

Firehouse Subs Gives Gift

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For Whom The [School] Bell Tolls

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Library's Beta Plan: Dead on Arrival

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Shane Mitchell tests out the forcible entry equipment on a door in front of Firehouse Subs at Fair City Mall in Fairfax.

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THE COUNTY LINE



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Library Board of Trustees Chair Willard O. Jasper (center), along with several other library board members, presented reports from two ad hoc committees appointed by the library board in September to conduct a series of public outreach meetings after trustees suspended the beta plan to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Nov. 19. Recommendations included increased funding and discarding the controversial beta plan.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Wearing purple, about 50 library supporters gathered at the Fairfax County Government Center on Tuesday, Nov. 19, to show their support for the library board's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Library's Beta Plan: Dead on Arrival

Supervisors endorse Library Board's recommendations to increase funding, discard beta plan.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

You can assume that the BETA Plan is dead. I will make that motion tomorrow." In her email to a concerned library patron the night before the Board of Supervisors Nov. 19 meeting, Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) put to rest speculation that the board would resuscitate the controversial beta plan aimed at streamlining the county's library system.

"The next day, the board passed Bulova's motion 8-1 to accept a report from the Library Board of Trustees, effectively killing the beta plan, which included proposals to reduce staff, eliminate the requirement for branch managers to have a master of library science degree, and reduce the number of children's librarians.

Library Board of Trustees Chair Willard O. Jasper presented the reports from two ad hoc committees, appointed by the library board in September to conduct a series of public outreach meetings after trustees suspended the beta plan.

"For starters, there is no sentiment on the committee, the Library Board of Trustees, staff, or the majority of public commenters to move forward with the beta plan, including its reclassification of positions," Jasper told the board in explaining the blanket rejection of the beta plan.

Jasper also said the library system has "suffered demonstrably" from several years of severe budget cuts, and recommended increasing funding library operations.

"The predominant message (from the report) is that the library requires additional funding to main-

tain its high-quality selection," Jasper told the board. "The library budget has been cut 40 percent ... spending in Fairfax County is the lowest in all eight neighboring jurisdictions."

In addition to accepting the report, the board approved Bulova's motion to add a "consideration item" of \$1 million to the fiscal year 2015 budget. "This additional funding would ... be directed to the acquisition of non-fiction works," Bulova said. "More than 10,000 additional materials could be acquired with this funding."

Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully), who voted no on the motion, said he wasn't pleased with the library's report, and chastised fellow supervisors for distancing themselves from "the reforms we made."

He also praised Library Director Sam Clay for having the courage to "put the (beta) plan out there."

"I really was kind of shocked that the Board of Trustees would come back with a report that essentially says flatly 'no' to all proposed changes and 'give us more money,'" Frey said.

"Our board has been saying to every department head tell us how you can do more with less, and they came back and said we'll do the same with more. And the supervisors said OK — here's million dollars more," Frey said. "They have seen how to get more money — just turn up the heat on us."

Criticism of the plan has been building since July, when Clay unveiled a program that would test a new organization model this fall at the Burke Centre Library and the Reston Regional Library, the busiest library branch in the county. Clay has defended the reorganization, saying that the goal was to stream-

Library Board of Trustees: Who They Are, What They Do

The Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees, a 12-member, volunteer board is responsible for library policies and for making budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The board meets on the second Wednesday of each month except August. Most meetings are held at 7 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library.

The public is invited to attend. A maximum of ten people may register to speak on library concerns during the public comment period at each monthly meeting.

For information or to register to speak, call 703-324-8324.

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Access Services for people with disabilities.
Access Services is located at the Government Center.

SEE BETA PLAN, PAGE 15



From left: Fairfax County Public Schools Board Members Patricia Reed (Providence District) and Megan McLaughlin (Braddock District) attended the meeting at Frost Middle School to update the community on FCPS's goal to bring later start times to the region's high schools. Both are ardent supporters of the plan.



From left: Dr. Judith Owens, MD, MPH, D'ABSM is the Director of Sleep Medicine for Children's National Medical Center and heads the consultant group contracted by Fairfax County Public Schools to study the later start times and to present cost-effective scenarios for implementing the change. She is joined by Monica Cameron, Frost PTA President, Lisa Ross, Woodson Pyramid Coordinator, and Phyllis Payne, co-founder of Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal (SLEEP).

For Whom The [School] Bell Tolls

School district works toward later start times for high schools.

ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Would you send your teenagers to school or put them behind the wheel after allowing them to down two or three alcoholic beverages? Hopefully not. But the effect of sleep deprivation on the average adolescent has been shown to be impairment equal to – if not more than – just that amount of alcohol. And more and more parents, teachers, school authorities, doctors, and many others increasingly agree that the sleep-deprived state is the plane on which the majority of our kids exist today. One way to help them catch a few more hours of sleep per week is to delay the school start time.

You would think that a small change in the start times of Fairfax County high schools – from 7:20 a.m. to 8 a.m. or a bit after – would be a relatively simple thing to enact. Like Captain Picard aboard the Starship Enterprise, why can't the Powers That Be simply command "Make it so," and that would be the end of it? "There's a huge ripple effect to be considered," explained Patricia Reed, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Board Member, Providence District, to a small gathering last Monday night at Frost Middle School in Fairfax, organized by a partnership of PTAs and the founders of Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal (SLEEP). Reed is a supporter of the delayed start times and sympathized with the frustration being expressed by the assembled parents and other stakeholders.

There was lots of head nodding and murmurs of agreement when Mantua resident Shannon Murphy asked questions like, "How much of the decision to move forward is based on transportation issues and expense? On budget shortfalls?" and "Why can other counties like Arlington and Loudoun start later, but Fairfax is taking years to get to the same place?"

Reed and her fellow Board Member, Megan McLaughlin (Braddock District) addressed the audience for almost an hour, while awaiting the arrival of the evening's key guest speaker, renowned sleep authority Dr. Judith Owens, Director of Sleep Medicine and Children's National Medical Center in DC, and the head of the consulting collaborative contracted by FCPS to study the proposed new start times and provide workable solutions for their enactment. Both could not have spoken more passionately on the topic. "As Dr. Owens will elaborate upon," stated McLaughlin, "our sleep deprived kids are a quiet health crisis in Fairfax County."

McLaughlin and Reed gave a succinct, and often brutally honest, history of the movement toward delayed start times in the county. "Even though the vast majority supports later start times, when we presented the final proposal for implementation in 2009, almost everyone protested, even those most in favor of the idea," admitted McLaughlin, "and the change was ultimately voted down. Some people took that to mean that later start times weren't wanted, but that wasn't the case. The solutions that were presented at the time were flawed, didn't take into account all of the obstacles or solicit enough input from the parents, teachers, administrators, transportation providers, and all of the others who would be affected by the change."

"So what will give this attempt a greater chance of success than the 2009 effort?"

Reasons to Start Later

- ❖ Districts with start times like ours have significantly higher teen car crash rates.
 - ❖ 1 in 4 Fairfax teens suffers from symptoms of depression.
 - ❖ 2 in 3 Fairfax teens are severely sleep deprived (lose 2 or more hours of sleep every school night).
 - ❖ More than 1,000 Fairfax students dropped out of high school in 2011-12.
 - ❖ Transportation experts have modeled no-cost and low-cost approaches that retain safe, daylight bus stops for elementary students.
 - ❖ Teens with later school start times do get more sleep. This advantage adds up to almost one month of sleep gained by the end of the school year.
- Adequate sleep improves learning, memory, mood, and performance in school, sports, and other activities
- Information from the Start Later For Excellence in Education Proposal (SLEEP) (www.sleepinfairfax.org for references and research)

asked a number of the attendees, almost in unison.

ONE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE is the change in the makeup of the Board since that time, as well as the arrival of new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Karen Garza. "I am really hopeful that we will get this done," said McLaughlin, "and Dr. Garza has shown real support for this change." The gathering shared her enthusiasm, but expressed dismay when warned that a county-wide roll-out probably wouldn't happen in time for the start of the 2014-2015 school season, although McLaughlin expressed confidence that some sort of limited implementation could possibly be ready by then. "In the end, it may not be a one-size fits all solution for every district and every school, given the differences in the communities throughout our county," said Board Member Reed.

"We are taking into account transportation issues, athletic programs, daycare concerns, students who work after school, even

the amount of homework our students are given," said Reed. Dr. Owens, her team and her collaborators hope to present their "Blueprint for Change" to the Superintendent and the Board sometime in January of 2014. Reed and McLaughlin did not provide specifics, but spoke to some of the barriers that are being addressed. "No doubt you have all been hearing about our budget shortfall, so cost is always a consideration. But there are ways and means to find the money," stated McLaughlin. "We are talking a serious threat to our children's health and welfare. We need to get more serious about finding the means."

Shannon Murphy and several others complained of bus stops where there are no students to collect, and others where it takes several weeks at the start of each school year for a bus to consistently collect. "They say Fairfax County runs the second largest fleet of buses after Greyhound," noted McLaughlin, "so I know there are some problems we need to work on." Several audience members responded that the county should consider contracting transportation to Greyhound, or even to FedEx as companies known for their ability to provide efficient routing and logistics on a large scale.

Teacher morale, the perception of too much administrative work versus teaching time, and other transportation disconnects – like Woodson students getting out of school at 2:05 p.m. but having to wait until 3 p.m. for sports practice to begin were some of the other topics that Reed and McLaughlin gamely tackled from the audience before Dr. Owens took the floor.

Dr. Owens, the author of over 100 research and review articles, chapters and books on the topic of pediatric sleep, highlighted the work of her consulting team, then provided

SEE SLEEP, PAGE 7

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, 13053 Greenbriar Towncenter, Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.
Genealogy Help Desk. 1 p.m.-2 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists (VA Room volunteers) and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Adult, teen. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.
eBook Clinic. 11:00 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible eBook readers with our one-on-one technology volunteer. Registration required. Adults. 703-978-5600.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Seminar on Scams. 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. West Springfield High School Auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Learn how to protect against devastating financial scams and fraud.
Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, 13053 Greenbriar Towncenter, Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.

MONDAY/DEC. 9

Stroke & Osteoporosis Screening. 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Screenings identify potential cardiovascular conditions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. Pre-registration is required. www.lifelinescreening.com.

ONGOING

Nomad Camp. Begins Aug. 12. Pick-up and drop-off at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Families and individual campers enjoy a week of special field trips. Children must be accompanied by adults; adult chaperones must also pay. For prices and more information, call 703-385-7858.
Adventures in Learning. Mondays through Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a day designed to exercise the body and mind. \$30; open to adults 50 and older; bring a bag lunch; registration continues throughout the session. www.scfbva.org or at 703-343-4788.
Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.
Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

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NEWS

SLEEP Promotes Later Start Times

FROM PAGE 4

an overview on the science of sleep and adolescents. As FCPS Board Member McLaughlin promised, for many Owens' presentation was, indeed, eye-opening.



Shannon Murphy came from nearby Mantua. A firm supporter of later start times, Murphy keeps up with the FCSP happenings.

A MEDICAL DOCTOR as well as a researcher, Owens presented physiological evidence that at puberty, the adolescent brain experiences numerous changes, including a shift in the body's "master clock" that controls circadian rhythm, influencing sleep-wake cycles among other bodily functions. "At adolescence, kids are just programmed to sleep a little later, stay up a little later," said Owens. "Forcing them to ignore this biology disrupts the sleep cycle, sometimes dangerously. The deepest REM sleep takes place during the last third of sleep, just when we are waking them up to get ready for the bus. As the week goes on, the child gets more and more sleep deprived, then tries to 'catch-up' with a long sleep on the weekends." Studies show that there is no real benefit to the "catch-up plan." "Instead," said Owens, "it's like these kids eventually enter a semi-permanent jet lag state. Not exactly peak conditions for learning, thinking creatively, engaging in sports, or just about any aspect of daily life. Worse, studies are showing sleep deprivation in our kids is having negative effects on their health and welfare a long way down the road as well." Owens provided data linking prolonged abnormal sleep patterns with diabetes, obesity, depression, bipolar and other disorders.

that have made the change to later start times. She provided statistics from these school districts showing increased attendance, decreased tardiness, reports of less depression in the student population, better test scores, and "Here's a biggie," she said. "The data shows the areas where school starts later for high schoolers report fewer car crashes involving these young drivers. When you think about it, it makes sense. The kids behind the wheel are more awake and more aware of risks."

To date, she has spoken at more than ten PTA-organized events and continues to solicit input from the public. "I am ready to keep showing up to talk about these issues and get feedback and suggestions. Changing the start times of high school is key to solving this growing health crisis, but we still need to educate students and parents on the importance of getting enough sleep."

More information on the proposal and on the science and statistics of sleep in adolescence can be found at the Fairfax County Public Schools' website, www.fcps.edu, Dr. Owens' website www.smartschoolstart.org, and at the SLEEP website www.sleepinfairfax.org.

Owens discussed examples of other districts around the country



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Martha Purnell and her daughter Hannah. The Purnells recently moved to the area from Wisconsin, where school's started later. Hannah attends Marshall High School.

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OPINION

Holidays Are About Giving

So many needs, so many great organizations, give locally where your heart leads you.

The holidays are about giving. They are about children. The holidays are about sharing, about joy, about alleviating suffering for others. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation.

Most of us live in neighborhoods that are very homogenous. There are exceptions, but most people reading this live in affluent areas where the houses are mostly in the same price range, and while there might be some ethnic diversity, there is little in the way of economic diversity.

It's easy to forget that there are massive unmet needs, hungry children, homeless families most with at least one working parent, homeless individuals with jobs and without jobs, people who don't know for sure whether they will have enough to eat or be able to be warm enough, people who are choosing between medical care and car repair when forgoing the car repair could mean losing a job.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, about 50,000 of the 185,000 students qualify to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. Many elementary schools staff are discovering that for some of these students, a majority of students in some schools, they only meals they can count on are breakfast and lunch on school days.

Nonprofits, school staff and individuals have been working to send backpacks of healthy, kid-friendly food home with students on the weekend.

It's hard to imagine 50,000 students going hungry; it's obvious that children who aren't sure they will be able to eat when they are hungry are not going to have joyous holidays filled with family meals, gifts and special activities.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are



Needy families wait on line to receive groceries and gift certificates at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Herndon on Nov. 16. Sixty families an hour were escorted through the church supermarket during seven hour LINK event. www.linkagainsthunger.org 703-437-1776

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANK SIMMONS

a few ideas. We welcome suggestions for other groups.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Where To Give Locally

In no particular order:

- ❖ Our Daily Bread — has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. The Holiday Program helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for their children, making last year's holiday season brighter for approximately 3,000 families. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.com/holiday
- ❖ Food for Others distributed more than 2.4 million pounds of free food to families in need in Northern Virginia in the year ending June 30, 2012. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com
- ❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. www.echo-inc.org.
- ❖ Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. Now collecting gift cards and food baskets for Thanksgiving, gifts and food baskets for Christmas, and warm coats. 703-339-8611 www.lortonaction.org.
- ❖ Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and the Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. <http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/>
- ❖ Office to End and Prevent Homelessness needs just a few thousand dollars more in

contributions for Jeans Day (in October) to qualify for a matching grant from the Phillip L. Graham Fund, turning many \$5 and greater donations into \$50,000 to help thousands of homeless in Fairfax County. www.ziphomelessness.com

- ❖ 12 Ways of Giving: Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships "12 Ways of Giving" campaign is an annual event that showcases many ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season, highlighting nonprofits in Fairfax County. www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org
- ❖ Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE) — ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org
- ❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org
- ❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. jsfreeclinic.org.
- ❖ Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org.
- ❖ Cornerstones, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- ❖ SHARE of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards and more. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org
- ❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and

holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org

- ❖ FACETS helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. FACETS offers a monthly Youth Volunteer Night, with the next one scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 20, 5:30-6:30pm. Information about supply donations and FACETS holiday gifts drive is available on the website at www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030
- ❖ Committee for Helping Others (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of concerned churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. 14th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road. Vienna 703-281-7614 <http://www.cho-va.com>
- ❖ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), working with the Office of Coordinated Services Planning, Fairfax County Department of Human Services, FISH helps local citizens who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>
- ❖ Herndon-Reston FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 <http://herndonrestonfish.org>
- ❖ Lamb Center, www.thelambcenter.org. Day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178
- ❖ Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite Drive Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124 703-385-3267 <http://www.nvfs.org/>
- ❖ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306 <http://www.ucmagency.org/>
- ❖ Touching Heart in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. <http://www.touchingheart.com>, 703-901-7355

Fairfax CONNECTION

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You Can Make a Difference

BY MICHAEL L. O'REILLY

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, a time when friends and families gather to celebrate and give thanks for many things – their health, their jobs, their homes or even the meals that are prepared for them.

As the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, I want to give thanks for those who supported Fairfax County's Third Annual Jeans Day. I am pleased to report that, so far, we have raised nearly \$18,000 with more than 100 businesses, civic and faith based organizations, nonprofits and government agencies participating.

But we can do more.

This year, we were fortunate to receive a \$25,000 challenge grant from the Philip L. Graham Fund. If we are successful in raising \$25,000, the grant will match the \$25,000, adding an additional \$25,000 contribution for a total of \$50,000.

Fairfax County is serious about reducing the number of residents who fall into homelessness, and these funds are critical to our efforts. We reject the idea that it is somehow acceptable for anyone to be without a place to call home, to sleep outdoors in the winter, because they have no better option.

Consider these facts:

- ❖ It might surprise you to learn that we

counted on one day over 1300 homeless in our community.

- ❖ More than 75 percent of children in homeless families are under the age of 11.

- ❖ Nearly 60 percent adults in homeless families work. The majority of people without homes in our community are children and working families.

- ❖ Close to 60 percent of homeless persons are in families.

Low incomes and expensive housing are the main reasons for homelessness in our community. It is impossible to pay for an apartment when earning minimum wage—even if you work 24 hours per day, seven days a week. With \$50,000, we can house some of our most vulnerable citizens who are homeless and in need of assistance.

This year as you sit down to enjoy this bounty, I would like you to remember the most vulnerable among us.

The Philip L. Graham Fund has given us until Dec. 15 to raise an additional \$7,000 to meet our challenge goal of \$25,000. It is a goal we must make and it will take all of us working together and doing more.

Here's how you can help:

1. Increase your personal contribution. Include the Partnership to End Homelessness in your year-end giving.

2. Help by asking your constituents and

SEE O'REILLY, PAGE 13

To All City of Falls Church and City of Fairfax Water System Customers

Fairfax Water is busy planning to welcome you as a new customer on Fri., Jan. 3, 2014. We want to ensure you are aware of a public hearing on the proposed Schedule of Water Rates, Fees, and Charges. The public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 19, 2013, at Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue in Fairfax.

The proposed rate schedule incorporates the existing commodity rates and service charges of the City of Falls Church and the City of Fairfax water systems. These rates, effective Jan. 3, 2014, include the following:

1. City of Falls Church water system service area:
 - a. A Quarterly Billing Service Charge of \$8.07*
 - b. A base Commodity Charge of \$3.27 per 1,000 gallons of water
 - c. A Peak Use Charge of \$4.99 per 1,000 gallons of water
2. City of Fairfax water system service area:
 - a. A Minimum Charge for residential customers of \$23.92
 - b. A Minimum Charge for commercial customers of \$28.12
 - c. A base Commodity Charge of \$4.57 per 1,000 gallons of water beyond the 5,000 gallon minimum
3. All other rates, fees, and charges will be equalized with Fairfax Water's existing rate schedule.

You can see all of the proposed changes on our Web site at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm. If you would like to speak at the hearing or would like a copy of the proposed changes, please call 703-289-6017, TTY 711. You may also submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:



Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

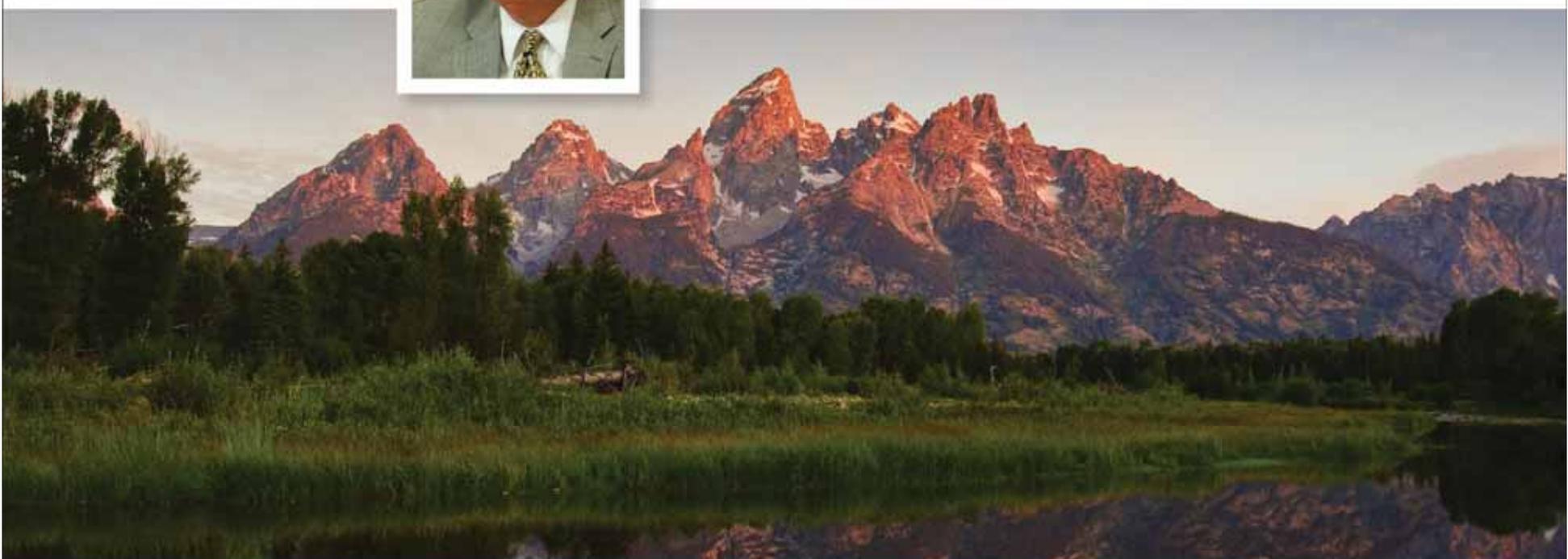
All written comments must be received by the close of business on Wed., Dec. 18, 2013, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

*Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8-inch residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges.



Thank You!

REPRESENTATIVE CONNOLLY



The National Parks Conservation Association recognizes **Rep. Connolly's** strong commitment to preserving our national heritage as demonstrated by his votes on seven key pieces of legislation raised in the 112th Congress. Thanks to **Rep. Connolly's** voice, places like Yellowstone, Shenandoah and Petersburg National Battlefield will be preserved for our children and grandchildren for years to come.



John Ray, Meg Brantly and Duane Carlson have been volunteering at ECHO for several years. Carlson is one of ECHO's founding fathers.



Maria Galligan of Fairfax Station volunteers in the clothing department of ECHO.

Helping Families Enjoy Holidays

ECHO continues its holiday food program to serve members of the Springfield community.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Eccumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) has been serving members of the Springfield and Burke community for over 40 years. The all-volunteer organization provides assistance to those suffering from poverty and emergency situations year-round.

ECHO's Thanksgiving food basket program is currently underway for the second year in a row. According to Meg Brantly, the executive director of ECHO, the organization has sent out letters inviting 542 eligible families to participate.

A network of 26 congregations sponsors a certain amount of families each year for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food basket programs. Local businesses and other organizations also help.

"What the donors can't pick up, ECHO can pick up," Brantly said.

Brantly said that about half of the families have responded.

ACCORDING TO BRANTLEY, who started at the organization 14 years ago sorting clothes, former clients and family members of the program often give back later on in their lives.

"A lady came in to donate food. Her grandmother was a former client of ours years ago, and she was living with her



The sign in front of the ECHO building tells the community the items most needed by the organization.

grandmother. This lady came to the door with food to donate, and then wanted to know if she could also be a donor for a family. She can remember as a child, ECHO coming to her house with food, and she wanted to give back," Brantly said.

ECHO's gift program is another way the organization helps the community during the holiday season. The program is for children and allows parents to pick out gifts for their family. Families in need

are identified by ECHO, and set up a time slot to come to the office and pick out gifts. ECHO volunteers dressed as elves see seven adults every 20 minutes during this program.

"We collect all year round," Brantly said. "Our congregations have giving trees, and they will put labels on the tree for the gift they need."

The program has the potential to reach 733 children, but Brantly doesn't expect a response from all

of those families.

In addition to the holiday food and gift programs, ECHO also needs donations, including food, for the rest of the year.

"In the month of October, we actually serviced more families than we have since 2009, when the economy tanked," Brantly said. "I think probably with the shutdown and various things in October we ended up giving more food to families since that date. That translated to 2,583 bags of food."

Marianne DeHart of Burke has been volunteering at ECHO for over nine years, and is a driving force behind the school supplies program.

"The school supplies program is my passion," DeHart said. "I'm a retired teacher and I really feel the need for kids to go to school and being able to have the backpacks and supplies that everyone else has."

John Ray of Springfield said that personal care items and essentials such as cooking oil are needed right now. Ray has been volunteering at ECHO since 1996.

"My wife had volunteered here before and said it was a good place to go," Ray said.

Duane Carlson, a founding father of ECHO, enjoys working with the other volunteers.

"Knowing that all these volunteers are committed to helping other people is very important. There's only a certain group of people that actively take the time and make the effort, and I'm glad to be part of that," Carlson said.



Giving Presents to Homeless Animals

The holidays will be a little brighter for shelter pets, thanks to the efforts of Felicia Norman, owner of Walking The Dogs (www.walkingdogsva.com), a local dog walking and pet sitting company. Norman's daughter, Maggie, is pictured above with Delilah, who is looking for her forever home, at the Friends of Homeless Animals (FOHA) in Aldie, Va. Walking The Dogs joined forces with the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters for the third annual "Presents 4 Pets" campaign. Norman raised more than \$4,000 in donations and products for the benefit of FOHA during National Animal Shelter Appreciation week, Nov. 3-9.



Connolly Visits Fairfax Fire Station

Congressman Gerry Connolly joined Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers and Fairfax firefighters for lunch Monday at Fire Station 40 (Legato Road, Fairfax Center). Connolly thanked the fire fighters for their commitment and service during a ride-a-long with Chief Bowers to several fire stations and the training facility.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Congressman Connolly joined Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers and firefighters from Fire Station 40 in Fairfax in front of the station's new fire engine. Connolly was visiting fire stations on a pre-Thanksgiving ride-a-long with Chief Bowers.

VIEWPOINTS

What Are You Thankful for this Thanksgiving?

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD AT FAIRFAX CITY LIBRARY ON NOV. 21.



"I'm thankful to our health and well-being, family together and friends."

— LINA AND LAYLA OUSMAN, FAIRFAX



"My family, my health, and waiting to start a new job; I got hired at the Department of Justice."

— PATRICK OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY



"To God for giving me this life; to 'Lady Luck,' to my destiny, which brought me to this land of opportunity where I could start a new life."

— PADMINI SAMPAT, CENTREVILLE



"I'm thankful for our children and grandchildren who are all healthy and doing well."

— MARVIN KLEMOW, FAIRFAX



"I'm thankful for my health, my friends and my family."

— GABE HUDSON, FAIRFAX

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* With coupon, not valid with any other offer, one per person per visit.

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703-425-0710 • www.antioch-church.org

VIEWPOINTS

What Are You Thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day?

—JANELLE GERMANOS

Jerry Silva, Barista, Burke

"I am thankful for traveling. I'm going back to Texas, and I'm happy my family is still around so I can visit them."



Ashley Williams, Tutor, Fairfax

"I'm thankful for the fact that all of my family can come together for one day, and that they are all alive."



Megan Bayne, Personal care assistant, Fairfax

"I'm thankful for my sobriety."



Raquel McCool, Server at Saxby's, Fairfax

"I'm thankful to have a warm place to live."



Chris Douthat, Server at Brion's, student, Fairfax

"I'm thankful for my family."



Hau Chu, Student at George Mason University, Lorton

"I'm thankful for just the usual things: family, friends and good health."



Support



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER WASHINGTON
FAIRFAX COUNTY REGION

The mission of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington is to help boys and girls of all backgrounds, especially those who need us most, build confidence, develop character and acquire the skills needed to become productive, civic-minded, responsible adults.

BGGW's Fairfax County region includes the Culmore Character Club and Murraygate Village Club, serving 582 members a year. On average, 120 youths come through the doors every day during the school year.



Meet Henry Lopez, 2013 National Boys & Girls Clubs Virginia Youth of the Year, who grew up with the BGGW Culmore Character Club for 14 years. Henry now attends George Mason University on an Honor Scholarship studying computer engineering.

Join in our annual giving campaign:

For more information,
E-mail wkang@bgcgw.org
Phone: 703-820-5206

Visit <http://www.bggw.org/givegreatfutures/> and select "Fairfax County"



PHOTO BY ED LULL

Successful at State Meet

The Lake Braddock girls' cross country team finished third in 6A during the VHSL state meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

NEWS

Members of the City of Fairfax Fire Station 403: (back row): Shane Mitchell, Roger Hundal, Clinton Haynes, Dave Rohr, Joe Waters, Page Whitacre, Joshua McCoin, Keith Virts, Daniel Richardson, Jessica Merrill and Dan Lowe. (Front row): Jason Gorres, Joe Charley, Allen Nicholson, Ronald Teribery, John Jeniec and Henry Requejo.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Firehouse Subs Gives Gift

City of Fairfax Fire Station 403 receives forcible entry equipment.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Firehouse Subs on Main Street in Fair City Mall donated fire equipment to the City of Fairfax Fire Station 403 on Thursday, Nov. 7. Two forcible entry door systems and props, worth \$10,000, will be used to train firefighters on how to forcibly enter locked doors, and

thus gain access to trapped victims in rescue situations.

"It feels great," said Firehouse Subs owner Roger Hundal, 32, of Fairfax, who held day-to-day fundraisers at his restaurant. "The local community stepped up and helped donate for the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation."

"It's a great training tool for our personnel," said Fire Chief Dave Rohr. "The challenge is to have

real substantial doors for the training and this gives us that." He added: "The foundation has been extremely beneficial. It really enhances what we are able to do."

In 2005, Firehouse Subs created the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation to provide funding, equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Its 680 restaurants have given \$7.7 million to hometown heroes in 38 states and Puerto Rico, including \$401,200 in the state of Virginia.

O'Reilly

FROM PAGE 9

business associates. Many of them make year-end contributions and will give to worthy causes when a trusted friend encourages them to do so.

3. Contact your business colleagues with a personal call and tell them we are only \$7,000 from our \$50,000 goal and let them know we need their investment in this challenge. Encourage them to match their employee giving. Many businesses already will.

Go to www.ziphomelessness.com to help us reach our challenge to help prevent and end homelessness in our community.

On behalf of the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Apple Federal Credit Union, Connection Newspapers, Dulles Regional Chamber, Phillip L. Graham Fund, and Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, we sincerely thank you!

Help now by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/events/jeansday/2013-jeans-day-event.htm> or contact Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness for other ways to impact homelessness at 703-324-9492, TTY 711.

Michael L. O'Reilly is Chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness

FAITH NOTES

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.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in

Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplce.org.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Anglican

Church of the Apostles
703-591-1974

Truro Episcopal...703-273-1300

Assembly of God

Jubilee Christian Center
703-383-1170

Fairfax Assembly of God
703-591-4284

Way of Faith Assembly of God
703-573-7221

Baptist

Braddock Missionary ... 703-830-4125

Calvary Hill...703-323-1347

Fairfax Baptist...703-273-1820

Fairfax Circle...703-573-7372

Greater Little Zion...703-764-9111

Iglesia Bautista La Gran Comiscica...703-323-5858

Judah Praise Fellowship Christian...703-758-1456

Northern Virginia Primitive Baptist...703-255-0637

Buddhist

Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center... 703-774-9692

Bible

Bancroft Bible Church... 703-425-3800

Catholic

St. Leo the Great Catholic... 703-273-5369

St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church...
703-978-4141

St. Paul Catholic Church... 703-968-3010

Coptic Orthodox

St. Mark...703-591-4444

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

First Annual Fairfax Turkey Trot. 9 a.m. 9330 Pentland Place, Fairfax. Four mile turkey trot. <http://www.fairfaxturkeytrot.com/>

Thanksgiving Day Church Service. 11 a.m. Christian Science Church, 3725 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring family, kids, and friends (before feast and football games) for a Thanksgiving church service.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Black Friday at the Workhouse. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Discover the work of about 100 artists and find things at any price value. <http://www.workhousearts.org/events/visual-arts/black-friday-workhouse>

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

"A Chanticleer Christmas." 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A Chanticleer Christmas will showcase ancient hymns, venerated and sacred songs, classical works and a selection of festive and familiar carols and spirituals from Europe and America. Tickets: \$50, \$42 and \$25. <http://cfa.gmu.edu/>

Cookies with Santa: A Pre-Show Treat Before "In Santa, We Believe." 11 a.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Tickets: \$8.50 Adults, \$8 Children under 12 years old.

In Santa We Believe. 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. LIVE onstage! Join for an afternoon of adventure with Vianlix Mestey's original story. Tickets: \$8 Children, \$10 Adults.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Civil War "Christmas in Camp." 12-4 p.m. 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Participate in camp drills and learn about Civil War-era holiday customs with Company D, 17th Virginia Infantry, "Fairfax Rifles" C.S.A. 703-591-0560.

TUESDAY/DEC. 3-

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Drumming with Dishes: Holiday Edition. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. This whimsical production is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show, which features two adult actors and a musician. Geared towards children ages 2-6. For tickets and information, visit: <http://www.workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/drumming-dishes-holiday-edition-7>

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

Annual Holiday Tunes for Tots Concert. 10 a.m. W.T. Woodson High School Gymnasium, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Tickets: \$3 per person. Questions: 703-764-5820

Light up the Night: Community Menorah Lighting. 6:30 p.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Annual Holiday Tunes for Tots Concert. 10 a.m. W.T. Woodson High School Gymnasium, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Tickets: \$3 per person. Questions: 703-764-5820

Annual Holiday Tunes for the Young at Heart. 7 p.m. W.T.



PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOG/PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

Standing: Ethan Phillips as Peter, seated, from left: Stephanie Marinova as Li'l, Amanda Ranowsky as Mrs. Cratchit, and Ariana Colligan as Martha in rehearsal for the Providence Players family holiday production of "A Christmas Carol."

Providence Players to Present 'A Christmas Carol'

The Providence Players and The Young Hearts present "A Christmas Carol" at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: Dec. 6-15, 2013. Tickets: \$17. Call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org. Note: Half of all net proceeds will benefit The Young Hearts Foundation, dedicated to improving the lives of young people affected by long-term illness.

Woodson High School Gymnasium, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Tickets: \$3 per person. Questions: 703-764-5820

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Virginia Opera Presents: The Magic Flute. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$44-\$86. <http://cfa.gmu.edu/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Plantation Christmas. 2-7 p.m. Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider by the fire, and sample period food prepared in the hearth kitchen. \$15 adults; \$5 children. 703-550-9220.

City of Fairfax of Lights & Carols. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Old Town Fairfax, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, smores by the Yule log, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov>

Historic Clifton Candlelight Home Tour. 4-7 p.m. Historic District, Clifton. Five homes trimmed for the holidays, two churches and community hall will be open for touring in the historic district.

Tickets: \$20. <http://cliftonva.com/>

Art Guild of Clifton Holiday Art Exhibit and Sale. 4-9 p.m. Clifton Town Hall Meeting, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Enjoy original art, jewelry, fiber arts, pottery, and photography made entirely by Clifton artists. www.artguildofclifton.org

Cabaret Series: Home for the Holidays. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Tickets: \$25, includes planche campagnarde.

Clifton Candlelight Homes Tour. 4-7 p.m. 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Five homes will be trimmed and open for touring, and two churches will have choirs singing. cliftonva.org.

Annual Tree Lighting. 7:30 p.m. Ayre Square, main square town in Clifton. Caroling, treats and hot chocolate.

Lunch with Santa. 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. The Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$6 per child. Tickets required. 703-385-7858.

Festival of Lights and Carols. 11 a.m., 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$6 per child for ages 10 and under. 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov

CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication; we recommend submitting your event two weeks ahead of time. To see more entertainment events, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/sep/26/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

Thanksgiving Day Church Service. 11 a.m. Christian Science Church, 3725 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring family, kids, and friends (before feast and football games) for a Thanksgiving church service.

FRIDAY-MONDAY/NOV. 29-DEC. 16

"Page Turners." Daily, at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The exhibit highlights visual artists who are also illustrators, to run concurrently with the 8th annual Northern Virginia Jewish Book Festival. Features Valerie Brown, freelance photographer with images from her "Capital Splendor: Gardens & Parks of Washington, DC," Ian Frank, architect and artist, Katherine Janus Kahn, illustrator of the Sammy Spider series and Ziz, a gigantic bird of Jewish mythology and The Ladysmiths: 16 of the group of local female metalsmiths' jewelry creations. 703-323-0880 or www.jccnvarts.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Home for Dinner Closing Reception. 6-9 p.m., Nov. 29, in the Vulcan Gallery, Community Action Space, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) and the Workhouse Arts Center are collaborating on the exhibition filled with arts that helps raise awareness about hunger and homelessness in southeast Fairfax County. Home for Dinner will showcase how community members can make a difference; bring canned food as a donation. www.workhousearts.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 2

Laura Black Murphy Book Signing Event. 4-8 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes, Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Murphy, a resident of Fairfax Station, Va., will be available to sign copies of her book, "My Little Messenger."

"The Mixed Nut." 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. The Fairfax Academy of Dance presents a dance performance featuring mixed variations from "The Nutcracker." Tickets: \$5.

TUESDAY/DEC. 3

Laura Black Murphy Book Signing Event. 4-8 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes, Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Murphy, a resident of Fairfax Station, Va., will be available to sign copies of her book, "My Little Messenger."

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Laura Black Murphy Book Signing Event. 4-8 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes, Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Murphy, a resident of Fairfax Station, Va., will be available to sign copies of her book, "My Little Messenger."

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

One Night Stands. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. In concert, one night only, featuring solo cabaret performers from the DC area. Two performers each night,

each performing a solo 45 minute set. Tickets: \$15-25.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The 2nd Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique historic venue, creating an atmosphere that encourages visitors to immerse themselves in the richness of this creative community.

Cecil Ray Comedy Club 7p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Host Cecil Ray leads the proceedings in a night of laughter with guest comedians from the mid-Atlantic region. Tickets: \$20-30.

SATURDAY/DEC. 21

An Irish Christmas - An Nollaig. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Irish-American fiddler Eileen Ivers brings the joy of the holiday season to Fairfax with her celebration for the whole family, a heartwarming concert filled with tales of Irish Christmas traditions and favorite Celtic holiday tunes. Tickets: \$25-\$50.

ONGOING

First Fridays at the Clifton Art Guild. 6-9 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 C Main St., Clifton. Enjoy a wine tasting and mix and mingle with the Art Guild of Clifton artists. 703-830-1480 or www.artguildofclifton.org/.

Saturday Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. church@sovgracefairfax.org or www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com.

Sunday Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. church@sovgracefairfax.org or www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com.

Fairfax Mosaic Wednesday Night Freshbikes Rides. 6:30 p.m., at Fairfax Mosaic Freshbikes, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Weekly bike rides leave from the Fairfax Mosaic store, the newest addition to the Freshbikes family of stores in the area. www.freshbikescycling.com.

Northern Virginia Shag Club. 6:30-10 p.m., at the Elks Lodge Fairfax, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Dance for two hours every Wednesday with free beginner lessons starting at 7:30 p.m. and dancing preceding and following; no partners needed. \$4. www.nvshag.org.

Join Jewish War Veterans of the USA. The Burke Post E 100 at 5712 Walnut Wood, Burke, invites Jewish veterans and servicemembers to join. 703-209-5925.

NVSC Dance. 6:30-10:30 p.m., at the Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Beginner lessons at 7:30 p.m. and a buffet dinner preceding from 6:45-8 p.m.; cash bar available. No partners needed. \$4; \$5 additional for buffet dinner. www.nvshag.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Jeffrey Siegel, "The Power and Passion of Beethoven." 8 p.m., Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. The acclaimed pianist performs Beethoven's "Rage Over a Lost Penny," "Sonata Pathétique," and "Farewell Sonata" as part of his Keyboard Conversation series. \$20-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on Feb. 11, 2014. HyltonCenter.org.

Beta Plan Discarded

FROM PAGE 3

line staffing while retaining a high level of service.

Vera Finberg, a librarian who attended the board meeting, said she was disappointed by the board's discussion of funding.

"This is a rich county," Finberg said. "Do not tell us you value libraries and don't have enough money to support them."

Finberg was joined by more than 50 library supporters — employees and volunteers — who attended the meeting to show support for library board's recommendations.

They applauded when Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence), dubbed the "dumpster diving supervisor," spoke. Smyth touched off a furious debate over how the library discards used books when she photographed dumpsters full of books in seemingly good condition that she found behind the library's technical operations center in Chantilly this summer.

On Aug. 29, Smyth recovered dozens of usable books from the dumpsters, and then took them to county officials who ordered an immediate stop to the discarding. Smyth said she learned that more than 250,000 books have been thrown out since October 2012.

"One never knows what this job will bring," Smyth said at the board meeting, adding that she was still hearing concerns about discards.

"We need to be sure books are on library shelves as long as possible. Mending used to be part of process. This is something that seems to have fallen by the way-side, and that's putting it nicely," Smyth said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he supported the library system and the public engagement process, but noted that

libraries had to find ways to adapt to a world where the Internet has replaced newsprint and e-books have supplanted paperbacks.

"Libraries everywhere are changing as new technology changes the nature of information-gathering," Cook said. "If the answers were simple, someone would have thought of it already."

Most of the supervisors praised the patrons and staff who participated in the public meetings and committees. "We heard you," Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) said. "In my opinion, in two months you've made tremendous progress." Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said she was grateful that library staff also attended the meetings. "We should look at who we are and who we should be serving ... Collaboration is important."

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the library controversy exposed a silver lining.

"Let there be no doubt in the community about the passion that citizens have about their libraries," McKay said. "We should be proud of all the responses we heard."

David Broder, president of the SEIU Virginia 512, said the library board's reports teach two lessons.

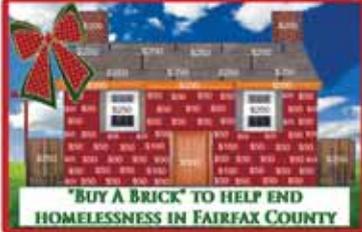
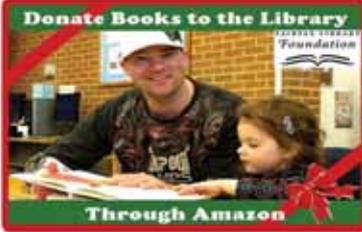
"First, local families love our libraries and library staff," Broder said. "Second, any so-called reforms which don't take advantage of librarians' expertise and which don't reflect the desires of the community are bound to fail. The Board of Supervisors needs to lead the effort to strengthen our libraries for the next generation."

Supervisors asked the Library Board to return in December with a plan for implementing the recommendations.

To read the Library Board of Trustees reports, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/communicationandevaluationreport.htm>

12 WAYS OF GIVING

The chaotic shopping season is here. This year give the gift of charity. Donate to your favorite nonprofit in someone's honor from the comfort of your home. Cross a name off your list and take a tax deduction. It's a win-win!! As our gift to you, OP³ has compiled "12 Ways of Giving in Fairfax County."

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 Every Child Deserves a Gift During the Holidays. FIREFIGHTERS FRIENDS TO THE RESCUE	 Donate Books to the Library Through Amazon	 ADOPT A FAMILY For the Holidays! A Way Forward: Standing together to stop Domestic and Sexual Violence
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SPORTS

Robinson Football Falls in Region Quarterfinals

Coach Meier leads Rams to successful season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson football program was in need of a head coach when Dan Meier agreed to take the reins on a one-year interim basis. The move was to bring stability until the hiring of the Rams' new leader.

Meier retired as Robinson Secondary School principal in April and felt the new principal should be able to choose the new head football coach. Since Matt Eline, who is now the school's principal, wasn't hired until the summer, Meier agreed to coach the Rams and eliminate a potential situation where players lacked leadership during offseason activities.

"We couldn't [leave] these young men in limbo," Meier said, "so I retried in April and they asked me and I said sure."

The Robinson football team played its final game of the 2013 season on Nov. 22, falling to Westfield 21-14 in the 6A North region quarterfinals at Westfield High School. After back-to-back subpar seasons (by Robinson's standards), the Rams finished the 2013 campaign with an 8-4 record, including a playoff victory over Patriot High School. Robinson's four losses came against Lake Braddock, Westfield (twice) and Centreville — three teams with a combined record of 34-2.

In the two previous seasons under head coach Trey Taylor, Robinson finished 9-16 with a 0-2 postseason mark.

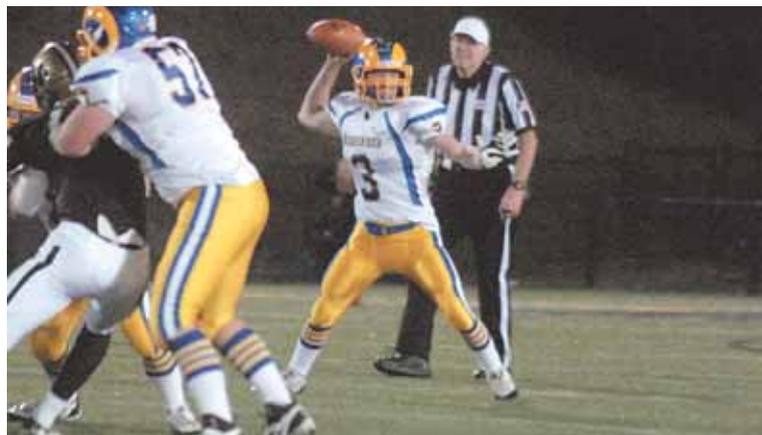
"I'm just very proud of our boys," Meier said. "We had great senior leadership and they competed every game. They really came out and they played their hearts out every game."

ON A NIGHT when the Westfield offense did not complete a pass, a dominant effort by senior running back Tyler Thrasher-Walker and a wrinkle coaches have been developing the past three weeks were enough to get the Bulldogs into the region final four.

The No. 3-seed Westfield football team defeated No. 11 Robinson 21-14 on Friday night in the 6A North region quarterfinals at Westfield High School. The Bulldogs, a run-oriented team to be-



Robinson running back Joe Wilson carries the ball against Westfield in the 6A North region quarterfinals on Nov. 22.



Robinson quarterback Jack Rowlett throws against Westfield in the 6A North region quarterfinals on Nov. 22.



Head coach Dan Meier and the Robinson football team take the field prior to their Nov. 22 playoff game at Westfield High School.

gin with, got all of their offensive production on the ground against the Rams, gaining more than 300 rushing yards. Junior quarterback Mason Scoville attempted two passes, each falling incomplete.

Thrasher-Walker carried 29 times for 203 yards and scored each of Westfield's three touchdowns. His 41-yard touchdown run with 9:25 remaining in the third quarter gave the Bulldogs a 21-7 advantage.

"We just knew that we had to [man] it up," Thrasher-Walker said. "[The ground attack] was working early in the game and we're like, it's not broke, no need

to fix it."

Westfield will travel to face undefeated Lake Braddock, the No. 2 seed, in the semifinals at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. The Bruins beat the Bulldogs 28-24 during the teams' regular-season meeting on Sept. 20 at Lake Braddock.

While the Westfield offense was one-dimensional in the run/pass sense on Friday night, the Bulldogs unleashed a wrinkle that kept Thrasher-Walker from being the only threat.

Senior receiver Devon Burns took snaps as a wildcat quarterback and carried seven times for

Group 6A North Region Football Playoffs

Three of four favorites advanced during the 6A North region football quarterfinals on Nov. 22, with Langley being the lone high seed to fall short.

The Saxons, seeded No. 5 in the region, lost to No. 13 Stonewall Jackson 51-48 in the region's highest-scoring game of the weekend. Stonewall Jackson will travel to face No. 1 Centreville in the semifinals at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. Undefeated Centreville beat No. 8 South County 55-35 in the

quarterfinals on Friday.

No. 2 Lake Braddock beat No. 7 Yorktown 40-7 to earn a trip to the semifinals, where the undefeated Bruins will host No. 3 Westfield at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. The Bulldogs beat No. 11 Robinson, 21-14.

Lake Braddock and Westfield faced one another during the regular season, with the Bruins winning 28-24 on Sept. 20. At the time, it was Westfield's first regular-season loss since 2010.

100 yards. The speedster's first four carries went for 14, 27, 17 and 29 yards, respectively.

"I'm really proud of the offensive staff," Westfield head coach Kyle Simmons said. "We put a couple different things in. We've been building on it week after week trying to not be so predictable. We like our bread and butter — we like our inside/outside zone, we like our counter — but we just tried to add to that to [give] some teams some things to think about."

"... Not a completed pass in the" whole game so getting Devon the ball in a different way is something that we've been working on and have gotten a little better at each week."

Burns transferred to Westfield from Freedom-South Riding last year and was deep threat in the Bulldogs' passing game. With Westfield not passing the ball as much this season, running the wildcat with Burns is a way for the Bulldogs to put the ball in the hands of one of their top playmakers.

"As a coaching staff, if he's not getting the ball in the passing game then it's our job to find a way to get him the ball," Simmons said. "We'd be dumb to leave him out there by himself, not getting anything accomplished."

The Westfield ground game wasn't the only source of success for the Bulldogs on Friday night. The Westfield defense got a huge stop with the game on the line, forcing a turnover on downs at the Westfield 35-yard line with 1:43 remaining. Robinson started its final drive at its own 5-yard line with 7:07 remaining in the contest. After a dropped pass wiped out what could have been a huge gain on first down, the Rams marched into Westfield territory with hopes of tying the score. An 8-yard pass from Rowlett to Shaquan Jackson on third down gave the Rams a fourth-and-5 at the 35, but Rowlett's fourth-down

pass fell incomplete.

ROBINSON had all three of its timeouts remaining, but Thrasher-Walker gained 30 yards on four carries to help the Bulldogs run out the clock.

"We played against a very fine football team," Meier said. "Give them credit; they have a great program and they play hard. Year in and year out, they're always there. You know when you come over here, you're in for a battle."

Meier said he does not plan to coach the Rams next season.

"Anything I could do to help the school," Meier said. "I'll do that all my life. It's my school I love the school and I think our team represented the school well."

Westfield scored the game's first points on its second possession after Ra'Shaune Rice's interception return gave the Bulldogs the ball at the Robinson 22-yard line. Two plays later, Thrasher-Walker scored on a 19-yard run, giving Westfield a 7-0 lead with 4:58 left in the opening quarter.

Robinson answered on its ensuing possession with a 14-play, 55-yard drive ending with a 5-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-2 by quarterback Jack Rowlett. The drive lasted 7 minutes, 34 seconds and tied the score at 7-all.

Westfield's next possession started at the Robinson 44-yard line. Five plays later, Thrasher-Walker scored on a 4-yard run, giving the Bulldogs a 14-7 lead they would not relinquish.

Trailing 21-7, Rowlett found a wide-open Endi Ackerman for a 32-yard touchdown, cutting the Westfield lead to 21-14 with 6:35 remaining in the third quarter, but the Rams would get no closer.

Rowlett completed 6 of 11 passes for 106 yards with one touchdown and an interception. He also scored a rushing touchdown.

Robinson running back Joe Wilson carried 15 times for 96 yards.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
AMR Wines Plus, LLC trading as AMR Wines Plus, 5401 Port Royal Rd, Springfield, VA 22151 and 6461 Autumn Glen Ct, Alexandria, VA 22312. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wholesale wine and wine importer-in-state license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Anna Ryjik, Manager/member
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 of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC LICENSE
Iamaya-V, LLC trading as Margarita's Grill, 9526 Burke Rd, Burke, VA 22015. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL(ABC) for a Wine and beer on premises, mixed beverages restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Efen Amaya, member
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 of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between (1069) Barbara Franceschi and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, bags, furniture, printer, statues, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Thursday December 19, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between (3109) Terry Glover/Terry D Glover and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, bike, toys, boxes, suitcase, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Thursday December 19, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

In addition we will be auctioning unit 2031 whereby the proceeds will go to local charities. For more information regarding "Charity Storage" feel free to contact us at: 703-352-8840 ext 2

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pictured, from left: Jennifer West; Nicole Hange, the new Economic Development Director for the City of Fairfax; Maddie Leasure; Cameron Graham, after whom 'Cameron's Coffee and Chocolates' was named; Rachel Dix-Kessler; Tom Jackson; Wendy Bennett; Doug Church, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Founding Chairman and Director; Justina Dambrauskaite; and Ellen Graham, Founder of the Every 1 Can Work non-profit organization — and Cameron's mom. In the photo, Maddie is holding the city's proclamation in support of Small Business Saturday.

Small Business Saturday in Fairfax City

The City of Fairfax and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce encourage shoppers to support local small businesses this holiday season by shopping at such stores on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 30.

The city is full of small businesses that offer unique services and products. One such business is Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates on Fairfax Boulevard.

Many small businesses are launched because someone has a passion — whether it be for spices, stitching, books or gaming. Cameron's Chocolates was launched by a couple to support their daughter Cameron's passion for baking and chocolate — and to help their daughter, who has intellectual disabilities, to support herself. Additionally, at least half of the employees of Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates have intellectual disabilities.

Small businesses shoppers can stay close to home and support their favorite small, local businesses on what is considered the busiest shopping weekend of the year.

Additionally, merchants can visit the Small Business Saturday website (https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/Shop-Small/) to find ways to attract and encourage local patronage of their smaller stores, including use of signage, social media and word-of-mouth.

Shoppers are encouraged to get familiar with the city's small businesses beforehand: take a look at your favorite neighborhood shopping centers, as well as those across town, to help you make up your holiday lists and shopping guides.

While you're out, find a new favorite among the city's many dining establishments to help you keep your stamina for shopping excursions.

Weichert Realtors Recognizes Fair Oaks Office and Top Associate

Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced the Fair Oaks office was recognized for outstanding performance in October. The office led the entire company in sales, as well as the company and the region, which comprises offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for new home dollar volume.

Additionally, Sales Associate Nadia Taherah Sadrzadeh of the Fair Oaks office was individually recognized for her exceptional industry success during the month of October. A top producer, Sadrzadeh led the region for new home dollar volume.

Invite this top neighborhood specialist in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer. She can be reached in Weichert's Fair Oaks office at 3998 Fair Ridge Drive or by phone at 703-934-0400.

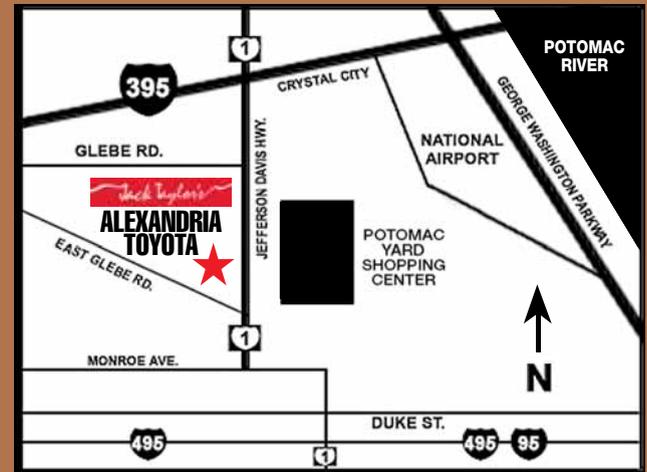


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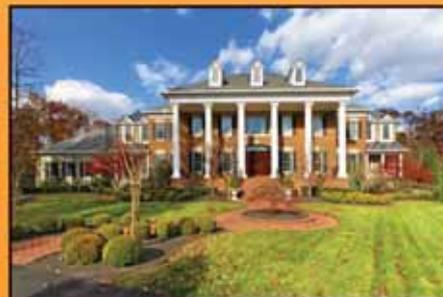
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