

A Christmastime Wonderland

NEWS, PAGE 6

Jerry Martoncik creates a winter wonderland outside his Clifton house. His sense of humor is evident throughout his elaborate light display: In this vignette, a snowman takes a spill on some ice.

Wellbeing

PAGE 16

Help Kickstart Clifton Film Fest

NEWS, PAGE 4

inside



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DECEMBER 1-7, 2011

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 20

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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.



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."

Help Kickstart Clifton Film Fest

Festival offers new opportunities for student filmmakers.

Local filmmaker Dani Weinburg is already planning ways to make next summer's Clifton Film Fest better than ever. Showcasing original short movies made by students, Weinburg launched the festival in 2008 in Clifton, but in two years moved to The Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

Last summer's first film fest drew hundreds of independent film fans, and included music, food, and films under the stars as well as a live webcasting of the event.

"Next year, we will be introducing more exciting initiatives, including an extended weekend event, screenings throughout the day in addition to the evening showcase," Weinburg said. She also plans to screen a new category of five 30-second shorts, and workshops for young filmmakers where they can learn more about how to make successful movies.

To expand the festival, Weinburg



Hundreds of film fans gathered at the Lorton Workhouse Art Center last summer for the third annual Clifton Film Fest.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Dani Weinburg

for funding," Weinburg said. "The catch is the festival has to reach its goal of \$2000 by Friday, Dec. 2, or all of the money pledged up to this point won't be awarded. It's all or nothing."

The Clifton Film Fest will take place the weekend of July 21st. To learn more about the festival and making pledges, visit www.cliftonfilmfest.com/kickstarter.

said the non-profit organization is using a fundraising website called Kickstarter to raise the necessary

funds to make this summer's event a true Sundance-type festival experience.

"Kickstarter is a unique platform to gain financial backers for creative projects by receiving rewards

— VICTORIA ROSS

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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.

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

NEWS

Book Sale A Bestseller

Richard Byrd Library book sale attracts book-lovers, bargain-hunters and holiday shoppers.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Bibliophiles rejoice. The Richard Byrd Library in Springfield opens its doors Thursday, Dec. 1, for one of the largest used book sales in the area. More than 5,000 books will be on sale, most for less than \$5, including rare, vintage, autographed and popular bestsellers.

"If you love sushi cooking, or you're interested in WWI Naval history, you will likely find a book here," said Christine Petersen, president of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library, the non-profit fundraising arm of the library. "We received an amazing variety of donated books this year, and many are almost new, so they will make great stocking stuffers and gifts."

Peterson said the book selection includes every conceivable genre, from history, art and foreign language to medical science and science fiction.

"We have a lovely children's room, and a large selection of hobby books, including five crates filled with just quilting books. This is all in addition to a large fiction area," she said.

THE RICHARD BYRD LIBRARY, named after the famous explorer, was completely renovated and rebuilt in 2010. The new building features an accurate replica of the airplane flown by Admiral Byrd during his exploration of Antarctica and his flight over the South Pole.

Peterson said the sale attracts hundreds of book-lovers and bargain-hunters, and is one of the library's biggest fundraisers.

"I love our sale because I get to talk to the best people: smart shoppers who love books. A smart shopper knows they can get beautiful books, DVDs and CDs for just \$1 or 2 that will fill a Holiday stocking or provide pleasure on a cold winter night," she said.

To attract holiday shoppers, Peterson said this year's event has some creative new features.

Volunteer Jo-Ann Mitchell decorated several holiday tables filled with books that shoppers can buy for gifts. "We're bundling books with White House ornaments, and using kitchen utensils to include with sets of cookbooks," Mitchell said. On Sunday, the last day of the sale, shoppers can take advantage of the first-ever "Bag Sale." For \$5, shoppers receive a pa-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

The new library building, completely renovated and rebuilt in 2010, features an accurate replica of the airplane flown by Admiral Byrd during his exploration of Antarctica and his flight over the South Pole.

The Richard Byrd Library Book Sale

Where: The Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield

When:

- ❖ **Thursday Dec. 1** from 3-9 p.m.
- ❖ **Friday, Dec. 2** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ❖ **Saturday, Dec. 3** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ❖ **Sunday, Dec. 4** from noon to 3 p.m. (Bag Sale)

per bag furnished by Whole Foods Market, which they can stuff from whatever books are left.

The 20 volunteer members of the Friends, who have been sorting through the donated books for months, uncovered some treasures. They found a copy of "The Globe Theater's Illustrated Works of Shakespeare," an autographed copy of Doris Kearns Goodwin's "Team of Rivals," and many coffee-table art books that typically sell for \$50 to \$100.

There is also this prize: a copy of "On the Air" by local radio personalities Frank Harden and Jackson Weaver, signed by both men. Harden and Weaver, who launched their daily program at WMAL in 1960, were nationally known for their morning talk show for more than three decades. "Almost everyone remembers Harden & Weaver, so that book was a real find for us," Peterson said.

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

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) 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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In Santa's Toy Shop, elves prepare gifts that are then sent by conveyor belt to be put into Santa's sleigh. In the foreground a rabbit is about to take off, running across the yard away from the fox.



Using computer controls, hundreds of lights, and self-designed and welded frames, Jerry Martoncik has animated the crèche scene with Mary and Joseph arriving at the stable, the child being born, a star shining, angels appearing, shepherds appearing and even wise men arriving on camels, dismounting and genuflecting.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

A Christmastime Wonderland

Clifton home's holiday decorations unique, animated.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

There are homes decorated for the holidays — and then there's Jerry Martoncik's house.

Not only does he have a vast array of holiday sights and scenes adorning his front yard, but he designed, built and animated them. "It takes 25 full days to get everything up and working," he said. "People tell me they have to come back two and three times to see it all."

Martoncik, 68, is a former computer-systems developer who, for 11 years now, has put his skills and experience to good use creating a winter wonderland outside his Clifton home — much to the delight of all who come to see it. The lights go on the day after Thanksgiving, and stay on through Jan. 2.

"When my son was 10 or 12 years old, he wanted me to build some yard displays, but I didn't have the time," said Martoncik. "But when I retired and he was 17 or 18, we started building them together."

Since then, word's gotten out about the holiday fantasyland in his huge yard and, each year, people come from miles around to see the colorful animations. "But you can't just drive by, or you'll miss a lot of it," he said. "You've got to stop, take time and really look at things."

Of course, there are lots of lighted stationary items, such as candy canes, Christmas ornaments and poinsettias, plus small-scale animations. But the show-stoppers

are the 11 illuminated, computer-controlled, animated scenes. They include a ski jump, a fox chasing a rabbit and a snowball fight during which the snowballs usually miss their targets but, every so often, hit their mark.

A GIRL IN A SLED rides downhill and penguins slide down a glacier into a pond of water. Two reindeer ride on a seesaw, alternating being up and down, and there's a scene of a one-horse, open sleigh loaded with presents.

"A big crowd-pleaser is the flying Santa," said Martoncik. "He goes from the North Pole to my house with a sleigh and a team of reindeer. Then Santa walks across the roof to the chimney, goes down it and back up and then walks to his sleigh. When I first put him up, about four years ago, tons of people came by. For about 2 1/2 hours on Christmas Eve, 70-80 adults with toddlers were watching him from my driveway."

Also popular is the skating snowman. With his hands on his hips, he turns to his right and his feet go into a skating position. Then he skates down the ice, slips, tumbles and lands on his head and hands, upside down in the snow. Then a sign comes on reading, "Oops." Martoncik said people also like the sign saying, "Hey, kids, watch me." And then children enjoy watching the snowman's antics because "he's like a clown on ice."

But, said Martoncik, "The highlight of the whole thing is the Nativity scene. Inside are 86 different characters, either moving in unison or at different times. There are descending angels, shepherds walking, plus wise men riding

camels."

He and his son, daughter and wife plan out the entire yard display each year — and it takes a lot of doing. Almost 100,000 lights and more than 10,000 feet of wire make it all "come alive." And for 1 1/2 months, Martoncik's electric bill increases by about \$170/month. But he doesn't mind because he knows it brings so much joy to others.

"There's a lot to it," he said. "A couple years ago, a guy and his family who'd just come back from Disneyworld said Disney didn't have anything for the holidays as extensive and detailed as this."

That's why Martoncik's so proud of his display — and justifiably so. "I make it all," he said. "I've always been mechanically inclined. I'd start with an idea and figure out how to do it."

EACH ANIMATED SCENE is operated by a computer called a microcontroller, programmed to cause each character in each scene to move and to go on and off at certain times. "I created all the circuit boards to make the computer operate," said Martoncik. "But I used to develop computer systems, so that was right up my alley. And I enjoyed the mere challenge of taking it on and seeing if I could do it."

So what's his favorite part? "I like the Nativity scene best because it's the reason for the season," he said. "And when you watch it, you can see the whole story of the Nativity taking place."

Still, it's a tremendous amount of work, each year, to make the display possible. "We started repairing things in October and set-



Santa and the reindeer land atop Jerry Martoncik's house in Clifton. In the animated light show, Santa crosses the roof, descends the chimney, and then returns to the sleigh with an empty sac. He and the reindeer then fly across the yard to land again at Santa's Toy Shop to be restocked with toys by the elves.



A snowman built by Jerry Martoncik waves to passersby as part of the elaborate, computer-animated light display Martoncik has built in his yard for the past 12 years.

ting it up outside, Nov. 1," said Martoncik. "It's such a big job and a time-consuming effort. But it's a good hobby and I've always liked to do it. I also enjoy talking to the people who come by. And I want to give people who've never seen it before the opportunity to do so."

However, for their own safety, visitors are not allowed to walk down Martoncik's driveway or go inside the display, itself. They're encouraged to get out of their cars

for a better look, but they should remain on his cul-de-sac's gravel road. If it's raining, the lights won't be on. But, said Martoncik, "The lights look great in the snow."

His address is 6512 Hanover Heights Trail. From Clifton Road, at the triangle before the Town of Clifton, turn left onto Newman Road, right on Fairfax Station Road and left on Hanover Heights. "The house is on the left," said Martoncik. "You can't miss it."



Dr. Pamela Marzban

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Teeth Whitening...What You Should Know.



With the holidays around the corner, everyone seems to be coming in to whiten their teeth for their picture perfect moments. So before you start using whitening products that you may be completely unfamiliar with, you may want to read this article.

If you want to whiten your teeth, the best place to start is with a healthy mouth. Tooth decay, sensitive or cracked teeth, infections or periodontal (gum) problems should be diagnosed and treated before any teeth whitening procedure. Otherwise, you could experience discomfort. If using the right products, the whitening process is safe; however, it can aggravate existing problems.

Rather than heading to the local cosmetic counter or shopping mall in search of teeth whiteners, start with a dental check up. This way, we can diagnose the cause of discoloration—injury, stains from food or tobacco, antibiotic treatment and so on. Whitening products only work on natural tooth enamel, not on crowns, veneers, bonding materials or tooth colored fillings. Does this mean if you have any of the above mentioned conditions you are stuck with yellow teeth? Absolutely not! The diagnosis is important; from there, we can determine whether whitening will work for you and which product will suit you best; otherwise you could be wasting time and money!

Studies have shown the first thing a person notices when they meet you is your smile. Being a cosmetic dentist, I am aware of how desirable it is to have white, bright teeth and how it impacts your confidence, well being, and your entire life. By seeing a trained cosmetic dentist, you can achieve not only a whiter, more attractive smile, but one that is healthy and contributes to your overall health. For more information about whitening and to check out our holiday whitening gift ideas and specials, I encourage you to visit our website or set up a complimentary whitening consultation with our well trained and knowledgeable team. Happy Holidays!

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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. Small retail shops are part of

EDITORIAL

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.

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
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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

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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



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.



"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.

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.

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.

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

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 homes, churches with live music, the Clifton Caboose and the Masonic Acacia Lodge. Tickets on sale at A Flower Blooms, NOVA Music and T&K Treasures in Clifton; 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. scsscraffair@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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20



Spoil your favorite athlete with a sporty pair of kicks, starting from \$80-\$100, sold at VA Runner, 5734 Union Mill Rd in Clifton.

HOLIDAY GIFTS GUIDE



Share a personalized gift basket of wine and food, starting at \$50 from Clifton Wine Shop and Tasting Room at 7145-C Main Street.



NOVA Music Center in Clifton boasts the largest selection of ukuleles in the area. A beginner ukulele ranges from \$80-\$100.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER FEDOR/THE CONNECTION

Clifton's Local Small Businesses Offer Unique Holiday Gifts

Find something for everyone this season.

BY JENNIFER FEDOR
THE CONNECTION

As you work your way through your holiday shopping list, consider the variety of specialty shops available in Clifton. Appealing to individuals with diverse

passions, many local businesses offer a personal touch to your gifts and eliminate the need to beat the crowds at the mall. From running to wine to music, Clifton has something for everyone this season.

FOR THE RUNNER on your list, VA Runner at 5734 Union Mill Rd

has big-ticket items as well as stocking stuffers. Running shoes range from \$90-\$140; sales associate Tommy Mason recommends purchasing a gift certificate so your recipient can purchase new shoes to fulfill his or her New Year's resolutions in 2012.

The store offers free gait analysis

to ensure shoes are well-matched to each runner; Mason notes that all employees are educated in biomechanics. A runner himself, he points out that some of the fun gift items in the store can be found in the apparel section. For example, he likes the Nike jackets, for \$105, which are both water- and wind-resistant and vented in the back.

Mizuno makes clothing with

"Breath Thermo" material that heats up as you perspire; a shirt costs \$65. "That's a good present for someone who's always complaining about being cold when they go for runs," Mason said. In addition, the store carries lightweight, minimalist shoes that runners could use for casual wear, ranging in price from about \$80-

SEE SHOPPING, PAGE 13

HOLIDAY GIFTS GUIDE

Shopping for Gifts Locally

FROM PAGE 12

\$100. According to Mason, "we have a lot of nighttime running supplies," including headlamps for \$13. Other smaller but useful items in the store include socks, anti-chafing sticks, and pedometers.

For more information call 703-815-8700 or visit their website at www.varunner.com.

IF YOU HAVE a wine aficionado in your life, visit Clifton Wine Shop and Tasting Room at 7145-C Main Street. According to owner Julie Thompson, "our wines are family-owned and small production, so they're not likely to be found at your local grocery."

She recommends a holiday gift of the red wine Papillion for \$62.99. This blend of 88 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 7 percent Petit Verdot, 3 percent Merlot, and 2 percent Cabernet Franc comes from maker Orin Swift in Napa Valley. Cremant, a blend of mostly Chardonnay and Chenin Blanc produced in the Loire Valley, is a "great festive sparkler for \$19.99,"

making it a much cheaper version of champagne. ChocoVine, a popular chocolate wine for \$14.99, tastes like either Bailey's or Kahlua, depending on who you ask at the shop.

In addition to wine, olive oil, produced by a family from Gainesville, can be purchased for \$14.99-\$24.99, depending on bottle size; a 10 percent discount is offered when bottles are returned for refills. Gift certificates are available or consider buying your loved one membership into the wine club for \$34.99 a month and they'll have access to free wine tastings and two specially-selected bottles of wine each month. Host a holiday wine tasting at the shop; prices vary depending on wine selection.

Custom gift baskets, starting at \$50, pair wines with foods like chocolate, lobster spreads, and olive oil. The store also sells cigars, wine aerators, and many other excellent stocking stuffers like wine stoppers, glass charms, and cheese knives for a range of prices. For more information, call 703-266-1607 or visit their website at www.cliftonwineshop.com.

MUSIC LOVERS will love NOVA Music Center at 12704 Chapel Road. Open since in December 2010, the store boasts a full selection of instruments: electric guitars, banjos, clarinets, violins, and more. Owner Erich RussekRobbins, professional musician and songwriter, is particularly proud of his ukulele collection, "the largest in the DC Metro area." It even includes eclectic hybrid instruments like the banjele (a banjo/ukulele mix) and the banjitar (a combination of a banjo and a guitar).

The community-minded music shop also provides a wide variety of sheet music, accessories, and software for musicians of diverse skill levels and interests. Holiday gift ideas including music lessons in a range of instruments as well as rental of the in-store recording studio (\$16 an hour/\$14 an hour for students). The music center also offers workshops, many free with purchase of an instrument or equipment.

RussekRobbins notes that the

SEE SHOPPING, PAGE 20

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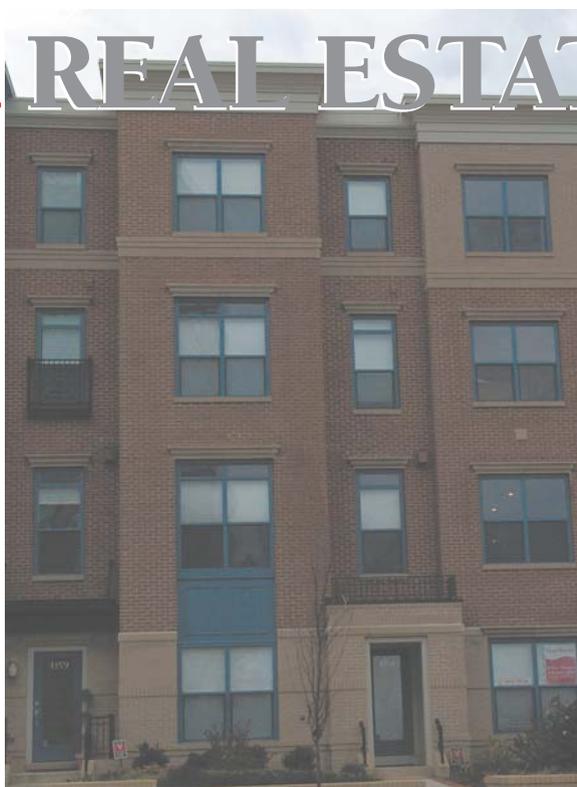
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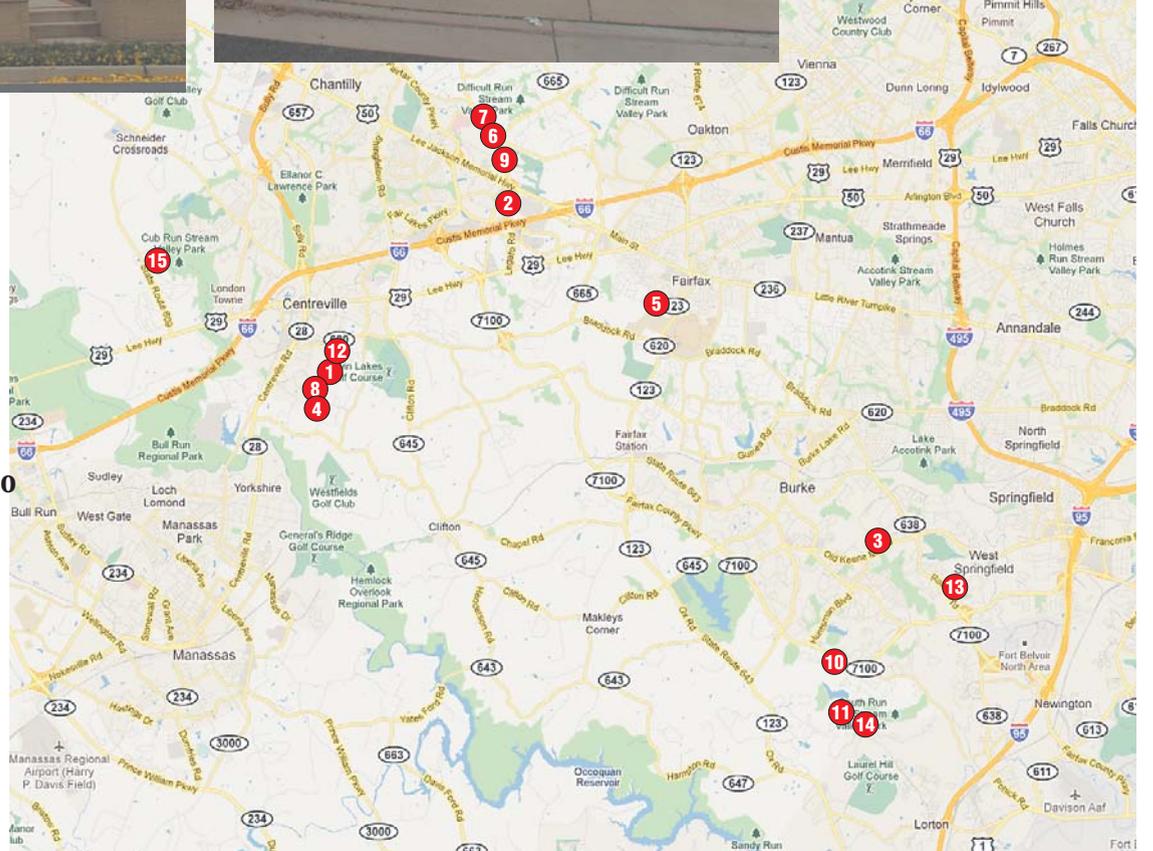
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15 6212 Point Circle, Centreville — \$550,000

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

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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, Ketienné 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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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

Fairfax Station

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
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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

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8617 Beech Hollow Ln.....\$395,000...Sat 10-1.....Lori Conerly.....Weichert..703-909-4276
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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or e-mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

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."

"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."

— Dr. Jeffrey W. Pollard,
Counseling and Psychological Services,
George Mason University

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



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.

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 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 function-

ing 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.

"The media portrays the holidays as this never-ending blissful time. . . . Those expectations are going to lead to depression."

— Lisa Calusic, psychiatrist,
Inova Mount Vernon Hospital,
Arlington resident

"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.

SEE LESS IS MORE. PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Less Is More to Enjoy Holidays

FROM PAGE 16

“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 in-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA BERG-CROSS

Potomac, Maryland-based clinical psychologist Linda Berg-Cross, Ph.D. says that the best motto for preventing holiday stress and depression is ‘less is more.’

“Whatever you decide to do try to be present in it and experience that engagement.”

— Potomac psychologist Linda Berg-Cross

clude 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.”

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.

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Clifton Town Council Meeting

The Clifton Town Council will meet Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m., in the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road in Clifton.

Christmas Tree Stand Opens at Robinson

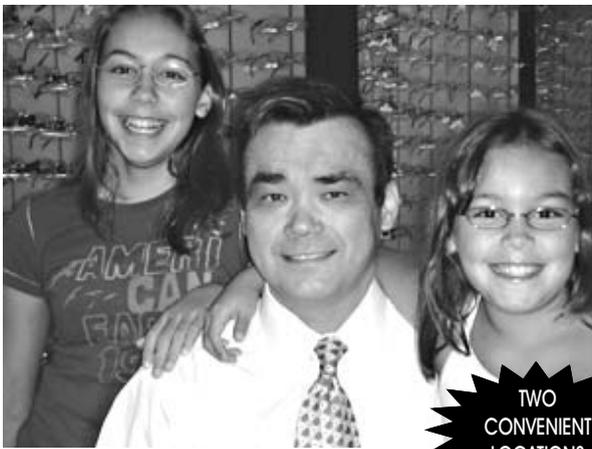
Robinson Christmas Tree stand is now open, Monday - Friday 5-9, Saturday 9-8 and Sunday 10-7. Located on the outdoor basketball courts. All money raised goes to support Robinson Baseball. Cash or Check.

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 unique pet gifts and accessories.

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

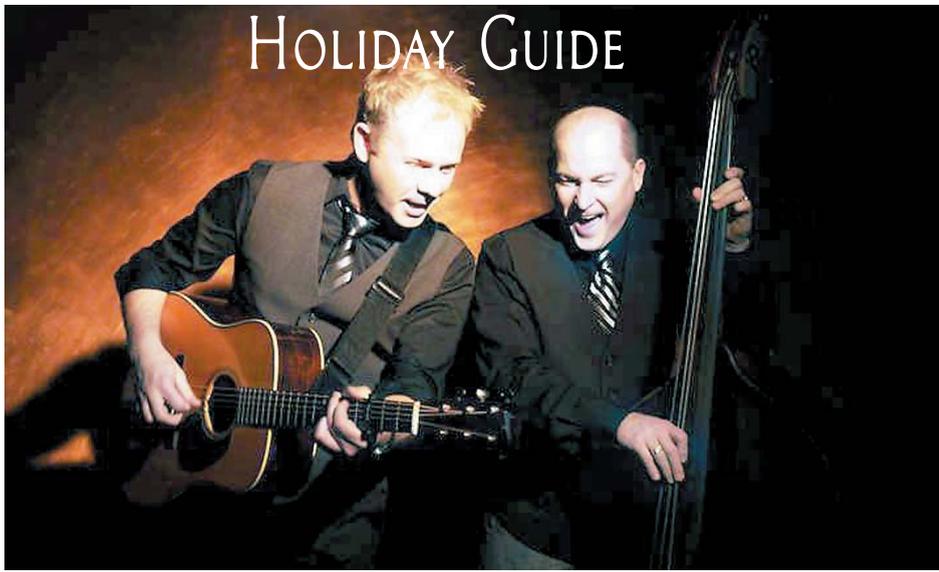


PHOTO BY JIM MCCUIRE

Bluegrass duo Dailey & Vincent performing "I Believe in Christmas."



PHOTO BY STAN ENGBERTSON

American Festival Pops Orchestra (AFPO) and conductor Anthony Maiello.

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.

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 accompanied by an adult. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Pre-performance discussions are sponsored by the Friends of the Center for the Arts. Joining the pair onstage on Dec. 3 are Christian Davis on bass, guitar and vocals; Joe Dean Jr. on banjo, guitar and bass vocals; Jeff Parker on mandolin, guitar and harmony vocals; and Jesse Stockman on fiddle. Tickets are \$24, \$40, \$48. Youth through 12th grade are half price when accompanied by an adult.



PHOTO BY SUSANA MILLMAN

Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano performing "Fiesta Navidad."

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 program-

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

FIESTA NAVIDAD by Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Sunday, Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. — This Christmas season, Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano appears for the

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.

first time at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, bringing a festive and joyful holiday performance titled "Fiesta Navidad" that celebrates and honors the cultural traditions of Mexico.

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

Mariachi music as we know it today was developed in western Mexico in the 19th century, but its roots date back to the early 16th century when Spanish colonists introduced European instruments such as horns, harps, vihuelas (a five-string guitar) and violins to the natives. African music was also brought to the natives through African slaves, and that is also thought to have an influence on the musical form. In the 19th century, mariachis wore peasant garb and had little interest in dressing alike, until the Mexican Revolution in 1910, when mariachi music became recognized throughout Mexico as a symbol of nationalism and musicians began wearing uniforms of embroidered waist-length jackets, tight-fitting wool pants, riding boots and sombreros.

In the 1950s and 1960s, mariachi music became popular in America after a number of organized mariachi groups immigrated to Los Angeles. Today, mariachi bands are made up of musicians playing violin, trumpet, guitar, vihuela, guitarrón (a fretless six-string bass guitar) and sometimes harps. Mariachi bands frequently perform at celebrations such as weddings, baptisms, quinceañeras and other festive occasions. Tickets are \$23 \$38, \$46.



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.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Christmas Parade, Homes Tour

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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 un-

able 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.

Shopping for Gifts Locally

FROM PAGE 13

Talos amplifier (one of six remaining and made by a local craftsman) would make a musician's dream come true at \$3,900. However, the store offers many less-expensive options for stocking stuffers from practical gifts — Kurt Mangan strings, guitar stands, dictionaries and encyclopedia for music lovers, tuners — to fun or unusual items, like instrument-shaped wine stoppers and necklaces made from guitar picks. According to RussekRobbins, "Anything some-

body could think of we either have or we'll get them," noting that the store is willing to facilitate special orders for customers.

The store will host an exhibit of J. Douglas Voke's whimsical and unique "ArtGuitars" on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 7-10 p.m. The music center also coordinates a free Open Jam every other Friday to promote collaboration of local musicians of all skills. Stop by to find the perfect holiday gift for your audiophile. Call 703-830-7141 or visit www.NOVAMusicCenter.com for more information.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

- 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.

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.
- Friends of the Library Book Sale.** 12-3 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Proceeds help fund children's programs. rbfriends@gmail.com or 703-451-8055.
- 22nd Annual Model Train Display and Show.** 12-4 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.
- The Celebration Singers: A Christmas**

2,871 Pounds of Food Donated to LCAC

As Northern Virginia families looked forward to their Thanksgiving feasts, students at South County Secondary made sure that those in need were also fed. A school-wide effort coordinated by the leadership classes resulted in a collection of 2,871 pounds of food that was donated to the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC). Since 2007, when the drive originated at the school, South County families have donated a total of 10,976 pounds of food to LCAC, which distributes it to needy families in the Lorton area. For more information, contact Principal Jane Lipp at 703-446-1600 or jlipp@fcps.edu or event liaison Maureen Saale at mgsaale@fcps.edu.

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.

FOR THE CONNOISSEUR of fine food in your life, a gift certificate to Trummer's on Main at 7134 Main Street is "tasteful" option. Victoria Trummer, owner, said that gift certificates can be used for dinner, brunch, or their weekly wine tastings. They currently offer a complimentary gift certificate of 15 percent of purchase for all certificates over \$200. Consider hosting a holiday event in their private dining room or wine tasting room. Call 703-266-1623 or visit www.trummersonmain.com.

- Portrait.** 4 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. A costumed and choreographed Christmas show. Free. 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.
- The KIDZ Choir: Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior.** 6:30 p.m. Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Free. www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.
- "A Christmas Carol."** 1 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.
- Virginia Opera: Hansel and Gretel.** 2 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. \$48-\$98, youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by adult. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu.

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21 Announcements

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

4 RE for Sale

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION FOR MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TO BID

George Mason University
University Commons Renovation

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 goddaughter, Sharon Venzor. Barbara was a graduate of Falls Church High School. Friends may call at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home on Thursday 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 Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

SNP Ventures Inc, trading as Royal Food Mart, 10423 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a beer and wine off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sarbjinder Singh, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

29 Misc. for Sale

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21 Announcements

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