYAN OF FAIRFAX, at 9565 Braddock Road in the Twinbrooke Shopping Centre, has helped shoppers find extraordinary gifts since 1988. This season, owner Judy Ryan notes that the woman who has everything will be impressed by unique wrap watches, for \$30 each, which adjust to the size of the wearer's wrist. Pouchees (and Super Pouchees with shoulder straps), are a bestseller and collect all essentials (cell phone, credit cards, tissues) in a neat pouch that can be transferred from handbag to handbag without forgetting any items. These handy bags range in price from \$29-\$39. Clipas (\$23-\$39), elegant enough to wear as bracelets, attach handbags to counters, chairs, bathroom stalls, and more, eliminating the need to rest them on dirty floors or other surfaces. Ryan also recommends the Hobo leather collection and the Brighton jewelry selection for their quality and craftsmanship.

The shop has an array of fine home goods; many of which can be paired for around \$20 or less. For example, a soy candle for \$18 and a box of matches for \$3, both beautifully packaged, would make a lovely hostess gift. An all-natural soap made with shea butter and palm oil for \$5 couples nicely with a soap dish for \$9. Fur-trimmed apparel is big this season; Ryan sells sweaters, gloves, and scarf collars adorned with real and fake fur.

Men on your list will love a 100 percent silk tie depicting an accurate map of D.C. (\$48) or numerous stocking stuffers like tool kits, travel clocks, and wind-up desk toys for the office.

Peruse the children's section for Kidorable raincoats and other clothing.

Visit the store this Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to noon for their annual Champagne Holiday Breakfast, a chance to shop discounted merchandise while enjoying breakfast and a drink. For more information, call 703-425-1855 or visit www.judyryanoffairfax.com.

FAIRFAX ICE ARENA offers gifts for loved ones who are active or love to learn new sports. Manager Jimmy Torres recommends year-round skating lessons, which start at \$121 for seven 30-minute beginner lessons (this include practice sessions and skate rental). For the experienced skater, purchase a discount skating card (\$66 for ten tickets, good for any session).

Their pro shop offers a wide selection of hockey, figure skating, and in-line skating equipment; the rink also hosts ice hockey clinics and figure skating camps which make great gifts for athletes. Throw a holiday skating party for a group of seven or more, starting at \$134 on weekdays.

Fairfax Ice Arena is located at 3779 Pickett Road. Call 703-323-1132 or visit www.fairfaxicearena.com.

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY
Barbara M. Wingo "Bobbie"
On Nov. 23, 2011 at Prince William Hospital. She was the wife
of the late Edward Wingo. She is also survived by a goddaugh-
ter, Sharon Venzor. Barbara was a graduate of Falls Church
High School.
Friends may call at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home on Thurs-
day December 1, from 2-4 and 6-8 PM where a funeral service
will be held on Friday Dec. 2, at 10 AM. Interment Fairfax
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Singh, President. NOTE: Ob-
jections to the issuance of this
license must be submitted to
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21 Announcements

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brella with stand) excellent
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21 Announcements

NOTICE OF BRANCH APPLICATION
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intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Bank for permission to
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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE
In accordance with the public participation requirement of 9
VAC 20-160-120, the general public is hereby
notified that WPPI-Springfield HS, LLC, has voluntarily enrolled
the property located at 7010 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield,
VA ("Property") into the Voluntary Remediation Program
("VRP"), administered by the Virginia Department of Environ-
mental Quality ("VDEQ"). In accordance with the VRP,
voluntary investigations and human health assessments have been com-
pleted. Groundwater and soil gas samples at the Property indi-
cated the presence of volatile organic compounds ("VOCs") re-
lated to a release of dry cleaning solvents from a topographi-
cally and hydraulically upgradient dry cleaner. A site and hu-
man health risk assessment determined the impacts at the
Property did not present an unacceptable health risk to site
users in consideration of proposed site use restrictions. Actions
required for continued protection of human health and the envi-
ronment at the Property include institutional controls (deed re-
strictions) limiting property use to commercial and restricting
groundwater use for any purpose. The VRP is prepared to is-
sue a "Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation"
for the Property pending completion of the VRP process and
completion of the 30-day public notice period expiring on De-
cember 15, 2011. If you have questions or wish to comment
during this time, please call Mike Bruzzesi at (703) 608-5969 or
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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who knows
some of the
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21 Announcements

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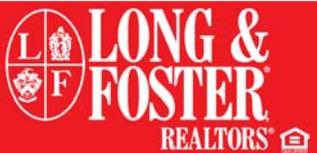
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