

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

Home LifeStyle

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Holiday
Entertainment
& Gift Guide 2014

Members of the Clifton Baptist Church (from left) Joani Albert and Norm Albert of Chantilly, Trudy Dixon of Clifton, Cindy Ortega of Fairfax and Orene and Paul Blum of Clifton welcomed guests on the Clifton Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour.

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

FAITH

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

“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

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

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 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.

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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Mary and Pete Mills own the Payne House (1884), the fourth stop on the Clifton Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour.



Osborn Park High School students (From left) Kelsey Pond, Fiona Frazier, Elizabeth Davis and Stephanie Coolbaugh sing traditional Christmas Carols at the Clifton Baptist Church.

‘Bringing Light to the Gloom’ Clifton Christmas events continue despite dreary weather.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

It rained on their parade, but it didn't rain them out. Chilling precipitation forced the Clifton Horse Society to cancel their costumed stroll down Main Street in Clifton on Dec. 6. But despite the weather, the other components of the annual Clifton Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour continued as planned.

Clifton Vice Mayor Dwayne Nitz welcomed people to the tree-lighting at 5 p.m. “We’re bringing light to the gloom,” he said, before giving a small team of children the go ahead to flip the switch. The tall, robust fir tree at Ayre Square off Main Street illuminated and an umbrella-toting crowd lit handheld electronic candles with their free hands.

Verses of “The 12 Days of Christmas,” “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” and “Carol of the Bells” pierced the dark mist, voiced by a combined choir from Osborn Park High School.

The Madrigals and Cantus groups were joined by Patriot High School’s women’s choir Moezzefiato for a few verses of “Silent Night.”

THE FIVE PRIVATE HOMES dating back to the late 19th century, two historic churches and Art Guild of Clifton show all were that much more inviting as warm, light shelter from the elements.

Pete and Mary Mills’ “Payne House” (7151 Main Street) was built in 1884 by the lumber merchant and builder Melvin Payne. The original house in Carpenter Gothic style was added to in the 1980s by the Ruck family, making the space more livable for today’s families.

“We love the history, it’s why we bought the house,” said Mary. “It has that really traditional feel in the front but is more modern in the back.”

Preparing the house for its third consecu-



Sal (left) and Gina Speziale (right) own 7153 Main Street, the sixth stop on the Clifton Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour.

Community members and local school choirs gathered to light the Ayre Square fir tree during the Clifton Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON/
THE CONNECTION



tive appearance on the homes tour required “a lot of cleaning and arranging,” including fragrant fresh winter greenery.

Clifton Baptist Church across from the Payne House welcomed guests with homemade cookies, hot cider and performances from the school choirs.

The building has changed little since it was constructed in 1877 at Main and Chapel Streets.

“The history is so amazing in this church,” said member and Clifton resident Orene Blum. “When you walk through these doors, it’s like being wrapped up in a quilt.”

Sal and Gina Speziale used to live in Burke before buying 7153 Main Street and moving to Clifton four years ago. “She’s a Cliftonite,” Sal said of Gina, who grew up in the town. “When we heard the previous owners were moving, she wanted to come back and I just followed ‘the boss.’”

Built in 1884, the Speziale’s home once housed the General Mercantile Store, Black Pussycat Café saloon, cabinet shop and meat market, among other uses.

Though the current owners have had to replace the roof, renovate the kitchen and have the original hardwood floor taken up and put back exactly in place, board by board, to repair some water damage, the couple has largely kept the house the way it was.

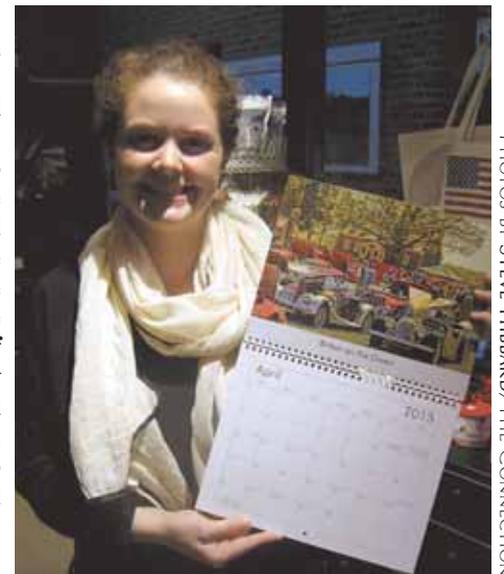
“It’s nice to be reminded of the way life used to be,” said Sal.

CLIFTON MAYOR William Holloway spent much of the afternoon at the Art Guild of Clifton show held at 12641 Chapel Road. The artists took advantage of the community gathering to show off their paintings, metal ware and textiles. “It brings a real life and vitality in here,” said Holloway. “It just gets bigger and better year after year. These people in here aren’t competing, they’re lifting up each other.”

And fortunately, they all had a roof over their heads.

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.

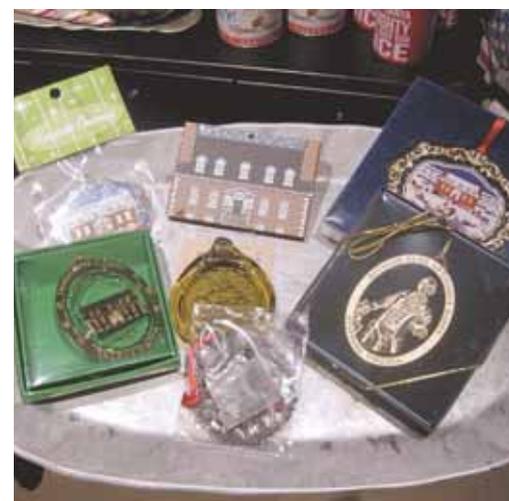
Food items include Carriage House Cheese Straws, Route 11 Chips, and Virginia Peanuts.

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.

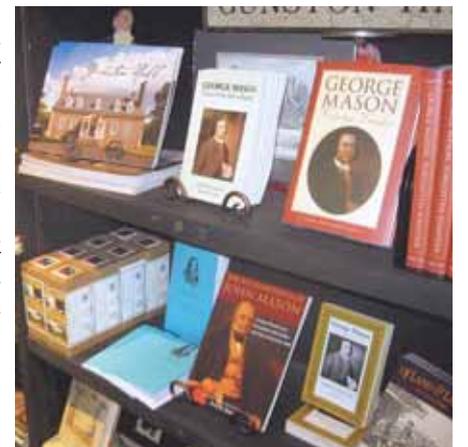
Gunston Hall Museum Shop is located at 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Call 703-550-9220 or visit the [website](http://www.GunstonHall.org)

— 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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AREA ROUNDUPS

TTC Holds Food Drive

TCC, the largest Verizon Premium Wireless Retailer in the U.S., announces that 300 of its stores will be donating and volunteering at local food banks through its "Stop the Hunger" initiative this holiday season in a joint effort with its customers until Friday, Dec. 12. Participating TCC stores across the U.S. are encouraging local families to bring in canned and boxed food, which will be delivered to the community's food bank. The participating store in Springfield is located at 6230X Rolling Rd. In addition to the food drive, each participating store will donate funds and employees will volunteer at local food banks until the end of December.

"'Stop the Hunger' is the newest initiative under TCC's 'Culture of Good' movement, which empowers our employees to make a positive, charitable impact in their communities," said Scott Moorehead, president and CEO of TCC. "It's how our company gives back to every community where we do business. We're honored to have the ability to help families and children in need this holiday season by donating to and volunteering at local food banks throughout the U.S." With the "Culture of Good" in its second year, TCC continues to advance its corporate social responsibility efforts. Most recently, TCC's summer "Culture of Good" efforts resulted in the donation of 300 college scholarships to children and 100,000 backpacks to deserving students. To learn more about TCC, visit www.ecellularconnection.com. Learn more about TCC's "Culture of Good" by visiting www.cultureofgood.com.

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 non-profit 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.

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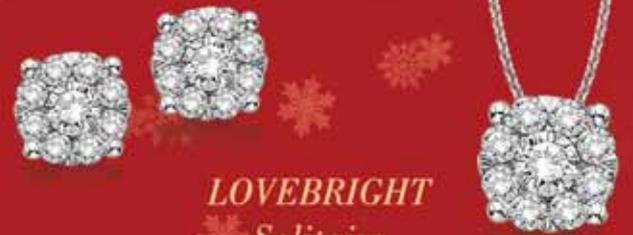
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OPINION

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



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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)



COMMENTARY

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.

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/ and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Seasonal cupcakes like white chocolate peppermint, eggnog and carrot cake make appearances week to week at Cupcaked in Clifton, but red velvet remains the bestseller.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Owner Kristina Baranowski puts fresh fruit (when in season), herbs and other ingredients into her cupcakes, scones and macaroons.



Ed Dyer of Fairfax Station and Lucinda Lawson of Clifton discuss Christmas beers at the bar in the Clifton Wine Shop & Tasting Room.



The Clifton Wine Shop & Tasting Room stocks all manner of consumable gourmet gifts from Virginia and abroad.

Buying Gifts Locally

Cupcaked, 12644 Chapel Rd, Clifton, offers cupcakes for \$3.50. "Cupcakes are great gifts because they're cute, pretty and everyone loves a cupcake," said owner Kristina Baranowski, who makes a new batch each morning. "It's not too much, not too little."

Clifton Wine Shop & Tasting Room, 7145 Main St, Clifton, offers Commonwealth Joe chocolate \$9.50 (Culpepper), McCauley's Peppers (Washington, D.C.) \$12, Azahar Coffee Company \$2 per ounce, Ovid Napa Valley 2010 \$300, Hardywood Virginia Blackberry Belgian white beer \$10.49 (Richmond), Virginia Chutney Company Mango Chutney \$10.

— TIM PETERSON

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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.

THROUGH MONDAY/DEC. 15

FCPS Art Teachers Exhibition. Building W-16 McGuire Woods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. FCPS art teachers display their art. 703-584-2900. www.workhousearts.org.

THROUGH SUNDAY/DEC. 28

Sparkling Wine Tastings. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Recurring weekly on Sunday, Friday, Saturday. Taste all three sparklings from Paradise Springs as well as a unique Pineapple Sparkling from Maui. Ten percent off all sparkling wines purchased for anyone who does the tasting. Admission is \$20/person. Call (703) 830-9463 for more information. No reservations necessary as tastings will be done at our main tasting counter. Ongoing event.

THROUGH MONDAY/JAN. 19, 2015

Dada Re-Discovered. Building W-16 Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Dada Re-Discovered explores how contemporary media and ideas can filter past Dada concepts and artwork. The exhibit will feature sound, video, performance and other visual mixed media. 703-584-2900. www.workhousearts.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

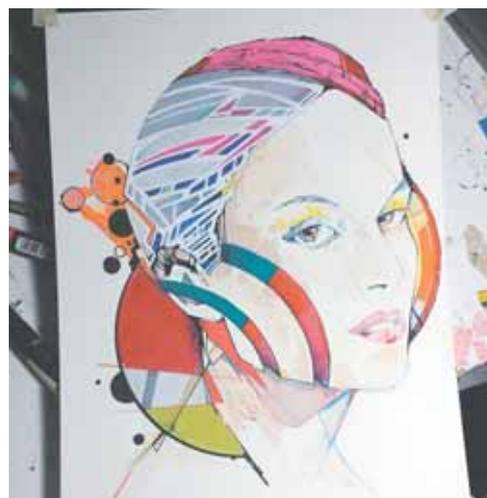
Little Flock's Christmas Bazaar. 5-8 p.m. 11911 Braddock Rd., Fairfax. This is a family event with dinner, bake sale, holiday crafts, photo booth, shops and entertainment. Free. Visit www.littleflockschooll.org for more information.

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 appeared on The Tonight Show, Today, Oprah, and even in their own PBS special. Admission: \$50, \$43, \$30. Reservations: 888-945-2468.

"3 Days till Christmas." 8 p.m. NOVA, Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River



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.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10-SUNDAY/DEC. 14

Snow Day. 10:30 a.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. One cold December morning, a young girl named Skip wakes up to find the entire neighborhood covered in a thick, dazzling blanket of white snow. \$8. 703-967-0437 or www.artsonthehorizon.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

"Four Centuries of Virginia Christmases." 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum, 10209 Main St, Fairfax. Join author Mary Miley Theobald to explore and learn more about Virginia Christmas customs and their evolution from pagan, British, German, and Dutch precedents. Free. 703-385-8414.

Christmas Cookies. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Get all your friends together for a fun afternoon of baking your favorite Christmas cookies. Whether you'll present these treats to eager party guests or leave them on the mantle for Santa, after this class you can mark delicious treats off your list.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

An Album of a Century-Photographer Jacques Henri Lartigue. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, W-3 Theatre, Lorton. French photographer and painter Jacques-Henri Lartigue (1894-1986) is most famous for his stunning photos of automobile races, planes, and fashionable Parisian women from the turn of the century. This lecture explores Lartigue's photographs from his first sincere, often playful, presentation of friends, family, and French society made as early as age 6 to his later fashion layouts and portraits. \$10 per person, \$5 for Artists and Friends of the Workhouse, Volunteers and Military. Contact Moria Nisbet, 703-584-2986.

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 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.)

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.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 12-13

Small Plates: Choreography Festival. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Beth Elliott Dance Group hosts Small Plates Choreography Festival, a curated dance event presenting the work of emerging and established choreographers from Northern Virginia and beyond. Small Plates brings together dancers, choreographers and their audiences in an intimate performance experience. An informal audience talk-back session follows each performance, offering the opportunity for the audience to discuss the creative process directly with the choreographers. Tickets: \$10-\$15.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

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.

2nd Saturday Artwalk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. An opening reception for all studio shows and featured artists.

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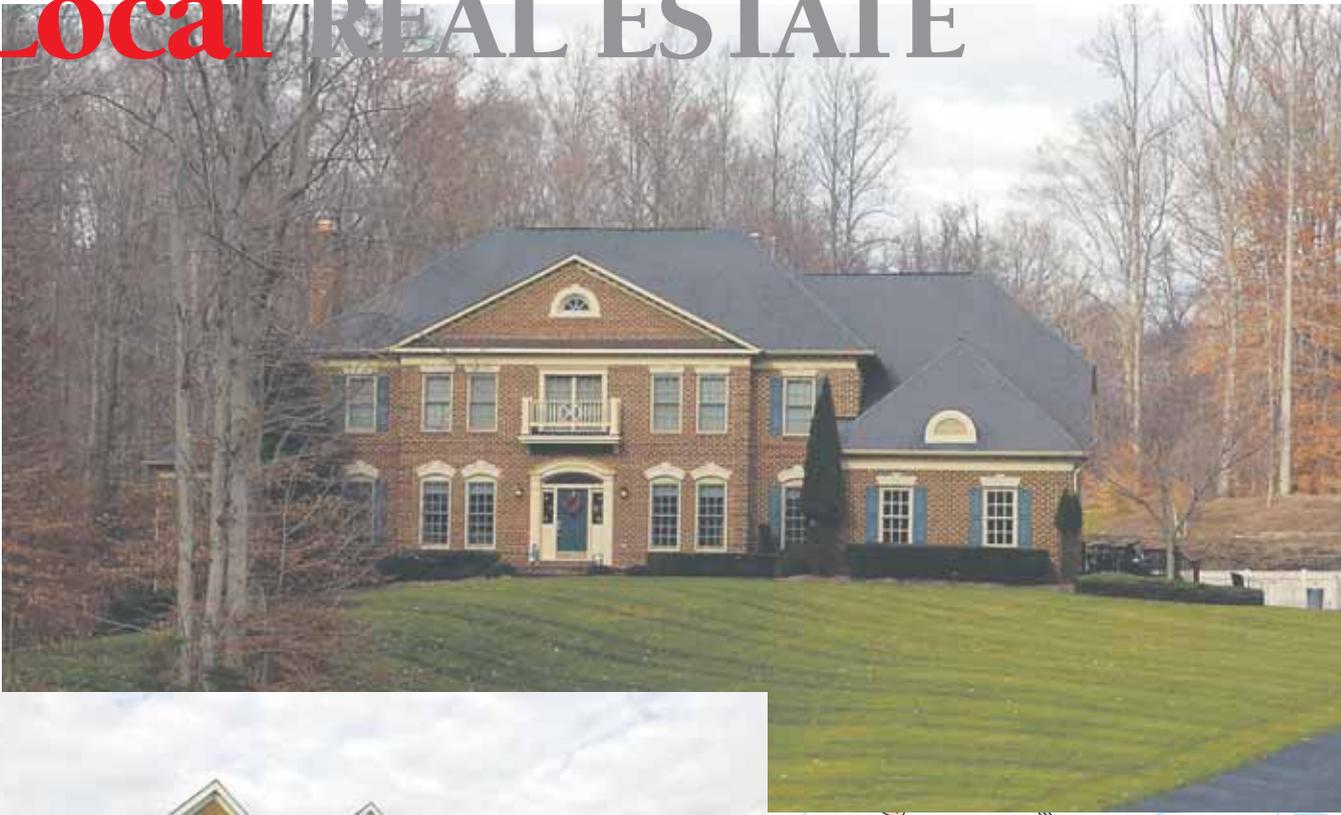
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2 9740 Thorn Bush Drive, Fairfax Station — \$1,300,000



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



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



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

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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 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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The Mount Vernon Gazette
Zone 4: Centre View North
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Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

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.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

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. 23

Short Book Conversations. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join our lively book discussion. Call library for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/DEC. 27

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.

26 Antiques

We pay top \$ for antique furniture and mid-century Danish/modern teak furniture, STERLING, MEN'S WATCHES, jewelry and costume jewelry, paintings/art glass/clocks. Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790. Email: theschefers@cox.net

The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

26 Antiques

26 Antiques

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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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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.

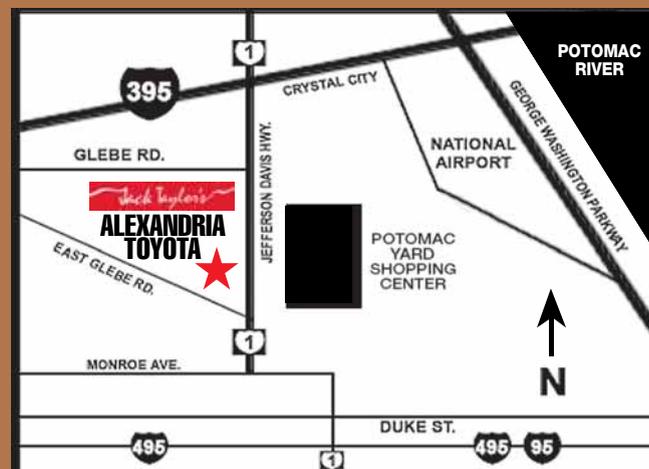
Lake Braddock will travel to face Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12.

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New Price! \$298,900
Be in your new home in the new year. Terrific End Unit Town House in Parkside at Dulles. 1,500 sq ft in this 3 BR, 3 BA home.



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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.



Richard Esposito
703-503-4035
Richard@LNF.com
Service is the difference I provide



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.

ELLIE WESTER
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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