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Thursday, December 3, 2009 |

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## News Near You for Dec. 3

By [Staff Reports](#)

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### NEWS NEAR YOU

**Richmond** An open forum on the recommendations drawn from the University of Virginia's study of the admissions process at the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School will be held in the school's auditorium today at 6 p.m. The administration and the Maggie L. Walker Planning Committee have worked over the past few months to prepare recommendations for the Maggie L. Walker Regional School Board. An overview will be presented at the open forum, and then members of the audience will be asked to share their insights and suggestions.

**Chesterfield** A man accused of leaving the scene of a car crash in Chesterfield County that killed his childhood friend remains jailed without bond awaiting a hearing Dec. 22 in Chesterfield General District Court. Justin B. Fitzgerald, 22, of Dinwiddie County faces charges of involuntary manslaughter, hit-and-run and driving with a suspended license. The charges stem from a crash Saturday that killed passenger Ronald A. "Alex" Stephenson II, 21.

**Richmond** No injuries were reported in the robbery of a Wachovia bank branch in Richmond's West End yesterday. The robbery occurred at 9:06 a.m. when a man walked into the branch at 4901 W. Broad St. and handed the teller a note demanding money. No weapon was displayed. The robber was described as white, 50 to 55 years old, 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall and weighing 150 to 180 pounds. He wore glasses, a black jacket with a light-colored hooded sweatshirt underneath, light-colored jeans and light-colored tennis shoes. Anyone with any information can call Crime Stoppers at (804) 780-1000.

**Prince George** The annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, scheduled for yesterday, has been rescheduled for today because of projected rain. The ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. in front of the Prince George Regional Heritage Center, 6404 Courthouse Drive. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance.

**Chesterfield** County supervisors last night deferred for two weeks a decision on a zoning amendment request from Bon Secours to build a \$30 million ambulatory-care campus and office park at the Watkins Centre. Supervisors wanted additional time to work out transportation phasing issues. If approved when the board picks up the matter at its Dec. 16 meeting, the 100-job development would be the county's biggest economic-development project of the year.

**Richmond** The Tree of Life celebration will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. today at United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) in downtown Richmond, 700 N. 4th St. The event honors tissue, eye and organ donors with donor families and organ recipients hanging ornaments on the Tree of Life in memory of those who have given the gift of life. The event is open to the public. For details, contact Lisa Schaffner at (804) 201-3228 or e-mail [SchaffLi@unos.org](mailto:SchaffLi@unos.org).

### AROUND THE STATE

**Roanoke** A Carilion Clinic vice president has been named interim president of Jefferson College of Health Sciences in Roanoke. Nathaniel Bishop's appointment is effective in April. He will replace President Carol Seavor, who is retiring. The 55-year-old Christiansburg native has served on the boards of Jefferson, Ferrum College and Duke University's divinity school. Carilion owns the 1,000-student college.

**Leesburg** The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has reversed an unpopular ban on public displays -- including Christmas decorations -- in front of the county courthouse. A board-appointed citizens committee had passed the ban last week. The committee said it was getting overwhelmed by requests for displays and wanted to protect the century-old courthouse from damage. The decision provoked an outcry from residents who wanted to continue to display a Nativity scene there. On Tuesday, supervisors voted 7 to 1 to allow community groups "equal access" to the grounds. Supervisors who voted down the ban said it was a First Amendment issue. Jim Burton, who voted to keep the ban, complained that the board moved too hastily without understanding legal issues.

-- From Staff and Wire Reports

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