

Great Falls Kicks Off Holidays

Mikayla Carmines, 4, of McLean, has her picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus in front of the Great Falls Christmas tree.

NEWS, PAGE 3

Living Life in 'The Dream Land'

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION, PAGE 12

VDOT Gives Route 7 Update

NEWS, PAGE 4

OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 19 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 21

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

**THE SCHOOL OF
THEATRICAL DANCE**

Proudly Presents it's Student
and Professional Company,

**GREAT FALLS
DANCE THEATRE**

In the 7th Annual Production Of...

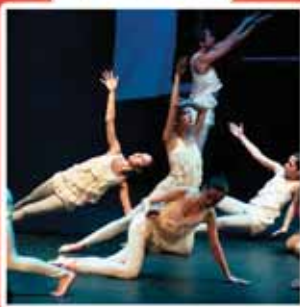
CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE
Nutcracker
CLUB

Christmas Eve at the Nutcracker Club is a refreshing and exciting departure from the usual holiday tradition. Striking the epitome of balance and entertainment, Nutcracker Club will take your breath away with its dazzling array of Classical Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and Modern dance to heart-warming melodies and energetic rhythms.

**THERESA D'ALESSANDRO,
ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It's 1944, Christmas is just around the corner, but Sergeant Kristopher must report for duty. He bids an emotional farewell to his adoring wife and catches the bus just in time. The curtain opens to a wintry scene just outside of a glowing USO Hall. Snowflakes swirl through the intimate theater to Tchaikovsky's thrilling score, and fanciful Snowmen dot the frozen Rockwell Pond. After midnight, as the USO Hall dims the lights, an enchanted transformation commences... The ornaments, toys, and decorations come to life! Mischievous Elves scurry to fill the stockings to the tunes of Louis Prima, dazzling Tinsel shimmy from the Christmas Tree to the stage to "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)," and Mannheim Steamroller orchestrates a dramatic and explosive "Carol of the Bells". Angels descend from atop the Christmas Tree to dance an evocative tribute to the men and women of the armed services who have sacrificed so much.

THE SOTD EST.1980



Design By Ashley O'Banion
Photography By Vihao Pham and Tuan Pham

SOTD is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Educational Institution which does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, sex, or national origin.

SAVE! EARLY TICKET PURCHASE.....\$20
GENERAL ADMISSION.....\$22
GROUPS OF 10+.....\$15
MILITARY/VETERANS & FAMILY.....\$10
CHILDREN UNDER 12 & SENIORS.....\$10
SCOUTS & CHAPERONES.....\$5
**SPECIAL OLYMPICS FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS
RECEIVE COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION**
THEATRICALDANCE.COM | 703.759.5652

Saturday 1pm/5pm
DEC.8
Sunday 1pm Matinee
DEC.9

LOUDOUN NOVA CAMPUS



Santa Claus greets children at the Great Falls Tree Lighting ceremony on Sunday evening. The annual event attracts hundreds of area residents and features activities including pictures with Santa, Christmas carols, a live Nativity scene and much more.



PHOTOS BY
ROBBIE HAMMER/
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Kicks Off Holidays

Annual tree lighting event is once again a community favorite.

By JENNIFER BENITZ
THE CONNECTION

The annual Great Falls tree lighting ceremony was off to a brisk but cheerful start Saturday evening as families, friends and community members piled onto the open field to celebrate the much anticipated tree lighting ceremony.

Soon after 5:30 p.m., a small crowd began to form by the popcorn and apple cider tables, while many people headed towards the bonfire to stay warm. Within the next 10 minutes, many families quickly lined the gate around the tree as members of the Langley Madrigals chorus sang one holiday favorite after another, finishing with We Wish You A Merry Christmas. By 6 p.m., the crowd had doubled in size, just in time to see Santa and Mrs. Clause roll up in a fire truck adorned with lit-up reindeer to the loud cheers and welcoming of children and parents alike.

Within just a few minutes of Santa's arrival, the tree lighting took place and the crowd of all ages watched in awe of the magical moment. Soon the field was bustling with movement as children, teenagers and adults dispersed to the various entertainments set up, including a petting zoo, pony rides,

SEE TREE LIGHTING, PAGE 11

Santa and Mrs. Claus celebrate the annual lighting of the Great Falls Christmas tree on Sunday night, Dec. 2. The annual event attracts hundreds of area residents and features many activities, among them the opportunity to take a picture with Santa.



Gabriel Chaves, 3, sits on his father J.J.'s shoulders while waiting in line to see Santa Claus while attending the annual Celebration of Lights and Christmas tree Lighting ceremony in Great Falls on Saturday evening.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER BENITZ/THE CONNECTION

Jennifer Lopez with son Orion, 3, and daughter Sophia, 5, Reston.

"We liked Santa coming out and shaking hands with the kids and saying hello the most. It was really nice."

VIEWPOINTS

What did you like the most about the tree lighting ceremony?



Paige Ramsey, 6, Great Falls.

"I like talking to Santa. I have two things on my mind and I call them my two front teeth."

—JENNIFER BENITZ



Casey Britt, 15, and Brittany Trumbull, 15, Langley High School students.

"My favorite part was listening to the carolers and seeing the tree light up." —Casey

"I liked seeing the tree light up and I like seeing all my friends and being able to celebrate the season with [them]." —Brittany



Stephanie Dolan, 14, Megan Long, 14, and Caroline Bryan, 14, Great Falls

"I liked the chorus the most." —Stephanie.

"I like the tree and seeing the lights." —Megan.

"I like how Santa comes in on the fire truck." —Caroline.

Silver Line Faces 'Daunting Issues'

Challenges planners face before cars get rolling.

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

In August, 2013, 55 years after construction began on the Dulles International Airport, the first phase of a \$7 billion Metrorail connection between Washington, D.C. and Dulles will be completed that will extend rail travel to five stops in Tysons Corner and Reston.

As Bob Chase, president of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance said gazing out his window at a giant part of the rail construction in Tysons Corner, "It's not a vision. It's here and now, the question is how to make it work." After nearly two decades of often acrimonious debate and "perils of Pauline" like stops and starts of the Dulles Metrorail project, the new Metro line, dubbed the Silver Line, will start running in early 2014, serving five new stations beyond West Falls Church.

It joins the second-busiest rapid transit system in the United States in passenger trips, after the New York City Subway. In 2008, for instance, Metro made 215.3 million trips or 727,684 trips per weekday. But it is a Metro system which must make vast upgrades to improve tracks and other safety systems after a horrendous accident in 2009 killed 29 people. Investigation disclosed that Metro had failed to take many steps mandated for safety and there was an absence of a "safety culture" at Metro.

For the planners at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, getting the cars rolling means sorting out some daunting issues:

❖ **Ridership**—How many people will ride the Silver Line initially and how many will ride it as the years go forward is a moving target. Metro officials estimated in February 2012 that they could anticipate about 9 million passenger trips a year, plus about 5.4 million passenger trips that would shift from existing lines to the Silver Line. But it will take years, they said, before the Silver Line grows enough to match the 70 percent cost recovery rate from fares that exist on the rest of the system. Catherine Hudgins, chair of the WMATA Board of Directors (and Democratic county supervisor representing the Hunter Mill District), said she anticipates ridership to be higher.

❖ **Stations**—The Tysons Corner redevelopment plans envision a city of 100,000 residents with 200,000 visitors and workers arriving daily by 2040. The plan is to make Tysons Corner a pedestrian friendly community so only one of the five Metro stops will have a parking garage, with a capacity of 2,300 cars. But the 2010 census found 19,267 residents in Tysons and Bob Chase and others wonder whether drivers from outlying areas will flock to the stops in the years before the population increases. The Fairfax Board of Supervisors earlier this year named the stations: Tysons East on Route 123 at

Scotts Crossing Road and Colshire Drive in McLean; Tysons Central 123 on Route 123 at Tysons Boulevard; Tysons Central 7 on Route 7 just northwest of Route 123. There is relatively little street parking in any of these locations. Tysons West on Route 7 at Spring Hill Road is in the median of the Dulles Access Highway just west of the intersection with Wiehle Avenue. A parking garage for 2,300 cars is under construction at Wiehle Avenue.

❖ **Rosslyn Bottleneck**—The Orange Line is Metro's second busiest and carries approximately 180,000 passenger trips on a typical weekday. It will share part of its route with the Silver Line. It enters Washington through a tunnel between Rosslyn Virginia and the Foggy Bottom area of Washington, but during rush hours the tunnel is at capacity with 26 trains in each direction at peak hours and there would be no room for Silver Line trains that would use the same tunnel. The Potomac crossing is already too crowded to accommodate sufficient Blue Line and Orange Line trains during the rush hours. Orange Line trains are so crowded that it is called "Orange Crush."

❖ **Train Rerouting**—June 18, 2012, Metro began "Rush Plus," rerouting three Blue Line trains in peak hours each way over the Fenwick bridge that the Yellow Line uses to reach Washington. This means those Blue Line passengers for stations like Foggy Bottom and Farragut West would have to back track. But the change will benefit 46,000 Orange Line passengers during peak hours, according to a Metro news release.

❖ **Tunnels**—There have been myriad suggestions on how to deal with this problem from building a new tunnel across the Potomac to building one for trains from the west to couple with the Blue Line track near Reagan National Airport. But none of these solutions are in the near term of budgetary possibilities.

❖ **Eight Car Trains**—The priority solution under study now according to Metro General Manager Richard Sarles in an address to the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance earlier this year is to run eight car trains with larger passenger capacity. Sarles said however that Metro does not have sufficient power to move those larger cars and the cost of upgrading the power system would be \$1.5 billion. On Nov. 29, 2012, the Washington Post reported that Metro officials are worried that Silver Line trains will not be able to make a turn around at the stadium station in Washington and will have to go five additional stops to Largo, Md. at a cost of \$4.5 million a year.

❖ **Metro Cars**—Metro's fleet consists of some 1,126 rail cars, but many are of an older series 1000 and are a safety hazard. Metro has on order a 7000 series car that is larger, with larger passenger capacity and of that model has signed a contract for 428 new cars to serve the Silver Line.

❖ **Operating Costs**—Metro has estimated that it will cost between \$20 million and \$45 million during the first three years of operation (2013, 2014, 2015) to recruit and train personnel.

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

each bike. 703-919-0570 or d_duncan@comcast.net.

MONDAY/DEC. 10

Toy Donations. Accepted at the McLean District Police Station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Bring a new, unwrapped toy, game or book for children who are critically ill and unable to return home; Dec. 10 is the last day to donate. 703-246-2253.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 12

Networking Breakfast—The New Downtown Coming to Tysons. 7:30-9 a.m., at J. Gilberts Wood-Fired Steak and Seafood, 6930 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Michael Caplin, executive director for Tysons Partnership, will be speaking. \$20 in advance for members; \$25 in advance for non-members; \$5 extra at door. Register online. www.mcleanchamber.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Donate a Bike. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. The James Madison High School Environmental Club collects bikes for Africans in South Sudan's Mayom Primary School to help with transportation for food, water and medicine. \$15 donation for overseas shipping requested accompanying



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Department of Transportation hosts a public meeting at Colvin Run Elementary School Wednesday, Nov. 28 to give an update on the progress of the Route 7 expansion.

VDOT Gives Route 7 Update

Expansion from Tysons Corner to Reston.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Department of Transportation held a public meeting Tuesday, Nov. 27 at Colvin Run Elementary School to discuss the future of the Route 7 widening project. The project proposed to add one lane in each direction on 6.9 miles of Route 7 from Jarrett Valley Drive, just west of Tysons Corner, to Reston Avenue.

Currently, the project is estimated to cost around \$300 million, with \$30 million for design engineering, \$50 million in right of way acquisition and utility relocation and \$220 million for construction. There is only partial funding for the preliminary design, and no funding for right of way acquisition or construction.

Local residents came to the meeting with ideas on what improvements they would like to see.

"The idea of an additional lane out to almost Sterling sounds good now, but the process is sure going to be a pain," said James Howard of Vienna. "And who's to say that by the time it's all said and done, that the new Tysons redevelopment will increase traffic to a level where congestion will be the same?"

Bob Lundegard, president of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill, which would lose some property in the expansion, said he hopes the process can benefit the historic property as well.

"The part of the site on the north side of Route 7 contains the mill, the 1820s miller's house and the General Store. The south part on the south side

contains the historic mill pond, mill dam, head race and the quarry that was the source of the stone for the 1810 mill dam. The two comprise the historic milling system. Today, the visitors to the north side are not able to easily walk to the south side and experience all the elements of the milling process."

It has been discussed that the widening could include raising the road bed of Route 7 near the mill in order to avoid the flooding that can occur in high water events. Lundegard said he hopes that if this happens, a pedestrian tunnel could give easy access to visitors.

Other local residents said they hope the expansion will make ingress and egress from their neighborhoods easier.

"I live on a road that doesn't have a light on Route 7, and making a left across traffic is impossible most of the day," said Luis Gustao. "This project could really help the quality of life for my neighbors and I by making it easier to access."

Preliminary design is expected to begin by the end of this year. According to VDOT, that section of Route 7 carried between 46,000 and 54,000 cars a day, and that number is expected to rise to between 73,000 and 86,000 per day by 2040.

The project will also include intersection improvements, as well as a 10 foot path along Route 7 for cyclists and pedestrians.

Additional comments can be submitted to VDOT by Dec. 8, by e-mailing meeting_comments@vdot.virginia.gov and including "Route 7 Widening—Reston Avenue to Jarrett Valley Drive" in the e-mail subject line.

Home
for the
Holidays
Storewide Remodeling Sale!



WWW.ABBEYDESIGNCENTERVA.COM



KITCHEN REMODELING



BATHROOM REMODELING



BASEMENT FINISHING & REMODELING

Abbey is your one stop shop for all your home remodeling and flooring needs.



GREAT SELECTION OF CARPET • HARDWOOD • LAMINATE • TILE & STONE • AREA RUGS

TRUST BUILT, CUSTOMER DRIVEN!



Abbey Design Center

FLOOR, KITCHEN & BATH

STERLING
21465 PRICE CASCADES PLAZA
(IN FRONT OF COSTCO)
703-450-8181
WWW.ABBEYDESIGNCENTERVA.COM



LEESBURG
161 FORT EVANS ROAD NE
(NEXT TO TLC VET. ACROSS FROM OUTLET MALL)
703-779-8181
WWW.ABBEYDESIGNCENTERVA.COM

2 YEAR INTEREST FREE FINANCING.

EASY APPLICATION. 90% CREDIT APPROVAL RATE.*

*WITH APPROVED CREDIT. SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.

Avoiding Holiday Debt

Plan now to prevent post-holiday bills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Festive store displays mean the holiday shopping season is in full swing. While a recent survey by the National Retail Federation is estimating that consumer spending will be conservative this year, the group predicts that the average shopper is planning to dole out \$421.82 on family members, \$75.13 on friends and \$23.48 on co-workers.

"The holidays bring on a feeling of consumption on the part of individuals to provide gifts to families and friends," said Charles W. Miller, associate professor of finance at Marymount University in Arlington. "Often, when monies are not available, people turn to the path of least resistance which is the credit card."

While the holidays mean increased spending for many, financial setbacks can be avoided. Local money experts offer strategies for those determined to emerge from the season with minimal or no debt.

McLean-based financial advisor Kristan Anderson said, "Avoiding holiday debt is all about setting a budget and being creative about gifting options," she said. "The budget should be an amount that does not require the additional use of credit cards for short-term financing."

Potomac, Md. resident Linda Berg-Cross, a researcher and professor of psychology at Howard University suggests, "Avoid developing a consuming style based on what the media is selling. Media literacy is critical for financial savvy in today's world."



To avoid accumulating credit card debt during the holidays, financial experts say plan ahead, develop a strict budget and stick to it.

Berg-Cross recommends that consumers use money-saving tactics like "holiday shopping at resale stores, waiting for sales, cutting coupons, and [internet] surfing to comparison shop."

Theresa Wansi, Ph.D., professor of finance at Marymount University adds, "You can go to a store like Bloomingdales and look around and then go to a discount store and find the same items at a much lower price."

Anderson says avoid waiting until the last minute to purchase gifts. "Starting early...allows you to spread the costs out over a few months or more," she said. "Some stores are offering layaway, which is another option that avoids increasing credit card debt."

Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., assistant professor of finance at George Mason University advises consumers against going shopping without a methodical plan. "Stores have colorful displays and holiday lights that lure shoppers," he said. "Before going shopping you have to sit down and decide how much money you are going to spend on each person. Make a list and take it with you to help resist overspending. Don't charge more on credit cards than you can afford to pay off easily in three months."

For those having financial difficulties Anderson says, "It is worth having a discussion with family members and opting to not exchange gifts outside the immediate family. Or just have a simple gift exchange where each person has only one person to buy a gift for. Don't underestimate the value of a homemade gift, either."

Great Falls Farmers Market Opens for Winter

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY
MARKET MANAGER

The Great Falls Farmers Market vendors and local shoppers requested a year-round farmers market in Great Falls, and this past Saturday, Dec. 1, the first winter market day opened. Shoppers were asked if such a market were available, would they come. Ninety percent of respondents said that they would keep shopping if the vendors kept coming—regardless of how cold it gets.

The Great Falls Farmers Market was originally conceived of in local focus groups during the 2020 Vision Project for Great Falls in 2007. Residents wanted a local market where they can access locally grown, healthy produce while experiencing a sense of local community—a virtual village square—right in the center of Great Falls. The Farmers Market provides a connection between local farmers or producers and local residents, supporting farm-to-table direct knowledge of where our food supply comes from and how it is grown and how animals and plants have been handled in the process.

As an advocate for local residents, the Farmers Market seeks to bring the very best vendors to our village for the enjoyment of our residents. Our

vendors work hard to deliver the very best, according to the highest standards. If ever you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, our entire team welcomes your input.

The Great Falls Community Farmers Market is on a journey to becoming the very best farmers market around in terms of offering the very best food for the families in our community to enjoy and thrive on; having a gathering of vendors who are hugely successful in Great Falls because they are offering exactly what you most appreciate and value; and having a farmers market team that studies and anticipates initiatives that are good for our community and works to bring about whatever they may be.

The success of the market and each individual vendor is entirely dependent upon your participation. Each vendor spends most of their Saturday traveling here, setting up, being available to meet you and speak with you and offering you their very best. We are delighted when you show up to enjoy what the market has to offer.

For more information, find us on Facebook at Great Falls Community Farmers Market or visit us on the web at www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org or e-mail info@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org.



Before writing a check to a charity, experts say make sure that the organization is ethically and financially sound.

Tips for Year-End Charitable Giving

Financial experts offer suggestions for ensuring one's donations are well spent.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Tis the season for giving, and that includes donations to charities. According to a recent survey, charities report that year-end contributions make up nearly 40-percent of annual donations.

"With regard to your tax planning, if you're in a favorable position and can afford to do so, this is a good time to give to charity," said Charles W. Miller, associate professor of finance at Marymount University.

Money experts say there are a few things that one should consider before donating to a charity. Potomac resident Glen J. Buco, president, West Financial Services in McLean, says, "Your first thought with regard to charitable gifts is that you need to support charities and groups that you would like to support and the tax deduction should be a secondary factor."

Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., a professor of finance at George Mason University in Fairfax, encourages potential donors to make sure the charity's priorities are consistent with one's philanthropic goals. "Look at the mission of the charity," he said. "Does it feed hungry people? Does it provide funds for medical research? I am always more comfortable with a charity that I'm familiar with."

RESEARCH A POTENTIAL CHARITY to learn how one's donation will be spent. "There are websites where you can go to see how much of every dollar given goes to charity and how much goes



Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., a professor of finance at George Mason University in Fairfax, encourages potential donors to make sure the mission of the charity is consistent with one's philanthropic goals.

to administration," said Buco. "One more point to note, you need written acknowledgment from the charity for gifts over \$250 in order to deduct the donation."

Make sure the charity of one's choice has high ethical standards. "Unfortunately, you always read about scams," he said. "There are charities that are not fully legitimate, but have names that sound similar to established charities to try to confuse people. When someone is going to make a donation they should try to make sure that their money is going to where they think it is going."

Buco adds, "In the wake of [Hurricane] Sandy, you have to be especially careful of scams. The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) has a website called "[Exempt Organizations] Select Check" where you can look up a charity to see if they are registered with the IRS."

Consider local charities. "There are a lot of local organizations and groups that really don't get the funding that they need, so it is nice if you can support local charities," he said.

Cooper students who participated in packaging the kits.



PHOTO BY ROBERTA RICCI

Cooper Students Assemble Kits for Hurricane Relief

On Tuesday, Nov. 20, Cooper Middle School students worked together to assemble Hygiene Kits as part of nation-wide Hurricane Sandy Relief efforts. Cooper Librarian Leslie Psaltis and Special Education Teacher Roberta Richie organized the efforts after realizing the magnitude of devastation in New Jersey and New York the day after

Hurricane Sandy swept through the Northeast Coast. All Cooper students participated by contributing items needed in the kits in the weeks immediately following the storm and packaging the kits. The items were laid out systematically on long, rectangular tables in the library to allow students to form an assembly line, which proved to be an efficient way of packaging a large number

of kits in a timely manner. "We tried to use this opportunity to teach students unit of service and assembly lines that they learn in history class," said Psaltis. "The students put together 200 kits in just half an hour." The kits included one wide tooth comb, one new hand towel, one new wash cloth, one toothbrush

SEE COOPER, PAGE 10

THE GREEK TAVERNA
Lamb & Seafood • Specials Daily
 Call for Reservations
703-556-0788
 Now Accepting Reservations for your Holiday Parties
 Ample Indoor Parking
 Serving the Community for 19 Years.
 Thanks to our loyal Patrons
 6828 Old Dominion Dr.
 McLean, VA 22101
www.thegreektaverna.com

Karen Martins
 703-568-6268
www.karensproperties.com
 Serving VA • DC • MD

GREAT FALLS
TIMBERLAKE ESTATES
 Nature surrounds this true "one-of-a-kind" center hall colonial that has been skillfully renovated from top to bottom with the finest of materials and the greatest attention to detail! Sited on a quiet cul-de-sac within the heart of Great Falls and in the Langley High School Pyramid! Mint condition, 5 bedroom 3 1/2 bath offers three finished levels, an open floor plan, state-of-the-art kitchen, an amazing new addition, hardwoods, in-law suite with private bath and a walk-out lower level! A Wonderful opportunity that rarely comes available. Priced to sell at \$799,000. FX7953721

McLEAN
LANGLEY OAKS
 This light and bright 3-level home is so conveniently located to everything! Walk to the Potomac River, Langley High School, athletic fields and the many parks! Available mid-January. 733 Ridge Dr. For Rent \$4,100. FX#7971779

State of Savings.

Get discounts up to 40%.*
 Saving money is important. That's why you can count on me to get you all the discounts you deserve.
GET TO A BETTER STATE™.
 CALL ME TODAY.

G Stephen Dulaney, Agent
 731 C Walker Road
 Great Falls, VA 22066
 Bus: 703-759-4155
www.gstephendulaney.com

*Discounts vary by state.
 State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

1101282.1

*Happy Holidays
 &
 Best Wishes
 for a
 Prosperous New Year*

Thank you for your support during this year

VIENNA FLOORS
 208 Dominion Road
 Vienna, VA 22180
 703-938-3160

www.ViennaFloors.com

Holiday Revels With a Safety Net

A serious backup, but seriously, make a plan ahead of time.

There is a little life in the economy this year, and that is quite likely to allow some to be the life of the party.

You know the drill, the five-to-seven or six-to-eight drop-in happy hour, you've been invited to five of them, and you could attend an infinite number of these between now and the second day of 2013. And there are many other varieties of holiday festivities, many involving more than a drink or two.

So make a plan. Plan for a designated driver. Plan to celebrate at home. Plan to spend the night. Plan to take public transportation. Plan to call a friend for a ride home. But if the best laid plans go awry, Washington Regional Alcohol program has a safety net for you.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Friday, Dec. 14, 2012 until Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013 as a way to keep impaired drivers off the road during this traditionally high-risk holiday period.

Residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$ 30 fare) safe ride home. Last holiday season, more than 2,000 people used the service.

Local taxicab companies will be providing this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

More information at www.soberride.com.

Parents can encourage their young adult children who are over 21 to carry the number with them if they are celebrating. It's probably more important to talk to their underage revelers about moderation and contingency plans to avoid drinking and driving, or risking getting into a car with an underage driver who might have been drinking.

Correction

Last week's editorial included information about upcoming community meetings on the search for a new superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools. Thank you to School Board member Cathy Smith for noticing that we omitted one meeting, Dec. 5 at Chantilly High School. Here are the meeting dates and places repeated, including Chantilly:

Dec. 4—7 p.m., cafeteria, Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101.

Dec. 5—7 p.m., cafeteria, Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Dec. 5—7 p.m., cafeteria, Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA 20151.

Dec. 6—10 a.m. Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600.

Dec. 6—7 p.m., cafeteria, Annandale High School, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003.

Dec. 6—7 p.m., cafeteria, Groveton Elementary School, 6900 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Dec. 7—1 p.m., Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tax Cuts for Wealthiest: Not Right and Not Smart

Right now in D.C., our representatives are trying to find a solution to keep us from going over the "fiscal cliff." But too many congressmen are attempting to hold the negotiations hostage, insisting everyone's taxes go up unless President Obama and the Senate agree to extend tax breaks to the wealthiest 2 percent.

I'm among that wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, so I have skin in the game, so to speak. Yet I strongly oppose prolonging the special tax breaks for the wealthiest. We need such breaks the least, as we have been the largest beneficiaries of the tax cuts over the past 10 years. Moreover, our income has grown while the average American's has not, so we need to start paying our fair share. Not since the early 20th century has our country experienced a wage gap between the best-paid Americans and average wage earners as large as the one that exists today.

I am willing to pay my fair share to support the country that has given me so much and provided opportunities for me to succeed. It's only fair to expect that I will chip in to make sure that others have the same opportunities I have had. The Bush tax cuts that only go to the richest 2 percent give an

average tax break of nearly \$150,000 to each household that makes more than \$1 million a year. We've been getting this extra break for a decade.

Ending the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy would save nearly \$750 billion over the next 10 years—money desperately needed to put fiscal house in order. Bankrupting the government by providing endless tax cuts for the wealthiest is not right and is not smart. It will lead to the regression in economic growth we are seeing in Europe, and will only fuel conservative cries to cut social safety net programs while the rich enjoy continued expansion of their income and wealth as has been true over the last ten years. Business owners like me know that restoring taxes to Clinton-era rates on the portion of our profits above \$250,000 in household income would have no effect on our decisions about whether to hire additional workers.

Our country faces a choice. It can ask the wealthiest 2 percent to accept tax rates closer to what other Americans pay so we can shrink the deficit while protecting middle-class priorities such as education and Medicare from deep cutbacks. Or we can slash investments vital to our nation's future in order to be even more generous to those of us who need tax breaks the least. That shouldn't be a hard choice.

Joel Kanter
McLean

Opposing Tysons' Service District Tax

To the Editor:

As a member of the Tysons Land Use Task Force involved in writing the Comprehensive Plan, and speaking on behalf of existing residential neighborhoods in the area, I am compelled to express total opposition to the Planning Commission's recommendation to fund 50 percent of Tysons Transportation costs from a "service district tax" on existing residential property owners.

This notion was never even suggested by county officials nor introduced for discussion during more than four years of public hearings and Task Force sessions related to drafting of the Comp Plan.

I am amazed that only two members of the Board of Supervisors have opposed this proposal on behalf of the residents they represent. The rest should be aware that while it is Tysons today, it could be their districts in the future that

will bleed tax dollars for the future profits of developers.

Existing residences have been and will continue to be the victims of continued disruption, construction pollution, and deterioration or destruction of our residential atmosphere in and around Tysons for many years to come. To add insult to injury, the board is looking to tax us to pay for developer benefits.

We have already contributed, and continue to contribute, to necessary improvements for infrastructure and services in the county. Costs, instead, should properly be allocated to those entities that will benefit most from newly created neighborhoods and business locations.

The Board of Supervisors needs to be more creative and assertive in working with the General Assembly to get legislative authority to exempt residences from a special district tax as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Amy L. Tozzi
McLean

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor

The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Chelsea Bryan
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

Alex McVeigh
Community Reporter
703-778-9441
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com
[@AMcVeighConnect](https://twitter.com/AMcVeighConnect)

Victoria Ross
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Salome Howard-Gaibler
Display Advertising
703-778-9421
salome@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising
703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief

Steven Mauren

Managing Editor

Kemal Kurspahic

Photography:

Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,

Craig Sterbutzel

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly

Production Manager:

Jean Card

Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

OPINION

American Conversations from Nepal

BY KRISHNA SHARMA

Although it is a little over six years since I first landed in the USA from Nepal, it is not too early to say that I am living the dream. For me, the American dream is not about amassing money and living in luxury, but about living freely and fully in mutual harmony in a community. It is about happily raising a family in a peaceful and safe environment, giving kids the best education possible, and adapting to the American culture of “giving.”

The American dream does not come easily, as some people think, since it is about relentlessly engaging in fields of endeavor with utmost honesty and diligence. I remember my wife and I being carless, near penniless, and spending half the days transferring buses and trains to get to assignments or training school. Had we been a little languid during those hard times, we would not be who and where we are today. We were equally happy to celebrate our daughter’s fourth birthday in our new homeland although we did not have a camera to capture the birthday moments.

There are nations where hard



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Krishna Sharma (right) with Marybeth Markey, president of International Campaign for Tibet in Washington D.C.

work is not always rewarded, due to deeply disturbing socio-political environments. There are cultures with dutifully resilient people whose dreams are forever out of reach. I discovered America as a place where people can actually achieve their dreams by discovering and rediscovering their respective places in the society, utilize America’s freedom, liberty and vast support resources, and

constantly improving themselves.

Working at The Washington Post was rewarding in many ways. The best lesson I learned while at the Post was that I needed to unlearn first and then seek a niche acceptable to tomorrow’s market.

Hosting the TV talk-show, “American Conversations: Connecting Frontiers”, and interviewing experts and expat community leaders on issues that matter the most to the Nepali Diaspora community is a pleasant experience. And this was made possible because of the resourceful public and private American dynamics. Specifically, Fairfax County, where I live, provided me almost everything—opportunity, basic training, a platform to grow and a pat on the back from friends like Hans Sawyer who is a life-long friend of Nepal and Tibet.

My other profession takes me to almost all the wonderful states on the East Coast and some in the Midwest. I was offered a move to Atlanta for a job with more money. But we loved Fairfax so much that we decided to make it our hometown.

Krishna Sharma is president of the Vision for Nepal Foundation.

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Schools Attract Immigrants to Fairfax

BY KIRK RANDALL

Our community of 200 single family homes in central Fairfax is far more culturally diverse than when Hickory Farms was built while the first wave of refugees from the Vietnam War resettled in the Washington area in the late 1970s. While the Vietnamese led the way, the biggest impact on our community has been the second wave of Indian, Pakistani and Korean immigrants who have sought out new lives in Fairfax County.

What attracts immigrants to our community? While we may boast of our nicely maintained, affordable homes, what really brings them in is our public schools. The immigrant community’s emphasis on education can be seen in the proliferation of college prep tutoring businesses in nearby shopping centers. We have even had homeowners purchase houses in our community sight-unseen, before they even arrived in America. Now, that speaks worlds about the desirability of Fairfax County as a place in which to raise a family.

America has always been a na-



Kirk F. Randall resides in Fairfax.

tion of immigrants, and it continues to attract the best and brightest and most ambitious from these countries. We need them to fuel our growing local economy and keep Virginia and America competitive in the world market.

Is there a downside to so many foreign speaking neighbors? Only in the short term. As a member of my community’s board of directors, I get occasional complaints from old timers that the newcomers don’t volunteer for the board

of directors or committees, neighborhood watch, don’t read the community newsletter which reminds residents of community rules, etc. There may be many reasons for this; English language difficulties, long work hours, or cultural backgrounds that don’t value community or school participation by elders. That problem will pass, as we see decades later that the children of the first wave have fully assimilated in our communities. America’s history has shown that our immigrants eventually assimilate, and our country is for the better. When my great grandfather and his family immigrated from Italy in the 1890s, it took them a few decades to fit in. It’s no different today.

Meanwhile, we get to enjoy the benefits immigrant diversity brings to the community, be it being exposed to new foods or hearing first hand stories of life in other lands.

So, the next time your community plans its Independence Day potluck picnic, please ask your new neighbors to bring along a special dish from their homeland to share.

Some see nothing more than a staircase. **EMPTY SPACE.**
We see a **RELAXING MOMENT** with Emily Dickinson.

Once upon a time, this charming reading nook was a haven for cobwebs. Today, it’s a refuge from the day-to-day, thanks to our professional designers. We see possibilities that other remodelers miss. Creative opportunities to make your home more functional and beautiful. Let us open your eyes to the possibilities. Just visit us at CaseDesign.com, or call 703-667-7397.

CASE[®]
DESIGN/REMODELING, INC.

DESIGN | ADDITIONS | INTERIORS | EXTERIORS | KITCHENS & BATHS

BRIGGS & RILEY
TRAVELWARE

SAVE \$50, \$100, \$150 AND MORE.
Endless combinations from all our luggage and business case collections.
\$50 off for every \$350 spent.
Instant savings applies to full priced styles only. Valid November 19 through December 31, 2012.

Paul's LEATHER ACCESSORIES

9903 Georgetown Pike 703-759-3735
Great Falls, VA 22066 www.Paulsleather.com

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling
We Bring the Showroom to YOU!!



Free Estimates
703-969-1179

Select your remodeling products from our Mobile Kitchen and Bathroom Showroom and Design Center!!



www.twopoorteachers.com

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
EST. 1999

Standard & Premium
Bath Specials!

Starting at
\$4,950

Visit our website
for details!



PHOTO BY ROBERTA RICCI

As of Tuesday, Nov. 27, 408 kits had been made, with at least 70 more left to be made in the days to follow.

Cooper Offers a Helping Hand

FROM PAGE 7

in its original package, one nail clipper, one bar of soap and six standard-sized band aids.

Working with the Church World Service, Psaltis and Richie organized for the packages of kits to be taken to New Windsor, Md., the

location of a WHO warehouse, where the kits will be transported and distributed as needed.

Thanks to the generosity of Cooper students and their families, at least 474 kits have been packaged.

—JENNIFER BENITZ

MILITARY NOTES

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Army National Guard Pfc. **Joshua B. Atkins** has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, he studied Army history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics and more. He is the son of Randy Atkins of Weant Drive in Great Falls, and a 1990 graduate of the Blue Ridge Preparatory School of Dyke, Va.

into the Corps of Cadets. Areas of summer instruction included first aid, mountaineering, hand grenades, rifle marksmanship and nuclear, biological, and chemical training. He is the son of Giovanni and Elizabeth Kotoryi of Great Falls, and a graduate of Langley High School.

Cadet **Anthony Kotoryi** of Great Falls successfully completed Cadet Basic Training (CBT) at the U.S. Military Academy on Aug. 14. The initial military training program provides cadets with basic skills to instill discipline, pride, cohesion, confidence and a high sense of duty to prepare them for entry

Army Pfc. **Bo J. Buffkin** has graduated from the Basic Field Artillery Cannon Crewmember Advanced Individual Training course at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. The course is designed to train servicemembers to maintain, prepare and load ammunition for firing; operate and perform operator maintenance on prime movers, self-propelled Howitzers, and ammunition vehicles and establish and maintain radio and wire communications. He is the son of Mark D. and Beverly J. Buffkin of Huntover Court in McLean, and a 2008 graduate of Langley High School.



Church of the Holy Comforter
The Rev. Richard A. Lord, Rector

CHRISTMAS EVE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24:
11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
7:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist
10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS MORNING (Episcopal)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25:
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

543 Beulah Road, Vienna, VA 22180, www.holycomforter.com, 703-938-6521

Visit These Houses of Worship

To Highlight Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

Progressive & Welcoming

**ST. ANNE'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH • Reston**



7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday school: preschool - grade 2
Music: grades 3 - 7
10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 12
Music 4 years to 2nd grade
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service

Nursery care provided at 9:00 a.m. service

The Rev. James Papile, Rector
The Rev. Jacqueline Thomson
The Rev. Laura Cochran
703-437-6530
www.stannes-reston.org
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

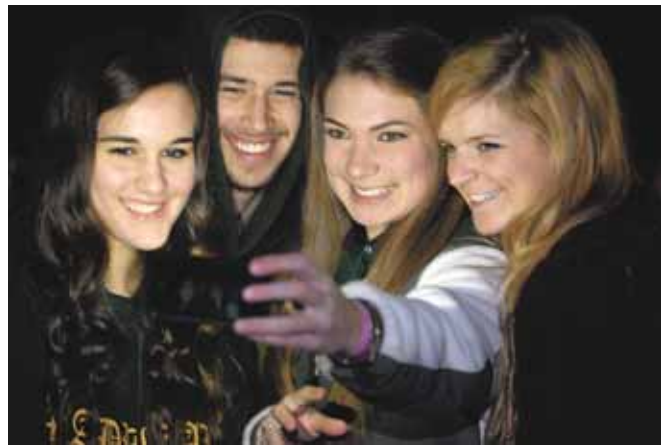
450 ORCHARD STREET, NW
VIENNA, VA 22180
703-938-8525
fbcvoffice@verizon.net
www.fbcv.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 11:00 AM
CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM-10:30AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Assembly of God
Vienna Assembly of God ... 703-938-7736
Washington Christian Church...703-938-7720
Cristo Es Mi Refugio...703-938-7727</p> <p>Baha'i
Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ... 703-821-3345</p> <p>Baptist
Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ... 703-757-8134
Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075
Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516
First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525
The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556</p> <p>Buddhist
Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122</p> <p>Church of the Brethren
Oakton Church of the Brethren ... 703-281-4411</p> <p>Catholic
Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555
St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100</p> <p>Charismatic
Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777</p> <p>Church of Christ
Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040</p> <p>Disciples of Christ
Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753</p> <p>Episcopal
Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521</p> | <p>Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991
St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082</p> <p>Jehovah's Witness
Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579</p> <p>Lutheran
Emmanuel Lutheran Church...703-938-2119
Christ The King Lutheran Church...703-759-6068
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003</p> <p>Methodist
Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509
Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987
The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336
Epiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494
Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705
Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233
Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594
Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700</p> <p>Non-Denominational
Celebration Center for Spiritual Living ... 703-560-2030
Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777</p> <p>Presbyterian
Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ... 703-560-6336
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050</p> <p>Quaker
Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394</p> <p>Seventh-Day Adventist
Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001
Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-938-8383</p> <p>Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230</p> |
|--|--|

NEWS

While attending the Great Falls Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on Saturday evening, Kathryn Bailey, Sam Mayman, Sarah Anderson and Margot Koppier take a picture together.



Tree Lighting in Great Falls

FROM PAGE 3

and the chance to sit with Santa. "I like talking to Santa," said Paige Ramsey, 6. "I have two things on my mind and I call them my two front teeth!" Talking with Santa proved to be the most popular among the children. An extensive line didn't take long to form and remained well after 7 p.m. On the other end of the field, a live nativity performance served as another crowd pleaser.

By 7:30 p.m., the field was noticeably emptier as the cold began to set in. Some families remained, continuing to make their way from one station to the next, while many families wrapped up the evening and said their goodbyes.

As chatter, laughs and screams filled the air throughout the night on Saturday, a real sense of community could be felt among goers. The holiday season was kicked into full swing and the annual event was once again a community favorite.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



Elizabeth Crawford of Great Falls meets Santa Claus while attending the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in Great Falls with her family on Sunday evening.



Area children await the arrival of Santa Claus at the annual Celebration of Lights and Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in Great Falls on Saturday evening.



George C. Marshall HS would like to thank our generous sponsors and donors for a successful 50th anniversary celebration on November 9, 2012.

FIVE STAR SPONSOR



STATESMEN SPONSORS



FRIENDS

Betsy Goodman
In memory of Michael Pritchett ('80) & Kathryn A. Pritchett ('91)
Kimberly Anderson
McCabe's Printing
Samaha Associates

DONORS

Marisa Laniak Friedman
Gollogly Family
Sonia Guzman
Donna Hoffman
Jim Kacur
Lava Yogurt
Eugene Miller
Kalvin Moore
Jay W. Pearson
Jeff and Colleen Quinn
Bonnie Steuart Taylor
Veoni Family

SILENT AUCTION DONORS

AAA Mid-Atlantic
Allsports Grand Prix
Always There Pet Care - Cat Resort
Always There Pet Care - Dog Day Care
AMC Tysons Corner
Anjali Anand
Assaggi Osteria
Basketball Hall of Fame
Boden
Brad Meltzer
Bridges Family
Build-A-Bear Workshop
Cabot Cheese
Café Oggi
California Car Duster
Canaan Valley Resort
Cheryl Keamy/Paul Pantano
Chris Gardner/PosiTek.net
Clarisonic
Coinstar
D.C. United
Delegate Jim Scott
Disney Parks
Dogtopia
Eclips Salon & Day Spa
Eric Kampmann '87
Fairfax Ice Arena
Fairfax Racquet Club
Fairview Park Marriott
Fire & Ice
Foster Opportunities, Inc.
Frank James & Vickie Walton-James
Friend of GCM
GCM Activities Office

GCM Boosters
GCM Theatre Boosters
Giant Food
Glory Days Grill
GMU Center for the Arts
Go Ape Treetop Adventures
Green Mountain Coffee
Heavenly Taste
Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens
Howard Svigals
Idylwood Grill & Wine Bar
Ina Garten
International Spy Museum
International Tennis Hall of Fame
Jan Brett
Jenny Reinhart
Jewel Tsantes
Joanna Bourne
John and Wendy Hoskins
Julie Easa
Karin's Florist
Kathleen Kinsolving '77
Kathrine Switzer '64
Liberty Mountain Resort
Lisa and Phil Leibow
Lisa Tondreau
Luray Caverns
Madame Tussauds
Maggiano's Restaurant
Maggie Stauth
Make Industries
Malou Rennert (Special Occasions of Great Falls)
Massage Heights
Massanutten Resort
Meadowlark Botanical Gardens (NVRPA)
Medieval Times
Mediterranean Restaurant
Merrifield Garden Center
Microsoft
National Geographic
National Museum of Crime & Punishment
Newseum
OPI Products, Inc.
Panera Bread
Paul Mitchell The School, Tysons Corner
Pev's Paintball
Pink Calyx
Pizzeria Orso
Polar Bottle
Portrait Innovations
Potomac Riverboat Company
Reston Limousine
River Riders
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

Room and Board
Sesame Street Workshop
Sharp Detail
Shenandoah River Outfitters
Skatequest
SKLZ
Sportrock Climbing Centers
Stamping Up!
Stifel & Capra
Stoner Inc.
The Cheesecake Factory
The Dandelion Patch
The Discovery Theatre
The Kennedy Center
The Laser Tag Group
The Pioneer Woman
The State Theatre
The Washington Capitals
The Washington Redskins
Thera Bands
Tysons Red Door Spa
Under The Olive Tree
Vienna Dahn Yoga Center
Virginia International Raceway
Vitalia MedSpa
Washington Kastles
Washington Nationals Baseball Club
Western Digital
Wildfire Restaurant

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

American AV
Harris Design, Inc.
PosiTek.net

Thank you to all the golf tournament sponsors who were recognized at the tournament on October 5, 2012.

Please support these businesses and organizations that care enough to invest in the success of George C. Marshall High School.

A huge thank you to the gala committee, parents, students, administration and staff, and to all the volunteers who in one way or another have contributed to the resounding success of the 50th anniversary celebration.

A Life Lesson in Giving Back

An immigrant's son becomes state delegate and introduces the Virginia DREAM Act.

By ALFONSO H. LOPEZ
STATE DELEGATE (D-49)



My father was born in a small town in the Andes mountains region of Venezuela. He was one of 22 brothers and sisters from the same parents. At the age of 19 he came to this country with \$280 in his pocket and the dream of a better life. He worked as a bus boy and waiter, learned English, and went to school. He graduated from Northern Virginia Community College when I was 5 years old. He then took one class a semester at George Mason University every year, until he graduated from college one month before I graduated from Robinson High School in Fairfax. As a result of his achieving the American Dream, my father was able to change the lives of my entire family in Latin America.

My mother was a teacher and guidance counselor in Arlington Public Schools for over 20 years. For most of her career she worked with ESL and immigrant children at Washington & Lee High School. As a direct result of her efforts, over 1,000 children, who might have otherwise fallen through the cracks, were able to continue their education after high school and graduate from college.

Throughout my life, my parents reminded me of the value of public service and taught me that if you have the opportunity, you should always give back to your community. My father also never hesitated to remind me that in the U.S. it is possible for the son of an immigrant to have the opportunities I have had—to work for the governor of Virginia, as a presidential political appointee, and to be elected to the General Assembly.

My mother and father touched the lives of countless people in our community. Every day I hope to honor them and live by their example.

With that in mind, I have fought efforts to pass anti-immigrant legislation in Virginia. Today, everyone agrees that we

need comprehensive immigration reform that is tough, fair and practical. However, that reform must come at the federal level. We do not want or need a patchwork of immigration laws from state to state—nor do we want an unworkable patchwork of rules from locality to locality. These attempts in Virginia to pass constitutionally questionable Arizona or Alabama-style legislation only serve to unnecessarily make us appear less tolerant and put us on a slippery slope towards hurting business and lowering state revenues.

I am proud to have introduced the Virginia DREAM Act. This legislation would allow undocumented children—who in many cases know no other home than Virginia—to receive in-state tuition if they meet certain strict criteria. Similar language was included in executive orders by Governors Warner and Kaine and similar legislation recently passed the State Senate. I will continue to fight for the DREAM Act until it becomes the law in Virginia.

Working with House Republicans I am also happy to have helped pass legislation allowing legal immigrants who have lived in Virginia for less than five years to receive prenatal health care coverage under the state Medicaid and FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan) programs. Prenatal care improves the health outcome of the child and reduces the neonatal and long-term health costs for the commonwealth.

Over 100 languages are spoken in the 49th District. There are 58 languages spoken at my local high school. This amazing, vibrant tapestry of cultures enriches our community and the commonwealth immeasurably. We should do everything we can to embrace these new immigrants who bring so much to Virginia.

Alfonso Lopez is the first Latino Democrat ever elected to the Virginia House of Delegates.

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION Living Life in 'The Dream Land'

Jorge Adeler shares his story of the American Dream coming true.

By JENNIFER BENITZ
THE CONNECTION

Part three of an ongoing series.

The American Dream has been shared for generations—some call it an idea; others call it a reality. Many people come leaving behind former lives in search for better ones, not only for themselves but also for their children.

Jorge Adeler is one of those people. Businessman, optimist, entrepreneur and enthusiast are just a few ways to describe the Argentine immigrant.

"I learned to look for ways to make a living by using my imagination," said Adeler. "That helped me envision opportunities as they crossed in front of me."

At 27 years old, in 1975, Adeler moved to the United States with his wife and two young daughters after visualizing the direction Ar-

gentina was heading in as a nation and not liking what he saw. With only \$450 in his pocket and unable to speak English, he faced a rough transition but took on the challenge with fierce and hopeful drive. Now a successful, internationally recognized jeweler, he has a story unlike any other.

"The price was high, but it was the best decision I've ever made," he said. "I'm delighted here."

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS was a difficult one for the self-taught master designer, but neither the challenge nor the fear of failure stopped him. Growing up in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Adeler helped his parents run their hotel and restaurant business. Consequently, he came to the U.S. with

the intentions of continuing in the same business, but soon found it wasn't for him.

Instead, Adeler decided to pursue his own business in the form of trade. He took out a credit line worth \$1,000 with Woolworth to

buy basic necessities, such as pocket knives, fishing hooks and light coats, before traveling to Argentina and setting up camp in a small village in the mountains of Córdoba to trade for stones. Upon return from his trades, he carved

it, he slowly made the transition from stones to jewelry.

It wasn't long before Adeler opened his first jewelry store, selling mostly pendants and other small items in Ocean City, Md. As his business expanded, so did the

number of stores. Within a few years, he had five jewelry stores in Ocean City under his operation.

His success came with his drive to go against the mainstream of popular demands. While most jewelry stores were selling turquoise stones, something Adeler couldn't yet afford, he sold other gems that often caught the attention of those looking for something different. One of those out-of-the-ordinary stones was rhodochrosite, the pink national Argentine gemstone.

"When you have something you're selling that would be much more different because it is something people aren't looking for, I realized it has its virtues," Adeler said. "You'll always have customers searching for something original or different. I began my career doing something different than the rest of the industry."

FROM THEN ON, Adeler focused on what no one else was selling, forcing him to be more creative and look into new ideas. With an overall goal to do what no one else was doing and present it in a way that would attract the minority of customers looking for something dif-

SEE DREAM LAND. PAGE 14



Jorge Adeler stands between his daughters, Valentina Adeler Armour (left) and Wendy Adeler Hall (right), both of whom work in the family business. Valentina is the appraiser and apprentice designer while Wendy is the vice president of marketing and philanthropy for Adeler Jewelers.

Day Shifts, Night Shifts On the Road to Success

By ANAGHA SRIKANTH
THE CONNECTION

When the chain pharmacy he worked for opened a drive-through pharmacy, it was the final straw for Amit Shah of Fairfax.

"I thought, 'we are becoming Taco Bell,'" Amit said. "So I said 'I'm going to open my own store.'" The chain had moved away from taking care of customers. They were more like a machine playing a number game. You went there, they filled your prescription but they counted numbers more than people and it wasn't something I liked."

Having arrived in America from India in 1987 with only \$20 and a green card in his pocket, it wasn't going to be easy. For over a decade he had worked day shifts at pharmacies and the night shift as a technician at George Washington Uni-

versity hospital, all the while studying to earn a bachelors degree in pharmacy from Howard University and a license to practice pharmacy in New York, Maryland and Virginia.

IN THOSE YEARS, before Google or smart phones, information was scarce, and it took him over a year just to figure out how to obtain a pharmacist's license. His wife Kamini Shah gave up her hopes of pursuing further education in psychology to take computer courses at a local university and become a technician.

During all that time, however, they were learning lessons that would prove invaluable in the future. Amit said communication was one of the biggest challenges he faced as an immigrant and it took years of interacting with customers to earn their trust and acceptance. He had to overcome his ac-

cent and learn to talk slower, use less medical jargon and listen.

Kamini, who had earned a masters degree in psychology and sociology from India, found she could use her education to reach out to customers.

"Our customers are all sick people and in their difficult times it helps to have someone to listen to their problems," she said. "I might not be able to do anything but just listening to them makes them feel a little better. Especially when they are all alone by themselves, seniors and single parents taking care of little kids, [they] have a lot to handle. It makes you feel like you can give back to society by helping them."

Providing the best services they could to the community has been one of their main priorities since they opened their first store in 2001. Even when it was just the two of them working seven days a week, they would make deliveries

An Indian immigrant's story: Making it and giving back.



Amit Shah checks an order for a customer during a busy Friday morning at his Woodbridge Pharmacy.

PHOTOS BY ANAGHA SRIKANTH/
THE CONNECTION



Kamini Shah greets customers at the pick-up desk and said she enjoys interacting and developing relationships with them.



From left—Sarah (William & Mary), Sophia (junior, Westfield High School), Kamran (fifth grader, Cub Run), Robin and Bob Zahory.

Building a Better Life

An Afghan immigrant's story: From Soviet war to American Dream.

By HANNAH BUNTING
THE CONNECTION

Personally, I never think anyone is better than me, and I never think I'm better than anyone," Bob Zahory of Centreville says with a chuckle as he offers up another pomegranate lemonade.

Mahboob "Bob" Zahory moved to America 31 years ago from Afghanistan, ready to work and begin a new life. At just 21 years old, Zahory and his three brothers left their homeland behind to escape the Soviet War. The brothers soon settled in Northern Virginia, with their first priority being to learn English.

"I knew the better you can communicate, the easier it will be to succeed," Zahory said.

So Zahory enrolled in one year of English at Northern Virginia Community College, where he also studied hotel management for two years. Right from the start, the Zahory family worked full-time for a better future.

According to Zahory, the family also refused to accept anything from the U.S. Government to assist them. They each had a job after a month, and worked in addition to their schooling. As for Bob, he worked for two years at the Marriott, focusing on food and beverage management. Zahory said he valued his time there and learned a lot, but still aspired to someday work for himself and make his own decisions for a business.

Eventually Zahory achieved the dream of owning his own restaurant, and opened what is now Mazadar Restaurant at 11725 Lee Highway in Fairfax, an establishment specializing in Middle Eastern cuisine. Mazadar means delicious.

Through his hard work, Zahory was able to combine his past with his future.

However, this success did not come about easily. Family proved to be a bit of a sacrifice Zahory had to make when building his business. He described the process as constant work, planning and management through long hours and late nights.

Zahory's daughter Sarah, who now studies at The College of William & Mary, shares her father's hardworking personality. "I'm really proud of her and how hard she works. That is your goal as a parent, to give your child a better life than you had," Zahory said.

Another obstacle Zahory had to overcome was xenophobia.

"There is some discrimination in the beginning, especially when they hear your accent. Those are some of the challenges you have," Zahory said.

Zahory elaborated on the fact that sometimes people will talk with their hands when explaining things to him; patronizing him while assuming he would not understand.

"At least four or five times, I've actually taken their hands and put them down. I asked them, do you honestly talk to everybody like that?" Zahory said.

Zahory said he has never felt like a minority; however there have certainly been issues of discrimination over the years. These have been demonstrated in subtle ways such as being seated in the back of the restaurant near the bussing station, or assuming him to be an unskilled worker.

Zahory said, "Because I've been through it, I never want anyone to be treated less. In my business that's very important to me. I make sure my employees feel equal and I try to help them wherever I can."

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Social Programs Adapt to Fulfill Immigrant Needs

Fellowship House, Interfaith help immigrants on their way to self-sufficiency.

BY AMIEE FREEMAN
THE CONNECTION

A visitor to Hunter's Woods Fellowship House in Hunter's Woods Square in Reston could hear 21 different languages. Residents speak every Middle Eastern language, Russian, German, Polish, Filipino and several Asian languages, said Fellowship Square Housing and Services Executive Director Jana Broughton.

Fellowship Square Housing and Services, a charitable, not-for-profit organization, offers affordable housing for elderly people and for people with disabilities in the D.C. Metropolitan area. Fellowship Square runs four Fellowship Houses: Hunter's Woods and Lake Anne in Reston, Lake Ridge in Woodbridge and Largo Landing in Largo, Md. In recent years, said Broughton, there has been an uptick in the number of immigrants on the waiting list for affordable housing in Fairfax County and specifically for apartments at the Lake Anne and Hunter's Woods Fellowship Houses.

"The resident population in the Lake Anne and Hunter's Woods Fellowship Houses really matches the demographics of Fairfax County," said Broughton.

According to a 2011 American Community Survey for Fairfax County compiled by the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and based on statistical data from the 2010 U.S. Census, 29 percent of the people living in Fairfax County were foreign born. Of that percentage, 51.5 percent hailed from Asia, 31.5 percent from Latin America, 8.8 percent from Africa, and the remaining 8.2 percent from Europe, Canada or Oceania.

COMPLICATING ISSUES FOR IMMIGRANTS, Fairfax County is one of the most affluent counties in the country, according to census data. In recent years the cost of housing has increased despite the housing crisis and economic turmoil. In 2009, the last year for which this data was available, the average monthly rent in Fairfax County was \$1,375.

"There is a huge need for affordable housing in Fairfax County," said Broughton.

Fellowship House does not give preference based on immigrant or non-immigrant status, said Broughton. They provide housing based on a first come, first served policy. The waiting list for an apartment at one of the Fellowship Houses is six to eight years.

Most of the immigrant residents at the two fellowship houses in Reston have family who immigrated to the U.S. for better schooling or for better economic opportunities, said Broughton.

"With housing so expensive here, if you are a young immigrant family you cannot afford to house grandma or aunt and uncle. It is important that we offer affordable housing to immigrants. Many of these immigrants bring very important family values with them and we as a society need to respect those values."

Broughton remembered one example of an Iranian family who escaped political retaliation with "only the clothes on their back." This family was well-to-do in their home country, but here they became part of the immigrant poor. Many families, regardless of their reason for immigrating to the U.S. become the immigrant poor as the cost of living is so high, said Broughton.

"By providing affordable housing to immigrants, we are fulfilling part of [the] American dream that we are a home for all," said Broughton.

Reston Interfaith, a Reston-based nonprofit that promotes self-sufficiency through direct support and advocacy, does not specifically direct services to immigrants, but feels that their mission statement requires them to provide services to everyone.

"Our services are open to everyone. We try to provide a diversity of programs that help facilitate access to the community," said Bill Threlkeld, division director of



Every other month at Hunter's Woods Fellowship House in Reston, residents attend an International Tea and share dishes from their country of origin, with one such function pictured here. At Hunter's Woods Fellowship House, 50 percent of the residents are Asian, 21 percent are from Middle Eastern countries and the remainder are Russian, Caucasian and Hispanic.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Residents at the Lake Anne Fellowship House also gather for similar events and celebrate holidays. At Lake Anne, 53 percent of the residents are Caucasian, 35 percent are Asian and the remainder are African American, Indian and Hispanic.

Neighborhood Resources at Reston Interfaith.

RESTON INTERFAITH offers job and housing assistance. They offer programs on foreclosure prevention. Through their community centers they offer legal clinics and try to provide a lawyer who is familiar with immigration issues as there is a high demand for that service. They also offer English as a Second Language classes. This is the only program that is geared specifically for immigrants, said Threlkeld.

Reston Interfaith also offers programs on new life skills. "The person attending this program might be new to the community or new to the country," said Threlkeld.

Threlkeld said that Reston

Interfaith's programs need to be responsive, so they can work toward meeting the needs of anyone who comes into their offices. "These are folks that are part of our community. We want to help them integrate. They want to be able to do what everyone else is doing. We try to help them do that," said Threlkeld.

The goal of many of Reston Interfaith's programs is to promote self-sufficiency. "We don't want people to fall from a position of self-sufficiency to dependency. We want to keep them going on [a] self-sufficient path. If we can keep someone in their home through our intervention, then we do that. The work we do here at Reston Interfaith helps provide stability in our community," said Threlkeld.

Dream Land

FROM PAGE 13

ferent, he stopped carrying designer pieces in his stores and began making all of his own.

"I placed goals for myself, from challenge to challenge," Adeler said. "I make mistakes and I learn from them. I don't have much fear of failure."

By 1980, Adeler decided to combine his family-run businesses under one roof. Great Falls was the place he chose to call home for his business and family. "Great Falls ended up being one of the most fantastic communities I've ever lived in," Adeler said.

Adeler Jewelry has provided services to 3,500 of the 7,000 households in Great Falls since it opened its doors over 30 years ago and continues to grow each year. Recently, Adeler won the 2012-2013 International Pearl Design Competition Designers Award as well as placing in the top competitors at the JCK "Jewelers Choice Awards."

In recent months, the internationally recognized jeweler has received requests from various magazines to showcase his designs to Hollywood stylists and celebrities asking to wear his designs, including Sally Fields in the movie Lincoln this year.

Adeler is so appreciative of the opportunities he has been given to succeed in the country he calls "the dream land," that he makes it a point to give back to the community as much as he can through various donations and volunteer work.

"We believe that if you don't give back to the community, you break the rules in how society should be."

His long list of community partnerships include everything from the Red Cross to various organizations benefiting diabetes, veterans and Inova Hospital, and he continues to reach out.

"I have so much to be grateful for," Adeler said. "Every single day I have everything to be grateful for. Life has been extraordinary to us."

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

Send announcements to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

Photography Lecture by Bob Meyers

7:30-9:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Bob Meyers, photographer for Green Peace, will speak at the Dec. 5 meeting of the Vienna Photographic Society on his journey from photojournalism to documentary photography. 703-451-7298 or www.vps-va.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

46th Annual Holiday Homes Tour.

10 a.m.-3 p.m., various locations in northwest McLean between the Beltway and the Potomac River. Four large houses on Rivercrest and Live Oak Drives each reflect a distinct architectural style; their natural beauty is played up with festive seasonal decor. \$25 in advance; \$30 day of (tickets available at the MarketPlace, Karin's Florist of Vienna, Mesmeralda's Gifts of McLean and Great Dogs of Great Falls). www.mcleanwc.org.

Woman's Club MarketPlace.

10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Lunch, dessert concession, a silent auction of merchandise and services, vendors and Homes Tour tickets for sale; all proceeds benefit local charities and nonprofits or go to scholarships and education. 703-356-9646 or 703-556-0197.

Les Miserables, the School Edition.

7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The play lead, Damian Leverett, won the 2012 National Capitol Area Cappie for Best Actor and the 2012 McLean HS Idol competition; see the classic on the struggle against adversity in France during the early 1800s. \$10 in advance; \$8 at the door. www.brownpapertickets.com.

Schooner Fare.

8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The folk music band based out of Portland, Maine, plays country-style songs and maritime themed-folk. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

Schooner Fare.

8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The folk music band based out of Portland, Maine, plays country-style songs and maritime themed-folk. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Les Miserables, the School Edition.

7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The play lead, Damian Leverett, won the 2012 National Capitol Area Cappie for Best Actor and the 2012 McLean HS Idol competition; see the classic on the struggle against adversity in France during the early 1800s. \$10 in advance; \$8 at the door. www.brownpapertickets.com.

Altar Boyz.

8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.



Langley High School Orchestra violinists, from left: Tim Kostelancik, Kurt Tran (hidden) and Quan Pham.

Langley High Orchestra Presents German Orchestral Music

The Langley High School Orchestra will present its next concert on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. in the Langley HS Auditorium. "An Evening of German Orchestral Music" will feature music of German composers. Full orchestra pieces include Beethoven's Corolian Overture, Schubert's Symphony No. 8 ("Unfinished"), and Brahms' Hungarian Dances No. 5 and 6. The Chamber Orchestra will feature violinist Kevin Tran in "Zigeunerweisen" by Pablo Sarasate. The Freshman Orchestra will perform Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3.

Thanks to a grant from the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's SCORE program and a matching grant from the Langley High School PTSA, three of the orchestras will perform with members of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of guest conductor Glenn Quader. A native of Washington, D.C., Quader is rapidly gaining national recognition as a dynamic and versatile conductor. From 2004 to the present, Quader has served as associate conductor for the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, the Washington, D.C. area's largest and most established professional regional orchestra. He is involved with the orchestra's SCORE program, which takes members of the symphony into area schools for side-by-side master classes and concert performances.

The public is invited to attend the concert and the third annual Silent Auction, which will be held in the lobby of the Langley HS Auditorium before the concert and during the intermission. This is a great oppor-



Guest Conductor Glenn Quader will conduct the Langley High School Orchestra on Tuesday, Dec. 11.

tunity to shop for the holidays, encourage local businesses in the community, and to support the Langley High School Orchestra program. Winners will be announced at the end of the concert, and only cash or checks will be accepted. Silent Auction items include certificates for restaurants, stores, salons, an SAT prep course, a portrait, fitness, lessons, gift baskets, gift certificates and more. A list of items may be previewed on the Langley Orchestra website at www.langleyorchestra.org.

Hungarian dances and waltzes composed by Johannes Brahms will be performed on piano by two teams of students: Paul Li and Theron Masters, and Chigaya Sakai and George Pestoy. Bach's Toccata in D will be played on the organ by J.J. Stevens.

The Langley High School Orchestra is directed by Dr. Scott McCormick and Ms. Bo-Min Son.

PHOTO BY CHH PHAM

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

LAUNCH YOUR WRITING CAREER

Professional coaches help you from concept, through drafting, to publisher ready.

FREE Introductory Talks

Katie's Coffee Shop at The Old Brogue, Great Falls - Sunday, Dec 9, 1:30 PM

Lightfoot Restaurant, Leesburg - Thursday, Jan 3, 7:00 PM

Writer's Intensive Workshops

Leesburg - Jan 11-13

Sterling/Cascades - Feb 1-3

We help you prepare top quality, saleable manuscripts.

Questions?

540) 454-4495 8a-8p EST
www.itsyourlifebethere.com



Vinson Hall Retirement Community's HOLIDAY SHOPPING BAZAAR



Friday, December 7, 2012
2:00 - 7:00 PM

6251 Old Dominion Drive
McLean, VA 22101

Open to the Public - Free Admission!

Unique Jewelry, Clothing, Arts and Crafts,
Household and Holiday items, and Much More!

Additional vendors are invited to participate.
Contact: fredj@vinsonhall.org



Vinson Hall Retirement Community
supported by the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation
6251 Old Dominion Drive ★ McLean, VA 22101
www.vinsonhall.org

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

A Raggedy Ann doll, one of the many gifts available at Grandmother's Back Room in Great Falls.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/ THE CONNECTION



Dolly, a "staff member" at Great Dogs of Great Falls, and the store's Dalmatian mascot. Located in the Safeway shopping center, Great Dogs of Great Falls offers a variety of healthy pet food, toys, grooming services and more.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER BENITZ/THE CONNECTION

Grandmother's Backroom Owner Barbara Anderson and her daughter and co-worker Pam Anderson.

Great Falls Gift Ideas

Great Dogs of Great Falls, Grandmother's Back Room offer gifts for pets and children.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As a dog lover, Karen Glass of McLean knows that when her dog Pepper is happy, she is happy. The same goes for her friends, most of whom are equally passionate about their canines. So she knows that when she goes holiday shopping, dog gifts are perfectly acceptable.

"Some members of my family always look at me weird when I tell them I'm shopping for my friends' dogs, but they do the same for me, and we all appreciate it," Glass said. "We've all got what we need, so why not take care of our pets?"

Glass said her favorite place to shop is Great Dogs in Great Falls, located at the Safeway Shopping Center. Owner Linda Waitkus purchased the store in 2008, after more than 30 years of retail experience, and since then has been dedicated to providing them with the best products.

The store emphasizes high-quality pet food with no by-products or other unhealthy ingredients. Though dogs are the store's namesake, they certainly don't discriminate when it comes to other four-legged creatures.

"I started going to Great Dogs for their organic pet food, but I was surprised at the variety of stuff for my cats, especially the toys," said Erik Hartsfedt of Great Falls. "Now it's become my one-stop pet shop. I'd much rather support a local place like this than

head into Tysons or something like that."

They also offer a full range of grooming services. Great Dogs of Great Falls is located at 9859 Georgetown Pike, and can be found online at www.greatdogsofgreatfalls.com.

For the younger, human members on shoppers' lists, Grandmother's Back Room at the Great Falls Village Centre has been a staple for more than 15 years. The store contains stuffed animals, children's clothing and more.

"I love the dolls and stuffed animals at Grandmother's Back Room, they are such high quality and seem like they're something you would give your child that they'll keep forever," said Sandy Woods of Great Falls. "Everything there is just so precious."

The store prides itself on carrying a wide variety of dolls and stuffed animals, including homemade Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls.

They also feature the "world famous discount rack" of children's clothes that are marked 40 percent off. Other clothes are available include scarves, mittens, coats and more.

"Something about the tiny mittens and scarves just makes me smile," said Deborah Alexander of Vienna. "And since my nieces and nephews grow out of it so quickly, I have an excuse to keep coming back every year."

More information can be found at www.grandmothersbackroom.com.

Talking About Gifts

"Our specialties are hand- and locally-made products. We have nine people who make things for the shop. Some really popular items are the mittens and hats, sweaters with cars or ducks and elf hats. These hats are made of bamboo and silk. For the holidays, people often buy multiple items for a set, like a book, toy and pair of pajamas, or a hat with mittens, a blanket and a book. Stuffed animals and clothes are the most popular items. We also do good business with socks. We try to keep it fun and a little interesting; something you don't see everywhere."

—PAM ANDERSON,
GRANDMOTHER'S BACKROOM

"Our most popular items are the Mark Roberts fairies, Frasier Fir

candles and the Elf on the Shelf set."

—MIA BELOTTI, MANAGER,
WALPOOL WOODWORKERS AND
MAISON ET JARDIN, LTD.

"Popular items are the Frasier fir candles, scents and hand wash and hand lotion sets. We've been selling out of those. The reed defuser kit is also really popular. We also sell stuffed animals, ornaments, wreaths, garlands, and all sorts of decorations like the Mark Roberts fairies that are collector items."

—ELLEN CASEY, SALES ASSOCIATE,
WALPOOL WOODWORKERS
AND MAISON ET JARDIN, LTD.

—JENNIFER BENITZ



A stand in the middle of Walpool Woodworkers and Maison et Jardin is adorned with various holiday ornaments and decorations, including the popular Mark Roberts fairies.



HOLIDAY SALE

Show love to friends and family with a unique gift they will cherish for years to come.

Check out Pear Tree Cottage's Annual Holiday Sale now through Sunday and receive 20% -75% OFF.

Ranked one of the best boutiques in the DC region. (2009-2012).

Pear Tree Cottage

130 Maple Avenue, East, Vienna, VA 22180
703-938-1331 • Web: www.ThePearTreeCottage.com
Mon. & Tue.: Closed • Wed.-Sat.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. • Sun.: 12-4 p.m.



For a free digital subscription to one or all of the 15 Connection Newspapers, go to www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Be the first to know – get your paper before it hits the press.

Complete digital replica of the print edition, including photos and ads, delivered weekly to your e-mail box.

Questions? E-mail: goinggreen@connectionnewspapers.com



THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

FROM PAGE 15

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Annual Holiday Art Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Oil and watercolor paintings, pottery, photographs, jewelry, layered paper works, art quilts, weaving, woodcarving, and artful gifts and cards—all from Great Falls artists. 703-442-9251 or www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Children ages 3-12 can explore the life-size gingerbread house at the hotel, then make their own sugary homes in a decorating class taught by the pastry chefs; includes all ingredients as well as a souvenir. \$70 per child. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

The Nutcracker Tea. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Enjoy the Nutcracker Ballet with afternoon tea and treats while members of the Creative Dance Center put a contemporary twist on the beloved classic and the pastry team tantalizes palates with tea sandwiches, pastries and sweets. \$75 (includes nutcracker doll for all children). www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

Mister G: Chocoolalala Holiday Concert. 10:30 a.m. Jammin Java Music Club and Cafe, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Come see Mister G, a children's musician, perform bilingual songs that blend Latin rhythms, traditional instruments, and Mister G's uniquely catchy song-writing for children. \$8. <http://jamminjava.com/home/kids-events/>

mister-g or <http://soundcloud.com/mister-g-kids-music/sets/chocoolalala-1>.

Santa at the Freeman Store. 1-3 p.m., 131 Church St., N.E., Vienna. Assisted by his elves, Santa sits upstairs in his traditional chair beside the Christmas tree, happy to talk to children and smile with them for a photo. 703-938-5187 or www.historicviennainc.org.

Skippyjon Jones. 2 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A play based on the book by Judy Schachner, a little kitten with big ears and bigger dreams transforms himself into Skippito Friskito, the greatest sword fighter in Old Mexico, but is challenged by a bullying bee. \$10, general; \$15 for MCC residents. www.aldentheatre.org.

Altar Boyz. 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

Les Miserables, the School Edition. 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Come see the classic on the struggle against adversity in France during the early 1800s. \$10 in advance; \$8 at the door. www.brownpapertickets.com.

Holiday Magic. 8 p.m., at Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. A McLean Orchestra concert of favorite holiday selections, including selections from the Nutcracker, O Holy Night, Christmas Festival Overture and more featuring soprano soloist Melissa Mino and the Oakcrest School Girls' Chorus. \$40, adults; \$30, seniors; \$15, youth 18-and-

under. 703-893-8646 or www.mclean-orchestra.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 9

The Handmaid of the Lord. 9 a.m.-11 a.m., at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1125 Savile Lane, McLean. A holiday cantata about Mary mother of Jesus featuring Ave Maria; the cantata is composed and conducted by Brian E. Wilhour. www.ipcmclean.org.

Annual Holiday Art Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Oil and watercolor paintings, pottery, photographs, jewelry, layered paper works, art quilts, weaving, woodcarving, and artful gifts and cards—all from Great Falls artists. 703-442-9251 or www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Children ages 3-12 can explore the life-size gingerbread house at the hotel, then make their own sugary homes in a decorating class taught by the pastry chefs; includes all ingredients as well as a souvenir. \$70 per child. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

The Princess Tea. 11 a.m., 2 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Disney princesses, treats and a special teatime make it a magical day; holiday gift bag and photo with princesses included. \$75. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

Talk for Writers: "Getting Publishers to Say, 'Yes!'" 1:30 p.m., at Katie's Coffee Shop, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. David Hazard, publishing consultant and best selling author, shows how to



Great Falls Artist Makes Calendar Cover

Great Falls artist Mary Jane Cogan stands in front of her watercolor painting entitled "Rose Duet." The image was chosen to appear on the cover of the 2013 calendar published by the American Diabetes Association. Another of Cogan's paintings—"Garden of Glads"—was chosen for the month of August. The calendar is featured in the association's Gift of Hope catalog. Sales from the catalog benefit diabetes research. The catalog can be seen at www.shopdiabetes.org/giftofhope.

create willing proposals to help writers break into publishing. Hazard has launched nearly 250 authors. Walk-in or RSVP at ascent@itsyourlifethere.com or 540-454-4495.

Altar Boyz. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons

Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

McLean Community Center

Register Now for

Winter Classes

Dance, Fitness, Art, Language, Science, Technology, Chess, Computer, Pet Care, Safety, Parent & Child Workshops, Decorating & Design, Music, Theater, Culinary Program, Writing & more...

Open a World of New Possibilities.

For a complete listing of classes, tours, performances and events, pick up a free Program Guide at the Center.

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave.,
McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123; TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Great Falls Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: ChildrensNorth@connectionnews.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Presented by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

BULL RUN
Festival of Lights

A Festival of Lights from the comfort of your car!

November 21 to January 6

Bull Run Regional Park
7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, VA

Admission per car:
Monday to Thursday: \$15
Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: \$20

\$3 off

www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com

\$3.00 discount valid Monday through Friday, not valid on holidays. Holidays include Nov. 22nd, Dec. 24, 25, 31 & Jan. 1. Offer valid for 2012 season only. Coupon good for one car only, cannot be combined with other offers.

Don't forget to visit our newest holiday tradition, Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna

Tickets can be purchased at www.winterwalkoflights.com

COMMUNITY

The Great Falls Historical Society's Old-Fashioned Christmas

The officers and board of directors of the Great Falls Historical Society welcome the entire community to join them on Wednesday, Dec. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the historic Great Falls Grange to enjoy the fine musical talents of more than 50 Cooper Middle School Chorus and Orchestra members in a performance of seasonal music.

The Great Falls Grange, listed on the National Register of Historic

Places, is a public assembly hall built in 1929 as a symbol of commitment to community involvement and progress, and has been a special meeting place throughout its history. GFHS board members have selected historic dessert recipes (pre-1900s), which they are preparing for to reconnect guests with what a traditional holiday celebration was like in olden days. The recipes are from the local Great Falls cookbook titled

How to Cure a Thousand Pounds of Ham and Other Receipts, gathered by the Great Falls Historical Society in 1987. Present and former residents of Great Falls contributed these family recipes which all pre-date 1900.

The GFHS-researched cookbook represents both the origins and the resulting blending of generations past, what was grown or available locally, and what the people of the time preferred to eat. One can ob-

serve the diverse national groups that came to this country, bringing their special tastes and methods of preparation, blending with indigenous foodstuffs known to Native Americans. This local recipe book represents the origin and the resulting blending that is now part of the community of Great Falls.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.gfhs.org.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, in McLean, holds a Festival of Lessons and Carols sung by the choirs of St. John's Church, accompanied by organist Dr. John C. Wulff and the Sunrise String Quartet with Teri Lazar and Osman Kivrak on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

Great Falls United Methodist Church is providing an Advent sermon series called "A Different Kind of Christmas: Living and Giving Like Jesus", based on the book by Rev. Mike Slaughter. They will look at the celebration of Christmas and find ways to bring the focus of the season back to the reason we celebrate. Attendees will be encouraged to examine Christmas celebrations and to develop new Christmas traditions that focus on relationships and service. The series will be held on Sundays, Dec. 9, 16 and 23 at the 10 a.m. service held at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705 or office@greatfallsumc.org.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, at the intersection with Westmoreland Street has Sunday worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m., traditional style worship; 9:45 a.m., contemporary style worship; and 11 a.m., traditional style worship. Sunday School and Adult Forum is at 9:45 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers a rich and unique Religious Exploration (RE) program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path. Registration for the RE program, which offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, is now open by calling 703-281-4230.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers three Sunday services and a host of musical, educational, outreach, and fellowship ministries to enrich spiritual growth. 7:45 a.m. Worship Service without music; 9 a.m. Worship Service, Children's Chapel and Children's Choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum; and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Adult Choir. 703-759-2082.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, offers a 9 a.m. traditional service and a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service on Sundays. Also offers two services during the summer—both of which will include children's sermons. 703-356-3346.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.



THE JOSH ANDERSON FOUNDATION



The Safe Community Coalition, Josh Anderson Foundation, Langley High School PTSA, McLean High School PTSA and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology PTSA join together to present:

Active Minds Speaker's Bureau Member
Jordan Burnham

Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Old Firehouse Teen Center*
1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

**Could This Happen To
Someone You Know?**

Jordan was a high-achieving, student athlete who appeared to have it all. Previously seen on *ESPN*, *Good Morning America* and *The Ricki Lake Show*, come hear Jordan's dynamic presentation of his battle with stress, depression and attempted suicide.



To learn more about Active Minds and its Speaker's Bureau, please visit www.activeminds.org/speakers.

* Easy parking available in the lot next to the Old Firehouse Teen Center courtesy of our business community partners – Giant Food, Kazan Restaurant, Goeller's Office & Art Supplies and Greenberry's Coffee Co.

L.C. Bird RB Robertson Torches Oakton

Senior rushes for 426 yards, five touchdowns in playoff win.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

A gritty toughness drove the underdog Oakton football team to a berth in the state playoffs. Once there, an elusive running back wearing pink socks with bunnies on them ended the Cougars' season.

L.C. Bird senior Paul Robertson rushed for 426 yards and five touchdowns and the Skyhawks defeated Oakton, 41-17, in the Division 6 AAA state semifinals on Saturday, Dec. 1 at Oakton High School. L.C. Bird will face Ocean Lakes in the state championship game on Saturday, Dec. 8, while the Cougars' postseason run, which included knocking off the top three seeds en route to a Northern Region title, came to an end.

After struggling at the end of the regular season, the Oakton defense limited opponents to 14 points per game during three regional playoff contests, holding Lake Braddock (13), Centreville (13) and previously undefeated Westfield (16) to season-low point totals. Against L.C. Bird, however, Oakton allowed Robertson to produce the 11th greatest single-game rushing total in state history, according to the football records section at vhs1.org.

Robertson referred to his pink socks as his "good-luck" socks, saying he has totaled more than 250 yards each time he's worn them.

"We all saw [the Cougars] put their heads down," said Robertson, describing how the Skyhawks' ground game affected Oakton, "so we knew we had to keep going and just get this game over with."

A 78-YARD TOUCHDOWN run by Robertson gave L.C. Bird a 27-3 lead with 3:48 remaining in the second quarter. Oakton responded with an 11-play, 65-yard drive, capped by a 1-yard touchdown run by quarterback Kyle Downer. The score cut L.C. Bird's lead to 27-10 with 29 seconds remaining in the first half and gave the Cougars a glimmer of hope as they would receive the second-half kickoff. But the Skyhawks quickly squashed that hope on the next play from scrimmage as quarterback Terrance Ervin threw deep to Darius Hawkins for a 49-yard gain down to the Oakton six-yard line. Robertson scored on the next play, extending the Skyhawk lead to 34, 10 seconds before halftime.

"Coming out of this game, I really have no regrets," Oakton senior defensive lineman Joe Allely, a team captain, said. "I played my heart out. I believe that our defense, even though we made mistakes, we all



Oakton defensive lineman Joe Allely reaches for L.C. Bird running back Paul Robertson during the Division 6 AAA state football semifinals on Saturday, Dec. 1 at Oakton High School.

played our hearts out. . . . [Robertson is] a fast kid. He definitely delivers a blow. He's good with his cuts and he can make a play when his blocks aren't there. But you can't let that get to you as a defensive player and you've got to compete with him."

On offense, Downer carried 19 times for 72 yards and two touchdowns. He completed 13 of 22 passes for 135 yards and was intercepted once. Bobby Lam carried four times for 36 yards. Mike Wandey rushed for 23 yards on 10 carries and caught five passes for 51 yards.

"I felt like, offensively, we had some things working," Oakton Head Coach Jason Rowley said. "We had a hard time getting off the field on defense."

Oakton starting left tackle Chris Durant missed the game due to a knee injury, Rowley said.

OAKTON FINISHED THE SEASON with a nine to five record. The Cougars started six to zero before closing the regular season with a four-game losing streak. Oakton finished fifth in the six-team Concorde District and entered the playoffs as the No. 7 seed in the Northern Region. The Cougars beat No. 2 Lake Braddock, No. 3 Centreville and No. 1 Westfield to win the region title.

"It was unbelievable," Wandey said about the Cougars' run to a region championship and trip to states. "It was an amazing feeling, a great ride. We never gave up. We kept believing and we knew that we were a great team."

Oakton captured its first region championship since 2008 and reached the state playoffs for the fourth time since 2002.

"I've been a part of four state playoff teams [with Oakton]," said Rowley, who was the team's defensive coordinator before taking over as head coach in 2011, "and these guys . . . battled and clawed and scraped their way to that more so than any of those others that we've been a part of in the past."

Langley Dominates Centreville in Opener Head Coach Hess said Saxons will try to capitalize on team's "beef."

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Six-foot-6 center Brad Dotson and 6-foot-3 forward Philip Novacki, a pair of sturdy, paint-patrolling post players, combined to score 10 of Langley's first 11 points in the third quarter of its season opener on Nov. 29. Later in the period, 6-foot-4 guard Justin Galiani got the ball on a breakaway and threw down a one-handed dunk, causing Head Coach Travis Hess to get fired up in front of the Saxons bench.

The Langley boys' basketball team has six players on its roster listed at 6-foot-3 or taller, a luxury to which the Saxons aren't accustomed, and Hess said the team is going to enjoy it.

Langley defeated Centreville, 54-36, during the first night of the Readers are Leaders Tip-Off at South Lakes High School. The Saxons showed off their size and athleticism, building a 26-point second-half lead. Galiani scored a team-high 15 points and grabbed six rebounds. Dotson scored 14 points, grabbed seven rebounds and blocked six shots. Novacki finished with six points and three rebounds, and 6-foot-2 guard Garrett Collier scored six points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Langley out-rebounded Centreville, 35-19.

"We're a totally different team than what we've been in years past," Hess said. "In years past, we've kind of been a four-guard or five-guard offense, spread the floor and been more of a finesse team. But this year, we've got beef inside and we're going to take advantage of that. We're going to try and pound the ball inside and beat people up on the glass and play a totally different style. We're looking forward to it."

Dotson made an impact at both ends of the floor. At 6-foot-6, he has the size to be a defensive and rebounding presence. He also has the athleticism to be an offensive force. Dotson will play collegiate lacrosse at



Senior guard Justin Galiani led Langley with 15 points during a Nov. 29 victory against Centreville.

Bucknell University.

"First of all, he brings a championship mentality and leadership," Hess said. ". . . The kids respect him, he's an incredible leader and he brings a work ethic every day to practice—he forces guys to work hard every day, so that really, really helps."

Dotson said the Saxons are focused on controlling the paint.

"We want to stay solid," he said. "If somebody's beating us inside, we're not going to win anything. That's our game."

Galiani, who will play soccer at Bucknell, is offensive threat with the ability to attack the rim.

"He's kind of our X factor," Hess said. "He won a lot of games for us last year. . . . He has a knack for making big plays."

Galiani's dunk was part of a 22-6 Saxon run.

"I haven't really had a chance [to dunk]," he said. "I was trying to break away and I figured it would be a momentum changer; get us fired up, and it led to a good run for us."

Langley defeated Oakton, 54-49, on Nov. 30 to improve to 2-0. The Saxons traveled to face Potomac School on Tuesday, which was after The Connection's deadline. Langley will travel to face Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7.

From Nursery School to Rocket Fuel
A Strategic Curriculum That Prepares Students To Be Standouts.

WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Nursery through Grade 8

5600 LITTLE FALLS PARKWAY, BETHESDA, MD 20816
→ (301) 652-7878 → www.w-e-s.org

JOIN US at an OPEN HOUSE
Sun, Dec. 9 1 PM
Wed, Jan. 9 9 AM

25% OFF Trees, Shrubs & Perennials

Get Ready for the Holidays!
• Cut Christmas Trees
• Live Christmas Trees
• Christmas Greens
• Poinsettias
Military Discounts

50-65% Off Pottery
Washington Area's Biggest Selection

30% OFF Japanese Maples
or Buy 1 Get 1 Free*
*Off regular price

FREE Landscape & Hardscape Estimates
• Patios • Walls • Walkways
• Paver Driveways
• RR Timber Retaining Walls

FREE Fill Bulk Mulch, Playground Chips & Organic Compost \$24.99/cu. yd.

Cravens Nursery & Pottery
9023 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, Virginia
2 miles west of I-495 on Rt. 50.
1 mile from I-66 (Vienna Metro)
703-573-5025
Open 7 days a week
Visit our new Web site: www.cravensnursery.com

Did you know?
60% of adults in families that were homeless were employed



Put the ZIP on Homelessness by wearing jeans December 14 in exchange for a \$5 contribution to the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent & End Homelessness.

Learn More & Sign Up
<http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com>

In 2011, more than 100 employers representing 3,000 employees participated in this community-wide give-back initiative. Help us boost those numbers in 2012!



WELLBEING

Keys to Staying Healthy During the Holiday Season

Finding balance can preserve one's well-being.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Food, festivities and friends are synonymous with the holidays. However, celebrations can take a toll on your health.

"The holidays are times of rush and chaos and of thinking of everyone but yourself," said Michelle Walters-Edwards, department chair and association professor of health and human performance at Marymount University in Arlington.

Health and fitness experts say that even during the hustle and bustle of the season, it is possible to stay healthy and energized. It just takes a little focus.

"I may be stating the obvious, but exercise is the key to staying healthy during the holidays," said Rosa Ganey, a nurse health educator for Fairfax County Health Network and a Burke resident.

Between shopping, parties and decorating, many people feel pressed for time and exercise can fall by the wayside. Here are a few creative ways to sneak in some fitness:

Incorporate exercise into holiday shopping. "You can walk at the mall and do some window shopping or use your home as an exercise base: The stairs can be used as a perfect location to get your blood pumping," said Walters Edwards.

Make it a family affair. "If you have kids at home, maybe you can play exercise or dance videos or CDs and try the moves together," said Ganey.

Celebratory gatherings can offer opportunities for exercise as well. "Dance at your holiday party," said Michelle Walters-Edwards. "Thirty minutes of moderate dancing can burn around 200 calories in a person [who weighs] 150 lbs."

If there's no time for the gym, improvise, say ex-



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Exercise is the key to holiday health preservation, say experts.

perts. "Sometimes it can be challenging to find time to make it to the gym, but there are quite a few bodyweight exercises you can do at home," said Joel Martin, an assistant professor of kinesiology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Most people think of pushups and sit-ups when they hear the words 'bodyweight exercise.' However, there are quite a few other exercises like air squats, burpees, planks, mountain climbers."

Accommodate for less workout time during the holidays. "Probably the most important piece of advice I would give, since your workout will most likely be shorter than usual, is try to maintain a high intensity for the duration of the workout and minimize the time you spend resting," said Martin.

Break up a workout routine. "Doing several 10-15 minute workouts throughout the day using only body weight movements at home may be another solution for someone crunched for time," said Martin. "I recommend picking three or four movements or exercises and doing several sets of each with less than a minute of rest between sets."

Above all, say experts, balance is vital to preserving one's health and well-being during the holidays. "Maintain a focus on balancing your stress, eating and exercise year-round. Extremes of each of these factors are not healthy. Remember, moderation is key," said Walters-Edwards.

Intelsat to Relocate to Tysons

The company will bring more than 430 employees to local economy.

Governor Bob McDonnell announced that Intelsat, the world's leading provider of satellite services, will relocate its U.S. headquarters to the Tysons Corner area of Fairfax County from its current location in Washington, D.C.

Intelsat plans to bring more than 430 employees to the Fairfax County economy when it relocates in mid-2014. Intelsat will lease

approximately 188,000 square feet of space in Tysons Tower, a 20-story office building that is being built by Macerich (NYSE: MAC) at Tysons Corner Center, adjacent to the Tysons Corner Metro station. The Metro station is scheduled to open in December 2013. The decision by Intelsat marks the first major announcement of a company that is locating in a building near one of four Metro stations

due to open in Tysons on Metro's Silver Line.

"It gives us great pride to have Fairfax County chosen as the new home for Intelsat's U.S. headquarters," said Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA). "As Fairfax County emerges as the Washington region's economic downtown, world-class companies such as Intelsat increasingly are finding this to be an environment conducive to business growth and success."

EMPLOYMENT

ZONE 6: • ARLINGTON • GREAT FALLS
• MCLEAN • VIENNA/OAKTON

CLASSIFIED

703-917-6400
ZONE 6 AD DEADLINE:
MONDAY NOON

BUSINESS OPP

TELEPHONE
A great opportunity to
WORK AT HOME!
NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!
301-333-1900
Weekdays 9-4

BUSINESS OPP

TELEPHONE
A great opportunity to
WORK AT HOME!
NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!
301-333-1900
Weekdays 9-4

Tutoring assistant needed

Should have basic math abilities, like working with children, and can follow directions. Flexible part-time hours. Local to Great Falls. Call 703-404-1117

Project Control Specialist

Requires a BS in computer science, information systems or engineering plus 1 year experience. Job in Vienna, VA. Email resumes to Resolvit Resources, LLC- jsize@resolvit.com

Freelance Reporter

To cover news plus events features in Mount Vernon. Rewarding, flexible work, pay is nominal. Email letter, resume plus clips to mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com



Advertising Sales

Work part-time in and near your home office

Enjoy commissions and flexible hours

Great opportunity for outside sales person to work primarily in and near your home. Use relationship selling to create and expand community print and internet advertising campaigns to local businesses for Connection Newspapers, Northern Virginia's best-read community newspapers and websites.

Keep productivity high and commuting low while working close to home. After a short training period, travel to our Old Town Alexandria headquarters and production facility required only once or twice a week during off-peak traffic hours. Call 703-778-9431 for details.



Educational Internships

Unusual opportunity to learn many aspects of the newspaper business. Internships available in reporting, photography, research, graphics. Opportunities for students, and for adults considering change of career. Unpaid. E-mail internship@connectionnewspapers.com



101 Computers

HDI COMPUTER SOLUTIONS
JENNIFER SMITH ♦ Serving the Area Since 1995
► Speed up Slow Computers
► Troubleshooting
► Virus Removal
► Computer Setup
(571) 265-2038 ♦ jsmithhdi@aol.com

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 8894 Windy Ridge Way, McLean, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from David J. Cho, also known of record as Jae Yong Cho, and Eun Jung Cho, dated July 13, 2007, and recorded July 18, 2007, in Deed Book 19461 at page 918, and re-recorded September 21, 2007, in Deed Book 19577 at page 1053 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

Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 9, Resubdivision of Parcel 1A, Foster Subdivision, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 11178 at page 1032, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 8894 Windy Ridge Way, McLean, Virginia 22102.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$100,000.00 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 7.125 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
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

21 Announcements

ABC License
MWB DEVELOPMENT 1, LLC trading as World of Beer, 901 N. Gleeve Road, #105, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1853. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer On & Off Premises & Keg License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Evan Matz, Managing 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 two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

ABC LICENSE
SIFS, LLC trading as Beangood! The Coffee Pub, 1737 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer, On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Shain Noorli, 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 two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered to www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

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

102 Instruction

Looking to start the school year strong? Tutoring is available in the Northern Virginia area! Dean's List College Graduate with 7 years of Experience. Accounting/Finance Degree. All grade levels, specializing in Math, English, Spanish. Call Hal @ (703)864-6616. Tutoring rate is \$50/hr. Mention this ad and receive 20% off your first session!

For a free digital subscription to one or all of the 15 Connection Newspapers, go to www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Complete digital replica of the print edition, including photos and ads, delivered weekly to your e-mail box.

Questions? E-mail: goinggreen@connectionnewspapers.com



21 Announcements

AIRLINE CAREERS BEGIN HERE

Become an Aviation Maintenance Tech. FAA approved training. Financial aid if qualified – Housing available. Job placement assistance. SCHEV certified. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance **888-245-9553**

21 Announcements

Experience a Real Virginia-Grown Tree!

A Real Tree Experience grown and sold by the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association makes Christmas come alive!

A Real Virginia Christmas Tree connects grown-ups with cherished traditions of Christmas past and creates joy for children that lives on into Christmas future. Use the website to find your tree!

Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association

www.VirginiaChristmasTrees.org

21 Announcements

MEDICAL CAREERS BEGIN HERE

Train ONLINE for Allied Health and Medical Management. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV authorized.

Call **888-354-9917**
www.CenturaOnline.com

Centura COLLEGE

21 Announcements

71% of Americans have used a newspaper, a newspaper website and/or a newspaper mobile source in the past 30 days. (Scarborough Research 2012)

Make sure they're reading about you!

Virginia Press Services will run this business card size display ad across Virginia for one low price! For more details, contact Adriane at 804-521-7585.

HOW TO SUBMIT ADS TO THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online

CLASSIFIED • CHOOSE 1 TO 6 ZONES
E-mail classified@connectionnewspapers.com or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

EMPLOYMENT • CHOOSE 1 TO 6 ZONES
E-mail classified@connectionnewspapers.com or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

Present Needing to be Accounted For



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a stage IV non-small cell lung cancer diagnosee/patient/survivor/anomaly, living long – whether prospering or not, is not the simple and presumptive proposition I had anticipated. No more do I anticipate living the same number of years and in the same relative good health that my parents (both deceased), experienced well into their 80s. Now, my life revolves around my oncologist and the CT Scans and lab work that precede our recurring appointments. Whether I think I feel, or hope I don't feel, or worry about what I do feel, or wonder if what I felt meant that my greatest fear has been realized: tumors growing, moving, medication not working and/or causing collateral damage to internal organs, visits (and I use that term loosely) with my oncologist will certainly cut through any emotional clutter.

Presuming that this cancer thing (routine I now live) is unlikely to change, I probably need to enjoy the good reports/appointments as much as possible, because let's face it: this is an extremely serious situation I find myself in. However, just as it is said that fame is fleeting and money can't buy happiness, one "stable" CT Scan followed up by a widely grinning oncologist saying how "pleased" he is with my results does not a future guarantee or remission make. It is what it is: good, make that excellent news, but it's hardly a corner that's being turned, it's simply a road less traveled: that being a lung cancer patient outliving his original prognosis and beyond any protocols/clinical studies available to determine a prescribed/acceptable course of treatment. The short version: I'm still alive. Now what?

"Now what," for me, since I don't worry or second guess what my oncologist is advising/how I am being treated, is to embrace the highs more (and no, I've never been prescribed medical marijuana) and stop being so damn neutral anticipating the next low (tumors growing/moving) trying to maintain my even disposition. Intellectually, logically, it makes sense. Still, I can't get a particular Henny Youngman joke out of my head, that in my head, seems/feels relevant, especially given the various intervals of scans and appointments and all the associated medical expenses that I incur: "A doctor gave a man six months to live. The man couldn't pay his bill; the doctor gave him another six months."

Every day, every symptom, every lab result, every diagnostic scan might cause my doctor to tell me – as he did originally back in late February, 2009 ("13 months to two years") that I only have so many more months to live. And presumably, he won't be joking. For me however, finding humor somewhere, anywhere, during this whole cancer business has been how I've rolled. Perhaps it's time, 45 months post diagnosis, to consider the seriousness of my situation and when I receive some less-than-distressing-better-than-I have-a-right-to-expect scan results: love it, live it, appreciate it; don't joke about it. My oncologist was smiling when he saw me. That's not funny. That's amazing. I can worry – and be negative about, later – later. Right now is what counts. Tomorrow is promised to no one, especially terminal cancer patients. The future will get here soon enough. I need to savor the present. It probably won't kill me to do so.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

CLEANING **CLEANING**

A CLEANING SERVICE
Since 1985/Ins & Bonded
Quality Service at a Fair Price
Satisfaction Guaranteed-
Angies List 2011-Super Service Award!
Comm/Res. MD VA DC
acleaningserviceinc.com
703-892-8648

LANDSCAPING

A&S LANDSCAPING
Planting • Mulching • Sodding
Patios • Decks • Driveway Sealing,
Asphalt • Retaining Walls
Erosion Control • Drainage Solutions
703-863-7465

LANDSCAPING

ANGEL'S LAWN MOWING
Leaf & Tree Removal
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

HAULING

AL'S HAULING
Junk & Rubbish
Concrete, furn., office,
yard, construction debris
Low Rates NOVA
703-360-4364
703-304-4798 cell
7 DAYS A WEEK

PAINTING

PATRIOT PAINTING
www.PatriotPainting.net
Wallpaper Removal,
Carpentry,
Power Washing,
Int/Ext Painting
Free Est. • Satisfaction Guar.
Lic./Ins. Int./Ext.
703-502-7840
Cell
571-283-4883

ELECTRICAL **ELECTRICAL**

K & D ELECTRIC
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
Family Owned & Operated
Recessed Lighting
Ceiling Fans
Phone/CATV
Computer Network Cabeling
Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc...
Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Office 703-335-0654
Mobile 703-499-0522

IMPROVEMENTS **IMPROVEMENTS**

Picture Perfect Home Improvements
(703) 590-3187 www.pyphionline.com
Remodeling Bathrooms, Kitchens & Basements
• FREE Estimates
• FAST & Reliable Service
• EASY To Schedule
• NO \$\$\$ DOWN!
Handyman Services Available
Exterior & Interior Repair,
Painting, Carpentry, Wood Rot,
Drywall, All Flooring, Decks
"If it can be done, we can do it"
Licensed — Bonded — Insured

ANGEL'S HAULING
Junk Trash Removal,
Yard/Construction
Debris, Garage/Base-
ment Clean Out,
Furniture & Appl.
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

TREE SERVICE

ANGEL'S TREE REMOVAL
Brush & Yard Debris
Trimming & Topping
Gutters & Hauling
Angeltreeslandscaping-hauling.com
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

GUTTER **GUTTER**

GUTTER CLEANING
Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned
Small Repairs • Gutter Guards
PINNACLE SERVICES
lic/ins 703-802-0483 free est.
email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com
web: lawnsandgutters.com
Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!

R.N. CONTRACTORS, INC.
Remodeling Homes, Flooring,
Kitchen & Bath, Windows,
Siding, Roofing, Additions &
Patios, Custom Deck, Painting
We Accept All Major Credit Cards
Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic
Phone: 703-887-3827 Fax: 703-830-3849
E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com

MASONRY

BRICK AND STONE
Custom Masonry
703-768-3900
www.custommasonry.info
Patios, Walkways, Stoops, Steps, Driveways
Repairs & New Installs • All Work Guranteed

HANDYMAN **HANDYMAN**

Hand and Hand Handyman
General Remodeling
Residential & Commercial
Specializing in:
Kitchen/Bathroom/Basement Remodeling
Plumbing • Electrical • Custom Carpentry
Doors Windows • Hardwood Floors
Crown Molding • House Cleaning
Interior/Exterior Painting • Brick/Stone Work
Ceramic Tile • Decks, Fences, Patios
HOA Maintenance, Granite Counter Tops
Realtors Work and Much More
Licensed and Insured Serving Northern Virginia
703-296-6409

A&S Landscaping
• All Concrete work
• Retaining Walls • Patios
• Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions
• French Drains • Sump Pumps
• Driveway Asphalt Sealing
703-863-7465
LICENSED
Serving All of N. Virginia

3dr Generation Masonry Company
Family Owned & Operated Since the 1950s
MASONRY SPECIALIST, LLC
For All of Your Masonry Needs
Custom Design, Installation, Repairs & Restoration
BRICK - FIELDSTONE
FLAGSTONE - CONCRETE
EP Henry & Belgard Pavers
Patios, Walkways, Driveways, Retaining & Decorative Walls
703-443-2308
Go to www.masonryspecialist.com for ideas, pictures & coupons!
All Work Guaranteed - Licensed & Fully Insured
Class A License #VA2705087240A

LANDSCAPING **LANDSCAPING**

J. REYNOLDS 703.919.4456
Landscaping LLC Free Estimates
www.ReynoldsLandscapingOnline.com Licensed / Insured
INSTALLATION SPECIALIST **WET BASEMENT / WET YARD**
Paver & Flagstone Water Proofing Foundations
Patios / Walkways Standing Yard Water
Retaining Walls French Drains / Swales
Stacked Field Stone Downspout Extensions
Plants / Trees / Shrubs Dry River Beds
*No sub-contractors, or day laborers. *15 Years Designing and Installing
*The Owner is physically on your job site. *On time and Professional.

IMPROVEMENTS **IMPROVEMENTS**

R&N Carpentry
♦BASEMENTS ♦BATHS ♦KITCHENS
Foreclosure specialist/Power washing
♦Exterior Wood Rot More!
Deck & Fence repair, Screen Porches
No jobs too large or small
Free est. 37 yrs exp. Licensed, Insured
703-987-5096

ROOFING **ROOFING**

Falcon Roofing
Roofing & Siding (All Types)
Soffit & Fascia Wrapping
New Gutters • Chimney Crowns
Leaks Repaired
No job too small
703-975-2375
falconroofinginc.com

PINNACLE SERVICES, INC.
LAWN SERVICE
MOWING, TRIMMING, EDGING,
MULCHING & TRIM HEDGES
Friendly Service for a Friendly Price
703-802-0483

The HANDYMAN
A DIVISION OF NURSE CONSTRUCTION
BATHROOM REMODELING, DRYWALL,
PAINTING, CERAMIC TILE, CARPENTRY,
POWER WASHING & MUCH MORE
You have tried the rest - NOW CALL THE BEST!!
Proudly serving Northern VA - 46 yrs. exp.
Licensed Insured We Accept VISA/MC
703-441-8811

TREE SERVICE **TREE SERVICE**

Charles Jenkins
TREE SERVICE
Seasoned Firewood
Topping, trimming, Stump Grinding
Lic. & Ins!
540-829-9917 or 540-422-9721

J.E.S Services
LANDSCAPE & CONSTRUCTION
Drainage Problems
• Patios • Walkways
• Retaining Walls
• Landscape Makeovers
Call: 703-912-6886
Free Estimates

The Heat of Wood
Tree Service
571 482 0996
Best prices! Best work!
Lic. & Insured

MAISON *et* JARDIN, LTD.

9867 GEORGETOWN PIKE, GREAT FALLS, VA 22066 703.759.2825
MAISONETJARDINLTD.COM GFCPOS@FINELANDSCAPES.COM



*Let Us Help You Deck the Halls! We have all you need to
make your season bright! With Home Accessories, Gifts
and the Finest Holiday Decorations*



Jan & Dan

EXCLUSIVE AFFILIATE OF
CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

www.GreatFallsGreatHomes.com



Great Falls **\$1,695,000**



Great Falls **\$2,190,000**



Great Falls **\$2,199,000**



Great Falls **\$6,500,000**



Great Falls **\$3,100,000**



Vienna **\$2,995,000**



Great Falls **\$875,000**



Great Falls **\$1,399,000**



Reston **\$189,000**



Great Falls **\$1,599,000**



Great Falls **\$2,850,000**



Great Falls **\$1,525,000**



Great Falls **\$1,229,000**



Great Falls **\$13,500,000**



Great Falls **\$1,075,000**



Susan Canis



Dianne Van Volkenburg



Jan & Dan Laytham

703-757-3222 Office
703-444-1991 Home

