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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

# Festival of Lights and Carols

Members of the Sidney Lanier Middle School Chorus perform holiday songs.

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A Taste of  
Braddock  
Holiday Party

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Here They Come  
A-Wassailing

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PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Girl Scouts from Service Unit 556 sing holiday songs.



Ashley Evans, 5 1/2, of Fairfax Station roasts marshmallows.



The petting zoo at the Kitty Pozer Garden.

# Festival of Lights and Carols

Holiday music, crafts and lunch with Santa in the City of Fairfax.

The City of Fairfax held its Festival of Lights and Carols on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Kitty Pozer Garden in Fairfax. The event included holiday music performed by local students, crafts, lunch with Santa, a holiday tree lighting and a candlelight tour of the Ratcliffe-Allison House.

— STEVE HIBBARD



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<p><b>CAROUSEL RIDES WITH SANTA</b> Saturdays, December 7 - December 21 - 12-2 PM</p>	<p><b>ICE SKATING RINK</b> November 29 - January 5</p>

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On the banks of the Potomac River at the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, with easy access from I-495 and I-295

Family and friends turned out to support Mario Rubio at the installation ceremony for the Chairman-Elect and other Board Members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. From left: Mario C. Rubio, Mario S. Rubio, Maureen Crowley, Rubio's mother Emma Rubio, Mario Rubio, Arlene Tunon, Carmen Tunon, and Rubio's son, Ramseys.



## Mario Rubio Sworn In as Chairman

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Realtors Association holds installation ceremony for new board.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) installed their 2014 Board on Dec. 5 at a ceremony held at the association's Fairfax headquarters. Outgoing Chairman Jon Wolford of McEneaney Associates hosted the proceedings, which included a number of awards and recognitions in addition to the official swearing in of the new officers.

Mario Rubio, owner of Annandale-based Rubio Real Estate, succeeds Wolford as Chairman of the Board. In his speech to the standing-room-only conference room crowd, Rubio praised his predecessor, paid tribute to two mentors, Rennee Miller and Luis Lama, who had guided him on his career path, and promised to continue leading the association with the high ethical standards for which it is known. Rubio, the first Hispanic Army veteran to achieve this position, declared he is "passionate about this work" and also pledged to continue to seek out ways to serve the community as well as the membership.

In 2004 he established the Rubio Foundation, and in 2009 launched "Mi Casa es Su Casa," holding public seminars, producing radio shows and now an on-line show aimed particularly at educating Spanish-speakers on the ins-and-outs of the real estate and home buying, "empowering them to make better real estate decisions." Rubio also takes the association's obligation to its membership to heart. "NVAR helps improve your bottom line," is part of the mission that Rubio promises to uphold in his new role. Networking, political action, continuing education and an emphasis on communication are some of the lynchpins of Rubio's approach.

Rubio and the 2014 Board of Directors were officially installed by past NVAR Chairman Tom Stevens. The Chairman's Gavel was passed down a line-up of



Thomas Stevens, past Chair of the NVAR, administers the oath of office to Mario Rubio, in-coming Chairman of the Board.

past chairpersons until it reached Stevens at the podium who handed it to the newest Chairman.

During the ceremony, Linda Wolf with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage of Alexandria was honored with the MRIS Adam D. Cockey, Jr. Community Leadership Award for her numerous charitable activities, presented by MRIS CEO David Charron. Virginia Delegate-elect Marcus Simon (District 53) was named the 2013 Affiliate Member of the Year. The association also welcomed three new members to their Hall of Fame – Susan Holbrook Daly of Springfield, Tom Meyer of Arlington, and George Mills of Burke.

Past Chairman Doris Barrell returned from her home in Florida to accept the honor of Honorary Lifetime Member. Barrell may not still be showing homes, but she is still putting her many years of experience to work for the association's membership. Barrell has taught a number of real estate courses over the years, written textbooks on the subject and is now at work writing the curriculum for the NVAR's online realtor school, Razorsharp. "You don't just stop," she said. "There's a lot to pass on."

After the official business of the day was concluded, the assembly took some time out to relax and reconnect at the reception following the installation, but being realtors, the attendees multitasked with wine glasses in one hand and cell phones in the other.

## New Approach to Mental Health

Reforms in wake of tragedy involving state senator's son.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

Advocates for mental health services have been calling for improved services and increased funding for years, although the issue has been pushed aside year after year. But now that the son of state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25) committed suicide after stabbing his father, a new sense of urgency is emerging in advance of the upcoming General Assembly session. This week, Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell proposed adding \$38 million over two years to the existing \$250 million budget for community service boards across the commonwealth.

"It makes you wonder why a crisis was needed to initiate the type of funding that we need," said Pamela Barrett, a member of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. "We are so far behind other states in mental health crisis response funding as it is, and it's something that the CSBs have been lobbying for and begging for for years."

McDonnell also issued an executive order 68 to convene a task force on improving mental health services and crisis response. The governor described his task force as a group of leaders in the mental health and law enforcement as well as the judicial system and private hospitals. Within minutes of McDonnell's announcement, Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe issued a statement commending the governor, an indication he intends to follow through when he assumes the reins of power next year. But advocates for mental health remain skeptical.

FOR NOW, the issue seems to have newfound momentum — the result of a series of events that unfolded last month, when an emergency custody order was issued for the senator's son but a psychiatric bed could not be located before the order expired. That's why one of the reforms proposed by the governor is allowing magistrates to extend the orders by two hours.

Another proposal would extend temporary detention orders to 72 hours, a proposal that would cost about \$1.6 million a year. Funding is also proposed for the Western State Hospital, where Northern Virginia jurisdictions send patients, which would be about \$680,000 a year.

"These proposals will make a dent, but this is certainly not going to solve the problem," said Judith Deane of the Arlington Community Services Board. "Northern Virginia jurisdictions put a lot of their own money into this, so in that sense we are better off than many other counties in Virginia. But we still have a lot of need."

Alexandria Community Services Board director Michael Gilmore said when he was director of the community services board that serves rural Bath County and Rockbridge County, the local funding for community services was about \$5 per capita when he left a decade ago. In Alexandria, by contrast, the local funding for community services is \$125 per capita. That's why a psychiatric bed might be much more difficult to find in the rural stretches of Virginia, where services are few and far between.

"Much of the state is dependent on billing Medicaid to cover the cost of the services they provide," said Gilmore. "But all five of the community services boards up here have much more local funding."

THE PROPOSALS INCLUDE expanding programs for child psychiatry and children's crisis response services as well as crisis intervention team programs, crisis stabilization services and discharge assistance programs. Other proposals include expanding mental health first aid programs, secure assessment centers and suicide prevention efforts. One initiative would spend \$1.8 million to create six secure crisis intervention team assessment centers where people can be held safely for evaluation and finding a bed without tying up law enforcement personnel.

"That's only \$300,000 a center," said Gilmore. "I think it's going to cost a lot more than that."



Top row, from left: Julie Nguyen, Alexis Kyler, John Cook, Paola Banzuelo, Kaylynn Campion. Bottom row, from left: Phoebe Banzuelo, Aislinn Chavez-Suazo, Chef Christine Gloninger, Patricia Banzuelo and Shulamy Figueroa.

# A Taste of Braddock Holiday Party

Hundreds attend party hosted by Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook.

Hundreds of people came out for the Annual Taste of Braddock Holiday Party on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Braddock Hall in the Kings Park Library. Supervisor John C. Cook and his staff greeted guests who dined on food donated by Braddock-area businesses. Free food was provided

by Café Rio, Milano's, Hunan West, Wegmans, Smith & Clarkson's, Aladdin's Eatery, among others.

"This is a great holiday tradition that predates me to (former Supervisor) Sharon Bulova," said Cook. "It's a great way to get the community out."

— STEVE HIBBARD



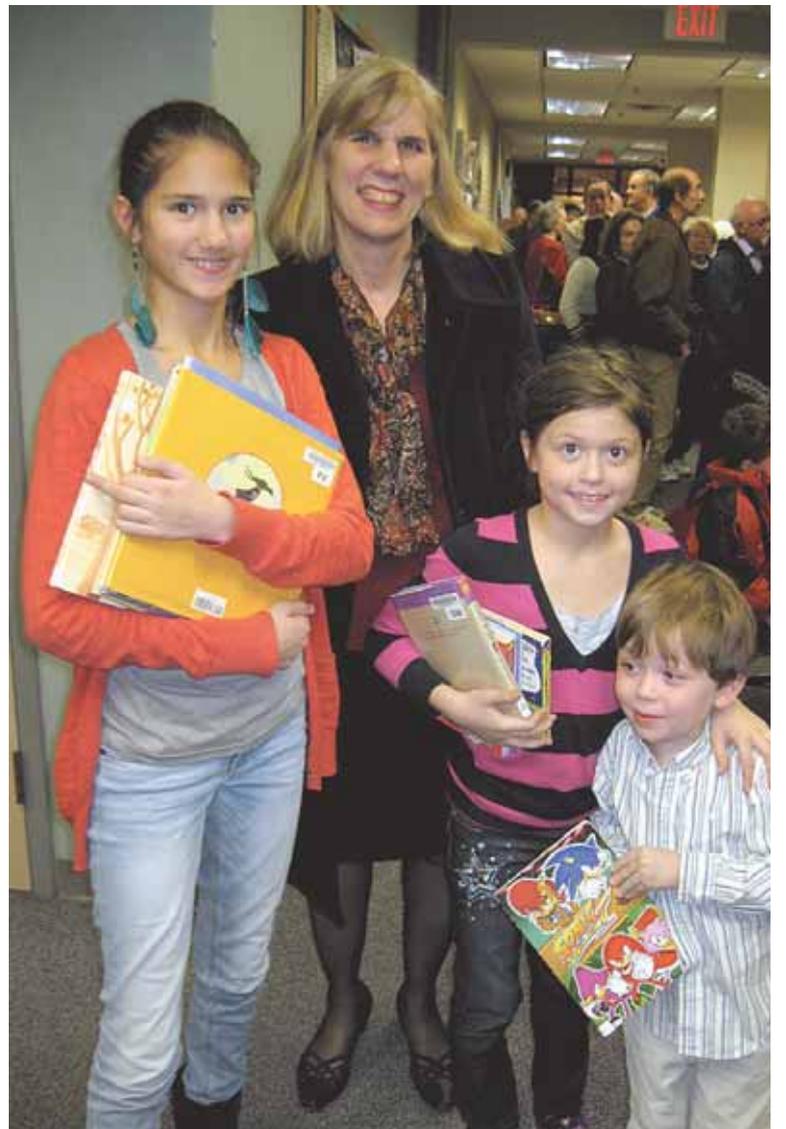
A Taste of Braddock Holiday Party guests included (clockwise from left): Susie Duvall, Jacquie Woodruff, Sharon Lynn, Howard Houghton, Grace Lynch, Daniele Robbins, Jeffrey Robbins and Bob Duvall.

Michael Abdelsayed and Liliane Haddad of Aladdin's Eatery in Burke Village Centre.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/ THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John C. Cook (left) chats with Chris Krisinger (right) and H. "Dusty" Einseln (center).



Supervisor John C. Cook's wife Valerie Sinkovits with children, Sarah, Laura and Steven C. Cook.

## Three Charged with DWI

In search of drunk drivers, Fairfax County police conducted a sobriety checkpoint Saturday night, Dec. 7, at Ox and Braddock roads. Some 515 vehicles passed through and police charged three drivers with DWI. They also issued three summonses and made one criminal arrest.

## Pet-Adoption Fees Waived

As part of its "12 Days of Adoptables" holiday promotion, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is waiving adoption fees from Dec. 12-24 to help special pets find homes for the holidays. Dogs, cats and a variety of small animals are included. The shelter to bring extra attention to those shelter pets who, through no fault of their own, have been waiting many weeks or months to find their new families. The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax; phone 703-830-1100.

## Don't Drink and Drive

As the holidays approach, Fairfax County police reminds everyone not to drink and drive. SoberRide is offering a free cab ride home every night from Friday, Dec. 13 until Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014.

So anyone heading out to enjoy a holiday gathering is urged to designate a driver or call SoberRide at 1-800-200-TAXI between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. to get home safely. (AT&T customers dial #9727). For more information, go to <http://www.wrap.org/soberride/>.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 12

**English Conversation Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**Reading Buddies.** 4-5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Grab a book, grab a buddy! Teen volunteers available as reading buddies. Registration required. Ages 3-8. 703-249-1520.

**Genealogy Help Desk.** 2-3 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

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Dec. 20th at 7 PM - Freedom H.S. (South Riding, VA)  
Dec. 22nd at 2 PM & 7 PM - Fairfax High School  
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\* With coupon, not valid with any other offer, one per person per visit.

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# NEWS

**U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) presents a plaque and flag to FACETS Executive Director Amanda Andere to mark FACETS' 25th anniversary during its annual Taste of Fall event that raises funds to help families and individuals in Fairfax who are suffering the effects of poverty.**



## FACETS Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary With Taste of Fall



**Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), FACETS Board Chair John Martin of L.F. Jennings, 25th Anniversary Committee Member Bonnie Hopler, FACETS Executive Director Amanda Andere, 25th Anniversary Committee Member Sharon Walsh, and Councilman David Meyer offer a toast to FACETS.**

**Youth dance performance.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Taste of Fall volunteers.**



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**Standing beside a cardboard cutout of himself, Pierre Garçon presents a \$10,000 check to Tara Sankner, as her parents look on.**

## Donating From the Heart Redskin, pizza-chain owner team up to help local girl.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith their only child undergoing treatment for brain cancer, besides being concerned about her health, Craig and Tammy Sankner also worry about paying the medical bills. But things got considerably brighter for them last week when they received a check in daughter Tara's name for \$10,000.

It was donated jointly by Washington Redskin Pierre Garçon and Paisano's Pizza owner and founder, Fouad Qreitem, outside the Paisano's Fair Lakes store. The presentation was Thursday night, Oct. 24, in front of Tara's family and friends. All during September, Qreitem donated a portion of all his pizza locations' sales to Tara. And after he brought the 8-year-old Fairfax girl to Garçon's attention, the wide receiver wanted to do something, as well.

"Somebody helped me, so I'm happy to have the opportunity to help someone else and continue the cycle," said Garçon. After presenting Tara with an oversized, ceremonial check, he pointed out the many signatures of his teammates adorning it. And he stayed awhile to sign footballs and jerseys for his fans, after signing a Redskins football for her.

Garçon even visited Tara at her home last month, which was also a big thrill for her. So before he arrived at Paisano's, she said, "I'm happy and looking forward to seeing Pierre again." Actually, the event was supposed to be a surprise but, said Tara, "I overheard my

mom talking about it on the phone."

Surprise or not, it was fun for all involved. Attendees included GMU's girls softball team and Tara's teammates in the Vienna Girls Softball League, plus fellow Chantilly High alumni like Tara's mom, who graduated in 1988.

"It's awesome and overwhelming," said Tammy Sankner, there with Tara's dad. "And it's great to see all the girls."

Qreitem has worked with Garçon for two years. Whoever orders the most Paisano pizzas during the football season has them delivered by Garçon. Besides their efforts helping the Sankners financially, said Qreitem, "It helps raise awareness of childhood cancer. Being part of the community, I wanted to help them. And I have an 8-year-old daughter, too, so it definitely hits home."

Tara has an astrocytoma, a treatable but inoperable form of brain cancer. So her parents hope Qreitem's and Garçon's generosity will also make people realize the great need for more fundraising for children's cancer research in general.

Tammy Sankner said their donation will "help tremendously with both medical and non-medical expenses for Tara's care, such as gas, parking at the hospital and the nonpaid time I have to take off from work. I'm in shock; it's just wonderful."

After the event, she said, "Tonight was just amazing. I'm speechless at the outpouring of all the support from the community. And I thank Fouad and Pierre for doing this for Tara."

# HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

**Colorful gourd birdhouses \$20-\$22 from The Country Store at Silverbrook in Lorton.**



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD / THE CONNECTION

## Gift Ideas from Local Merchants

### FIVE STAR JEWELERS

Address: 5765-S Burke Centre Parkway Burke, VA 22015.  
Phone: 703-239-1300  
Email: fivestarsejewelers@hotmail.com  
Chamilla Bracelet for \$55 to \$70 with the beads in sterling silver for \$20 to \$75; Heart Beat Diamond Collection; pendants and earrings with diamond shimmers from \$500 to \$1,200; M-Clip Money Clips for men from \$79.95 to \$289.95.

### BURKE CIGARS

Address: 9558 Old Keene Mill Road Burke, VA 22015  
Phone: 703-440-0678  
Website: www.Burkecigars.com  
Gift samples of different cigar boxes ranging from \$39.99 to \$99.99.

### DAIRY QUEEN AT PICKWICK MALL

Address: 13840 Braddock Road, Suite C Centreville, VA 20121  
Phone: 703-266-1036  
Email: adhikari\_nara@hotmail.com  
Gift certificates for \$ 1 off on the Blizzard dessert.

### NOVA MUSIC CENTER

Address: 8963 Center Street Manassas, VA 20110  
Address: 12704 Chapel Road, Room 113 Clifton, VA 20124  
Phone: 703-815-7477  
Collector and antique guitars, including Gibsons, Fenders and Martins from \$500-\$5,000; Ukuleles from \$80 to \$1,000; 30-minute, weekly music lessons for \$125/month; time in the recording studio for \$30/hour.

### BURKE NURSERY & GARDEN

Address: 9401 Burke Road Burke, VA 22015  
Phone: 703-323-1188  
Website: www.burkenursery.com  
Carruth Studio Sculptures for home and garden from \$23 to \$80; Garden hand-tool gift baskets created especially for your gardener from \$50 to \$70; all sizes of floral poinsettia plants from \$10 to \$60.

### SWISS BAKERY & PASTRY

Address: 5224 Port Royal Road Springfield, VA 22151  
Phone: 703-321-3670  
Email: www.theswissbakery.com

German Stollen for \$15; gift cards in any increment; Raclette cheese for Raclette stoves; Fondu Cheese and Fondu pot stoves for \$100; Fondu cheese for \$17/pound. European wines \$10/\$15 bottle and up.

### FLOWERS 'N' FERNS

Address: 9562 Old Keene Mill Road Burke, VA 22015  
Phone: 703-455-3100  
Website: www.flowersnferns.com  
Offers a wide variety of floral gifts. Bring in a nice container and fill it with fresh flowers, center pieces, vases, baskets, and floral arrangements for hostess gifts. Traditional center pieces with or without candles, Virginia boxwood trees with fresh flowers. Cost is \$40 and up.

### THE PICKETT FENCE

Address: 6026-D Burke Centre Parkway Burke, VA 22015  
Phone: 703-250-2671  
Website: shopthepicketfence.blogspot.com  
Michel Design Glass soap dish and soaps (in everyday and holiday patterns) \$20; Handmade the Hearts and Ivy angels, snowmen and Santas \$19.50 to \$67. Six volumes of the Gathering of Friends cookbooks, a Holiday Volume \$33.95.

### BURKE GEMS & BEADS

Address: 9415-A Old Burke Lake Road Burke, VA 22015  
Phone: 703-425-3366  
Website: burkegemsbeads.com  
Gift cards available in many denominations; make bracelets, necklaces and earrings from natural stones, pearls and crystals. Leather and chains. Price depends on materials used. Finished pieces from \$5 to \$300.

### JJ'S HALLMARK

Address: 6412 Springfield Plaza Springfield, VA 22150  
Phone: 703-569-5437  
Always Keepsake Ornaments \$9.95 to \$34.95, Vera Bradley purses and accessories for women at \$16 to \$90; and Jim Shore Figurines at \$15 to \$45.

### ALIBABA'S EMPORIUM

Address: 7060 Spring Garden Drive

Springfield, VA 22150  
Phone: 703-462-8282  
Website: www.alibaba-va.com  
Hookahs priced from \$16.99 to \$200, including Khalil Maamoon and Mya Saray; sterling and stainless jewelry with gemstones from \$20 to \$100; woven wool-blend ponchos made in Nepal for \$35; candleholders and lanterns \$15 to \$35; various wooden boxes \$14 to \$25.

### THE COUNTRY STORE AT SILVERBROOK

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### THE BIKE LANE

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Address: 6416 Springfield Plaza Springfield, VA 22150  
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### ANNANDALE GOLF

Address: 5248 Port Royal Road Springfield, VA 22151  
Phone: 703-321-7575  
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# OPINION

## Happy Holidays, Safely

### SoberRide safety net, 1-800-200-TAXI.

**H**oliday party season is well under way, along with winter weather advisories. It's up to individuals to make good decisions about celebrations that involve alcohol and how to handle transportation.

Plan to abstain. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you will be comfortable for some period of time. Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation. And if all of that fails, the Washington Regional Alcohol Project has a safety net for you.

WRAP, a local nonprofit organization, will offer free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout Northern Virginia during the winter holidays.

More than 10,000 died in drunk driving re-

lated accidents in 2010. Tens of thousands more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas and New Year season in particular.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, and continuing until Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During these times, area residents celebrating with alcohol can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. Callers will be responsible for fare amounts over \$30. Last December 1,927 people took advantage of this program. On New Year's Eve alone, 387 people call on SoberRide for a safe trip home.

SoberRide is offered in throughout the Northern Virginia and Maryland suburbs. In these areas, local taxicab companies will be providing this no-cost service to local residents

age 21 and older who might otherwise have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 58,576 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

We know that many young people over 21 are living at home with parents, or will be visiting for the holidays. Parents, be brave. Have a conversation with your children whether they are under or over 21. Be sure those over 21 have a plan, and are equipped with the SoberRide number.

SoberRide is not available for underage drinkers, but parents still should talk to their children about their plans, and tell them out loud that you expect them not to drive impaired and not to get into a car with an impaired driver. Tell them to call, and you'll come get them if necessary.

It's a good time for a conversation about the risks of drinking to excess beyond drinking and driving as well.

#### EDITORIAL

## One Year Since Newtown – It's Time for Congress to Act

BY MARTINA LEINZ

**A** few months ago, I met the father of one of the first-graders murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School. I expressed how sorry I was for his loss and how grateful I was that he had found the strength to fight for sensible gun laws in an attempt to spare other families the pain he has suffered. What I did not share, because it did not seem appropriate, was just how deeply I was grieving too. None of those children were mine, but they all felt like mine. They were America's children.

I don't believe I am alone in these feelings. The carnage at Sandy Hook Elementary School one year ago (Dec. 14, 2012) was devastating not just to the families and community of Newtown, Conn., but to the entire nation. Twenty first-graders and six educators were murdered by a deranged individual in possession of dangerous weapons that he never should have had. It affected us all.

We will never fully recover from this tragedy as individuals or as a nation but there is much that Congress can do to prevent other tragedies like this from occurring. A critically important step is to enact sensible legislation to require background checks on all gun sales.

Many people incorrectly assume that we already conduct universal background checks on

gun purchasers but the Brady law, enacted 20 years ago, only covers about 60 percent of gun sales. It does not cover online purchases, sales through classified ads or transactions by private sellers at gun shows. This leaves the door wide open for criminals, terrorists, domestic abusers and those adjudicated mentally ill to purchase guns without having to pass a background check.

Imagine if the FDA only screened 60 percent of pharmaceutical drugs and allowed the other 40 percent to hit store shelves with no testing, no screening, and no questions asked. It does not sound very safe, does it? Well, that is exactly the scenario we face with gun purchases in this country.

Our children deserve better than 60 percent when it comes to background checks. This is because like FDA testing, when done completely, background checks work. Since President Clinton signed the Brady bill into law, background checks have blocked more than 2 million purchases, keeping guns away from convicted felons and other dangerous people.

It is now time for Congress to finish the job and expand Brady background checks to cover all gun sales. A bipartisan bill, H.R. 1565, the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2013, has been introduced in the House that would do just that. It has already been co-sponsored by 186 Represent-

tatives including Congressmen Connolly, Moran, and Scott of Virginia. None of the Republican Representatives from Virginia have yet co-sponsored this important legislation. Hopefully they will soon.

This is not a partisan issue, nor is it a Second Amendment issue. There is nothing inconsistent with respecting the right for law-abiding citizens to own guns while trying to keep them out of the hands of dangerous individuals. More than 90 percent of Americans support extending background checks including over 80 percent of responsible gun owners and NRA members. It is time for Congress to listen to the public and enact sensible solutions meant to reduce the number of gun deaths. In a country where gun violence kills more than thirty-one thousand people a year, sixty percent is not getting the job done.

To commemorate the lives taken in Newtown and the more than 32 people killed by guns each day in the United States, Congress should act now and require that background checks be conducted on all commercial gun sales. Keeping guns away from dangerous individuals is an important step to curbing the epidemic of gun violence devastating our country.

*Martina Leinz is President, Million Mom March, Northern Virginia Chapter, the grassroots wing of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.*

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Grateful Locally

To the Editor:

Your Op Ed piece ["Shop Locally, Shop in Fairfax," Connection, Nov. 21-27, 2013] prompted me to share my story of how important small businesses are in my com-

munity. A few weeks ago, I sustained serious injuries in an accident. I was hospitalized and underwent two major surgeries. Needless to say, when I was released from the hospital, I was in rough shape. So when I wandered into a local salon a few days later

to have my hair washed (something I couldn't do at home!), I received a pleasant and unexpected surprise. I had never set foot inside Salon Prive, on Lorton Station Boulevard, ever before. In fact, I never noticed it there when I patronized other shops. And to

be quite honest, when I approached the front desk, I was aware that I did not present like a regular patron. I was in whatever comfortable clothes I could pull on with one arm in a cast, and my face was all bandaged up. My hair, af-

SEE LETTER, PAGE 19

Fairfax  
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While the new floorplan is functionally a “great room,” variances in ceiling height and room width define “use” zones that also gain a degree of privacy.

PHOTOS BY DIMITRI GANAS



The 17.5-foot by 13-foot window wall that dominates the new side-facing gable is one component in a re-rationalized front elevation which now features a well-defined entranceway comprised of glass-facing French doors and sidelights.



The custom-designed kitchen island by Foster Remodeling Solutions provide place settings for six, but is also positioned to facilitate both cooking and clean-up tasks while protecting the cook's work triangle. The island's “ice stone” surface complements a mosaic backsplash comprised of marble, glass, chrome and shell.

kitchen/family room combination is absorbed into a gourmet kitchen configuration which gains 130 square feet to the west for a total of more than 450 square foot. The new family room — tapering down to 220 square feet — supplants a former front deck.

Taken as a whole, the floor plan is functionally a “great room.” Clever variances in room width, ceiling height and sightlines differentiate clearly-identified “use”

spaces while reinforcing their inherent sense of privacy.

“The slightly narrower width confers a degree of intimacy on the family room,” Wolf said. “On the other hand, the cathedral ceiling and window wall heighten the drama — enticing the eye to move up and out.”

Wolfe's interior design scheme, likewise, balances detailing within a well-integrated whole. Provincial-stained red oak floor-

## Details

Foster Remodeling Solutions offers workshops on home remodeling topics. Call 703-550-1371 or visit [www.fosterremodeling.com](http://www.fosterremodeling.com).

ing lends cohesion to the entire suite which now flows into the revised living and dining rooms.

Large windows facing south and west bring the richly wooded backyard close-in, forming a setting for an eat-in kitchen that is both highly functional and eye-catching.

The kitchen's centerpiece is a food preparation island and dining counter that seats six. The custom built-in is positioned to support both cooking and clean-up tasks while protecting the cook's work triangle. Drawers designed to the chef's requirements called for easy access to a pull-out mixer stand, a roll-out vertical spice rack, and slots specially fitted for everyday china.

The island's “ice stone” surface complements a mosaic backsplash comprised of marble, glass, chrome and shell. Glass pendant lamps and lights contribute further to a palette of lighter tones which are countered by cherry cabinets and more textured elements.

In the family room, the 54-inch stainless steel hearth with gas burner embedded in river rock is both a heat source and a decoratively ornamental focal point.

Flanked by open cubbies featuring glass display shelves, cherry wood cabinetry, and a wine rack abutting a refrigerator, the built-ins define a functionally separate family entertainment zone that includes wide-screen plasma TV mounted above the fireplace.

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# Opening Up

Open floorplan plus cathedral ceiling equals McLean ranch stylishly re-invented.

BY JOHN BYRD

Assess a circa-1952 ranch on a shady street in McLean with an eye towards maximizing value.

Among the shortcomings: rooms that are too small and dark; a kitchen that hasn't been remodeled in 25 years. A tiny breakfast room. A rear grade too steep for an addition. A front elevation with no visible front door.

And in the plus column: a neighborhood that's gone decisively upscale; a solidly constructed starter house in a “come-back” style. Just enough undeveloped side lot to add useful square footage. An enviably location at the end of a cul de sac.

Bring to this proposition the team of Sarah Wolf, interior designer, and Josh Britton, architectural draftsman — both at Foster Remodeling Solutions — and what's revealed are the skills sets that are transforming so many nondescript mid-century dwellings into the spacious eclectically-designed residences expected of northern Virginia's close-in neighborhoods.

“We're seeing more homeowners preserving and elaborating post-War suburban styles,” said Sarah

Wolf. “The ranch and other smaller-scale dwellings are especially fascinating. They've long been classified as the prototype for the modern production house, yet we're now seeing how inventive design ideas can be applied to achieve architecturally-relevant makeover goals.”

What has turned into a two-phase design process — that will eventually include a second level master suite — began with a single meeting. Wolf had been summoned by homeowners — who had occupied the house for 20 years — “to brainstorm” options for enlarging the kitchen and family room, and re-defining the bare-bones front elevation.

“The previous owners had relocated the original front door to the side sometime in the 1990s,” Wolf said. “So one of the early questions was whether it made sense to revise the front elevation in conjunction with a proposed kitchen enlargement.”

As the meeting progressed, several key points emerged.

Yes, the owners wanted a substantial enlargement to the kitchen and family room, but the existing interior was also too narrow and too dark. Moreover, since the home's leafy half-acre lot backs into a grove of mature trees bor-

dered by a lovely creek, shouldn't the interior makeover be designed to profile the surrounding landscape?

“SUDDENLY, WE ALL SAW the aesthetic opportunity,” Wolf said. “There would be larger windows on all sides. But also a new front-facing family room — with an 11-foot cathedral ceiling dominated by an extensive window wall.”

The window wall would, in turn, help to contextualize a more symmetrical front elevation — one defined by a processional entranceway with double french glass doors and sidelights.

The first challenge, however, was contending with the peculiarities of the lot itself.

“The entire plan depended on adding about 350 square feet on the south side of the house while staying within [Fairfax] County setback requirements,” said project draftsman Josh Britton. “Since the set-back limit runs diagonally on that side of the house, I designed a two-component footprint which steps back from the front elevation.”

Necessity being the mother of invention, the solution makes adroit use of tight tolerances. Space formerly allocated to the old

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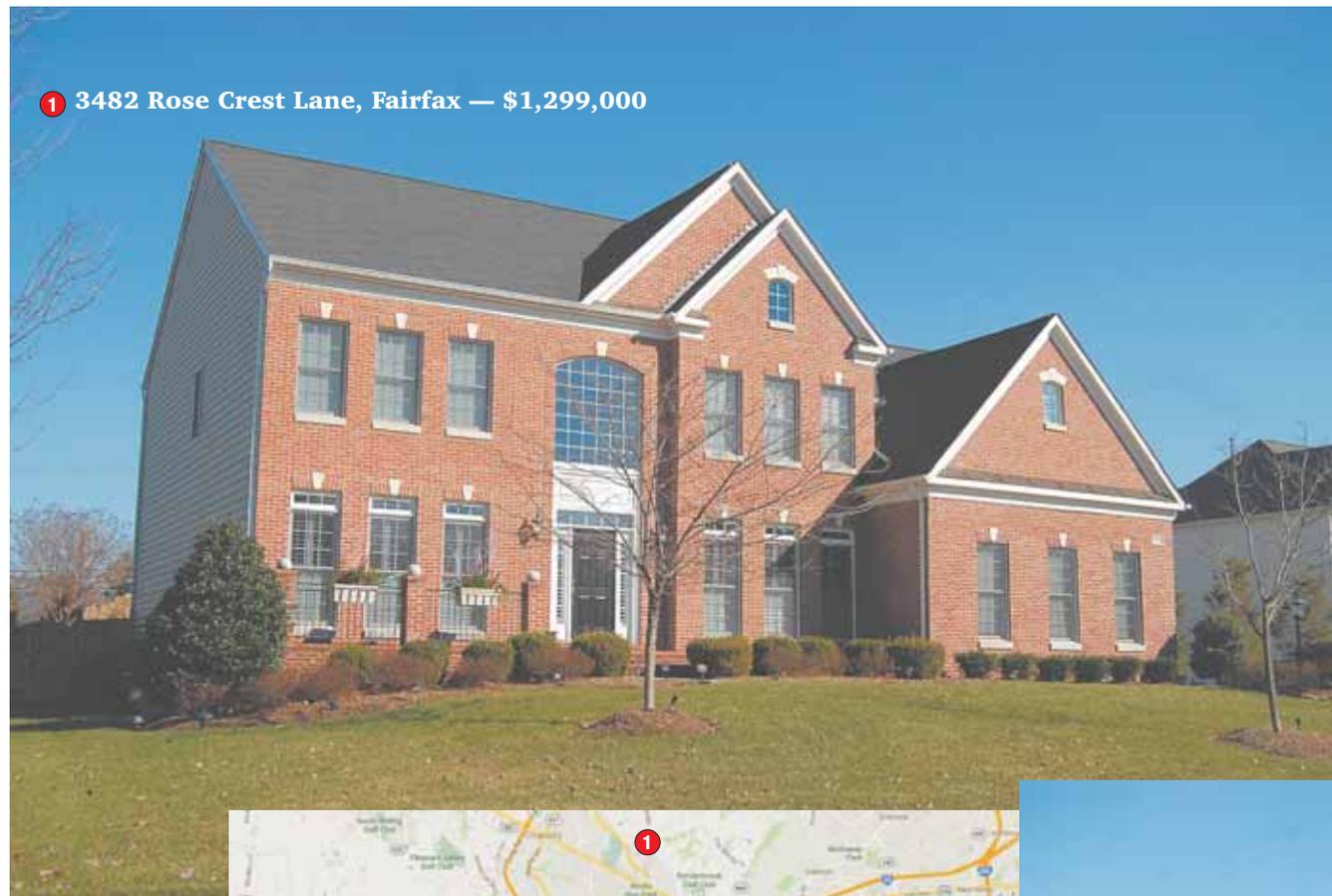
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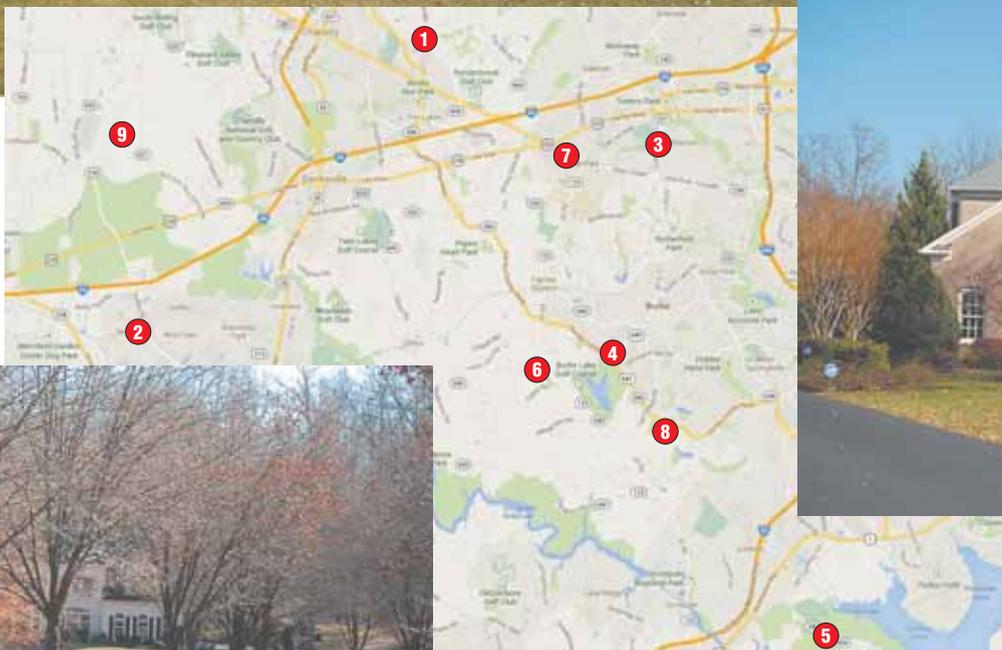
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# Fairfax Author Helps Turning Things Around

The 101 secrets of "Climbing Out of a Rut."

**I** don't know what to do. I'm stuck in a rut and there's no way out. It's hopeless." This is the complaint that Dr. Laura Hills hears frequently from her coaching clients, workshop participants and readers. According to Hills, who is a personal and professional development author, speaker, and coach for career professionals based in Fairfax, feeling helpless before setbacks "is a problem of epidemic proportions and we rarely talk about it. Too many people feel that their work is dull and unrewarding. The big aspirations and enthusiasm of childhood have long vanished, leaving behind a terrible feeling of loss and emptiness." Unfortunately, feeling stuck in a job or career that is unfulfilling is often the beginning of a host of other problems, Hills warns, including depression, addiction, divorce, job loss, financial problems and illness.

Hills wanted to do something to help her clients who felt mired in a rut. However, advice about keeping a positive attitude is of little use to a person who feels hopeless, she says. "A more practical answer is needed—something to jolt a person who feels stuck to take action." That jolt is what led Hills to write her latest book, "Climbing Out of a Rut: Four Steps and 101 Secrets to Supercharging Your Career and Finding Greater Fulfillment and Reward in What You Do Every Day," her fifth book. "This is not a book of theory or



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**"Being stuck in a rut is a problem of epidemic proportions and we rarely talk about it," says Dr. Laura Hills, author of "Climbing Out of a Rut."**



**Dr. Laura Hills, president of Blue Pencil Institute in Fairfax, Virginia, has published her fifth book.**

a bunch of platitudes about keeping your chin up," Hills says. It's a quick read that offers the reader who feels stuck 101 distinct ways to get unstuck, she says. These are realistic, practical, affordable, and do-it-now techniques that work. Why so many ideas? Hills explains: "Each reader is different. What works for one won't necessarily

work for another. But all it takes is just one idea to work for anyone climb out of a rut."

The 101 secrets are organized into four chapters: readjust your attitude, defibrillate your career, find meaning in what you do, and let others lift you higher. Each chapter ends with a hands-on exercise. The book also includes a summary action checklist and a bonus feature called "50 More Ways to Improve Yourself." It is available as a softcover print book, ebook, and pdf. Says Hills, "I purposely wrote 'Climbing Out of a Rut' as a quick and easy read. I know that it takes courage and effort for a person who feels stuck in a rut to take action. I wanted to make that action as easy as possible."

For more information about Hills' book and other Blue Pencil Institute offerings, visit the Blue Pencil Institute website at [www.bluepencilinstitute.com](http://www.bluepencilinstitute.com).

## FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.st-andrew.org).

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### FROM PAGE 5

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.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Dog Adoption.** 12-3 p.m. PETCO Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. [www.hart90.org](http://www.hart90.org)

**Teen Advisory Board Meeting.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. TAB meets once a week to help shape the library's young adult collection, programming and outreach projects. Members represent a diverse

population of educational experiences, including home, public, and private school students. Registration required. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

**Traveling Toy Trains.** 3-4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn how you can become a toy train hobbyist. Chris Haag shares his model train collection and expertise on collecting, restoring, and scene building. Registration required. Age 6-12. 703-249-1520.

**Genealogy Help Desk.** 1-2 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.  
**GIVE.** 2-4 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. **GIVE-Growth and Inspiration through Volunteering and Education.** Volunteers from Thomas Jefferson H.S. and Robinson H.S. will offer to tutor students in math, reading, writing, science, social studies and ESL. This is an opportunity for students to become tutors and also for students and parents who seek help with their homework. 703-293-6227.

**Microsoft PowerPoint.** 2:30-4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn how to put together an attractive presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint. Registration required. Adults. 703-293-6227.

# HOT GIFTS

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## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

### THURSDAY/DEC. 12

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Presents Christmas in Black & White.** 6 & 8 p.m. 2911 District Ave., Merrifield. Enjoy the classic black and white holiday films "Twas the night before Christmas," "A Winter Straw Ride," "A Christmas Carol," "The Adventures of the Wrong Santa Claus" and more accompanied by the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and singers from the National Broadway Chorus. Adults, \$15 ; Children under 12 are free.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**4th Annual Santa's Secret Workshop.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Burke United Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Center Parkway, Burke. This event is designed to allow survivor's children and local families in need to shop for the perfect gifts for their families, extended families, and even pets at no cost to them.

**Breakfast with Santa.** 9-10:30 a.m. South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. \$12 fee includes one child and one adult. \$5 per additional children or adults. 2 and under free.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 15

**Youth Christmas Pageant Service.** 11 a.m. Cranford United Methodist Church, 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 18

**Travelers' Christmas Eve.** 7:30 p.m. Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. A Christmas Eve service for those persons, especially first responders, doctors and nurses who may have to work on Dec. 24. [www.messiahumc.org](http://www.messiahumc.org)

### FRIDAY/DEC. 20 - SATURDAY/DEC. 21

"Oh Holy Night," a Christmas



PHOTO BY LUKE RATRAY

**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 on Dec. 21 at GMU's Center for the Arts.**

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Get in the holiday spirit with some melodious tunes. Tickets \$15 <http://www.workhousearts.org/events/performing-arts/christmas-concert-holy-night>

### 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.

**Living Nativity.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Safeway Parking Lot, Burke Town Plaza, at the corner of Old Keene Mill and Lee Chapel/Burke Center Parkway. Calvary Christian Church is hosting its annual 'Living Nativity'. In addition to people, sheep, donkeys and even a camel will be there. Hot cocoa, cider and cookies will be provided.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 22

**Christmas Cantata.** 11 a.m. Cranford United Methodist Church, 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton. Join the 25 member strong Cranford Chancel Choir, led by music director Gayle Lennon, as they sing to the glories of the coming Emmanuel with song.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 24

**Christmas Caroling.** 4:30 p.m. Cranford United Methodist Church, 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton. Door-to-door caroling.

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.** 7:30 p.m. Cranford United Methodist Church, 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton. An evening of music, scripture and quiet reflection of the birth of Jesus.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 31

**The Ultimate 80s New Years Eve.** 9 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$20.

**The Ultimate New Year's Eve Experience.** 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. Hyatt Fair Lakes Hotel, 12777 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax. Live entertainment, music, food, and more. Tickets: \$159 per person.

## CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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/>.

### 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.

**Les Miserables.** 6-10 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade, Fairfax. Shoppers can listen to performances from company member, and a percentage of purchases made at the Barnes & Noble that evening will support the Reston Players.

### FRIDAY/MONDAY/DEC. 13-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](http://www.jccnvarts.org).

### 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/](http://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](mailto:church@sovgracefairfax.org) or [www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com](http://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](mailto:church@sovgracefairfax.org) or [www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com](http://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](http://www.freshbikescycling.com).

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE HORANSKI



The Robinson Singers comprise 36 young men and women, an elite vocal group of mostly junior and senior experienced musicians, with a handful of underclassmen. They're joining The Washington Chorus for the 22nd year of the "Side By Side" outreach program.

## Here They Come A-Wassailing

Robinson Singers selected to perform Candlelight Christmas concerts with The Washington Chorus.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

While most of their peers are anxiously counting down the days until winter break, the 36 members of the Robinson Singers elite vocal group are focused on a different goal: performing with the renowned Washington Chorus at the Kennedy Center and Music Center at Strathmore.

At the beginning of this past summer, Robinson director of high school choral activities Mike Horanski received word the Singers had been selected to sing with the Grammy Award-winning ensemble. Now in its 22nd year, the "Side By Side" program features one "outstanding high school chorus" joining the 200-voice Chorus for the ensemble's much-loved "A Candlelight Christmas" concert series.

"Side By Side is an integral part to the success of the programming," said Washington Chorus music director Julian Wachner. The chosen high school group has the opportunity to rehearse with Wachner and the Chorus, and perform 12-15 minutes alone on stage in addition to several collaborative pieces. "It's a huge deal," said Wachner, "and it's very exciting."

"It's a challenge and also a benefit," said Horanski. "They've had the chance to work with an outstanding conductor, somebody they don't know. That's really good for them to respond to a different director."

**AFTER THE GROUP'S SELECTION**, Horanski, Wachner and a few of Wachner's assistants began programming for the concert series. The tried and true lineup includes traditional Christmas singalongs and a few new settings — some arranged by Wachner himself — of classic carols, such as "Joy to the World," "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Silent Night."

Though known for pushing musical boundaries in his writing and conducting, Wachner is sensitive to the roles music can play this time of year. "Christ-



Mike Horanski

### When and Where

The Kennedy Center, Sunday, Dec. 15 at 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. Music Center at Strathmore Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$15-\$70 and are available through the Washington Chorus at [www.thewashingtonchorus.org](http://www.thewashingtonchorus.org) or 202-342-6221, or at The Kennedy Center box office or [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

mas isn't the time to teach people about new stuff," he said. "There's some comfort to the familiar. I'm trying to bring the best out of the music, whatever it is. Drama doesn't have to mean loud and aggressive; it can mean incredible, peaceful, stillness."

Horanski is trying to get his students to echo Wachner's attention to interpretation, programming four contrasting works for the Robinson Singers' spotlight set. "Here We Come A-Caroling," "Out of the Orient Crystal Skies," "Deck the Halls in the 7/8" and "This Christmastide" facilitate the group to showcasing its versatility and maturity. "It was a goal to broaden a palette," said Horanski, "but still sit within the overall genre of the entire concert. It gives the students a chance to sing in four different styles, try to communicate the message of four different pieces."

**ACCORDING TO WACHNER**, the Robinson students have had no problem keeping up with the difficult and diverse repertoire. In fact, they're breaking ground: For the first time in the "Side By Side" program history, the two choirs are performing a piece for double chorus: a Benjamin Britten work, written when the composer was high school age himself.

"I've never tried that before," said Wachner, "but [the Robinson Singers] are able to handle it. They have a really sweet and wonderful sound. They're really into it."

"I think at first it was a good experience for them to be out of their comfort zones to go to the joint rehearsals," said Horanski. "They were a little bit nervous, but they started to settle into things."

Getting a taste of the challenging yet rewarding life of an elite ensemble musician is a goal of the outreach program, and both directors see the once-in-a-lifetime value to the young vocalists.

## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS



PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Fair Trade Winds offers a variety of nativity pieces that were made in countries across the world.

## Last Minute Holiday Gift Ideas

Local business in Fairfax provide a range of choices.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Shoppers looking to shop consciously with fair trade principles in mind will find their goal reached at Fair Trade Winds located in Old Town Fairfax.

The family-owned store, which offers a variety of handcrafted materials from around the world, is also a great place to look for holiday shopping.

Daniel Culler, whose parents own the shop, said that customers normally don't ask about gift ideas and just shop on their own, but that it is a good place to shop compared to bigger stores.

"Everything in the store is environmentally sustainable and supports the communities that it came from," Culler said.

The Fairfax Fair Trade Winds store is decorated with a Christmas Tree with ornaments for sale, and other festive ornaments and decorations around the store. Possible gifts include handmade nativity pieces and Christmas-themed ornaments.

"The nativities and ornaments are pretty popular," Culler said.

Non-seasonal items are also for sale, including a collection of wind chimes and products



Fair Trade Winds, located in Old Towne Fairfax, has decorated for the holidays and has a variety of fair trade products for sale.

created by artisans across the world that would make for an original gift.

Fair Trade Winds also has a variety of holiday greeting cards that are made from people in countries across the world and are fair trade certified.

Last-minute holiday shoppers can look at the Fair Trade Winds website for gift inspiration, which includes a list of gifts by country.

Fair Trade Winds is a member of the Fair Trade Association and is owned by Louis and Paul Culler.

10420 North St, Fairfax, 703-877-0577

# Woodson's Bowles Scores Career-High 25 Points in Win over Fairfax

Junior point guard returned to Woodson after planning to transfer.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

After two seasons as the starting point guard of the W.T. Woodson boys' basketball team, Eric Bowles decided to weigh his options.

A talented athlete who will one day play college basketball, Bowles planned to transfer to Clinton Christian School in Upper Marlboro, Md., for the 2013-14 school year. Bowles had earned Patriot District Player of the Year honors as a sophomore and led the Cavaliers to the 2013 AAA state semifinals, but Woodson graduated most of its key players from its deep postseason run, leaving the Cavaliers with an inexperienced group for the upcoming season.

With a week or so left until the start of school, however, Bowles and his family had a change of heart.

"My parents and I," Bowles said, "made the decision to stay [at Woodson]."

More than three months later, basketball season has arrived. While the athletes around him have changed, Bowles said he is still a "pass-first point guard" despite the graduation of several offensive weapons. While Bowles' thought process might be the same, on Friday night he showed he's plenty capable of picking up the scoring slack.

Bowles scored a career-high 25 points as the Cavaliers defeated Fairfax 55-43 during the Red Jenkins Tipoff Classic at W.T. Woodson High School. The victory evened Woodson's record at 1-1 after the Cavaliers lost their season opener to Herndon, 73-65, on Dec. 3.

**AGAINST FAIRFAX**, Bowles scored the game's first points on a 3-pointer from the top of the arc. He shot 11-for-19 from the floor, went 2-for-6 at the free-throw line, grabbed six rebounds, dished three assists and totaled seven steals.

"I'm still a pass-first point guard," Bowles said. "I'm going to look to find the open man, but if I have to I can take it to the basket or shoot."

Bowles was primarily a ball distributor last season, setting up 3-point sharpshooters Tommy Stepka, Peter Murray and Alex Boock, among other scoring



Woodson point guard Eric Bowles scored a career-high 25 points against Fairfax on Dec. 6.



Woodson boys' basketball coach Doug Craig talks to the Cavaliers during a game against Fairfax on Dec. 6.

threats. On Friday, Bowles attacked the rim and scored several points in transition.

With Woodson leading 23-15 early in the third quarter, Bowles scored back-to-back transition buckets, giving the Cavaliers their largest lead to the point. Woodson led by as many as 15 in the fourth quarter.

"I think what happens sometimes is people don't think he can

score," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "But he can score the ball if he wants to, it's just we always have so many other guys around him that can score, we don't really need him to score, we don't ask him to score a lot. ... He's got to just take what the defense gives him.

If everybody wants to play him as a pass-first point guard, then he's going to go out and have a lot

of 20-point games and people are going to realize he can score."

Bowles said it wasn't awkward to return to Woodson after he had planned to transfer, pointing out that he changed his mind shortly after the initial decision and school had yet to start.

Junior forward Tyler Wilson, who saw limited varsity playing time as a sophomore, said it wasn't awkward having Bowles back.

"He's a big part of the team and we're glad to have him back," Wilson said. "He never really left."

Craig said he understands why Bowles considered transferring.

"He's a good player, he's got people that are giving him options, you've got to explore your options," Craig said. "That's part of life. Eric still is a Cavalier no matter ... if he's here, if he's not here. He's played two, three years in our program. ... Eric is very well liked by his teammates and everybody understands he has some opportunities.

"I think Eric looked at some of the other opportunities and thought about it and decided, 'Hey, it's not necessarily any better than what I have now.' ... I think he realized he can reach his goals by being here."

**WHILE Bowles is back**, an inexperienced Woodson team is learning to play with one another. Wilson finished with 13 points on 6-for-9 shooting. Sophomore guard Matt Ayoub, senior guard/forward Jimmy McLaughlin and senior forward Andy Stynchula each scored four points. Stynchula grabbed nine rebounds and Wilson finished with six rebounds and five steals.

Ayoub scored 32 points and knocked down six 3-pointers in Woodson's season opener against Herndon.

"It's a new group and it comes with its own challenges," Wilson said. "But we've got a lot of athleticism and once we get our chemistry down, I think we'll be well off."

Jack Allsopp led Fairfax with 12 points and Alan Liu added 10.

Fairfax lost to Robinson 61-39 on Dec. 7. The Rebels will travel to face Bishop Ireton at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12.

Woodson lost to Edison 58-56 on Dec. 7. The Cavaliers will host Annandale at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13.

"I think we've just got to build that trust with each other," Craig said.

"I don't know if it's there all the way yet because you've got so many guys who aren't used to playing with each other. We're trying to figure out roles and we've got several guys up from the JV — it's their first varsity experience — right now they're playing a little bit timid, but that will come as they play a little bit more as the year goes on. I'm not worried about it."

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## SPORTS



**Robinson senior Joe Bynum scored 28 points and made eight 3-pointers against Edison on Dec 6.**



**Robinson senior Jared Steen scored 15 points and made a trio of 3-pointers against Edison on Dec. 6.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

# Robinson Boys' Basketball Outlasts Edison in Double-OT Thriller

## Rams make 14 three-pointers, including eight from senior guard Bynum.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Robinson boys' basketball team knocked down 14 3-pointers and made several key defensive stops while outlasting the Edison Eagles in double overtime on Friday night.

The Rams also caught a break or two along the way.

Robinson senior guard Joe Bynum banked in a 3-pointer to force a second overtime period and junior guard Joey Powell's ill-advised-attempt-turned-clutch 3-pointer sealed the victory as the Rams opened their season with a 95-91 win over Edison during the Red Jenkins Tipoff Classic at W.T. Woodson High School.

**ROBINSON LED** 90-89 with less than 30 seconds remaining in the second overtime when Powell hoisted up a 3-point attempt from the right wing. While a miss might have given Edison possession with a chance to take the lead, Powell made the shot and gave the Rams a two-possession advantage.

"That was very much a no-no-no-yes shot," Robinson head coach Brian Nelson said. "When I met [Powell] at halfcourt and hugged him, I said, 'That was a terrible decision, but it was an outstanding shot.'"

Edison had two-possession leads at the end of regulation and the first overtime period, but each time Robinson found a way to extend the game.

Edison led 76-72 when Robinson senior guard Jared Steen buried a 3-pointer to cut the Eagles' advantage to one with 11.4 seconds remaining in the first overtime period. After a pair of Edison free throws bumped the lead to three, Bynum banked in a 3-pointer at the other end to force a second OT.

After the game, Nelson joked that Bynum



**Robinson senior Matt Fall scored 22 points against Edison on Dec. 6.**

"called" bank on his clutch 3-pointer. For Bynum, it was one of many memorable moments on a night he scored 28 points and knocked down eight 3-pointers.

"It was just an amazing feeling," Bynum said. "I've never been in that situation before and I just knew I had to have the confidence to take that shot. ... It was probably one of the best games I think I've ever played. I was just feeling it. My teammates had the confidence to pass it to me and I wasn't letting them down. I was just knocking down the shots."

Bynum's final 3-pointer gave Robinson an 89-84 lead with 1:33 left in the second OT.

"Yeah, we got a little lucky when that 3 banks in, but sometimes you make your own luck a little bit," Nelson said. "As hard as our kids fought, we deserve a little break there."

Edison led 66-62 late in the fourth quarter. After a bucket by Robinson senior guard Ashrifi Nai-Tetteh cut the lead to two, the Rams came up with a steal and tied the game at 66-all with a bucket by senior guard Matt Fall. Robinson got another steal and took a brief 68-66 lead with a pair of Fall free throws, but Edison senior Marcus Brumsey Jr. scored at the other end to force overtime.

"I just think we played with heart the

whole game," Steen said. "Heart sometimes will overcompensate for the other team's [athleticism]."

Fall scored 22 points for Robinson. Steen knocked down a trio of 3-pointers, went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the second overtime period and finished with 15 points. Powell totaled 10 points.

"That game came down to just our kids gutting it out and playing with heart," Nelson said, "and never quitting."

Robinson finished one win shy of reaching the state tournament last season, falling to Wakefield in the Northern Region semifinals. This season, Nelson said the Rams will have a balanced scoring attack to go along with an inside presence from 6-foot-8 senior center Taylor Downey.

"That's something that we emphasize is our depth," Nelson said. "... [Downey has] really worked hard since last year to gain some weight, he's gained some confidence and he's a force for us now. ... He didn't do a lot last year, so when you see him come out as our five-man to open the game, if you remember what you saw last year, you're probably not very impressed. But I think he's in line for a very good season."

**EDISON** is an athletic team led by standout senior point guard Chief Amoah, senior guard Brumsey and four athletes who transferred to the school this year. Junior guard Tyvez Monroe, who led the Eagles with 24 points and five 3-pointers Friday night, transferred from Bishop O'Connell. Junior forward Damien Jones Jr. (Flint Hill), junior forward Isaiah Lowman (DeMatha) and senior forward Ahmed Hemoh (Potomac) also transferred to Edison this year.

Brumsey finished with 22 points against Robinson, Lowman had 13 and Amoah had 11.

Amoah practiced on Thursday for the first time in three weeks after battling a hip-flexor injury, Edison head coach Terry Henderson said.

Henderson's Eagles reached the state tournament in 2012. The coach said this year's team wants to return to states.

"I think with it being early in the season, first game, that competition is what we needed," Henderson said. "We've had some good scrimmages, but some things came kind of easy to us, so I believe this is a great wake-up call and I think we'll respond well."

Henderson praised Robinson's effort.

"Robinson, they played extremely hard," Henderson said. "In order for them to stay in a game like that with our athleticism, they have to be able to knock down the 3 and they did a great job of doing that tonight."

Robinson improved to 2-0 with a 61-39 victory over Fairfax on Dec. 7 during the Red Jenkins Tipoff Classic. The Rams will host South County on Thursday, Dec. 12.

Edison bounced back with a 58-56 win over Woodson on Dec. 7. The Eagles will host Hayfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13.

"I don't have the most individual talent around, but I have kids who bust their humps in the offseason to make themselves better and that is what shows in a game like this," Nelson said. "When a kid like ... Joe Bynum, who came off the bench for us all year last year, and he comes out ... as a leader, as a captain, in his first opportunity to kind of be the man, he comes out and drops 28, that's a testament to how hard he has worked."

## Mark Vincent Basketball Camp

Registration ends Dec. 15 for the Mark Vincent annual basketball camp will be held Dec. 27, 28, 30 and 31 at Accotink Academy, located at 8519 Tuttle Rd. in Springfield.

Camp hours are from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Boys and girls are invited.

Go to [markvincentbasketballcamps.com](http://markvincentbasketballcamps.com) for more information. Please enter "hardwork" as the promotional code when you enroll your child.

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## Michael McCarty Elected to the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

**M**ichael McCarty, director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Fairfax, has been elected to the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. He was inducted in October at the Academy's Annual Meeting during the National Recreation and Park Association Congress in Houston.



**Michael McCarty**

The Academy is a group of distinguished practitioners and educators who are leaders in the field of park and recreation. The Academy is limited to 125 active members.

More information on the Academy is available at [www.aapra.org](http://www.aapra.org).

McCarty, CPRP has over 21 years experi-

ence in the field of Recreation and Parks and has been the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Fairfax since 2006. McCarty has served twice as the chairman on the Revenue Management and Development School during his nine years on the Board of Regents at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, W. Va.

Prior to the City of Fairfax, McCarty was the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation in Town of Longmeadow, Mass.

McCarty also served as the Assistant Director of Recreation for the Town of South Windsor where he received the 2003 Outstanding Professional Award from the Connecticut Parks and Recreation Association.

## MinuteClinic Opens Walk-in Medical Clinic Inside CVS/pharmacy Store in Fairfax

**M**inuteClinic, the largest provider of retail-based medical clinics in the United States, has opened a new walk-in clinic inside the CVS/pharmacy store in Fairfax at 3921 Prosperity Ave. It is the twenty-third location in the Northern Virginia.

MinuteClinic nurse practitioners specialize in family health care and can diagnose, treat and write prescriptions for common family illnesses such as strep throat and ear, eye, sinus, bladder and bronchial infections. Minor wounds, abrasions, skin conditions and joint sprains are treated, and common vaccinations such as influenza, tetanus, pneumonia and Hepatitis A & B are available at most locations.

Walk-in camp, sports and college physicals are available daily. In addition, MinuteClinic administers a series of wellness services designed to help patients identify lifestyle changes needed to improve their current and future

health, including screenings and monitoring for diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

No appointments are required at MinuteClinic and most health insurance is accepted. For patients paying cash or credit, treatment prices are posted at each clinic and on [www.minuteclinic.com](http://www.minuteclinic.com). The cost for most treatment starts at \$79.

MinuteClinic practitioners use a software program that at the conclusion of each visit generates educational material, an invoice and a prescription (when clinically appropriate) for the patient, as well as a diagnostic record that can be sent via electronic health record, fax or mail to a primary care provider with patient permission.

The MinuteClinic walk-in medical clinic in Fairfax operates from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information, visit [www.MinuteClinic.com](http://www.MinuteClinic.com).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

ter a week in the hospital, was nothing short of a rat's nest mess. I am sure I didn't paint a pretty picture in front of the receptionist. But after asking her if someone had time to wash my hair, a gentleman appeared and immediately whisked me back to the sinks, and on the way told me that there was no charge for the wash. I was dumbfounded. Not only did he take immediate care of me, here he was telling me that the wash was on him. It was this kind of service, and compassion, that makes me grateful for local small businesses. Would a chain salon had

been so accommodating? I highly doubt it. At the end of my visit, when I tried to pay for the service, they still wouldn't accept my payment. So, I gave the woman who actually washed my hair a good tip, thanked them all and went on my way. You bet when I need any other salon service, Salon Prive will be my first choice. What a pleasant experience, and I wanted to again convey my sincere thanks to their staff for their kind attention.

**Nancy Wilochka**  
Mason Neck

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### 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
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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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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Sirius Eye Care LLC has moved from Springfield to Fredericksburg, VA, 540-786-3405. Eyespire Eyecare LLC has purchased all medical records & will occupy the same space: 6506 Loisdale Rd, 703-719-9110. Dr. Ajibola Ogunnusi succeeds Dr. Michael Wong."

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