

# Unwrapping Hope

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# FAITH

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.

**"Behold the Lamb,"** Sunday, Dec. 14, 10:45 a.m. at Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. This year's program titled "Behold the Lamb," will be a celebration of the birth of Christ with choral music and interpretive dance performed by the Ministry of Music and Performing Arts, along with a Christmas Play, entitled "A Night in Bethlehem" performed by the Youth and Children's Church Ministry. The public is invited to come and wit-

ness this beautiful and inspirational service, and join in a Christmas Fellowship.

**Calvary Christian Church Presents Annual Live Nativity,** Saturday, Dec. 20, 5-7 p.m. Safeway shopping parking lot in Burke Town Plaza, 9596 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Come and see Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, with Delilah the camel and other lovely beasts. Cocoa and Cookies will be served.

**Fairfax Baptist Temple Christmas Service,** Sunday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m., 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station. Please contact the church office for more information: 703-323-8100, [fbt@fbtministries.org](mailto:fbt@fbtministries.org)

**The Fairfax Baptist Temple choir, orchestra and drama team present "Ten Thousand Hallelujahs"** a Christmas Musical by Ron & Shelly Hamilton, Sunday evening, Dec. 21, 5 p.m., 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station. Please contact the church office for more information: 703-323-8100, [fbt@fbtministries.org](mailto:fbt@fbtministries.org)

**Bluegrass Christmas Eve** service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. in Franconia Hall at Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria. The community is once again invited to find meaning in the mayhem of the season. The familiar Christmas story will be celebrated in a new way with traditional

carols by the acclaimed Big Hillbilly Bluegrass band. Join your friends and neighbors at the firehouse this Christmas Eve. The service is sponsored by Aldersgate Kingstowne, a United Methodist Church that invites people to follow Jesus through the shared practices of worship, learning in groups, and hands-on service to the poor. For more information, go to [www.aldersgate.net](http://www.aldersgate.net) or call 703-660-2600.

**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.

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**The Christmas program at Burke Community Church features classic carols played by brass, woodwinds and piano, as well as contemporary songs with a live rock ensemble.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**High energy music and short videos set the Burke Community Church Christmas program apart from its more subdued Christmas Eve service.**

## Unwrapping Hope

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Imagine Randy Travis singing “Away in a Manger,” re-imagined as reggae. Darren Brown can’t, either, but he’s practicing it anyway for an interactive portion of the Burke Community Church Christmas program on Dec. 13. The West Springfield resident was formerly the music director and is now executive pastor and worship pastor.

“We wanted something also accessible, to really invite neighbors and friends to,” said Brown. “There’s some fun elements to it, from the moment you walk in the door.”

The non-denominational church still holds a more traditional candlelight service on Christmas Eve, however five years ago, they decided to start something a little different. A more high energy program of con-

temporary Christian songs and traditional carols is blended with short thematic videos and a holiday message from the ministry staff.

“There is a complete color palette of styles,” said current music director Kevin McCarthy, a longtime Burke resident who now lives in Spotsylvania. A woodwind trio and a low brass ensemble led by George Mason University music professor David Porter will welcome visitors to the church with classic Christmas preludes.

Then a 75 child-strong youth choir opens the main program. “It’s loud, but beautiful,” said worship arts ministry assistant Donita Strong, of Burke.

A full adult choir of over 50 voices will take over, joined by a 10-person rock band setup of guitars, bass, drums and keyboards. The set list includes a dozen songs by contemporary artists such as Chris Tomlin and Kari Jobe.

“Music is integral to every worship service we do here,” said McCarthy. “We involve as many people as possible in that. He who sings prays twice.”

Strong said the program takes place in the first half of the month in part to accommodate the large percentage of military personnel in the congregation.

“It’s the one time they can travel to leave to go see their families,” she said, “so we moved it to make it possible for them.” This will be the sixth year the program has run in its current form this early in the month.

The fact that the church follows no liturgy specific to Catholic, Lutheran or Episcopalian denominations appeals to military families who may have come from any number of styles of base chapels.

Brown is also optimistic the energy and message of the program will engage more than just current members of the church.

“Our hope is people who may be hesitant about being part of a church will come and go, ‘This can be something I can see in my life.’”

And even if visitors don’t become regular attendees, Brown is prepared to deliver some holiday perspective regardless.

“Our theme this year is ‘Unwrap Hope,’” he said. “As joyful as it is for a lot of people, it’s also really hard time for a lot of folks. It could be the first Christmas without a loved one, the first Christmas without a job. It can be one of the hardest times for people. To discover hope this Christmas, what does that look like? The story of Christmas, Jesus, the manger, what does that mean, to give me hope in my life?”

The Burke Community Church Christmas program begins Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 3 and 6 p.m. The church is located at 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke.

## 95 Express Lanes, a Preview All signs point to getting an E-ZPass.

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO  
THE CONNECTION

Like a long-awaited summer blockbuster, signs on billboards along Route 1 and banners hanging on bridges that cross I-95, tease commuters about the coming of the nine-mile extension of the 95 express lanes.

The exact opening date has not been released but it will be in December. Preparations for a smooth opening of the lanes, which extend the express lanes from Dumfries to Garrisonville, are still ongoing, but the most important thing consumers can do to get ready to use the lanes is to get an E-ZPass, said Mike McGurk of Transurban, the company that manages the tolling system on the express lanes. The second thing commuters should do is to learn the rules—how to use the E-ZPass, how much it will cost, where the entry and exit points are and how the lanes can ease the commute.



PHOTO BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

**Banners and signs announce the opening of the 95 express lanes along I-95 and Route 1.**

McGurk said that they expect some initial confusion when the lanes finally open. “Email or call us if you accidentally get on the the express lanes without an E-ZPass,” he said, and Transurban will work with driv-

ers to resolve the issue. “Don’t panic. Continue driving and exit safely. Call and email us after.”

The \$1 billion nine-mile extension was a decade in the making, starting in 2004 with

ideas to improve I-95 as part of the Virginia Public-Private Transportation Act. The project broke ground in August 2012. It will connect Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties. Prince William and Stafford counties are two of the top 10 places from where workers commute, according to the Virginia Community Profile.

In addition to the extension from Dumfries to Garrisonville, construction added a third lane on the section of the express lane between Edsall Road in Alexandria and Prince William Parkway in Dumfries. Fluor, the company which oversaw the project’s construction, also built about one million square feet of new sound walls, nine bridges, and several light poles which contain the tolling and traffic management, said Jamie Breme, community and public affairs manager.

To learn more about the 95 express lanes, go to <http://www.95expresslanes.com/>.

## NEWS

*Wishlist*  
2014

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Weichert Burke office will be accepting new, non-violent, unwrapped toys through Monday, Dec. 15**

### Weichert, Realtors' Burke Office Launches Toy Drive

With the season of giving upon us, Nick Brown, branch manager of Weichert, Realtors' Burke office, has announced the start of their annual holiday toy drive to benefit children associated with "Kristi's Christmas" – a nonprofit program that is supported by the West Springfield Rotary Foundation, which is devoted to helping disadvantaged children in Fairfax County that may be overlooked by other county, state, and federal programs.

"This is our way of giving back to the community that has given us so much," said Brown. "The holidays mark a time of year when charitable organiza-

tions receive their greatest demand for assistance and Kristi's Christmas is no exception. It's our hope that through this drive, we will be able to bring joy to some deserving families."

As part of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Weichert Toy Drive, the local community is invited to donate new, non-violent, unwrapped toys at the Weichert Burke office which is located at 9299 Old Keene Mill Road, now through Monday, Dec. 15. For more information about the toy drive, or to make a donation, contact the Weichert, Realtors' Burke office by phone at 703-569-7870.

### Weichert, Realtors Recognizes Burke/Fairfax Station Office, Associates

Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced the Burke/Fairfax Station office was recognized for outstanding performance in November. The office led the region, which comprises offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for new home dollar volume.

Additionally, Sales Associates Iman Gobran and Youssef Zeroual of the Burke/Fairfax Station were individually recognized for their



Iman Gobran



Youssef Zeroual

while Zeroual led the company for listings, and both the company and the region for resale listings.

Invite these top neighborhood specialists in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has

exceptional industry success during the month of November. Both top producers, Gobran led the region for new home dollar volume,

to offer. They can be reached in Weichert's Burke/Fairfax Station office at 9299 Old Keene Mill Road or by phone at 703-569-7870.

#### AREA ROUNDUPS

### Food Drives in Fairfax

Our Daily Bread and Combined Properties are hosting Food Drives at Courthouse Plaza in Fairfax City, every Saturday from now through Dec. 13, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 10382 Willard Way. A different Fairfax County nonprofit will collect donations of non-perishable food and supplies or grocery gift cards to help feed individuals and families in need during the holiday season. For information, visit [www.ODBFairfax.org](http://www.ODBFairfax.org).

### Help Provide Holiday Meals

Our Daily Bread is seeking caring community members to sponsor more than 3,000 struggling families in Fairfax County for Christmas meals and gifts for children who might otherwise go without. Details and registration are at <https://www.odbfairfax.org/Holiday>.

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## CAPPIES REVIEW

# Big Brother at School Stage

## Lake Braddock High produces George Orwell's "1984."

BY ISABEL ZAPATA  
MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

There is no freedom of expression. Individuality does not exist. The Inner Party harnesses supreme power, and there is no hope of toppling the government. Every action is recorded. Every thought is monitored. Through the production's powerful commitment to these dystopian ideals, George Orwell's "1984" engulfs Lake Braddock High School's theatre in suspense, panic, and eerie glorification of the almighty Big Brother.

Orwell's work was first met with conflicting reviews; some critics disliked the dystopian satire of totalitarian regimes, bureaucracy, and nationalism, while others pilloried it as nihilistic prophesy on the downfall of humankind. Nevertheless, "1984" remains one of the world's most widely read and quoted novels from the 20th century. It is set in Airstrip One, the former Great Britain, and follows the conflicted Winston Smith, a worker in the Outer Party of the government. The society Winston lives in is bombarded by propaganda that creates an idealized and worshipful image of Big Brother, the quasi-divine Party leader. As the story progresses, the plot explores Winston's dreams of rebellion against Big Brother and the havoc that consequently ensues.

Working with an original adaptation of the book, the actors impressively memorized and perform complex monologues that intermittently span over twenty minutes. Carrying the plot, Liam Finn (Winston Smith) aptly expresses his character's curiosity for the

customs abolished by the Inner Party through enlivened body language. Finn notably displays the effort it takes for his character to control his emotions, which creates a powerful third act in Winston's confrontation with Inner Party member O'Brien. Through variations in intonation and volume, Finn proficiently exhibits his character's complex attitude toward the values in the dystopian society. As Julia, fellow Outer Party member and secret rebel, Marissa Chaffee not only displays one of the most commanding presences on stage, but also exhibits believable chemistry with Finn as they explore their forbidden relationship.

Levi Meerovich skillfully portrays the conniving, duplicitous O'Brien and additionally in carrying the third act through commitment to his elaborate and lengthy monologues. Meerovich exhibits composed, unhurried physicality to portray his role as an intimidating antagonist. Furthermore, Meerovich projects in an excellent British accent commonly associated with the higher class to communicate his status as an Inner Party member. As Martina, Jessica Novis effectively presents a tranquil, soothing voice perfectly suited for someone who is responsible with keeping control over the masses and manipulating their emotions. In one of the most gripping scenes of the performance, Nick Edwards (Bumstead) displays his prowess in portraying pain through excellent reactions to the guards' physical abuse and a compelling vocal expression. During the two minutes of hate, the ensemble shows skill in performing the effects of mob mentality

through riveting expressions of anger and chanting.

The technical aspects of the production greatly enhance the dystopian setting and suspenseful atmosphere of the totalitarian government. The most prominently displayed technical element is the projection of the telescreen broadcasts onto a large box that looms over the stage. The projections feature live feed of actors and animations that help keep the audience engaged and visualize the extensive monologues. The lighting crew skillfully uses their cyc to create engaging silhouettes and respond promptly to cues. The costumes feature a handful of prominent uniforms that greatly enhance the lack of individuality in the society along with excellent wound make-up. The stage also features a versatile set that is quickly brought on and off by the running crew, along with detailed and efficient props such as the various cigarettes and live rats.

Through consistent energy and commitment, Lake Braddock High School effectively produces a suspenseful rendition of George Orwell's "1984." Big Brother is proud.

### SCHOOL 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.

**Jacob Augelli**, an eighth grade student at Robinson Secondary, finished in fourth place overall in the 2014 United States Geography Olympiad, junior varsity division. The competition consisted of two parts: a written exam and a quiz bowl tournament; Augelli placed sixth in the exam and tied for seventh in the quiz bowl tournament; overall scores were compiled by averaging each competitor's ranking for each part. Over 70 junior varsity students from

as far away as Guam competed in the written exam and in a preliminary quiz bowl round, while those with high scores advanced to the final quiz bowl round. Questions ranged in difficulty from naming countries by their capital to identifying obscure islets in the North Atlantic. The top four varsity students earned the right to represent the USA at the 2014 International Geography Olympiad in Krakow, Poland, this summer. The Geography Olympiad was sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and HISTORY, commonly known as the History Channel, which also sponsors the National History Bee and Bowl. For more information on the competition, please visit [www.geographyolympiad.com](http://www.geographyolympiad.com).

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# OPINION

## Make a Plan, Talk About It

Here is help in keeping impaired drivers off the roads.

The holiday party season is upon us, and with it an increase in drinking and driving. It's up to you to make a plan to get home safely.

Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you can spend the night. Plan to abstain.

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 people died in drunk driving related accidents in 2012, including more than 200 in Virginia and 160 in Maryland. 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. 12, 2014, and continuing until Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during



# 469

days since a still-unnamed Fairfax County police officer shot unarmed John Geer standing in the doorway of Geer's home in Springfield, then let him bleed to death on Aug. 29, 2013. No information has been released about the incident, officers involved not named, no explanation, no grand jury, no charges. (as of Dec. 10, 2014)

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.

### Safe Ride Home

WRAP's 2014 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Dec. 12, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). See SoberRide.com information listed below for important details concerning this program.

Callers will be responsible for fare amounts over \$30.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 61,000 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 you, and you'll come get them if necessary. The news has been full of teachable moments about the consequences and vulnerabilities of drinking to excess, drinking and driving and beyond. Don't let the opportunity to talk about it pass you by.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Changing Society's Perception of Sexual Assault

BY JOHN C. COOK  
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)



Recently, headlines across the country involved another sexual assault tragedy. This time at the University of Virginia. While a great deal of controversy surrounds this latest story, it is important to not lose sight of the fact that stories of sexual assault are filling our newspapers all too regularly. As we continue to read reports of these acts nearly every day, many of us seem to fall into the trap of believing that sexual assault only happens to somebody else and that it is only committed by people we don't know. But the statistics say otherwise.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, a sexual assault occurs every two minutes in America. On average, there are 233,986 victims of sexual assault every year. In eight out of 10 cases, the victim knew the perpetrator.

### COMMENTARY

In addition to traumatic physical injuries, victims of sexual assault are very likely to suffer from serious emotional effects. Sexual assault victims are 26 times more likely to use drugs, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, and 4 times more likely to consider suicide. One in four women will be a victim of sexual assault at some point during their life.

On Dec. 2, the Board of Supervisors approved my board matter that directs county staff to assess current methods to prevent sexual violence, and to utilize those assessments to develop new ideas on how to educate students on sexual assault. These efforts are concentrated on educating those who might commit sexual assault crimes in order to change the cultural acceptance toward such crimes and to prevent sexual assaults in the future. It is impor-

tant that county staff work with community leaders to develop ideas on how to work together to increase an awareness and educate students about sexual assault in order to change the culture of apathy toward such acts.

I am also pleased to report that officials at George Mason University, which sits in my district, have been working on this issue for some time. They have agreed to brief me on their efforts, and I plan to urge university officials to tap into whatever resources are available to help them prevent such crimes. Recently, several state delegates have proposed legislation to require that campus assaults be prosecuted as the crime that they are. I intend to meet with our police to make sure we are doing everything we can to arrest and prosecute offenders.

As a community, we must make larger, systematic efforts to prevent these crimes. We must do more to change our culture, and that means reaching our children before they are in college. The seeds of such conduct are planted

long before students set foot on campus, and are nurtured by a culture all too willing to turn a blind eye. We need to teach our children, and population as a whole, that sexual assault is a serious crime and will not be tolerated in our society. We must continue to teach the warning signs of potentially violent behavior. We must also engage in new efforts directed toward those who commit these crimes, and work to ensure sexual assault is viewed with the seriousness it deserves.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County is offering a free Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. Join us for this open discussion. This telephone support group may be just what you need! Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. The one-hour free sessions are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. Find out more and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/) and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

## Burke CONNECTION

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# Shop Till You Trot

Lake Accotink Park features horse-drawn hayrides and Santa.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

One day a year, Jim Hickey does a different kind of volunteering at Lake Accotink Park. The Springfield resident works at the Merrifield Post Office and gives a lot of his time to the park as a member of the Friends of Lake Accotink Park organization. For 20 years he's done various things, and currently does announcing for the popular Braddock Nights summer concert series, as well as the cardboard boat regatta.

But on Dec. 13, Hickey will take on a different public persona: Santa Claus. For over half a decade, Hickey has donned a park-provided red suit and white bushy beard and met with children and families at the Lake Accotink Park Holiday Horse Drawn Hayrides event.

"The hayride is a way to get people to the park during the winter," said Hickey. "They don't think about it all that much, even though it's a very beautiful place in the winter. In Fairfax County, there's not a whole lot of places with nice woods, a lot of animals and nature. Here you're not far from the Beltway and can go and get on a horsedrawn carriage and ride through the woods."

The park has been offering hayrides since 2005, according to supervisor Julie Tahan.

"It's really family-friendly," said Tahan, "especially for people looking to do something to get away from shopping madness and do something that's wholesome, that really connects to traditional value of the holidays."

A flatbed carriage pulled by two Belgian draft horses will pick people up from the park's marina, trot down the main park road, turn around at the parking lot by the dam, and amble along the creek. The horses are provided by Harmon's Hayrides out of Brandy Station, Va.

"It's not an exceedingly long ride," Tahan said, "but it's like stepping into a holiday card."

Rides begin every 20 minutes and riders must register for a time slot prior to Saturday, between 12 and 2:10 p.m.

Tahan echoed Hickey that the event is an opportunity to remind people the park is still there for them as a community gathering place, even in the off-season.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

**Two Belgian draft horses from Harmon's Hayrides pull people around Lake Accotink Park in 2010.**



**Riders enjoy a scenic hayride around Lake Accotink Park in 2010.**

"It's a way to extend the value of the park to the community," she said. "We want it to be a place where people can come out and enjoy the beauty on quiet days, come together and enjoy different aspects of the park."

Hickey said there is still a lot of wildlife to see around the park, making the naturally quiet hayride great for spotting.

"There's a pair of bald eagles that nest in the back of the lake somewhere, they're magnificent," said Hickey. "Sometimes you see them if you're at the lake at the right time. There's also beaver, deer, squirrels and occasional foxes."

Though if none of them are out and about, there will at least be horses, and Santa.

The hayrides, Santa meetings and lakeside campfires run Dec. 13, \$10 per person. Register over the phone at 703-222-4664 or online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes). Lake Accotink Park is located at 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield.

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## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



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lows them to laser weld glasses, costume jewelry, non gold delicate and delicate items. They can do repairs on sterling silver, 14 kt or 18 kt gold or platinum. The work can range from soldering chains to replacing gemstones to custom designing special pieces. They sell loose diamonds and gemstones, and diamonds with GIA certificates.

Five Star Jewelers is at 5765-S Burke Centre Parkway, Burke Centre Shopping Center, in Burke. Phone: 703-239-1300. Website: www.fivestarsejewelers.net. Email: fivestarsejewelers@hotmail.com.



Phone cases handcrafted by Debbie Brooks for the iPhone 4S, 5S, 6S, and 6S-Plus, and cases for the Samsung Galaxy S3, S4 and S5. Cost is \$48.



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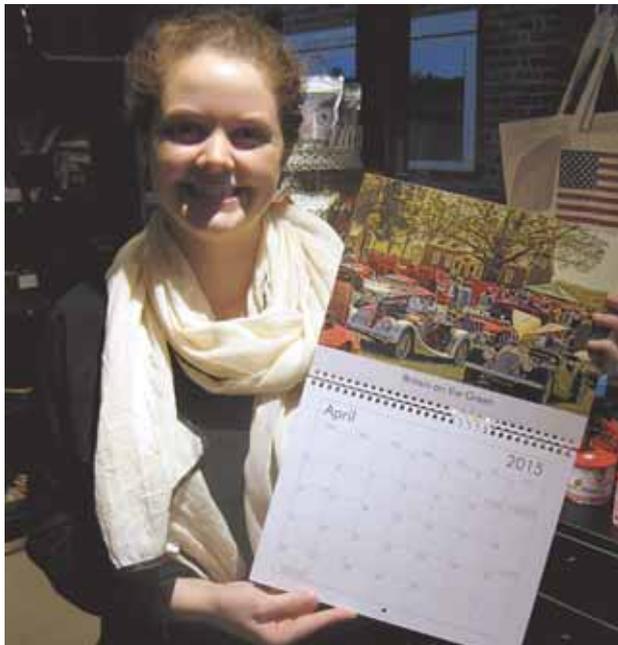
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# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Nicole Morton holds the 2015 Gunston Hall Calendar (\$12), which has photographs of the mansion and grounds. The cover photos are winners from the photo contest of the empty Gunston Hall mansion, grounds, architecture and building.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

## Gifts of History at Gunston Hall Museum Shop

Looking for the perfect gift for a local history buff? The Gunston Hall Museum Shop, located in the visitor's center of Gunston Hall Plantation, offers one-of-a-kind gifts, historical books, food and locally crafted items. Opened 362 days a year from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., the range of gifts includes everything from educational items, to pewter and sterling silver candlesticks to gravy ladles, baby cups and rattles. There are history-focused gifts like scrolls and posters of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which was written by George Mason, and was the precursor to the Bill of Rights. Food items in-

clude Carriage House Cheese Straws, Route 11 Chips, and Virginia Peanuts.

Gunston Hall Plantation sits on 550 acres overlooking the Potomac River in Lorton. It is a state-owned facility, which is overseen by a Board of Regents comprised of members of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., every half an hour on the hour.

Gunston Hall Museum Shop is located at 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Call 703-550-9220 or visit the website [www.GunstonHall.org](http://www.GunstonHall.org).

— STEVE HIBBARD



Christmas ornaments of the Gunston Hall Plantation painted on metal, pewter, and porcelain. Pictures of the house and the seal of George and Ann Mason range in size from 2 to 4 inches, and are priced from \$9.95 to \$23.95.

A selection of 18th century books focusing on George Mason, Gunston Hall, the Colonial Period, the Founding Fathers, and George Washington. The most popular book is the Gunston Hall Guidebook, which features photos of the house and property, for \$10.95. Books range from \$10 to \$30.



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# Exploring the Magical World

Providence Players present "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe."

By DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Time for a family theater event full of wonder. The Providence Players of Fairfax are presenting a show that "families can all enjoy together about a magical world; the world of Narnia," said Brian O'Connor, director of the upcoming "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe." The play is an adaptation of the classic book by renowned author C.S. Lewis that has enthralled readers for generations.

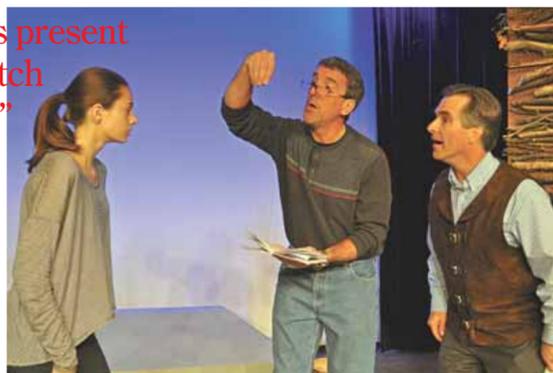


PHOTO BY CHIP CERTZOG/PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

From left — Iris Berendes-Dean (the Unicorn), director Brian O'Connor and David Whitehead (Mr. Beaver) in an early rehearsal for the C.S. Lewis classic "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" from the Providence Players.

As dramatized by Joseph Robinette, the live play is faithful to the imaginative world of good and evil that Lewis created. It is a world of mystery that begins as four children discover an enormous wardrobe with a secret passageway into a mystical world; the thrilling land of Narnia. In Narnia, the children find themselves in curious adventures and great struggles dealing with right and

wrong. They become involved with a wise Lion named Aslan, a mysterious White Witch and many other unexpected talking creatures.

"There is a great spirituality to the world of Narnia, even with its playfulness. It is an enchanting play with great life lessons," said O'Connor. He noted that the show is one in which lives are turned around and much forgiveness de-

scribed. He described the large cast of children, youth and adults as "superb."

O'Connor is a long-time actor in the area. He has been on stage at Ford's Theater, Arena Stage, Olney Theatre, the Kennedy Center, and other theaters.

Kyleigh Friel (St. John Academy, McLean), an 11-year-old, is Lucy in this production. Lucy is the first to find the secret passageway be-

## Where and When

Providence Players of Fairfax County present "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: Dec. 12-21. Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 12, 13, 18, 19 & 20 with Sat. & Sun. matinees 2 p.m. on Dec. 13, 14, 20 & 21. Tickets are \$17. Call 703-425-6782 or visit: www.providenceplayers.org/

Note: Half of all net proceeds from this production will be donated to Young Hearts Foundation that strives to improve the lives of young people affected by long-term illness.

yond the wardrobe she discovers in an old house. Her character is a very truthful girl who also stands up for her beliefs. "My grandpa bought me 'The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe' when I was little," said Friel. "Every little detail that is added into the play" makes it better.

Abby Pierce (Alexandria), who recently moved to the Northern Virginia area is making her local community theater debut as the Dwarf. "I love Narnia! I grew up reading all things C.S. Lewis, so I am very excited to be a part of this story." She added, "everyone is jumping in" to make the production enjoyable for audiences.

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is an inspiring tale that has withstood the tests of time. So as one of the characters says, "let's go and explore together." It promises to be an imaginative evening.

## CALENDAR

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

### THURSDAY/DEC. 11

**Little Flock's Christmas Bazaar.** 5-8 p.m. 11911 Braddock Rd., Fairfax. This is a family event with dinner, bake sale, holiday crafts, photo booth, shops and entertainment. Free. Visit www.littleflockschooll.org for more information.

**What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, a Life.** 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke. Author Marc Leepson will discuss this biography. Book sale and signing. Register at 703-978-5600 press 4 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/. Adults and teens. Free.

**SLIMED! An Oral History of Nickelodeon's Golden Age.** 7:45 p.m. Angelika Film Center & Café at Mosaic, 2911 District Avenue, Fairfax. Author Mathew Klickstein will talk about his new book, SLIMED! An Oral History of Nickelodeon's Golden Age. SLIMED! culls together interviews with 250 creative artists involved with the creation of Nickelodeon, and is a fun-filled, nostalgic and fascinating in-depth chronicle of how the First Kids' Network came to shine a vibrant new "kid-like" light on the cultural landscape. General admission tickets: \$14 Premium Reserved, \$11 Adults, \$9 J members or seniors (65+), \$7 under 30.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 12

**Holiday Celebration with The 5 Browns.** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Experience these virtuosic sibling pianists live, thundering away on five Steinways! In their Center debut, they will present a merry evening featuring everything from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Suite to selections from Vince Guaraldi's A Charlie Brown Christmas. Praised by Entertainment Weekly for their "scorching piano," they first made headlines when all five were accepted at The Juillard School of Music simultaneously. They have since topped The Billboard chart and appeared on the Tonight Show, Today, Oprah, and even in their own PBS special. Admission: \$50, \$43, \$30. Reservations: 888-945-2468.

**Classic Tales.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come and join us for classic tales, stories, songs, and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

**Ancestors 101: U.S. Census.** 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Dig deep into census records and unearth the riches. Adults. 703-249-1520.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 12-20

**Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides.** Fridays & Saturdays: 2-9 p.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides through the tree-lit streets of Mosaic. www.mosaicdistrict.com.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 13

**Holiday Horse Drawn Hayrides.** 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Road, Springfield. Enjoy holiday music and merriment on a horse drawn hayride through the park. Warm up with seasonal treats available for purchase at the snack bar, and settle in to share stories around a toasty campfire. Also visit with Santa and tell him what's on your wish list. Remember to bring a camera and make it your holiday family photo if you wish. Dress for the weather and plan on a brisk walk from the parking lot. To register: Please call 703-222-4664 or register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes. Admission: \$10 per person (free for 2 and under).

**American Festival Pops Orchestra:**

**Divine.** Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. A new art exhibition entitled *Divine*. Curated by The Bunnyman Bridge Collective, *Divine* brings together 10 local artists working in a variety of media from stencil art, calligraphy, poetry, painting, drawing, mixed media, textiles, and more. Opening reception: Saturday, Dec. 13, from 8 p.m. to midnight, spend an evening with the artists. Exhibit on display until Feb. 7, 2015.

**Garden Sprouts: Excellent Evergreens.** 11 a.m.-noon. Green Spring Public Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For ages 3 with adult caregiver. Cedar, pine, hemlock, and spruce are the evergreen trees that make Green Spring's winter landscape beautiful. Listen to a story about winter's landscape and make a mini-wreath with natural materials. \$8/child. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 401 2401 or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

**Family Fun: Winter Solstice Workshop.** 1-2 pm. Green Spring Public Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For ages 5 and up with adult caregiver. Learn how people in the past celebrated the winter solstice and create a warm, welcoming evergreen centerpiece and add a beeswax candle. \$10/person. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 481 5001 or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 14

**Christmas Concert.** 4 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. A free concert of seasonal music. Contact us at 703 971-5151. See our website at http://www.franconiaumc.org.

### MONDAY/DEC. 15

**Magic Tree House Club.** 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Tenth story in the series Ghost Town at Sundown by Mary Pope Osborne. Print copies available at library service desk. Ages 6-8. 703-249-1520.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 16

**John Rutter's Gloria.** 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Lake Braddock High School choirs and symphony orchestra present John Rutter's Gloria.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

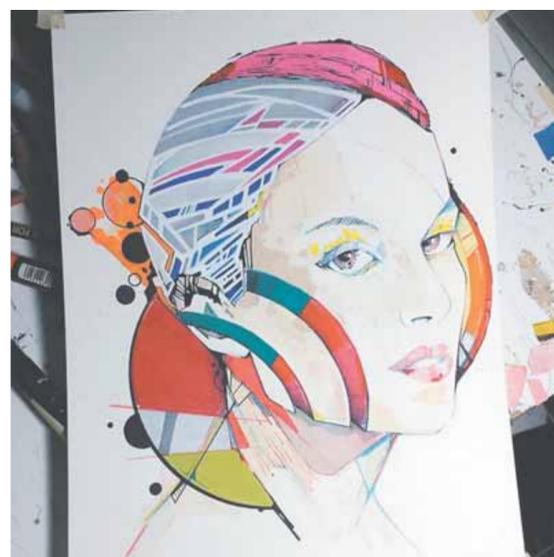
**PJ Library Book Buddies.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Please join us as we read selections from the PJ Library and make a craft to take home. Ages 6 months - 5 years. 703-249-1520.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 19

**S.T.E.M. Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (S.T.E.M.) Each month we will focus on one of the STEM subjects with stories, songs, and activities for preschoolers. Age 4-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

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

**Christmas in Vienna.** Saturday: 8 p.m. Sunday: 4 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Few experiences capture the wonder and the magic of the holiday season quite like the Vienna Boys Choir, who bring their angelic voices to George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax to perform a spirited Christmas concert of ancient



A new art exhibition entitled "Divine," curated by The Bunnyman Bridge Collective, brings together 10 local artists working in a variety of media from stencil art, calligraphy, poetry, painting, drawing, mixed media, textiles, and more. The opening reception will be on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 8 p.m. to midnight, spend an evening with the artists. The exhibit is on display until Feb. 7, 2015 at Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax.

hymns, traditional carols, popular holiday favorites and songs from around the world. Tickets: \$30-\$50. Visit the box office (open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or charge by phone at 888-945-2468

or visit cfa.gmu.edu. performance and at intermission. Tickets: \$8-\$15.

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# Holiday Mischief at the North Pole

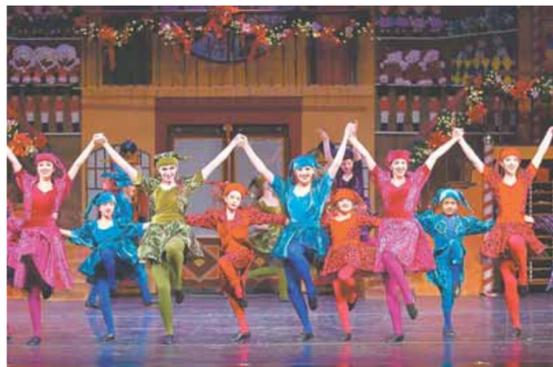
Encore presents musical show, "3 Days 'til Christmas!"

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Reindeer, elves and dancing snowflakes are all part of the holiday joy in Encore Theatrical Arts Project's upcoming musical extravaganza, called "3 Days 'til Christmas!" it'll be presented at NOVA's Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

Show times are Friday, Dec. 12 and 19, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20, at noon, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 14 and 21, at noon and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$19-\$23, with special prices for Girl Scout troops, at www.encore-tap.org/tickets/.

It's almost time for Christmas, but where are the gifts and why are all the children's names on the naughty list? What kind of mischief is happening at the North Pole? To find out, the audience will travel back to three days before Christmas. A girl who tests toys wants to become an elf; meanwhile, the head elf doesn't want any of the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA HELMS

Dressed as elves, dancers perform the kickline number, "Sparkle Jolly."

toys to leave the North Pole.

The cast of 37 Encore performers, plus three professional actors – including narrator Edward Baker-Duly – have been rehearsing since July. "They're doing amazingly well," said Director and Choreographer Raynor van der Merwe. "The girls have matured so much

this year, and seeing their growth makes my heart sing."

The scenes take place inside

Santa's workshop, outdoors at the North Pole, at the reindeer barn and at a sweet shop. Van der Merwe said the audience will enjoy the performers' enthusiasm, the colorful costumes and professional

sets. "And besides the joyful story that's told, there'll be songs they're familiar with and already love, as well as new holiday tunes woven in," she said.

Portraying the toy tester, Ginger, is Faith Chun, 10, of the City of Fairfax. Dancing since age 3, she's been with Encore two years. "Ginger's lovable, and her playfulness is contagious to the elves, so they want her to stay at the North Pole," said Faith. "She's really loud and is around my age, so she's fun to act."

Playing a lead role, she said, makes her feel "nervous and confident at the same time." But she's excited that her character "helps save Christmas."

Renee Griese plays Dancer the reindeer. "She keeps the other reindeer in line and is the leader of the pack," said Griese. "She's easily irritated and wants everything to run smoothly, and I like keeping things in order, too."

A dancer since age 3, Griese says she can have a bad day, but then "come to dance practice, forget about it and just enjoy myself." Her

SEE ENCORE. PAGE 17

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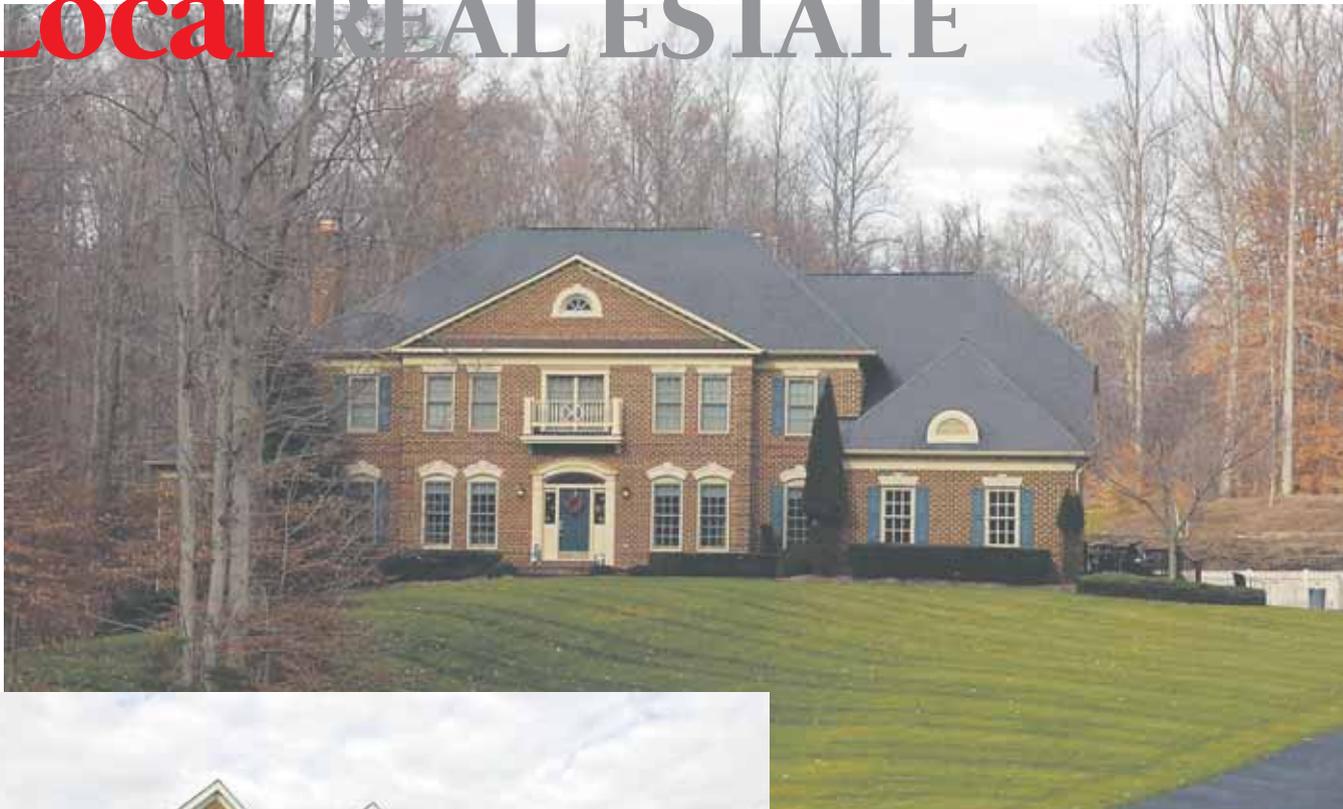
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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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**4** 3952 Woodberry Meadow Drive, Fairfax — \$999,999



**9** 10094 Cover Place, Fairfax — \$864,000



**10** 5119 Bebe Court, Centreville — \$849,900

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
10600 HUNTING SHIRE LN	5	..	4..	2 . FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,300,000	Detached	5.00	22039	THE ENGLISH HILLS EST	10/24/14
9740 THORN BUSH DR	4	..	4..	2 . FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,300,000	Detached	7.20	22039	ESTATES AT ROSELAND	10/27/14
8907 TITLEIST TRL	5	..	5..	1 ..... LORTON	\$1,207,500	Detached	0.85	22079	CALLAWAY GREENS	10/16/14
3952 WOODBERRY MEADOW DR	5	..	4..	1 ..... FAIRFAX	\$999,999	Detached	0.17	22033	KENSINGTON MANOR	10/08/14
9689 ALEXANDRA NICOLE DR	4	..	3..	1 ..... LORTON	\$966,511	Detached	0.87	22079	DENALI WAY	10/15/14
6065 INNISVALE DR	4	..	3..	1 . FAIRFAX STATION	\$950,000	Detached	5.00	22039	STATION CROSSING	10/10/14
13714 BLACK SPRUCE WAY	4	..	3..	1 ..... CHANTILLY	\$902,000	Detached	0.29	20151	PATERRA	10/03/14
7343 HOOES RD	5	..	6..	0 .... SPRINGFIELD	\$895,000	Detached	0.52	22150	BONE MILL	10/01/14
10094 COVER PL	5	..	4..	1 ..... FAIRFAX	\$864,000	Detached	0.14	22030	FARRCROFT	10/10/14
5119 BEBE CT	4	..	4..	1 .... CENTREVILLE	\$849,900	Detached	0.20	20120	FAIRLAKES CROSSNG	10/20/14
3501 PERRY ST	5	..	4..	1 ..... FAIRFAX	\$845,000	Detached	0.59	22030	COBBDALE	10/31/14
8536 OLD KEENE MILL RD	4	..	5..	1 .... SPRINGFIELD	\$830,000	Detached	0.49	22152	FAIRFAX PARK	10/08/14
7605 MCWEADON LN	5	..	4..	1 .... SPRINGFIELD	\$805,000	Detached	0.21	22150	ACCOTINK BLUFF EST	10/10/14
6533 NOVAK WOODS CT	4	..	2..	1 ..... BURKE	\$683,000	Detached	0.22	22015	WOODED GLEN	10/15/14

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# 2015 New Year Remodeling Resolutions

BY JOSHUA BAKER  
BOWA



After all the holiday festivities have passed and the ball has dropped to ring in the New Year, many homeowners are inspired to tackle resolutions that relate to their living space. 2015 may be the year you want to remodel your home to allow for the changes occurring in your life. Perhaps you want to build out an office which will allow you to work from home? Maybe 2015 is the year you want to avoid climbing stairs, so moving the master suite to the first floor may be on your resolution list?

One thing is certain in life — family needs are always evolving. As kids come and go, aging parents move in, greener technology becomes available, and we look for more creature comforts in our homes, individuals and families need and want to update living spaces.

So, if you're thinking 2015 is the year to make changes to your home to better suit your changing lifestyle needs, I would encourage you to review some of the following top home remodeling resolutions.

### TIP #1: Planning For My Long-Term Home Needs

Given the fact that a home remodeling project can be a significant investment of both time and money, I would strongly recommend that your family has thought through all elements of the remodeling job to make sure it will work for family's long-term living needs. You want the work done on your home to both improve your day-to-day life and add to the future value of your home, so ensuring the decision makers in your family are all on the same page is critical.

Also, as your family plans to remodel your home, we recommend considering the best times for your home to be under construction. We find that since families tend to travel more during the summer months, that is a good time for a remodeling project as the process may be less disruptive and the work can move quicker.

### TIP #2: Research What You Like

One of the best things you can do to prepare for sitting down with a professional remodeler is to find

pictures of aspects of homes that you like. Being able to show examples of your preferences is extremely helpful to ensure your tastes are understood and incorporated into the design, and often, the materials selected for your remodeling project.

Websites like Houzz.com or Pinterest.com offer thousands of ideas that you can explore and print out to help you define the

look and feel you desire to achieve with your new finished space. You can also save them in an online account that can be viewed by your potential remodel company.

### TIP #3: Do Your Homework on the Best Remodeling Company

As with any significant investment, make sure you do due diligence before signing on with a design-build firm. Remodeling remains one of the most reported industries, so be sure to talk with the firm's client references and visit recent projects they have completed to get a sense for their craftsmanship. You may also want to ask about employee tenure and which professionals will be working with you through the remodeling process. It is important to know who will be your single point of accountability.

With a single point of accountability for the entire design and construction process, you can work alongside your architectural team and other specialists to ensure reliable materials are specified, drawings are clear, and challenges are addressed to lay the groundwork for a smooth production process. Most importantly, this team approach ensures that the project that is being designed aligns with your budget goals, and finds areas of efficiencies and appropriate cost savings wherever possible.

These three tips will help you to achieve the best approach and find a design-build team that will take accountability and manage the entire process while looking after your best interests. Remodeling professionals become part of your family during the process, so it's important to be extremely comfortable with the firm you choose.

*Josh Baker is the founder and co-chairman of BOWA, an award-winning design and construction company specializing in luxury renovations, remodels and additions in the greater Washington, D.C. area. BOWA has more than 25 years of experience and has been honored with 170 local and national awards. Visit [www.bowa.com](http://www.bowa.com) or call 703-734-9050.*

## Saving Historic Homes

Residents could live virtually rent-free in exchange for repairing and maintaining homes.

Fairfax County might soon breathe life into historic homes that have fallen into disrepair. If an ordinance adopted by the County Board of Supervisors last month becomes law, the county will be one step closer to establishing a resident curator program.

The program, which would be the first in the Commonwealth of Virginia, allows indi-

viduals or groups to occupy publicly owned historic properties rent-free in for exchange repairs and maintenance.

"It allows us to preserve historic resources and limits our liability because some of the properties are empty and therefore invitations to vandalism," said Judy Pedersen, a spokeswoman for the Fairfax County Park Authority. She added that the program would also trans-

fer financial responsibility to the curator, saving taxpayers money.

Earlier this year, the county commissioned a study to explore the idea, taking in to consideration factors such as the types of properties that would be eligible, whether to allow commercial use and criteria for selecting curators.

Pederson said the county needs \$241,000 and a project manager in order to start the program "But we're on track and things are moving forward," she said.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

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**Eleanor Lamb (center left) assists grandson Lenny with a Christmas baking project while daughter Stephanie and grandson Stevie look on. Lamb — who has 10 grandchildren — has found the new kitchen invaluable for family gatherings.**



**To help Lambs create a multi-zone family kitchen with room for all, designer Sherry Wohn at Abbey Design Center developed a plan for a 400 sq ft kitchen/great room. The family dining table is in the front half of the space, where a formal dining room was previously.**

# A Family Kitchen in Time for the Holidays

Remodel makes room for the whole family in the “heart of the house.”

BY JOHN BYRD

A holiday wish fulfilled, that’s how Eleanor Lamb characterizes her newly-remodeled kitchen/dining room when she observes all 20 members of the extended family comfortably seated for Thanksgiving dinner.

By most standards it’s a large gathering, and yet the brightly-lit, cleverly-zoned great room stretching from the front to the back of the family’s center hall Colonial has room for all — 400 square feet, in fact, excluding the walk-in pantry.

The new space has been years in coming to fruition. The Lambs bought their brick two-level house in Herndon nearly 30 years ago and raised three children. Now the children are raising families of their own and, for Mark and Eleanor Lamb, what counts is happy grand parenting...and getting together.

The makeover is an obvious change for the better. Last year, the front-facing half of the new kitchen was a traditional formal dining room complete with long drapery and a Chippendale-style table that seated eight. Those not at the table were mostly situated somewhere in the kitchen. Eleanor regularly moved between stove and table. A hostess utilizing a circa-1980’s floorplan in accordance with its design.

When a neighbor enlarged their kitchen, however, Lamb noticed. Eventually she wandered into the Abbey Design show room in Sterling where a fateful meeting occurred.

As Sherry Wohn, the designer at Abbey who developed the Lamb kitchen solution, remembers it:

“Eleanor was grappling with how to enlarge her kitchen while staying inside the perimeter of the existing house. One option was to join the kitchen to the family room along the rear of the house; the other entailed co-opting the front-facing dining room.”

The core problems for Lamb, though, were cramped working surfaces and restricted storage compounded by rooms that



PHOTOS BY JACQUELINE BINKLEY

**A food preparation island with dining counter required 26 feet of floorspace. Lamb says the design makes it easy for her to interact with grandchildren. The breakfast alcove looks out into a spacious backyard.**

seemed too dark and clutter-prone.

“The wooden cabinet facings were dated,” Lamb said. “Things I needed regularly were hard to access. I wanted an open space that would allow everyone to interact easily, but would also provide places where I could work on projects with my grandchildren but wasn’t sure how to proceed.”

Early-on, Lamb decided in favor of extending the kitchen forward. “I didn’t want to lose the family room,” she said.

In short order, attention shifted to how best to unify and re-configure the combined square footage of the existing kitchen and dining room.

Removing the wall was uneventful — there was only one HVAC vent to re-route. But Lamb also wanted larger appliances — and more of them, well-defined activity zones, and dedicated space for family dining that would be just as elegant as the old dining room. Moreover, all of this should appear in a lighter, brighter, seamlessly-in-

tegrated new interior.

“The space offered a lot to work with,” Wohn said. “The bay style alcove in the rear brings in lots of light. The front archway opens directly to the foyer and there’s a large front-facing window. As a rule, natural light and visual continuum really work well in an open floorplan.”

**WHAT EVOLVED** from the collaboration is a generously-sized country-style kitchen that includes three ovens, a food preparation island and dining counter, a spacious rear-facing breakfast table, and formal front-room family dining zone with seating for eight. There is also a refrigerator/freezer twice the size of its predecessor, a 40-bottle wine cooler and a convection microwave.

From the start, the challenge for Wohn was how to optimally assemble so many moving parts into an efficiently functioning, cohesive whole that is also infectiously welcoming.

“The new footprint is about 12 feet wide,” Wohn says. “With the dining table in the front, I needed a plan that allows easy circulation, yet accommodates a lot of new appliances.”

Elegantly delineating the family’s primary dining area was also important. To set the right tone, Wohn designed glass-facing cabinets and handsome “sideboard” serving surfaces. The cabinetry provides storage for linens, flatware, family collectibles. It also eliminates the need for an old stand-alone china cabinet.

To keep critical inches uncluttered, Wohn borrowed about 22 square feet of front room floorspace for a wine chiller, a pair of stacked ovens and a 37-inch-wide refrigerator/freezer — all of which seem to disappear into the Macadamia-hued Banbridge style cabinetry and Tumbled Travertine wall surfaces.

“Apart from its decorative function, one the goals of finishwork is to visually scale-back objects that might otherwise seem too large,” Wohn said. “Textures, colors and shade variations help make a large space feel more intimate — which is the essence of an effective zoning strategy.”

Clad in light browns, tan and beige, the walls and cabinets present an even tranquil surface; porcelain flooring tiles — laid out diagonally — repeat a pattern in the backsplashes. Throughout, variation and visual rhythm make a large space feel intimate.

“The room feels very relaxing, partly because it’s so effectively designed,” said Lamb. “I’ve got a lot more space for preparing meals — but thru-traffic stays out of my work zones.”

Better yet, since the food preparation island is also a lunch counter that seats four, Lamb can catch up with her grandchildren while slicing vegetables or seasoning the stew.

“It’s fun. I’ve always said the kitchen is the heart of the house,” Lamb said. “And now it truly is.”

*John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.*

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## 21 Announcements

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 6600 Hackberry Street, Springfield, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Brian R. Higgins and Nancy J. Higgins, dated November 25, 2005, and recorded December 20, 2005, in Deed Book 18065 at page 1104 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 57, Section 1, Springfield Forest, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 921 at page 507, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 6600 Hackberry Street, Springfield, Virginia 22150.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$8,500.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.875 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

DAVID N. PRENSKY  
Substitute Trustee  
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
David N. Prenskey, Esquire  
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500  
Washington, D.C. 20015  
(202) 244-4000

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY

**Vivian May, 72**, of Fairfax VA died at Fairfax Hospital on Wednesday December 3rd. Funeral service will take place at Advent Funeral Home 7211 Lee HWY Falls Church VA 22046 Saturday December 13th 11 am

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between (1061) Lynn Wallis-Miller 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: boxes, christmas decorations, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Wednesday December 17, 2014 @ 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 (2087) LaDonya Jenkins 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: boxes, bags, furniture, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Wednesday December 17, 2014 @ 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 (3112) Jennifer Johnson 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: boxes, furniture, totes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Wednesday December 17, 2014 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### ABC LICENSE

TRG Westfield LLC, trading as Fosters Grille, 5007 Westone Plz, Chantilly, VA 20151. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on and off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jeremy Topper, 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 newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3260

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# NEWS

## House Fire Leads to Teen's Arrest

Believing he set fire to his own home, authorities arrested a 19-year-old Fairfax man last week and charged him with arson. They did not release his name, but the incident occurred Tuesday, Dec. 2, around 8:30 p.m. and caused an estimated \$250,000 damage.

Units from both the City of Fairfax Fire Department and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department responded to the blaze at 10903 Fairchester Drive in the City of Fairfax. Upon arrival, fire was reported in the attic and in a bedroom at the rear of the house.

Information provided by the City of Fairfax stated that an investigation conducted jointly by the City Fire Marshal and Police Department "resulted in a finding

that the fire had been intentionally set by a 19-year-old resident of the home. The suspect also allegedly caused additional damage to the home, including broken windows and damage to a family member's car in the driveway."

The suspect was taken to the detention center and charged with arson of an occupied dwelling and intentionally burning personal property. He was held pending a bond hearing. Because of the fire, the home was declared uninhabitable and three family members were displaced. The American Red Cross helped them find temporary lodging at a local hotel. No one was injured.

— BONNIE HOBBS

## 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/DEC. 13

**Teen Writers Group.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Share, discuss and get feedback of works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

### MONDAY/DEC. 15

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

**One-on-One English Practice.** 7, 8 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice speaking, reading and writing English with a volunteer partner. Ages 8 through adult. 703-249-1520.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 16

**Connected on the Homefront.** 7-9 p.m. Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield; Terrace Room. This month's theme

is "What is Lovely"-Christmas Memories. A meeting that provides dinner, fellowship and speakers to minister to wives of active duty, reservists and retired military. Visit www.immanuelbible.net or 703-941-4124.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 19

**Using Activities with Meaning to Promote Well-Being and Fun!** 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Learn strategies for sparking fun and laughter in caring for people with dementia; making your time enjoyable, frustration free and memorable. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 20

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

# Encore

FROM PAGE 10

favorite song in this production is a new one called "Nuttycracker Suite." In it, she said, "There's black light and we dance behind a curtain reflecting our shadows, so it's a special-effect number." Griese said people of all ages will "have fun and find the show entertaining. The storyline's really engaging, and our two new actors are hilarious."

Monica Brown attends the Fairfax Academy's dance program and is in her seventh year with Encore. "I fell in love with dance when I was 3," she said. "You can escape from all the outside drama in your life and put what you're feeling into movement."

As Prancer the reindeer, Brown's character is competitive against Comet the reindeer. "Ginger's just come to the North Pole, and we're both trying to impress her with how cool we are," she said. "I love playing a reindeer; she's prim and proper, like my own personality, so I can draw from personal experience."

Brown especially likes the number, "Let it Ring, Let it Swing, Let it Snow." Hoping to eventually become a Radio City Rockette, she said that song is a Rockette-style num-

ber with kick lines and precision steps." Brown said the audience will enjoy all the different songs and dances and will like seeing Santa, elves, reindeer and snowmen. And, she added, "It'll really get them into the Christmas spirit."

Alia Artieda is a homeschooled senior who's been with Encore since age 6. "Dancing is so much fun, I couldn't think of doing anything else," she said. In this show, she's in several of the numbers.

"My favorite dance is 'Toyland,' when all the toys come to life," she said. "There are rag dolls, jesters, toy soldiers and ballerinas, and I'm a ballerina. It's fun because it has so many different styles of dance. The dancing in this show is something everyone will enjoy; there's always something new."

Mikaela Vasconez finds dancing "freeing" and also performs in many of the numbers. She likes "Sing a Little Song" the best. "It's jazz, we're holding presents as we dance and it's very graceful," she said. "We wear candy-cane-striped leotards on top with gold, ruffled skirts."

As for the show, she said, "It's family-friendly. There's lots of great dancing, funny acting and a heartwarming story with a satisfying resolution."



Robinson boys' basketball coach Brian Nelson talks to the Rams during their Dec. 8 home game against Lake Braddock.



The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team fell short against Robinson on Dec. 8.

# Nai-Tetteh Leads Robinson to Comeback Win over Lake Braddock

Senior's two steals, 14 fourth-quarter points propel Rams to victory.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

After twice stripping the ball from Lake Braddock sophomore Corey Pelham and converting the steals into five points early in the fourth quarter, Robinson senior Ashrifi Nai-Tetteh acknowledged as he came off the floor that he should have imposed his will earlier in Monday's contest.

While taking an aggressive defensive approach in the first half might have made life easier for the Rams, Nai-Tetteh's fourth-quarter performance made life miserable for the rival Bruins.

Nai-Tetteh scored 14 points in the final 8 minutes to go with his two clutch steals and the Robinson boys' basketball team came from behind to beat Lake Braddock 65-59 at Robinson Secondary School.

**THE RAMS** trailed 47-42 entering the fourth quarter. After Nai-Tetteh made a pair of free throws, the Robinson guard stripped Pelham and converted a three-point play after he was fouled while making a layup. Nai-Tetteh stripped Pelham again moments later, this time the steal resulted in a pair of free throws for the Robinson guard, giving the Rams their first lead since the opening minutes of the first quarter.

"I've been playing against [Pelham] since last year," Nai-Tetteh said. "I knew from fall league earlier this year when I pressured him, he made bad decisions. I just knew that if I did that, I could turn the game around and get the momentum going our way."

Pelham buried a 3-pointer to put Lake Braddock back on top, but Robinson went ahead to stay when Joey Powell scored near

the rim, giving the Rams a 51-50 advantage.

Nai-Tetteh buried a 3-pointer with 5:29 remaining, giving the Rams a four-point lead, and made a pair of free throws with less than one minute to go, helping hold off the Bruins.

Robinson trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half and was down five entering the fourth quarter, but Nai-Tetteh's timely defensive plays helped spark the Rams.

"He's our best defender," Robinson head coach Brian Nelson said. "He knows it and that's really no big secret. He's a particularly good on-ball defender ... but he ... [hadn't] yet this season through three games, until that fourth quarter, asserted himself in the way that he can, defensively. I think he just, for whatever reason, picked that moment that this is when I'm going to actually show what I can do at the defensive end of the floor and he made some plays."

"The game absolutely turned on those plays he made."

Nai-Tetteh finished with 20 points and six rebounds. Powell had 13 points, and Brent Yantis and Avi Silberman each eight. Austin Jones totaled four points and seven rebounds.

Nelson said the Rams are talented, but many of this year's key contributors were



PHOTOS BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION  
**Robinson senior Ashrifi Nai-Tetteh scored 14 points and had two key steals during the fourth quarter of the Rams' 65-59 victory over Lake Braddock on Dec. 8.**

role players on last year's team. On Monday, the Rams earned their first win of the season after losing games against South Lakes and Potomac Falls.

"I think [Ashrifi Nai-Tetteh] just, for whatever reason, picked that moment that this is when I'm going to actually show what I can do at the defensive end of the floor and he made some plays."

— Robinson boys' basketball coach  
Brian Nelson

"We kept talking over the weekend [about how] we just need to get one and kind of get the weight off our backs of 'when is that first win going to come?'" Nelson said. "We know we have a talented team, we just are a little lean on experience closing games."

Lake Braddock had just four players score Monday night. Reagan Jones led the way with 17 points. James Butler finished with 16 points, Pelham had 14 and Elliott Johnson added 12. Johnson grabbed seven rebounds, and Butler and Jones each had five.

**THE FOLLOWING NIGHT**, Robinson defeated South County 46-45 to improve to 2-2. Lake Braddock beat Westfield 65-52, improving to 2-1.

Robinson faced West Springfield on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Rams will travel to face two-time defending region champion Woodson on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

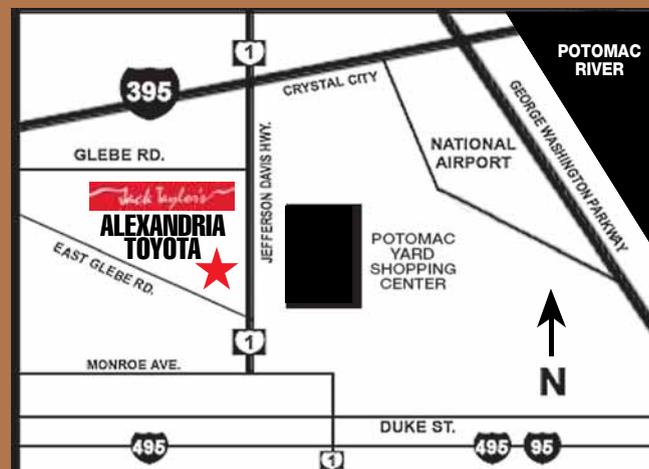
Lake Braddock will travel to face Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12.

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**Fairfax \$635,000**  
Raised Rambler is ready for you! This homes sits on an amazing half-acre lot & the expansive windows bring the outside in. Eat-in Kitchen is expanded & remodeled. Oversized two-car garage. Woodson school district. So close yet so private!



**Centreville \$1700 Fantastic Rental**  
2 BR, 2 1/2 BA, 3 level townhouse w/1st floor Hardwoods, SS appliances, finished LL w/Rec Rm, 1/2 BA & W/O to deck. Short term lease considered.



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Service is the difference I provide

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**Burke Centre \$415,000**  
This town home has 3 finished levels, 3 bedrooms, and 3.5 bathrooms. The home has been updated, new HVAC and over 1,500 square feet of living space.



**Fairfax Sunroom \$503,900**  
The beautiful sunroom on the main level is just one of the many wonderful reasons to own this home. Gleaming hardwood on two levels, brand new carpet on the bedroom and rec room level, breathtaking back yard, patio and decking and a one car garage in the Woodson HS district.

Access the Realtors' Multiple Listing Service: [www.searchvirginia.listingbook.com](http://www.searchvirginia.listingbook.com)