

Workhouse artist Lynn Goldstein, of Fairfax Station, in France. In November, she was an artist in residence at the l'Atelier d'Artiste de Grande Vigne in Dinan, France.

# Workhouse Artist Goes To France

NEWS, PAGE 12

## Three Shattered Families

NEWS, PAGE 16

## Making Holidays Brighter

NEWS, PAGE 10

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# NEWS



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addressed attendees at the Inauguration Ceremony held at the Fairfax County Government Center on Dec. 13.

## County Officials Inaugurated

All local elected officials will take office on Jan. 1, 2012.

**T**he inauguration ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Fairfax County Government Center for the 15 recently-elected officials was filled with all the pomp and circumstance of any official celebration.

"Almost three years ago when I addressed you for the first time as your chairman, it was to a backdrop of troubled and uncertain times," Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-a-large) told the crowd of several hundred spectators in her inaugural address. "The world and our nation were reeling from a breakdown in our lending and financial institutions that was unprecedented in most of our lifetimes. Fairfax County, along with all state and local governments in the U.S., was seriously affected by this downturn," she said.

In addition the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County constitutional officers, and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District directors all took their oath of office.

**FAIRFAX CIRCUIT** Court Judge Jan L. Brodie administered the oath of office to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and 14 other elected officials, who each swore to support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The ceremony also included musical performances by harpist Christine Van Dyke from Fairfax County's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, the Frost Middle School Advanced Symphonic Orchestra, Langley High School Madrigals, South County Secondary School Chamber Orchestra and Captain Matthew Lopez of the Northern Virginia Firefighter's Emerald Society Pipe Band.

The colors were presented by the Fairfax County Public Safety Honor Guard and PFC Laura Redman of the Fairfax County Police Department sang the national anthem. The evening concluded with a reception.



Fairfax County Board of Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova is sworn in by the Hon. Jan Brodie, Judge of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, for a four-year term as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

### Sworn In

In addition to Bulova, the district supervisors installed were:

- ❖ John C. Cook, Braddock District
- ❖ John W. Foust, Dranesville District
- ❖ Michael R. Frey, Sully District
- ❖ Penelope A. Gross, Mason District
- ❖ Pat Herrity, Springfield District
- ❖ Catherine M. Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
- ❖ Gerald W. Hyland, Mount Vernon District
- ❖ Jeff C. McKay, Lee District
- ❖ Linda Q. Smyth, Providence District

The constitutional officer installed was:

- ❖ Raymond F. Morrogh, Commonwealth's Attorney

The three directors of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District installed were:

- ❖ Johna Good Gagnon
- ❖ George W. Lamb
- ❖ John W. Peterson

Stan G. Barry, sheriff, was not available and will be sworn in at a later date.

The ceremony will be rebroadcast on Fairfax County Government Channel 16 at 8 p.m. on Dec. 21 and 24.

"The ceremony was beautiful and I especially enjoyed the high school musical performances. What a great way to begin this four-year term," Bulova said after the ceremony.

All elected officials will take office on Jan. 1, 2012.

— VICTORIA ROSS

## Supervisors Reflect on Inauguration Ceremony



John Cook (R-Braddock)

"I was pleased to be there and thank the people of the Braddock District for the opportunity to serve. There are a number of important, long-term issues we need to address, and I look forward to being actively involved in the discussion. And, of course, I look forward to continuing our important work helping Braddock neighborhoods reach their full potential and pursue their dreams."



Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

"It was both a nice and historic ceremony. The fact that this was the first time an entire Board of Supervisors was reelected made the event enjoyable, relaxed and historic. The performances by the musicians from our county schools were outstanding and added a lot to the ceremony."



Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

"It's always very moving to see our democracy in action. I think of all the places in the world where people risk their lives to vote and I say a small prayer of thanks."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Dan La May installs the newly-elected 2012-2014 board members of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce at its Annual Awards Dinner: (from left) Anna Kaviani of Allegra Springfield; Bill Kauffeld of Austin Grill; Kathleen McDermott of Alliance Law Group and Suzanne Shogren of the Hilton Springfield.**



**Awards Committee co-chair Eric Williams presents the Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year Award to Evelyn Jackson at the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner.**



**Leslie Bazemore receives the Public Service Award from the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce during its Annual Awards Dinner.**

# Chamber Hosts Awards Dinner

## Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce inducts 2012 Board members.

**B**usinesses went black-tie during the Annual Awards Dinner hosted by The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce at the Hilton Springfield on Thursday, Dec. 8.

In addition to introducing its 2012 Board of Directors, the chamber's leadership honored several business leaders for their community involvement.

Beginning Jan. 1, Dick Lucier will serve as board president for a three-year term. A licensed insurance agent since 1974, Lucier has been a chamber member since 2005, and currently serves as chair of the chamber's Legislative Committee.

Other newly-elected board members include Bill Kauffeld, general manager of Austin Grill in West Springfield; Kathleen McDermott an attorney with the Alliance Law Group; Mark Russell, owner of Metro Run & Walk in Central Springfield; and Suzanne Shogren, director of sales at the Hilton Springfield. Anna Kaviani, owner of Allegra Springfield and the Chamber's 2011 board president, was elected to serve a second three-year term on the board.

The chamber represents businesses from Burke, Fairfax Station, Franconia, Kingstowne, Lorton Station, Newington and Springfield.

"Following the induction of the new board members, we recognized several businesses and individuals for their wonderful accomplishments and contributions to our community," said Nancy-jo Manney, the chamber's executive director.

**THE CHAMBER PRESENTED** its Corporate Citizen Award to Austin Grill for its support of the Greater Springfield community through local sponsorship of Relay for Life, National Night Out, Lake Braddock

Secondary School, Robert E Lee High School, West Springfield High School, the Fairfax County Human Society and many more.

The evening's second business award, the Arthur E. Morrisette Top Hat Service Award, was given to Eddie Greenan Jewelers located in Springfield Plaza. "Owners Eddie and Vicki Greenan were recognized for their commitment to greet customers with a smile and to make sure every shopper is provided whatever time is required so they leave with just what they want," Manney said.

Leslie Bazemore, a school crossing guard with the Fairfax County Police Department, was honored for her public service to students at Washington Irving Middle School

and Rolling Valley Elementary School. Bazemore was praised by school administration, parents, students and her superiors.

The chamber's highest citizenship award, the Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year, was bestowed on Evelyn Jackson, a resident and volunteer at Greenspring. Jackson has managed the Treasure Chest, the all-volunteer run thrift store for Greenspring residents and staff, since 2005. Under her leadership the Treasure Chest has donated more than \$575,000 to local non-profit organizations.

**THE BLACK-TIE EVENT** was made possible through the longtime support of the Hilton Springfield, the events Presenting Sponsor. Additional sponsorship's provided for table favors, dinner wines and centerpieces. This year's Table Sponsors included Cerium Technology, Colonial Animal Hospital, Costco Newington-Springfield, Hill-

top Golf Club, Interstate Worldwide Relocation, NOVA Medical Education Campus HIS, Transurban, and Union First Market Bank.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization whose mission is to bring companies together to benefit the entire community by promoting and developing business opportunities in the Greater Springfield area. For more information, visit [www.springfieldchamber.org](http://www.springfieldchamber.org) or contact Nancy-jo Manney at 703-866-3500.

— VICTORIA ROSS



**Dick Lucier (right) was installed as the 2012 Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce President by Dan La May (left), the chamber's president in 2009-10, during its Annual Awards Dinner.**



**Vicki and Eddie Greenan of Eddie Greenan Jewelers receive the Arthur E. Morrisette Top Hat Service Award during the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner.**

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Pedestrian Dies in Fairfax Station Crash

Police responded to a crash on Silverbrook Road near Crosspointe Drive on Saturday, Dec. 17 shortly before 6 p.m. During the preliminary investigation, crash reconstruction detectives determined that 22-year-old Michael J. Henley of the 8300 block of Ivy Green Road in Fairfax Station was attempting to cross Silverbrook Road from north to south. A 2010 GMC Acadia driven by a 36-year-old Fairfax Station man was traveling east on Silverbrook approaching Crosspointe Drive when Henley stepped in front of the vehicle and was struck. The victim was thrown into the westbound lane on Silverbrook Road and was then hit by a second vehicle; a 2005 Chrysler mini-van being driven by a 46-year-old Fairfax Station man. Both vehicles remained on the scene. The victim was medevaced to a local hospital and pronounced dead.

Neither speed nor alcohol is believed to be a factor in this crash. The investigation will continue and no charges have been placed.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, email at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

### Supreme Court Takes Case

Clifton Elementary remains closed, but the Virginia Supreme Court agreed last Wednesday, Dec. 14, to hear arguments in Jill DeMello Hill's lawsuit against the Fairfax County School Board. In documents filed in February, Hill, a Clifton resident, accused the board of violating the state's Freedom of Information Act while deliberating whether to close the school.

### Community Choir Coming to Clifton

A community choir is coming to Clifton, and is looking for people of all ages to join. Music selection will range from folk to modern to pop, and all styles in between. Email [helentsantoro@gmail.com](mailto:helentsantoro@gmail.com) for more info, including info sessions and starting dates.

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# OPINION

## Share Your New Year's Resolutions

### What were top events, accomplishments of 2011 in your opinion?

**T**his is the last regular edition of the Connection for 2011. Between Christmas and New Year's, we'll deliver the Children's Connection, an annual tradition, with pages filled with the artwork and writing of local students.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for the first issue of 2012, sharing views of what were the most important happenings of 2011 and what to look for in 2012. We'll also share a variety of New Year's resolutions. We invite our readers to help in this endeavor.

For some, local elections were likely the top

event of 2011. For advocates of families of the fallen, like the Tragedy Assistance Program (TAPS), the end of 2011 brings the end of the Iraq war and the complex emotional and practical issues that come with that. For non-profits and charitable organizations, 2011 brought greatly increasing numbers of people in need. For your family, the top events of 2011 might have included the birth of a child or a graduation or the completion of a marathon.

Share your joys and milestones with us, not only from the year that's past, but also your expectations of 2012.

Answer one or all of these questions:

1) What were the (one, two or three) most significant happenings of 2011 for you in your community? Why?

2) What do you think our readers should

know to watch for in the coming year (up to three issues)? Or what do you think the top (one, two or three) happenings of 2012 will be locally? Why?

3) What is your New Year's Resolution? (Feel free to share more than one)

Please include your home address with your responses, we'll only print your town name. And we'd also love to have a photo of you, your family and/or events or places in your community that you reflect upon in your answer.

Please send photos and answers via email. For McLean, Vienna/Oakton, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, send to Kemal Kurspahic, kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

For Arlington, Alexandria, Mount Vernon, the Centre View area or Potomac, email to Steven Mauren, smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

## Free, Safe Ride Home from Holiday Celebrations

**O**nce again, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will provide a safety net for those who might celebrate the holiday season with alcohol and unexpectedly need a safe ride home.

WRAP's 2011 Holiday SoberRide program will operate each night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The program began Friday, Dec. 16,

and will continue until Jan. 1, 2012.

To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. All requests for SoberRide service must be called to and dispatched from 1-800-200-8294. Callers will be responsible for any amount over \$30.

WRAP's SoberRide has helped to ensure lo-

cal residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays, keeping likely impaired drivers off the roads. Since 1993, WRAP has provided nearly 53,000 safe rides home. SoberRide operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day and Halloween.

For details, see <http://wrap.org/soberride>

## A Nonpartisan Redistricting Opportunity

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

**I** have repeatedly advocated nonpartisan redistricting. I believe that our current redistricting system is at the heart of political gridlock in Washington and Richmond. Thanks to power software, today politicians pick their voters instead of voters picking their politicians. We also have a system designed to minimize public input and maximize incumbent protection. However, in January, a federal judge will have an unprecedented opportunity in Virginia.

Most people wouldn't know it, but the General Assembly is actually still in special session, but just in recess while we "consider" redistricting. The Governor signed legislation redistricting the General Assembly on April 29, 2011, but Congressional redistricting was never completed.

The last time we were actually physically in the State Capitol for a session was July 29, 2011. The House and Senate had previously approved competing bills regarding redistricting. On July 29, 2011, neither party had reached an agreement. Nothing was passed. We still sit today staring each other down with lame duck members of

each chamber in office until Jan. 6, 2012.

The House of Delegates approved legislation that was effectively proposed by the incumbent congressmen ("the Republican Plan"). Most observers believe it will preserve the status quo in Virginia. It contained some strange creatures — e.g. the Fifth Congressional District stretched from I-66 to the North Carolina border.

The Senate proposed a plan ("the Senate Democrats Plan") which creates a "minority influence district" in the Richmond suburbs. Most observers believe it would endanger Congressman Randy Forbes. I have not carefully analyzed them, but it is my understanding that competitive seats are largely absent from both plans.

In terms of the 44th Delegate District, both plans would put the entire 44th District inside the 8th Congressional District. If you would like to see the plans, you can view them on the Division of Legislative Services Redistricting Website which you can access through Google or my blog.

Article II, Section 6 of The Constitution of Virginia requires redistricting to occur "in the year 2011 and every ten years thereafter." The Constitution does not state what happens if it does not hap-

pen "in the year 2011." From my point of view it is an unprecedented opportunity.

The following is expected. First, we will return to Richmond on Jan. 6, 2012 and all be sworn in. Then, the Senate will meet to approve its rules and committees and will deadlock 20-20 on "organizing" themselves. The Lieutenant Governor will vote to break the tie and give the Republicans a working majority in the Senate. The Democrats will complain and say that is illegal.

The House and Senate will then pass the Republican Plan and the Governor will promptly sign it. All that will occur in about 10 days. Then, it will go to court and a federal judge will then need to rule:

1. Whether to adopt the Republican Plan (assuming it meets the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965); or

2. Whether to have a three-judge panel adopt its own plan.

From my point of view, this is an unprecedented opportunity. Many of us have endorsed the concept of non-partisan redistricting. Although the State Senate has passed legislation and it was nominally endorsed by Governor McDonnell during his campaign, it has died every year in committee. This situation presents an op-

portunity for a federal judge to actually do congressional redistricting on a non-partisan basis.

The work has already been done. Several Virginia Colleges held The Virginia Redistricting Competition last fall designed to produce maps created to maximize competition or simply focus upon non-political criteria. Fifty-five teams of students submitted entries. Four different teams were given awards for the Congressional District maps. (They don't look anything like the present maps).

Gov. McDonnell also created a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission. It even included a Mt. Vernonite — Former State Board of Elections Chairman Jean Jensen. They produced three possible congressional district maps.

The bottom line is that the work has been done. If the Court wants to take a step that was truly in Virginia's best interest, they should reject the legislatures' partisan self-interested work product and adopt one of the independent proposals. That is the only action that would be in Virginians' best interest.

You can email me at [scottsurowell@gmail.com](mailto:scottsurowell@gmail.com). You can also stay informed by reading my blog, The Dixie Pig, at [scottsurowell.blogspot.com](http://scottsurowell.blogspot.com). It is an honor to serve as your State Delegate.

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## News

# Prescription Drug Card Program

Spike in uninsured residents prompts partnership.

**R**esidents may be able to cut their prescription drug costs by almost half, thanks to a new, free discount card offered by Fairfax County. This card will help the estimated 144,000-plus residents without health insurance, and may offer savings to the insured, too.

According to county officials, the number of uninsured residents has spiked in recent years, growing by 27 percent between 2009 and 2010. The latest figures show that 13.5 percent of residents lacked insurance last year.

There are several ways to get a Fairfax County Prescription Drug Discount Card:

- ❖ Print a card at [www.FairfaxRxDiscountCard.com](http://www.FairfaxRxDiscountCard.com).
- ❖ Get a card at any participating pharmacy; supplies will be limited.
- ❖ Look in the mail. In the next two weeks, they will be mailed to homes in areas with the highest concentration of uninsured residents.
- ❖ On average, the card cuts the cost of a prescription by 45 percent, depending on the drug and amount bought. For brand-name drugs, discounts are estimated to be 10 to 20 percent, and 20 to 70 percent for generics. Based on use countywide, officials expect the card will produce a total savings of \$280,000 per month.

In addition to the uninsured, the discount card also may help insured residents anytime they must pay full price for a prescription because their plan doesn't cover a drug. The card cannot be used to reduce the cost of co-pays, co-insurance or deductibles.

Discounts are available for some pet medicines too. However, the drugs must be human medicines that can be taken by animals, and the prescription must be filled at a pharmacy, not at a veterinarian's office.

Almost every pharmacy in the county accepts the card, plus 62,000 other pharmacies across the nation. No enrollment or registration is needed to use it, and one card can be used for multiple people. To get discounts, just present the card at the pharmacy when buying medicine.

No personal or health information is collected when the card is used, and an individual's drug purchases are completely confidential. Fairfax County is offering the discount card through a partnership with ProAct, a pharmacy benefit management company. For information or help, call ProAct's help desk toll-free at 1-877-776-2285, TTY 711. Help is available 24/7, and ProAct's customer service staff can answer questions in many languages. Visit [www.FairfaxRxDiscountCard.com](http://www.FairfaxRxDiscountCard.com) to print a card, get more information, or find participating pharmacies.

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Will Return after the Holidays

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call 703-821-5050

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PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION



Food for Others executive director, Roxanne Rice, works with volunteer Michael Powers of Springfield to sort intake forms from clients.



Volunteers Payton Robertson, 13; Bridgette McRoberts, 14, and Mackenzie Bliss, 14, of Fairfax help sort canned goods and stock shelves during a Friday afternoon at Food for Others.



Daniel Gerke, of Vienna, with the P3 bags he and friends assembled at his 13th birthday party. From left — Justin Lee, Jack Goewey, Peter Freck, Joey Welsh, Lee Morrison, Daniel Gerke, Clark Bowden, Johnny Corish, Jack Jones, and Johnny Rogers.



Leo Delgado hands out food staples, such as bags of potatoes, to Juan, Rocky and Nancy, who depend on organizations such as Food for Others. Located in Fairfax, Food for Others is the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia, provides the assistance needed by unemployed and low-income neighbors.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION



Laura Gerke, of Vienna, with Katharine Sickl, an au pair from Germany, deliver food packs to Food for Others on Friday, Dec. 8. The food packs, which will be distributed to area children who need food on the weekends, were assembled by Gerke's son, Daniel, and his friends, at his 13th birthday party.

# Helping Neighbors, Respectfully

Area residents donate 23,746 hours to help Food for Others fight hunger.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

When Laura Gerke of Vienna was planning her son's 13th birthday party in November, she thought about doing something a little different.

"I started thinking 'how many iTunes and Game stop cards you have?' Daniel gets so much stuff for his birthday and Christmas, and I thought this year might be an opportunity to combine fun activities with a service project," Gerke said.

When she learned about Food for Others Power Pack Program (P3), which provides food packs for local elementary children who don't have balanced meals to eat on the weekends, her idea crystallized into action.

"I talked with my son about it, and he thought it was a great idea," said Gerke. "I emailed party invitations and asked his friends to donate food instead of bringing gifts. Everyone was on board, and the parents thought it was a great idea."

The 10 boys at his birthday party brought enough food for 33 packs to donate to the Power Pack Program. "They had fun assembling the food packets, in between playing foos ball and air hockey," Gerke said.

"We wanted to plant the seed that it's not all about yourself. Daniel is well aware that his needs are met, and there are people in greater need," Gerke said. "It's hard to believe there are children right here in Fairfax County, who, when

they go home for the weekend, don't have enough food to eat."

**NIKKI CLIFFORD**, Food for Others' volunteer coordinator, launched the P3 program in October, and said she has been pleasantly surprised at the success of the program.

"It's incredible how the program has taken off," Clifford said. "I have elementary schools helping other elementary schools. We connect churches and youth groups with schools. The response has been fantastic."

Clifford said she receives food packs nearly every day, and has increased the organization's commitment from 50 to 75 packs a week to several Fairfax County elementary schools. She said school counselors identify the children in need, about 85 percent of whom receive free and reduced lunches.

"It's sad, but many children in our area have very little to eat between their school lunch on Friday and the breakfast they get at school on Monday morning," Clifford said. "Mothers tell me their children hoard food under their beds, and sometimes have to lock up the refrigerator to make the food last. That's just incredible to me."

Clifford said volunteers and generous donors, like Gerke, help sustain Food for Others, the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia. Last year, volunteers logged 23,746 hours, the equivalent of 11 full-time positions.

"I have the easiest job in the world, and I love coming to work.

The volunteers here are amazing," Clifford said.

Even though Northern Virginia is considered one of the wealthiest areas in the country, the poverty rate is still about 5 percent, which means more than 90,000 people are living in poverty and 30 percent are children, according to 2010 U.S. Census figures.

"We have nine wonderful full-time employees," said Lynne Galanis, Food for Others finance manager, "but it's the hard work of over 1,000 volunteers that allow us to keep our costs low and maximize our service to those in need."

**FOOD FOR OTHERS** began feeding the poor in Northern Virginia in December 1995, continuing an earlier program of emergency food

corner sites.

The major difference occurring during the past 10 years is the number of volunteers and the volume of food distributions, according to Roxanne Rice, the organization's executive director, with more than 258,000 pounds distributed to local residents in the past four years.

"The organization was started by a dedicated team of volunteers, and the importance of volunteers continues to this day," said Rice, the organization's executive director. "We couldn't do what we do without extra hands provided by this dedicated group. Our volunteers bring such positive energy."

"This is wonderful organization. Everyone is here for the right reasons," said Wendell Moore, a re-

"The key thing is to respect the clients. A lot of people who come through these doors never thought they would need help," Spain said.

"As a volunteer, I have an opportunity to build relationships with clients," said Michael Powers of Springfield. "You get to know them and their stories, what brought them here, and they deserve compassion. They don't need to feel like they are being judged because they need our assistance."

Rice said she recently received a note from a single mother with four children who had just lost her job. "She said her children always participated in the Boy Scout Food Drives, and she couldn't believe she needed help. We often get volunteers who were once clients, and those who were once in a position to volunteer or donate now need our help," Rice said.

Rice said the organization's volunteers represent a cross-section of the community, including workplace team-building groups; adult service organizations; university students, retired individuals; religious organizations and families and school groups ranging from grade school to high school.

"Volunteers are the heart and soul of our operations, and we view volunteers as our partners in the fight against hunger," Rice said.

**TO VOLUNTEER OR LEARN** more about the Power Pack Program and other programs, go to [www.foodforothers.org](http://www.foodforothers.org) or call 703-207-9173 to speak with volunteer coordinator Nikki Clifford. "Volunteers who are bilingual in English and Spanish are especially needed. Our goal is to provide a meaningful volunteer experience in a positive environment," Clifford said.

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## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

**EVERY NIGHT, UNTIL JAN. 8**  
**Bull Run Festival of Lights & Holiday Village.** Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 5:30-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday and holidays. For more than 12 years the Bull Run Festival of Lights at Bull Run Regional Park has drawn thousands of visitors from hundreds of miles away. The Bull Run Festival of Lights is held each year to celebrate the winter holiday season. Admission \$15-\$55. Carnival fees \$18-\$30. 703-631-0550.

**DAILY, UNTIL JAN. 6**  
**Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens Celebrates the Holiday Season.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Themed decorations, a gingerbread Mount Vernon, historical chocolate-making demonstrations, 18th-century dancing, and a Christmas camel just like George Washington had on the grounds during Christmas of 1787. Open Christmas day. All programs included in general admission. \$15 adults, \$7 children, age 5 and under free. [www.visitalexandriava.com/MountVernon](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/MountVernon).

**FRIDAY/DEC. 23**  
"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).

**SATURDAY/DEC. 24**  
**Good For The Jews: Putting The Ha! In Hanukkah Tour featuring Rob Tannenbaum and David Fagin.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**SUNDAY/DEC. 25**  
"A Christmas Carol." 1 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).

**TUESDAY/DEC. 27**  
"Nutcracker." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performed by the Virginia Ballet Company and School. \$30 adults, \$20 children, students and seniors. [www.virginiaballetcompany.org](http://www.virginiaballetcompany.org) or 703-249-8227.  
"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).

**WEDNESDAY/DEC. 28**  
"Nutcracker." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performed by the Virginia Ballet Company and School. \$30 adults, \$20 children, students and seniors. [www.virginiaballetcompany.org](http://www.virginiaballetcompany.org) or 703-249-8227.

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**THE CONNECTION**

## NEWS



The first group of elves started Friday with their lists around their necks and Kathy Marchetti who is one of the ones in charge of the Christmas shop is holding the papers with the client information.



Tables laden with books and games that ECHO volunteers collected from the community beginning last January. Some of the gifts are bundled so each child gets approximately the same dollar amount.

PHOTOS BY THERESA THOEN

# Making Holidays Brighter

**ECHO's holiday cheer resonates throughout the community.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**E**CHO's shopping elves were out in force this weekend, handing out gifts in all shapes and sizes at its annual Christmas Shop so that more than 2,000 local children will have presents to unwrap Christmas morning.

"It's a gratifying time for us. Gifts are everywhere, everyone is shopping, parents are hugging and crying because they are so appreciative," said Meg Brantley, ECHO's executive director. "It's wonderful to see the smiles."

Volunteers Kathy Marchetti and Barbara Minton coordinated ECHO's 15th annual Christmas Shop. They recruited 25 volunteers for their "elf force," who keep shelves stocked and help parents, many of whom don't speak English, shop for gifts for their children.

**THE COORDINATORS** collected thousands of gift donations throughout the year from various community organizations, churches and individuals, including new bikes, clothes, toys and games. The Christmas Shop, which started in a coat closet and expanded along with ECHO's main building on Old Keene Mill Road, is a hub of activity during the holidays.

"ECHO prepared a wonderful collection of donated gifts for clients' children this year" said John Gauthier, a longtime volunteer and ECHO's official historian. He recently wrote an extensive history of ECHO and its dedicated volunteers.



A brand new bike! Tables laden with books and games that ECHO volunteers collected from the community beginning last January.

Brantley said parents shop for 3-4 gifts for each child, and about six families go through the store every 20 minutes. In addition to gifts, parents are given stocking-stuffers such as toothpaste, tooth brushes and pillow cases.

"I had one lady come in who couldn't read, and she had an 11-year-old daughter and a 3-month-old baby with her. Her daughter was very concerned that her mother got gifts for the baby, which I thought was very sweet, so the elves made sure she had something for her baby sister," Brantley said.

Brantley said ECHO's clients, who are families living in poverty or at risk of becoming homeless, have increased nearly 20 percent since 2007, and the Christmas Shop served more families and children than in previous years.

"Our numbers keep going up and up. The need is here," Brantley said. "Many of our clients are living literally on the edge, and they rely on community-based organizations like ECHO to provide gifts and toys for Christmas."

**FOUNDED IN 1969** by nine local churches, ECHO (Ecumenical Communities Helping Others) is an all-volunteer non-profit that works with 26 congregations in the Burke, Springfield, Fairfax Station and Lorton to provide nearly 400 volunteers who run the organization. ECHO assists people in need throughout the year, regardless of religious affiliation, by distributing food, clothing, household items, transportation, a variety of family counseling services and limited financial assistance in emergencies.

"ECHO has no paid staff. We call our volunteers 'angels,' because they are the ones who do it all. They accept and log donations, counsel clients, sort clothes, bag groceries, shovel the snow, you name it," Brantley said. Because ECHO is all volunteer, no donation goes toward paying a salary, and less than 1 percent of all donations go toward overhead, such as building maintenance.

Pat Gauthier, who retired as ECHO's executive director in 2009,

**"Gifts are everywhere, everyone is shopping, parents are hugging and crying because they are so appreciative."**

— Meg Brantley, ECHO's executive director

began her volunteer service by driving people who did not have transportation to medical appointments with her 3-year-old son. After retiring, Gauthier, who has 42 years of continuous service, continues as a daily volunteer

"ECHO was in its infancy when we arrived in Springfield and ECHO's 'mission' interested me greatly," Gautier said. "I found a terrific group of like-minded people also interested in impacting the lives of those less fortunate in a productive way. It is tremendously satisfying to help others while working with some of the most dedicated, compassionate folks in all of Northern Virginia," she said.

"At this time of year, we are reminded more than usual of the tremendous amount of support we get from our wonderful giving community. We are very blessed," Brantley said.

ECHO is located at 7205 Old Keene Mille Road, Springfield. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 7-9 p.m. Call 703-569-9160 or go to ECHO's website at [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org).

## CALENDAR

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.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 22

#### English Conversation Group.

7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English and improve English-speaking skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

#### Learning English. 7 p.m.

Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

#### "A Christmas Carol." Lazy

Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 23

#### "A Christmas Carol." Lazy

Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 25

#### "A Christmas Carol." 1 p.m.

Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).

### TUESDAY/DEC. 27

#### Writers Peer Review Group.

7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Submit up to 25 double-spaced pages to [kingstownelibrarywriters@yahoo.com](mailto:kingstownelibrarywriters@yahoo.com) by the 15th of the month. Adults. 703-339-4610.

#### English Conversation Group.

7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

#### "A Christmas Carol." Lazy

Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 28

#### Learning English. 10:15 a.m.

Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

#### Travel Club. 1 p.m. Richard

Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults. 703-451-8055.

#### The Magic of a Book with

#### Magician Mike Rose. 2:30

p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Magician Mike Rose shares magic tricks from a 100-year-old book given to him by his grandfather. 703-451-8055.

#### "A Christmas Carol." Lazy

Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).

### THURSDAY/DEC. 29

#### "A Christmas Carol." Lazy

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).  
**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English and improve English-speaking skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.  
**Learning English.** 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 31

**Fairfax 4-Miler.** 6:30 p.m. Starts and finishes at Pacers Fairfax, Old Town Plaza Village, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Family-friendly running event to support the Fairfax Police Youth Club. The post race party at 8 p.m. includes food and entertainment. \$35-\$40. [www.fairfaxfour.com](http://www.fairfaxfour.com).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 30

**“A Christmas Carol.”** Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or [www.lazysusan.com](http://www.lazysusan.com).

## FRIDAY/JAN. 6

**Life Line Screening.** Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. Carotid-artery blockage, peripheral arterial disease, atrial fibrillation, osteoporosis and abdominal aortic aneurysm. Packages from \$129-\$159. 1-888-653-6441 or [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 7

**“New Works” Opening Reception.** 5-7 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Artwork by Workhouse Arts Center instructors, students, and staff will be on

display Jan. 6-29. ArtNotes performance at 7:30 p.m. by local pop/rock band Shade Parade. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 8

**United States Marine Band.** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free, non-ticketed. [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 14

**2nd Saturday Art Walk.** 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With cellist Sergey Antonov. Glazunov's Chant du Ménéstrel, Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11, “The Year 1905.” Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. [info@fairfaxsymphony.org](mailto:info@fairfaxsymphony.org).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 21

**Workhouse Art Center Saturday.** Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

- ❖ Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Gallery. Rumba dancing, refreshments and a cash bar. Mini-lesson available. Casual dress code, all skill levels welcome. \$8-\$15.
- ❖ Date Night: Chef's Table. 8 p.m. Vulcan Gallery. Cooking lessons. Reservations required at least two days prior to event start date. No walk-ups. \$30-\$70.
- ❖ Workhouse Film Institute: !Women Art Revolution. 7:30 p.m. Building W-3. A “secret history” of Feminist Art, exploring the movement through conversations, observations, archival footage and works of artists, historians, curators and critics. \$7-\$10.

## FAITH NOTES

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

**Franconia United Methodist Church,** 6037 Franconia Road in Alexandria, has Sunday School for all ages at 9:45, and childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The church is handicapped accessible, and assisted listening devices are available. 703-971-5151 or [www.franconiaumc.org](http://www.franconiaumc.org).

❖ Christmas Eve Services. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ.

❖ Christmas Day Service. 11 a.m. Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

❖ New Year's Eve Watch Night. 11 p.m. Give thanks for outgoing year and pray for the upcoming year.

**Jubilee Christian Center,** 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will hold a Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, Dec. 24 at 8 p.m. On Christmas Day, Dec. 25, there will be only an 11 a.m. 703-383-1170 or [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).

**New World Unity Church,** Cary Building, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite A-209 in Springfield, will hold a Burning Bowl Service on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 5 p.m. Release old habits, thoughts or beliefs into a purifying fire. Music by Nina Gibson. [newworldunity@verizon.net](mailto:newworldunity@verizon.net) or 703 913-8560.

The **Immanuel Bible Church MOPS** group meets on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m., at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. MOPS is for pregnant or parenting mothers of children from infancy to kindergarten. 703-922-4295 or [www.MOPS.org](http://www.MOPS.org).

The following is a list of events at **Mount Calvary Baptist Church,** 4325 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax:

- ❖ Bible study and Prayer Service every Tuesday starting at 7 p.m.
- ❖ Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., except for the

fourth Sunday of the month, when Sunday School is at 9 a.m.

- ❖ Sunday morning service at 11 a.m.
- ❖ Commonwealth Care Center ministry every first and third Thursday night. Call 703-273-1455.

**Beth El Hebrew Congregation** has services on Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and on Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. The temple is located at 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Religious school is on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Adult learning opportunities take place throughout the year. Tot Shabbat is on the first and third Saturdays. Kolot Shabbat, a musical service, is the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m., but is not available during the summer. 703-370-9400 or [www.bethelhebrew.org](http://www.bethelhebrew.org).

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** has Sunday services at 10:30 a.m., Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., Hispanic worship service at 9 a.m., and an Ethiopian service at 12:15 p.m. The pastor is Jim Weaver. Church is located at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or [www.fbcspRINGfield.org](http://www.fbcspRINGfield.org).

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

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

**Messiah United Methodist Church** is located at 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. For more information, call 703-569-9862 or visit [www.messiahumc.org](http://www.messiahumc.org). Sunday Worship is at 8:15 a.m., with Holy Communion every Sunday; and 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

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# Workhouse Artist Goes to France

**Lynn Goldstein of Fairfax Station completes art residency in Dinan, France.**

BY MAYA HOROWITZ  
FAIRFAX STATION CONNECTION

**W**orkhouse artist Lynn Goldstein was accepted as an artist in residence at the l'Atelier d'Artiste de Grande Vigne in Dinan, France for November 2011.

"It was so beautiful," said Goldstein. "I still can't believe I went. It was the trip of a lifetime and I hope to go back."

Goldstein has had a studio at the Workhouse Arts Center since it opened in 2008.

She said she has always loved the arts, dancing ballet, making paintings and playing the flute and piano since she was child. She got her bachelor of fine arts with a specialization in graphic design from West Virginia University. After college, she worked in graphic design for 17 years and continued to make art on the side.

Fourteen years ago, she decided to make a change in her life and focus more on fine arts. She began working as a docent at the National Portrait Gallery and teaching adult art classes.

"I had been taking art classes all along to keep my sanity," said Goldstein. "I was taking a class but I thought, 'I should be teaching this.'"

**IN 2008**, when the Workhouse opened, she thought it would be nice to have a space outside of her home to work and be around other artists.

"It's a very great concept and I really enjoy being around the other artists and I also actually like to talk to people about my artwork," said Goldstein. "I am an extrovert which is not necessarily the usual case for a lot of artists. For me to be here it feeds my work. I like people who come in who want to talk about my work or art in general. It's a good venue for me to do that. I'm inspired by what the other artists do and I think I grow as an artist by being around them."

Goldstein works in pastels. She said in college, she had to do just about everything from ceramics to



**Lynn Goldstein in France.**

printmaking. She liked working with oils, but she found she favored pastels because they are "pure pigments in stick form. It's a drawing medium you can paint with."

She said she draws inspiration from works that other artists have made, being out in nature, from books and being in her own head. Her favorite art is Japanese woodblock prints such as the work of Yoshi Toshi and Hokusai.

Goldstein lives in Fairfax Station. She said it has been a great place for her son, Artie, to grow up. However, living in France for five weeks really illustrated for her the fact that she would like to live close to a city so that she can walk places.

She got the idea to apply for the residency in Dinan because another Workhouse artist had previously done the program.

"I thought that it just sounded phenomenal," said Goldstein. "She raved about it. The idea of being in a completely different environment and culture than the one that I'm in. I have never lived outside the United States but I have been really fortunate to travel. It was only for the five weeks that I was

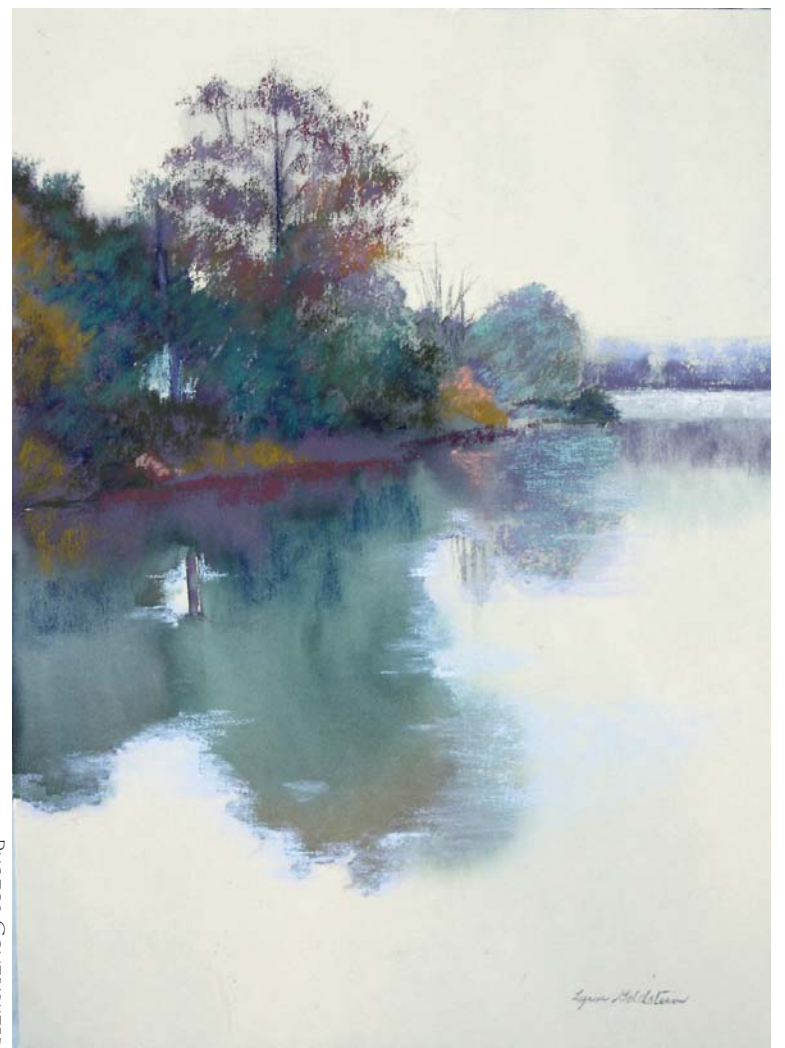
gone but I liked the idea of getting to know a place rather than going somewhere on a vacation for a week or two."

Artist Yvonne Jean-Haffen started the program at l'Atelier in 1993. Artists from around the world are invited for one month. They receive a studio and housing in exchange for a painting, created during their time in Dinan, chosen by a selection committee. The painting is put into the permanent collection of La Grande Vigne.

"Probably the best thing about being there was that I was able to concentrate on my artwork and my personal growth without having to fulfill other responsibilities such as those of a mother, wife, teacher or friend," said Goldstein. "Responsibilities that I'm happy to have but it was nice to have time to concentrate on my own personal growth and my artwork."

She said the town was extraordinary. She enjoyed that it was in Brittany and a medieval city. She said the people were delightful, though very few of them spoke English. She also liked the patisseries.

**GOLDSTEIN LIVED** in a small



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**"Vivianne Was Here," the painting chosen by the selection committee at Dinan.**

cottage with two bedrooms. She said the room where she painted was also the room where she relaxed and ate her meals.

She had the opportunity to travel throughout the trip, mostly in Brittany. She also visited Paris and Giverny, where Claude Monet's home and gardens are located.

Her trip to the Paimpont Forest, which has a mythical history tied to Arthurian legend, inspired her piece "Vivianne Was Here." This ended up being the painting that the selection committee chose to keep.

"When I got there it was misty," said Goldstein, "It moved me and I took a number of photographs. It was not a difficult painting to make. It kind of painted itself. It was my favorite painting too. It was the only piece I had titled."

Goldstein returned to the United States at the beginning of December. While she was away, one of her pieces won an award in the Maryland Pastel Society: Shades of Pastel national juried competition.

Camela Speer, director of marketing for the Workhouse Arts Center, said, "She's still so excited about the experience. For the center itself it's fantastic to have our

artists going out and working internationally."

"It's a great honor especially when your work is recognized on an international scale," said Sarah Shepard, director of visual arts at the Workhouse. "It's an opportunity to leave your comfort zone and grow as an artist. We were just proud of her as a community. She has beautiful work. I was very proud of her but I was not surprised at all."

Goldstein hopes to return to France someday and maybe take her adult art students with her. She said she would continue leading tours and hopes at some point to live close to a city.

"I love what I do," said Goldstein. "I'm really so fortunate that I can do what I love. If I am able to bring peace or joy or beauty or make someone think about life a little differently, what a rewarding thing that is! It doesn't get much better than that."

Lynn Goldstein and her work can be found at the Workhouse Art Center, building 4, studio 407. Her website is [www.lynngoldstein.com](http://www.lynngoldstein.com). During her time in France, she kept a blog, which can be found at <http://lynngoldsteinfineart.blogspot.com>.

# Basketball Season is Underway

Local boys and girls teams preparing for holiday tournaments.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Northern Region high school basketball season is currently in its early pre-Christmas stretch and coaches of the local teams are getting a feel for their squad's personnel, strengths and weaknesses. Many of the boys' and girls' teams will participate in upcoming holiday tournaments before diving into the bulk of their schedule with a steady portion of district games upon the arrival of the new year. By mid-February, coaches will hope their respective teams are playing at or near the tops of their games just in time for the start of postseason play's district tournaments.

Here is a look at some of the local teams.

**SOUTH COUNTY GIRLS:** The Stallions have a new head coach this season, longtime Northern Region coach Noel Klippenstein who spent the past nine years at the helm of the Marshall High girls' program within the Liberty District. Now, Klippenstein takes over a South County squad that in recent years was under the direction of former coach Chrissy Kelly.

Klippenstein is one of four coaches to have won 100 or more career games while in charge of the Marshall girls.

"Those were fun times," recalled Klippenstein, who reached the 100-career win plateau with the Statesmen faster than any

coach in the program's history. South County opened the season with a 48-38 win at Hayfield on Nov. 29 but, going into this week, had lost six straight since.

The team's lone returning starter from last year is senior point guard Angela Banks.

"Angela has been outstanding leading the team at point guard," said Klippenstein. "She has heart and is a

"We have had a tough [early] schedule, but it has been good for us since we are in a very competitive district."

— Bruins' head coach Leigh Janis



With South County freshman Rachel Snare defending, Robinson senior Jenna Lamb goes up for a shot during a recent girls' basketball game.

good defender."

Newcomers to the Stallions' starting lineup this season include sophomores April Henson and Gillian Gerton, and junior Kim Levinstein.

**LAKE BRADDOCK GIRLS:** Bruins' second year head coach Leigh Janis will guide a young Lake Braddock team through a season of growth this winter. Lake Braddock (0-5) was set to host Patriot District opponent Lee on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

"This is a building year for our program," said coach Janis. "We have a lot of new faces and young kids on the team. The fun part about coaching these kids is that they are eager to learn and strive to get better each day. I am really enjoying coaching the girls on this team. We have had a tough [early] schedule, but it has been good for us since we are in a very competitive district."

Lake Braddock's leading scorer has been

6-foot-4-inch junior Natalie Butler, a frontcourt player and team co-captain. Butler has outstanding numbers over the first several games, averaging 16 points, 20 rebounds, and nine blocks per contest. She already has a pair of triple-doubles (double figures in points, rebounds, and blocks).

"She will continue as a force to be reckoned with throughout the season," said her coach.

Another important player for the Bruins is sophomore backcourt player Marcia Altman, also a co-captain.

"Marcia has also been a key factor for us this year," said Janis. "She has had to step up in the point guard spot and has risen up to the challenge of playing an unfamiliar position."

Lake Braddock, next week, will be competing in a holiday tournament at Oakton High School. Its first game will be against Loudoun County on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

**FAIRFAX BOYS:** The Rebels, part of the National District, will be competing at the annual Raytheon Bulldog Bash Tournament, hosted by Westfield High School, over the holidays.

Fairfax is under new head coach Mike Barbee. The squad, going into this week, held a 1-4 overall record (1-0 in the district). Fairfax earned its first victory of the season when it won at Liberty District opponent Marshall High, 54-50.

Last Friday, Fairfax, in a non-district contest against visiting local opponent Robinson (Concorde District), lost to the Rams 71-46. This week, Fairfax was scheduled to play its second district game of the season on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at Jefferson High.

"This is my first year coaching the team at Fairfax," said Barbee. "While we would love to have more wins early in the season, we have implemented a new system both offensively and defensively this year so we are dealing with the 'growing pains' of learning how to play within it. This is something we coaches expected coming in and part of the process of starting from new so we remain very positive about the direction of the program. Our expectations are to improve each game and grow more and more comfortable in what we are doing so that we can be a competitive team and a tough out come playoff time in February."

Fairfax's leading scorers thus far are guards Zack Burnett (13 points per game, 2.5 assists) and John Robic (10.5 points per game, along with three rebounds, assists, and steals per outing).

In the Rebels' district win at Marshall, post player Kris Kostadinov scored 18 points and pulled down seven rebounds. Other good scoring contributions in the win over the Statesmen came from Robic (10 points), Matt Frank (8), and Kyle Walsh (7). Fairfax overcame a 15-8 deficit after one quarter to win that game.

Fairfax, at next week's Bulldog Bash Holiday Tournament, will play the nightcap game on the tournament's first day (Tuesday, Dec. 27) versus the host Westfield Bulldogs at 9:15 p.m. The Bulldog Bash, now in its 10th year, will take place Tuesday, Dec. 27 through Thursday, Dec. 29. Championship games on both the girls' and boys' side at the Bulldog Bash are scheduled to take place Dec. 29 at 7:30 p.m. (girls' finals) and 9:15 p.m. (boys' finals). Admission will be \$6 per day. A three-day tournament pass is also available for \$15. Free admission will be granted to children under age six, adults over age 62, and any travel or house youth basketball players wearing their uniform top and accompanied by a paying adult.

The Bulldog Bash Tournament Director is Lee Cooper. For more information on the Bulldog Bash, go to the tournament website at [www.bulldogbashtournament.com](http://www.bulldogbashtournament.com) or go to [www.Facebook/BulldogBash.com](http://www.Facebook/BulldogBash.com). Westfield High School is located at 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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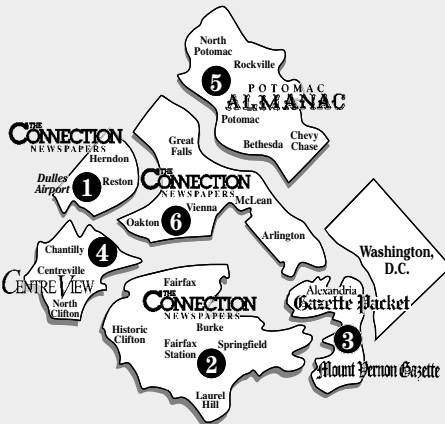
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## 21 Announcements

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### Obituary

Donald R. Rogers

Donald R. Rogers, 78 of Woodford, formerly of Woodbridge, died Monday December 12, 2011. He had retired after 38 years as chief electrical supervisor at Ft. Belvoir and then retired again from Prince William County, as an electrical inspector. He also served as a Prince William County Sheriff Auxiliary Deputy for many years. He enjoyed drag racing and had one numerous races and trophies. Survivors include his wife, Pearl C. Rogers; a daughter, Donna Page and her husband Tom; a brother, Caroll L. "Puddy" Rogers; two grandchildren, Thomas Allen "TJ" Page Jr. and Angela Christine Page; two great grandchildren, Michael Patrick Allen "Mick" Page and Kendall Leighann Page. He was preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Rogers. A funeral service will be held Saturday December 17th at 11:00 AM in the chapel of Storke Funeral Home, Bowling Green, with burial to follow in Stafford Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home, Friday, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Sign register book online at www.storkefuneralhome.com

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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22030. The above  
establishment is applying to  
the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT  
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE  
CONTROL for a Wine and  
Beer on/off Premises license  
to sell or manufacture alcohol-  
ic beverages. Damla Mehtap  
Kamis, owner - president  
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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. Ob-  
jections should be registered  
at www.abc.virginia.gov or  
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**ABC LICENSE**  
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za, Springfield, VA 22150. The  
above establishment is applying  
to the VIRGINIA DEPART-  
MENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEV-  
ERAGE CONTROL for a Wine  
and Beer on Premises, Mixed  
Beverage on Premise license  
to sell or manufacture alcohol-  
ic beverages. Qamar U. Za-  
man President  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance  
of this license must be  
submitted to the Board no later  
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## Fairfax Water

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/REDEVELOPMENT

On December 6, 2011, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) held a public hearing regarding an ordinance to establish exclusive water service areas and maximum allowable rates, fees, and charges within Fairfax County for water service. At the same meeting, the BOS enacted the ordinance as Section 65-6-13 of the Code of Fairfax County. Section (a) of the ordinance provides that effective 12:01 a.m. December 7, 2011, Fairfax Water will be the provider of retail public water service within Fairfax County, Virginia, for any new construction or redevelopment of any dwelling unit and any residential or non-residential structure, unless Fairfax Water determines it cannot make water service available due to a utility-related reason.

The ordinance requires that any determination by Fairfax Water that it cannot make service available be made in accordance with policies, rules, or regulations established by Fairfax Water for the purpose of establishing when a utility-related reason exists that prevents it from supplying water. The ordinance further requires that the policies, rules, or regulations be adopted by Fairfax Water after notice and a public hearing.

**At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/ REDEVELOPMENT.** The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

A copy of the proposed rule can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed rule should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

# Three Shattered Families

Drunk driver sentenced to 15 years in prison.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It was a tragedy all around. From the back of the courtroom, a 4-year-old boy with dark, curly hair whispered, “Papa, Papa” to the man about to be sentenced for severely injuring two people and killing another while driving drunk.

The child’s mother cried while describing what a good husband and father Carlos Sanchez-Ramos was. But so did the daughter of Paul Krause, the 54-year-old Fairfax Station man who lost his life because of the mid-March crash.

“The upcoming holidays will be hard because my dad will be missing,” said Christina Krause. “Father’s Day will be spent talking to a tombstone.”

And when all was said and done, last Friday, Dec. 16, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, Sanchez-Ramos, of Springfield, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for aggravated involuntary manslaughter, two counts of hit-and-run, child endangerment, second DWI offense in five years and driving on a revoked license.

**THE INCIDENT** occurred March 14, 2011. Krause was driving a 2010 Ford Fusion north on Richmond Highway when Sanchez-Ramos — driving a 1994 Honda Civic in the same direction — lost control of his car. His vehicle crashed into the Fusion, forcing it into the southbound lanes and head-on into a 2010 Mercedes-Benz containing an Alexandria couple in their 70s.

Police responded to the scene around 5:22 p.m., and Krause died later that night at Inova Fairfax Hospital. The Mercedes occupants, Anita and Robert Hood, sustained injuries, but survived.

Meanwhile, Sanchez-Ramos took his then 3-year-old son from his car and fled on foot. But police captured him nearby, and the boy — who was not injured — was safely returned to his mother. Sanchez-Ramos was charged with several offenses and held in jail on an ICE detainer, as well.

On Aug. 15, he pleaded guilty to everything, returning to court last Friday for sentencing. At the outset, his wife, Reina Carolina-Sanchez, spoke on his behalf. Saying they’d been together eight years, she told the court, “He is my husband, my other half. It’s a good relationship and we have a beautiful family.”

Sobbing uncontrollably, she said, “The day this horrible accident happened, my family was destroyed. My life and my son’s life have been shattered. I know there’s another family who’s suffered a lot, but I and my family have been affected, too. I’ve lost my family overnight; my son asks why Daddy doesn’t come and pick him up from day care. I don’t know what to tell him, anymore.”

Carolina-Sanchez called her husband a good person, adding, “I don’t know what happened that day. I apologize to everyone affected by this. I know my husband de-



Carlos Sanchez-Ramos

serves punishment for his mistake; but, Your Honor, I ask you not to separate my son from his father for a long time. He also has a daughter, 11, in Honduras.”

Testifying next was Anita Hood, who suffered broken hips and damaged knees in the accident. In a voice barely audible, she explained that the crash also injured her throat. She runs her own business, but said this injury affects her ability to do her job because she has to speak so softly over the phone.

Walking gingerly to the stand, her husband Robert Donald Hood said he sustained a broken foot in the crash, a damaged ankle and a smashed lower leg, which is permanently crippled. “I can’t walk or stand more than five or 10 minutes,” he said. “Our life has been completely disrupted.”

He’d recently retired and had extensive, overseas travel plans, but is now unable to travel to veterans’ conventions, as he used to do. He also prided himself on being able to take care of his home. Now, said Hood, “I can’t do everything for myself. I have to rely on others to do jobs around the house, and I can’t drive. I’m totally frustrated because I can no longer do the things I did before the accident.”

“The strongest man I know was forced to become a sedentary person,” said his eldest son, Robert. “He can’t play on the floor anymore with his 6-year-old grandson. My brother and I now have to spend time tending to our parents’ financial affairs and maintaining their house. My father was the rock. I wasn’t prepared to be the family’s head [so soon], but now I am.”

Previously, said his brother Kenneth, “Whatever you needed, you’d call the old man and he’d do it. He can’t do it anymore. Mother was very social, attending many nighttime functions; but now, she won’t drive at night. My wife has MS, so I take care of her, plus my parents and their property. So the accident disrupted my life, as well.”

**THEN PAUL KRAUSE’S BROTHER** Tom told the court Paul had “three beautiful daughters, and his marriage of 27 years to his wife Suki was a true love story. He was all in for his family. He and I were close, growing up, and never had an argument. He was a true, gentle, kind man.”

Crying, Krause said, “[Paul] served his country — 22 years in the U.S. Army. He was right on the edge of retiring, having three weddings and traveling. His wife is inconsolable; she comes home every day to an empty house. There’s nothing I can do to make this go away for her.”

Saying there’s “no greater pain” than losing a loved one, Krause said, “I can’t sleep at night. He was my big brother and I looked up to him; I enjoyed just the simple pleasure of calling him after a football or baseball game to talk about it. He was a great man and I miss him.”

Next to testify was Christina Krause. “March 14, 2011, at 7:44 p.m., my dad was taken from us and my life was shattered forever,” she said. “When the doctor told me he was gone, I couldn’t accept it. I screamed at him to go back in and save him.”

She said her father was a decorated Army officer who retired as a lieutenant colonel. Her parents met in South Korea when he was stationed there. As both she and her mother wept, Krause said, “He promised her he’d love her and take care of her forever. My mom left her family and all she knew behind, and he kept his promise to her.”

Krause said her father checked his children’s homework, helped them apply for college and cheered at their Tae Kwon Do tournaments. “He taught me to act responsibly and with integrity and that hard work paid off,” she said. “Many nights, I’ve cried myself to sleep — and I’ll have a broken heart forever. But I’d go through this all over again if it meant keeping my dad here with me.”

She spoke to her father on his birthday, just nine days before his death, and he gave her some advice. “He said now should be one of the best times of my life,” said Krause. “He told me to reconnect with my mom and to travel and experience all the world has to offer. I told him I loved him, and that was the last thing I ever said to him.”

But instead of having the happy times her father envisioned for her, after he died, her days were filled with grief. As the eldest daughter, she said, “I delivered the news to my family that my dad was killed by a drunk driver. I gathered his personal belongings from his demolished car and made funeral arrangements. This is not the best time of my life, as he told me — it’s the darkest.”

Krause said she no longer has the drive to pursue a master’s degree because he’s not here to advise her. “I can’t envision my wedding or family because my dad won’t be walking me down the aisle or playing with his grandchildren,” she said. “His life was stolen from him by this man who endangered his own child and ran from the scene.”

“I know my dad’s in heaven, but I believe

his soul hurts,” she continued. “On the day of his burial, when there were rainstorms and thunder, I believe it was my dad crying. Your Honor, give us a sense of justice and make sure Sanchez-Ramos never does to another family what he did to ours.”

Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Laura Riddlebarger told Judge Leslie Alden that, the day of the accident, Sanchez-Ramos “started drinking at noon and spent the afternoon drinking. By his own estimate, he had at least 10 beers.”

Furthermore, she said, “He shouldn’t even have been in the U.S. He was previously deported and re-entered the country illegally. And it wasn’t the first time he drove intoxicated. Even worse, with a blood-alcohol content of .20 [nearly three times the legal limit], he picked up his son and then drove recklessly, weaving from lane to lane.”

Then, said Riddlebarger, after the crash, “Instead of stopping and giving aid, he ran. There’s no justification and no excuse.”

Defense attorney Robert Harris said Sanchez-Ramos is 34, but only had six years of school and worked as an auto mechanic and construction worker. He told the judge, “This is a tragedy, but don’t lock him up and throw away the key.”

**THE DEFENDANT** then stood and apologized for his “bad decision” and for causing so much pain. Via a Spanish-language interpreter, he said, “If I could change places with Mr. Krause, I’d do it. I never wanted to do something like this. To both families, I ask, please forgive me. I am so sorry.”

Saying he’s “really repentant,” Sanchez-Ramos said, “From now on, I will only try to do good. This will be with me for the rest of my life. Please have mercy on me; I made a terrible mistake. I won’t ever drink again.”

Alden then sentenced him to 10 years in prison for the manslaughter charge and one year each for the five other charges, running the sentences consecutively for 15 years total. She also fined him \$250 for the DWI and suspended his Virginia driver’s license for three years. She further ordered him to pay the costs to prosecute his case and placed him on 20 years probation, if he remains in the U.S. after his release.

Addressing him directly, the judge told Sanchez-Ramos, “It’s a tragedy you’ve brought to the Krauses, Hoods and your own family — and all of it because you were drunk.”

**“I’ll have a broken heart forever.”**  
— Christina Krause, victim’s daughter